



# Learning to Live on Planet Earth

National Conference on Education for Sustainable Development  
March 20 -21, 2007 at Avari Towers, Karachi



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## Introduction

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is the process of learning to make decisions that are compatible with the long-term future of the economy, ecology and equity of all stakeholders. Building the capacity for such futures-oriented thinking is the key task of education. *Just as we learnt to live unsustainably, we now need to learn our way out — to learn how to live sustainably* — Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) IUCN

As a concept, ESD evolved from environmental education (EE) which was widely promoted after the 1972 Stockholm Conference on *Human Environment* to raise awareness about environmental issues. The focus of EE was on green issues relating to protection of animals and plants as well as waste management. The Rio/Earth Conference in 1992 brought sustainable development to the limelight. As a result, Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 stressed on promotion of education on the lines of sustainable development. In addition, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) also highlighted the need for education that promotes sustainable living. Consequently, the concept of EE was broadened to ESD to include socio-economic and political perspectives.

## United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

WSSD made a recommendation to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to dedicate a decade to promote ESD globally. The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 20, 2002, launching the '*United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*' (DESD). The resolution designated a period of ten years from 2005 to 2014 and appointed UNESCO as the lead agency for ESD.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) through its Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is promoting ESD for capacity building in sustainable development. It is working with UNESCO to develop the indicators for the DESD. The IUCN Council endorsed the decade as "an initiative that supports IUCN's mission and raises the profile of this work".

## IUCN and UNESCO: Partners in Promoting ESD in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the Education Programme of IUCN Pakistan that is part of the Education, Communication and Knowledge Management Programme based at the Country Office in Karachi and UNESCO Islamabad are working closely to promote ESD in the country. This collaboration was initiated with the inauguration of the DESD and the ESD toolkit in a landmark ceremony held on September 29, 2005 at the UN office in Islamabad. The toolkit was originally developed by Rosalyn McKeon, Ph.D., University of Tennessee, and was translated, adapted and published in Urdu by IUCN Pakistan and UNESCO Islamabad.

Prior to this, IUCN Pakistan sensitized educators and communicators to the ESD concept through a consultative workshop in June 2005. This was followed in January 2006 by another workshop with a specific focus on ESD and the National Curriculum. During these events, the *Communication and Education for Sustainable Development (CESD) Forum*, a group of education and communication professionals, was formed and operationalized to seek support for promotion of ESD in Pakistan.

## National Conference on ESD: Taking the ESD Agenda Forward

The National Conference on ESD is being organized by IUCN Pakistan in collaboration with UNESCO Islamabad. The conference aims to bring together stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society, academia, media and NGOs to debate and discuss the importance and relevance of ESD for the promotion of sustainable development in the country. It also concentrates on highlighting the linkages of ESD with various sectors that will be dealt through focused workshops on the following themes:

- ESD and Formal Education
- ESD and Civil Society
- ESD and Media
- ESD and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- ESD and Private Sector

These workshops will be held concurrently with the conference. Experienced and learned professionals from relevant fields from across the globe have been invited to facilitate these workshops. (Please see details in the attached leaflets.)

*Azsarena Sochiyay Inkar Kijiyay Kum Kijiyay*, a manual for teachers and trainers on education for sustainable development produced by IUCN Pakistan with generous support from UNESCO and the Royal Netherlands Embassy, would be launched during the conference. This publication is the translated and adapted version of Field Studies Council's (FSC) *Rethink Refuse Reduce* authored by Ken Webster. A National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development would also be launched during the conference. The forum would comprise of key stakeholders from the relevant ministries, academia, civil society, media and private sector to work as a focus group for leading strategic changes for ESD in the country.

## Participants

Federal and provincial ministries of education, environment and commerce, Provincial Institute of Teacher Education, curriculum bureaus, textbook boards, public and private universities, including business schools, colleges, schools, teacher training institutes, print and electronic media, private sector and civil society organizations especially those working on human rights, gender, peace and democracy.