

UNESCO: Environmental Mandate & Activities

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

Environmental mandate

UNESCO is an intergovernmental organization whose mandate includes contributing to peace and security by promoting scientific collaboration among nations. As such, UNESCO is the UN body responsible for coordinating science matters. Since UNESCO's creation in 1945, its Natural Sciences sector has been involved in ambitious and successful projects in the area of environmental sciences, including the Humid Tropics Research Programme (1956), the Indian Ocean Expedition (1959-65), the International Biological Programme (1964-74), the Man and the Biosphere Programme (1971-present), the Diversitas Programme (1991), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2001-05), and the International Assessment on Agricultural Science & Technology for Development (on-going). UNESCO provides a forum for designing and coordinating regional and global scientific programmes, assessing and synthesizing scientific information for use by member governments, and building scientific and technological capacities in support of its programmes.

Environmental activities

UNESCO is engaged in addressing a wide range of environmental issues through a series of UNESCO programmes:

- International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- World Water Assessment Programme
- Programme on the Management of Human Transformations (MOST)
- Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
- International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- International Geoscience Programme
- Natural Disaster Reduction Programme