

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON IRAN / UNESCO COOPERATION

I. COUNTRY PROFILE *(source: UNDP Human Development Report 2016)*

- Population, total (millions): 79.1
- Human Development Index: 0.774; Rank: 69 (out of 188 countries, between Cuba which ranks 68 and Georgia which ranks 70)
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 75.6
- Expected years of schooling (years): 14.8
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP\$): 16,395
- Internet users (% of population): 44.1
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes): 8.0
(UN Map of Iran at the end)

II. IRAN/UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since September 1948

2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** Yes

- (Term 2015-2019)
- Previous terms: 1952-1958 (Mr Gholam Ali Raadi); 1964-1968 (Mr Djahanguir Tafazoli); 1974-1978 (Mr Majid Rahnema); and 1999-2003 (a Member)

3. **Membership of Intergovernmental Committees/Commissions and other bodies:**

- Executive Board
Member (Term expires : 2019)
- Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme
Member (Term expires : 41st General Conference)
- Legal Committee
Member elected by the General Conference at its 38th session - Member of the Legal Committee from the beginning of the 39th session (2017) until the beginning of the 40th session (2019)
- Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
Member (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Member

4. **The Director-General's visits in the country:** 0

5. **The former Director-General's visits in the country:** 1

- 25-29 April 2014: official visit

6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**

- H.E. Mr Ahmad Jalali (since 1 April 2014)
- Staff: Mr Morteza Hamissi, Deputy Permanent Delegate; Mr Akbar Rezaei, Counsellor

6. **UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran:**

- Date of establishment: June 2003
- Member States serviced: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan
- Director: Ms Esther Kuisch-Laroche (D-1 - The Netherlands) since July 2014
- Premises: The Cluster Office is located in the "Sa'adabad Cultural & Historical Complex" of northern Tehran, in premises generously provided by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization.(ICHTO)

7. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
- Date of establishment: July 1948
 - President: Dr Mansour Gholami (since January 2018)
 - Secretary-General: Dr Sadollah Nasiri Gheydari (since May 2016)
8. **Personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**
- Ms Azam Iraj Zad is a Member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. COMEST (1st mandate ends on 31 December 2017)
 - Bagheri Prof. (Mr) Alireza is a Member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) 2014-2015. (Mandate 2010-2017)
9. **UNESCO Chairs: 15**
- UNESCO Chair on the History of Traditional Medicine (2017), The Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences (1234)
 - UNESCO Chair on Cyberspace and Culture: Dual-Spacization of the World (2015), University of Tehran (1107)
 - UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy (2016), Shahid Beheshti University (1140)
 - UNESCO Chair on Social Health and Development (2016), University of Tehran (1141)
 - UNESCO Chair on E-Learning and Teaching (2016), Mehr Alborz Higher Education Institute (MAHEI), Tehran (1146)
 - UNESCO Chair on Environmental Education (2017), Payame Noor University (1215)
 - UNESCO Chair on teachers as lifelong learners (2015), Farhangian University of Iran (1093)
 - UNESCO Chair on Interdisciplinary Research in Diabetes, University of Tehran (2014)
 - UNESCO Chair on Water Reuse, University of Tehran (2014)
 - UNESCO Chair on Engineering Education, College of Engineering, University of Tehran (2014)
 - UNESCO Chair in Clean and Renewable Energies, Islamic Azad University, Tehran (2014)
 - UNESCO Chair on Natural Disasters Management in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Countries in the Region, The Natural Disaster Research Institute and the Natural Disaster Higher Education Institute of Applied Science and Technology (2014)
 - UNESCO Chair in Water and Environment Management for Sustainable Cities, Sharif University of Technology (2012)
 - UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurship, University of Tehran (2010)
 - UNESCO Chair in Management, Planning and Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education (2008)
10. **Associated Schools: 21**
- (3 primary, 4 primary/secondary, 13 secondary and 1 vocational and technical).
 - Iran joined the ASP Network in 2003.
11. **UNESCO Clubs and Associations: none**
12. **Category 2 Institutes and centres: 6**
- The international center for the integrated management of watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions (2015)
 - The Regional Educational and Research Centre for Oceanography for Western Asia, Tehran (2013)
 - The Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Tehran (2010)
 - The Regional Centre for Science Park and Technology Incubator Development, Isfahan (2010)
 - The Regional Centre on Urban Water Management, Teheran (2002)
 - The International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHHS), Yazdd (2002)

13. Biosphere Reserves: 12

Designated in 1976:

- Arasbaran
- Arjan
- Geno
- Golestan
- Hara
- Kavir
- Lake Oromeeh
- Miankaleh
- Touran

Designated in 2010:

- Dena

Designated in 2015:

- Tang-e-Sayad and Sabzkuh

Designated in 2016

- Hamoun

14. UNESCO Global Geopark: None

15. World Heritage Sites: 22

Cultural sites:

- Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran (2008)
- Bam and its Cultural Landscape (2004)
- Bisotun (2006)
- Cultural Landscape of Maymand (2015)
- Golestan Palace (2013)
- Gonbad-e Qābus (2012)
- Masjed-e Jāmé of Isfahan (2012)
- Meidan Emam, Esfahan (1979)
- Pasargadae (2004)
- Persepolis (1979)
- Shahr-i Sokhta (2014)
- Sheikh Safi al-din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil (2010)
- Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System (2009)
- Soltaniyeh (2005)
- Susa (2015)
- Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex (2010)
- Takht-e Soleyman (2003)
- Tchogha Zanbil (1979)
- The Persian Garden (2011)
- The Persian Qanat (2016)
- Historic City of Yazd (2017)

Natural

- Lut Desert (2016)

16. Tentative List: 56 properties

The most recent inscribed:

- Alisadr Cave (09/08/2007)
- Arasbaran Protected Area (09/08/2007)
- Asbads (windmill) of Iran (02/02/2017)
- Bastam and Kharghan (09/08/2007)
- Bazaar of Qaisariye in Laar (09/08/2007)
- Cultural Landscape of Alamout (09/08/2007)
- Damavand (05/02/2008)
- Firuzabad Ensemble (22/05/1997)
- Ghaznavi- Seljukian Axis in Khorasan (09/08/2007)
- Hamoun Lake (05/02/2008)
- Harra Protected Area (05/02/2008)
- Hegmataneh (05/02/2008)
- Historic city of Yazd (09/08/2007)
- Historic ensemble of Qasr-e Shirin (22/05/1997)
- Historic Monument of Kangavar (09/08/2007)
- Historical Ensemble of Qasr-e Shirin (09/08/2007)
- Hyrcanian Forest (Caspian Forest) (09/08/2007)
- Imam Reza Holy Complex (02/02/2017)
- Industrial Heritage of Iranian Railway (02/02/2017)
- Industrial Heritage of textile in the central Plateau of Iran (02/02/2017)
- Jame' (Congregational) Mosque of Esfahan (22/05/1997)
- Jiroft (09/08/2007)
- Kaboud Mosque (09/08/2007)
- Kerman Historical-Cultural Structure (05/02/2008)
- Khabr National Park and Ruchun Wildlife Refuge (09/08/2007)
- Khorramabad Valley (09/08/2007)
- Kuh-e Khuaja (08/09/2007)
- Nasqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rajab (22/05/1997)
- Natural-Historical Complex / Cave of Karaftoo (02/02/2017)
- Persepolis and other relevant buildings (09/08/2007)
- Persian Caravanserai (02/02/2017)
- Qeshm Island (09/08/2007)
- Sabalan (09/08/2007)
- Salt Domes of Iran (02/02/2017)
- Shush (22/05/1997)
- Silk Route (Also as Silk Road) (05/02/2008)
- Tape Sialk (22/05/1997)
- Taq-e Bostan (09/08/2007)
- The Collection of Historical Bridges (05/02/2008)
- The Complex of Izadkhast (09/08/2007)
- The Cultural Landscape of Uramanat (09/08/2007)
- The Cultural-Natural Landscape of Ramsar (09/08/2007)
- The Ensemble of Historical Sassanian Cities in Fars Province (Bishabpur, Firouzabad, Sarvestan) (09/08/2007)
- The Great Wall of Gorgan (02/02/2017)
- The Historical City of Masouleh (09/08/2007)
- The Historical City of Maybod (09/08/2007)
- The Historical Port of Siraf (09/08/2007)
- The Historical Texture of Damghan (09/08/2007)
- The Historical Village of Abyaneh (09/08/2007)
- The Historical-Cultural Axis of Fin, Sialk, Kashan (09/08/2007)
- The Natural-Historical Landscape of Izeh (05/02/2008)

- The Persian House in Central plateau of Iran (02/02/2017)
- The Zandiyeh Ensemble of Fars Province (05/02/2008)
- Touran Biosphere Reserve (05/02/2008)
- Tous Cultural Landscape (09/08/2007)
- University of Tehran (02/02/2017)
- Zozan (09/08/2007)

17. Intangible Heritage Lists: 13 inscriptions on the Representative List

- Chogān, a horse-riding game accompanied by music and storytelling (2017)
- Art of crafting and playing with Kamantcheh/Kamancha, a bowed string musical instrument (2017)
- Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz (2016)
- Flatbread making and sharing culture: Lavash, Katyrma, Jupka, Yufka (2016)
- Qālišūyān rituals of Mašhad-e Ardehāl in Kāšān (2012)
- Naqqāli, Iranian dramatic story-telling (2011)
- Traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf (2011)
- Music of the Bakhshis of Khorasan (2010)
- Pahlevani and Zoorkhanei rituals (2010)
- Ritual dramatic art of Ta'zīye (2010)
- Traditional skills of carpet weaving in Fars (2010)
- Traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan (2010)
- Radif of Iranian music (2009)

18. Languages in Danger: 25

Languages in Iran are in danger, ranging from Vulnerable to Extinct:

- Ashtiani
- Bashkardi
- Brahui
- Dari
- Dzhidi
- Gazi
- Hawrami
- Hulaula (Iran)
- Khalaj
- Khorasani Turk
- Khunsari
- Koroshi
- Lari
- Lishan Didan (Iran)
- Mandaic
- Natanzi
- Nayini
- Semnani
- Senaya
- Sivandi
- Soi
- Suret
- Talysh
- Tati
- Vafsi

19. **Memory of the World Register: 10 inscriptions**
- A Collection of selected maps of Iran in the Qajar Era (1193 - 1344 Lunar Calendar / 1779-1926 Gregorian Calendar) (2013)
 - Dhakhīra-yi Khārazmshāhī (2013)
 - Al-Tafhim li Awa'il Sana'at al-Tanjim (2011)
 - Collection of Nezami's Panj Ganj (2011)
 - Administrative Documents of Astan-e Quds Razavi in the Safavid Era (2009)
 - "Bayasanghori Shāhnāme" (Prince Bayasanghor's Book of the Kings) (2007)
 - The Deed For Endowment: Rab' I-Rashidi (Rab I-Rashidi Endowment) 13th Century manuscript (2007)
 - Al-Masaalik Wa Al-Mamaalik (2015)
 - Kulliyāt-i Sa'di (2015)
 - Jāme' al-Tavarikh (2017)
20. **Creative Cities Network: 2 appointments**
- Isfahan (City of Crafts and Folk Art) 2015
 - Rasht (City of Gastronomy) 2015
21. **Legal instruments: 14 ratified and 25 non-ratified**
- International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratification (23 March 2010)
 - Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratification (16 June 2009)
 - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratification (23 March 2006)
 - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: not yet ratified
22. **Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2018-2019: 1**
- 850th anniversary of the active life of Shahab al-Din Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi, philosopher and mystic (1154-1191) (Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of Azerbaijan, Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic)
 - 1750th anniversary of the foundation of the University of Gundi-Shapur