

WHAT IS AN RCE?

A REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RCE) is not a physical centre or building, but rather a network of individuals, organisations and experts who are committed to using education as a tool for building a sustainable future. Each RCE is regionally-based and members bring in-depth knowledge of the challenges facing the towns, cities and villages in their regions. Together, RCE members are dedicated to creating more livable societies for present and future generations by influencing the learning processes at work in their region. This includes formal learning institutions, like schools and universities, as well as informal learning establishments, such as parks, museums, private enterprises, local governmental organisations, non-

governmental organisations and the media. Wherever people are learning, RCEs are there to make sure that sustainability issues are being addressed appropriately. RCE activities range from organizing sustainable development workshops for educators to conducting research and creating policies that focus on education for sustainable development (ESD). RCEs also work closely with local universities, schools and informal learning institutions to make sure that sustainability issues are integrated into all formal curricula and informal learning processes. In doing so, RCEs help ensure that people of all ages are given the tools and information they need to create positive social and environmental change in their communities and to assume responsibility for their actions.

“Education for sustainable development is fundamentally about values, with respect at the centre: respect for others, including those of present and future generations, for difference and diversity, for the environment, for the resources of the planet we inhabit.”

—United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014



THE RCE NETWORK & THE UNITED NATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH ITS DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (DESD, 2005 – 2014), stressed the need to reorient existing education towards sustainability. Education for sustainable development helps people better understand themselves and their links to the wider natural and social environment; it also helps individuals and communities adopt behaviours and practices that enable all to live a full life without being deprived of basic necessities.

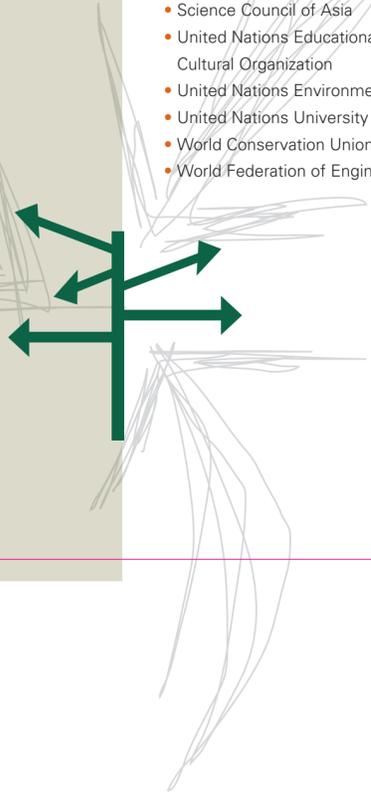
In 2003, in response to that call, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies launched a programme on Education for Sustainable Development and developed the initial concept of the

RCEs. Two years later, seven RCEs were officially acknowledged. The network tripled in size in its first year and it continues to expand today, with RCEs in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

The RCE Network's ties to the United Nations remain strong. The Global RCE Service Centre is headquartered at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies in Yokohama, Japan. At headquarters and in each of the regions, the RCE community works closely with UN agencies such as UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF developing policies, implementing programmes and promoting ESD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RCEs OR TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NETWORK, PLEASE CONTACT

The Global RCE Service Centre
Education for Sustainable Development Programme
UNU-IAS
rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu



PARTNERS & WIDER COMMUNITY

The RCE Global Network works closely with hundreds of partners at the local, regional and global levels. Its partnership with UNESCO, the designated lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014, is among its most significant. The RCE Network also works closely with the Ubuntu Alliance, an alliance of 14 of the world's foremost educational and scientific/technological institutions that together signed the Ubuntu Declaration at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002.

- Some of the network's major partners include:
- Academy of Sciences for the Developing World
 - African Academy of Science
 - Association of African Universities
 - Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future
 - Copernicus Alliance
 - Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership
 - International Association of Universities
 - International Council for Science
 - Science Council of Asia
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - United Nations Environment Programme
 - United Nations University
 - World Conservation Union
 - World Federation of Engineering Organisations

Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

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“The networked Regional Centres of Expertise, supported by UNU-IAS, may serve as an example of how different local groups in society, who do not ordinarily work together but are bound by mutual sustainability issues, find themselves working creatively towards their improvement.”

—UNESCO Mid-DESD Review Report (2009)



REGIONAL CENTRES OF EXPERTISE

As of April 2012

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Cairo, Egypt
Ghana
Greater Mbarara, Uganda
Greater Nairobi, Kenya
Jordan
Kakamega-Western Kenya
Kano, Nigeria
Khmomas-Erongo, Namibia
Kuwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa
Lagos, Nigeria
Lesotho
Makana & Rural Eastern Cape, South Africa
Maputo, Mozambique
Mau Ecosystem Complex, Kenya
Minna, Nigeria
Senegal
Swaziland
Zomba, Malawi

THE AMERICAS

Bogota, Colombia
British Columbia (North Cascades), Canada
Chaco, Argentina
Curitiba-Parana, Brazil
Grand Rapids, USA
Greater Sudbury, Canada
Guatemala
Lima-Callao, Peru
Montreal, Canada
North Texas, USA
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
São Paulo, Brazil
Saskatchewan, Canada
Tantramar, Canada
Toronto, Canada
Western Jalisco, Mexico

ASIA-PACIFIC

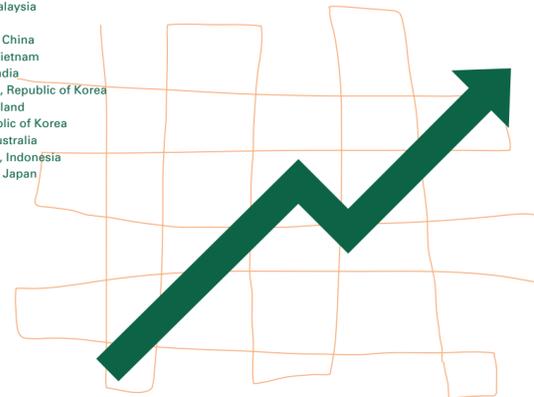
Anji, China
Arunachal Pradesh, India
Bangalore, India
Beijing, China
Bogor, Indonesia
Bohol, Philippines
Cebu, Philippines
Cha-am, Thailand
Chandigarh, India
Chubu, Japan
Delhi, India
East Kalimantan, Indonesia
Gippsland, Australia
Goa
Greater Dhaka (IUBAT), Bangladesh

Greater Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Greater Sendai, Japan
Greater Western Sydney, Australia
Guwahati, India
Hyogo-Kobe, Japan
Iloco, Philippines
Incheon, Republic of Korea
Kitakyushu, Japan
Kodagu, India
Kyrgyzstan
Lucknow, India
Mumbai, India
Northern Mindanao, Philippines
Okayama, Japan
Pacific Island Countries
Penang, Malaysia
Pune, India
Shangri-la, China
Southern Vietnam
Srinagar, India
Tongyeong, Republic of Korea
Trang, Thailand
Uiju, Republic of Korea
Western Australia
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Yokohama, Japan

EUROPE

Açores, Portugal
Barcelona, Spain
Central Macedonia, Greece
Creias-Oeste, Portugal
Crete, Greece
Denmark
East Midlands, UK
Espoo, Finland
Graz-Styria, Austria
Hamburg, Germany
Ireland
London, UK
Munich, Germany
Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
North East, UK

Nuremberg, Germany
Oldenburger Münsterland, Germany
Porto Metropolitan Area, Portugal
Rhine-Meuse
Samara, Russia
Severn, UK
Skåne, Sweden
Southern North Sea
Vienna, Austria
Wales, UK
Yorkshire & Humberside, UK



WHAT MAKES RCEs UNIQUE?

RCEs THINK GLOBALLY BUT ACT LOCALLY.

With their official links to UN agencies, formal education institutions, and informal educators worldwide, RCEs are the best keepers of knowledge around sustainability challenges in their home regions.

The RCE network brings together multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary members who might not usually work together. As such, they are uniquely placed to help create

solutions to these challenges through dialogue, education and learning.

RCEs ensure that the many facets of sustainable development have a place in primary, secondary and tertiary education and research, as well as in informal learning spaces.

Through these efforts, RCEs help prepare local leaders of tomorrow with the tools and information they need to make smart and sustainable choices for the future.

RCE efforts encourage innovation and new approaches to sustainable development. They translate existing knowledge into concrete actions and empower individuals to make sustainable choices for themselves and their communities.

The success each RCE achieves on the local level is brought to scale through the global RCE Network of more than 100 RCEs worldwide. Local knowledge, expertise

and best practices are shared globally through the network and are able to be adapted and applied successfully in other regions. RCEs also play a central role in the transfer of global technologies, knowledge and experiences at the local level, through their programmes and activities.

RCEs IN ACTION

There are more than **100 Regional Centres of Expertise** on Education for Sustainable Development operating worldwide.

Each RCE empowers people within its community to lead better, more sustainable lives by providing them with the information, education and tools they need to create positive social and environmental change.

By creating diverse partnerships among educators, researchers, policy-makers, scientists, youth, leaders within indigenous communities and throughout the public, private and NGO sectors, RCEs are able to provide a framework for strategic thinking and action on sustainability, creating tangible improvements in their communities. Indeed, partnerships are at the heart of each individual RCE and of the global RCE network.

