2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Ghana Commission for UNESCO

DECEMBER 2025

unesco
Ghana
Commission for UNESCO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS i

OPENING NOTE ii

OUR STAFF iii

PROFILE v

- **Object/Mandate** v
- **Mission and Vision** v
- **Functions of the Commission** v
- **Focus Areas of the Commission** vi
- **Governance** vi

OUR IMPACT IN GHANA 1

Education 1

Natural Science 4

Social and Human Science 6

Culture 7

Communication and Information 11

OUR INFLUENCE AT UNESCO 15

STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION 18

LOOKING AHEAD 21

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AWHF	African World Heritage Fund
BNU	Beijing Normal University
CNC	Computer Numeric Control
CSIR-STEPRI	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
GJA	Ghana Journalists Association
GTEC	Ghana Tertiary Education Commission
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICTE	Information and Communication Technology in Education
IFAP	Information for All Programme
IFCD	International Fund for Cultural Diversity
IHP	Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MEST	Ministry of Environment. Science and Technology
NATCOM	National Commission (for UNESCO)
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTC	National Technical Committee
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAWA	Pan African Writers Association
PWDs	People With Disabilities
RSSR	Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers
SAQA	South African Qualification Authority
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEL	Social Emotional Learning
SMIDO	Suame Magazine Industrial Developmental Organisation
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TCC-CIMET	Technology Consultancy Centre – Centre for Innovation, Manufacturing, and Technology Transfer
TWG	Technical Working Group
UCH	Underwater Cultural Heritage
UDL	Universal Design for Learning
UniMAC–IJ MIL	University of Media Arts and Communication-Institute of Journalism's Media and Information Literacy
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VR	Virtual Reality
WACA	West Africa Coastal Areas
WHIPIC	International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites
YCMA	Young Men's Christian Association

OPENING NOTE

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, which highlights the key activities, achievements, and partnerships that defined the Commission's work during the year under review.

The year 2025 was marked by renewed commitment to the mandate of the Commission in promoting the ideals and programmes of UNESCO in Ghana. Through collaboration with government institutions, academia, civil society, and international partners, the Commission continued to facilitate initiatives that advance education, science, culture, communication, and information for sustainable national development.

Throughout the year, the Commission focused on strengthening national participation in UNESCO programmes and ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders within the UNESCO family in Ghana. Several initiatives were undertaken to promote quality education, safeguard cultural heritage, support scientific cooperation, and encourage the free flow of ideas through communication and information platforms. These efforts were implemented through partnerships, policy dialogue, capacity-building programmes, and advocacy activities aligned with national development priorities.

The Commission also worked to deepen stakeholder engagement and institutional visibility through strategic meetings, collaborative programmes, and participation in regional and international UNESCO platforms. These engagements have reinforced Ghana's active role in UNESCO initiatives while fostering stronger linkages between national institutions and the global UNESCO community.

This report provides an overview of the Commission's key programmes, major milestones, and institutional developments during 2025. It also reflects the dedication of staff, the invaluable support of our partners and stakeholders whose contributions have been instrumental to the Commission's work.

As we look ahead into 2026, the Commission remains committed to strengthening its coordinating role and expanding partnerships to further promote UNESCO's ideals in Ghana. We are confident that the progress captured in this report will serve as a foundation for deeper collaboration and more impactful programmes in the years ahead.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Hon. Minister for Education (Chairman of the Commission), the Chief Director of the Ministry of Education (Vice Chairman of the Commission), my able Deputy Secretaries-General, Dr. Naazia Ibrahim (Gen. Operations) and Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington (Programmes) and our staff for the dedication and commitment towards the achievement of the strides made.

To all our partners and stakeholders who supported the work of the Commission during the year under review, we extend our gratitude to you and look forward to concerted efforts at attaining sustainable development.



PROF.
OSMAN DAMBA TAHIDU

AG. SECRETARY-GENERAL

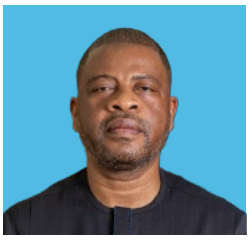
OUR STAFF



PROF.
OSMAN DAMBA TAHIDU
AG. SECRETARY-GENERAL



DR.
NAAZIA IBRAHIM
AG. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (GEN. OPERATIONS)



MR.
RICHE-MIKE WELLINGTON
AG. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (PROGRAMMES)



MR. APOLLONIUS
OSEI-AKOTO ASAR
CHIEF PROGRAMME OFFICER (NATURAL SCIENCE)



MRS.
EDITH ABABIO-AMOAH
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT (FINANCE)



MR.
MOSES J. Y. GEMEH
PRINCIPAL PROGRAMME OFFICER (EDUCATION)



MS.
MARIAN S. NORTEY
SNR. ADMIN. OFFICER (ADMINISTRATION & HR)



MR.
KOFI TAKYI KWAKYE
PROGRAMME OFFICER (EDUCATION)



MS.
JOAN AGYEKUM NSOWAH
PROGRAMME OFFICER (COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION)



MS. ODARKOR
ANKRAH-ADDISON
ADMIN. ASSISTANT (SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SECRETARIAT)



MR.
NASTA QUARSHIE
IT OFFICER



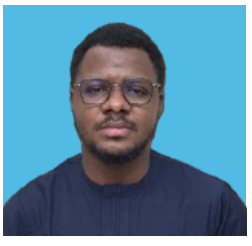
MS.
ANITA NDZIBAH
ASS. PROGRAMME OFFICER (CULTURE)



MR.
JOHN ASARE
ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT (FINANCE)



MR.
ABRAHAM A. LARYEA
DRIVER (TRANSPORT)



MR. ARAFAT
ABUBAKAR SUFYAN
MULTIMEDIA OFFICER



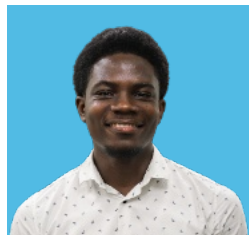
MS.
PEARL KPODO
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (ADMIN. & HR UNIT)



MS.
ANGEL AGYEIWAA
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (CULTURE UNIT)



Mr.
EMMANUEL ADJEI
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT)



MR.
ISHMAEL P. ABAKAH
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (IT & MULTIMEDIA UNIT)



MS.
MARY KONADU OSEI
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (ADMIN. & HR UNIT)



MR.
JEPHTHAH YAW NSARKOH
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (EDUCATION UNIT)



MS.
GRACE SOWADA
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION UNIT)



MR. SILVANUS
ADJAOTTOR AMONORTEY
NATIONAL SERVICE PERSON (NATURAL SCIENCE UNIT)



MS.
ANNA REILHAC
GERMAN KULTURWEIT

PROFILE

National Commissions are unique institutions found in all Member States of UNESCO. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO is a specialized agency of government with the mandate to foster multilateral relations between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Member States. The Government of Ghana recognizes UNESCO as a long-term strategic partner in support of achieving Ghana's national development plans and priorities.

The Commission is the national body that coordinates government's contribution to UNESCO and implements the activities of UNESCO in Ghana. The Commission's establishment is inspired by Article 7 of UNESCO's Constitution and anchored by the Ghana Commission for UNESCO Act 2023, (Act 1104), operating under the Ministry of Education. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO exists to localize the ideals of UNESCO in Ghana by promoting peace, intercultural dialogue, and cooperation among nations through education, the sciences (Natural, Social and Human), culture, communication, and information.

The Commission works closely with a diverse range of partners – national and regional governments, ministries, departments, and agencies, other UN agencies, international and bilateral development partners, local and international NGOs, local civil society, academia, the media, educational institutions and communities.

Mission

To coordinate Ghana's contribution to UNESCO's effort to foster peace and international co-operation through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Vision

To enure Ghana plays a lead role in UNESCO's efforts to foster peace and international cooperation for sustainable development.

Functions of the Commission

To achieve its objective, the Commission:

- Liaises with ministries, departments, and agencies for the advancement of education, the sciences, cultures, and communication with the aim of promoting mutual knowledge and understanding of the work of unesco towards the common welfare of humankind.
- Contributes to the maintenance of peace, security, and the common welfare of humankind by participating in the activities of unesco.
- Implements projects of unesco in the country.
- Participates, with the assistance of the united nations, in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to unesco in the country.
- Advises the government on policies regarding unesco and the programmes of unesco.
- Fosters co-operation among government, ministries, departments and agencies, professionals and other associations and academia on matters regarding unesco.
- Is responsible for the dissemination of information on unesco.
- Organizes fundraising activities to raise moneys for the commission; and
- Undertakes activities which are ancillary to the object of the commission.

Focus Areas of the Commission

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO works in five focus areas known as the UNESCO fields of competence:

- **Education:**
  UNESCO believes that education is a human right for all throughout life and that access must be matched by quality. The Organization is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. It has been entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4.

- **Natural Science:**
  UNESCO's work in science covers two broad areas – promoting science, technology and innovation and using science to manage the environment in a sustainable way including the ocean, freshwater, and the Earth's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity.

- **Social and Human Science:**
  UNESCO's work in science covers two broad areas – promoting science, technology and innovation The Sector supports issues concerning the youth, sports, women empowerment and gender equality through gender mainstreaming, child right promotion and protection, social protection/ development, combating domestic violence and human trafficking.

- **Culture:**
  The culture sector of UNESCO is dedicated to protecting heritage, both tangible and intangible, fostering creativity and the creative economy, and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. It works to safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage while supporting dynamic cultural sectors to address global challenges like climate change, poverty, inequality, and conflicts.

- **Communication and Information:**
  The Communication and Information sector of UNESCO works with key actors to safeguard fundamental human rights in both online and offline spaces. It focuses on several fields, including Freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, Media development and media in emergencies, Media and information literacy and digital competencies, Universal access to information and digital inclusion, Digital policies and digital transformation, Documentary heritage through the Memory of the World programme.

Governance

The General Assembly:

The General Assembly comprises at about thirty-eight (38) members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana. The Commission meets in plenary session twice a year. The Hon. Minister for Education is the Chairman of the General Assembly and the coordinating minister responsible for UNESCO Affairs in Ghana. He is the leader of all Ghana's delegation to UNESCO meetings/conferences.

The Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Commission meets quarterly to ensure that the Secretariat implements the decisions of the General Assembly and any other function under Act 1104. The Committee is further responsible for the sound and proper financial management of the Secretariat of the Commission, recommends the approval of the budget of the Secretariat of the Commission to the General Assembly and exercise general control over the management of policy related to the Commission.

Secretariat:

At the operational level, the Secretariat of the Commission is headed by a Secretary-General, who serves as the Secretary to the General Assembly. The Secretariat is the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO.

The Secretary-General is supported by two (2) Deputy Secretaries-General, Programme Staff (in charge of the five areas of expertise) and staff in General Operations.

The Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO:

The Permanent Delegation is the official Government of Ghana representation to UNESCO in Paris. It is headed by the Permanent Delegate and supported by the Deputy Permanent Delegate and staff. Ghana's Permanent Delegation facilitates the fulfilment of the mission and duties of Ghana as a Member State of UNESCO. The Permanent Delegation, among other things, ensures the articulation, advancement and defence of Ghana's interests particularly within the areas of competence of UNESCO and in accordance with the Government of Ghana's overall foreign policy, particularly in fora such as UNESCO governing bodies, General Assemblies of Cultural Conventions as well as intergovernmental international bodies and international meetings.

Programme Specialized Committees:

There are six (6) Programme Specialized Committees which reflect the main fields of competence of UNESCO in Ghana, namely Education, Natural Science, Social & Human Science, Culture, Communication & Information and Legal & Administration. The members of each of the Programme Specialized Committees are selected from government and non-governmental organizations. The Committees, comprising of not more than eleven (11) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to UNESCO fora. The Programme Specialized Committees meet as and when necessary.

National Intergovernmental Committees:

The National Intergovernmental Committees are the Commission's resource of experts drawn from various governmental and non-governmental organizations. They are involved in projects implemented by the Commission either as implementers or advisors. They are responsible for advising the Government on UNESCO technical issues.

Intergovernmental Committee	Function	Host Institution
National Committee of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme	Handles environmental issues	Environmental Protection Authority
National Committee of the International Oceanographic Committee (IOC)	Handles marine water issues	Water Resources Commission
National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	Handles freshwater issues	Water Research Institute
National Bioethics Committee (NBC)	Handles issues on bioethics	Open for Host Applications
National Heritage Committee (NHC)	Handles Issues on heritage	Secretariat of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO
National Committee of the Information for all Programme (IFAP)	Handles issues on communication	Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC)
National Committee on the Management of Social Transformation (MOST)	Handles social issues	Open for Host Applications
Memory of the World Programme National Committee	Handles documentary heritage	Secretariat of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO

OUR IMPACT IN GHANA

EDUCATION

Technical Working Group Meeting for Inclusive Education Policy

The two-day Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting, held at Monarch Hotel, East Legon, from 19th – 21st February 2025, aimed to develop a draft Cabinet Memo for the revised Inclusive Education Policy. The workshop involved interactive sessions and brainstorming policy implementation options.

Three options were discussed: continuing the 2015 Universal Design for Learning-based policy, approving a revised version aligning with emerging trends, or broadly revising the 2015 policy to address current challenges. Option 2 was recommended for its comprehensive approach





ICT In Education (ICTE) Draft Policy Technical Workshop

The Commission attended the Information and Communications Technology in Education (ICTE) Policy Workshop, held at Crystal Palm Hotel, Accra, from 18th – 20th April 2025, reviewed and refined the ICTE Policy to support SDG 4. Participants from various educational and civil society organizations discussed five policy areas: Management and Administration, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Curriculum Implementation, Inclusive ICTs for Special Needs, and Emerging Technologies.

Key changes included a 3:1 device deployment ratio, rephrasing objectives, and removing coding from basic school curricula. Groups addressed policy framework, monitoring, budgeting, and communication strategies, identifying gaps like unclear budget allocations.





Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Training

On 13th March 2025, the Commission conducted a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training for staff of Osu Presby Girls and Osu Salem Cluster Schools. The half-day session equipped educators with SEL strategies to enhance student well-being and academic success.

Activities included group discussions on SEL scenarios, presentations by selected groups, and a Q&A session.



Beijing Normal University (BNU) Technical Committee Meeting

The Commission participated in the second National Technical Committee (NTC) meeting for the Beijing Normal University (BNU) Project, held at the UNESCO Accra Office on May 9th, 2025. The meeting focused on finalizing the Needs Assessment and Results Framework. Discussions highlighted barriers to ICT education, including inadequate institutional support and cultural practices like early marriage impacting girls' participation.

Participants validated the assessment, recommending contextualized gender-transformative digital skills education. The Results Framework was refined, targeting 141 ICT teacher educators and 300 trainees, with 500 girls for extracurricular STEM programmes.

Ten (10) Colleges of Education were selected across five (5) zones for project implementation. The meeting emphasized accelerating project activities, including ICT tutor training and STEM clinics for girls.



Celebration of the International Mother Language Day with Al-Ryan International School

On February 21, 2025, the Commission and Al-Ryan International School celebrated International Mother Language Day, emphasizing the preservation of indigenous languages and cultural diversity. Students showcased global cultures through traditional attire, artifacts, and practices, highlighting the role of language in cultural identity. Dance and song performances further reinforced linguistic and cultural significance. A debate competition on using traditional languages in schools fostered critical thinking among the students.

The event promoted awareness of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, shedding light on the importance of multilingual education in Ghana.

International Day of Education 2025

On 24th January 2025, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with UNESCO, celebrated the International Day of Education under the theme "Learning for Lasting Peace: The Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education." The Commission produced and shared an educational video to raise awareness about AI's transformative potential in education, engaging educators, students, parents, and policymakers, fostering dialogue on equitable AI adoption in Ghanaian education.

Ghana-Seocho City Student Exchange Programme

From 13 – 20 July 2025, a delegation from Ghana, led by Mr. Moses J.Y. Gemeh (Principal Programme Officer-Education) and Ms. Beatrice Akosua Andrews (ASPnet Coordinator-KNUST), participated in a cultural and educational exchange for ten (10) Ghanaian students in Seoul's Seocho-gu district. Welcomed by Mayor Jun Sung-Soo, the delegation explored Korea's advancements in education, technology, and sustainability.

Key activities included observing the "One Student, One Instrument" policy at Seoul National University Elementary School, engaging in STEM activities at Sinbanpo Middle School, and learning about aquaponics at Seoul Agricultural Technology Center. Cultural visits to Gyeongbokgung Palace and the National Gugak Center enriched understanding of Korean heritage. Technological exposure at Seocho Smart Hub Center and Hyundai Motor Studio highlighted AI, VR, and eco-friendly innovations.

The programme, supported by the Seocho Scholarship Foundation, fostered cross-cultural bonds and inspired actionable initiatives like the "One Student, One Talent" programme and Smart Recycling Clubs for Ghanaian schools.











NATURAL SCIENCES

The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

The Ghana Committee for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) marked a significant milestone with the national celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme held at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, on July 23, 2025, convening over 230 stakeholders including policymakers, researchers, development partners, and students, demonstrating the country's commitment to bilateral and multilateral collaborations in advancing sustainable water resource management.



The event highlighted Ghana's contributions to national and regional water policies while reinforcing its active participation in global UNESCO initiatives. It further emphasized organizational development and capacity-building efforts that continue to strengthen Ghana's role in international water science and global hydrological cooperation.







2025 World Engineering Day

The Commission partnered the Technology Consultancy Centre-Centre for Innovation for Innovation, Manufacturing, and Technology Transfer (TCC-CIMET), UNESCO Accra Office, the Suame Magazine Industrial Development Organization (SMIDO), and other stakeholders to mark World Engineering Day 2025 under the theme "*Shaping Our Sustainable Future Through Engineering*" from 27th February – 12th March 2025.

Activities included youth engagement sessions for schools, community capacity-building projects in Akrofonso and Mfensi, and training artisans in Kumasi on modern technologies such as CNC operations and 3D printing. The event showcased engineering as a driver of sustainable development while empowering students, communities, and artisans with knowledge and skills.





Second National Report on Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (RS/SR), 2017

In fulfilment of UNESCO's requirement for periodic reporting on the 2017 Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (RSSR), the Ghana Commission for UNESCO coordinated the preparation of Ghana's second national report in March 2025.

The Commission engaged the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) and CSIR-STEPRI to complete the national questionnaire, and oversaw desk review, analysis, validation, and submission.

The National Committee for the IHP

The Ghana Committee for the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) recorded significant progress in 2025 in advancing hydrological science, strengthening water governance, and promoting climate-resilient water resource management. Guided by the IHP-IX Strategic Plan (2022–2029), the Committee implemented 34 activities across key areas, including scientific research, water education, integrated water resources management (IWRM), and governance. Major achievements included advancements in ecohydrology, climate modelling, and groundwater monitoring, alongside the development of the Ghana Climate Atlas to support evidence-based decision-making. Capacity for climate risk management was strengthened through CRIDA training, deployment of early warning systems, and a UNESCO-supported project on disaster resilience, complemented by the adoption of digital technologies such as IoT-based monitoring and real-time data platforms.

Public Awareness and Education efforts through campaigns such as World Water Day, Global Handwashing Day, and World Rivers Day, as well as school outreach programmes nationwide increased the visibility of IHP in Ghana. Progress in IWRM included large-scale ecosystem initiatives, improved hydrological monitoring in the Lower Volta Basin, and enhanced early warning services. The Committee also contributed to high-level policy dialogue, supporting WASH sector reforms, regulatory improvements, and increased investment, while strengthening regional and international collaboration. Despite these gains, limited progress in bridging the data–knowledge gap highlights the need for improved data integration and knowledge-sharing. Overall, 2025 demonstrated strong collaboration, increased technical capacity, and a growing shift toward science-based water management in Ghana.



SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

The Youth Sector Working Group Framework

The Commission participated in a stakeholder meeting convened by the National Youth Authority on July 14, 2025 at the British Council. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth Development and Employment, focused on reviewing the Youth Sector Working Group Framework - a crucial step toward strengthening partnerships, enhancing coordination, and ensuring effective implementation of youth-focused policies and programmes across sectors. The Commission reinforced its commitment to advancing inclusive youth development through stronger collaboration and synergy among key stakeholders.





Stakeholder Engagement on Championing Inclusivity Among Young People with Disability

On July 15, 2025, the National Youth Authority, in partnership with Sightsavers, organized a national stakeholder engagement to promote inclusivity among young persons with disabilities (PWDs). The forum brought together government agencies, civil society, and development partners to deliberate on strategies for embedding inclusivity in youth policies and programmes. Discussions focused on ensuring PWDs gain access to skills development, employment opportunities, and active participation in national youth initiatives. The Commission, during this engagement, contributed to shaping the dialogue on equity and inclusion. The engagement marked an important step in advancing Ghana's commitment to inclusive youth development and laid the foundation for stronger collaboration among stakeholders to champion the rights and participation of young people with disabilities in national development.





CULTURE

UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators – Ghana Local Team Capacity-Building Workshop

From 2nd to 4th April 2025, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, in partnership with UNESCO, convened a two-day workshop in Kumasi to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators. These indicators are a thematic framework designed to measure and monitor culture's enabling role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop Introduced participants to the conceptual framework of the Culture|2030 Indicators, explained their relevance to Ghana's policy landscape, and guided them through hands-on exercises. A highlight of the training was the GroupLab activity, which allowed participants to simulate implementation steps, collaborate on data mapping, and engage in discussions with international experts on methodology and application.





Through this exercise, participants gained practical knowledge of the indicators and built stronger inter-agency collaboration for the project's roll-out. The workshop reinforced the Commission's role in coordinating national cultural policy with UNESCO's global frameworks and demonstrated Ghana's commitment to systematically integrating culture into sustainable development planning.

UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) Pre-Selection Panel Meeting

On 2nd July 2025, the Commission convened the Pre-selection Panel Meeting for UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD). The session, chaired by the Ag. Secretary-General, reviewed and shortlisted project proposals submitted by Ghanaian cultural institutions and individuals, ensuring alignment with national priorities and the IFCD's objectives of strengthening sustainable cultural industries. Fifteen (15) proposals were reviewed in total.



Otumfuo's Art Awards

On 23rd May 2025, the Commission participated in the Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Art Awards, organized in partnership with the Manhyia Palace Museum and supported by UNESCO. The awards followed the landmark restitution of 32 looted Asante artifacts from the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2024. In response to concerns about preserving Ghanaian contemporary art, the Asantehene instituted the awards to recognize artistic excellence and incentivize Ghanaian artists, while ensuring that significant works remain in the country. The 2025 edition, held under the theme "A Decade of Art: A Legacy of Excellence," honoured 10 legendary Ghanaian artists, including Prof. Ablade Glover and Prof. Ato Delquis. A fund was also unveiled to provide financial support and mentorship for emerging and established artists.

The Commission, led by the Ag. Secretary-General, the two Deputy Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Programme Officer for Culture, participated in the event. The event signalled the beginning of a decade-long journey to spotlight Ghanaian talent in both traditional and digital art, reaffirming the role of culture in shaping national identity and heritage.



Adwinsa Children's Show

On 22nd August 2025, the Adwinsa Children's Show – Read to Save the Environment, organized in collaboration with the Creative Arts Agency, brought together children, educators, authors, and cultural stakeholders to promote literacy and environmental awareness. Through storytelling, poetry, skits, and interactive sessions, the event encouraged sustainable reading habits while linking environmental issues to everyday life.

The Commission, represented by Ms. Marian Nortey, Administrative & Human Resource Officer, joined other resource persons in the special reading session, engaging participants in lively discussions and thematic reviews that deepened the connection between literature and environmental advocacy.



National Heritage Photo Competition Awards and Media Launch of the Afro-Gastro Festival

On 30th July 2025, the Commission participated in the National Heritage Photo Competition Awards and the media launch of the Afro-Gastro Festival, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts. The Photo Awards celebrated young Ghanaian photographers under 25 years. On the Afro-Gastro Festival launch, the Hon. Minister stressed Ghana's culinary heritage as a cultural bridge between Africa and the diaspora. The Commission was represented by Mrs. Anita Ndzibah, Miss Odarkor Ankrah-Addison, and Miss Angel Agyeiwaa from the Culture Unit. The event highlighted Ghana's rich cultural and culinary heritage while reinforcing support for young creatives.



The State of the Book and Publishing Industry in Africa

The Commission, in collaboration with the UNESCO Accra Office, British Council and the Ghana Publishers Association, convened a high-level event on Inclusive Publishing and Accessible Literature in 2025. The event, which was held on August 22nd, 2025, brought together key stakeholders including Nii Dodoo Dodoo, Country Director of the British Council, and Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah, President of the Ghana Publishers Association, alongside government representatives and cultural organizations.

Discussions focused on advancing accessibility in the African book industry, with a keynote address by Hon. Yussif Issaka Jajah, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, reaffirming government's commitment to publishing and culture. The event had a mix of presentations, a panel discussion and an interactive Q&A session that engaged participants in practical strategies for inclusive publishing.



Workshop On Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Site in Africa

From 17th to 21st November 2025, Ghana hosted the African Workshop on the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage, following bilateral engagements with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) during the World Heritage Committee Meetings in Paris. Organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, AWHF, and International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), with support from the UNESCO Office to Ghana and the Commission, the programme convened site managers and heritage professionals from across Africa.

Conducted in both virtual and in-person phases in Accra, the workshop strengthened capacities in developing tools and strategies for heritage presentation, conflict resolution, and community engagement. Participants shared country experiences, enhanced technical skills, an d undertook guided visits to Cape Coast and Elmina Castles, reinforcing Ghana's leadership in safeguarding and promoting Africa's divers e heritage.



Inscription of Ghanaian Highlife Music and Dance on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity

The Commission climaxed the year with the inscription of Ghana's Highlife Music and Dance on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity – a monumental expression of Ghana's musical genius, culture and global influence. This recognition emphasizes its cultural significance and the country's efforts to preserve and promote this unique musical tradition.

More than music, Highlife has historically functioned as a cultural mirror, capturing and expressing social realities such as love, morality, migration, community life, and national aspirations – a living cultural legacy. Listeners connect deeply with its emotional richness, infectious rhythms, and enduring storytelling, which resonate across ethnic backgrounds, generations, and social classes.



The "By the Fireside" Storytelling Series

The Commission, represented by Dr. Naazia Ibrahim, Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (General Operations) and supported by Mrs. Anita Abena Ndzibah and Ms. Angel Agyeiwaa from the Culture Unit, participated in the launch of the "By the Fireside" storytelling series organized by the National Folklore Board. The event took place on 30th July 2025 at the Board's premises in Accra. The programme sought to rekindle interest in Ghana's oral traditions and promote the preservation of intangible cultural heritage. Activities included storytelling by elders, children's folk performances, poetry recitations, traditional games, cultural face painting, music, and dance. The event created an engaging, educational, and entertaining environment, reinforcing the role of storytelling in cultural transmission and identity building.

Launch of UNESCO's African Book Industry Report

The Commission, represented by the Ag. Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, together with Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington, Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Programmes), participated in the launch of UNESCO's African Book Industry report on 18th June 2025. The event was held in a hybrid format and brought together publishers, cultural policymakers, education ministries, development partners, and creative professionals from across Africa.

The programme featured expert presentations, a panel discussion, and Q&A sessions on trends in African publishing, digital transformation, linguistic diversity, market access, and youth readership. The launch emphasized the importance of investing in literary talent, supporting local publishers, and safeguarding indigenous languages through literature. Ghana's contribution to the continental research was acknowledged as part of the final report.

International Mother Language Day

The Commission, in partnership with the Neyram Language Centre, marked the 2025 International Mother Language Day with virtual sessions in Ewe and Ga. On 21st February 2025, three interactive classes were organized to teach the two languages, engage students and educators through breakout rooms, encourage participation and awareness on the importance of preserving indigenous languages.

The event highlighted the role of mother languages in education and cultural identity while promoting multilingualism.

UNESCO World Conference on Cultural and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2025 Regional Dialogues

The Commission coordinated Ghana's participation in a virtual consultation meeting of the Africa Regional Consultation of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Mondiacult 2025) held on 22nd January 2025. The meeting brought together cultural policymakers, institutions, and civil society representatives to discuss Africa's cultural policy priorities and contributions to sustainable development. Key discussions focused on cultural governance, creative industries, heritage preservation, and literature as tools for development. Notable interventions from the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA), represented by Dr. Wale Okediran, highlighted the need to support literary institutions. The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, also outlined Ghana's efforts in heritage promotion, sustainable tourism, and creative industries.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Fighting Misinformation and Disinformation in Ghana

The Ag. Secretary-General, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu and Communication Programme Officer, Ms. Joan Nsowah, represented the Commission at the national Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Combating Misinformation and Disinformation, held on 11th April 2025 in Accra. The conference, convened by bytes with support from the Open Government Partnership (OGP), brought together government, civil society, media, academia, and tech stakeholders.

The conference reviewed Ghana's legal framework on misinformation and disinformation, identifying gaps, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. Presentations highlighted the need for updated rights-based policies to address modern challenges in information integrity. Stakeholders agreed on actionable reforms and coordinated approaches to combat disinformation.





Consultative Meeting with Parliamentary Select Committee on Information and Communication

The Commission, through its Communication and Information Programme, participated in a consultative meeting convened by the UNESCO Office to Ghana and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Information and Communication on 30th April 2025. The meeting aimed to advance dialogue on Ghana's Broadcasting Bill and secure parliamentary input toward its passage. The highlight of the session was a presentation on the 2024 Broadcasting Bill by lawyer and media practitioner, Mr. Samson Lardy Anyenini, providing a historical overview of Ghana's broadcasting legislation – tracing its evolution from the 1992 Constitution to the National Communication Act and the Electronic Communication Act of 2008.

The Chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee concluded with a commitment to further review the text and work toward advancing its passage.





World Press Freedom Day 2025

The Commission, in partnership with the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and key stakeholders, participated in the World Press Freedom Day celebration on 2nd May 2025 at the Alisa Hotel, Accra. The event recognized the critical role of press freedom, honoured journalists who have contributed significantly to media development in Ghana, and highlighted challenges facing the profession, particularly in the era of emerging technologies.

The programme included keynote addresses and presentations that examined the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on journalism, discussing opportunities such as automated transcription, data analysis, and enhanced factchecking, alongside risks like deepfakes and AI-generated misinformation. The Minister in Charge of Government Communications delivered a keynote on behalf of President John Dramani Mahama, reaffirming government support for press freedom and responsible integration of technology in the media space.

The 2025 edition focused on the theme: "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media", promoting reflection on ethics, innovation, and safeguarding journalists in a rapidly evolving information landscape.



Regional Convening Meeting and Disinformation Index Report Launch

On 11th September 2025, bytes hosted a Regional Convening Meeting at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, which also launched the Disinformation Index Report under the Strengthening Democratic Resilience Project, supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The meeting brought together policymakers, media actors, civil society, and international partners to examine disinformation trends in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Burkina Faso, and to co-develop strategies to counter its impact on democracy. The Ag. Secretary-General of the Commission, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, launched the report, emphasizing evidence-based policymaking and collaboration as vital tools to safeguarding democratic governance.



Global Media and Information Literacy Week

Penplusbytes, in partnership with DW Akademie, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, and UNESCO Office to Ghana, organized the second edition of the Youth Against Disinformation Conference during Global Media and Information Literacy Week from 24th to 31st October 2025.

Held in Takoradi and Sunyani under the theme "#SpotTheFake: Youth Leading Media and Information Literacy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence," the conference empowered young people to combat digital misinformation, delivered practical MIL training, and strengthened networks for youth leadership.

In line with the observation, the UniMAC–IJ MIL Club and the Commission hosted a virtual X (Twitter) discussion on "Minds Over AI: Ethical Use of AI in Educational Spaces." Featuring contributions from educators, students, and innovators, including Mr. Kofi Takyi Kwakye, Programme Officer for Education at the Commission, the session explored AI ethics in teaching and learning, emphasizing the integration of MIL into curricula. Together, these initiatives showcased Ghana's active role in global UNESCO programmes and its commitment to advancing media literacy and ethical AI use.



Training of Ghana's Police Service on Freedom of Expression and the Safety of Journalists

From 19th to 21st November 2025, the Commission, in partnership with the UNESCO Office to Ghana, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Ghana Police Service, and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), organized a three-day training programme for 30 police officers and 10 journalists to equip them as ambassadors for a safer media environment.

The highly interactive sessions combined theoretical knowledge with practical case studies, culminating in joint dialogues between police and media professionals to strengthen collaboration in safeguarding democratic values. The training was in alignment with Ghana's international commitments and its contribution to national policy objectives on freedom of expression and human rights.



Media Information Literacy Workshop

The Commission participated in a three-day Media and Information Literacy (MIL) workshop organized by Penplusbytes from 15th to 17th May 2025 in Ho, Volta Region. The workshop formed part of an eight-month capacity-building initiative under UNESCO's Participation Programme (March–November 2025) aimed at empowering youth leaders in rural communities with media literacy skills and civic engagement knowledge.

The training targeted youth leaders from the Eastern, Oti, and Volta Regions, equipping them to critically engage with media content, identify misinformation, and promote responsible civic action. Sessions included lectures, interactive group work, case studies, and networking opportunities to foster peer learning. Participants committed to serving as MIL ambassadors, spreading awareness and fostering informed citizenship in their communities.

World Radio Day 2025

The Commission observed World Radio Day 2025 on 13th February with the production and dissemination of a short video emphasizing the role of radio in informing communities about the causes, effects, and solutions related to climate change. The initiative stressed that radio is not only a medium for information dissemination but also a platform to motivate behavioural change and resilience.

The 2025 theme, "Radio and Climate Change", highlighted the vital role radio plays in raising awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and inspiring collective action to address climate challenges in Ghana.

Post-Election Peace and Security Forum: Harnessing Youth Potential through Effective Information Management

In August 2025, the Commission, through the UNESCO Participation Programme, supported Penplusbytes in convening two impactful youth-led initiatives on post-election peace and security. On 13th August in Ho, a community dialogue under the theme "Post-Election Peace and Security: Harnessing Youth Potential through Effective Information Management" brought together young people, local stakeholders, and community members to address civic responsibility, misinformation, and peacebuilding. Participants engaged in sessions led by the Electoral Commission and National Youth Authority, developed actionable plans for community peacebuilding, and reaffirmed their role in strengthening democratic resilience.

On 23rd August at Opesaw Hall, Mampong Akuapem, a one-day Post-Election Peace and Security Forum was held to empower the youth and community stakeholders to counter misinformation, foster civic engagement, and promote peace. The programme featured presentations, interactive dialogue, and concluded with a Youth Commitment Declaration, pledging to uphold civic responsibility and community engagement. Facilitated by youth leaders from YMCA Ghana, Love Aid Foundation, and Activista Ghana, both events provided practical tools, networking opportunities, and reinforced Ghana's commitment to youth-led strategies for peace building and democratic consolidation.

Memory of the World National Stakeholder Engagement

In line with the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Programme, a national stakeholder engagement was convened on 29th October,2025, to collectively advance Ghana's efforts in safeguarding its documentary heritage.

Bringing together ministries, heritage authorities, academic institutions, libraries, and research organizations, the meeting sought to develop a national roadmap and strengthen institutional cooperation. Organized by the UNESCO Office to Ghana in collaboration with the Commission and the Ghana National Committee for the MoW Programme, the engagement marked a significant step toward building an integrated and sustainable framework for preservation. It positioned Ghana to uphold global MoW standards and ensure that its historical memory is protected for future generations.







OUR INFLUENCE AT UNESCO

43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference

During the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Ghana successfully participated with a delegation of experts with varying expertise. The Conference took place from 30th October – 13th November 2025. Ghana participated in the plenary sessions of the Conference as well as meetings of the six (6) Commissions and side meetings.

The 43rd Session of UNESCO's General Conference set global priorities for 2026 – 2029 across Education, Science, Culture, Communication, and the Social and Human Sciences. Ghana participated actively through a high-level delegation, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive development, ethical governance, youth and gender empowerment, and advancing Africa's priorities within UNESCO.

Overall, the Conference reinforced UNESCO's role as a global standard-setter. For Ghana, it provides a clear framework for national follow-up across education reform, teacher policy, Open Science, cultura l heritage, digital governance, and human rights, positioning the country to leverage UNESCO partnerships to advance national development and amplify Africa's global voice.











Ghana's Participation in UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education

From 24th – 25th June 2025, a Ghanaian delegation, led by the Ag. Secretary-General, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Programmes), Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington, Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Gen. Operations), Dr. Naazia Ibrahim, Charge d'affaires at Ghana's Embassy in Paris, Mrs. Alberta Quartey and the Principal Programme Officer for Education at the Commission, Mr. Moses J.Y. Gemeh, participated in the UNESCO Global Convention on Higher Education Recognition in Paris.

The conference, attended by 38 States Parties, focused on governance, implementation of guidelines for the Global and Addis Conventions, and academic mobility. Key outcomes included adopting operational guidelines and the 2025 – 2027 work programme, emphasizing capacity-building and micro-credentials. Ghana's delegation contributed to discussions on aligning national frameworks, with GTEC's work on the National Qualifications Framework and micro-credentials. Ghana committed to aligning accreditation policies, developing micro-credential frameworks, and fostering partnerships with SAQA and UNESCO to enhance qualification portability and global competitiveness.

Scientific Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage

The Ag. Secretary-General of the Commission, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, together with the Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Programmes), Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington, represented Ghana at the Scientific Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage organized by UNESCO in Paris on 19th June 2025. Ghana's delegation also included Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo, who made a presentation on the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme (WACA).

The conference brought together underwater archaeologists, climate scientists, government representatives, NGOs, and UNESCO officials to discuss the increasing threats climate change poses to submerged heritage sites. Sessions featured expert presentations, case studies, and technical discussions on conservation practices, with emphasis on integrating cultural heritage into broader climate strategies.

13th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of Information for All Programme (IFAP)

The Commission participated in the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP), held from 23rd to 24th April 2025 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The session brought together UNESCO Member States, National IFAP Committees, and international stakeholders to advance inclusive and sustainable knowledge societies and review the implementation of IFAP's Strategic Plan 2023 – 2029.

The Council focused on six priority areas: information development, information literacy, information ethics, information preservation, information accessibility, and multilingualism. Discussions emphasized expanding IFAP's global network, including the establishment of new National Committees, with Ukraine having launched one in February 2024. Initiatives such as webinars and policy briefs were highlighted to strengthen IFAP's visibility and impact. The session concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to building inclusive, multilingual, and ethically grounded knowledge societies worldwide.

UNESCO Conference on Capacity-Building on AI And Digital Transformation in the Public Sector

The Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Programmes) and the Programme Officer for Communication & Information represented the Commission at the UNESCO Conference on Capacity-Building on AI and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector, held from 4th to 5th June 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The two-day event convened policymakers, civil servants, academia, and international experts to explore strategies for ethical, inclusive, and sustainable digital transformation in public administrations.

Sessions focused on citizen-centric digital governance, rights-based AI procurement, data management, skills development, and financing of digital public services. Ghana's contributions highlighted national initiatives on responsible data governance and public sector digital training f rameworks.

The conference reinforced global best practices, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and policy alignment to promote digital empowerment in public service, while providing insights for Ghana's ongoing capacity-building efforts.

Tenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the 2005 Convention

The Commission participated in the Tenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held from 18th – 20th June 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The session, which marked the Convention's 20th anniversary, bringing together representatives from 157 State Parties and the European Union to review implementation progress, evaluate the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, and adopt revised Rules of Procedure.

Key decisions included the election of 12 new Intergovernmental Committee members and the endorsement of recommendations on the digital environment and preferential treatment for developing countries. Ghana was represented by the Ag. Secretary-General, Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, and the Ag. Deputy Secretary-General (Programmes), Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington, reaffirming the country's commitment to advancing cultural diversity and strengthening collaboration with civil society and international partners

Collaborating With TCC-CIMET, KNUST to Advance UNESCO's Mission Through the TRANS-SAHARA Project

The Commission, in collaboration with the TCC International Centre for Innovation, Manufacturing, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship (TCC-CIMET) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), a UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence, joined efforts to advance UNESCO's mission through a presentation on the TRANS-SAHARA Project on the sidelines of the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

The presentation, which took place at the National Commission's Corner on 7th November 2025, highlighted the EU-funded TRANS-SAHARA Project, coordinated by Technische Universität München (TUM) in Germany, which focuses on fostering regional collaboration and sustainable development across the Sahara region.

The programme, attended by over sixty participants

from UNESCO National Commissions across the globe, aimed to demonstrate the impact of the Water-Energy-Food- Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach through agroforestry-driven climate mitigation, resource valorisation, and economic diversification to enhance resilience and multi-functional landscapes.

The presentation was jointly delivered by Prof. Francis Davis, Director-General of TCC-CIMET; Dr. Osman Damba Tahidu, Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO; and Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare, Chief Programme Officer for Natural Sciences at the National Commission. Their presentation focused on the project's engagement with representative water-stressed communities in degraded ecosystems across Ghana, particularly within grassland and agro-silvo-pastoral systems, employing co-creation approaches with local populations to foster sustainable and inclusive development solutions. The initiative emphasizes co-creation with local populations to develop sustainable solutions that enhance resilience, promote ecosystem restoration, and strengthen community participation in managing natural resources.

STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION

The 2025/2026 Kulturweit/Naturweit Voluntary Service Programme

The Commission observed World Radio Day 2025 on 13th February with the production and dissemination of a short video emphasizing the role of radio in informing communities about the causes, effects, and solutions related to climate change. The initiative stressed that radio is not only a medium for information dissemination but also a platform to motivate behavioural change and resilience.

The 2025 theme, "Radio and Climate Change", highlighted the vital role radio plays in raising awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and inspiring collective action to address climate challenges in Ghana.

The 2025 UNESCO Fellowship Cycle

UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea Fellowship Programme for Young Women Scientists in Africa (2024/2025)

The Commission, under the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea Fellowship Programme for Young Women Scientists initiative, aimed at supporting female scientists in life and environmental sciences, submitted the candidatures of Ms. Bernice Konadu Agyeman, Dr. Pearl Abu and Dr. Pennante Bruce-Vanderpuije with their proposals focusing on sachet water quality analysis, maize and the development of an AI-enabled soil analysis device for tomato cultivation.

Dr. Pearl Abu was one of the candidates nominated by UNESCO for the programme.

Great Wall Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme 2025/26

The Commission, after review of the application dossier of Mr. Osei Felix, was nominated for a doctoral programme in hydraulic engineering at the China Three Gorges University.

Strategic Meetings by the Commission

The Commission held several strategic meetings with the following organizations to:

- Introduce the new leadership of the Commission/the partner organizations.
- Establish/strengthen institutional relationships.
- Exchange strategic information, ideas and institutional priorities.
- Explore partnerships and collaboration opportunities.

Heritage Africa

A cultural and educational initiative dedicated to using the arts and traditional practices to reconnect young people with their heritage on 11th May 2025, paid a courtesy call on the leadership of the Commission and presented some of the institution's ongoing programmes (the Broadway Theatre Festival, Monologue Challenge, Dance Challenge, and the Chaskele Art Festival, highlighting their role in cultural education and youth engagement).

Areas of collaboration explored:

Expanding the reach of UNESCO Clubs across regions through the competition to increase youth participation.

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

the leadership of the Commission paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Abla Dzifa Gomashie, on 23rd May 2025. The meeting reaffirmed collaboration between the Ministry and the Commission. The call was used to highlight pending projects requiring the Ministry's support, need for stronger partnership with the Ministry, renew institutional ties, strengthen communication, and align efforts on cultural and tourism initiatives of national importance.

Kids Patriot Club

the Club used the opportunity to introduce its flagship initiative, Kids Discovering Ghana, which promotes patriotism and cultural appreciation among children through heritage tours, cultural exhibitions, and educational workshops. Discussions also touched on youth engagement in heritage preservation and ways to expand the programme's reach.

Ideas shared:

Innovative methods to involve more young people, the creation of cultural spaces for children and parents, and joint advocacy campaigns in schools and communities.

Charterhouse Foundation

the Foundation, established by Charterhouse Productions, seeks to safeguard Ghana's intangible cultural heritage, particularly music, through the creation of a Ghana Music Hall of Fame. The meeting explored collaboration opportunities.

Nana Asaase

Ghanaian Poet, Literacy Coach, Creative Writer, and Cultural Consultant, Philip Boakye Dua Oyinka (popularly known as Nana Asaase), on 30th May 2025 met with leadership of the Commission. Discussions focused on Nana Asaase's work in poetry, storytelling, and the safeguarding of Ghana's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Leadership affirmed the Commission's commitment to collaborate and support initiatives that promote Ghana's ICH nationally and internationally.

Prof. Appeanning Addo and Team

On 21st July 2025, the leadership of the Commission met with Prof. Appeaning Addo and his team to initiate cooperation talks on developing a geospatial database for Ghana's underwater cultural heritage (UCH) following the Scientific Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage in Paris. The meeting highlighted the potential of the blue economy to create jobs and boost tourism through heritage preservation and discussed ongoing underwater archaeology work that has already identified over 30 potential shipwreck sites along Ghana's coast.

Institutional priority:

The Commission was encouraged to coordinate academia, government, and international partners under a UNESCO Category 2 Centre framework, positioning Ghana as a leader in West African underwater heritage conservation.

National Commission on Culture

the leadership of the National Commission on Culture, a strategic partner of the Commission under the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, paid a courtesy call on the Commission on 25th November 2025, to formally introduce the leadership and present its medium-term vision, "Into the Future." Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between the two institutions and on the strategic plan's objectives, which aim to make the NCC more vibrant and create opportunities for the 24-hour economy within the cultural sector.

National Folklore Board

On 21st July 2025, Mrs. Bernice Ann-deh Kumah, Executive Director of the National Folklore Board, and her team paid a courtesy call on the leadership of the Commission. The meeting aimed at renewing collaboration between the two institutions in safeguarding Ghana's intangible cultural heritage under the framework of UNESCO's 2003 Convention. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to closer cooperation, highlighting the importance of formal coordination to ensure continuity and impact.

Extra Choral Festival

A nationwide high school choir competition to promote Ghanaian music and heritage among the youth. Discussions highlighted the festival's achievements, its alignment with the safeguarding of Ghana's intangible cultural heritage, particularly music, and opportunities for partnership

Areas of collaboration explored:

Leveraging UNESCO Clubs to expand participation across more regions.

LOOKING AHEAD – 2026 STRATEGIC GOALS

As the Commission inches to the close the chapter on its current medium-term plan, the Commission envisages the following activities in 2026:

- Strengthen the Commission via the composition of its Organs;
- Finalize, in consultation with the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission, a Conditions of Service for the Secretariat;
- Promote the 2030 SDG Agenda in UNESCO's fields of competence in Ghana;
- Partner with sister Commissions and stakeholders to undertake joint activities;
- Monitor the implementation of UNESCO's projects in Ghana;
- Ensure the optimal benefaction of Ghanaians and Ghanaian Institutions in UNESCO Fellowship Programmes and the UNESCO Participation Programme Scheme.
- Promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development;
- Promote ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning;
- Participate in statutory/crucial UNESCO fora;
- Build the capacity of staff of the Secretariat with the requisite skills to improve productivity

@unescoghnatcom
unescoghananatcom
unesco ghana natcom
www.unescoghana.gov.gh
info@unescoghana.gov.gh
Ghana Commission for UNESCO