

#### 4. BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNICATION

UNESCO's actions on biodiversity are infused with education, communication and capacity-building activities, with priority to development of specialist skills in science, policy, awareness and outreach. UNESCO encourages communication and coordination by creating networks and supporting training initiatives and centres.

- [Education for Sustainable Development](#) interlinks issues of biodiversity and livelihoods, agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and other topics.
- [UNESCO Associated Schools Network](#) helps to achieve education on sustainable development, including education on biodiversity, through [flagship projects](#) focused on creating innovative educational materials and methods and developing exchanges of students and teachers worldwide.
- [Global Initiative on Biodiversity Public Education and Awareness](#) UNESCO and the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly developed the Global Initiative on Biodiversity Education, which had led to the agreed CBD Programme of Work on Biodiversity Education and Public Awareness.
- [Biosphere Reserves](#) are promoted as learning laboratories for sustainable development with particular emphasis given to education and capacity building in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable and equitable use.
- [The Regional School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Territories \(ERAIFT\)](#) focuses on training African specialists in sustainable resource management in tropical forest ecosystems.
- [LINKS \(Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems\) Programme](#) a number of field projects implemented by the LINKS Programme focuses on strengthening indigenous knowledge and traditional resource management through through formal and informal education.
- [Business Skills for Natural World Heritage Site Managers programme](#) seeks to improve the management effectiveness of World Heritage Sites using business planning techniques.
- [World Heritage Education Programme](#) gives young people a chance to voice their concerns and to become involved in the protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage.
- [UNESCO–VOCATIONS PATRIMOINE Fellowships for World Heritage Site Managers Programme](#) reinforces the capacity of professionals working in the management, conservation and development of a World Heritage property.
- [UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks](#) provide an innovative modality for international academic cooperation and capacity

development, particularly in the context of North-South and North-South-South collaboration;

- **[Space Education Programme](#)** enhances space subjects and disciplines in schools and universities especially in developing countries, through workshops, and promote the integration of these subjects in the science curricula.
- **[The Open Training Platform](#)** facilitates access to training materials and resources, including those related to biodiversity management, openly available to local communities and development stakeholders.
- **Education tools include** [Education kit on Drylands](#) conceived with the aim of developing among younger generations the ability to combat desertification while endeavoring to conserve biodiversity. [Education kit on Desertification](#) demonstrates desertification is not inevitable and that everyone has a role to play in sustainably managing the world's drylands. [Pacific MAB Discovery Kit: A visit to the island Biosphere Reserves in the Pacific](#) describes island and coastal Biosphere Reserves for students and educators.