



01 INTRODUCTION

GUPES is the result of a consultative forum organized by UNEP and its partners to increase successful engagement with universities. It builds on the successes of the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA), the nascent Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in the Caribbean Universities (MESCA) and the Asia-Pacific Regional University Consortium on Environment for Sustainable Development (RUC). GUPES serves to increase the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability practices and curricula into universities around the world. It is also geared towards encouraging further interaction between UNEP and universities, around the three pillars of education, training and networking. This is done in accordance to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-14, and in partnership with UNESCO, UNU and other organizations.

02 OVERALL GOAL OF GUPES

GUPES aims to promote the integration of environment and sustainability concerns into teaching, research, community engagement, the management of universities, greening of university infrastructure and operations, as well as to enhance student engagement and participation in sustainability activities both within and beyond universities.

03 DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF GUPES

Enhance the quality, policy, practice and relevance of university education globally in the context of sustainable development, taking into account the new paradigm of Green Economy.

04 GUPES PILLARS

EDUCATION

Focusing on inspiring, mentoring, informing, supporting, facilitating and enabling universities to undertake curriculum innovations for sustainability as well as greening of universities. Development of curricula sourcebooks on priority environment and sustainability challenges, including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

TRAINING

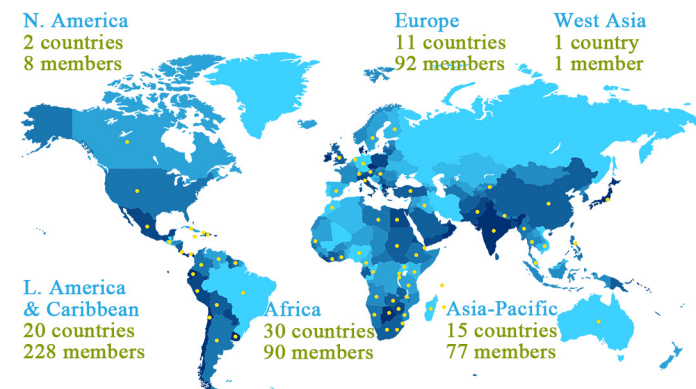
Developing applied competence by enhancing knowledge and awareness on UNEP's priority thematic areas as well as equipping the target audience (mainly mid-level managers and policy makers) with relevant skills, values and attitudes on key environmental and sustainability themes, issues and emerging concepts such as 'Green economy' through training courses and leadership programmes.

NETWORKING

To encourage and strengthen regional and sub-regional higher education networks on environment and sustainability modeled around continents, UNEP regions as well as North-South and South-South frameworks all feeding into the GUPES network. To further establish linkages with other higher education initiatives for sustainability around the world and recognize programmes of excellence.

05 GUPES OBJECTIVES

- Provide a strategic platform for the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability concerns into universities;
- Build, through university education systems, leadership needed for responding to sustainable development challenges;
- Revitalize higher education system and enable it to address current sustainable development challenges with emphasis on UNEP's seven thematic priorities;
- Contribute to the knowledge generation within UNEP's seven priority thematic areas and other contemporary environmental and sustainability issues, risks and challenges;
- Optimize development opportunities provided by ecosystem services in a sustainable manner in line with the principles of "Green Economy" and in the context of sustainable development;
- Help prepare the world for the projected impacts of global climate change, disasters and conflicts, harmful substances and hazardous wastes, as well as to assist in reversing and mitigating these and other negative environmental and sustainability trends.



Distribution of GUPES Members

As of September 2014, GUPES had more than 510 universities and partners from all over the world. All GUPES members strive to mainstream environment and sustainability issues across their activities.

06 2013 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



EDUCATION PILLAR

Launch of the “Greening Universities Toolkit” during the 7th World Environmental Education Congress, 9 - 14 June 2013 (Marrakesh, Morocco);

Forests in a Changing Climate: A Sourcebook for integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes;

Finalization of Higher Education Guidelines for curriculum, review and reorientation towards Sustainable Development; and

Preparation of Green Economy and Ecosystems Management Sourcebooks.



TRAINING PILLAR

Enhanced knowledge and awareness on environment and sustainability — Over 350 trained participants annually through 14 UNEP related training courses.



NETWORKING PILLAR

Increased GUPES membership to 430 Universities across the globe (133% increase);

Launch of a Platform for Sustainability Performance in Education in conjunction with UNEP Governing Council Special Session XII/GMEF 2013), 22 February;

7th World Environmental Education Congress, 9 - 14 June 2013 (Marrakesh, Morocco); Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative Coordination Meeting, 21 - 22 October 2013 (Manama, Bahrain);

Academia Partnership Forum, (Global South-South Development — GSSD Expo) 31 October (Nairobi, Kenya); and

Supporting the 8th Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs), 27 – 29 November (Nairobi, Kenya).

07 2014 OUTLOOK

- Launch of UNEP’s first Massive Open Online Course based on the 50 hour Masters Module on Disasters, Environment and Risk Reduction;
- World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 10-12 November, Nagoya;
- Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative, implemented within the framework of the Eye on Earth process;
- REDD+ Academy for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, based on REDD+ Graduate Curriculum Sourcebook;
- Greening Universities Toolkit 2.0, with additional global exemplars;
- Launch of Graduate Curriculum Sourcebook on Ecosystems Based Climate Change Adaptation;
- Review and adoption of the African Environmental Education and Training Action Plan 2015-2025.

To join the GUPES Partnership network, please send a formal request letter of interest from the rector, dean (or equivalent) and the contact information of the designated focal point for GUPES at your institution.

Interested
to join GUPES?

Access to UNEP reports and publications;
Opportunity to review and provide inputs to UNEP on priority and emerging environmental issues; and

Benefits of joining GUPES

Networking with Universities across the global on sustainable campus practices, curricula innovation and capacity building

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GLOBAL GUPES UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP on ENVIRONMENT and SUSTAINABILITY

Theme: Integrating Environment and Sustainability in Universities globally

