



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

Strategic Directions and Strategy

Roadmap for the RCE Community and the progress on GAP on ESD

United Nations University
Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
(UNU-IAS)



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

- 1.) ESD beyond 2014 (GAP and SDGs)
- 2.) Strategic Directions of the UNU-IAS ESD Programme

ESD Beyond 2014

Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD

- Launched at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (Nov 2014)
- Adopted at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly as the Follow-up to the UN Decade of ESD (Dec 2014)


Overall goal:

To generate and scale-up action **in all levels and areas of education and learning** in order to accelerate progress towards sustainable development

Objectives:

- 1) To reorient education and learning **(integrate ESD into the education agenda)**
- 2) To strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development **(integrate ESD into the development agenda)**

GAP Priority Action Areas

- 
1. Advancing policy
 2. Transforming learning and training environments
 3. Building capacities of educators and trainers
 4. Empowering and mobilizing youth
 5. Accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level

ESD Beyond 2014

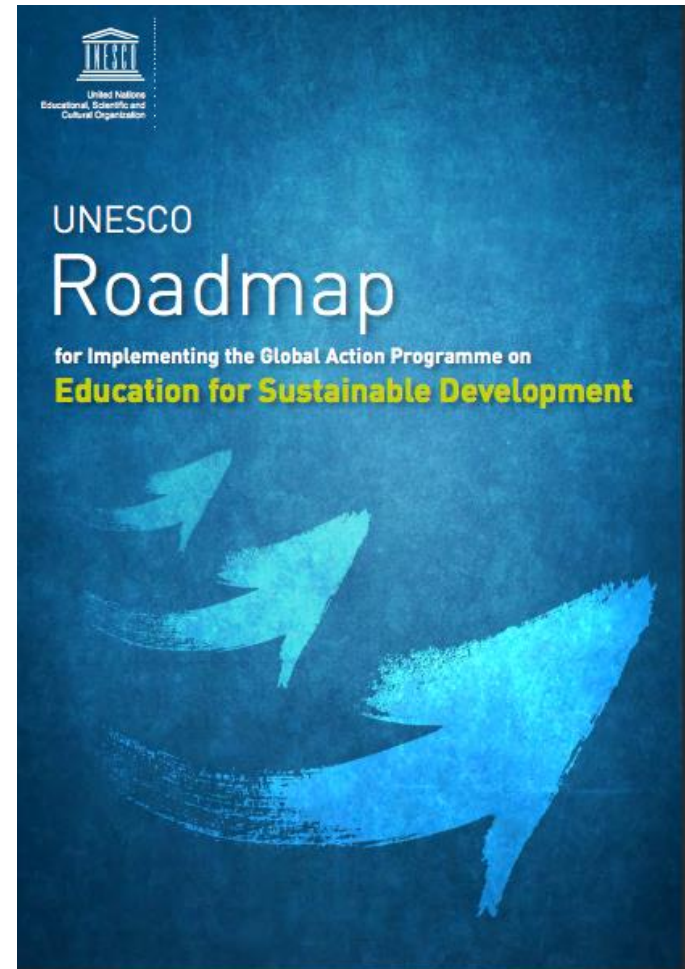
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD

Strategies:

- 1. Building New Momentum**
Through Launch Commitments
- 2. Harnessing Partnerships**
Through Partner Networks
- 3. Fostering a New Global Community of Practice**
Through a Global Forum and an Online Clearinghouse
- 4. Showcasing Good Practice**
Through a UNESCO ESD Prize

GAP Implementation mechanisms:

- *Global monitoring framework*
- *78 Partner Networks identified by UNESCO*
- *UNU-IAS is a Partner Network for the Priority Action Area 5*



ESD Beyond 2014

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015, came into force on 1 Jan 2016

Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

*4.7 - By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others **through education for sustainable development** and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture 's contribution to sustainable development*

❖ ESD has great potential to contribute to other SDGs through building **interdisciplinary** and **multi-stakeholder partnerships**.

UNU-IAS ESD Programme beyond DESD

Goal and Objectives of Programme:

- To bridge the gap between learning and sustainable development through research and actions that advance knowledge across geographic, knowledge, and sectoral boundaries
- To actualize this goal by meeting the following objectives:
 - ✓ Accelerating local and regional solutions to sustainability issues
 - ✓ Re-orienting higher education for societal transformation into SD
 - ✓ Developing SD and ESD competencies and capabilities as well as a science-policy interface

UNU-IAS ESD Programme beyond DESD

Strategic Direction:

Further advance ESD and address sustainability issues through the multi-stakeholder network (RCEs) and the higher education network (ProSPER.Net)

- Multi-stakeholder networks are ideally positioned to translate global sustainable development policy and vision into local realities
- Because RCEs develop innovative modalities for action, education, and research, they can:
 - ✓ Create thematic networks in diverse research areas
 - ✓ Engage policymakers as key partners at local, national, and regional level
 - ✓ Undertake joint projects, capacity development, monitoring, and evaluation
 - ✓ Identify and share outstanding ESD practices (via RCE Communications Portal)

UNU-IAS ESD Programme beyond DESD

Strategic Direction:

Contribute to international sustainability processes and UN debates through policy-relevant research and capacity development

■ Multi-stakeholder networks link local and regional initiatives to international SD and ESD platforms and processes, including:

- ✓ The **Global Action Programme (GAP)** on ESD
- ✓ Sustainable Consumption and Production through the **10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP on SCP)**
- ✓ Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through the **International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- ✓ Climate Change through **Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- ✓ Disaster Risk Reduction through the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

UNU-IAS ESD Programme beyond DESD

Focus on synergy and coordination of partner networks and international platforms

■ Priority focus on areas such as:

- ✓ Sustainable consumption and production
- ✓ Biodiversity, ecosystem services, and traditional knowledge
- ✓ Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- ✓ Higher education driven initiatives
- ✓ Youth

ESD PROGRAMME STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

GOAL and OBJECTIVES:

Contribute to SDGs in bridging the gap between learning and development through:

- Accelerating regional and local solutions
- Transforming higher education institutions
- Developing SD and ESD competences and capabilities as well as science-policy interface

STRATEGIES:

- Further develop and strengthen the networks of RCEs and ProSPER.Net
- Enhance leadership and capacity development of the decision makers
- Take lead in international SD and ESD debates and processes, utilizing policy-relevant research and capacity development

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
NETWORKS

INTERNATIONAL
SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORMS

HIGHER EDUCATION
ALLIANCES

ESD PROGRAMME PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS:

- Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Higher Education-driven Initiatives

UNU-IAS THEMATIC AREAS:

- Sustainable Societies
- Natural Capital and Biodiversity
- Global Change and Resilience

Roadmap for RCEs

UNU-IAS Roadmap for the RCE Community 2016-2020

During the launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) in 2005, the United Nations University (UNU) inaugurated its first Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs). Over the following ten years (2005-2014), RCEs have contributed significantly to the aspirations of DESD. From an initial grouping of seven RCEs, the network has expanded to 146 RCEs across the globe as of January 2016, bringing together an unprecedented amount of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) practitioners and experts. Together, these experts have translated local initiatives in global action, provided knowledge platforms on a number of diverse topics, and acted as a resource base on ESD to communities inside and outside the RCE community. The RCE community is composed of the global RCE network, the Global RCE Service Centre at the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), and the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for RCEs.

During the decade, the global RCE network has engaged a wide array of multi-stakeholders including decision and policy makers at many levels of governance, identified and shared outstanding ESD practices, and created thematic and geographical networks of educators, researchers and practitioners. By linking formal and non-formal education sectors, as well as synergizing top-down and bottom-up approaches to ESD, the global RCE network has been able to build bridges and cross boundaries in implementing effective ESD practices. Stakeholders around the world recognize RCEs' unique ability to act as an interface of education, research, policy and practice for sustainable development.

The [Global Action Programme \(GAP\) on ESD](#) is the follow-up to the DESD which seeks to generate and scale up concrete actions in ESD. At this moment for the ESD community, it is important to celebrate our accomplishments, while looking forward to the work that remains to be done within the field and through the GAP framework as well as through other multinational processes. The UNU-IAS Roadmap for the RCE community presented here is the result of coordinated internal review conducted by the UNU-IAS' ESD Programme team during 2015, in consultation with and advice from the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs. It seeks to capitalize on successes and respond to challenges relating to ESD which have arisen during the DESD, and will play a role in the implementation of the GAP and beyond. This roadmap is reflective of the new directions the ESD Programme is undertaking to contribute to [the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#) and [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

The ESD Programme is committed to contributing to this agenda by meeting the following objectives:

- Accelerating regional and local sustainability solutions through learning
- Transforming higher education institutions
- Developing Sustainable Development (SD) and ESD competences and capabilities
- Contributing to development of a science-policy interface

In the pursuit of reaching these objectives, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), biodiversity (Bio), ecosystem services and associated traditional knowledge (TK), climate change (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and higher education initiatives (HEIs) will be emphasized as thematic areas.

The global RCE network, in partnership with other ESD- and SD-related networks, is well positioned to serve as a driving force in meeting these objectives. Because RCEs operate at local and regional levels to implement the global ESD agenda, they can give critical insight on how to effectively engage with new initiatives, scale up existing actions, disseminate insights and practices,

Roadmap for RCEs

3 Strategies:

1. Strengthening governance to better coordinate ESD/SD learning and actions within the RCE Community
2. Enhancing the capacity development of local and regional stakeholders to contribute to both local and global sustainable development initiatives
3. Strengthening the impact of actions related to SD/ESD by linking local and regional SD and ESD debates and processes with international platforms

Roadmap for RCEs

Strategy 1: Strengthening governance to better coordinate ESD/SD learning and actions within the RCE Community

Implementing Strategies	Action Items	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development and acknowledgement of new RCEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with RCEs in mentoring and reviewing progress of RCE candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New RCEs from different regions acknowledged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower RCEs through sharing data and match-making for ESD activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create database of ongoing RCE projects through annual reports; Following-up with RCEs in reporting activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searchable database of thematic categories; Up-to-date contact information for active RCEs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate regional governance and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold yearly regional meetings; Coordinate youth and other thematic and strategic meetings at RCE regional conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan for each region developed during meeting and implemented during the following year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage RCEs w/ self-assessment for quality assurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit RCE reporting on assessments and modify/simplify the methodology for wider use; Identify opportunities for assessment and provide coaching; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate results of assessment for reporting; Make materials accessible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with RCEs in effective communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with RCEs to define common communication goals, messages and channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a shared communication platform to promote RCE network activities in and outside of the RCE community

Roadmap for RCEs

Strategy 2: Enhancing the capacity development of local and regional stakeholders to contribute to both local and global SD initiatives

Implementing Strategies	Action Items	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue support of thematic working groups within the RCE community in relation to SDGs (beginning with themes of SCP, CC, Bio & TK, HEIs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring together, through electronic media and, where appropriate through face-to-face meetings, RCE members based on reported thematic interests; Facilitate sharing findings/progress with the RCE community at large and link to other thematic working groups where appropriate; Work with joint projects between RCEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic working groups present findings at various fora including regional/global RCE conference; Input to the capacity development processes for the RCE community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity of RCEs to engage with policy and decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate workshops and webinars on capacity building around thematic focus areas; Utilize and develop RCE learning materials to deliver capacity development and leadership programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops and webinars held among RCE members on different topics; Flyers on how to engage policy makers and other decision makers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and share information on fellowship, exchange, and training programmes to enhance pool of experts in ESD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify RCEs that desire to host exchanges; Develop plan for working exchanges; Provide information about possible exchanges within ESD and SD areas to the members of the RCE community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange opportunities disseminated throughout the RCE network

Roadmap for RCEs

Strategy 3: Strengthening the impact of actions related to SD/ESD by linking local and regional SD and ESD debates & processes with international platforms

Implementing Strategies	Action Items	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work w/ thematic groups on research linking ESD to broader SD debates (a) Work towards SDG12 and associated Goals; work w/ 10YFP on SCPⁱ (b) Work w/ IPBESⁱⁱ & CBDⁱⁱⁱ (c) Work w/ UNFCCC^{iv} (Article 6) & Sendai Framework for DRR (d) Work w/HEIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author publications linking ESD to broader SD debates (a) Participate in education events dedicated to SCP, including those organized with/by 10YFP (b) Participate in IPBES and CBD education/capacity building events (c) Participate in Education event at UNFCCC COP and other relevant events (d) Seek collaboration with other HE networks and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 publications for each thematic working group (per year); • Presentation at each of the side events participated in (every year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage w/ RCEs' cross-cutting approach to all GAP Priority Action Areas; • Work w/ UNESCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate communication with UNESCO and key partners; • Develop toolkits, with focus on accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications/presentations at UNESCO or partner meetings; • Toolkits distributed among the RCE network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link RCEs to other ESD programmes and networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the RCE community of potential engagements via open call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCEs engage with ESD programmes in their geographic/thematic areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work w/ RCEs to engage w/ ESD and SD policy at the sub-national and national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate conversations b/t RCEs and national focal points for ESD and SD processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share experiences and strategies during meetings



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

Thank you very much!

**For more information, please visit:
UNU-IAS Website (<http://ias.unu.edu/en/>) and
RCE Online Portal (<http://www.rce-network.org/portal/>)**