

Serving the region for 70 years

As it commemorates its 70th anniversary, the UNESCO Regional Sciences Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean renews its commitment to the fundamental principles of UNESCO's constitution: contributing to peace and security by promoting collaboration through education, science and culture in

order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Over the years and in keeping with changes in the region and in UNESCO, the Bureau has adapted, contributing to reflection, critical thought and to the generation of science and knowledge as the foundation for policies geared towards sustainable development. Taking an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach, the Bureau addresses emerging challenges facing UNESCO's Member States.

With the aim of furthering sustainable development in the region, the Bureau proposes a frame of reference with three strategic pillars that encompass the main challenges faced in Latin America and the Caribbean so that we can consolidate democracy, foster sustainable and inclusive development, and protect and promote human rights for all. The three pillars are: 1) democratic governance and justice; 2) socioenvironmental resilience and; 3) access to knowledge and the right to science. A cross cutting priority area will be to contribute to capacity-building and

consolidation of UNESCO's values for today's emerging leaders, be they political, academic, business, social, community leaders, with special emphasis on women, youth, indigenous peoples and afro-descendent populations.

Key regional challenges that must be tackled through an integrated approach include: enhancing democracy and the rule of law; reducing the violence that has a major impact across the region; supporting environmental action-including climate action, disaster risk reduction, halting biodiversity loss and promoting the vitality of our ecosystems; and fostering policy-making based on the sciences and knowledge. To do so, the Regional Bureau is developing and will implement a multisectoral and innovative programme that includes actions to promote UNESCO's values with current and emerging leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will support them in assuming the responsibility to achieve the ambitious goals being demanded by the more than 500 million people who live in the region.

Through advancing these three strategic pillars, the Bureau will support Member States in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and achieving the 17 sustainable development goals, especially their overarching pledge to "leave no one behind" and with the guidance of the 2030 Agenda's five themes: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

Diverse cross-sectoral initiatives were implemented throughout the region in 2018 and 2019. Here we share some of them:

CILAC 2018 Forum

1300+ participants from **68** countries, **200 +** speakers took part in **47** thematic sessions, **20** high level sessions and **25** parallel events. **30+** Science in the City activities, under the slogan of "science is in everything"

Water security

4500+ State officials, decision-makers and technical staff from **32** countries, trained in **51** seminars / courses / workshops on water security

"Estamos Comprometidos" 2018

200+ projects contributing to sustainable development led by young people across the region

Bioethics

320+ professionals trained, **160** with scholarships in the Bioethics Lifelong Education Programme

200+ women philosophers active in the UNESCO LAC Women Philosophers

78+ experts from **19** countries in REDBIOETICS and **14** LAC national bioethics committees

Biosphere Reserves

24 countries from Ibero-America and the Caribbean took part in the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ibero Man and Biosphere (IberoMAB) Network and endorsed an Action Plan to 2025

Disaster Risk Management

240+ Decision-makers, journalists and technicians participated in capacity-building

Additionally...

The **Programme on Science Education** for Latin America was launched.

A UNESCO **Interdisciplinary Consultative Group for disaster risk reduction** was established in the region

A **digital education application** for young people was launched, based on Edgar Morin's work "**Seven complex lessons in education for the future**"

Freedom of expression

3500+ judicial operators trained in freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists

400+ journalists from the region gathered in Bogota to discuss key elements of investigative journalism

UNESCO Global Geoparks

8+ UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and the Caribbean.

20 countries participate in the first intensive training course on geoparks.

Illicit trafficking of cultural property

350+ Judicial operators trained in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in cultural property

Social transformations

6000+ participants took part in the massive open on-line course "Knowledge and Inequalities in LAC"

Youth and violence

20+ digital applications for preventing violence created by young people with the assistance of experts

Education

+600 librarians in Buenos Aires debated the role of school libraries in today's education



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1949 - 2019
Montevideo Office
Regional Bureau for Sciences
in Latin America and the Caribbean

70 | **UNESCO Montevideo,**
Serving the region for 70 years

Seventy years ago, shortly after the creation of UNESCO and through the impetus of a group of distinguished regional scientists, the Latin American Science Cooperation Office (LASCO) was established, with the aim of promoting and consolidating science in the region



The 1950s: First actions in the region



The Sixties: UNESCO promotes science policy in Latin America



The 1970s: decentralization and consolidation of major programmes

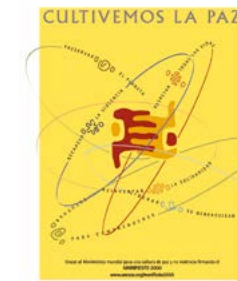


The Eighties: Greater reach in the region



Promotion of regional networks in Science and Technology (RedCiencia; RedFAC; RedPOP; RELAA; RELAB; RELACQ; RELACT, RedPOST)

The Nineties: from fostering science and technology activities to a Culture of Peace



The start of a new century: the Culture Programme joins the Bureau

After 70 years working in the region, today we support:



1949

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990

2000



1954

Eighth Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Montevideo



1965

Together with ECLAC, LASCO organized the "First Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Latin America" (CASTALAC I – Santiago, Chile, September)



1967

The "Joint Presidential Declaration" is signed in Punta del Este, Uruguay, containing proposals related to the relevance of scientific and technological activities in the region



1974

The UNESCO Latin American Science Cooperation Office becomes the "Regional Office for Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROSTLAC)"

1985

"Second Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean" (CASTALAC II - Brasilia, Brazil, August)



1995

Incorporation of UNESCO's Education Programme into the Office



1998

Followed by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences and Communication and Information Programmes



2003

The Montevideo Bureau takes on the administration of a cultural icon, Villa Ocampo (Buenos Aires, Argentina)



2019

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Because the challenges of the future demand scientific knowledge; because the region still faces many pending questions; because the future will only be possible in peace and cooperation; the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences commits to working for sustainable development, transforming the region