

**2006-2007 UNEP/ UNESCO / AAU / UNU/GVU
Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability into
African Universities Partnership AWARDS**

for

**Education for Sustainable Development Innovations
Programmes in African Universities**

BACKGROUND AND APPLICATION FORM

**1. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNDESD, 2005-2014) - THE GOAL
AND OBJECTIVES**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has its roots in the history of two distinct areas of core interest for the United Nations: (1) education; and (2) sustainable development. On these critical foundations the establishment of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) was proposed and endorsed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, and in December of the same year, adopted by the UN General Assembly with UNESCO designated as the lead agency. UNEP and UNESCO have signed a joint statement to work together to implement the UNDESD.

According to the UNDESD International Implementation Scheme (UNESCO: 2005), it is noted that the overall goal of the Decade is:

“...to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This education effort will encourage change in behaviour that will create a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for present and future generations”.

In addition, the International Implementation Scheme describes the following sub-goals for the UNDESD at the national level: (1) to provide an opportunity for refining and promoting the vision of and transition to sustainable development – through all forms of education, public awareness and training; and (2) to give enhanced profile to the important role of education and learning in sustainable development.

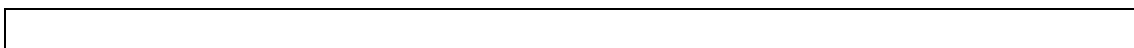
The objectives of the UNDES D are to (1) facilitate networking, linkages, exchange and interaction among stakeholders in ESD; (2) foster an increased quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development; (3) help countries make progress towards, and attain, the Millennium Development Goals through ESD efforts; and (4) provide countries with new opportunities to incorporate ESD into educational reform efforts.

2. MESA UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

The MESA Universities Partnership aims to enhance the **quality** and **policy relevance** of university education in Africa through the implementation of environment and sustainability as an underlying topic in diverse curricula and as practice in all other aspects of university life. The overarching goal shall be to create a scientific knowledge base about Education for Sustainable Development in Africa, meant for all students and staff, and to develop action competence and awareness which will benefit the lives and careers of the direct program participants. The objectives are:

- To enhance the **quality and policy relevance of university education** in Africa in the context of sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- To **increase the knowledge on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**, so that the future business managers, scientists and political leaders of the continent will incorporate values and principles of sustainable development in their decision-making.
- To raise awareness, **spread a new way of thinking about environment, development and society**, beyond the university boundaries inside the many other social circles in which students, teachers and managers live their lives.
- To offer unprecedented **opportunities for collaborative projects** between university/ civil society/ communities and private sector.
- To contribute to the **revitalization** of Africa's Higher Education System, and to strengthen African scholarship and African partnerships for sustainable development.

The MESA Universities Partnership is a contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, aimed at implementing the objectives of the UNDES D in and through Universities in Africa. It recognizes the important role that Universities in Africa play in sustainable development.



CRITERIA FOR THE MESA UNIVERSITY AWARDS:

Any MESA innovation must be a **university-based** innovation in an African University. The innovation could be in one or more of the following areas:

- Teaching (including curriculum, pedagogy and / or use of ICT)
- Research
- Community/private sector engagement; or
- Management

Any MESA innovation should reflect the following:

- Contribution to the re-orientation of programmes towards sustainability as promoted by the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development
- Be relevant to the social, economic and environmental contexts in Africa and reflect the way in which universities are responding to changing social needs
- Reflect principles and values of sustainable development
- Be sustainable and viable in the long term
- Be part of a process of mainstreaming environment and sustainability into the 'normal' programmes and activities of the university
- Show evidence of links to, and partnerships with community institutions and/or industry and business.

MESA AWARDS PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

June 4, 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the UNEP Website and dispatching of application forms to all MESA participating universities
18 June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of completed application forms and Innovations report
20 – 22 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasting of innovation reports on website for voting
25 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of the winners to respective institutions (3)
2-6 July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First MESA Innovations Awards at the 2007 World Environmental Education Congress in Durban, South Africa • Conferment of the Awards (with an honorable mention of the runners up)

NOTE: This cycle will continue throughout the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

APPLICATION FORM

This Application Form is to be filled out by the implementing university and should be accompanied by:

- 1) A portfolio of evidence showing the 'baseline' situation (before the innovation was implemented) and the current situation (once the innovation has been implemented).

- 2) The portfolio of evidence should be accompanied by a detailed report (of no more than 10 pages) on the ESD innovation.
- 3) The annual report, development plan of the university and any other publications of relevance to the ESD innovation may also be submitted.

The original Application Form with (1) portfolio of evidence (2) project report and (3) other reports and documentation that are of relevance to the ESD innovation

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1. Implementing University			
Name			
Address			
Zip code		Country	
Phone		Fax	
URL			
E-mail			
2. Representative Person			
Name	Mr. Ms. Dr. Prof.		
Title / Designation			

COUNTRY:

UNIVERSITY:

3. Innovation Description (Title)	
Innovation Title	Self explanatory title with less than 25 words

4. Innovations Summary			
Project Area (Select one only)	Teaching	Research	Community Engagement / Development
Main Focus of the Innovation (describe briefly how the innovation addresses aims and principles of ESD)			
	ICT use and application	Management	
Target Beneficiaries (including student groups)			
Partner Organisations	With	Please Specify	
	<input type="checkbox"/> National Government	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Media	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NGOs	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education/Research Institutions	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business & Industries	•	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others	•	

Executive Summary	(Less than 250 words)
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COUNTRY:

UNIVERSITY:

5. Organizational Outlines of the Implementing University				
Year of Foundation				
Number of Staff and students in the University	Full time academic staff: Part-time academic staff: Full time administration staff: Part time administration staff: Student numbers (Registered students for full degree programmes): Student numbers (part time courses / off campus courses):			
Number of Staff and students involved in the ESD innovations programme	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Full time staff: (academic and/or admin)</td> <td style="width: 25%; border: none;">Part-time staff: (academic and/or admin)</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Numbers of students:</td> </tr> </table> Describe the student body involved in the programme (e.g. full time, part time, under graduate, post graduate etc.).	Full time staff: (academic and/or admin)	Part-time staff: (academic and/or admin)	Numbers of students:
Full time staff: (academic and/or admin)	Part-time staff: (academic and/or admin)	Numbers of students:		
Mission of the University (explain how it addresses ESD)				
Coverage of Innovation Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Specify: <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Specify: <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-National Specify: <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Specify: 			
Major Publication/ Production Titles associated with the innovation	In English / official language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 			

	<p>In Local language (with approximate translation into English):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>List of Major Financial Resources Partners (Major Donors) – if relevant to the innovations programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Indicate how the University budget has been used to support the innovations programme (give approximate amounts in US \$)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

COUNTRY:

UNIVERSITY:

6. Innovation Details	
Rationale/ Justification	
Objectives of the ESD Innovation	
Implementation Plan	

Monitoring and Evaluation system used to monitor progress with the ESD innovation	
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COUNTRY:

UNIVERSITY:

7. Strength of the Project	
Strength of the ESD innovation	Describe the strength of the initiative in terms of innovativeness, effectiveness, efficiency, social and environmental impact, degree of community / student / staff involvement, impact on beneficiaries, social and environmental relevance, longer term sustainability, the way of implementation, mainstreaming strategy; decision making, and networking & linkages among stakeholders.
Areas for improvement in the ESD innovation	Describe areas for improvement (as identified through monitoring and evaluation processes).

8. Expected Outcomes & Social / Environmental Impact after 3-5 years, Measures put in place to ensure longer term sustainability of the innovation	
Expected Outcomes & its Social / Environmental Impacts	

Measures to be taken for longer term Sustainability	
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COUNTRY: _____

UNIVERSITY : _____

9. Implementation Progress and schedule of the innovation		
Year	Implementation Progress	Major Outputs
2006	Year-1	
2007	Year-2	

Follow-up Plans	Follow-up		
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