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Monthly EE News Flash of the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme

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1. NEWS

1.1 Natural Resources Management Sustainable Aquaculture Workshop

The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme conducted a sustainable aquaculture workshop in Mozambique from 21st to 25th May, 2012. The workshop was a follow up to the Natural Resources Management workshop which was held in Swaziland last year. The focus of the workshop was sustainable aquaculture development in the SADC Region. Participants were drawn from Malawi, Zambia and the host country Mozambique, and they were drawn from government aquaculture research, extension, training and from universities.

Opening the workshop, the Aquaculture Director in Mozambique acknowledged that it was a great honour for Mozambique to host the workshop because aquaculture makes a huge contribution to food security in Mozambique, and that 800 tonnes of the country's annual fish production comes from aquaculture.

The objective of the workshop was for aquaculture practitioners to share sustainable aquaculture practices and to create a network where they will be sharing skills, knowledge and expertise as a community of practice. Some of the skills and expertise shared were: mapping of potential sites for aquaculture, broodstock management, fingerling production (Tilapia and cut fish), fish feed formulation, managing grow out fish in ponds, fish species suitable for aquaculture and many others.

The workshop was officially closed by the Deputy Director of Aquaculture in Mozambique. In his closing remarks, he urged participants to make use the skills, knowledge and expertise shared during the workshop to improve aquaculture development in the region. He also assured the participants and SADC REEP that Mozambique will be keen to host other aquaculture workshops.

**1.2 National Curriculum Centre Directors and Managers in SADC engage more with
Quality Education for Sustainable Development,
Johannesburg, 22-24 May 2012**

"Education for Sustainable Development is a sweetener to Education" as we seek Educational Quality and Relevance. This was the opening message at a high-profile conference for Curriculum Experts who met in Johannesburg from 22nd - 24th May 2012. Eleven Directors and Departmental Managers from National Curriculum Centres in six SADC Member States (Botswana, Lesotho, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania) participated actively in a workshop on reorienting Formal Curricula for Sustainability.

The conference was held under the banner of the Eastern and Southern African Curriculum Organisation (ESACO). Support for the conference came from the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme through Sida partnership support, SADC Education & Skills Development Programme, and the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa. The professional facilitation and support from Rhodes University, University of South Africa and the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development contributed to the conference's success. It is important to note that at least two SADC countries made financial contributions to support important components of the conference or to sponsor participation of their members - an important aspect of sustainability and commitment. The conference also achieved the often overlooked 'silo' barrier by crossing boundaries of sector and by considering educational quality as "connections" which bring together often socially separated aspects of development, livelihood, teaching and learning.

The participants resolved to engage more with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in their Curriculum reform processes and Materials Development, in order to reorient Teacher education, School teaching and learning, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and other education priorities for Sustainability. Such sustainability issues as HIV/AIDS, environment, gender, water access and quality, entrepreneurship, and climate change among others were deliberated upon. The Curriculum leaders also resolved to improve capacity building of National Curriculum Centres in integrating ESD, to take leadership of ESD processes in member countries, to enhance Policy and Advocacy for ESD and to strengthen ESACO by recruiting more members. The Curriculum Leaders expressed the desire to form a SADC technical Committee on Curriculum Development.

ESACO is a 16-member organisation with 12 member countries in southern Africa and 4 member countries in Eastern Africa. For more information about ESACO please contact the Chairperson, Dr Paul Mushi - Director General of the Tanzania Institute of Education, on email address: paul.mushido@yahoo.com or tie@tie.go.tz).

1.3 The UNESCO International Teacher Education Network Conference

SADC REEP participated in the 7th Biennial UNESCO International Teacher Education Network (IN) Conference that was hosted by the York University in Canada during the period 16th to 20th May 2012. UNESCO realises that Teacher Educators and Teacher Education Institutions are key change agents for a more sustainable future. The International Network comprises of at least 70 countries. The IN is one of UNESCO's approaches to implementing the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Member institutions work to provide relevant, quality and culturally appropriate teacher education programs by incorporate sustainability into their programs, practices and policies.

Participants shared experiences on ESD research, sustainability practices, pedagogical approaches, professional development practices and mainstreaming tools such as the Gender Mainstreaming Tool as well as the Climate Change Education Toolkit during the conference. These tools will be distributed to institutions that will be interested in piloting them.

Of note was the low participation by southern African institutions even though there is a lot of ESD work that could be shared at such international fora. The next meeting will be in Japan in 2014 so institutions are encouraged to keep on the lookout for calls for request for funding to participate from UNESCO.

1.4 Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services, Strong Sustainability and Agency into teacher education

The partnership between the Southern African Development Community Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP), the Swedish International Centre for Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD), Jonkoping University, University of Zambia and Belvedere Technical Teachers' College held a five-day materials writing workshop from 16th to 20th April 2012 in Howick, South Africa. The main objective of the ESSA Programme is to facilitate the introduction of three components: Ecosystem Services, Strong Sustainability and Agency (ESSA), into the classroom, starting with the teacher training classroom. The ESSA programme will contribute to the promotion of methods, materials and teaching practices to implement an educational approach which facilitates a holistic understanding of sustainability issues. This workshop is one part of the process of developing the teacher education manual and learner activities for

supporting learning through the ESSA programme. Some drafts materials were produced on selected topics.

1.5 Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development/Global Action Plan International/SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme

Facilitating Learning for Sustainability and Change - Exploring new techniques for effective management of education for sustainable development initiatives: A workshop for ESD practitioners in Southern Africa supporting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD):

Umgeni Valley, Howick: 15th to 17th May 2012

A total of 26 supported participants were drawn from the SADC REEP and GAP networks of ESD practitioners from universities/colleges of education, and representatives of NGOs with a particular focus on teacher education and training.

- Created conditions for participants to assess and learn from/for their change projects
- Enabled participants to experience a new approach, tools and models to social learning and develop competence for them to apply the new ideas in teacher education
- Supported ESD and other social change practitioners in Southern Africa to adopt the new approach, tools and models as a working tool within their own projects
- Promoted exchange and cooperation between teacher educators and other ESD and social change practitioners in Southern Africa, not least through strengthening the existing SADC REEP ESD network

1.6 World Biodiversity Day in the Seychelles

On the occasion of World Biodiversity Day, 22nd May 2012, the Ministry of Environment and Energy in collaboration with the Seychelles National Parks Authority, The Global Vision International and the Ministry of Education organized activities at the Port Launay beach for school kids so that they could learn about marine Biodiversity which is this year's theme for WBD.

To kick off the day, the focal point for CBD read the minister's message for the day in the presence of the Principal Secretary for Environment and Energy. Then the school children were placed in different groups for activities and each child had the opportunity to stay in one station for half an hour.

Station 1: Snorkelling

In this station, the children learned how to snorkel which is a good way of learning about marine biodiversity by actually going in the sea and viewing the

plants and animals that dwell under the sea. The tide was just right for the activity and the little ones really enjoyed themselves.

Station 2: Scuba Diving

Here students learnt about scuba diving and how helpful it is in learning about marine life and also how it provides a great opportunity to appreciate life under water. They experienced recording information underwater and they really enjoyed the activity.

Station 3: Turtle Hatching

In this station, the school children learnt about turtles and they were able to make their own little turtle with recycled materials.

Station 4: Games

Here students were introduced to fun games where they can learn and talk about marine creatures. As they throw the balls in the holes in the board, they had to mention a sea creature and say what they know about the creatures and they were given further information by the persons manning the station.

Station 5: Mangrove safari

In this station, students went out to the mangrove swamp to identify the different types of mangroves that exist in the area and also to learn about the mangrove eco-system. They had checklists to help them identify the mangrove species as well as other animals and plants found in that eco-system.

2 TRAINING

3 EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 EEASA Conference 2012

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.

Early bird registration for the conference is ZAR 1 900 (before 31st May 2012). This 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.

3.2 International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC)

Attention all students!

Learn and Network at the IWMC 2012 while being paid!

Simply register and pay as a student- www.iwmc2012.org

And we will pay you for every hour that you volunteer.

You may choose which session and shift you would like to volunteer at.

Your duties might include:

Room supervision at break-out sessions;

Helping with preparation and

Distribution of Congress packs.

Interested? E-mail Nafeesa@confco.co.za

Please note that we will require a copy of your student card for verification purposes. Applicants who have not registered and paid to attend the congress will not be considered.

Closing date for applications : 20 June 2012

Provisional Programme is now available: [CLICK HERE TO VIEW PROGRAMME](#)

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Professor Norman Owen-Smith- South Africa

Dr. A.J.T Johnsingh- India

Professor Boguslaw Bobek- Poland

Dr. Shane Mahoney- North America

For more information on our keynote speakers please visit :

<http://www.iwmc2012.org/speakers>

Scientific Programme

Panel Discussion on Rhino Poaching challenges to be facilitated by Dr. Peter Goodman

117 contributed papers

4 panel discussions

29 posters

4 symposia

5 workshops

Participating Countries

Delegates far and wide have confirmed their attendance: Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, USA, Zimbabwe and of course a large contingent from South Africa.

Be part of this groundbreaking congress- first time on African soil!!!

Standard Registration

Deadline to register for the standard registration rate is 31 May 2012. As an added incentive, we're offering a discounted registration rate for students and residents of developing nations. [Register today and save.](#)

A Brief History of the IWMC

For the first time since its inception, the International Wildlife Management Congress (IWMC) will be held in Africa. The Wildlife Society, in partnership with Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), SANParks, and EZEMVELO KZN Wildlife, will host this prestigious congress at the Durban International Convention Centre, South Africa from July 9-12, 2012.

The Wildlife Society, a wildlife science and educational association based in the U.S., co-hosts the IWMC every few years, with each congress located in a different part of the world and run jointly with one or more local partners. IWMCs typically attract an average of 600 delegates involving global organizations, government officials, academics, NGOs, CBOs and other wildlife management practitioners.

The III IWMC was held at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch in December, 2003, and marked the first time that a wildlife management meeting of this magnitude was held in the Southern Hemisphere. The first two Congresses were held in Costa Rica (September, 1993) and Hungary (June, 1999) and attracted attendees from 66 countries. The 2012 IWMC hopes to top that, with at least 1,000 delegates from around the world.

South Africa offers numerous examples of exemplary practice in wildlife management and human-capacity building, such as adaptations of scientific developments and community-based natural resource management and empowerment programmes to share in this global forum. Both educational and

natural resource management transformation efforts in southern Africa also stand to benefit from the international exposure and expertise

For further information log on to the website: www.iwmc2012.org

3.3 The BlueBuck Network

The BlueBuck Network, which is a youth environmental network connecting passionate young environmentalists from across southern Africa, will be hosting its 2nd Annual Summit at Stellenbosch University from the 13th-15th of July. There will be prestigious speakers, insightful presentations, helpful workshops and a chance to meet and learn with some of the most exciting and dynamic youth around. The summit hopes to be one of the greatest gathering of youth who care about our planet in Southern Africa, and so we encourage youth from all across Southern Africa to apply, and organisations who are interested in getting involved with the summit to get in touch with the BlueBuck Network Committee.

For more information please email: info@bluebucknetwork.org or call Dane Rossenrode on 072 103 4083

3.4 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

3.5 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 WESSA Share-Net resources to celebrate our oceans on 8 June 2012!

Why do we need a day to celebrate our oceans? Because they are in trouble!

Everyone can help protect the world's ocean. Small changes we make in our everyday lives can add up and have a big positive impact on the health of the seas. By taking *The 7 Cs Pledge* and committing to make a real difference we can protect the ocean, its incredible inhabitants, and even our own community. There are many challenges facing our oceans right now including climate change, pollution, and overfishing, but these challenges are not insurmountable. We can all take steps and turn the tide for our seas! The term "Seven Seas" has been used for centuries as a general description for all the oceans of the world. The *7 Cs Pledge* uses this play on words to help us remember how each of us can make decisions in our daily lives for the benefit of our planet's future.

- I promise to:
1. Commit to making a real difference
 2. Conserve in my home
 3. Consume consciously
 4. Communicate my interests and concerns
 5. Challenge myself daily
 6. Connect in my community
 7. Celebrate our oceans

In celebration of World Oceans Day and for the month of June only, WESSA Share-Net is offering both the exciting teachers guide - *Science on Sea* - and the Hands-On booklet - *East Coast Reefs* - at the discounted price of R28 (usual price for both these books is R48)!!

About *Science on Sea, Grades 7-12: Educator's Resource for Physical and Natural Sciences*. This teachers guide, developed by NPC Sea World Education Centre, allows you and your learners to explore the amazing science behind life in the ocean.

Chapters in the book include:

- Phases of Water and the Water Cycle
- Fresh Water and Sea Water
- Density - Ships Float and most Fish Don't Sink
- Pressure in Water
- Light through air, water and glass
- Underwater photos - a sound echo
- All that energy
- Cleaning the Sea

- We are all Connected
- A guide to experimental science projects
- Expos for young scientists
- Career Connections

Each Chapter includes curriculum links, information, activities, 'you will need', answers, and vocabulary

About Hands-On: The East Coast Reefs. The booklet provides a basic and easy-to-use guide to some of the most common marine animals and plants living on the shallow (<30m deep) subtidal reefs off the east coast of South Africa.

Chapters in the booklet include:

- Questions to guide observation
- Conservation and diving techniques
- First Aid for Marine Biohazards
- Topography
- Plants (seaweeds and sea grasses)
- Sections on Zooplankton, Phytoplankton, Sponges; Coelenterates; Worms; Molluscs; Crustaceans; Bryozoans; Echinoderms; Red-bait or rock-bait; Compound sea squirts; Sharks and rays; Fin fish, Marine turtles and Marine mammals (these include information on features, distribution and habitat, feeding, reproduction and an interesting 'Did you know?')

To order your booklets at June's special discounted price of R28, please contact WESSA Share-Net on (033) 330 3931 ext 2124/2144 or e-mail sharenet@wessa.co.za

Compiled by Sally Cumming

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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