

Seeds of Hope for a Better Future

Project Mission

1. To support UNESCO's **Sustainable Development Goals¹** and key action areas - promoting peace, sustainability and intercultural learning and heritage, especially in the context of the challenges of climate change. The Seeds of Hope project will inspire young people from the UNESCO ASPnet group of **12,000 educational institutions across 182 countries** and key partners (educators, artists, scientists and others) to create legacy arts and culture projects for the benefit of local, national and international communities. A key partner in supporting this project is **Kew Millennium Seed Bank Partnerships (MSBP) which has links with 190 countries.**

Project Aims

2. The project aims:
 - To **connect young people** with the arts, sciences, local and international communities
 - To **strengthen awareness of the value of seeds** for the planet and humanity to support a sustainable, bio-diverse future
 - To **create inspiring seed stories and artworks** in collaboration with local or international community partners in order to enhance and benefit the lives of others
 - To **share Seeds of Hope stories and experiences** internationally through the UNESCO ASPnet network to inform and give voice to young people on the impact of climate change to local communities around the world.

Project Activities

Part One: Creating Seeds of Hope Stories

3. Working together with educators, artists, scientists and others young people will:
 - a. **Research** seeds of their choice from the themes identified. These themes will inspire young people to use their 'seed awareness' material to create and illustrate their own seed story or other artwork. Through such research they will discover what a seed is and, for example:
 - Its **value to the world** and how/whether it provides food security, biodiversity, sustainable development and/or other benefits.
 - Its geographical origins and any **key global aspects** about the chosen seeds/species and whether it is rare or common in how it relates to local, national and international communities
 - The likely impact of **climate change** and other factors on the chosen seeds in the short, medium and long term.

¹ 1: No Poverty, 2: Zero Hunger, 3: Good Health and Well-being, 4: Quality Education, 5: Gender Equality, 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 8: Decent work and economic growth, 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10: Reduced Inequalities, 11: Sustainable cities and communities, 12: Responsible consumption and production, 13: Climate action, 14: Life below water, 15: Life on land, 16: Peace, justice and strong institution, 17: Partnership for the goals.

- b. **Create Seeds of Hope stories using a range of artistic expressions.** A seed story will aim to illustrate, through sharing seed awareness, the need for humanity to play a responsible role in securing and maintaining a bio-diverse future for the planet.
4. The goal of these artworks is for young people to create the most interesting legacy projects by engaging with local/national/international communities and where possible working with established artists. Artwork examples could include:
- **Art works**, which can be a gallery exhibition or community art work for long-term display in a prominent outdoor space/public indoor area, and/or a touring exhibition.
 - **Illustrated poems/short stories** as the focus of presentation for local poetry/story festivals or widely circulated through a variety of print media, such as books/flip books, posters, leaflets or other graphic formats.
 - **Digital illustrations using photography/film/animation** circulated through social and other public media formats or exhibitions
 - **Performance and/or installation art**, such as a young people's play/opera/musical theatre/dance/installation art/sculpture park.
5. All artwork will make a contribution to the project's mission, aims and objectives, and be valued, recorded² and shared via the UNESCO National Coordinators.

Part 2: Creating Seeds of Hope Legacy Spaces

6. Just as every seed is important, every young person's contribution is important and every collaboration is also important. The sharing of the outcomes brings the added benefit to wider audiences. Young people will have the opportunity **to connect their seed stories and artworks to local communities** by creating or working with existing allotments, gardens or other open spaces.
7. Creating legacy spaces or gardens will reflect how and why **greater seed diversity brings benefits to others**.
8. If young people want to **develop a legacy space**, they may wish to engage with other partners early on in the process (see examples under part one).

Part 3: International Sharing of Legacy Seeds of Hope Stories

9. The added impact value of all the arts projects will be how these can be **shared as widely as possible to benefit local, national and international communities**. How can seed stories be 'grown' from an individual seed story into an event that can benefit others? How many groups could be encouraged to submit - just one seed story?
10. UNESCO UK will discuss with partners to find ways for young people's creative seed story outcomes to be **digitally sown to create a UNESCO ASPnet 'Seeds of Hope for a Better Future' global pathway map**.
11. Different forms of dissemination through the **UNESCO website and social media** channels will be used to maximise the global reach and impact of young people.
12. The value of sharing such stories internationally is to demonstrate and strengthen our recognition and celebration of the rich diverse heritage that is essential to the natural world, humanity and for the **long-term sustainability** of our planet.

² Recording of work and project outcomes should be carried out by the organisers of the local project and shared with the National UNESCO Co-ordinator.