



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a signatory to Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration and many conventions. It has committed itself to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Zimbabwe's environmental education spans a broad spectrum of areas. It is dominated by civil society or Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), which are mostly involved in the formal education sector and the majority of them are implementing donor funded projects with specific lifespans.

The Zimbabwe government generally supports environmental education. The MoESC supports Environment Education (EE) projects, with the Curriculum Development Unit and the Directorate of Quality Control being responsible for coordinating EE projects and programmes in the schools. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MoET) has provided an institutional home for the National Environmental Policy and Strategies. The commitment of the ministry in promoting environmental education is amply demonstrated in the following statement from the Environmental Management Act:

Projects/Initiatives

The ESD scenario has a wide spectrum of projects which range from Environmental Education projects for corporate entities through projects for developing environmental management in schools to projects meant to promote Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) for sustainable agriculture. Apart from these, a number of notable and highly successful programmes are worth mentioning here. The Schools and Colleges Permaculture (SCOPE) Programme is an initiative of the Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture supported by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture (MoESC). The Programme has been promoting natural resources management in schools through integrated land use design. This has resulted in schools and colleges developing linkages with communities, leading to improved income generation for beneficiaries. Another notable programme is run by ZimTrust Action. It focuses on the promotion of sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) in communities and schools through CAMPFIRE science exhibitions/competitions. In this case, the competitions and exhibitions are held at different levels from inter-school up to the national level. This has also been embraced by the MoESC which, in the words of one officer in the Curriculum Development Unit considers it "an indispensable part of our curriculum". The programme involves as its major activities formative research in health issues; training teachers in environmental education; production of materials for youths, adults and parents as well as EE programmes with schools and communities.

Environmental education, environmental awareness and the sharing of knowledge and experience must be promoted in order to increase the capacity of communities to address environmental issues and engender values, attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with natural resource management for sustainable development. (MoET, 2002:12)