EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the vision of enhanced delivery, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO is currently composed of twenty-one (21) members who are drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Civil Society.

The Commission serves as an effective link between UNESCO and the Government of Ghana in promoting the ideals of UNESCO through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communications and Information.

Over the years, the Commission has contributed to national development through facilitating programmes or projects on quality education and teacher training, environmental protection, Bioethics, cultural heritage, information and communication technology, peace and global citizenship.

This report mainly covers issues on the Profile of the Commission and the Secretariat, Staff information, Programme Delivery for 2014 and Projections for 2015.

Major activities for 2014 included the Regional launch of the Climate Change in Africa Guidebook for Journalists; Ghana’s participation in the 1st Interregional meeting of National Commissions of UNESCO in Kazakhstan; observation of International days; the development of a UNESCO Country Programme Document for Ghana and the constitution of a National Committee for the celebration of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies in 2015.

In the Outlook for 2015, the Commission will roll-out Ghana Agenda for International Year of Light in 2015. The Commission will participate in the post-2015 EFA meetings to be held in Kigali, Rwanda and South Korea; the 38th General Conference of UNESCO in Paris as well as promote quality education through ASPnet and Club activities.

One main challenge being faced by the Commission is our indebtedness to UNESCO resulting from the inability of the Bank of Ghana to transfer our dues for 2013. At the local level, funding for servicing meetings of the National Commission and its Specialized Committees require enhancement to sustain the valuable interest of members. The Office of the Permanent Delegate in Paris also need enough funding to perform its functions at UNESCO. In addition, the current low staffing situation has affected the work of the Secretariat tremendously.

Moreover, the Secretariat requires satisfactory office space.

The Commission is grateful for the support of our Chairman and the Vice Chairman thus far. We do look forward to being strengthened further, as a quasi-international organization.
### PART ONE

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PART TWO

PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Establishment
The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO started as a Committee for UNESCO Affairs in 1953. In 1958 when Ghana attained full membership of UNESCO, Cabinet approved the reconstitution of the National Committee under the new title Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

Vision
To be a highly progressive National Commission that improves access and participation in programmes and activities within UNESCO’s fields of competence in Ghana.

Mission
To promote UNESCO’s objectives and ideals in Ghana as a contribution to global peace, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Functions
The National Commission for UNESCO is a subvented agency under the Ministry of Education, serving as a link between UNESCO and Ghana. In furtherance of its primary objectives, the Commission performs the following functions:

- Acts as an advisory body to the government in determining policy with regard to UNESCO and its programmes
- Serves as a liaison agency involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in UNESCO activities for the advancement of Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication, with the aim of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO’s work towards the common welfare of human-kind.
- Disseminates information from and to UNESCO
- Exchanges information and experiences with its counterparts in Member States of the Organization
- Fosters close co-operation between state agencies and services, professionals and other associations, universities as well as other centres of research and education in the promotion of UNESCO’s objectives and ideals.
- Co-operates with Government delegations to UNESCO General Conferences and other intergovernmental meetings convened by UNESCO, in the preparation of
Ghana’s position papers by preparing the contribution of Government to the work of these meetings.

- Participates in the search for candidates for vacant UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra-budgetary resources, and in the placement of UNESCO Fellowship holders.

- Participates in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the other sister agencies of the United Nations in Ghana.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission presently comprises 21 members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana. Below is the list of members:

- The Hon. Minister for Education - Chairman and Ghana’s Rep. to the UNESCO Executive Board
- The Chief Director, Ministry of Education - Vice Chairman of the Commission
- H. E. The Ambassador to France - Ghana’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
- The Secretary-General - Ghana National Commission for UNESCO
- Chairman, Social and Human Sciences Committee
- Chairman, Legal and Administrative Committee
- Chairman, Natural Sciences Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Education Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Culture Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Communication and Information Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) National Committee
- Chairman, Information for All Programme (IFAP) Committee
- Chairman, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC)
- Chairman, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Committee
- Chairman, Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)
- Director, Multilateral Relations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Reg. Integration
- Chairman, Parliamentary Select Committee on Education
- The Representative, International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs)
- The Representative, the Mining Community in Ghana
- The Representative, the Oil Community in Ghana
- The Representative, Mass Communication (Airtel, Expresso, Glo, MTN, tiGO, Vodafone)

Permanent Delegation

The Permanent Delegation is the official Government representation to UNESCO in Paris. Ghana’s Ambassador to France is the country’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. The Permanent Delegation has its offices in the premises of the Ghana Embassy.
Specialized Committees
There are six (6) Specialized Committees which reflect the five main fields of competence of UNESCO, namely Education, Natural Science, Social/Human Sciences, Culture, Communication/Information and Legal/Administration. The members of each of the specialized committees are selected from government and Non-governmental organizations.

The Committees, comprising seven (7) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to the UNESCO General Conference and the Executive Board.

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

i. Man and Biosphere Committee (MAB) - Environmental Issues
ii. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC) - Marine Water Issues
iii. International Hydrological Programme (IHP) - Fresh Water Issues
iv. National Bioethics Committee (NBC) - Issues on bioethics
v. Information for All Programme (IFAP) - Issues on Communication
vi. Committee on Management of social Transformation (MOST) - Social Issues

The Executive Committee
The Executive Committee of the Commission coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Committees. It takes decisions for the effective and efficient operation of the National Commission. It consists of the following members:

- The Chairman of the Commission
- The Vice Chairman of the Commission
- The Secretary-General to the Commission
- The Chairmen of the six (6) Specialized Committees
- A member/former member of the Executive Board of UNESCO

The Secretariat of the Commission
The Secretariat serves as the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO. It operates under the supervision of the Chairman of the Commission.

With a staff quota of fourteen (14), the Secretariat administratively operates under the supervision of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Commission. The breakdown is as follows:
Currently, the Secretariat has seven (7) members of staff as follows:

1. 2 Programme Officers
2. 1 Accountant
3. 1 Private Secretary
4. 2 Stenographer Secretaries
5. 1 Driver

Male/Female ratio - 5:2
Senior/Junior - 2:1
### Academic Training Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF OFFICER</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>COURSE OF STUDY</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>LEAVE</th>
<th>WITH/WITHOUT PAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>MA. Public Admin.</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>Open University, U.K</td>
<td>Commonwealth Scholarship Secretariat/GOG</td>
<td>Distance Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Marian S. Nortey</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Bachelor in Mgt. Studies</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>University of Cape Coast</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Distance Learning</td>
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### Age Distribution

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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Chairman
(Minister, Ministry of Education)

Vice Chairman
(Chief Director, Ministry of Education)

Secretary-General

Deputy Secretary-General

Professional/Programme Staff
(Programme Officers for Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, Communication/Information & Legal/Administrative Matters)

Support Staff
(Accounts, Administration, Secretarial, Transport)
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Ministry of Education (Host Ministry)

The Office of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

Secretariat of the National Commission

Stakeholders working in the Ministries and relevant fields of UNESCO’s competence

Education Committee

Natural Science Committee

Social & Human Sciences Committee

Culture Committee

Communication/Information Committee

Legal/Administrative Committee

Education Committee

Natural Science Committee

Social & Human Sciences Committee

Culture Committee

Communication/Information Committee

Legal/Administrative Committee
PART THREE

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Celebration of World Radio Day in Ghana, 13th February, 2014

World Radio Day celebrates radio as a medium of improving international cooperation between broadcasters and encouraging major networks and community radio alike, to promote access to information, gender equality and freedom of expression over the airwaves.

The theme for this year’s celebration was the ‘Contribution of Radio to Gender equality in Ghana’. As part of activities to mark the day, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, on 13th February, 2014, collaborated with the UNESCO Office in Accra, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) to observe the Day.

Activities marking the day included a television panel discussion on the contribution of Radio and Gender equality; a forum which discussed gender equality in media organizations; gender portrayal in media content as well as an exhibition by radio stations. A newspaper feature article on the contribution of radio to Ghana’s socio-economic development was also published.

Visit to Ghana by Teachers and Students of Bakkeskolen, Denmark, 23rd February – 3rd March, 2014

The Natcom facilitated the visit of a delegation of 14 students and 3 teachers from a UNESCO ASPnet school in Kolding, Denmark to their twin, the Anglo-Gold Ashanti (AGA) Schools - a UNESCO ASPnet in Obuasi during the Silver Jubilee Celebration of AGA School’s ASPnet.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project is an international Network of schools that promote UNESCO’s ideals of peace, tolerance, intercultural learning, human rights etc.

The two schools have been engaging in a twinning programme under the ASPnet project on the Transatlantic Slave Trade (TST) dubbed ‘Breaking the Silence’. The programme has led to exchange of visits and sharing of experiences under the TST twinning programme. The last of such visits was an invitation to their Ghanaian counterpart to participate in an international educational exchange programme on Democracy and Culture in August 2012. The current visit by the Danes is therefore a reciprocal one.

The 14 visiting students were hosted by families of students of the AGA schools whiles their teachers were lodged in a hotel provided by Anglo-Gold Ashanti.
Launch of Climate Change in Africa Guidebook for Journalists, 20th May, 2014

UNESCO in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Internews/Earth Journalism Network, published a guidebook for journalists on Climate Change in Africa. The publication is an outcome of an extensive research and consultations with about 27 Member States towards empowering the media to effectively report on Climate Change in Africa.

The Chairperson of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, hosted the Africa regional launch of the UNESCO Climate Change Guidebook for Journalists. The event, which was held at the Accra International Conference Centre, was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Climate Change and former President of Ghana, H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor. The event also drew large numbers of people from journalism institutions, the academia, government institutions, the diplomatic community and the mass media.

In a speech read on behalf of the sitting President of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, he recounted various government efforts geared towards Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. “Climate change must be seen as a developmental issue and not an environmental problem because it impacts all aspect of social lives”, he noted.

Launching the Guidebook, the former President, H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, emphasized the importance of journalists as major stakeholders in propagating the impact of climate change.

He cited the UNESCO Guidebook as an essential instrument to equip journalists to play their role effectively.
WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

First Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, Astana, Kazakhstan, 22nd – 24th July, 2014

UNESCO in collaboration with the Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO organized an interregional meeting of National Commissions in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The meeting was aimed at building capacities of staff of National Commissions; enhancing networking as well as promoting exchanges of best practices of activities of National Commissions around the world. Ghana participated in this meeting and used the platform to canvass for support towards our bid to go on the UNESCO executive Board in 2015.

International Literacy Day

The Natcom in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Accra observed the International Literacy Day on 8th September, 2014 on the theme “Mother Tongue Literacy: Necessary foundation for attaining literacy for all and sustainable development”.

The day was dedicated to the promotion of reading and writing in local languages to promote sustainable development. The day was further marked with a Press Release to conscientize Ghanaians on the importance of the day. There was also a Feature Article in several local newspapers on ‘Using mother-tongue as solid foundation for attaining literacy for all’.

World Teachers’ Day

On 6th October, 2014, the World Teachers’ Day to appreciate the efforts of the teacher was observed. The media was tasked to engage discussants on “Teaching Today: an overview of professional development and promotion of quality education in Ghana”. The activity carried out was a radio discussion which featured a phone-in segment where listeners phoned-in to congratulate teachers on their role in nation-building.

UN Day to end impunity and crimes against journalists, 2nd November, 2014

UNESCO in partnership with the Commission and the United Nations Information Centre jointly organized a forum on the ‘State of the journalists’ safety in Ghana.’ This forum was to commemorate the first ever UN Day to end impunity and crimes against journalists. Over 100 journalists from different media houses participated in the event, after which a paper on the topic was presented by the Executive Director of Media Foundation for West Africa.
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

UNESCO ASPnet International ESD Events for Students and Teachers, 4 – 8 November, 2014, Okayama, Japan

Prior to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, the Natcom facilitated the participation of an ASPnet School teacher and four (4) students from Ghana to participate in the ASPnet International ESD Events for students and teachers in Japan. The meeting provided the opportunity for ASPnet Schools to share experiences.
UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10th - 12th November, 2014

The Natcom also facilitated the participation of Ghana to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 10th to 12th November, 2014.

The meeting called for urgent action to further strengthen and scale-up Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), in order to enable current generations to meet their needs while at the same time allowing future generations to meet their own needs in a balanced and integrated approach in economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The Conference also launched the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD as a follow-up to the Decade (2005 - 2014).

KISTEP-ISTIC Science and Technology Innovation Training Programme for High Level Policy-Makers, 8 - 12 December, 2014, Malacca, Malaysia

The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organized a training programme for high-level Policy-makers in Malacca, Malaysia from 8 – 10 December, 2014.

The Natcom facilitated the participation of Ghana in this meeting.

The programme sought to develop and enhance the capacities of high-level policy-makers from developing countries using the experience of Korea. It also discussed topics from Korea's national science and technology (S&T) policies and techniques for Planning, Investment and Evaluation (P.I.E).


Following the decision of the UNESCO Executive Board in 2013, UNESCO convened an International Conference of States in the Africa Region in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11th – 12th December, 2014.

The National Commission facilitated the participation of Ghana in the Conference to consider signing the 1981 regional convention on the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas, degrees and other academic qualifications in higher education in the Africa region.


The forum, which aimed at officially launching the Youth Network and Culture of Peace in Africa, presented an opportunity to encourage young Africans to become involved in conflict and violence prevention on the continent and thus, contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan of a Culture of Peace in Africa and the campaign "Make Peace Happen".

Regional Workshop for Managers of Biosphere Reserves

The Natcom jointly organized a Regional Workshop for managers of Biosphere Reserves with the German National Commission for UNESCO in Accra.

The Workshop sought to review Guidelines for Managers of Biosphere Reserves in seven (7) Anglophone African countries.

The handbook was prepared with the support of the German Natcom and UNESCO.
Building capacities of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Education Oversight Committees (MMDEOCs)

The Natcom is supporting the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA), University of Cape Coast with funds to organize a professional development workshops to build the capacity of the SMCs and the MMDEOCs to effectively assume their roles and responsibilities and to adopt best leadership practices.

The workshop provided a framework within which the knowledge, skills, and competences required by SMCs and the MMDEOCs can be acquired and reinforced, while focusing on the real issues faced by SMCs and MMDEOCs in addressing the daily challenges of their work as trustees in educational service delivery.

A series of two-day professional development workshops will be organized in six selected school circuits in two districts, the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem and Twifo-Heman Lower Denkyira.


Following the 37th General Conference of UNESCO in October 2013, where Member States of UNESCO adopted a new Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4), 2014 – 2021 and a new Programme and Budget (37 C/5), 2014 – 2018, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Country Office developed a Country (Ghana) Programme Document which will serve as the basis for the Organization’s possible interventions in its fields of competence in Ghana.

The document is aimed at eliciting national priorities in Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information for the period 2014 – 2018 as a means of providing a platform for strategic channelling of the Organization’s resources.

The document, currently in the draft stage, was compiled with the assistance of the Various MDAs whose work falls within the competences of UNESCO.

The operationalization of the document will see more UNESCO interventions in Ghana in the field of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

Development of Training modules for facilitating youth transition between Technical and Vocational Education Training and the World of work

The National Commission is further supporting the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) division of the Ghana Education Service to pilot a project aimed at facilitating the youth transition between TVET and the world of work.
The Programme is being piloted at the Takoradi Technical Institute and the Kumasi Technical Institute.

**Capacity-building Workshop for ASPnet School Coordinators in Tutu Primary and JHS, Akuapem**
The Natcom organized a capacity-building Workshop for ASPnet School Coordinators in Tutu Primary and JHS, Akuapem, to introduce the ASPnet strategy for 2014 – 2021 to school coordinators.

The workshop was aimed at promoting education for global citizenship.

**International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies**
The UN General Assembly at its 68th Session approved the request of Ghana and other nations and declared 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light Based Technologies.

The National Commission has constituted a Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. F. K. A. Allotey, to roll-out activities in Ghana in 2015.

A Ghana Agenda Document and Plan of activities for the year and benefits to Ghana has been developed as well as an official dedicated website for Ghana’s celebrations ([www.light2015.unescoghana.org](http://www.light2015.unescoghana.org)).

**UNESCO FELLOWSHIPS**

**UNESCO/People’s Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme – 2014**
Two applicants from Ghana benefited from this Fellowship to study in China in the fields of medicine and Geo-information studies.

**UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme – 2014**
Mr. Thomas Nsiah, a degree holder in Industrial Art, Ceramics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), was awarded this fellowship in Materials Science and Ceramics.
UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

The Natcom through the Participation Programme assisted the National Commission on Culture to conduct a survey and inventory/database of Indigenous Ghanaian Creative industries to assess their impact on the national economy in all the 10 regions of Ghana.

Workshop for the Media: Towards electoral reforms and the integrity of the 2016 elections, 6 – 7 November, 2014
In promoting peace-building and the culture of peace, the National Commission through the UNESCO Participation Programme assisted the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) to organise a workshop with the objective to enhance the capacity of media practitioners on electoral reforms; create a platform to foster exchange in lessons learned during the 2012 elections to inform future elections and prepare media practitioners to follow electoral processes for reporting adequately and accurately.
PART FIVE

CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Administration
The Secretariat continued to face the challenges associated with the law suit, the lock of the official Secretary-General’s office and her possession of two (2) official vehicles by the former Ag. Secretary-General, Ms. Sylvia Lutterodt. The Office therefore was not able to function fully in the capacity of Secretariat of the Commission as it should.

Adequate financial support
The need to provide adequate financial support for the office of the Permanent Delegation continued to be a source of concern.

Additionally, servicing meetings of the National Commission and its Specialized Committees need to be enhanced in order to sustain the interest of the members adequately.

Expansion of office space
The Secretariat of the Commission is in dire need of expansion in terms of office space. As a matter of urgency, a documentation centre/library and space to store items are required in order to eliminate clutter and enable the Secretariat have a neater and a more decent presentation to befit its quasi-international status.

PROJECTIONS/OUTLOOK FOR 2015

To promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development, strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat and enhancing international relations.

Activities

- Ghana will participate in the World Education Forum in May, 2015 in Korea. The Forum will consider the Global Post-2015 Education Agenda.

- ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning.

- Participation in 38th General Conference of UNESCO in October 2015.
Rolling-out of activities in Ghana’s Agenda for International Year of Light and Light based Technologies in 2015.

National Bioethics Committee would be assisted to organize activities for members and the public.

Capacity-building for staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity.

CONCLUSION

The Commission will continue within the present budgetary constraints in its direction of working to promote peace and sustainable development within UNESCO’s fields of competence.

While we express appreciation for assistance from the Ministry hitherto, we look forward to receiving increased financial allocations to service our National Commission and Specialized Committee meetings.