



Cooperation Program for Human Resource Development

A Legacy for Humanity: How UNESCO Designations Work in Protected Areas

Course period: September 2026

Course delivered by: National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), through the General Directorate for Institutional Strengthening and International Affairs.

1. Concept

1.1 Main Objective / Goal

Strengthen capacities for the nomination and management of Protected Areas within the World Heritage List and the Man and the Biosphere Programme, including the identification of potential sites, designation processes and criteria, and compliance with related obligations.

1.2 Profile target

Professionals in the natural and social sciences with experience in biodiversity conservation and protected areas.

2. Description

2.1 Title

A Legacy for Humanity: How UNESCO Designations Work in Protected Areas

2.2 Course Duration in Mexico

September 21 – September 25, 2026

2.3 Country target

Japan

2.4 Eligibility





This program is designed for professionals who work or have worked in the field of protected areas and conservation within governmental or non-governmental organizations.

2.5 Participant Limit

Minimum of 5, maximum of 10 participants

2.6 Idiom

English

2.7 Key concepts

Outstanding Universal Value, designation processes, monitoring and reporting, management systems, governance, sustainable development, zoning

2.7 Content

Topic	Day	Description
International Framework for UNESCO Designations and Protected Areas	September 21	Provide a general overview of the international system for territorial recognition promoted by UNESCO, with emphasis on Biosphere Reserves under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, as well as sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and their relationship with the protected areas system. Share Mexico’s experiences in the legislative and operational incorporation of





		UNESCO terminology and procedures for the inclusion of designations.
Nomination and Recognition Process before UNESCO	September 22	Understand the evaluation criteria, documentation requirements, and decision-making processes associated with the designation of sites as World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves. Analyze international and national experiences and case studies to identify challenges, best practices, and factors that contribute to successful nomination processes.
Identification of Sites with Potential for International Designations	September 23	Understand the criteria and methodologies used to identify territories with potential to obtain UNESCO designations. Analyze the concept of Outstanding Universal Value and review the criteria applied for the inscription of sites on the World Heritage List, as well as the criteria and functions of Biosphere Reserves within the Man and the Biosphere Programme..
Effective Management, Monitoring, and Reporting of Designated Sites	September 24	Examine environmental and social monitoring systems, as well as the periodic reporting processes required for Biosphere Reserves and sites





		inscribed on the World Heritage List. Identify strategies to integrate biodiversity conservation with sustainable development, including responsible tourism, environmental education, and community participation.
Management Experiences and Practical Learning in Protected Areas	September 25	Conduct a field visit to a Biosphere Reserve or World Heritage Site with the purpose of observing the implementation of conservation strategies, territorial zoning, environmental monitoring programs, and community participation mechanisms. Develop a reflection and exchange exercise among participants to analyze opportunities for applying the lessons learned within their respective national contexts.

3. Elegibilidad y procedimientos

3.1 Candidate Qualifications

Applicant organizations are expected to nominate candidates who meet the following qualifications:





- A. **Current Duties:** This program is designed for professionals who work or have worked in the field of protected areas and conservation within governmental or non-governmental organizations.
- B. **Educational Background:** Graduates in Natural Resources, Social Sciences, or related fields.
- C. **Language Proficiency:** Candidates must demonstrate proficient spoken and written English skills.
- D. **Technical Requirements (Technology Proficiency):** Basic computer skills, including the ability to send/receive emails with attachments and use a web browser.
- E. **Health:** Candidates must be in good health to participate in the program in Mexico. To reduce the risk of aggravating symptoms associated with respiratory tract infections, applicants are requested to honestly declare in the Medical History section (Medical Status Restriction Questionnaire of the application form) whether they have been diagnosed with any of the following conditions: hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, heart failure, or chronic respiratory disease.
- F. **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** Women are strongly encouraged to apply for the program. AMEXCID is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and provides equal opportunities to all applicants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

