



International Conference on Forest Education, 22-24 June 2021

Breakout Group Briefing Note: 3.3

“Contributions of forest education to the UNESCO-led Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 agenda”

Organizer: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Moderator: Zipporah Musyoki, UNESCO

Rapporteur: Joy Chiadika, UNESCO

Dates and times:

Meeting 1: Wednesday 23 June, 16:45-18:15 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Meeting 2: Thursday 24 June, 10:00-11:30 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Breakout group description:

In 2020, UNESCO conducted a global survey asking people to share their views on our world’s most pressing challenges and their possible solutions. 67 per cent of those surveyed named climate change and biodiversity loss as the number one challenge we face, and education as key to addressing them.

In May 2021, UNESCO launched Learn for our planet – a publication which looked at the rate of integration of environmental themes in national policy and curricula documents. The study found that although environmental themes were often present, the depth of integration was extremely low. Of concern, only 19% of the documents mentioned biodiversity. To safeguard our biodiversity and ensure the survival of our forests, education must urgently change.

UNESCO, as lead UN agency for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), advocates and implements this transformative change through its global ‘ESD for 2030’ framework for the period 2020-2030 with a focus on five Priority Action Areas of policy, education and training, educators, youth and communities. ESD for 2030 aims to address environmental, social and economic unsustainable practices and help transform societies through education.

ESD equips and empowers learners with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to act for the planet and address the global challenges we face. Through education, learners are encouraged to be responsible actors who contribute to creating a more sustainable world. ESD promotes personal and societal transformative action in learners of all ages by providing them with the tools to design new sustainable systems and ways of living.

This breakout group will look specifically at the new ESD for 2030 framework and how it calls on every country to engage a network of national actors and create a plan of action for the transformation of education in all settings and at all levels.

Questions to be addressed by the breakout group:

1. How can we better promote partnerships between schools and local communities for more effective and efficient sustainable forestry efforts and programmes?
2. How can organizations integrate forest education into ESD programs and perspectives, inter-generational dialogues, community planning, and decision-making processes?

3. How can young people contribute to addressing forest issues and the biodiversity crisis both at local and global levels?

Speakers:

Meeting 1: Wednesday 23 June, 16:45-18:15 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

1. Won Jung Byun, Senior Project Officer, ESD section, UNESCO. Present the ESD for 2030 framework and roadmap
2. Cristian Vélez Ramirez, General coordinator of environmental education, The Amazon Rescue Center (CREA) and Amazon Forever, Peru
3. Maire Turunen, Environmental education specialist, ENO Schoolnet Association. A global school network and an online network for sustainable development
4. Satish Awate, Programme Director, Centre for Environment Education's Central Regional Cell, CEE Focal point for biodiversity conservation education programmes. Strengthen environmental education and communication interventions towards sustainable development in the Himalayas
5. Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Founder & CEO, Greening Burundi / Earth Charter Young Leader. Leads an impressive tree planting campaign

Meeting 2: Thursday 24 June, 10:00-11:30 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

1. Won Jung Byun, Senior Project Officer, ESD section, UNESCO. Present the ESD for 2030 framework and roadmap
2. Sirpa Kärkkäinen, Liaisons Manager, Finnish Forest Association. Develops and supports the cooperation between the forest sector and schools in Finland
3. Pramod Kumar Sharma, International Director of Education, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Overall programme development, administration, supervision, and evaluation of 3 programmes (Eco-Schools, LEAF, YRE)
4. Reita Furusawa, Associate Professor, International ESD Center, RCE Chubu – focus on traditional knowledge based ESD program in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed
5. Mika Mei Jia Tan, Coordinator, ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme / Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Transformative Education Task Force

Supporting information:

1. [Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 Roadmap](#)
2. [Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#)
3. [Learn for our planet: A global review of how environmental issues are integrated in education](#)
4. [UNESCO declares environmental education must be a core curriculum component by 2025](#)