



UNESCO Earth Network

Frequently asked questions

What is the UNESCO Earth Network?

The UNESCO Earth Network is a global intersectoral programme aimed at tackling issues related to biodiversity loss, ocean and land degradation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. This programme, which , opens the door to transformative actions within territories to regenerate human-nature relationships exploring the links between the several components of the Earth's system, contributes to the implementation of the [UNESCO intersectoral biodiversity strategy](#) and to internationally agreed commitments of Member States, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Through the "UNESCO Earth Network of Experts", training related to the restoration and conservation of ecosystems in biosphere reserves, global geoparks, natural heritage sites and elements of the Intangible Culture Heritage will be provided.

What are the main benefits of joining the UNESCO Earth Network?

Being part of this network means:

- Sharing your expertise for the benefits of local and global communities through pairing with experts and youth, including indigenous knowledge holders
- Facilitated access to volunteering in UNESCO designated sites via field missions
- Knowledge and capacity-sharing among a unique network of designated sites and global research networks (UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme)
- Enhancing open access to research, projects, good practices solutions and positive environmental outcomes through UNESCO networks communication services, including media partnerships, social media, etc.

To participate in the Earth Network as an expert, must I already have worked with UNESCO sites and intangible cultural heritage elements in the past?

You may have expertise and experience in other types of sites (e.g., protected areas) that are transferrable to UNESCO sites and elements. Your expertise should match the needs of the participating sites and within the relevant fields as listed in the call, including knowledge holders from indigenous people and local communities.

To participate in the Intergenerational Mentorship Programme, must I already be engaged with UNESCO Chairs or UNITWIN Networks?

We welcome all applications including Young Experts living and working in UNESCO-designated sites and/or trained and currently engaged with UNESCO Chairs and other relevant UNESCO scientific networks.

Are there language requirements for the participation?

Yes, experts shall be fluent in one of the UNESCO working languages and UNESCO will as far as possible match the needs of the sites with languages skills if this can further help the support to the site.

What period should my availability in the application refer to?

You must specify your availability (when and how long) until the end of 2022.

Where to find the forms?

You can find the forms at the following links:

- If you represent a UNESCO designated site and/or candidate , [click here](#)
- If you are applying for the Volunteer Experts roster, [click here](#)

Is there a specific format for the letters of reference?

There is no specific format; the letters may be from the host institution and may for instance refer to expertise with UNESCO designated sites and elements.

When will I get a reply / how will I know that I was selected?

You will receive a confirmation of your application by e-mail and will be contacted once the first round of the selection process is completed in December 2021.

What costs would be covered?

Volunteer Experts and Young Volunteer experts will work on a voluntary basis and no stipend will be offered. Only costs related to field missions (i.e., travels, boarding and lodging) and costs directly associated with organizing workshops and online sessions will be covered by the fund of the UNESCO Earth Network programme.

What would be my status?

In case you are selected for a specific action, you will be considered a consultant for UNESCO. The terms of reference of this consultancy will be based on your application (e.g., time availability, scope of actions, etc.)