

TE MAHERE RAUTAKI A  
TE KŌMIHANA MATUA O  
AOTEAROA MŌ UNESCO

---

# NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2025



**unesco**

New Zealand  
National Commission

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

## Te Pae Tawhiti | Vision

**Toitū te māramatanga,  
Toitū te ora,  
Toitū te whenua**

These Māori words express concepts that speak to the notion of a connected world underpinned with knowledge, kaitiakitanga and sustainability, and the enduring permanence of our land.

The words are aspirational and seek to ensure that we have a collective responsibility to look after and care for what is precious and vital in today's world. The words speak to the importance of ideas and knowledge as a vital dimension of enlightenment along with health & wellbeing, sustainability and the importance of our land and identity.

Māramatanga speaks about enlightenment. Ora is about health, well-being and the need to nurture and sustain it while toitū te whenua speaks to the permanence of the vitality and essence of our land and who we are in Aotearoa, NZ.

The NZ National Commission for UNESCO promotes peace and justice and affirms Preservation, Sustainability and Enlightenment through harmony and the sharing of ideas.

## Te Pae Tata | Mission

Kia renarena te taura here i Ngāi Aotearoa me ngā whānau o UNESCO huri i te ao, mā te tiri whakaaro me te waihanga raukaha, e toitū ai, e ora ai, e taurikura ai tō tātou anamata haere ake nei.

Deepening connections between the people of Aotearoa/ New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a sustainable, healthy and more peaceful future.

## Te Mana Whakahaere | Mandate

Starting from the basis of our country being founded on the Treaty and as the permanent presence for UNESCO in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, the National Commission promotes New Zealand's interests internationally as well as implementing UNESCO priorities and programmes domestically.

# RAUTAKI | STRATEGY

## Vision

Toitū te māramatanga, Toitū te ora, Toitū te whenua

## Mission

Deepening connections between the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand and UNESCO globally through the sharing of ideas and building capability for a better and more peaceful future.

## Priority Areas

### Listening to the Pacific

#### Indigenous Knowledge

- Indigenous knowledges, languages and practises including mātauranga Māori are a taonga and should be valued.
- We recognise the importance of te reo Māori for Aotearoa/New Zealand society and the shared cultural and historical relationship with the people of the Pacific.
- We will ensure New Zealand makes a strong contribution to the strategy, research and celebration of the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

#### Oceans for the Wellbeing of People and the Planet

- We recognise the ocean as a living system which should be better valued, protected and more resilient to challenges.
- The Pacific Ocean links people, culture and communities while also providing food, recreation, and wellbeing.
- Addressing the challenges the oceans face will require multidisciplinary approaches and transformative solutions that draw on science and indigenous knowledges including Mātauranga Māori.
- During the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030), we will support multidisciplinary approaches with indigenous knowledges and practises at the centre.

#### UNESCO Programmes and Activities

We will enhance the scope of UNESCO's work by strengthening relationships and engaging at the national, regional and international level through our work programme and by collaboration with stakeholders.

Current relevant programmes include Global Geoparks, Creative Cities Network, UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN, Memory of the World.

#### Freedom of Responsible Expression

- We will work in partnership with communities to support freedom of responsible expression.
- This work will aim to improve understandings of human rights and support a more inclusive society for all.
- Our work programme will ensure diversity and social inclusion is celebrated and supported in Aotearoa/New Zealand and that we support collaborative activities designed to address harmful behaviour in a variety of contexts, including online.

#### Empowering Communities for Sustainable Futures

- Inclusive communities, lifelong learning and education for peace are core UNESCO concepts, elaborated through the Education 2030 Agenda.
- As a National Commission we view our role as catalysts for New Zealanders to engage in intergenerational lifelong learning and to be innovative and responsible global citizens, within the context of the SDGs.
- Our work programme is designed to support communities through formal and informal education to engage in social and environmental practices that lead to a fairer, more just and sustainable world.


## **ACTION 1: ENGAGING NEW ZEALANDERS WITH UNESCO AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND AND THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMISSION**

The National Commission engages with a range of stakeholders – organisations or individuals who engage with UNESCO or have formal interests in UNESCO matters – including its Associate Members, Co-operating Agencies, Iwi-Māori, academia, civil society and the private sector. We build knowledge, while also raising awareness of UNESCO's cross-cutting mandate (work spanning science including social sciences, education, communications and culture) and the National Commission's activities.

Our focus will be:

- leveraging the engagement of the UNESCO Aotearoa Youth Leaders to implement their work programme and drawing on their expertise to enhance the work of the National Commission;
- purposeful dialogue and engagement with Associate Members and other key stakeholders, to encourage increased collaborations with the priority areas and UNESCO programmes and activities;
- enabling the building of knowledge through providing opportunities for New Zealanders to participate in significant UNESCO programmes and/or support UNESCO mandated responsibilities; and
- implementing a comprehensive communications strategy to promote UNESCO and the National Commission's key messages and activities.



## **ACTION 2: SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES THAT ALIGN WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The National Commission undertakes activities that support its national strategic priorities. Particular attention is given to innovative ideas and approaches and projects that have the potential to inform policy and practice in our areas of responsibility. The activities supported each year will include a number of collaborative funding activities in areas of agreed significance to the Commission.

Our focus will be:

- four priority areas; empowering communities for sustainable futures; indigenous knowledge; oceans for the wellbeing of people and the planet; and freedom of responsible expression;
- supporting and strengthening the implementation of UNESCO programmes in New Zealand such as Memory of the World, Global Geoparks programme, the Creative Cities Network and other relevant UNESCO programmes;
- seeking opportunities to fund and/or collaborate with partners whose interests align with the National Commission and taking opportunities to work collaboratively with organisations whose mandate and values align with the Commission.

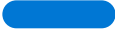


## **ACTION 3: CONTRIBUTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

The National Commission will continue to manage New Zealand's relationship with UNESCO — the international organisation — through a targeted approach aligned with the interests of Associate Members, including MFAT.

Our focus will be:

- contributing to the realisation of the priorities of the Pacific sub-region, actively engaging with and amplifying Pacific priorities and presence in UNESCO forums;
- actively collaborating with other National Commissions, directly or through participation in interregional meetings and regional and sub-regional events;
- increasing New Zealand participation in relevant UNESCO programmes and international activities;
- working with the New Zealand Permanent Delegate to UNESCO to sustain and develop New Zealand's priorities for its engagement with UNESCO, using this understanding to frame our approach to international engagement with UNESCO, including the biennial General Conference.




## **TE HANGANGA O TE KŌMIHANA MATUA MŌ UNESCO**

### **STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

The National Commission's Constitution states that the National Commission consists of a Chair and five specialist Commissioners, one in each area of UNESCO's mandate (Education, Natural Science, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information).

A Special Advisor (Youth) is appointed by the Chair of the National Commission to sit on the National Commission without voting rights. The Youth Leaders group will contribute to the priorities and programmes supported by the NZ National Commission for UNESCO.



## **TE RANGAPŪ WHAKAHAERE O TE KŌMIHANA MATUA MŌ UNESCO**

### **SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

The National Commission is supported by a Secretariat within the International Engagement Team of the International Division of the Ministry of Education. The Secretary General leads the work of the Secretariat, which comprises a Senior Advisor, contracted Advisor and contracted Communications Advisor. Management and administrative support (0.5 FTE) is provided by the Ministry's International Division.



## **NGĀ RAWA AHUMONI**

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The Ministry of Education, subject to appropriation, provides funding through Vote: Education to meet the costs of:

- New Zealand's annual subscription to UNESCO
- The National Commission's programme activities
- The National Commission's operating costs including its participation in UNESCO's biennial General Conference and other UNESCO meetings. (Article 7 of the Constitution for the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO).

# NGĀ WHAKAMĀRAMA ME TE HOROPAKI AO WHĀNUI BACKGROUND AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the specialised agency of the United Nations system with responsibility for promoting co-operative action amongst Member States in the areas of education, the natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information.

UNESCO's five core functions, carried out in its mandated areas (education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information) are:

- serving as a laboratory of ideas and generating innovative proposals and policy advice in its fields of competence
- developing and reinforcing the global agenda in its fields of competence through policy analysis, monitoring and benchmarking
- setting norms and standards in its fields of competence and supporting and monitoring their implementation
- strengthening international and regional cooperation in its fields of competence, and fostering alliances, intellectual cooperation, knowledge-sharing and operational partnerships
- providing advice for policy development and implementation, and developing institutional and human capacities.

Across these functions, UNESCO agreed an 8 year Medium Term Strategy for the period 2022-29 (41C/4) and a programme and budget (41 C/5) at the 41st General Conference in November 2021. These strategic documents provide a framework for UNESCO's international programme and for the National Commission's work.

Like other agencies of the United Nations system, UNESCO is vested with responsibilities in pursuit of internationally agreed development goals. The successors to the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, are a particular focus of UNESCO, which helped to frame the Education 2030 agenda as encapsulated in SDG 4, Education. The Incheon Declaration, adopted at the World Education Forum in Korea in May 2015, entrusted UNESCO to lead and coordinate Education 2030 through guidance and technical support within the overall SDG agenda.

UNESCO is the UN focal point for the:

- Education 2030 Agenda
- International Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- International Decade of Indigenous Languages

UNESCO observes a range of International Days, Years and Decades related to its UN mandate. The National Commission links its twelve Associate Members with UNESCO, connecting New Zealand government priorities with UNESCO's planning process and programmes.

# HEI TIROHANGA WHĀNUI KI TE RAUTAKI PAE WAENGA A UNESCO

## OVERVIEW OF UNESCO'S MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

Medium Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41 C/5)

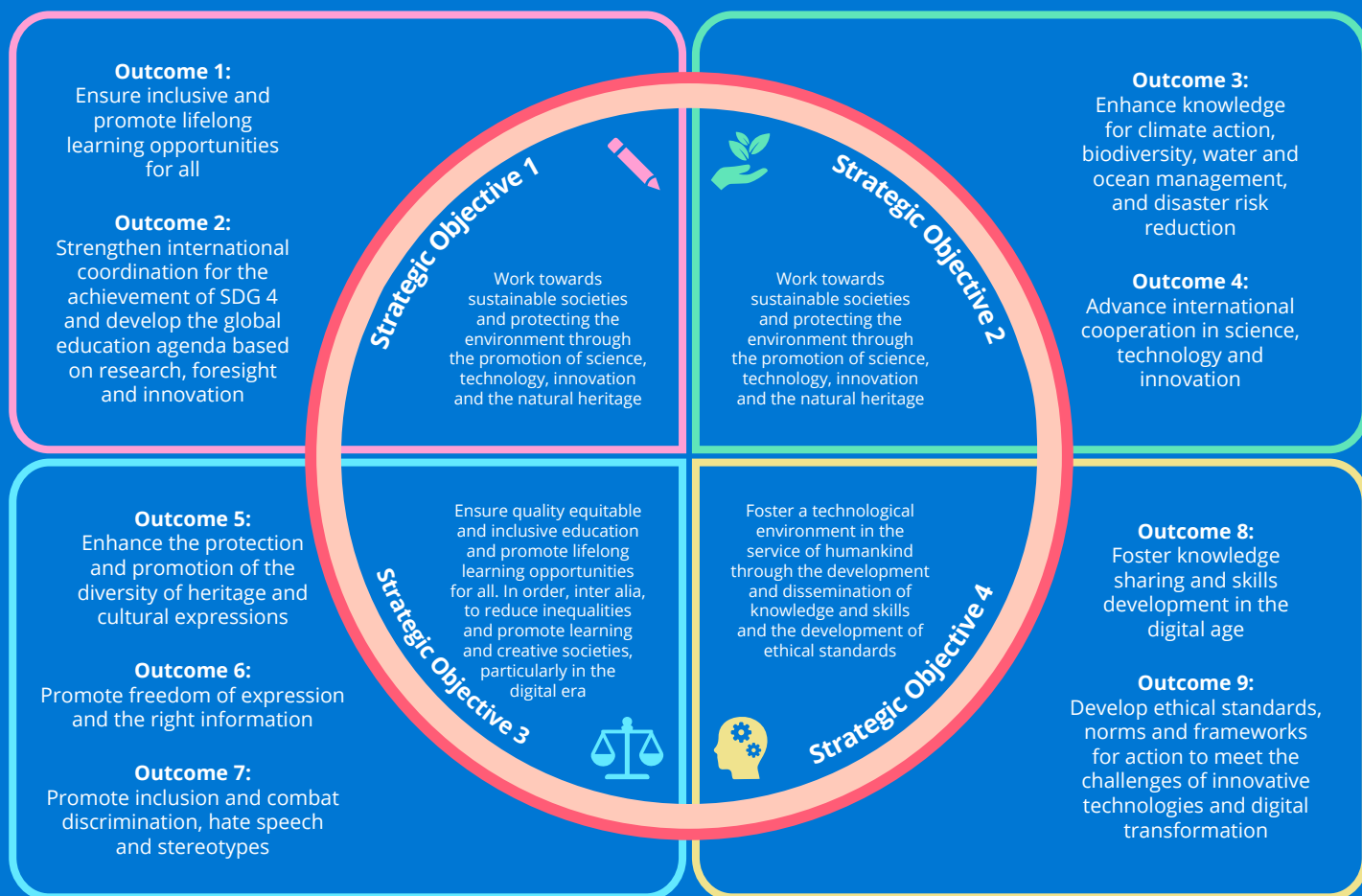
### UNESCO's Strategic objectives, enabling objectives and their corresponding outcomes

Global Priorities

Africa

Gender Equality

Priority Groups: youth, SIDS



**Cross-cutting theme: crisis preparedness and response**

**Enabling objective:** Foster an enabling environment for the efficient and effective delivery of UNESCO's priorities

**Enabling Outcome 10:** Reinforced partnerships, outreach and advocacy in support of UNESCO's action

**Enabling outcome 11:** Accountable, efficient and effective management in pursuit of the Organization's results



# WHAKAPĀ MAI | CONTACT US

## New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

c/ - New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Tel: +64 4 463 8600  
Fax: +64 4 463 8828  
Email: UNESCO.NZ@education.govt.nz

[www.unesco.org.nz](http://www.unesco.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/UNESCONZ](https://www.facebook.com/UNESCONZ)



**unesco**

New Zealand  
National Commission

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO