

Educating for Sustainability Action

**International Conference, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad,
January 9-11, 2025**

Objectives

This international conference will bring together some of the finest networks and organizations around the world working in the field of environmental education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to share research and experiences, to review new and creative methodologies for the formal, informal and non-formal education sectors and to discuss how education, acting as a driver of change, can better attain goals and targets in climate change, biodiversity, and pollution prevention at the national and international levels. It will review target 4.7 of the SDGs and the progress made towards this. It will discuss UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership (GEP) in light of national experiences and ways to adapt and meet their targets.

Concept

Education is critical for this transformative change where people make informed decisions and act responsibly for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations. As UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres mentions in the UN Common Agenda, "The choices we make, or fail to make, today could result in breakdown or a breakthrough to a greener, better, safer future. The choice is ours to make".

CEE has collaborated with some of the best international organizations working in the field and has shared and showcased work done in India with the international communities and, through partnerships, ensured that India gets the benefit of some of the best pedagogies and methods we can adapt. CEE has also worked with UN organizations, particularly UNESCO, with whom CEE prepared the report on climate change education, launched last year by the Secretary of School Education and Literacy, GoI. We are also working closely with UNICEF on preparing a teacher module on climate change.

Global environmental conventions and treaties have all recognized education as a critical driver of change and a way to achieve their targets. The recently concluded COPs on climate change at Baku, biodiversity at Cali in Columbia and UNCCD in Saudi Arabia all made strong commitments to education. The Conference will look at these commitments and prepare the first draft for action for education, which can be taken further at other forums in 2025, leading to a strong experience and research-based strategy for action contributed by the global environmental education community. In January 2025, we will be entering the final five years to reach the sustainable development goals. The Conference will discuss what role education has played so far and how it can strengthen the efforts to try and reach the targets. UNESCO has launched the greening education partnership. There are discussions on pillars one and two, while drafts for pillars three and four are under discussion. This will also be discussed.

Conference Plan

The Conference is organized into plenary sessions, which will provide the overall context and set the tone for discussions, thematic parallel sessions, which focus on specific areas, paper presentations by researchers, and an exhibition area. In addition, there are special sessions to make recommendations to the international conventions and the Greening Education Partnership of UNESCO.

Participants

Approximately 500 participants are expected, of whom about 70 will be from abroad, in addition to people who will join specific sessions online. Participants will include representatives from the Government and UN agencies, Schools and Universities, Youth groups, Corporates, CSR Foundations, and NGOs who are interested in education.

CEE

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE), an independent not-for-profit society, was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. Since its inception, CEE has worked closely with the Ministry of Education, several line Ministries, and State Governments. CEE has worked with UNESCO, UNICEF, UNEP, and other UN agencies, as well as with all three Rio Conventions, UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UN CCD. It has built partnerships with global NGOs and EE networks such as NAAEE, GEEP, IUCN-CEC, FEE, Earth Charter, WWF, and the Children Nature Network, among others. It works with several CSR partners in rural development, school education, water resource management, greening landscapes, and waste management. With a core staff of 200 plus and regional and field offices, it works in over 15 languages throughout India. It has an extensive network of partners, including schools and colleges, in India and runs the South and Southeast Asia Network of Environmental Education (SASEANEE). Through its interpretation programme, CEE delivers high-quality public education on a range of sustainability issues and themes at sites of public importance, including national parks, sanctuaries, as well as historical and cultural heritage sites.

CEE has worked closely with the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) and the Ministry of Education to implement NEP 2020 and NCF. It works with the Curricular Area Group on Environmental Education (CAG-EE), of which the Director, CEE, is the Chair. CEE is the nodal agency that creates awareness of plastics on behalf of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.