



# UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

## Vision

UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the alleviation of poverty, sustainable development and inter-cultural dialogue through education, sciences, culture, communication and information. Five overarching objectives guide UNESCO's work:

1. Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning.
2. Mobilizing scientific knowledge and science policy for sustainable development.
3. Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges.
4. Safeguarding cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
5. Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication.



Harra biosphere reserve © N.Sadeghi / UNESCO

## Work in Iran

UNESCO in Iran is represented by UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (UTCO) which is a sub-regional office for four countries of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran,

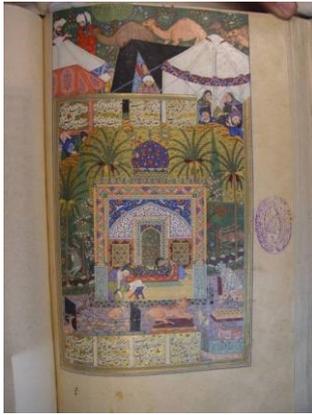
Pakistan and Turkmenistan. UTCO works closely with various governmental and non-governmental partners in the fields of Culture, Education, Natural, Social and Human Sciences, and Communication and Information as detailed below.



UNESCO footprints in Iran.

**Education:** UNESCO supports Iran in its efforts to achieve the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) in the areas of education policy, planning and strategy; education data collection, analysis and reporting; literacy and lifelong learning; technical and vocational education and training, and ICT in education. UNESCO contributes to the national implementation of SDG Goal 4 through a combination of knowledge-sharing, providing upstream policy advice and capacity building, facilitating policy dialogues and developing partnerships. In implementing its programmes in education, UNESCO engages closely with a range of partners including the Iranian National Commission to UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, the Literacy Movement Organization (LMO) and the Technical and Vocational Organization under the Ministry of Labor (TVO).





Collection of Nezami's Panj Ganj: documentary heritage registered in the Memory of the World Register in 2011



Bam Citadel World Heritage, Bam, Kerman Province.

**Sciences:** UNESCO in Iran is active in different domains of natural sciences with emphasis on water resources management and biodiversity. Iran hosts three centers functioning under the auspices of UNESCO related to Water, one related to Science & Technology Parks and a fourth center related to Oceanography. UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme on the management of water resources in arid zones (G-WADI) has been active since 2005. UNESCO contributes to improved eco-system conservation and management through its "Man and Biosphere" (MAB) programme. There are currently 12 UNESCO biosphere reserves in Iran. In recent years, UNESCO has been fully involved in the popularization of sciences and the promotion of a 'culture of entrepreneurship' among the Iranian public with the aim of helping to foster a knowledge-based society and eradicate poverty. In the area of human and social sciences, UNESCO focuses mainly on building an inclusive society by facilitating dialogue and raising awareness of the issue of disability.

**Culture:** At present, Iran has 19 UNESCO World Heritage sites and 10 Intangible Cultural Heritage elements registered on UNESCO's Representative List. In the field of culture, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) is the key national partner for UNESCO. UNESCO collaborates with ICHHTO on the preservation, restoration and management of cultural heritage sites. UNESCO also supports ICHHTO in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property.

UNESCO also facilitates intercultural dialogue within the region. In April 2016, for example, UNESCO in cooperation with UNEP and the Iranian Department of Environment, organized an International Seminar on Environment, Culture and Religion, which brought together scientists, religious scholars, indigenous leaders, UN agencies, NGOs and ICRC to discuss the role of culture and religion in the implementation of the SDGs.



Saryazd citadel, winner of 2014 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction for Cultural Heritage Conservation

**Communication and Information:** The priorities of UNESCO's Communication and Information programme in Iran include equitable access to information and knowledge including for persons with disabilities, capacity building of media professionals with a focus on environmental issues and science journalism for sustainable development, and strengthening Media and Information Literacy competencies. Through the Memory of the World Programme, UNESCO supports preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage in Iran. Iran has 9 documentary heritage items registered on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.