



# 2018 Annual E-Report

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office



Regional Bureau  
for Sciences in the  
Arab States

المكتب الإقليمي للعلوم  
في الدول العربية

Cairo - القاهرة

## *About Our Office*

UNESCO Cairo Office, established in 1947, is the Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States. It is also the Cluster Office for Egypt, Sudan and Libya.

## *Inside This Issue*

**NATURAL SCIENCE SECTOR**

**SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES  
SECTOR**

**CULTURE SECTOR**

**COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION  
SECTOR**

**EDUCATION SECTOR**

# Natural Science

## UNESCO Participates in the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum

22– 24 January 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

In partnership with the League of Arab States, the Bureau organized a side event on “Unifying Arab and Mediterranean Regions Common Issues: Vision Towards Sustainable Cooperation Development” during the 3rd MWF: “Water Sharing & Cooperation, Future for the Mediterranean”. The session addressed systems and mechanisms of enhancing exchange of scientific data a key to improve co-operation for sustainable development and for better identification of common challenges. The Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform, a project supported by OIEau, IME was introduced by EMWIS and MENBO. The role



of science diplomacy in in facilitating cooperation and transfer/localization of expertise was also highlighted with emphasis on the need for innovative multi-sectoral platforms and initiatives for co-operation. More than 90 participants from Mediterranean countries participated in this side event.

## Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States

23– 24 January 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office attended the Regional Meeting of the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 23 and 24, 2018 in Tunis. The regional consultation meeting held in Tunis aimed at getting to an agreement between countries and UNISDR on a way forward towards the implementation of the ASDRR 2030 and its plan of action in the Arab region. The meeting discussed the preparations of the Fourth Arab Ministerial Conference on DRR and the Joint African-Arab Conference that will be held in October 2018 in Tunis. [Read More...](#)



## Regional Science Cooperation Meeting, Towards UNESCO One Science Team in the Arab Region

22– 24 January 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office has developed a Science Strategy for the Arab Region. The main aim of the strategy is to identify vision and major lines of action towards advancing the science for development agenda in the Arab Region. Among the pillars of the strategy is a vision of One Science Team to serve the science agenda of the region. Through this concept, the Bureau envisions dynamic coordination between all of UNESCO offices and relevant officers in the region in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the UNESCO priorities within the above-described regional context. Consequently, the Bureau called for a “Regional Science Coordination Meeting” with the objective of enhancing operational cooperation and collaboration on ‘stand-alone’ and/or multi-sectoral activities and projects along with regional and national needs of Member States

The meeting was attended by representatives from all UNESCO offices in the Arab Region. Participants in the meeting shared 39/C5 science work plans and recent success stories in advancing UNESCO strategic objectives in science in the region. They also discussed mechanisms to enhance collaboration and to jointly develop effective activities with high impacts and visibility. The meeting addressed challenges and opportunities in developing partnership and resource mobilization and agreed to work together on proposals.

The critical role of communication, and of rigorous engagement with national commissions, stakeholders and donors was also addressed. In that regards the participants identified the empowerment of National Commissions of UNESCO and their subsidiary specialized committees as well as enhancing communication with HQ as necessary condition for maximizing both the delivery and impact of UNESCO programmes in the Arab region. The participants agreed to develop a communication platform for sharing information and enhancing inter-office and inter-sectoral collaboration.

The meeting provided a unique opportunity for UNESCO offices in the Arab region to launch a new paradigm of regional planning and implementation.

# UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States Holds UNESCO African Consultation Meeting

9 February 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office in coordination with UNESCO Rabat Offices and the Regional UNESCO Offices in Africa (Dakar, Abuja, Yaoundé and Harare) held a UNESCO Consultation Meeting to discuss among other issues how UNESCO in Africa and Arab States could position itself to form stronger partnerships making good use of high-level venues such as the African Forum on STI. It is worth mentioning that the UNESCO participated in this Forum on "Science, Technology, and Innovation - 2018", through a series of activities as follows:

- A plenary session on Enablers for STI held on 10 February 2018 moderated by Dr. Ghaith Fariz, UNESCO Cairo Director;
- A parallel side event 1 on GO-SPIN moderated by Dr. Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch, Chief of Science Policy and Partnership (SPP) Section, UNESCO HQ on 11 February 2018;
- A parallel session B on Harnessing climate smart technologies for the transition to a climate-resilient and low carbon future moderated by Dr. Nazar Hassan, Sr. S&T Specialist of UNESCO Cairo on 11 February 2018;
- A parallel session on Women in Science moderated by Dr. Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch, Chief of SPP Section, UNESCO HQ; and
- A booth to display UNESCO relevant publications, posters, videos in Natural Sciences, during 11-12 February 2018
- Bilateral meetings with countries' government officials, representatives of regional organizations and partner agencies (including SADC, AOSTI, AfDB etc.)

## UNESCO Contributes to The Third African STI Forum

10-12 February 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office had a considerable participation during the Third African STI Forum held in Cairo during 10-12 February 2018 and which was organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt under the Patronage of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the UNESCO participated in this Forum on "Science, Technology, and Innovation - 2018", through a series of activities as follows: A plenary session on Enablers for STI held on 10 February 2018 moderated by Dr. Ghaith Fariz, UNESCO Regional Bureau Director ; parallel side event 1 on GO-SPIN moderated by Dr. Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch, Chief of Science Policy and Partnership (SPP) Section, UNESCO HQ on 11 February 2018; parallel session B on Harnessing climate smart technologies for the transition to a climate-resilient and low carbon future moderated by Dr. Nazar Hassan, Sr. S&T Specialist of UNESCO Regional Bureau on 11 February 2018; A parallel session on Women in Science moderated by Dr. Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch, Chief of SPP Section, UNESCO HQ; and booth to display UNESCO relevant publications, posters, videos in Natural Sciences, during 11-12 February 2018; and bilateral meetings with countries' government officials, representatives of regional organizations and partner agencies (including SADC, AOSTI, AfDB etc.)



## UNESCO Organizes Training Workshop on the Global Observatory on Science, Technology , and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) Stem and Gender Advancement (SAGA)

13 –14 March 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

A training workshop was held during the period at the HQ of CNRS in Beirut. The workshop main objective was to introduce the national stakeholders in Lebanon to the UNESCO tools namely, the Global Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) and Stem and Gender Advancement (SAGA) initiative. This training workshop then facilitated the national stakeholders' participation in using these two UNESCO tools to undertake the stocktaking exercise required to inform the status quo on scientific research and the national STI platform.

## UNESCO Contributes to Updating the Arab Strategy on Water Security

27 March 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



Starting in 2015, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office has sought active engagement with the League of Arab States (LAS) as key partner on implementing the action plan of the Arab Strategy on Water Security. In December 2017, and during an expert meeting held at the LAS, UNESCO and other partners advocated revisiting the strategy in light of the adoption of SDGs, the emergence of new challenges and the need for more integrative approach. As a result, a Partners meeting took place in at the ESCWA headquarters where the Bureau contributed in inviting partner agencies and to the process of identifying key priorities, potential structural revisions, and areas of linkages with the 2030 SDGs as well as linkages to other relevant regional strategies. The Bureau later submitted the updated Arab Strategy to the Arab *Centre for Studies of Arid Dry Lands (ACSAD)*, which has been entrusted by the Arab Ministerial Council on Water with coordinating the regional partners' consultation on updating the strategy.

## UNESCO Raises Awareness in “Nile is Our Life and Heritage” Festival

22 February 2018 | Dakhalia, Egypt



More than 20 schools from Dakahlia Governorate participated in the festival involving Governmental, National, International and Vocational schools. About 350 students' (boys and girls) joined the festival with age range between 5-16 Years. The Students competed through a huge exhibition showing different artistic works as drawings, crafts and maquette reflecting students' understanding of water related management and conservation followed by various artistic performances comprising of singing, folk dance, playing musical instruments and theatre plays. The different shows emphasized on students' full awareness of the importance of water and how to maintain it from pollution. The performances presented the link of local communities heritage to their water related management behaviours. Governmental entities and private sector were involved in the organization of the festival reflecting a good example of partnership towards valuing water conservation culture.

## UNESCO Participates in STI Consultation Meeting

22 February 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office participated in a consultation meeting to identify partnership perspectives on STI in Tunis and transform these partnerships into a national work plan for implementation. In collaboration with HQ and Rabat Office, discussions with the Tunisian national parties and stakeholders were undertaken to identify a certain number of STI cooperation axes, which can be put under the hat of a robust work program towards the reform of the Tunisian higher education and Scientific Research system. The Tunisian Director General of Scientific Research presented some indicators related to the sector in Tunisia and proposed future collaboration with UNESCO in the field of ethics of scientific research.

## UNESCO Contributes to the Arab Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD 2018)

28-29 March 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office contributed to the preparatory to Regional Preparatory Meeting on Water Issues for the 2018 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and High Level Political Forum. The objective of the meeting was to consolidate regional views on water-related issues and priorities facing the Arab region through the exchange of experiences among Arab States on incorporating water-related goals, targets and issues in national reporting on SDG progress including SDG6 (Water and Sanitation).. During the meeting, the Bureau participated in the two working groups and advocated the need to mobilize resources for innovative initiatives, especially those addressing shared water resources and the need to highlight the role of science, technology, and localization in the draft statement to the AFSD. Both were included in the outcome statement.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Arab Climate Change Negotiators

5 April 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait

In 2018, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office co-organized the “Tenth Regional Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries” in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), League of Arab States (LAS), the United Nations Environment, \ and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), The Bureau led a session on the manual for climate change mainstreaming in water resources strategies and action plans, which was developed by the Regional Bureau for Science in 2015. The objective of session was to discuss potential updates of the manual, and to explore the manual’s utility to inform sectors other than the water sector. In general, the participants identified the following priorities including updating the manual with information on climate change predictions, the Paris Agreement, analysis of Arab countries plans, finances, adaptations, the Water/Energy/Food Nexus and adaptation. The workshop engaged 49 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan along with experts from partner agencies, OAPEC, China, and Egypt. These experts delivered presentations on key topics relevant to UNFCCC negotiation process.



## Kids Discovering Marine Life in Egypt

13– 14 April 2018 | Alexandria, Egypt

During the Science Festivity 2018 organized by the Bibliotheca of Alexandria, the conservation pulses initiative (CPI) at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States brought together kids to discover the Marine life in Egypt and Omayed Biosphere Reserve while merging Arts with Science to outreach to society in Alexandria and the surrounding cities and towns. On April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Kids were invited as ‘Little Explorer’ to navigate the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea in Egypt and to have a virtual walk along their coastlines to get to know living creatures and discover both Seas biodiversity. They relied on their creativity and skills to reconnect with the Marine Life and Omayed BR and to choose to be one of the UNESCO Arab Little Explorers: Little Natural Scientist, Little Genius, Little Artist, or Little Artisan. Kids expressed themselves through artistic expressions including drawing, sketching, painting the seascape and marine plants and animals or molding any living creature. [Read More...](#)

## Stepping beyond UNESCO designated Sites

25– 26 April 2018 | Khirbet Qanafar, Lebanon



A UNDP-UNESCO inter-agency cooperation was established in February 2018 to work on the development of a Decision Support System for ecological restoration and reforestation initiatives through the application of the Integrated Landscape Approach (ILA) in the three districts of West Bekaa, Zahle and Rashaya in Lebanon. The aim is to develop good practices in land use conservation and management based on ecological associations, landscape connectivity and spatial distribution of land uses. The cooperation is part of the GEF project entitled 'Sustainable Land Management in the Qaroun Catchment' (SLMQ). [Read more...](#)

## UNESCO Participates in the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water

29-30 April 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office participated as an implementing partner, in the 17<sup>th</sup> Technical Advisory Committee of the Arab Ministerial Council held its 17<sup>th</sup> Session. The meeting was held in preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water. As requested by the Executive Bureau of the AMCW, Dr. Fariz, Director of UCO, presented the “*Water Security for All: Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development of Water in the Arab Region and Neighbouring Countries*” involving potential future-plans for activating science/water diplomacy within the overall all objective of achieving sustainable development in the Arab region and neighbouring countries.

Furthermore, Dr. Zaki, National Programme Officer at UCO, presented to the technical committee the key activities undertaken by Regional Bureau in support of the implementation of the action plan of the Arab Strategy for Water Security. It was noted that the Regional Bureau contributed to several areas of the action plan including raising awareness of water resources issues, enhancing the mainstreaming of climate change in water resources strategies, promoting good groundwater governance, and facilitating, in cooperation with the Secretariat of IHP, improved cooperation on the monitoring and management of regional groundwater aquifers. The presentation also included an overview of UCO/HYD action plan for 2018-2019 and its intersection with elements of the regional strategy.

## Technical Support Information Meeting on the establishment of UNESCO UNITWIN Networks and UNESCO Chairs

18-19 April 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States —Cairo Office, Egypt

UNESCO held a technical support information meeting on the establishment of UNESCO UNITWIN/Chairs. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Palestinian National Commission for UNESCO and National IHP committee, the University of Al Najah in Palestine, Helwan and Alexandria Universities in Egypt, and the from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport. Cairo office programme specialists from culture and hydrology together with colleagues from the education sector at HQ informed the participants on the process and requirements for the establishment of UNESCO Chairs. Subsequently, the Palestinian National Commission for UNESCO successfully submitted a proposal for the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Resources at Al Najah University.



# Regional Launching of the World Water Assessment Report 2018: Nature Based Solutions for Water Resources

2 May 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait



In close coordination with UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), The Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States launched the 2018 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR-2018): Nature Based Solution for Water Resources during the plenary session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Water Conference. Dr. Ghaith Fariz, Director of the Regional Bureau, delivered a key-note presentation outlining the key finding of the report and participated in the high-level panel of the session. Copies of the report and its executive summary (translated by the Regional Bureau) were disseminated to the conference participants. More than 200 participants from most Arab countries attended the launching.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water

2 May 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait

UNESCO participated as an observer in the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water. The council considered the draft decisions proposed by its executive Bureau. Concerning the Bureau's *Water Security for All: Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development of Water in the Arab Region and Neighboring Countries*, the Ministers thanked UNESCO Cairo Office for its efforts in promoting the concept of science diplomacy for sustainable development in the Arab region. Additionally, the decision to invite Regional Bureau, to prepare a comprehensive concept note on the initiative, its objectives, proposed activities, and activation mechanisms, to be circulated to all Member States for consultation. In addition, they invited UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States - Cairo Office to communicate with donors to secure the required funding. Finally, the Ministers encouraged the Regional Bureau to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Council on Water to identify resource mobilization mechanisms to secure the necessary funding for the implementation of the sub-programmes and activities within this initiative.



## UNESCO Organizes Sessions on Groundwater Governance and Water/Energy/Food Nexus During the 3rd Arab Water Conference

2-3 May 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office co-organized two technical sessions during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab water conference. The session on Groundwater Governance in the Arab Region organized in cooperation with FAO and the Arabian Gulf University. The session focused on promoting the UN “Groundwater Governance 2030: Global Framework for Action” and it was attended by more than 50 participants. The second session, which focussed on the Water/Energy/Food Nexus, was organized in cooperation with GIZ, the League of Arab States, Arabian Gulf University, and the Water Research Center at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), more than 50 participants attended this session. Mr. Bisher Imam, UNESCO Regional Hydrologist for the Arab States delivered the Keynote addresses in both sessions.



## Paving the Way for a new UNESCO Designated Site in Lebanon

25 May 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



A meeting was held at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 in Beirut in Lebanon. The main aims of the meeting were to pave the way for the designation of sites of globally outstanding cultural and ecological value in West Bekaa, Zahle and Rashaya and to identify the support needed for any required assessment for the preparation of application for potential UNESCO designated sites. The meeting gathered representatives from municipalities, local stakeholders and youth community.

[Read More...](#)

## Participating in the Phase II Consultation for the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR)

1 June 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

The Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States has been an implementing partner during the first phase of the RICCAR initiative. In 2018, the Bureau participated in Phase II RICCAR consultation meeting, which. The consultation was attended by representatives of partner agencies and organizations and representatives from two member states (Egypt and Jordan). The participants took stock of phase I and highlighted lessons learned during its implementation. Subsequent to reviewing the outcome of the evaluation of phase I, the participants, including representatives from the Regional Bureau discussed, in details, their motivation for launching a second phase and developed, based on these motivations an outline of the activities that responds the Member States needs and builds upon developed capacities and competence areas of project partners. The discussions focused on three major areas of cooperation: Further analysis of climate change impacts on water resources and socio-economic vulnerability for people and policy-makers at different scales of analysis; improve the capacity of individuals and institutions to assess and adapt to climate change and its effects on water-sensitive sectors; facilitate access to scientific knowledge for informing policymaking and action by various stakeholder groups.

## First Palestine International Water Forum: Integrated Water Resource Management: Best Practices and Technology Transfer

25-28 June 2018 | Ramallah, Palestine



The Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States, in collaboration with UNESCO Office in Ramallah, supported the Palestinian Water Authority in holding the First Palestine International Water Forum. The focus of the Forum was to present real-world experiences in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), planning and implementation. The forum participants also explored challenges and opportunities, discussed "lessons learnt", and share best practices and innovative perspectives beyond current IWRM practices that can help Palestine first,

and then the regional and the international community. Mr. Lodovico Folin-Calabi, Head of Ramallah Office, and Mr. Tap-Raj Pant, Education Programme Specialist in Ramallah office represented UNESCO in the conference. More than 200 national and international scholars participated in the forum.



## Regional Training in Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Policy Development in Collaboration with the Arab Parliament

3 July 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

Preparation of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Development guide in both Arabic and English, on the basis of which a strong ambitious program for training Arab Decision-Makers and Parliamentarians will be developed in collaboration with the Arab Parliament. The first training sessions took place in Cairo, Egypt on July 3rd, 2018 in which 25 Arab parliamentarians attended and participated. Two additional sessions will take place during the first quarter of 2019, in the new administration capital in Egypt during 27-28 February 2019 and in junction with the Regional

Conference on Higher Education that is organized by the Arab Parliament. The second training session will be organized in Sultanate of Oman during March 4-5, 2019. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Organizes Training Workshop “Water Education for Teachers Trainers in Jordan, Palestine and Iraq”

22-24 July 2018 | Amman, Jordan



The workshop opening was attended by representative of H.E. Minister of Education in Jordan and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences Director. Dr. Ghaith Fariz. More than 38 participants attended the workshop representing 30 UNESCO associated schools in Jordan (20 schools), Palestine (7 schools) and Iraq (3 schools) in addition to representatives of the Ministry of Education, Queen Rania Academy for teachers training and Royal Scientific Society of Jordan. The main objectives of the workshop

were to Introduce UCO Water Education Guidelines Interactive Activities for school students (13-18 Years) and to train teacher trainers on the use of the guidelines and implementation of the interactive activities through a series of demonstrations. It worth to mention that four involved schools in the training workshop have large number of Iraqi and Syrian refugees students in Jordan. The initiated cooperation and experience exchange among the involved schools on water education projects was continued and strengthened in Egypt, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq.



## Water Education Application Sessions for school students at Syrian Refugee, Zaatari Camp

25-26 July 2018 | Amman, Jordan



Water Education Application Sessions were successfully organized for school students at Syrian Refugee Zaatari Camp in joint collaboration with the NATCOM/Jordan. The sessions were organized at Aisha Bent Abi Bakr Secondary School. More than 28 school girl-students (13-18 Years) actively participated in the sessions. Eleven interactive activities were implemented with the students focusing and promoting the concept of responsible water use, water conservation and management in addition to encouraging the active participation at community level. The involved student

participants showed excellent understanding of the introduced concepts and activities with high level of critical thinking skills and problem solving attitude. At the end of the 2-days sessions, the involved students expressed their satisfaction of the implemented program. They also showed their interest to continue involvement in the water education program. They promised to convey the gained knowledge and apply/implement the interactive activities with their local communities and families for promoting the water conservation and management culture.

## UNESCO Countries to Evaluate their Readiness Towards Establishing the Arab UNESCO Geo-park Network

8-9 August 2018 | Kuwait City, Kuwait

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States– Cairo Office in close collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research [KISR], organized a consultation meeting paving the way for the establishment of the Arab Geopark Network (AGN). The coverage of the event by local and national media agencies brought up to the front the importance of the geological heritage in the Arab region. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Regional Bureau Catalyzing Social and Economic Stewardship for Biodiversity Conservation in Biosphere Reserves for Mashreq Region

27- 28 August 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon



UNESCO launched its biennium initiative towards ensuring inclusive planning within and beyond UNESCO designated sites in the Arab region. The workshop was held under the patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Environment and in the presence of Dr. Tala Zein- Secretary General of the National Commission of Education, Science and Culture in Lebanon (NATCOM-Lebanon). The workshop dedicated for the Mashreq countries is the first in a series of sub-regional workshops that was organized in close collaboration with UBO and NATCOM- Lebanon. [Read more...](#)

## Extending Outreach of UNESCO's Flagship Water Education Programme to Community Schools in Minya

October 2018– January 2019 | Minya,

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office successfully extended the outreach of its flagship Water Education Program to Misr El Kheir's community schools in Minya governorate. A partnership with and Misr El Kheir Foundation (MEK) to include the Water Education Program as an integral component of the activities delivered in community schools. In this framework, the collaboration was kicked-off in Minya governorate by training 30 facilitators from 30 community schools on delivering the Water Education Program activities. [Read more...](#)





# Urgent Action Concerning Protection of Petra World Heritage Site from Flash Floods

2-4 September 2018| Amman, Jordan



In the aftermath of the flash flood event of May 1, 2018, and at the request from the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), the Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States and UNESCO office in Amman, Jordan convened a three experts team comprising UNESCO experts in hydrology and culture. Following desk studies performed in parallel at Amman and Cairo office, and the approval of the proposed mission terms of reference by PDTRA, the team undertook a fact-finding mission to Petra (Sept 2-4, 2018) where members of the team met with the PDTRA commissioners and technical experts. The team also undertook a site visit to the core area of the Petra Archaeological Park as well as to the upland areas of the major wadis contributing floodwater to the World Heritage Site (areas of Madras, Jilf and tributaries of Wadi Al Jarra). During the visit to Petra, the team also reviewed the operational status, data, and interface of the existing Wadi Mousa flood early warning system (FEWS) installed in 2014.

In addition to these visits, the team met with technical experts who have undertaken previous studies and visited several key agencies engaged in flood forecasting, management, and with providing, to various degrees, hydrological services to the Government of Jordan. These included, the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and Jordan Meteorological Services. The main objective of these visits was to assess data availability and potential support capacities within Jordan that can be relied upon to improve flood protection and management within the precious World Heritage Site.



## National Training Workshop on Wastewater in Egypt

10-11 October 2018|UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States —Cairo Office, Egypt



In partnership with UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States hosted a National training workshop on Wastewater management. 31 participants from the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Egyptian Holding Company for water and wastewater, and various research and training centres in Egypt, received training on state-of-the-art in wastewater treatment *technical and economic* aspects. The training was based the 2017 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR 2017, Wastewater: an Untapped Resource”).

## UNESCO Contributes to the First International Cairo Water Week

14-18 October 2018| Cairo , Egypt



In partnership with UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office hosted a National training workshop on Wastewater management. 31 participants from the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Egyptian Holding Company for water and wastewater, and various research and training centres in Egypt, received training on state-of-the-art in wastewater treatment technical and economic aspects. The training was based the 2017 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR 2017, Wastewater: an Untapped Resource”).

In addition, UNESCO supported the organizing of the Children water forum during the week. Children from several governorates also participated in the forum.



## UNESCO Biosphere Reserves Discussing Ways to Catalyzing Social and Economic Stewardship for Biodiversity Conservation in Biosphere Reserves

17-18 October 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia



The second sub-regional workshop organized within the context of the UNESCO biennium initiative aiming towards ensuring inclusive planning within and beyond UNESCO designated sites in the Arab region, was scheduled on October 17 and 18, 2018. It was held under the patronage of Dr. Riyad El Moakhar, the Tunisian Minister

of Social Affairs and Environment, and in close cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). [Read more..](#)

## Science Diplomacy Information Meeting with Permanent Delegation of Arab Member States.

18 October 2018 | UNESCO HQ

At the initiative from the Cabinet of UNESCO Director-General, and in cooperation with ODG and ERI/Arab Desk, Dr. Ghaith Fariz, Director of the Regional Bureau, presented the “Water Security for All: Science Diplomacy for Sustainable Development of Shared Water Resources in the Arab Region and Neighboring Countries” initiative to the Permanent Delegations of Arab Member States to UNESCO. 18 out of 19 Arab delegation attended the meeting in addition to the representative of Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). The main objective of the meeting was to consult with the Arab countries and foster momentum around the initiative. Consisting of 4 major pillars, the ultimate aim of this science/water diplomacy initiative is to address issues of transboundary/shared water resources in the Arab region and neighboring countries. The initiative adopts an innovative approach that is anchored on “mutual benefits for all as the main entry point”. It also contains three other major programs/pillars including the “trust building: know your neighbor”; deployment and use of science and knowledge; and promoting and building capacities for effective water governance. The suggested science/water diplomacy initiative was well received with several Arab delegations expressing support in principle. The presentation triggered very fruitful discussion with elaborations and queries around details of possible modalities of implementing the initiative.



## UNDP– UNESCO Thematic Workshop on the Integrated Landscape Approach

30 October 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia



A community of scientists, practitioners and government officials was convened on the 30th of October, 2018 by the UNDP-Sustainable Land Management in the Qaraoun Catchment (SLMQ) project and the UNESCO Ecology and Earth Science programme in Cairo to discuss the design and establishment of a Decision Support System (DSS) serving ecological restoration and reforestation initiatives and activities in the Qaraoun Catchment. [Read more...](#)

## Regional Bureau Participates in UNESCO CILAC 2018 Conference

22-24 October 2018 | Panama City, Panama

The meeting comprised a number of plenary sessions with highly selective panel members according to each topic. Panel members included ministers, state ministers, heads of regional and international institutions. The outcome of discussion from some of these sessions was excellent. In particular, Dr. Ghaith Fariz, CAI/DIR participated as a panel member in both the Round Table “Science for urban development”, on Monday 22nd from 17:30 to 19:00, and the High Level Session on Innovation policies and local development that was held on Wednesday 24th from 14:30 to 16:00. The objective of these sessions was to reach some innovative modalities in order to strategically influence the design of scientific policies and the decision-making processes in different regions of the world. This is expected through the promotion of dialogue between science, politics and citizenship, using the available technologies in the 21st century and valuing the ethics of sustainable development.



## Strengthening the Arab MAB Network: Readiness of Potential Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon

1 November 2018 | Rashaya, Lebanon



Following up on the workshop held in April 2018 on “Biodiversity conservation: Within and beyond UNESCO designated sites”, a second local workshop was organized by UNDP and UNESCO Cairo and Beirut Offices, to assess the readiness of the community in Rashaya to launch the preparation of the nomination file and to set the path towards the designation of Jabal El Sheikh (Mount Hermon) as a new Biosphere Reserve in Lebanon.

The workshop presented UNESCO designated sites and their important roles in land conservation and management and in leveraging the livelihood of local communities while making people stewards of their lands and culture and traditions. The sessions introduced the different steps of the nomination process including components of the nomination file. The workshop brought together all stakeholders including municipalities and local Non-Governmental Organizations as well as representatives of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and Shouf Biosphere Reserve and individuals leading eco-touristic activities. UNDP-SLMQ project presented the results of the ecological assessment done and shed the light on the ecological, cultural and historical importance of the Jabal El Sheikh. A participatory mapping exercise was led by UNDP-SLMQ project and UNESCO to clarify the concept of BR’s zones and to make room for the delineation of the core zone, buffer zone and transition zone in the aspiring BR. All stakeholders were eager to move forward and set a schedule for the follow up on the participatory planning of the three zones and the preparation of the nomination file. [Read more...](#)

## Supporting Young Arab Experts' Participation in the International Training Workshop on Integrated Sediment Management in River Basin

5-10 November 2018 | Beijing, China



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States supported the participation of Arab experts from Sudan, Morocco, and Egypt, in the international training workshop on integrated sediment management in river basins. The workshop was organized by IRTCES in collaboration with the IHP secretariat and UNESCO's Offices in Beijing, China and the Regional Science Bureaus for Asia and the Pacific and the Arab Region. The training workshop included lectures, seminars, and a one-day field visit. Topics included river basin

management, soil and water conservation technology, ecology and restoration in integrated river basin management, reservoir sedimentation and sediment management technology. Participants also contributed to a seminar involving guided discussion of national case study presentations prepared by participants. 23 participants from 9 developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Arab Region benefited from the training.

## Mainstreaming STI In The Islamic Development Bank Towards Member Countries

November 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office in collaboration with UNESCO HQ, worked towards the overarching outcome of improving the sustainable development of common IsDBG member countries and UNESCO Member States through STI policies and policy instruments. The project aimed to contribute to integrating and reconciling the perspective of the IsDBG and the IsDBG member countries by promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The specific objectives included:

- Undertaking an STI gap analysis of the IsDBG using the GO-SPIN methodology;
- Developing a draft of an institutional STI policy to support IsDBG operations; and
- Developing an STI policy framework for member countries.



## UNESCO Designated Sites at the Conference of Parties 14

22 November 2018 | Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

The Conference of the Parties 14 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Sharm El Sheikh was convened before two years of the end of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The need to engage the global community on all biodiversity issues becomes more and more pressing today. The conference brought together governments, local communities and indigenous to set the path knowledge, businesses, academic and research institutions, path towards transformative changes in dealing with biodiversity conservation. [Read more...](#)



## First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Arab/African MAB/IHP Initiative: AABRI

27-28 November 2018 | Dakar, Senegal



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office co-organized, in partnership with UNESCO Offices in Rabat and Dakar and with ISESCO, the first meeting of the steering committee of the Arab/African MAB/IHP initiative in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting gathered representatives of the governing bodies of the two UNESCO intergovernmental programmes from both regions to design the initiative's action plan for 2019-2020. The action plan sets the stage for the deployment of UNESCO's bio-

sphere reserves in Africa and the Arab region as observatories of climate change with focus on water issues. Along with the action plan, the steering committee identified a preliminary budget requirement for resource mobilization and a phased strategy to introduce the initiative for adoption by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

## DRR Thematic Regional Meeting: Spectrum of Eco-System Resilience and Social Preparedness in the Arab Region

3 - 4 December 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States —Cairo Office, Egypt



The regional workshop was organized in the context of UNESCO's mission to support countries in building and strengthening their capacities and improving their readiness to respond to natural and geological hazards. It brought together around forty participants from 8 Arab states while providing space for Member States to work together and to share technical and scientific knowledge

on existing national systems to mitigate the impact of Natural hazards prevailing the Arab Region. The regional Workshop brought showcases on natural hazard events in the Arab region where it was revealed to become more recurrent in more than a decade from today. [Read more.](#)

## Expert Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming Towards SDG6 Implementation in the Arab Region: Policies and Practices

11 - 12 December 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States — Cairo Office, Egypt

UNESCO organized an expert meeting on Gender Mainstreaming Towards SDG6 Implementation in the Arab Region: Policies and Practices. Experts from Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Egypt, and Sudan explored through case studies, including those conducted by the Bureau, and through discussions, the challenges and opportunities in enhancing the participation of women in water-related decision making at various levels in the Arab region. The meeting also explored impacts of these challenges on the potential adoption and activation of inclusive and integrated management of water resources, which is one of the targets of SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation).



Presentations and discussion focussed on the inter-relation between gender mainstreaming in IWRM and other SDG targets including those associated with SDG5 ( gender equality). The discussions focussed on identifying formal and informal institutional mechanisms, including the development of specific policy recommendations and toolkits to support decision and policy makers in the region.



# Preparation of the Inquiry– Based Science Education (IBSE) Teaching Guide

December 2018 | Arab Region

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States— Cairo Office- PCB program is also preparing the Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) teaching manual to be disseminated and used within the region. The IBSE approach ensures that students *truly* understand what they are learning and not simply learn to repeat content and information. The IBSE Approach goes deeper and motivation comes from the satisfaction of having learned and understood something and it allows collection of ideas or scientific concepts leading to understanding that grows deeper and deeper as the students get is in progress. The IBSE manual is for 4K-9K grade derived from the current Egyptian science curricula taught in schools and is expected to be ready in May 2019, where a regional training for science teachers will be undertaken during the second half of 2019.

## First National Workshop: Nature-Based Treatment (NBT) Techniques for Water and Wastewater Reuse In Egypt

13 December 2018| Ismailia, Egypt



In joint collaboration with Suez Canal University and DAAD Cairo Office (COSIMENA), the workshop was organized in Ismailia, Egypt; 13 December 2018. The workshop was a good opportunity to enhance the capacity building and experience exchange among about 100 national water experts, researchers and post graduate students, representing 4 Ministries, 6 universities, 35 governmental companies, private sector and NGOs, in the field of “Nature-Based Treatment Techniques for water and wastewater reuse in Egypt”. New techniques were presented and shared with the national participants through the organization of a workshop in Ismailia, Egypt.

## UNESCO Supports STI Activities in Egypt and Sudan

December 2018 | Egypt and Sudan

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States— Cairo Office also supported a number of activities at the national and regional level for Sudan and Egypt as follows:

- A UNESCO Chair on Innovative technologies has been established with Penn State University in the United States to support and foster nanotechnology education in the Arab Region;
- Supported the development of a nanotechnology program at the University of Khartoum in Sudan;
- Two new UNESCO Chairs on Materials and Nanotechnology and Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development were established at the University of Khartoum, Sudan and at Zewail City of Science and Technology in Egypt respectively;
- Supported a regional Meeting for Chairs for Women in Science and Technology held in Khartoum towards setting up a S-S collaboration network between the relevant chairs;
- Participated with a keynote presentation in the ICSU-CFRS Workshop for “Shaping the future of researchers in developing countries”, held in Abuja, Nigeria during the period March 7-8, 2018.
- Supported the Young Scientists Conference on Genomics and Human Health in Africa in collaboration with the Sudanese National Academy of Science (SNAS) during the period of December 2-7, 2019;



# Social and Human Sciences

## The Arab Charter of Ethics of Science and Technology Discussed through Wide-Ranging Consultation Process

2018 | Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Jordan



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office launched in 2018 a multi-stage, participatory consultation process on the Arab Charter of Ethics of Science in Technology in 2018, involving concerned government and non-government stakeholders from all Arab countries. In particular, six consultation meetings were organized in cooperation with regional partners, three at the national level and three at the sub-regional level, in addition to an online consultation. [Read more...](#)

## Aging Arab Women: Myths Facts and Implications

6– 7 February 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office collaborated with the Salim El-Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program at the American University of Beirut, the Faculté des Sciences Juridiques, Politiques et Sociales de Tunis, and Institut Pasteur de Tunis in organizing a regional conference under the title “Aging Arab Women: Myths, Facts, and Implications” in Tunisia on February 6-7, 2018. [Read more...](#)



## Life Assessment Skills of Libyan High School Students

April– August 2018 | Libya



Within the framework of the EU-funded Network of Mediterranean Youth project, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office and UNFPA Libya Office partnered with the Libyan Youth Voice Organization (LVYO) to assess the different life skills of high school students in Libya, and provide some clarity on the balance they have in their lives. The importance of this pilot exercise stems from the fact that little information exists on this specific age group in Libya.

[Read more...](#)

## UNESCO & University of Khartoum Hold a Workshop on Ethics in University Settings

23 May 2018 | Sudan

UNESCO (through its Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States in Cairo and its National Office in Khartoum) cooperated with the University of Khartoum in organizing a Workshop on Ethics in University Settings. The workshop was intended to raise awareness about ethical dimensions in university settings, including academic and research ethics and the ethics linked to university role in community service. [Read more...](#)





## UNESCO organizes First Ethics Teachers Training Course in Egypt

6-9 May 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

Under the patronage of H.E the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of Egypt organized the first Ethics Teacher's Training Course in Egypt. The four days training course offered a unique opportunity for 25 ethics educators from diverse disciplines to develop their teaching and professional capacities in ethics and bioethics [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Participates in the Celebration of the International Youth Day 2018 in Egypt

12–15 August 2018 | Alexandria, Egypt



More than 150 Egyptian youth came together between 12 and 15 August to celebrate the International Youth Day 2018 in the youth city in Abu Qir city in Alexandria. The United Nations Agencies in Egypt jointly organized a “youth camp” in close partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports. The 4-days’ camp aimed at encouraging the youth to create social media campaigns that advocate calls-for-action on local development priorities, as stipulated in the

United Nations Partnership Development Framework (UNPDF) 2018-2022 for Egypt.

## Urban Inclusion Research and Advocacy Efforts in the Arab Region Brought to Light

28–29 August 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office, UNESCO Beirut, and Rabat jointly organized a regional meeting on “Participatory Research and Advocacy on Urban Inclusion” from 28 to 29 August 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon. The meeting aimed at sharing experiences and methodologies of participatory and interdisciplinary policy research to understand the urban inclusion among Arab researchers. [Read more...](#)



## Launching a Dialogue on the Ethics of Climate Action in the Arab Region

24–25 September 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States Cairo Office organized a two-day regional meeting on “Promoting Ethics-Grounded Climate Action in the Arab Region”. The event was held at the UNESCO premises. A dialogue was launched

around the content of the new UNESCO declaration on “Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change” that was adopted by 195 member states in November 2017. [Read more...](#)



# Launching a Dialogue on the Ethics of Climate Action in the Arab Region

29 October 2018 – 1 November 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office, in cooperation with the European Training Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ETC-Graz), organized a workshop to initiate the elaboration of a “Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities” from 29 October to 1 November 2018 in Cairo. The workshop also marked the World Cities Day 2018 (31 October). This highly technical meeting aimed to develop the content of the first two chapters of the Toolkit covering the topics of public participation in city planning, and access to information. The Toolkit aims to offer practical guidance by Arab cities for Arab cities on selected urban inclusion topics of high relevance to the region. Each chapter of the toolkit will give examples and hands-on guidance covering the full policy cycle from planning to implementation, evaluation and follow-up. [Read more...](#)

## First L'Oréal– UNESCO “For Women in Science” Egyptian National Fellowship Program Awards 3 Outstanding Researchers

13 November 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



Within the framework of the L'Oréal–UNESCO “For Women in Science” Initiative, an award ceremony was held in Cairo to honor the accomplishment of three outstanding young Egyptian women researchers: Dr. Amira ElYazbi (postdoc), Mrs. Marwa Balaha (PhD) and Mrs. Noha Mostafa (PhD). [Read more...](#)

## MOST Forum of Arab Social & Health Ministers on “Multi-Dimensional Social Protection Policies in Conflict & Conflict Affected Areas in Arab States”

4 December 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



UNESCO in cooperation with the League of Arab States (Social Sector), organized the MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Forum of Arab Social and Health Ministers on “Multi-Dimensional Social Protection Policies in Conflict and Conflict-Affected Arab States”. The Forum took place in conjuncture with the joint meeting of the Councils of Arab Social and Health Ministers. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Celebrates World Philosophy Day

9 December 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



On the occasion of World Philosophy Day, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office hosted a seminar titled “Building Knowledge Societies: A Philosophical Reflection”. The event was held on 9 December 2018 in collaboration with Bel Arabi Falsafa, a youth initiative with the purpose of bringing philosophy to a non-specialist audience, and demonstrating the relevance of philosophical approaches to matters of both private interest and public concern. [Read more...](#)

## Network of Mediterranean Youth Libya Concludes Training on Youth Engagement in Preventing Violent Extremism

23-27 December 2018 | Tripoli, Libya



Twenty-seven young participants from different governorates in Libya participated in the ToT workshop, which was organized in cooperation with the Libyan National Commission for UNESCO. The topics covered included: 1) Skills development such as critical thinking, building empathy and non-violent communication, conflict resolution, and facilitation techniques, 2) Knowledge building on active citizenship, and 3) Strategies and tactics including countering hate speech, identity and diversity, intercultural and interfaith dialogue. [Read more...](#)

# Culture

## UNESCO Participate in D-CAF 2018 Contemporary Arts Festival

22-26 March 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

In order to enhance knowledge on the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its contribution to sustainable development, an awareness raising and information sharing seminar was held during the D-CAF Contemporary Arts Festival in the section "4th Arab Arts Focus" which were held during 22-26 of March 2018. The Convention presents a broadened vision of diversity that recognizes it as a source of creativity and that underlines the importance of nurturing contemporary creation. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO and Partners Support Conservation of Benghazi University Manuscripts

5 -14 April 2018 | Benghazi, Libya



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States - Cairo Office organized a mission to the University of Benghazi in Libya from 5-14 April 2018 to evaluate the state of conservation and carry out a needs assessment for the restoration and preservation of the University's Collection of Manuscripts and Books. The mission was conducted in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities and the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Mr Ghassan Salamé, and with the support of UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Participates in the 52nd Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) Panel on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage

16 - 17 April 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO was invited to provide its expertise during the 52nd Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) on 16 and 17 April 2018. Initiated in 2011 by the German Embassy in Cairo, the “Cairo Climate Talks” (CCT) are a series of events meant to provide a platform to exchange experiences, raise awareness and foster cooperation between policymakers, business, the scientific community and civil society. The talks seek to build on the strong partnership between Egypt and Germany in the fields of energy and environment. This event gave the opportunity to both the Culture and Science sectors to work together and present the relationship between protection cultural heritage and Climate Change. UNESCO presented the work in the region on protected natural areas, biosphere reserves and the world heritage cultural and natural sites [Read more..](#)



## UNESCO Regional Bureau Celebrating The World Heritage Day

18 – 24 April 2018 | World Heritage Site, Egypt

UNESCO celebrated the World Heritage Day in Egypt through different events in collaboration with the Ministry of Antiquities (MoA), the Ministry of Culture, the National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH) and the Cairo Governorate. [Read more..](#)

## UNESCO Presents its Culture Conventions to AUC Students

3 May 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



UNESCO in collaboration with the American University in Cairo (AUC) organized a seminar to present the organization and its action in the field of Cultural Heritage protection and preservation to the undergraduate students from the Department of Architecture under the School of Sciences and Engineering. the Department of Architecture under the School of Sciences and Engineering at the American University in Cairo (AUC) at the request of Dr. Yasmine El Shazly, professor of Egyptology at this prestigious university. [Read more...](#)

## UNESCO Participates in the Cultural Heritage Cluster Conference of the DAAD

7 – 9 May 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO was invited to share its expertise in the field of safeguarding cultural heritage at the first Cultural Heritage Cluster Conference in Cairo between 7-9 May 2018, organized by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Regional Bureau in Cairo. Under the scope of the COSI-MENA programme which stands for the Clusters of Scientific Innovation in the Middle East and North Africa). This conference brought together existing and potential partnerships in the field of Cultural Heritage from different academic disciplines. [Read more...](#)





## Multidisciplinary Mission to Abu Mena World Heritage Site

21 May 2018 | Alexandria, Egypt

UNESCO organized a one-day multidisciplinary mission to Abu Mena World Heritage Site on 21 of May in partnership with Ministry of Antiquities (MoA), United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO Egypt) and the Italian embassy in Cairo. The mission successfully achieved its objective of activating the water pumps project to decrease the ground water level at the site. The mission was an excellent opportunity for networking among all the technical experts who agreed to continue their meetings in Cairo in order to produce short, medium and long term solutions to Abu Mena World Heritage Site water problems. [Read more...](#)



## Capacity Building Project for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Egypt Launched

19 – 27 June 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Ar-



UNESCO officially launched the activities of the 24-month project “Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Egypt for Sustainable Development”, generously supported by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Cultural Authority (ADTCA) of the United Arab Emirates. As one of its initial steps of implementation, the capacity-building project will hold two training workshops on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and its key concepts from 19 -21 June 2018 and 24-27 June 2018. The event organized in concert with UNESCO’s Communication and Information

Sector, brought together around 60 Egyptian educators from public and private K-12 schools as well as tertiary institutions. [Read more...](#)

# Policy Development for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Egypt

1 July 2018 | Cairo, Egypt.



UNESCO is continuing the implementation of the 24-month project “Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Egypt for Sustainable Development”, generously supported by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Cultural Authority (ADTCA) of the United Arab Emirates.

Having completed the introductory training on the 2003 Convention and its key concepts during the month of June, the next phase of the project addresses the need for a policy strategy tailored for the successful implementation of the 2003 Convention under the framework of sustainable development.

To this end and since July 2018, UNESCO has been undertaking a consultancy service that will result in the production of the policy strategy document. It will include recommendations for the reinforcement of legislative and institutional frameworks for better safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) at the national level on one hand, and a more fluent collaboration/ communication/ coordination especially related to inventories between the different actors working in this area on the other hand. [Read more...](#)



## UNESCO Hosts a Workshop on the “Retrospective Inventory of Outstanding Universal Value”

22 - 25 July 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, Cairo Office – Egypt.

In partnership with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WHC) in Bahrain and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), UNESCO organized a workshop on “Retrospective Inventory of Outstanding Universal Value” for heritage professional of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Republic, on 22–25 July.



The workshop aimed at building capacities in regards to drafting a retrospective statement of outstanding universal value and mapping by defining clear site boundaries and buffer zones to enhance the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab Region. 20 site managers and inspectors from different world heritage sites in Egypt and Libya came together under the guidance of specialized experts from the ARC-WHC, UNESCO and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to revise the concepts of World Heritage that have evolved overtime since the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972. The Ministry of Antiquities (MoA) and UNESCO Cairo celebrated the World Heritage Day by organizing educational activities in different World Heritage sites in Egypt. [Read more...](#)

## Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace

29 July 2018 – 6 September 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia

In the framework of the European Union financed project “Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace”, UNESCO Regional Bureau, in cooperation with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit of the Culture Sector held a workshop in benefit of heritage professionals of the Department of Antiquities of Libya, on “First Aid to Cultural Heritage on evacuating collections and securing them in safe storages”. The aim of this project is to enhance the capacity of countries in transitional contexts such as Libya to respond more rapidly to needs associated with the protection of culture and diversity in complex emergencies. [Read more...](#)



## Training of Trainers on Community Based Inventorying in Egypt

2 – 6 September 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



A five-day training of trainers workshop to provide technical and educational tools to teaching staff of government institution and national trainers working in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage so that they can themselves conduct training at national level (especially for young people) in their university or institution. The workshop is under the framework of the 24-month project “Strengthening national capacities for

safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Egypt for Sustainable Development” supported by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Cultural Authority (ADTCA) of the United Arab Emirates. [Read more...](#)



## Training Workshop on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites' Management in St. Catherine Monastery

24 - 28 September 2018 | St. Catherine Monastery, Sinai, Egypt

Saint Catherine Monastery, one of Egypt's World Heritage sites was the venue for a training workshop on strengthening national capacity on "Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt" under the framework of UNESCO assistance programme to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities for capacity building.



This event is part of a programme to carry out trainings in the six Egyptian sites inscribed in the World Heritage List that started in 2016 to foster technical skills of Ministries staff and sites managers in the implementation of the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Similar events have already taken place in Cairo and Luxor. The event was organized by UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Antiquities and the Monastery brought together twenty-three representatives from the Ministry of Antiquities, the Ministry of Environment and Saint Catherine Monastery management. [Read more...](#)



## Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property in Sudan

1 – 4 October 2018 | Khartoum, Sudan

UNESCO in close collaboration with the Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO organized a workshop in Khartoum, Sudan under the framework of UNESCO project “Effective implementation of the 1970 Convention for the prevention of illicit traffic of cultural property and of the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on museums and collections in the Cluster countries” from 1–4 October 2018. More than 50 participants attended the seminar. Staff from main line ministries

(Ministry of Antiquities/culture/ interior/ foreign affairs/tourism, Museums, Local NGOs and associations whose mandate is to protect cultural property were represented as well as a very important participation of the Police, Military and Custom forces.

[Read More...](#)



## 50th Anniversary to Commemorate the Completion of the Rescue Project of Abu Simbel Temples

22 October 2018 | The Temple of Abu Simbel, Egypt



The Ministry of Antiquities organized a celebration on 22 October, coinciding with the solar alignment in the Ramses II Temple in Abu Simbel, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the completion of the UNESCO led international salvage campaign of the Nubian Temples. UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, Cairo Office, several Egyptian Ministers, Ambassadors, Cultural attachés and directors of foreign Archaeological institutions participated in the celebration.

[Read more...](#)



## Technical Meeting to Discuss the Advancement Toward Removing Abu Mina Archaeological Site from the List of World Heritage in Danger

7 November 2018 | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, Cairo Office – Egypt.



The multi-disciplinary technical mission to this site organized in May 2018, agreed to bring together all national partners under the guidance of UNESCO on a regular basis to review the advancement and commitments towards saving the Abu Mena archaeological site and work towards its removal from the list of World Heritage sites in danger. Thus, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, Cairo Office – Egypt brought together, on 7 November, during a technical meeting at its premises, experts from the Ministries of Antiquities, Environment, Foreign Affairs and Higher Education, experts in irrigation from FAO and the Italian Embassy, members of Parliament from Alexandria as well as the Coptic clergy from the Abu Mena Monastery and their consultants in architecture and engineering, under the coordination of UNESCO programme specialists from the Culture and Science Sectors, to analyze the problems linked to its inscription in the danger list in 2001 due to flooding of part of the site by the rising ground water, discuss the actions taken since and put together a short and long-term action plan in for its salvage. [Read more...](#)

# Conference on Bio-Archaeology of the Mummies in Egypt and Chile at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo

11 December 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



Within the framework of the assistance project for the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo (NMEC) and in collaboration with the Embassy of Chile in Egypt, a conference on “Bio-Archaeology of the Mummies in Egypt and Chile” was organized at the teaching center of the Museum on 11 December, 2018.

In the conference, Professor Bernardo Arriaza from the University of Tarapacá (Chile) gave a keynote presentation on the analysis and conservation of the Chinchorros mummies from the San Miguel de Azapa Archaeological Museum in northern Chile. Discovered in 1917, they are older than 7000 years and were developed by the Chinchorro culture, which existed in that area of the country between the years 7000 and 1500 BC.

In addition, Professor Frank Rühli, expert in mummies and Director of Institute of Evolutionary Medicine at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) gave a presentation on current interdisciplinary investigations of ancient Egyptian mummies. Also, Dr. Yehia Zakaria Gad, Processor of Molecular Genetics at the Egyptian National Research Centre gave an introductory presentation on the applications of Ancient DNA analysis in archaeology. [Read more...](#)



# Communication & Information

## UNESCO Supports Disability and the Arts in Egypt

8-29 March 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

From 8-29 March 2018, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office joined forces with Orient Productions and an ensemble of 190 artists and 22 speakers from 28 countries to organize the Downtown Cairo Arts Festival (DCAF). 2018 marked the festival's 7th year in existence and it attracted over 8000 participants, its largest turnout ever.



## UNESCO-ESCWA Session Presents Arab Information Access Initiatives

University of Galway | April 6, 2018 | Ireland



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office along with the Organization's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), organized an Invited Session at the University of Galway in Ireland. The Session drew attention to ongoing initiatives across the Arab region aimed at overcoming barriers to information and knowledge. Perspectives from Governments,

UN bodies as well as the research community were presented during the event. [Read more....](#)

## UNESCO Capacity Building Day for Educators at the American University in Cairo (AUC)

5th May, 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



Graduate School of Education (GSE) at AUC hosted a 1-day symposium and OER professional development workshop for educators. The activity took place within the framework of UNESCO's Arab Open Educational Resources (OER) Forum. The event organized in concert with UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office, brought together around 60 Egyptian educators from public and K-12 schools as well as tertiary institutions. [Read more...](#)

## UNESCO Contributes to International Dialogue on Diversity

30- 31 July 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

On 29 and 30 July UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office participated as co-organizer in the international conference, “A message to media”. The League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Alliance on Civilizations (UNAOC) organized the event in partnership with the State Information Services of the Republic of Egypt (SIS) and the Egyptian Media Development Programme (EMDP).



The event attracted over 70 media professionals from Asia, Europe and North America as well as the Arab region. The conference sought to bring together global media, particularly young media professionals, to facilitate professional and intercultural exchanges that contribute to greater awareness, overcoming stereotypes, building of understanding and developing mutual respect. [Read more...](#)



## ITU and UNESCO Launch Preparations for Arab Regional Digital Inclusion Week

23- 28 September 2018 | Egypt and Sudan

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab States from 23 to 28 September 2018. The week is organized in the framework of the celebration on 28 September of UNESCO’s “International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)”. For 2018 UNESCO has adopted the theme “Overcoming Divides and Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. [Read more..](#)



## Women’s Contribution to ICTs Highlighted During Digital Inclusion Week

24 September 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



As part of Digital Inclusion Week 2018, UN Women’s youth-led initiative HerStory organized an “editathon” focusing on women’s digital inclusion. During the session, 20 volunteers translated, wrote and edited 65 articles in Arabic related to the contribution of women to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) including the Digital Divide, Cyberbullying, Women in STEM fields, Women in NASA, Black Girls Code, and Digital rights among others. ICTs have the potential to advance women’s rights in the economic and social spheres as they can be leveraged for women’s personal security and better access to education, jobs, financial inclusion, access basic healthcare information, and new means of transportation and services from the shared economy. [Read more...](#)

## UNESCO Promotes its Media Capacity Building Tools

31 October 2018- 1 November 2018 | Limassol, Cyprus

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office participated in the 14th international Conference on Terrorism and Electronic Media held in Cyprus from 31 October to 1 November, 2018. The Conference was organized by the International Academy of TV and Radio (IATR) and supported by the



RF Federal Agency on Press and Mass Communications together with the Cyprus Union of Journalists and Cyprus Journalists Union. [Read more...](#)

## UNESCO Supports Young Libyan Journalist to Build Peace

14-19 November 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia



Within the framework of the project “Prevention of Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia”, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office supported the training of 11 young Libyan journalists in Tunis from 14 to 19 November 2018. The project, is part of UNESCO’s effort to strengthen the positive role of young women and men in preventing and countering violent

extremism as well as supporting peace and intercultural dialogue in the beneficiary countries. The project is funded through a grant from the Government of Canada and the United Nations Office for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). [Read more...](#)



# UNESCO's Arab OER Forum Launches First Arabic Course

December 2018 | Arab States



In the framework of UNESCO's Arab Open Educational Resources (OER) Forum, a community of practice for Arab educators, an Arabic self-paced learning open online course called the “OER SMART Course” was developed. The course responds to challenges educators identified in a needs assessment conducted in Palestine and Jordan in August and September of 2017. Members of the UNESCO Arab OER Forum undertook the research and development of the course. Al Quds Open University (AQOU) in Palestine, led the project team in which they and the Queen Rania Al-Abdullah Centre for Education and Information Technology in Jordan’s Ministry of Education participated.

The course aims to raise awareness about OER-related concepts, their use and evaluation, enhance Open Educational Practices (OEPs), support understanding and use of the Creative Commons license, support the design and development of SMART learning scenarios for OERs; and enhance understanding and apply international guidelines to the adoption of OERs in national education programmes. Already, almost 100 education professionals (academics, teachers and policy makers) from the Arab region in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine have undertaken the course and developed the skills and confidence to serve as Trainers in OER and to disseminate the OER course to their colleagues and students. [Read more...](#)

# Education

## Fifth Meeting of UNESCO Education Category II Centers

20-22 February 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



Following Egypt's invitation to host the fifth meeting of UNESCO Education Category II Centers, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office and UNESCO Beirut Office supported the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) in organizing the Fifth Meeting of UNESCO Education Category II Centers. This important biennial event brings together all such UNESCO Centers from around the world.

[Read more...](#)

## National Adoption & Dissemination of Quality Standards for Adult Education Developed by UNESCO

March 2018 (Final Phase) | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office developed a comprehensive set of national quality standards for adult education in Egypt. The quality standards were developed in participatory approach in consultation with the Adult Education Authority (AEA), UNESCO experts in this field, concerned governmental organizations, academia, adult education centers and civil society. [Read more...](#)





## Regional Conference on Learning to Live Sustainably in Cities in the Arab Region

5-7 March 2018 | Aswan , Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office joined forces with UNESCO Beirut Office, UNESCO HQ, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in organizing a regional conference for the Arab Region on the role of cities in accelerating sustainable solutions at local level through education. [Read more...](#)



## Supporting Technical Education Sector Reform in Egypt

May 2018 (Ongoing) | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office is currently providing technical assistance and support to the Technical Education Sector at the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) in the framework of EDU 2.0 reform initiative, which was launched by H.E. Dr. Tarek Shawki – Minister of Education and Technical Education – in 2017. EDU 2.0 encompasses bold interventions to modernize the education system based on the targets of Egypt Vision 2030. To this end, UNESCO has harnessed all available resources for an assignment to review the new curriculum framework for technical education, and refine and enrich it based on international best practices and 21st century skills. This assignment came as a direct request from H.E. the Minister of Education and Technical Education, given UNESCO's expertise and strong track record in the area of curriculum review and benchmarking against international standards. [Read more...](#)

## Mainstreaming and Synthesizing Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education (SDG-4) at Governorate Level

2-4 May 2018 | Egypt

In its efforts as a leading UN agency in mainstreaming SDG-4 at national and decentralized levels, UNESCO Cairo Office held three workshops on SDG-4 at governorate level (Idara and Mudereyya levels). The workshops brought together participants from five governorates to raise awareness about SDG-4 and its targets, and develop school-level activities for awareness raising based on the actual needs and realities of each governorate.



The workshops took place in Minya (2- 3 May), Tanta (7 – 8 May) and Mansoura (13 – 14 May) cities, and included 210 participants from MoETE, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Culture, since SDG-4 encompasses many cross-cutting themes that overlap with the work of a number of line ministries, so their engagement in such awareness-raising activities was integral to ensure maximum outreach. [Read more...](#)

## Case Study on Policies and Programmes to Promote Inclusion and Equity in Education

May - September 2018 | Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office has developed a case study to document effective policies, programmes and practices that promote inclusion and equity in the Egyptian education system, with funding from UNESCO Beirut Office through the Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Foundation. The case study from Egypt will contribute to a regional report that aims to strengthen knowledge and sharing of experiences in order to facilitate implementation of inclusive strategies in the context of SDG-4. [Read more...](#)



## Empowering Illiterate Girls and Women at the Governorate Level

July 2018 (Final Phase) | Egypt



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office received funding from the UNESCO Malala Fund for Girls’ Right to Education to develop literacy materials geared entirely towards girls and women and test them in the field. The third and final phase of the project (March 2017 – July 2018) encompassed the field implementation and testing of “Al Mar’ah Wal Hayah” literacy curriculum and methodology. Combined together, they constitute a comprehensive

and well-rounded programme for illiterate girls and women, which does not only target alphabet literacy and numeracy, but aims to create multiple paths for learners to achieve lifelong learning. Beneficiaries of the field implementation phase are 940 girls and women from four governorates (Giza, Aswan, Sohag, Ismailia), with the objective of eradicating their illiteracy using “Al Mar’ah Wal Hayah” programme. [Read more...](#)

## Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Monitoring Capacities in Adult Learning and Education in the Arab States”

24-25 July 2018 | Beirut, Lebanon

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office is currently providing technical assistance and support to the Technical Education Sector at the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) in the framework of EDU 2.0 reform initiative, which was launched by H.E. Dr. Tarek Shawki – Minister of Education and Technical Education – in 2017.

[Read more...](#)



## Participation in Third Arab Regional Meeting on Education 2030 (ARMED III)

4– 7 November 2018 | Dead Sea, Jordan

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office participated in the Third Arab Regional Meeting on Education 2030 (ARMED III) which took place from 4 – 7 November 2018 at the Dead Sea. The meeting was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States – Beirut, under the auspices of the Arab Regional Support Group. The meeting was held under the theme of “alignment among curriculum, teachers and assessment” as key dimensions in reaching quality SDG4 outcomes. [Read more...](#)



## Advancing Mobile Literacy Learning for Marginalized Girls and Women

November 2018 (Final Phase) | Egypt



UNESCO and Microsoft signed an agreement to pilot an ICT-based literacy project in four selected countries, including Egypt, under the title “Advancing Mobile Literacy Learning - AMLL”. The objective of the project is to pilot innovative ICT-based learning materials and tools that could harness the potential of ICT in promoting literacy. The genesis of the project’s design was to test the concept of linking technology with literacy and assess the impact it would have on attracting learners, maintaining their interest in the literacy programme, and achieving favorable results in illiteracy eradication. [Read more...](#)



## Launch of the Project “Strengthening Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa” in Egypt

12 November 2018 | Cairo, Egypt

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office and the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE) launched the project in Egypt, in an event that took place at NAQAAE premises .The work to be carried out in Egypt will focus on the second and third components of the project, and strong



emphasis will be placed on regional cooperation and networking, with the possibility of Egypt hosting a major African conference in this regard in Q2, 2019. [Read more...](#)

## Inception Mission for the Project “Supporting Youth Employment in the Mediterranean– YEM” for Libya

27– 28 November 2018 | Tunis, Tunisia



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office organized an inception meeting for the project “Supporting Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) for Libya”. The inception mission took place on 27 – 28 November 2018 in Tunis.

Libya is one of the eight beneficiary countries of the project YEM, and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office is coordinating and implementing the project activities in the region in close collaboration with HQ, being the cluster office for Education in Egypt, Sudan and Libya. [Read more...](#)

# UNESCO Celebrates the Creativity of Egyptian Adolescents in the Cairo Opera House

9 December 2018 | Cairo, Egypt



UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States – Cairo Office organized a celebration of the creativity of Egyptian adolescents aged 10 – 19, under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, H.E. the Minister of Education and Technical Education, and H.E. the Minister of Youth and Sports. The objective of the day was to bring together adolescents from various governorates and provide them with a platform to showcase their talents, whether in signing, playing musical instruments, acting, reciting poetry, and drawing. [Read more...](#)