

8th Global RCE Conference

“Promoting Sustainability through Collaboration and Diversity”

26-29 November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya



Background

- In 2005, the United Nations University (UNU) launched the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs) within the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 (UN-DESD). An RCE is “a network of individuals, organisations and experts who are committed to using education as a tool for building a sustainable future”. At present there are 120 RCEs acknowledged worldwide;
- Close to 300 participants from around the world participated in the 8th Global RCEs Conference, which, for the first time, was held in Africa. The RCE Conference was organized by the RCE Greater Nairobi and the UNU Institute of Advanced Study (UNU-IAS), with support from UNEP and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA);
- The RCE Conference was preceded by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs meeting, on 21-22 November in Nairobi. At the meeting, the Committee discussed the state of the RCEs and reviewed the applications for potential new RCE members;

UNEP’s engagement

- Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Director and OIC of DEPI, gave the Keynote Speech on the Opening Day;
- UNEP facilitated several book launches, which included *Searching for Resilience in Sustainable Development: Learning Journeys in Conservation, the ESD Policy Manual for the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, and Innovating Environmental Education Methodologies: Case studies, etc.*;
- UNEP served as resource persons in the Higher Education Thematic Discussion, the Policymakers Roundtable Discussion as well as the Fundraising Operational Discussion;
- UNEP participated in the Ubuntu Committee of Peers RCEs meeting and the Vice-Chancellors Meeting, which was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University.

Follow up

- Discuss UNEP’s participation at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development 2014, marking the end of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014, (UN-DESD) which will be held in Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014, including the Higher Education session scheduled to take place on 8-9 November 2014, preceding the Conference;
- Consider UNEP’s participation at the 9th Global RCEs Conference, organized by RCE Okayama, Japan;
- Explore potential for partnership with UNU, including the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) initiative and its associated graduate programmes at African Universities;
- Study potential for enhanced collaboration with RCEs in Kenya and Africa;
- Explore partnership with International Association of Universities (IAU), including a possible MoU, and joint preparation of a Higher Education workshop at the End of Decade conference;
- Develop a UNEP strategy in the context of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development in consultation with UNESCO, UNU and other members of the UN Inter-Agency Committee (IAC), as a follow up to UN-DESD.