



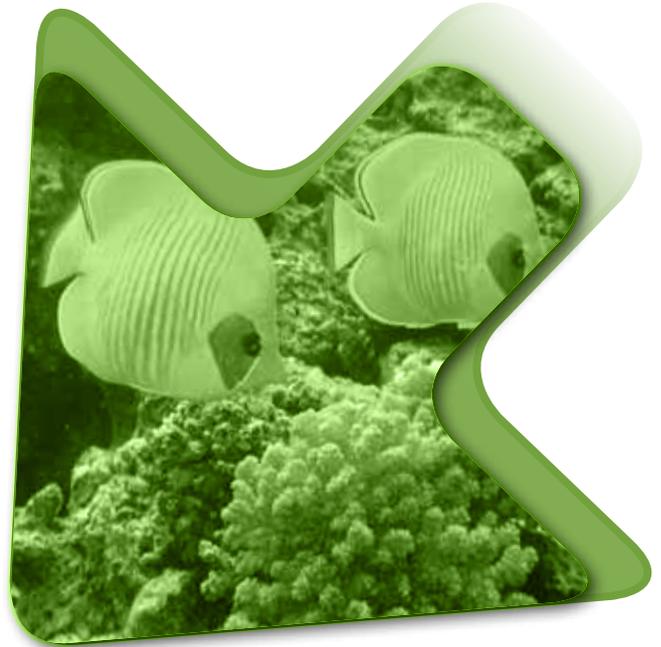
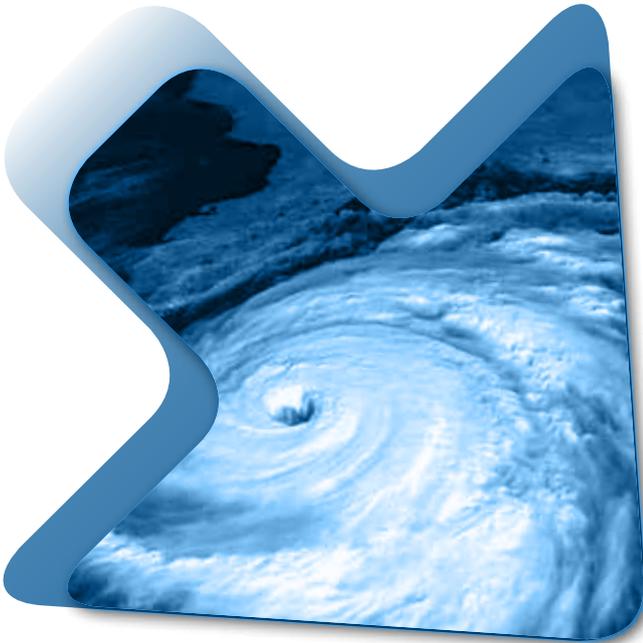
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



The UNESCO Climate Change Initiative was launched by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, in 2009. It seeks to reinforce the scientific, mitigation and adaptation capacities of countries and communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

# THE UNESCO CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

Four core thematic areas – Science, Education, Ecology, Ethics – brought together to address climate change



# Climate Science and Knowledge

## Science-based UNESCO Climate Change Adaptation Forum

The objective of the Forum is to inform public and private sector stakeholders (national policy-makers, vulnerable communities and women, the local media, social, cultural and scientific networks and local, regional and international scientific organizations) in agriculture, fisheries (including aquaculture), forestry, alternative energy, fresh water, oceanography, environmental sciences, and coastal services of the longer-term climate projections and their potential impacts, as well as strengthen capacity for appropriate response strategies.

## Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development Programme

This programme uses innovative educational approaches to help a broad audience (with particular focus on youth), understand, address, mitigate, and adapt to the impacts of climate change, encourage the changes in attitudes and behaviours needed to put our world on a more sustainable development path, and build a new generation of climate change-aware citizens.

## Climate Change Education in the Overall Context of Education for Sustainable Development

UNESCO  
EDUCATION  
FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# Climate Change, Cultural and Biological Diversity, and Cultural Heritage

## Global Climate Change Field Observatory of UNESCO Sites

The objective of this Observatory is to use UNESCO World Heritage Sites and biosphere reserves as priority reference sites for understanding the impacts of climate change on human societies and cultural diversity, biodiversity and ecosystems services, the world's natural and cultural heritage, and the possible adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as in relation to REDD+.

CLIMATE CHANGE

## Research Programme on the Social, Human, Ethical and Gender Dimensions of Climate Change

Based on environmental ethics, social and human sciences, this policy-relevant, action-oriented programme focus on the design and implementation of appropriate climate change adaptation actions related to energy, water and biosphere management benefiting the most vulnerable. It also seeks to improve the understanding of gender equality issues related to climate change.

## Climate Change, Ethics, Social and Human Sciences Dimensions

## Taking Advantage of Opportunities for Synergy

The four core programmes of the Climate Change Initiative each play a critical role to bring a holistic understanding of climate change, its underlying causes, driving forces and impacts, as well as options to mitigate and adapt to them. They have been designed to take advantage of opportunities for synergy among UNESCO's existing capacities and programmes as well as those of other UN agencies and partners.

### Key Objectives of the 4 core programmes

#### Climate Science and Knowledge

1. Climate change service and resilience improved through regular interactions between providers and users;
2. Interdisciplinary climate change knowledge base continuously strengthened through integrating UNESCO capacities in natural and social sciences, culture, education and communication and accessing regional and local expertise
3. Member States' resilience improved through national climate risk management policies that integrate science, local and indigenous knowledge, and ecological and socio-cultural systems.

#### Climate Change, Cultural and Biological Diversity, and Cultural Heritage

1. Promote the recognition and use of biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites as priority sites for implementing the UNESCO Climate Change Initiative and other UN-level climate change initiatives
2. Collect, document and analyze scientific and traditional and local knowledge of both women and men on impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services and human/community responses to adapt to these impacts
3. Promote skills and competencies in cultural industries linked to films, computer animation and products, photographic and art festivals and events as well as other public/media events to tell climate change adaptation and mitigation linked stories drawn from science, religion, traditional knowledge etc.

Coordinated through the UNESCO Intersectoral Platform on Climate Change, key objectives of the Climate Change Initiative (CCI) will be achieved through intersectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation, coordinated field activities, and networking. Special attention is given to UNESCO's two global priorities, Africa and gender equality, as well as to the increased vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

#### Climate Change Education in the Overall Context of Education for Sustainable Development

1. Strengthen the capacity of Member States to provide quality climate change education for sustainable development at primary and secondary school level
2. Encourage and enhance innovative teaching approaches to integrate quality climate change education for sustainable development in schools
3. Raise awareness about climate change and enhance non-formal education programmes through media, networking and partnerships

#### Climate Change, Ethics, Social and Human Sciences Dimensions

1. Establishment of a truly comprehensive SHS-wide approach to climate change based on two pillars: the MOST Programme, and the environmental ethics programme
2. Strengthened intersectoral cooperation on fresh water, energy, REDD and biodiversity management building on enhanced SHS leadership capacity
3. Improved understanding of gender equality issues entailed in addressing the social and human dimension of climate change and better capacity to respond to them

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# THE UNESCO CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

For more information:  
[www.unesco.org/en/climatechange](http://www.unesco.org/en/climatechange)



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## Towards a Climate-Neutral UNESCO

UNESCO has been involved in Climate Neutrality initiatives since 2007 and aims, in line with overall UN objectives, to lead by example and reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the extent possible. In addition, as part of its commitment to the Climate Neutral UN efforts, UNESCO is conducting an annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Survey using accepted international standards, taking all offices into consideration and reporting the results to UN HQ. UNESCO has also drafted an Emissions Reduction Plan with reduction targets. A target has been set for a 5% overall GHG emissions reduction from 2011 through 2013, the ultimate goal being a 15% emissions reduction by the end of 2013 compared with 2008 figures.