

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Issue 1 • 2020

In focus pages 2-3

News and Highlights from Science & Culture pages 4-7

Interdisciplinary stories pages 8-10

Other stories pages 11-14

Events page 15

Backstory page 16



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture
in Europe

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Webinar on the 2020 United Nations World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change” for RCs and UNCTs of Europe and Central Asia

The 2020 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2020) is entitled ‘Water and Climate Change’. Climate change will affect the availability, quality and quantity of water for basic human needs, threatening the effective enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation for potentially billions of people. The alteration of the water cycle will also pose risks for energy production, food security, human health, economic development and poverty reduction, thus seriously jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WWDR 2020 focuses on the challenges, opportunities and potential responses to climate change, in terms of adaptation, mitigation and improved resilience that can be addressed through improving water management. The Webinar on the 2020 United Nations World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change” for RCs and UNCTs of Europe and Central Asia was held on 27 May 2020.

The WWDR 2020 was targeted to all those involved in the formulation

and implementation of water-related policies. The report shows where systems are failing, and provides the information needed for efficient and effective capacity-building and evidence-based decision making.

WWDR represents an important tool for RCs and UNCTs as they work at the country level with key national stakeholders to promote effective management of water resources and/ or climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The recently created Issue Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change provides a regional platform for UN agencies to support Member States in Europe and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The IBC consists of the following membership: FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UN Women, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO and WMO. The IBC also works very closely with UNDCO for Europe and Central Asia. The IBC’s main goal is

Climate change is a global challenge that affects everyone, everywhere.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Issue Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change #IBC #climatechange

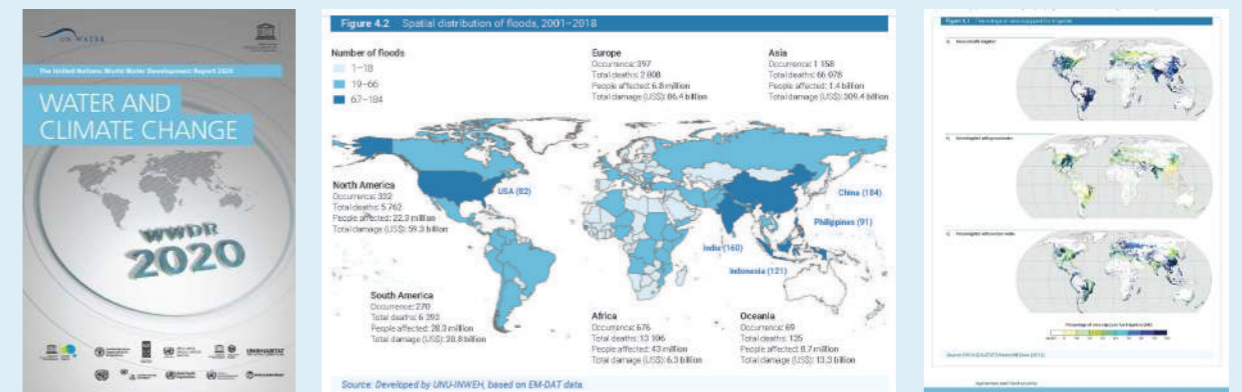
World Water Development Report 2020 – Water and Climate Change

The 2020 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR 2020) entitled ‘Water and Climate Change’ aims at helping the water community to tackle the challenges of climate change and informing the climate change community about the opportunities that improved water management offers in terms of adaptation and mitigation.

The scientific evidence is clear: the climate is changing and will continue to change, affecting societies mainly through water. Climate change will affect the availability, quality and quantity of water for basic human needs, threatening the effective enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation for potentially billions of people. The alteration of the water cycle will also pose risks for energy production, food security, human health, economic development and poverty reduction, thus seriously jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2020 United Nations World Water Development Report focuses on the challenges, opportunities and potential responses to climate change, in terms of adaptation, mitigation and improved resilience that can be addressed through improving water management.

Combining climate change adaptation and mitigation, through water, is a win-win proposal, improving the provision of water supply and sanitation services and combating both the causes and impacts of climate change, including disaster risk reduction.



©WWDR Report 2020: Water and Climate Change; Figure 4.2 Spatial distribution of floods, 2001–2018; Figure 6.1 Percentage of area equipped for irrigation

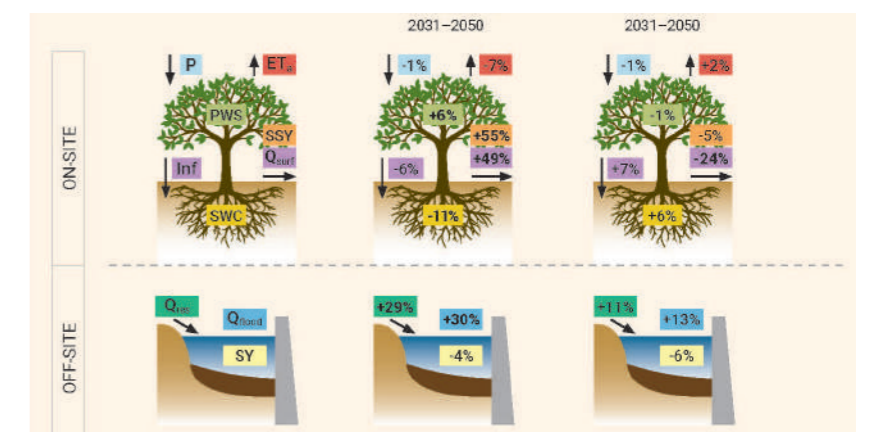
to support RCs and UNCTs in the Europe and Central Asia region on environmental and climate change issues.

An initial survey conducted by the IBC with RCs from Europe and Central Asia indicated that water and climate change were two priority issues in the region. As such, the topic of the report and its recommendations should be extremely relevant to RCs and UNCTs in the region.

The objective of this webinar was to present the results of the WWDR on Water and Climate Change, notably its regional perspective for Europe and Central Asia, and to initiate a discussion with RCs and members of UNCTs that are planning, implementing and monitoring water and climate activities. It sought

to provide them with data, tools and recommendations on how to assist member states that need to effectively and efficiently manage their water resources in this climate change era.

The webinar was organized by UNESCO and UNECE, in coordination with UNDCO for Europe and Central Asia, and with the participation of IBC members, and RCs and UNCTs from the region. >>full story



How climate change and sustainable land management affect water availability. The on-site and off-site impacts of climate change and implementation of sustainable land management



©The United Nations World Water Development Report 2020 Water and Climate Change: Climate finance, Water governance for resilience to climate change, Regional perspectives, Water–Climate–Energy–Food–Environment Nexus, Human settlements; Human health impacts related to water, sanitation and climate change

Bridges

Issue 1 • 2020 • page 2

Addressing questions of Intangible Cultural Heritage and resilience in times of crisis



▲ © Vilma Matulic/PIXSELL - Za Krizen procession on the island of Hvar, Croatia

The 14th annual meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage took place on 26 June 2020 in a virtual modality due to the COVID-19 crisis. The meeting aimed at supporting Member States from South-East Europe by sharing information and good practices and providing opportunities for participants to deepen their understanding of the roles of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, with a specific focus on experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was established in 2007 by UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, in order to support the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the region.

The annual Network meetings contribute to enhancing a common understanding of opportunities and challenges linked to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as a key asset of South-East European cultural diversity, promoting the sharing of knowledge and good practices on national measures

to implement the Convention, and serving as a platform to develop regional and cross-border cooperation.

As illustrated by a UNESCO survey on living heritage experiences and the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the crisis goes beyond our physical health, causing profound disruptions in our social and cultural lives. For some countries in **South-East Europe**, the impact of the crisis has been compounded by the occurrence of other natural disasters in close time proximity, such as the earthquakes that hit **Albania** in 2019 and **Croatia** in 2020.

Yet, intangible cultural heritage is also adaptive in nature and many communities are turning to their intangible cultural heritage to help respond to and cope with the crisis. It has shown to be a source of social cohesion, inspiration and creativity that can give hope and solidarity as well as a source of resilience for many communities who face social and economic precarity during such difficult times.

The 14th annual network meeting was an opportunity for participants to share knowledge and experiences on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on safeguarding Intangible

Art of dry stone walling (Cyprus, Croatia) 2018: Rebuilding the roofs of the dry stone shelters during “Moj kažun - La mia casita” community heritage campaign, which has been taking place around Vodnjan-Istria-Croatia every May since 2007. Restoration of numerous beloved local mini-landmarks by local stone professionals followed by educational and volunteering events **Bulgarian Chitalishte (Bulgaria)** 2013 : Stefka Zasheva is teaching her great-grandchildren Persiyana and Alex to weave on a loom - a traditional device for producing carpets and rugs **Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** 2020 A veteran mower, a young mower and a raker at Strljanica **Rebetiko (Greece)** 2017 : Initiating the younger generation in the art of the bouzouki and the music tradition of Rebetiko **Traditional Turkish archery (Turkey)** 2019 : Ercan Özek (bow maker) **Traditional violin craftsmanship in Cremona (Italy)** 2010 **Zlakusa pottery making (Serbia)** 2020: Process of making a ceramic pot by using a hand-wheel **Il-Ftira culinary art (Malta)** 2020: A Maltese family preparing ftira for school lunch



© Branko Orbanic, 2011 - Art of dry stone walling; © Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria/Tsvetan Nedkov, 2013 - Bulgarian Chitalishte; © Dragica Ivković, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres; © Lia Konari © Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports, 2016 - Rebetiko (Greece); © Arda Mut, MoCT, 2017 - Traditional Turkish archery; © Terra d'ombra Production Marcella Pizzi 2010 - Traditional violin craftsmanship in Cremona; © Nikola Krstović, Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade, 2018 - Zlakusa pottery making; Kevin Sciberras, 2019 - Il-Ftira culinary art (Malta)

Intangible Cultural Heritage <https://ich.unesco.org/> #Culture #ICH

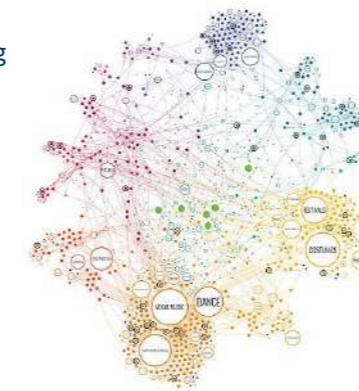
Cultural Heritage, as well as on related responses from relevant actors in the region; and, to stimulate critical thinking and inspire actions with regard to safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in Covid-19 times, beyond the emergency period.

also considering the socio-economic changes that the pandemic may provoke in the long term.

For the first time, this annual meeting of the Network brought together experts representing ICH national authorities with the

Science and Culture in Europe, in cooperation with the UNESCO Culture Sector – Living Heritage Entity) with the support of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (Category 2 Centre operating under the auspices

To achieve this, the online meeting combined: presentations which informed on UNESCO's work on ICH in emergencies, including the operational principles and modalities for this purpose; updates by participants and exchanges on the COVID-19 impact on ICH elements and communities, and on the diverse responses to the emergency, ranging from governmental measures to innovative grassroots actions; and, discussions on ways to relaunch ICH activities after the COVID-19 emergency phase,



UNESCO-trained facilitators from the countries concerned, to enrich the exchange of ideas and strengthen cooperation among different actors across the region.

The 2020 edition was organized by UNESCO Regional Bureau for

of UNESCO, based in Sofia, **Bulgaria**).

The meeting was made possible thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

[>>full story](#)

Bridges

Issue 1 • 2020 • page 3

A Global Communication Strategy for the Italian Biosphere Reserves Network



Communication is how we engage our stakeholders in meaningful ways to inspire them, share the pride of our collective achievements and empower people to take responsibility and action. In the MAB programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the role of communicators is to engage people on what a biosphere reserve is, how the network works and why it is important to others. Inspiring local stakeholders with the value of the biosphere reserve and the opportunity it brings to the local communities is essential.

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, based in Venice and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection convened last year in October at the Circeo National Park, Sabaudia (Italy) a national workshop on the global communication strategy for the Italian Reserves Network.

The workshop was moderated by Meriem Bouamran, UNESCO MAB Networking: Biosphere Reserves and Capacity Building, and Jonathan Baker, Head of Science unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau, with a focus on "How do you tell a story involving people in the Biosphere Reserve?".

The goal was to contribute to building a solid and convincing foundation on which each Italian biosphere reserve could develop its story and create a national communication plan. Maria Carmela Giarratano Chairperson of the Italian MAB National Committee, General Director for Protection of Nature and Sea (DG PNM) Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection, joined in the discussion for its conclusion and expressed her thanks to UNESCO for organizing such an innovative and interactive session.

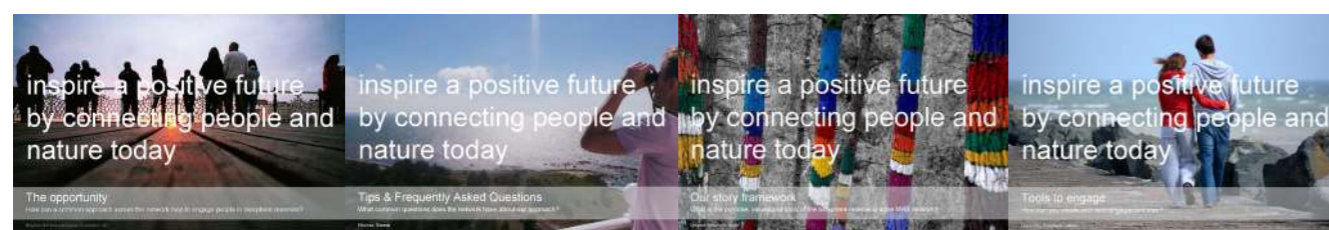
Representatives from 16 Italian biosphere reserves explored the creation of stories capable of expressing the values of biosphere reserves as well as how these values

can be applied to specific local contexts. Discussed was how a communication strategy, tailored to national needs, could be developed with a reflection on future developments.

Two main documents were used as tools and guidance during the workshop:

- The UNESCO MAB Brand & Story Toolkit: A guide to engaging people and telling our powerful story toolkit provided the ingredients for what the MAB stands, our common values and a standard description of what a biosphere reserve is that can be used across the World Network.

- The Global Communication Strategy & Action Plan is based on the idea that our global communication is made up of the communication of all of biosphere reserves around the world. Increasing our collective ability to communicate effectively will have



ONLINE CONVERSATION ABOUT UNESCO OPPORTUNITIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

On 28 May 2020, the Biosphere Reserve Alpi Ledrensi and Judicaria organised, with the support of Punto 3, an online conversation on UNESCO opportunities from/for/with young people. It was an informal discussion between UNESCO contacts and young people from youth associations.

Among the talks were opportunities that UNESCO offers to young people and ways in which young people contribute to strengthening the UNESCO network (Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites, Geoparks, etc.).

UNESCO was represented by Philippe Pypaert, from its Office in Beijing and Francesca Bampa, from its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. We shared projects and activities that bring new ideas, improve the communication and get the communities more involved in the implementation of the global objectives for sustainable development supported by UNESCO.

The meeting aimed to stimulate the interaction between the speakers and all the participants, listening to the testimonies of peers from other Biosphere Reserves, asking questions and discussing together the many opportunities that UNESCO offers to young people and the opportunities that young people bring to UNESCO, and vice versa.



The participation free upon subscription was addressed mainly at young people between the age of 18-30 years and representatives of associations that

organize activities for young people. >>full story

<http://www.mabalpiledrensijudicaria.tn.it/>

<https://en.unesco.org/mab> #MAB #proudtoshare UNESCO MAB Brand & Story Toolkit

a tangible and lasting impact on our work, our credibility, our visibility and our place in this world.

Participants fully integrated MAB common values, what story foundations are about and how to work together as a team to create a national communication plan that exemplifies the MAB values.

During the workshop, they worked in groups on a story foundation for 4 Italian biosphere reserves and also created targeted messaging for the 3 objectives of the communication plan and for 4 different audience groups using the UNESCO MAB

tools. The core team agreed to review the outputs of the session including writing the foundation story for all biosphere reserves



in Italy (19 biosphere reserves) to reflect some of the messaging from the working sessions and finalizing

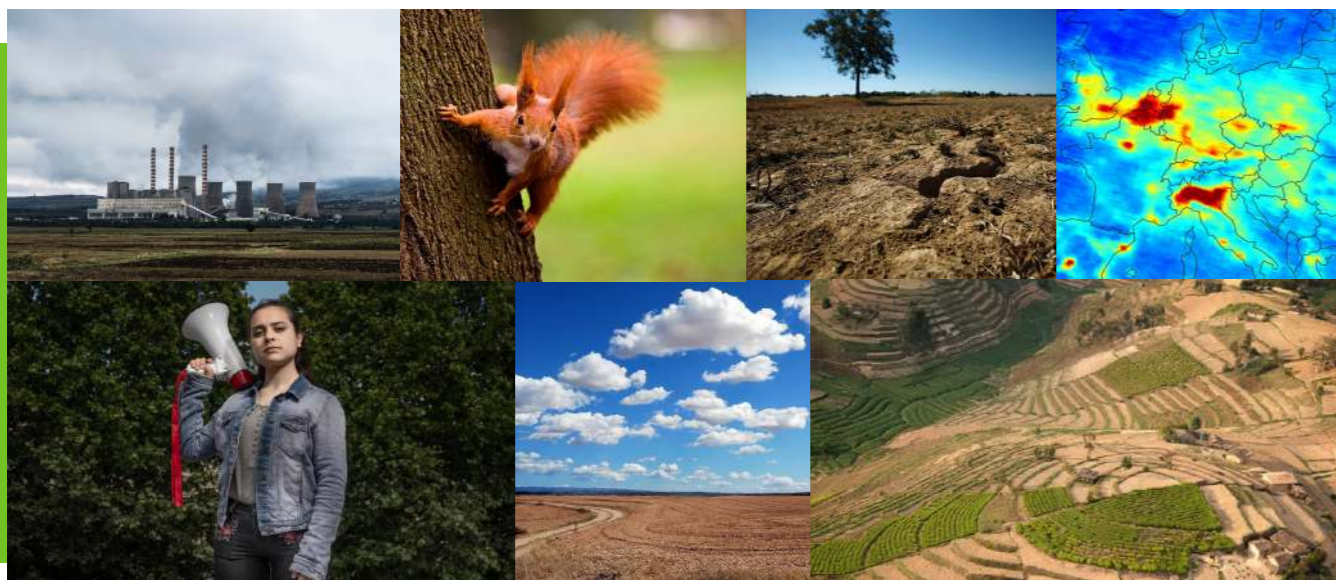
#ProudToshare videos to showcase the diversity of the network.

Communications is a key part of the MAB programme. A great amount of work has been put into developing a bottom up communication strategy for the programme as a whole.

It is now important to apply this strategy at the national and site level and this workshop was part of this process. Imagine what we could achieve together by inspiring even more people to commit to the vision of the MAB programme! >>full story

Bridges

New Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia



▲ © Industrial Pollution/ Pixabay - Pexels; Squirrel, Seawhisper, Shutterstock; Balkans drought, @ Antonio Bronic - Reuters; NO2 levels over Europe, ESA - University of Heidelberg; Ariana Palombo, 21 yrs old climate activist, UNICEF; Field, Pixabay - pcdazero; Land Management, World Bank

The United Nations Inter Agency Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia was launched at the Regional UN System special session chaired by Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed on 20 March 2020. It provides a regional platform for UN agencies to promote coordinated support to all Member States in Europe and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The main purpose of the IBC, led by UNESCO (through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe), UNEP and UNECE and with the participation of 18 other UN agencies, funds and programmes, is to support Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) as they seek to address environmental and climate related issues in the region. It addresses activities dedicated to strengthening environmental and climate change governance, improving environmental management and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoting sustainable management of natural resources.

Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional

Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, which is spearheading this initiative for UNESCO noted at the IBC's first meeting: *"This is a crucial moment and an opportunity for the UN system through this IBC to promote a sustainable environment and address climate change, linking forces between the regional and national levels and working towards a more sustainable and resilient Europe and Central Asia region".*

Following the launch, 3 subregional consultations were held with RCs and UNCTs from Central Asia, **South-East Europe** and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Turkey. These subregional consultations focused on exploring with RCs and UNCTs their priorities and needs and on defining the IBC's work plan.

The priority areas identified by the RCs served as the basis for creating 9 task teams around key topics related to the environment and climate change: Climate change and disaster risk reduction, Biodiversity and nature-based solutions, Socioeconomic assessments and post-pandemic recovery strategies, Air pollution, Sustainable consumption and

production, Water management, Food security and land management, Sustainable infrastructure, Environment and youth, Environment and gender, Migration, and Environment and Why we need a United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

In responding to the needs of the RCs, the IBC also organized two webinars in May and June 2020 with RCs and UNCTs on the subject of water management. The first

webinar, organized by UNESCO and UNECE, focused on the 2020 edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) "Water and Climate Change". The second webinar focused on transboundary water cooperation, specifically water management in the Drin and Drina river basins in South-East Europe, with presentations from UNECE, UNESCO, UNDP and WMO.

To support the COVID-19 socioeconomic response plans and to ensure a green recovery in the post pandemic period, the IBC issued summary recommendations



Earth School launched to keep students connected to nature in the time of COVID-19



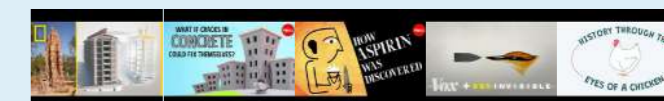
Today, over 1.5 billion children are unable to go to school. Coronavirus' impact goes beyond the health and economic crisis; it is also jeopardizing the education of students around the world. Teachers are scrambling to offer students lessons online and parents are desperate for activities that will keep their kids engaged and connected to the outside world.

Through IBC, the UNESCO Regional Bureau promoted this initiative launched on Earth Day on April 22 and concluded on World Environment Day on June 5. Earth School comprised of daily adventures, or Quests, each organized around the theme: "The Nature of..." While the initiative was hosted online, the Quests were designed to encourage young people to connect with nature and their environment. >>full story

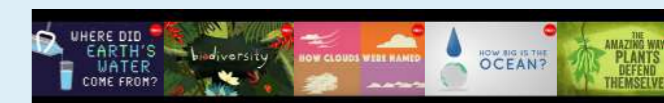
Week 1 The Nature of Our Stuff



Week 2 The Nature of Society



Week 3 The Nature of Nature



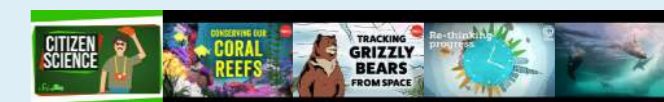
Week 4 The Nature of Change



Week 5 The Nature of Individual Action



Week 6 The Nature of Collective Action



In the final week of Earth School, you'll learn about the most powerful tools for protecting our planet: collective action and collaboration. These Quests will illuminate the path forward for us all to be conscious, nature-minded citizens of Earth, and invite others in our communities to join the fight to protect it."

Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change #IBC @UNEP @UNECE

for COVID-19 recovery. Titled Building Back Better: pathways for a more inclusive, environmentally sustainable and resilient recovery, the recommendations were shared with RCs, UNCTs and other partners working on the recovery plans and assessments of the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.

The IBC has put in place a webpage that acts as a knowledge hub for the UN system on environment and climate change in the region. The webpage is continuously updated with contributions from all IBC members.

This platform organizes relevant information in an easily accessible way for the UN system as a whole and RCs and UNCTs in particular. It includes information from both IBC members and other leading knowledge producing organizations

and institutions working in the area of environment and climate change. The IBC on Environment and Climate Change is planning capacity development events and guidance on the environmental dimension of UN cooperation with programme

countries for 2020-2021 and with the other 6 Issue-based Coalitions working within the UN system to support resident coordinators and UN Country Teams in the 17 programme countries in the region. >>full story



Climate refugees (or climate migrants) are a subset of environmental migrants who are forced to flee "due to sudden or gradual alterations in the natural environment related to at least one of three impacts of climate change: sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and drought and water scarcity."

Bridges

Issue 1 • 2020 • page 5

Educating for Sustainable Development through Heritage Interpretation



▲ © Vadehavsentret - The Wadden Sea Centre - Gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage

The report on the main outcomes of the second regional workshop for Europe on “The Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites” held in Bamberg, Germany, on 6-8 October 2019 was released. Organized by UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, the workshop focused on the interplay between heritage interpretation and education for sustainable development and on their integration in the work of such centres.

Being part of a UNESCO network of sites means joining an international community with a common cause, aligned with UNESCO’s mission and fundamental values. Designated sites like World Heritage properties, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks are all called upon to serve as lighthouses in upholding and communicating universal values for which UNESCO stands, in order to foster peace and sustainable development.

Within this framework, visitor centres at these sites can and should play a key role in promoting such values through heritage interpretation, as an educational

activity with an intrinsic potential to raise awareness and inspire behaviours in accordance with sustainable development principles.

From this assumption, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe convened the Second Regional Workshop on the Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated Sites, following a first pilot event held in 2018 in Palermo, Italy.

The second workshop was generously hosted on 6-8 October 2019 by the City of Bamberg, in cooperation with the Bamberg World Heritage Office, the University of Bamberg – Competence Centre for Heritage Sciences and Technologies, the German Commission for UNESCO,

and Interpret Europe as technical partner.



The objective of the second workshop was to advance common and individual knowledge on the subject, to stimulate critical thinking, provide an opportunity for networking and peer-to-peer exchange, and to inspire participants to take future actions.

The report presents the main outcomes of the meeting to interested

audiences, including visitor centres’ staff, their parent institutions and partners, researchers, and whoever is seeking advice on improving the management of visitor centres in UNESCO designated sites. The report may also serve as an eye-opener and a point of reference for local authorities and/

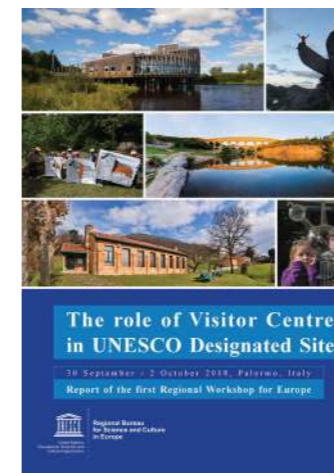


or other actors planning to establish new visitor centres in their respective sites.

The main concepts and findings of the workshop, as well as the recommendations based on the outcomes of collective discussions during the workshop are unfolded in 3 chapters.

The first and second chapters summarize the key messages and main results of facilitated discussions from the two knowledge-sharing sessions, which respectively focused on mirroring UNESCO’s learning and teaching concepts in heritage interpretation at UNESCO designated sites; and, challenges and opportunities of using

information and communication technologies (ICTs) in heritage interpretation.



The third chapter puts forward a set of recommendations for visitor centres to better perform their core function of heritage interpretation, with an emphasis on

how to reinforce the link between people’s understanding of heritage and of UNESCO basic values through value-based, inclusive, and participatory approaches to interpretation, and how to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the use of ICTs tools in heritage interpretation.

Additional workshops are planned over 2020-2021, focusing on the role of visitor centres in relation to: community engagement and empowerment; and, tourism sustainability and visitors’ management.

The organisation of this series of regional workshops was possible thanks to the annual contribution of Italy to the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. >>full story

The World Heritage Convention is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind.

Creating bridges between biospheres and gastronomy in the Dolomites

The initiative “UPVIVIUM gastronomic biosphere at km 0” consists of a gastronomic competition among several Biosphere Reserves in Italy. The Visitor Centre in Terme di Comano coordinates the local communication and awareness raising activities. The initiative promotes UNESCO MABs’ values through gastronomy, as an important component of the local identity and economy. The involvement of different Italian Biosphere Reserves allows for the discovery of participating territories and the creation of specific tourism products that promote local gastronomy and produce, while tackling tourism seasonality by incentivising visits in low season.



Connecting two visions through volunteer work in Silex’s Visitor Centre

The Silex’s Visitor Centre gives the opportunity for visitors to be guided by locals and volunteers participating in the activities of the centre, including people in social re-insertion and retired persons. Another relevant project is the “Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs” (JAVVA)⁸, which is oriented to raise awareness of UNESCO’s values among the local population through the involvement of volunteers in the research actions on the site, such as archaeological excavations, the study of the artefacts and the development of conferences and workshops for the local population.

Inspiring audiences to engage in the conservation of the Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve

The Naturum Vattenrike Visitor Centre (Sweden) has a well-structured portfolio of activities to respond to the main needs of its natural and sensitive environment. Over 500 activities in 2018, which range from water-colour classes to hand-netting, have inspired people to experience nature and to engage in its conservation. Some of the positive results of this approach are reflected in the gradual recovering of fauna and the harmonious interaction between visitors and farmers without compromising the natural values of the site. Thanks to a new-found respect for natural values, the wetlands are no longer seen as a problem, but as a valuable resource for Kristianstad.



Bridges

Auschwitz-Birkenau 75 years after: UNESCO commemorates 75th anniversary of Nazi camp's liberation



27 January 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German concentration and extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops in 1945. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this date as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (resolution) in 2005.

UNESCO commemorated this important anniversary with a series of events on 22 January 2020 at its Headquarters in Paris. Permanent Delegates, representatives of civil society and the general public were invited to attend a conference and ceremony as well as to view two exhibitions linked to the site of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the history of the Holocaust, and related research.

The conference, entitled “Auschwitz-Birkenau: 75 years after”, was opened by UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania

Giannini and highlighted recent academic findings regarding the history of the site, challenges relating to its preservation and significance for future generations.

Invited speakers from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, UNESCO’s World Heritage Center, and the Shoah Memorial engaged in conversations with moderator Nathalie Saint-Cricq and the public, exploring new insights and unanswered questions regarding the site, which was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1979.

Both exhibitions shown at UNESCO’s Headquarters offered visitors new perspectives on the history of the Holocaust: The first exhibition “Crimes Uncovered: The First Generation of Holocaust Researchers”, developed by the Wiener Holocaust Library, the House of the Wannsee Conference and Touro College Berlin focused on the beginnings of Holocaust research

starting with the first courageous individuals who documented the Nazi crimes at the time of the Second World War.

The second “Seeing Auschwitz”, conceived by Musealia and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial specifically for UNESCO and United Nations Headquarters, invited visitors to take a closer look at photographs of Auschwitz-Birkenau and those who perished there. Both exhibitions were on show at UNESCO Headquarters until 5 February 2020.

The day closed with a ceremony in memory of the victims of the Holocaust in presence of UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay, the Vice-President of the German Bundestag, Claudia Roth, the Vice-President of the Shoah Memorial, Francois Heilbronn, and Akif Gilalov, President of the World Congress of Mountain Jews. The ceremony opened with a video



Every year around 27 January, UNESCO pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to counter antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance that may lead to group-targeted violence.

ART REINVENTS PUBLIC SPACE IN ALBANIA

The fusion of art and public space was at the heart of the project set up by Ekphrasis Studio, a non-profit organization in Albania. The project, Engaging Tirana Communities in Public Art and Politics, was supported by the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and embarked upon its final phase.

“We have seen in recent years that art works in public space were destroyed to create room for new monuments. We wanted to understand the decision-making mechanism in the field of public art. That is what pushed us to implement this project”, explained Blerina Berberi, project leader at the NGO, Albania. In order to reclaim public spaces, Ekphrasis Studio organized meetings between artists

and community members of Tirana; the team sensed a certain disconnect between the two groups.

“The lack of information on public art, especially contemporary art, has been a challenge. We also identified at the meeting that the representation of minority groups is another issue to tackle. An example of this is the poor representation of the LGBT community. On the other hand, however, the turnout for women was very strong despite the fact that very few works of public art had been produced by women”, said Blerina Berberi.

More than 300 hours of training courses followed these public hearings, responding to challenges

identified by participants. Encouraging female artists and improving gender balance in public art were a particular focus.

In addition to addressing immediate concerns, the organization recognized the importance of having a strategic document to ensure the sustainability of the new public-art programmes.

A survey was conducted among more than 700 partners along with various meetings and conferences between artists and local authorities. The document proposed 33 actions and 5 strategic instruments to instill a more open, equitable decision-making process as well as improved access to new and dynamic art. [>>full story](#)



© Ekphrasis Studio - Engaging Tirana Communities in Public Art and Politics

Auschwitz Birkenau on UNESCO’s World Heritage List

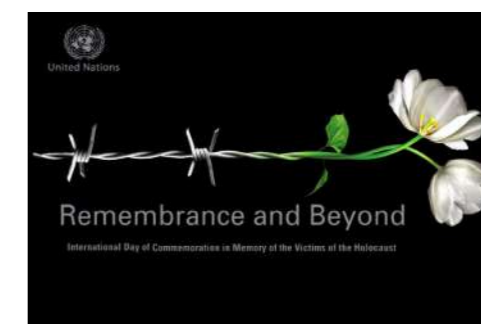
Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

message by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres. In her welcome address, UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay underlined the importance of education in addressing persistent forms of antisemitism and discrimination, “being attentive means helping to prevent the resurgence of genocide and violence; it also means fighting hate speech. Although the Nazi were defeated, neither antisemitism nor racism are dead,” she said.

On 27 January, UNESCO Director General joined an international delegation of Heads of State and International Organizations at the official ceremony organized by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Oswiecim Poland. In addition, UNESCO and the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme cooperated to bring the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibition “Some were Neighbours” to United Nations Information Centers and UNESCO Field Offices around the world.

The events were organized in partnership with the Mémorial



de la Shoah, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme of the United Nations Department of Global

Communications, and the World Congress of Mountain Jews.

They received the support of the Permanent Delegation of Austria to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of France to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of Monaco to UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, the Austrian Zukunftsfonds, and the World Congress of Mountain Jews. The World Jewish Congress is a communication partner through the #WeRemember social media campaign.

UNESCO’s annual activities on the occasion of the International Day were organized within the framework of the Organization’s programme on education about the Holocaust and genocide. [>>full story](#)

Mobility of artists and mutual projects on CoMoCoSEE agenda to enhance regional cooperation



© Ivo Bionda/CNTB - Rijeka

The Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe convened its ministerial gathering on 1 February 2020 with the support of UNESCO. The event coincided with the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the inauguration of the European Capital of Culture programme “Rijeka 2020 – Port of Diversity”. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to further enhancing and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of culture on multilateral and bilateral level, considering the culture and its diversity as an essential factor in achieving dialogue, improved neighbourly relations and better cohesion in the region, in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect, peace and stability.

The Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe - Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development (CoMoCoSEE) - of which UNESCO together with the EU, the Council of Europe, Austria and Italy is an observer - is the unified platform for cultural cooperation in the region. Since its inception, UNESCO, through

its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, has been committed to supporting this regional cooperation process on culture.

During the Sixth Ministerial Conference held in Rijeka, Croatia, special attention was given to mobility of artists and cooperation on mutual projects in South-East Europe (SEE), especially referring to exchanging projects and works in the field of performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, music, theatre, cinema and literature.

“I believe that the mobility of artists and experts is one of the preconditions for a balanced growth of culture and arts, for the boost in the cultural and creative sectors, for audience development and the starting point for a stronger participation of citizens in cultural life.”, declared Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture of Croatia at the opening of the Ministerial Conference. By strengthening programmes that support the mobility of artists and cultural

professionals in South-East Europe, each member country of the Council can contribute to a greater visibility of their respective national culture within South-East Europe and across the European Union.



The Council acknowledged the need to continue and further strengthen the cooperation among the Council Member countries, with the aim of sharing knowledge and information in the cultural and creative sector, especially best practices and experiences in interweaving culture with other sectors, such as regional and territorial development, tourism, education, environmental policies and health sectors, as well as sectoral policies in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministers agreed on the importance of applying new technologies in the digitization and inventorying of cultural heritage in accordance with relevant international standards, to advance protection, safeguard and promotion of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. They also committed

to further consolidating cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural goods in the SEE region, and other offences linked to them by exchanging information and strengthening existing capacities.

The Ministers approved to encourage collaboration and mutual work on capacity-building programmes, seminars and expert meetings, with emphasis on sharing knowledge and best practices.

“The intention is to promote cultural diversity, contemporary creation, increase mobility and exchange of artists and professionals, thereby to increase mutual understanding, knowledge and diversity of cultural expression among the Member Countries of the Council of Ministers of Culture and the European Union”, noted Edouard Planche, Head of Culture unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau.

The CoMoCoSEE Member States include 12 countries: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Republic of North Macedonia and Turkey.** The CoMoCoSEE has a rotating annual presidency. With this meeting, **Croatia** ended its presidency and has turned it over to **Greece**. >>full story

ENHANCING CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT



© UNESCO - Co MoCoSEE Family Photo

Numerous positive examples of good praxis are proof of CoMoCoSEE's engagement:

- the ratification of International Conventions related to UNESCO, the European Union and the Council of Europe;
- the development of institutional cooperation (the International Centre for Underwater Heritage, Zadar, Croatia; the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria; the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage);
- the multinational nominations of several sites and elements to the World Heritage List (e.g. Medieval Tombstones Graveyards - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; 16th-17th century Venetian Works of Defence - Croatia, Montenegro and Italy; Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe - 12 countries);
- the organisation and implementation of joint projects boosting creativity and artistic expression and enhancing regional cooperation among artists, especially youth, within the region;
- the elaboration and implementation of joint projects, developed as a concrete follow-up to the Ohrid Declaration and respective declarations from Istanbul, Tirana Sarajevo and Sofia;
- the implementation of Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) directly contributed to the positioning of culture in national development strategies, the strengthening of national statistic and information systems, as well as the enhanced collaboration and impact on international level.

Montenegro – grants Djeca Crne Gore, project Interculturalism in education and Eko Centar Delfin, project Education for sustainable development of UNESCO heritage



Grantees activities in regard to culture (theatre) of East West Center (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as Intercultural school project by Group 484 (Serbia)

© Dialogue for the Future



The Secret Life of the Museum, an illustrated book to bring children closer to museums



On 10 February 2020, marking its 49th Anniversary, the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republika Srpska, placed in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, launched the first book for children about its institution, titled “The Secret Life of the Museum”. The book was produced with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska and the project “Dialogue for the Future” implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, in partnership with the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The second phase of “Dialogue for the Future” project aimed at promoting social cohesion and diversity in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Its goal was to enhance the inclusiveness of local level governance by undertaking joint

assessments of common problems and creating local dialogue platforms - bringing together local leaders as well as civil society, youth, religious leaders, women’s organizations and relevant local level authorities.

The Museum of Contemporary Art of the Republika Srpska implemented the project “Museums in Motion” in 2019, as part of Dialogue for the Future programme. This project, in place together with the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, was aimed at promotion of social cohesion and intercultural understanding among school children.

From March to October 2019, curators from partner museum visited 28 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina where over 3000 boys and girls, most of whom didn’t

have the opportunity to visit any of the museums, participated in 20 workshops where they learned in fun and interactive way about the importance of museums and cultural heritage in order to build peaceful and cohesive society in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina. This project helped to develop special educational programs in Museum aimed at schoolchildren and as a mean of upgrading our audience development, the idea for childrens book arose.

The project of creating and printing an illustrated book for children was designed in order to tell the history of the institution in an interesting and age-appropriate way, to present the museum’s collection, to explain its mission and activities, as well as to present the basic museological concepts and to bring to the children



Several institutions and organizations participated in the launch book, Tanja Djakovic, Assistant Minister of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska, Sinisa Sesum, Head of the Antenna in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Sarita Vujkovic, MSURS Director, the author Jelena Kojovic Tepic and the illustrator Dragoslav Malinić.



the profession of employees in the museum. The creation of such a publication stemmed from the aspirations of the Museum of Contemporary Art of the RS to strengthen communication with all categories of museum audiences addressed through specially tailored programmes. As part of the development of its pedagogical

activities, and bearing in mind the importance of the educational role and mission of a museum institution, the Museum has realized a publication intended for the youngest audience category. Special emphasis was put on the presentation of the museum collection, whose representative examples were presented with illustrations and textual explanations, with the aim of pointing to the children the richness



of the cultural heritage being safeguarded by the Museums. The text of the book was written by the Bosnian writer Jelena Kojovic Tepic, author of several successful children’s publications. After getting acquainted with all aspects of the institution and consulting with museum curators, she applied a special pedagogical approach

adapted to children ages 5 to 11 years, creating an exciting museum adventure and an unforgettable get-together with the interesting characters of the book.

The text is accompanied by some attractive illustrations, made by the artist Dragoslav Malinić, who has taken special care to illustrate works of art from the Museum’s collection, retaining their formal characteristics and importance.

Contemporary design, courtesy of Nemanja Micevic, MSURS designer, consolidates this publication as a compact, logically structured, visually appealing and educationally accessible and applicable entity.

“It was a real challenge to write a book that has to educate children and bring them into the museum world in an interesting way” - commented the author.

“I was led by the thought that a long time ago a mouse arrived in the present building of the Museum of Contemporary Art of the RS, fell in love there and stayed. According to a story I wrote, today there are mice in this Museum that participate in the whole process of preserving and exhibiting artwork.”

During the event kids from the Dea Nika acting school, led by the actor Dusko Mazalica, were involved and asked to present some parts of the book. >>full story

The Secret Life of the Museum <http://msurs.net/> #secretlifeofmuseum #children

UNESCO WELCOMES STRENGTHENING OF MEDIA REGULATION IN ALBANIA

“Today is an important step for media self-regulation and media freedom in Albania. It is very timely and encouraging to see many media outlets in the room joining forces to launch a media coalition that will strengthen the Albanian Media Council”, said Adeline Hulin from UNESCO in her opening speech.

On 12 February 2020, 19 media outlets signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting the basis of the restructuring of the existing Albanian Media Council. The Council until now composed of individual journalists is now composed of the representatives of the media who have now joined



the coalition. It elected its board in charge of handling citizens’ complaints about potential breach of the journalistic code of ethics.

The event took place in Tirana, Albania, within the framework of

the UNESCO EU-funded Project Building Trust in Media in **South East Europe** and **Turkey** – Phase 2 and in presence of several key international stakeholders, including EU Ambassador Soreca, Dutch Ambassador Guusje Korthals Altes, and the Deputy Head of Council of Europe Office in Tirana, with the support of the Antenna in Sarajevo of the UNESCO Regional Bureau.

“The fact that you are jointly relaunching the discussion around self-regulation is very much welcome by the EU. It is a strong signal.”, said EU Ambassador Soreca in his opening speech. >> full story

Smart Cultural Tourism as a Driver of Sustainable Development in European Regions



SmartCulTour, Smart Cultural Tourism as a Driver of Sustainable Development of European Regions, is an EU Horizon 2020 project coordinated by KU Leuven University to support regional development in European regions, including those located in rural peripheries and the urban fringe, through sustainable cultural tourism. Partners of the project include UNESCO, several universities across Europe and research centres in the field of cultural tourism. Launched in January 2020, the project will run until June 2023.

The 4-year project aims at redefining cultural tourism through a contemporary lens, including the measurement of supply, demand and impacts, and at providing European regions with strategies that engage stakeholders in co-creating smart cultural tourism practices. The kick-off meeting took place on 30 January 2020 in Leuven, Belgium. Through working in and with 6 living-labs, the project will develop and evaluate novel ways of managing sustainable cultural tourism through experiments, serious games, arts-based methods, service or social design techniques that enhance collaboration between the cultural sector, local communities and the tourism industry.

The living-labs are: the Rotterdam Metropolitan Region (Netherlands), the Scheldeland region in Flanders

(Belgium), Utsjoki municipality in Lapland (Finland), Huesca province (Spain), City of Split metropolitan area (Croatia) and the City of Vicenza (Italy).

UNESCO is in charge of coordinating activities at field level in the Living Labs, supporting their establishment and operationalisation including through tailored capacity-building activities. The living-labs are expected to create a community of practice and allow a bi-directional flow of information between multi-actor communities, also with a view at identifying successful practices and providing input and feedback.

The project will also develop tools and methodologies to support strategic planning and management for fostering sustainable cultural tourism at the local level. For instance, a Sustainability/Resilience/TALC (SRT) Framework of indicators will be applied for assessing the impact of cultural tourism at the destination level, verified through data collection.

This tool aims to provide a comprehensive measurement framework for cultural tourism's supply, demand and impacts.

A decision-support system (DSS) will be developed for wide-scale monitoring purposes across European regions to support knowledge-led destination management. The decision-support system will synthesise both traditional and non-traditional data sources, the latter particularly related to big data analytics, thereby assisting smart regional development. Finally, a toolkit will be designed to help destinations implement local actions towards sustainable cultural tourism development.

In this first year of implementation, the project already delivered tangible results in terms of theoretical development and academic publications. This includes a comprehensive review of literature on cultural tourism concepts, trends and current management challenges and an outlook towards the future of cultural tourism in Europe, considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic-related restrictions on the sector.

Within this framework, a comprehensive desk research was carried out to identify significant



SHELTER SAVA RIVER BASIN OPEN LAB: 2ND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP



On 28 May 2020, the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) jointly with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture for Europe and SHELTER partners held online the second Open Lab workshop in the framework of the SHELTER EU Horizon 2020 project (Sustainable Historic Environments hoListic reconstruction through Technological Enhancement and community based Resilience).

The workshop saw 6 consecutive sessions with discussions around flood risk management and cultural and natural heritage in the Sava River

basin. Stakeholders discussed: The past flood events in the Sava River basin and floods resilience indicators; The Cultural and historical heritage data - needs for the SHELTER project; SHELTER's stakeholder/user platform, introducing the Sava Open Lab Task Group with peer learning experience.

The workshop organized jointly by ISRBC, UNESCO, Tecnalia, IHE Delft, POLITO and SISTEMA brought representatives from the Sava River basin management

authorities (**Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia**) together with stakeholders responsible for maintaining the UNESCO heritage sites within the basin area. The overall objective of SHELTER project is to address the relationship between cultural and historical heritage and disaster risks in Europe. The Sava River basin is one of the 5 selected Open Labs across Europe aiming to test and demonstrate innovative concepts (technologies, tools and approaches) to enhance resilience.

The 6-monthly workshops aim to review the progress of a 4-year process to assess the flood vulnerability of cultural heritage sites

Shelter

in the Sava basin through providing a common platform, effective means for data sharing and dissemination. The workshop

participants discussed with SHELTER partners ways to explore and bridge current divides between stakeholders involved in flood versus heritage management, given the current focus on flood recovery. >> full story <https://shelter-project.com/>

sustainable cultural tourism policies, their impacts and critical success factors, inspiring a series of possible local interventions. Based on this research, a taxonomy of cultural tourism interventions was produced, identifying 18 best practices in the region to be explored more

in depth. So far, over 100 cultural tourism interventions have been carried out in the European region in more than 30 countries, including 12 countries under the geographical purview of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

This includes : **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and North Macedonia.** >>full story

<http://www.smartcultour.eu/> #smartcultour



One of the main objectives of SmartCulTour relates to the facilitation of community-led rural development through field experimentation in 6 Living Labs: The Scheldeland region in Flanders (Belgium), Utsjoki municipality in Lapland (Finland) Huesca province (Spain), The Split, Dalmatian County (Croatia), Vicenza (Italy) and The Netherlands



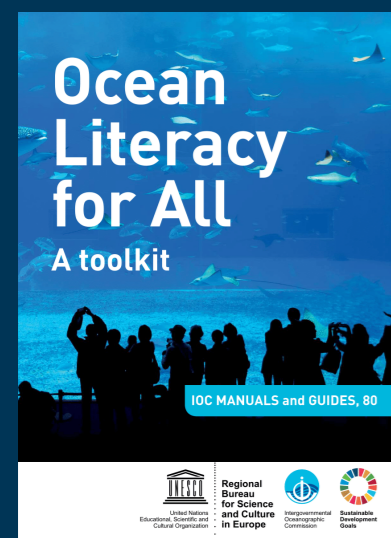
Bridges

Issue 1 • 2020 • page 10

Ocean Literacy for All

Open access to ocean information, increased interactions between the academic and societal actor communities, and ocean literacy for all should capacitate all citizens and stakeholders to have a more responsible and informed behaviour towards the ocean and its resources

Published in December 2017, the two-volume manual produced by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and IOC is the result of joint work and contributions by members of a global partnership on ocean literacy led by the IOC. The toolkit provides educators and learners worldwide innovative tools, methods and resources to understand the complex ocean processes and functions and, as well, to alert them on the most urgent ocean issues. The manual was tested in 2019 in schools of the UNESCO Network of Schools of 35 countries around the world. 84% of the teachers declared that they would recommend the toolkit to their peers, and 67% said that they will use the toolkit in their work regularly.



Ocean literacy for all: a toolkit
ISBN: 978-92-3-100249-6
Collation: 136 p. : illus., maps
Language: **English**
Also available in: **Français, Español, Português, Italiano**

#oceanliteracy4all Understanding the human influence on the ocean and the ocean influence on humans



Ocean literacy is defined as the understanding of human influence on the ocean and the ocean influence on humans. Ocean literacy is not only about increasing awareness on the state of the ocean, but it is about providing tools to transform ocean knowledge into actions.

Ocean literacy is not only about increasing awareness on the state of the ocean, but it is about providing tools and approaches to transform ocean knowledge into actions to promote ocean sustainability. Its success will depend, on the one hand, on our capacity to enhance the science-society-policy interface, and, on the other hand, on empowering a wide range of stakeholders, i.e. communities and networks of business, universities, research centres, and civic groups to share responsibility in addressing urgent threats that are causing a decline in ocean health.

Ocean literacy is a fundamental tool to enhance ocean knowledge and to encourage citizens and stakeholders to have an active role in the implementation of sustainable actions on both individual and collective levels. While at the beginning, ocean literacy was developed for the specific purpose to fit the U.S. science curriculum for K12, it has then been adopted and

adapted to a broader context. Nowadays, Ocean literacy is seen as a way to advance sustainable production practices, to develop sound public marine policy, to promote a more responsible citizenry, and to encourage young people to start a career in the blue economy or in marine science. Ocean literacy as a concept and approach is radically evolving from being a tool to be applied in formal education and training contexts to a tool and an approach for society as a whole.

Open access to ocean information, increased interactions between the academic and societal actor communities, and ocean literacy for all should capacitate all citizens and stakeholders to have a more responsible and informed behaviour towards the ocean and its resources.

The "Ocean Literacy for All: A toolkit" was published in December 2017.

The two-volume manual produced by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice, Italy) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is the result of joint work and contributions by members of a global partnership on ocean literacy led by the IOC.

The publication provides educators and learners worldwide innovative tools, methods and resources to understand the complex ocean

Ocean literacy is a decisive lever of change for ocean management, facilitating the transfer of scientific knowledge to communities, managers and multi-level decision-makers.

VIRTUAL OCEAN LITERACY SUMMIT ON WORLD OCEANS DAY



On the occasion of World Oceans Day, 8 June, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission hosted the first Virtual Ocean Literacy Summit, in partnership with Ocean Wise, EuroGOOS and Experiential Atelier. This exclusive edition celebrated the successes of the Ocean Literacy community worldwide and explored them as an essential tool for the transformation of scientific knowledge into action.

The first Virtual Ocean Literacy Summit was organized on the occasion of World Oceans Day 2020 (8 June). The Summit celebrated the successes of the ocean literacy community

worldwide and aimed to achieve the following 3 objectives: present the need for shared responsibility, connectivity, and a global vision for the ocean; explore the role of Ocean Literacy as an essential tool for the transformation of scientific knowledge into action within the context of the Decade; and, inspire stakeholders, institutions, organizations, and individuals to join the global OL community and contribute to the achievement of its goals in the course of the Decade

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021 – 2030 will provide a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to create a new foundation,

across the science-policy interface, to strengthen the management of the ocean. The Decade is embracing a participative and transformative process so that scientists, policy makers, managers, and service users can work together to ensure that ocean science delivers greater benefits for both the ocean ecosystem and for society. The Decade will address 6 societal outcomes: A Clean Ocean, A Sustainable and Productive Ocean, A Healthy and Resilient Ocean, A Transparent and Accessible Ocean, A Predicted Ocean and A Safe Ocean >>>full story

Watch Promo Video #oceanliteracy



UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

processes and functions and, as well, to alert them on the most urgent ocean issues.

The toolkit presents the essential scientific principles and information needed to understand the cause-effect relationship between individual and collective behaviour, and the impacts that threaten the ocean health. Trust is that it



will inspire citizens, scientists, educators and learners to take greater personal responsibility for the ocean, as well as work through partnerships and networks, sharing ideas and experiences and developing new approaches and initiatives in support of ocean literacy. >>>full story

#oceanliteracy4all #oceandecade

Bridges

Ocean Seminar for Teachers from 10 Cities of the World organized by IOC-UNESCO and Prada



©Sea Beyond

UNESCO's International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the luxury group Prada are launching an online educational programme on circular economy and sustainability that will involve a network of secondary schools around the world.

From September 2020 to December 2020, teachers from ten cities (Berlin, Cape Town, Lisbon, London, Mexico City, Milan, New York, Paris, Shanghai, Venice) will participate in webinars, where they will learn how to develop an educational module consisting of four lessons on the theme of sustainability. The project will focus on the understanding of the ocean and its importance, marine pollution, especially in relation to plastics, and the fashion industry's commitment to sustainable production that can contribute to the protection of the seas.

The last lesson led participants to design an ocean conservation awareness campaign aimed at educating and raising awareness among new generations for environmentally friendly behaviour towards the ocean and its resources. The aim was to encourage a responsible consumer attitude that is in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An international jury, composed in part of representatives from UNESCO and Prada, will select the most relevant awareness campaign project. This will be presented at an Award Ceremony in March 2021.

For Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary, "the global scale of the problems facing the ocean means that no country or organization can solve them alone. We need partnerships between science, decision-makers and the private sector to create a sustainable ocean economy that exploits the ocean while lovingly preserving it. With the Prada Group, we hope to mobilize students around the world around these ideas, turning their energy and creativity into a vector towards a more ocean-conscious society."

Lorenzo Bertelli, Prada Group Head of Marketing: "For the Prada Group, the promotion of culture and education is an integral part of the sustainability strategy. The collaboration with



Possible Conversation #5 Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza and Vladimir Ryabinin on "The ocean, an ally against the virus"

#POSSIBLE CONVERSATIONS A series of digital talks exploring culture, fashion and life via Instagram Fashion exists as an essential part of a wider cultural conversation: it is a participant in a dialogue, between different beliefs, disciplines and mediums. In a current landscape being fundamentally re-shaped by limitation, it is essential not to allow that limitation to define discussion. With that mindset, Prada presented Prada Possible Conversations, a series of live dialogues between thinkers, cultural arbiters and fashion figures across the world - bringing together individuals, bringing together thoughts.

A digital iteration and evolution of Prada's international live event programmes, speakers are connected together on Prada's Instagram to engage in real-time conversations. Each Prada Possible Conversation resulted in a donation from Prada to UNESCO, whose work during the COVID-19 pandemic focuses on the importance of culture, creativity, and education for over 1.5 billion students worldwide affected by school and university closure, as well as on a programme to increase international cooperation in science.

Echoing a belief in fashion's inherent dialectical nature - the push and pull of inspiration from the realms of art and architecture, music, cinema and more - Prada Possible Conversations reflect the plurality and layered meaning of the Prada universe.

UNESCO embraces this path and translates it into a direct channel of communication with students around the world. We are proud to see the creation of an ocean awareness project from what was initially a product innovation and sustainable materials initiative". Prada S.p.A. - HKSE Code 1913 - is one of the global leaders in the

luxury goods industry.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, is the only competent organization for ocean science within the United Nations system. Its mission is to coordinate at the international level programmes of

research, services and capacity-building in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the oceans and coastal areas. Its aim is to apply this knowledge to improve management, sustainable development, protection of the marine environment and the decision-making processes of its Member States. [>>full story](#)

WHY WE NEED A UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Despite its tremendous value for both the planet and society, the Ocean and its resources have been seriously and increasingly degraded by human activities, including overfishing, pollution and global warming. The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate warned the entire world about the devastating effects of climate change on the ocean, calling for immediate and drastic action to reverse the decline in the health of our planet.

Among these devastating effects, global mean sea level could rise up to 110 cm by the end of this century, severely threatening the lives of the 680 million people that live in low-lying coastal areas. Warm water coral reefs could almost completely go extinct, and with them, the vital services they provide to society.

Increase in temperature is expected to impact biodiversity, including fisheries, thereby challenging food security and jobs, especially in least developed

countries and Small Island Developing States.

As the global population is set to reach more than 9 billion people by 2050, impacts on the ocean associated with human activities will only escalate. Understanding the variability of the ocean and the related impacts on our society will be of vital importance, if we want both nature and humankind to thrive.

In the wake of cataclysmic findings, we must commit to making informed decisions, based neither on whim nor populist measures, but on the best available scientific and traditional knowledge available.

However, to what extent is that knowledge available? The 2017 Global Ocean Science Report – flagship report published by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – found that ocean science accounts for only between 0.04% and 4% of total research and development expenditures worldwide. A major change in how we finance and conduct ocean research is needed to



help us understand and forecast the impacts of climate change, marine pollution and the degradation of the marine and coastal environments, and to use this knowledge to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and to create improved conditions for sustainable development. [>>full story](#)

UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bridges

Issue 1 • 2020 • page 12

Our office and staff during COVID-19 confinement

Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

All the activities of the office were impacted by the pandemic and the lockdown. There was an abrupt cancellation of various scheduled events and activities of the office. The main focus had to be the parameters of dealing with and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



▲ UNESCO - Deserted Venice ; European Space Agency - Italy's efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus disease has led to a decrease of boat traffic in Venice's famous waterways – as captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission

The main challenge, from a managerial position, was to balance the human individual aspect of colleagues while at the same time taking decision in the interest of the group and of the work to be delivered in addition to ensuring equity of treatment of staff in Venice and Sarajevo and yet abiding by Host country and UN family deliberations – all at the same time. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, I have been unable to visit Sarajevo as planned to see the staff in person due to the travel restrictions put in place. New staff members joined the Antenna, since my last visit to Sarajevo who I have not met personally. At the beginning of the year there were no clear guidelines, not only in the Veneto region, where the office is located, but also at a national level. It was challenging not knowing the rules of engagement in a period of uncertainty. I recall instinctually going at lunch time and buying all the bottles of sanitizer gel available at the pharmacy and distributing them around the office.

The Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, being part of the UN family could not make decisions in isolation in response to the situation. Different UN entities across different countries, and even in the Italian territory had different guidelines and rules; we are located in the Veneto one of the most-hard hit regions at the beginning of the pandemic in Europe, while our colleagues in Rome were living a different reality and even more so at Headquarters. Just prior to lockdown, fear started to set in, and leadership to decide how and what was a must..

Creating a balance between how & what to tell staff in an official capacity (as the Director of this office) vis-à-vis the information they retrieved from other sources such as the internet was challenging; we were all bombarded by “fake news”.

I decided to set up two office WhatsApp accounts – one specifically related to Security thus fully dedicated to information and instructions related to working arrangements and behaviour related to the pandemic and the second WhatsApp account dedicated to a more informal exchange of general information - as if we were having a chat in the main hall, with the purpose of trying to maintain a level of intimacy and friendly exchanges essential to keeping the “team spirit” of the group.

I strongly commend my staff for showing solidarity, keeping a sense of humour with fellow colleagues during lockdown and continue to develop ideas on how to keep delivering activities. They showed and kept a “team spirit” even though they were working remotely. Individual heads of units communicated almost daily with their teams and managed to keep that flow of work as if they were in the office. With partial return to the office, a number of appropriate behaviours have been institutionalised in the office - such as temperature check when getting into the office, sanitising/washing of hands and wearing masks. A new work schedule has also been implemented combining in-office presence and teleworking.

An empty Venice during lockdown was an unbelievable, magical and precious experience albeit at an extremely high cost for the city. The beauty of Venice is well known but for the first time, I was able to notice how harmonious Venice is. We are a city surrounded by nature with the buildings reflecting in the water and the water reflecting back in a variety of different colours on the buildings depending on the day and the weather. The city changes colour continuously visually demonstrating its resilience. It demonstrates how one can change and yet maintain its essence, the crisis will eventually pass, while we will adapt to the new reality ...

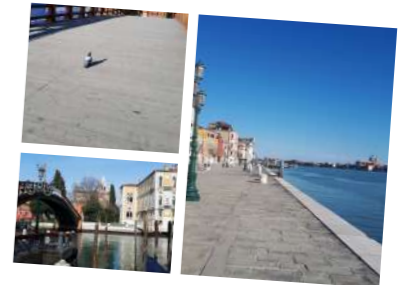
The lockdown period has taught me the value of things. I have come to learn a few things about myself, including appreciating the time spent with myself reading books, watching movies and catching up on some work documents. The downside of confinement was not having contact with my family living outside of Italy, beyond virtual communication. My elderly parents are back home in Brazil, and my two children live abroad, one in London and the other one in Barcelona.

The first thing I want to do if the pandemic ends is to visit the Sarajevo Antenna and meet with staff, especially the new ones whom I have not met in person due to the current restrictions.



Cristina Faccia, Senior Programme Assistant

Tourists and students deserted the city during the lockdown. Streets usually busy with life and traffic were empty. The lockdown drastically reduced movement on Venice waterways, which were usually heavily filled with gondolas, water taxis and cruise ships. Residents have observed the usually muddy canals run with bright, clearer water with swarms of fishes and the canal bottom clearly visible. Several decades have passed since Venetians were used to teach their children to swim in the canals and lagoon water. In July, tourists returned to Venice, but far fewer than in recent years. The queue of visitors in front of St. Mark's Basilica extended again around the corner to the ferry boats, but because of social distancing. The city had sorely missed for economic reasons its visitors and was longing for them to return.



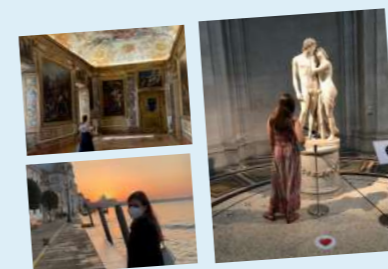
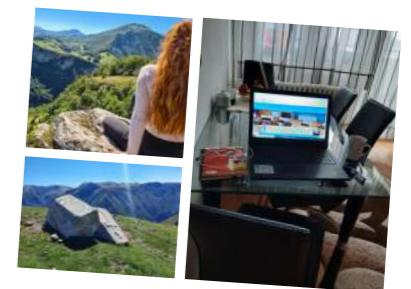
Jonathan Baker, Regional Science Advisor - Head of Science unit

The Science unit has adapted as well as can be expected in the circumstances. Even when we were all at home during March, April and May, we met virtually at least once a week as a team, and were in contact via email and Microsoft teams on a daily basis. My team, composed of Marina, Francesca and Jing, became expert in webinar organisation, and we learned how best to use the technology at our disposal to work effectively from home. We were however all relieved when we were able to come together as a team in the office when it re-opened in June, even if it has been on a partial basis. Those of us working for UNESCO can consider ourselves lucky compared to the many people that lost their livelihood during the crisis; and, I feel very fortunate not to have lost any close ones due to the pandemic.

Amila Planincic Programme Assistant, Antenna in Sarajevo

I assisted the coordination and implementation of UNESCO's support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's education government authorities in mitigating the immediate impact of countrywide school closures, and related learning disruption issues.

On the other hand, living in a neighbourhood mainly populated with elderly people, whose movement was completely restricted for almost 1,5 months for security and health reasons, I joined a group of local volunteers distributing food and other necessary supplies, 2 to 3 times per week. My neighbours, Munevera, Enisa and Sakib, provided me with a list of items to be delivered or done (e.g., going to the market, grocery shops, pharmacies or paying bills).



Laura Bortolutti, Culture unit Intern

These were difficult months also because of the worries I read in my parents' faces. My dad owns a construction company, whose activities were suspended during the lockdown. In addition to the company itself, he was worried about his employees' welfare which he felt entirely responsible for. Due to COVID-19, 2020 has brought on unprecedented challenges for health care workers, among whom my mum, Donatella, pictured in the photo. She is a hospital nurse with exhausting shifts, she is always covered up from head to toe in personal protective equipment. Dealing with critical situations everyday puts her to the test. When she arrives home, understandably, the atmosphere is not light, and the fear of contagion is commonplace.

Claudio Vincenzi, Office Assistant

When I travelled by car to Mestre in May, the streets were deserted, a very dismal and sad experience. The 2-hour journey took me only 1,5 hours due to the lack of traffic on the road. The strangest thing was seeing only 2 or 3 vehicles on the highway. With local travel restrictions in place, a self-certification form when driving was needed, or otherwise risking to be fined. Venice turned into a ghost town, missing the usual crush of international tourists. The city glimpsed a future with locals, still harbouring ancient roots and a native culture – with its own language and customs. In June, when some restrictions were relaxed, various other Italian dialects could be heard because there were more domestic tourists from other regions in Italy.



▲ ©Seaweed in canals, AFP via Getty Images; Duck from Lagoon, Errebi - Mirco Toniolo/REX; Clean waters, AFP via Getty Image; Cat over a bridge, John Brunton; empty St. Mark's Square, CNN video

How did you adjust your work to the Covid-19 situation and what were your first thoughts?

These circumstances forced us to find new ways to approach, attract and communicate with our audience; hence, it was necessary to redirect our operations and host them on online platforms. To exemplify, a

A major challenge during this period was the implementation of big pre-planned projects, jubilee events that could not be postponed. For instance, the 30th Nadežda Petrović Memorial, one of the oldest biennials of contemporary art in the region of the former Yugoslavia, celebrated its 60th Anniversary this year, with me as the exhibition selector. The exhibition, titled South, South! Let's go South!, served as a platform for a

>>full story

It is our responsibility to react to modern problems and find modern solutions, in my case to keep museums in touch with their users and to assume a more open position within society, as well as to perform our core task of heritage preservation. Museums were

COVID-19 has posed some specific challenges, and not every institution responded successfully: restructuring the workload, keeping an updated web presence, digital accessibility, a flexible programme – these were crucial to success in 2020. [>>full story](#)



IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

World Oceans Day 2020

By its resolution 63/111(link is external) of 5 December 2008, the UN General Assembly designated 8 June as World Oceans Day. The concept of a World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro as a way to celebrate our world's shared ocean and our personal connection to the sea, as well as to raise awareness about the crucial role the ocean plays in our lives and the important ways people can help protect it.



To raise awareness about the role the United Nations and international law can play in the sustainable development and use of the oceans and their living and non-living resources, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) is actively coordinating different activities of the World Oceans Day. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) coordinates in partnership with DOALOS the official United Nations World Oceans Day Portal, which is instrumental in building support for ocean awareness events on 8 June.

We celebrate World Oceans Day to remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life. They are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. The purpose of the Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. They are a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere. In the end, it is a day to celebrate together the beauty, the wealth and the promise of the ocean.



© IOC UNESCO

As the challenges to the ocean continue to grow, so does the need for novel solutions and the people driving them. To that end, the theme of UN World Oceans Day 2020 was Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean. Innovation - relating to the introduction of new methods, ideas, or products - is a dynamic term, and one that is fundamentally filled with hope. This year's theme was especially relevant in the lead-up to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which will run from 2021 to 2030. The Decade will strengthen international cooperation to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society.

2020

January

IOC Communication Master class
Venice, Italy | 20 January 2020

Mediterranean Regional Workshop for the
UN Decade
Venice, Italy | 22-23 January 2020

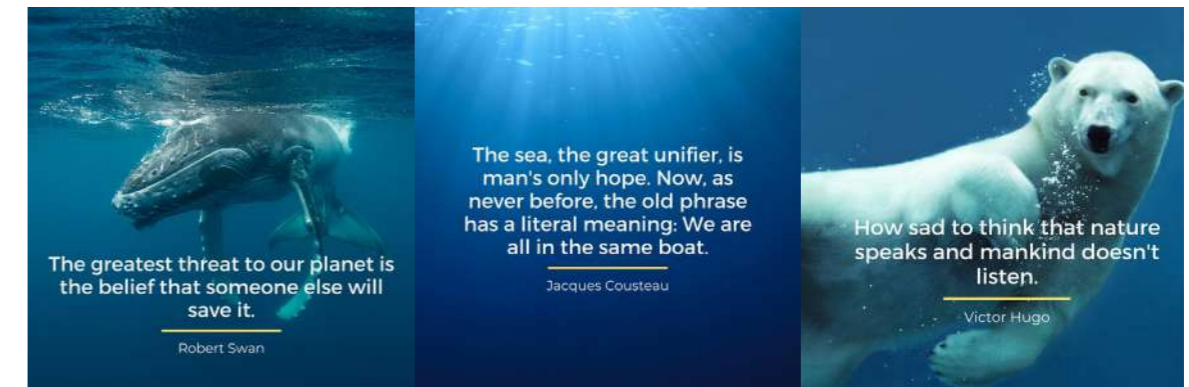
SmartCulTour Kick-off meeting
Leuven, | 30 January 2020

February

Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East
Europe (CoMoCoSEE) Meeting
Meeting of Senior Officials. Mobility of
Artists and Cooperation on Mutual Projects
in the Region
Rijeka, Croatia | 30 January – 2 February
2020

>> all events

"As we enter the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), it is indeed our responsibility to seize this moment. We must seize this moment, firstly, to learn more about these depths, which often remain largely unknown to us, and still hold many secrets that only we can reveal... secondly, to give free rein to imagination and innovation, which we need in order to confront this worrying situation. This is why we have made innovation the theme of the celebrations of this international day. We must also seize this moment to sound the alarm, perhaps more widely than we have done so far, because no technical solution can replace a widespread, personal understanding of the threats to the oceans, their mysteries and their beauty." — Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of World Oceans Day



March

UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable
Development
Geneva, Switzerland | 19-20 March

May

Webinar on the 2020 United Nations World
Water Development Report "Water and Climate
Change" for RCs and UNCTs of Europe and
Central Asia
Online | 27 May 2020

An online conversation about UNESCO
opportunities with young people
Online | 28 May 2020

SHELTER Sava River Basin Open Lab: Second
Stakeholder (online) Workshop
Online | 28 May 2020

June

World Ocean Day
Virtual Ocean Literacy Summit
Online – 8 June 2020

Intangible Cultural Heritage in emergencies;
responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. 14th
Annual Meeting of the Southeast European
Experts Network on ICH
Online - 26 June 2020



Backstory

The huge power in every woman and every little girl to transform ocean science and conservation



▲ © Planeta Oceano / Kerstin Forsberg and her daughter

Kerstin Forsberg, the founder and Director of Planeta Océano discusses the importance of marine conservation illustrating our dependence on the ocean and how we can contribute to its sustainability. She started this non-profit organisation focused on empowering communities in marine conservation as she completed her undergraduate studies in biology. In 2018, she featured in TIME's "Next Generation of Leaders" for her work in protecting giant manta rays in Peru and was among Fortune World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2019. Kerstin Forsberg won the Rolex Award for Enterprise in 2016 and other several international and local awards. More so, she is an Ashoka fellow and recognised as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.

My work in ocean conservation aims to showcase how everyone depends on the ocean and how we all need to conserve it. Every single person has a key role to play and we can all collaborate to move forward the ocean agenda. I founded and direct the non-profit Planeta Océano based in Peru, which is focused on empowering coastal communities in marine conservation through research and citizen science, marine education and sustainable development efforts. We have a participatory and multidisciplinary approach to marine conservation. Projects include youth incubator programs that provide school students with the tools and skills to lead their own environmental efforts, working with citizen scientists and governmental authorities to protect endangered species such as giant manta rays or sawfish, and supporting fishermen and artisans to lead community-based ecotourism, among others. This approach connects and engages people; and supports both conservation and sustainable development.

I began Planeta Océano when I was 22 years old and was finishing my undergraduate Biology degree. I started a small grassroots project in northern Peru to research stranding and bycatch of endangered sea turtles. In one month, our project hosted over 100 local volunteers, including local youth and fishermen, and together we reported a mortality of over 260 sea turtles in the region over the course of a year, as well as showcased the importance of sea turtle conservation.

This initiative showed me first-hand how local people can make such an important difference, and how environmental impacts threaten local people's livelihoods. I got inspired by the communities themselves, as well as by books such as Sylvia Earle's 'The World is Blue: How our Fate and the Ocean's are One'. I saw how ocean issues were not being sufficiently taught in local schools, how citizens were not sufficiently recognized to support science-based management and how communities urged market-based solutions for sustainability. I embarked on a mission to change these situations and have been working on this ever since.

>>full story

The future of ocean conservation



To achieve Sustainable Development and well-being across the globe, it is critical that everyone understands how we all depend on the ocean, our impact on the ocean and how we can contribute to its sustainability.

The ocean is our planet's life source and provides us with oxygen, climate regulation, food security, among others. Although many might still not be aware, the ocean is intrinsically tied to major global issues and as such, promoting Ocean Literacy is a major channel to solve these. For example, incorporating Ocean Literacy in schools can build quality education; sustainably managing the ocean can support nutrition and poverty reduction, to name a few.



▲ © Planeta Oceano / Kerstin Forsberg

BIYEARLY NEWSLETTER • <http://www.unesco.org/venice>

ISSUE 1 2020 JANUARY - JUNE

Bridges

UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture in Europe

Contact us :

Palazzo Zorzi, Castello 4930 - 30122 Venice - Italy
Tel: +39.041.260.15.11 Fax: +39.041.528.99.95

veniceoffice@unesco.org

For more information, please visit our website:

www.unesco.org/venice



Regional Bureau
for Science and Culture
in Europe

Articles and photos credited UNESCO may be reproduced and/or translated for non-commercial purposes providing the credit line reads, "Reproduced from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe's newsletter: Bridges" and includes issue number, year, quarterly period and hyperlink.