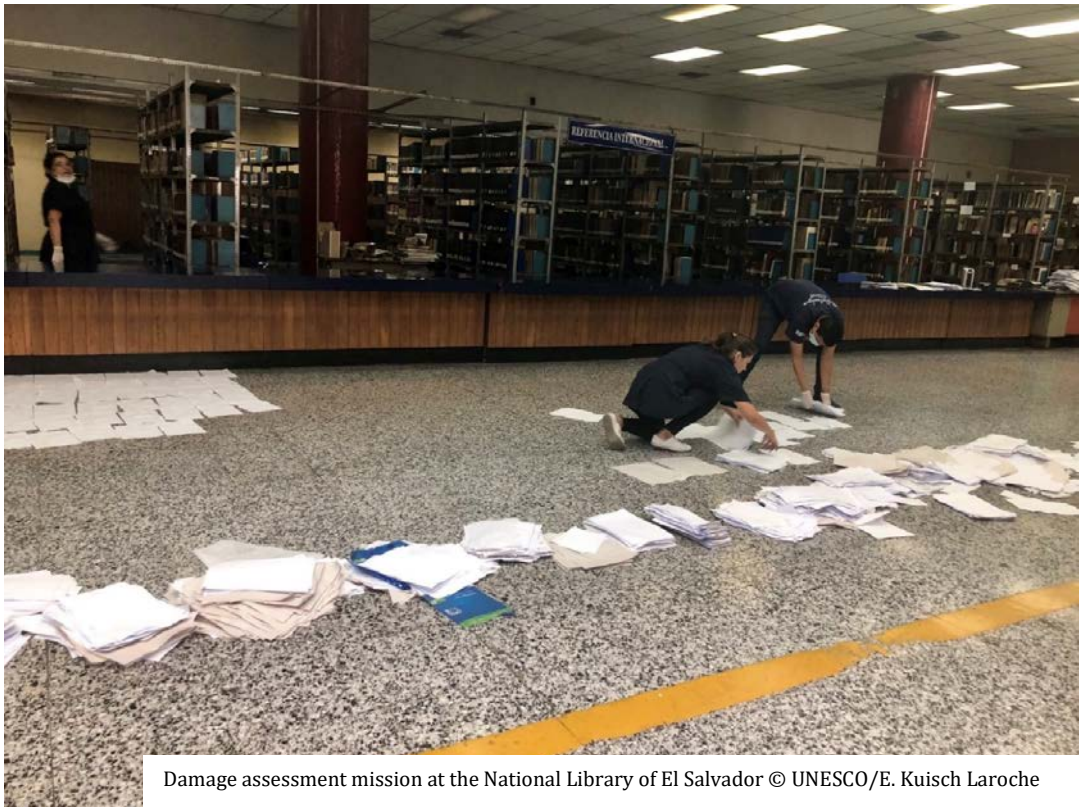




UNESCO

Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in EL SALVADOR



Damage assessment mission at the National Library of El Salvador © UNESCO/E. Kuisch Laroche

Damage assessment mission to El Salvador (2019)

The heavy rains that hit El Salvador at the end of April 2019 significantly damaged the National Library and the National Theatre in San Salvador, including their documentary collections. UNESCO's urgent support was requested by El Salvador's Ministry of Culture, to provide emergency safeguarding and recovery assistance for the buildings and their historic collections. UNESCO, through the HEF, quickly responded to the request. From the 10th to the 16th of May, UNESCO sent an evaluation mission to assess the damage. The mission also offered advice to the responsible authorities on appropriate methodologies for the rescue of the damaged cultural properties and immediate safeguarding measures. The mission further provided a set of recommendations to guide the recovery operations, including strategies for preventing similar disasters at other cultural institutions and repositories in El Salvador. In parallel, material and equipment were purchased and provided to the Library. As a follow-up activity, moreover, the UNESCO Office in San José committed to assist the National Library in developing an action plan on disaster risk management and the preservation of documentary heritage.