Photo: A visit to the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest, UNESCO World Heritage site, Kaya Fungo Giriama, Kenya 20 June 2018 (c) L-A.Mackongo/UNESCO
Message of the Director

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

*The 5th Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO* in Diani, Kenya, from 19 to 21 June 2018 was a good opportunity to *Take Leadership, be Brave and let UNESCO take the role of Global Thought Leader, influencing minds on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals!* The meeting discussed the specificities of National Commissions' contributions to UNESCO's relevance, visibility and outreach. The meeting was co-organized by the UNESCO Secretariat and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and brought together 170 participants from UNESCO Member States, all directors of Regional Bureaux in Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and of Multi-sectoral Subregional Offices in Africa, across the globe as well as colleagues from UNESCO Headquarters, including the Director of the Division of Field Support and Coordination. Mr. Nicolas Kassianides, Chief of Staff, UNESCO Director-General's Office and Assistant Director-General ad interim for External Relations and Public Information on 18 June 2018, stopped in Nairobi to meet UNESCO staff in the Regional office for Eastern Africa, as well as to connect with all staff in the region via Skype. He also met with Ms. Leila Pakkala, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa and Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage of Kenya, Mr. Rashid Achesa Mohammed.

Mr. Kassianides, during the 5th Inter-regional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, officially opened the meeting, with an overview of the UNESCO Strategic Transformation, and the value of enhanced consultation process between UNESCO and National Commissions. The meeting shared lessons and best practices of National Commissions for UNESCO in the five geographical areas: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNESCO officially launched and conducted an inception workshop for the **Better Education for Africa's Rise BEAR II Project**, from 19 to 20 June 2018, to encourage technical and vocational training among youth in Kenya. The project is in line with sustainable development goal 8 in ensuring economic growth and decent jobs for everyone, tapping into the potential of Young People, in Kenya, and in Eastern Africa.
UNESCO also mobilized national stakeholders in Djibouti to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage, during a national workshop on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Djibouti ville from 18 to 21 June 2018. Following the workshop, Djibouti plans to submit a request for International Assistance to the Fund of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to begin the work of inventorying and in order to develop a national legislation and policy for the protection of Djibouti’s intangible cultural heritage. The Minister responsible for Culture has also committed to creating a national committee to oversee the implementation of the 2003 Convention, which was ratified by Djibouti in 2007.

I wish you a productive week ahead!
Ann Therese Ndong Jatta

In the photo below, Mr. Nicolas Kassianides opening the 5th Inter-regional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Diani, Kenya 19 June 2018 (c)

UNESCO
Announcements

Call for Proposals for Photo-Journalists & Professional Photographers!

The call invites photographers from around the world to submit their work that depicts journalists doing their jobs in an everyday environment. The aim of the call is to raise awareness on the working conditions of journalists and to illustrate UNESCO activities and programs contributing to the promotion of freedom of expression. Applications are due 15 July 2018, Link

News of the week

Djibouti mobilizes national stakeholders to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage, in English and in French


Enhancing teacher training and development in Rwanda: A continuing professional development (CPD) framework for basic education

Leveraging the power of partnerships to support freedom of expression in Somalia
Missions

**Karalyn Monteil**
Project launch and national workshop on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Comoros
23 to 30 June 2018
Moroni, Comoros

**Aurora Cheung Sze-Ming**
CFIT monitoring mission in Zambia
24 to 29 June 2018
Lusaka, Ndola

**Jaco Du Toit**
Africa regional consultation on the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage
25 to 27 June 2018
Abuja, Nigeria

**Abdul Lamin Rahman**
On behalf of the Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
Official Hand-over of the Digital Village facilities
UNESCO-SAMSUNG Digital Village Project
25 to 28 June 2018
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Saba Bokhari**
Regional Capacity Development Workshop for National Coordinators of the Associated Schools Network in Sub-Saharan Africa
and
International Orientation Session for new ASPnet Coordinators
26 to 28 June 2018
Windhoek, Namibia
What happened last week

Visit of Mr. Nicolas Kassianides, Chief of Staff, UNESCO Director-General's Office and Assistant Director-General ad interim for External Relations and Public Information
18 June 2018

Mr. Nicolas Kassianides, Chief of Staff, UNESCO Director-General's Office and Assistant Director-General ad interim for External Relations and Public Information on 18 June 2018, stopped in Nairobi to meet UNESCO staff in the Regional office for Eastern Africa, as well as to connect with all staff in the region via Skype. He also met with Ms. Leila Pakkala, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa and Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage of Kenya, Mr. Rashid Achesa Mohammed.

The visit to the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mwai Kibaki, who is UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa, saw the presence of Ms Ann Therese Ndong Jatta, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Ms Louise-Agnès Mackongo, UNESCO Liaison Officer – Africa, Mr Jayakumar Ramasamy, Senior Sciences Programme Specialist, UNESCO Nairobi and Ambassador Mary Khimulu, UNESCO Category II Regional Groundwater training and Research Centre.
Discussions revolved around the need to stronger cooperation around water across Kenya, but mainly across Africa. As a basic human right, water is essential to dignity, vital to solving main challenges facing societies today, in health, in agriculture, in energy, in urbanization and in empowering women, among others. President Mwai Kibaki thanked UNESCO for extending his mandate and stressed the importance of keep working together to bring Peace in Africa by solving water issues.

On the culture side, the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage committed to work together with UNESCO, Kenya National Commission and National Museums of Kenya to host a Regional Ministry of Culture Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Development in Malindi early next year, raising awareness and interest in ratifying the 2001 Convention, and increase capacities to use underwater cultural heritage protection and promotion for sustainable development along the Indian Ocean Coast. Enhancing protection and promotion of Intangible Cultural heritage and the Diversity of Cultural expressions across the country was also highlighted as a step to take to strengthen the opportunities of talented youth in Kenya.

During his stay, Mr. Nicolas Kassianides took the opportunity to visit a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, where he was initiated by the Giriamas of the Kaya Fungo as an Elder.
The BEAR II Project was launched by the Kenya’s Principal Secretary in the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training (TVET) in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Kevit Desai. The launch took place at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi, Kenya. There was the presence of key TVET actors both within and outside the government structures, such as the private sector and not-for profit actors who are involved in skills development, thus will ensure that the vision, principles, values and key orientations that underpin the BEAR II Project are shared and adopted consensually. The BEAR II project is supporting Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in their efforts to reform and develop their TVET systems, while benefiting from knowledge and experience gained under BEAR I. Given the importance of the launch, the inception workshop and the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee, it is essential that the participation of a cross-section of stakeholders in TVET be ensured in these events.
UNESCO is supporting the University of Nairobi-Centre for HIV prevention (UoN-CHIVPR), KAVI- Institute of Clinical Research and University Health Services (UHS) to develop a mobile application that aims to implement harm-reduction activities among university students and staff.

To ensure ownership, UNESCO trained 20 University students from colleges of Engineering, Computing and Health Sciences on mobile application development on harm reduction, on 20 and 21 June 2018. Aligning needs of the application to the University’s policies and strategies on drug and substance abuse, HIV and Aids and access to information, the training encompassed a brainstorming session, hands-on presentations, demonstrations and coding sessions from the facilitator, individuals and groups in various activities. The students were able to develop 4 prototypes covering 4 main themes namely HIV and AIDS-Prevention, care and Treatment, Alcohol and drug abuse –Prevention and treatment, Sexual and reproductive health, and Health Education. The prototype also develops a linkage to University Health Services. Some key features of the mobile application will be monitoring of health outcomes, confidentiality of sensitive information, locating counselors, step by step guidance towards recovery (with visual/practical testimonials) and accessibility for persons living with disabilities.
UNESCO attends the United Nations Country Team Retreat in Madagascar
20 to 22 June 2018

UNESCO gathered with other agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations during the annual United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Retreat in Antsiranana, Madagascar, from 20 to 22 June 2018. The aim of the retreat was to engage in reflections together, share information, discuss and make decisions on how the United Nations system in Madagascar could make a positive contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result of the retreat, decisions and recommendations were made on the role of the UN during the upcoming elections, the development of the next UNDAF cooperation framework, the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the context of the reform for the repositioning of the United Nations to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Importance was given to the strengthening of interventions in the South to optimize impacts of the UN. An action plan for the implementation of the decisions taken with the authorities, deadlines and monitoring mechanisms were also elaborated.
Upcoming events

Africa regional consultation on the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage
25 to 27 June 2018
Abuja, Nigeria

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) funded project "Empowering local radios with ICTs for the promotion of Rural Citizens Participation in Democratic Discourse and Development Project"- meeting with the SDC
26 June 2018
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Expert Meeting on Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change in Africa
27 to 28 June 2018
Nairobi, Kenya

Publications & Videos

Global Citizenship Education Tools and Piloting Experiences of Four Countries: Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia and Uganda

A lifeline to learning: leveraging technology to support education for refugees

World Heritage publications

Photos: Re-live the moments of World Oceans Day 2018 celebrated in Eastern Africa
Watch the video of UNESCO South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities for Sustainable Development

Tweet of the Week on @UNESCOEast: Opening of the 5th Inter-regional Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO in Diani, Kenya, all National Commissions gather to coordinate and achieve common objectives of UNESCO #KNATCOM4SDGS#5thNATCOMSmeeting #SDGs @NatcomUnescoKe @UNESCO