

UNEP Programmes and Resources
for Environmental Education and Training
An Introductory Guide

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Foreword

The challenge of education for sustainable development

How can we better understand the complexity of the world around us? How can we conserve precious natural resources for future generations? How are the problems of our world interconnected and how can we solve them? What kind of world do we want for the future, and can our visions be achieved within the limits of Earth's life support systems? How can we reconcile the requirements of economy, society, and the environment?

Such questions are not new and, in its capacity as the specialized agency for the environment within the United Nations system, UNEP has addressed them over a period of many years. However, inspired by the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), UNEP is working on such questions with renewed vigour.

Education for Sustainable Development places education and training at the heart of the quest to solve the problems threatening our future. Education in all its forms and at all levels is not only an end in itself, but is also one of the most powerful instruments for bringing about the changes required to achieve sustainable development.

This guide showcases some of UNEP's many programmes and resources that support the important work of environmental education and training. It contains details of courses in the UNEP Environmental Leadership Programme, UNEP networks for environmental training, our commitment to supporting environmental action learning activities that link schools with their communities, training programmes for women as managers of natural resources, and examples of our public education programmes in newspapers and television. These examples come from countries and regions around the world; from Finland to southern Africa, from Latin America and the Caribbean to Australia, and from the Himalayas to the USA.

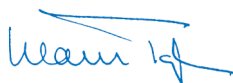
This guide also provides details of some of the many books, multimedia materials and web sites that UNEP has prepared to support environmental education and training. These include: the series of Global Environment Outlook reports (on global and regional environmental trends and perspectives), the Taking Action guide (for citizens and communities), Pachamama: Our Earth, Our Future and Water, World Children's Voices (educational books developed by



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children and, young people). Tunza: Acting for a Better World and Tunza magazine (both written by and for young people), and Communicating Africa's Environment (a resource kit for African journalists). Among the web sites featured are youthXchange, which supports youth leadership programmes on sustainable consumption, the development of better and environmentally sustainable ways of transport, and the integration of the Global Compact principles at all levels of society.

I am proud to commend this publication to you as a guide to UNEP's programmes and resources for environmental education and training, but I am also humbled by the scale of the task ahead of us in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. We must all work together to make our planet a home not only for us today, but also for the many generations that will follow.



Klaus Toepfer

Executive Director, UNEP

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