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Monthly EE News Flash of the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme

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1. NEWS

1.1 Consolidation of Communities of Practice and other networks

A two-day workshop to consolidate work done by EE/ESD practitioners in the region took place in Botswana on 30th and 31st July 2012. The workshop drew different networks and Communities of Practice (CoPs) from teacher education, learning support materials development, sustainable agriculture, natural resources conservation, curriculum development and university lecturers. The objective of the workshop was to share experiences, practices and opportunities for enhancing mainstreaming of environment and sustainability in the various communities of practice. The workshop participants documented success stories which facilitate change and the impacts such stories make to a wider audience.

The workshop which was facilitated by University of Botswana provided space for representatives from different networks and CoPs to deepen their understanding of EE/ESD change projects and how success stories can facilitate an enhanced adaptation to mitigation of poverty, climate change challenges, environmental degradation and other risks to human wellbeing. By the end of the workshop, participants produced stories of change that consolidate what different networks have been working on over the past three years. These stories will add to the 15 year booklet stories and will be widely shared to EE/ESD practitioners in the SADC Region and beyond. A regional network was formed of practitioners working on different sustainability practices to provide a forum for continuous sharing of practices and skills for a better future.

1.2 External Evaluation of the SADC REEP

A high-profile team has been appointed by the Swedish government to carry out the final evaluation of the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme in its present form. Members of the team have been and will be visiting a number of SADC countries for meetings with key stakeholders, group meetings, and interviews with individuals. Their intention is to evaluate the Programme's achievements and challenges, its successes, and areas where more could have been achieved. They will also comment on the possible directions which the Programme could take beyond the end of 2012 if appropriate funding can be secured. The assistance and cooperation of National EE Network Representatives in facilitating the Evaluation Team's visits to the SADC countries is much appreciated by both the Team and by SADC REEP.

1.3 Plans for an EAC Renewable Energy Centre

According to recent updates by All Africa, plans to establish a renewable energy efficiency and conservation centre for the East African Community (EAC) are on track. The deputy Secretary General of EAC in charge of Productive and Social Sector, Jessica Eriyo, said in a conference in Arusha, Tanzania, that the centre would promote best practices in developing renewable energy technologies and act as a centre of excellence for energy conservation and energy efficiency in the region.

Speaking of the potential of the region in renewable energy, she said that the biomass available in the region could be "harnessed and utilised in a modern, clean and sustainable manner." Likewise, she noted that the EAC region was endowed with both renewable and non-renewable energy resources though many of these remain under-developed, untapped and therefore under-utilised.

Meanwhile, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see Rusizi I and II hydro power projects rehabilitated to operate at full capacity.

Source: All Africa

1.4 Botswana Second National Environmental Education Conference, Maun: 23-27 July 2012

The Botswana Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development Community of practice participated in the second National EE Conference, which was organised and coordinated by the National EE Committee. The facilitation was jointly led by the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development. The Conference was graced by the local Chief (Kgosi), the Deputy Principal Secretary for

Environment, Wildlife and Tourism; the Botswana Head of Curriculum; Regional Directors of Education, the local Mayor / Chairperson, among other dignitaries, who also participated actively throughout the conference. The SADC REEP supported participation of Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe that were invited to the Conference. Conference delegates from Botswana were drawn from Government departments of Environment, Education including Curriculum Department, Provincial Directorates, Environmental Education section, Schools and Technical and Vocational Education and Training section and Colleges), Tourism, Wildlife; CBOs, and NGOs among others. The conference had morning plenary sessions and afternoon parallel sessions. Plenary sessions were mainly for capacity building while the parallel sessions were for participants to present their change projects. Key outputs of the conference included the gaining of knowledge and skills of EE/ESD policy and best practices by a cadre of approximately 200 practitioners and policy and decision makers; cross-sectoral policy-practice deliberations; showcasing and discussion of EE/ESD change projects; trans-boundary and regional collaboration on EE/ESD; high-profiling the need to mainstream EE and ESD in and across sectors, disciplines, national development plans, annual and quarterly plans; and development of way forward plans for taking EE/ESD to a higher plain in Botswana and the region. Change projects were presented by teachers and lecturers working to improve their institutional settings and ambience, using the school or campus environment to improve teaching, learning and sustainability actions, contributing to conservation of indigenous fauna and flora, while some were working to improve on nutrition in the schools and enhancing capabilities of the school communities to produce food for themselves. Change projects are seen as a way to implement environmental education and education for sustainable development. The EE Conference also created a platform for stakeholders to explore new partnership opportunities and make new pledges for development of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development in Botswana and the rest of the SADC region.

2 TRAINING

3 EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 UNDP-GEF Project Supported - ORASECOM water scholarship

Please be informed about an UNDP-GEF Project Supported - ORASECOM water scholarship opportunity advertised on the following link on the ORASECOM website home page for sharing with your networks:

<http://www.orasecom.org/default.aspx?nocache=634795065314344430>

Please note that the deadline for submission of applications by potential candidates is 15 September 2012.

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3.2 EEASA Conference 2012

The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme will be commemorating its 15th Anniversary at the EEASA Conference! All stakeholders are invited to come and participate in this historic land mark event. Prepare to share your moments of sustainable change!

This will be the **30th annual conference**, combined with a workshop, and will take place at Rhodes University in Grahamstown from 11th to 14th September 2012. The theme is : " Environmental Learning, Agency and Social Change". Information is available on: www.EEASAConference2012.co.za.

Registration for the conference is ZAR2 200, and does not include accommodation, which must be booked separately (see the website).

Conference streams are:

- Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Agriculture
- Higher Education & Training (including teacher education)
- Formal Schooling
- Informal Learning (including workplace learning, youth programmes, public awareness etc.)
- Business and Industry
- Local and National Government
- Inter-sectoral (cross-cutting) work.

3.3 Scholarships for University research work

Please share these scholarship links with your students and networks:

<http://tinyurl.com/3vd93zc>

Stephen M. Mureithi
Ghent University
BELGIUM

3.4 The Terra Viva Grants Directory

The objective of the **Terra Viva Grants Directory** is to "*develop and manage information about grants for agriculture, energy, environment, and natural resources in developing countries*".

Visit the following web-link <http://www.terravivagrants.org/> which offers:

- ü Profiles of over 400 grant makers, with regional coverage for the developing world.
- ü Funding News: Application deadlines, and new and changed grant programs and other funding news.
- ü Links and Resources: A strategic inclusion of information resources for grant seekers.

4. PUBLICATIONS

4.1 Open-source ESD videos for teachers and educational decision-makers

The education for sustainable development professional development videos for primary and secondary teachers as well as educational decision-makers are now online. They are open to the public at no charge from the UNESCO Multi-Media Video Archives. The URL is:

http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/?id_page=34&pattern=Education+for+Sustainable+Development+Sourcebook

The five videos in the series are:

Education for Sustainable Development: Preparing for the future (20 minutes)
This video explores the question of how are we preparing the students of today for an uncertain future affected by climate change and other threats to sustainability on the planet.

Audience: Educational administrators and policy-makers

Education for Sustainable Development: Building support systems (28 minutes)
This video examines many components necessary to integrated education for sustainable development into school systems. It involves: curricular and instructional change, assessment, leadership, capacity development, supporting innovation, the importance of political will, social media, etc.

Audience: Educational administrators and policy-makers.

Education for Sustainable Development: Teachers sharing with teachers (18 minutes)

A teacher from Grenada and one from Canada describe their ways of teaching sustainability. The students' reactions to learning are also recorded.

Audience: Primary and secondary teachers as well as teacher educators

Education for Sustainable Development: Pedagogy - Active learning (16 minutes)

This video captures education for sustainable development pedagogy used in Ireland. This view of secondary school mathematics classroom shows student-centred, participatory pedagogy in action, recording insights from both the teacher and students.

Audience: Primary and secondary teachers as well as teacher educators

Education for Sustainable Development: Inside classrooms in India (22 minutes)
Education for sustainable development (ESD) is supposed to be implemented in locally relevant and culturally appropriate ways. This video capture the voices of administrators, teachers, and students in India, showing their unique and yet universal ways of implementing ESD.

I would like to express my thanks to the Japanese Funds in Trust for supporting the production of these videos. My thanks also go to Paul Lang of Icon Media for creating these videos and going beyond our expectations for capturing good practices in ESD from a number of countries.

The Education for Sustainable Development Sourcebook is now available in French on the NING Web site in the Library (inteis.ning.com). The Spanish version will soon follow. The URL for the Sourcebook in English on UNESDOC is <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002163/216383e.pdf>

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Please submit other relevant EE activities to the SADC REEP Monthly News Flash and feel free to forward this message to people who might be interested.

Please [inform us](#) if you do not wish to receive this EE News Flash.

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