



Chile

Educational reform in Chile has been an important aspect of the evolution of the country's regime into a democratic government. While there is no national framework for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the school curriculum in Chile, educational reform in the 1990s has ensured that there are opportunities for ESD within the curriculum. The overriding aim of the new curriculum is to promote knowledge and understanding of citizenship, built on the unquestionable value of democracy and human rights. More specifically, the four cross-curricular objectives underpinning the curriculum all promote knowledge of, skills in and attitudes towards ESD.

These include personal growth and self-affirmation, development of critical thinking, ethics and values, and people and the environment.

Projects/Initiatives

The **National Environment Commission (CONAMA)** was set up in 1994 to promote environmental sustainability in general. CONAMA develops programmes to encourage ESD through cultural exchange. In

2003, the Ministry of Education initiated the **Environmental Certification System for Schools (SNCAE)** – a programme that aims to integrate ESD into the school curriculum. SNCAE is a voluntary programme. Schools apply a checklist against the three strategies/criteria. They then present a two-year working plan and create an environmental committee to plan, implement and monitor the programme. To gain certification, the school must apply its working plan successfully for at least six months.

In January 2005, a Cooperation Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Education, the National Environment Commission (CONAMA), the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), UNESCO Santiago and the Chilean Association of Municipalities (AchM) to establish the initiative. SNCAE has three key strategies:

- Implementation of environmental education across curriculum
- Whole-school approach to sustainable school management
- Development of relationship with community.

Consultations

In **2004**, an international seminar, Education for Sustainability, was held in Santiago with representatives from the Ministry of Education, CONAMA, the Chilean International Cooperation Agency and the British Council. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss ESD and how to integrate the existing SNCAE programme into the FEE Eco-Schools programme.