



Practical Conference Outcomes

The 1st International Conference on Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 24-28 November 2008. The meeting was attended by university professors and lecturers, university leaders, government officials, students, and partners, including the private sector and scientific organisations. Over 200 people from 40 countries participated in the five day conference.

The conference realised the following practical outcomes:

1. The African Association of Universities has indicated ongoing support for the MESA Universities Partnership, particularly to strengthen leadership participation in MESA. MESA will be involved in the 12th AAU General Conference in Abuja in 2009 focussing on *'Sustainable Development in Africa: The role of Higher Education'*.
2. UNESCO has offered to support the development of a publication on MESA Best Practices in the UNESCO ESD Best Practices Series.
3. The African Network for Agriculture and Forestry Education (ANAFE) will support a project to document local knowledge of agriculture and forestry practices and develop this into learning support materials or Agricultural Education Programmes in Higher Education in Africa. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between MESA and ANAFE to ensure that the two networks continue to cooperate in this area.
4. Barclays Bank in Kenya pledged financial support to a Kenyan Village to implement an ecological rehabilitation project that would improve livelihoods and sustainability.
5. The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme has allocated seed funding to support the start up of 3 potential MESA Chairs at three southern African Universities involved in MESA.
6. The SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme will support a southern African MESA Network for the next three years with collaborative activities, and change project support, as well as the expansion of the Regional Centres of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development Network into all 14 SADC countries.
7. The Horn of Africa Environmental Network will support a Horn of Africa MESA Network next year, with collaborative activities and change project development support.
8. The Horn of Africa Environmental Network will collaborate with UNESCO PEER to take MESA to Somalia, and involve Somalia's universities in MESA activities and networks.
9. The inter - university student participants established a MESA University Partnership STUDENT MOVEMENT that will implement sustainability in African countries.
10. Nigerian and Liberian universities have signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on MESA activities and to support change project implementation.
11. The SADC and Horn of Africa networks will work closely together on their respective MESA activities and on other ESD activities.
12. The United Nations University will continue to support the expansion of Regional Centres of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development with support from other partners and MESA universities.
13. New sub - regional networks for MESA were formed, and existing ones strengthened, and each subregional network has an action plan. An international MESA network has also been established with an action plan, and alumni from various international programmes will be linked to MESA.
14. New materials have been offered into the MESA network from: South Bank University in the UK; UNEP; Environic Foundation International; ANAFE; Earth's Hope in China (amongst others). The Earth's Hope materials offer a visual database of best practices.
15. Uppsalla University in Sweden have raised funds for a small climate change education research meeting to develop a research agenda for climate change education research in early

