

Regional Centres of Expertise

on Education for Sustainable Development



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

seeks to empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future.

The four major thrusts of ESD are:

- public awareness and understanding
- access to quality basic education
- reorienting existing education
- training programmes for all sectors

Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE)

An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organisations, mobilised to deliver ESD to local and regional communities. A network of RCEs worldwide will constitute the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development. RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), by translating its global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate.

RCE stakeholders

An RCE involves school teachers, professors at higher education institutions, environmental NGOs, scientists, researchers, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, local government officials, representatives of local enterprises, volunteers, media, civic associations or individuals who work in the spheres of sustainable development such as economic growth, social development, and environmental protection, students and learners at all levels.

Core elements of an RCE

An RCE should have four elements:

- Governance – addressing issues of RCE management and leadership
- Collaboration – addressing the engagement of actors from all levels of formal, non-formal and informal education in RCE activities
- Research and development – addressing the role of research and its inclusion in RCE activities, as well as contributing to the design of strategies for collaborative activities, including those with other RCEs
- Transformative education – contributing to the transformation of the current education and training systems to satisfy ambitions of the region regarding sustainable living and livelihood



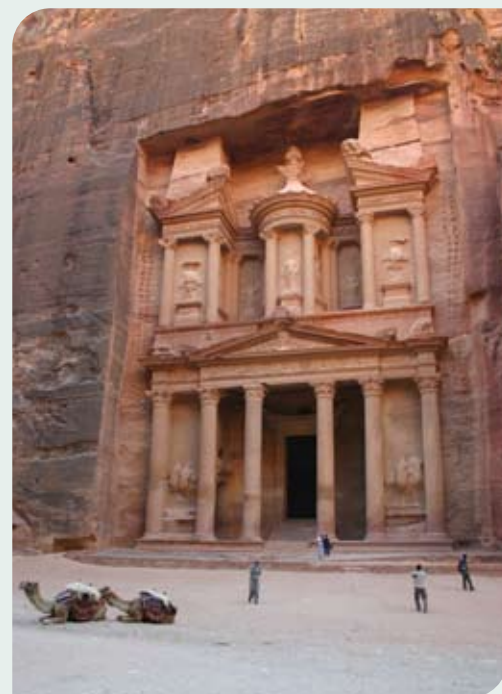
Functions of an RCE

RCEs bring together institutions at the regional/local level to jointly promote ESD. They build innovative platforms to share information and experiences and to promote dialogue among regional/local stakeholders through partnerships for sustainable development. They create a local/regional knowledge base to support ESD actors, and promote four major goals of ESD in a resource-effective manner. These four goals are to:

- re-orient education towards SD, covering existing programmes/subjects from the point of ESD and designing an integrated SD curricula. ESD programmes are tailored to address issues and local context of the community in which they operate;
- increase access to quality education that is most needed in the regional context;
- deliver trainers' training programmes and to develop methodologies and learning materials for them; and
- lead advocacy and awareness raising efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of educators and the essential role of ESD in achieving a sustainable future. RCEs promote the long-term goals of ESD, such as environmental stewardship, social justice, and improvement of the quality of life.

Create and support RCEs

- Conduct a survey in your region to identify (1) local problems, (2) local priorities, and (3) existing capacity in relation to the objectives of DESD.
- Identify interested parties and strategies to bring them together to build a vision for an RCE in your region.
- Determine potential governance structure of an RCE. Who will be major initiators and promoters of the RCE in your region?
- Outline prospective actions to implement an RCE in your region.



For more information

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