

GUPES PILLARS

Education

Focuses on inspiring, informing, facilitating and supporting universities to deliver transformative education for sustainable development by undertaking curriculum innovations for sustainability and transforming universities into sustainable, green low-carbon campuses.

Training

Focuses on developing applied competence in environmental and sustainability aspects among mid-level managers and policy makers by enhancing knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, awareness and other valuable attributes with a focus on UNEP's priority thematic areas and other environmental and sustainability themes and emerging concepts such as 'Green economy' through scheduled training courses at universities, leadership programmes, and seminars.

Networking

Aims at encouraging and strengthening regional and sub-regional higher education networks on environment and sustainability modeled around continents, UNEP regions as well as North-South and South-South frameworks all feeding into the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) network. It also aims to further establish linkages with other higher education initiatives for sustainability around the world and recognize programmes of excellence.

The Six Thematic Priority Areas



RIO+20 AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Rio+20, provides a historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world. At Rio+20, a side event of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is being organized, which is a joint effort of numerous UN agencies. GUPES complements the HESI by strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development in relation to higher education.



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Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)

Integrating Environment and Sustainability in Universities globally



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY | 05 JUNE
Green Economy: Does it include you?

GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) was officially launched on the 5-6 June 2012, at Tongji University in Shanghai, China.

The launch was held alongside the 2012 World Environment Day (WED) celebrations, as well as the International Students Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development and the Asia Pacific Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development. The launch was planned as a lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), Rio+20, where a joint UN initiative - Higher Education Sustainability Initiative will be launched.

GUPES is a platform for universities around the world interested in enhancing environment and sustainability concerns through teaching, training and networking. The network will facilitate enhanced access to relevant sustainability information, resources, support and a new approach for engaging universities to substantively contribute to shaping the sustainability agenda for universities globally.

The two day launch included activities to evaluate lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities for GUPES network, agree on a common platform and strategic partnership framework for universities globally on environment and sustainability as well as develop strategic frameworks for resource mobilization/activities.



GUPES

GUPES is a global platform for universities to engage on environmental and sustainability concerns in order to enhance the quality and relevance of university education.

GUPES was initiated following a consultative universities forum in Nairobi, on November 19, 2010 to deliberate on ways of escalating UNEP's successful engagement with universities. It builds upon the success of regional universities forum, Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA).

GUPES aims to promote the integration of environment and sustainability concerns into teaching, research, community engagement, the management of universities, greening of university infrastructure and operations, as well as to enhance student engagement and participation in sustainability activities both within and beyond universities.



The 2012 International Students Conference on Environment and Sustainability

GUPES OBJECTIVES

- To provide a strategic platform for the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability concerns into universities;
- To build, through university education systems, leadership needed for responding to sustainable development challenges;
- To revitalize higher education system and enable it to address current sustainable development challenges with emphasis on UNEP's six thematic priorities;
- To contribute to the knowledge generation within UNEP's six priority thematic areas and other contemporary environmental and sustainability issues, risks and challenges; and
- To optimize development opportunities provided by ecosystem services in a sustainable manner in line with the principles of "Green Economy" and in the context of sustainable development.

UNEP and EETU

UNEP has been involved in environmental education and training programmes since its inception, in fulfilling its mandate of inspiring, informing and enabling nations towards sustainable development.

UNEP's six priority areas include climate change, disasters and conflicts, environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, resource efficiency the emerging paradigm of the Green Economy. UNEP's programmes are delivered through six regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia.

UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit is organized around three pillars:

- **Education:** Focuses on supporting universities in developing and delivering transformative education and curriculum, low carbon campuses, etc.
- **Training:** Developing applied competence of middle managers and policy makers on environment and sustainability aspects.
- **Networking:** Focuses on strengthening regional sub-regional higher education networks for environment and sustainability.

Why Join GUPES?

- Network, Share, Consult, Learn, ...and together contribute to sustainable development through innovations in higher education.

How to join GUPES?

- Simply submit an expression of interest to the Chair of GUPES through the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) at UNEP