Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education
Stockholm, Sweden, April 23 – May 4, 2012
and in South Africa/China October/November, 2012
Introduction
This programme seeks to support creative thinking and the development of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) practice in higher education in Africa and Asia. These can be innovations in teaching, research, community engagement or university policy and management. The programme is a collaborative venture with UNEP and seeks to support the Global University Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) initiative; and its key objectives. It builds on and takes forward the work of the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainable Development in African Universities (MESA) Partnership and links to the Regional Universities Consortium (RUC), the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD) and to the ProsperNET in Asia. The training programme provides opportunities for exchange and collaboration amongst African, Asian and Swedish universities.

Programme Objectives
The main objective is to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences in ESD in the higher education sector. The programme will deepen understanding of environmental, social-cultural and economic dynamics of sustainable development. It will also enhance the teaching, learning, research, community involvement and management of higher education institutions with regard to ESD.

The Specific Objectives
The long term specific objectives of the programme are to contribute to:
- poverty reduction and sustainable development;
- capacity development and change processes in participants’ institutions and home countries;
- strengthening of methods, processes and monitoring to enable effective education; and
- improved institutional infrastructure for ESD.

The programme shall also:
- increase the awareness of the importance of effective ESD in the higher education sector; and
- stimulate development and sustainability of networks in the field of higher education.

Contents
Change Project
The programme is built around an ESD change project conceptualised by an institutional team consisting of the participant and a selected co-participant. This work is done in close consultation with supervisors and colleagues in the same institution.

The purpose of the change project is to enable participants to link the learning from the programme to their own work context and institutional priorities. In the dialogue between the participants, their home institution and the programme coordinators, participants will deepen the understanding of the different dimensions of ESD, adapt recent experiences to the specific conditions in their university or higher education organisation. The impact of the programme should thereby be sustained beyond the individual and beyond the training and exchange opportunity offered by the programme.

Modules
The programme is divided into four interlinked modules:
1. Change Processes in Higher Education
2. Institutional Settings

Goal: To enable participants to better conceptualise, understand and engage with change processes in their institutions.

2. Examining Sustainable Development
Goal: To enable participants to critically deliberate the ecological, socio-political and economic dimensions of sustainable development and consider implications for different fields of knowledge.

3. Higher Education responses to Sustainable Development
Goal: To enable participants to conceptualise and implement teaching, research and community engagement processes in response to sustainable development challenges.

4. Institutional Frameworks in Higher Education
Goal: To enable participants to identify needs for institutional support and opportunities for change within higher education institutions.

Programme Structure
Phase 1 – Preparations and organisational commitment
During this phase the institution of each participant will nominate a co-participant. The two colleagues will work together as an institutional team during the whole programme, although the co-participant will not participate in phase 2 in Sweden. The institutional team will initiate an ESD change project relevant institution/university and a draft plan for their ESD change project. This phase should include consultations with institutional managers and regional programme tutors.

Phase 2 – Programme in Sweden, 2 weeks
During phase two the participants will be exposed to current ESD processes and research in Sweden and will be able to exchange knowledge and experience with leading Swedish actors in the field of ESD. Interactive lectures and professional exchange dialogues will be combined with excursions and university visits. During the scheduled programme in Sweden participants will continue to work on their own university’s ESD change project with inputs from other participants and the programme coordinators. The participants will develop a more comprehensive concept and implementation strategy for their particular change project.

Phase 3 – Intermediate Consolidation Phase
During this phase the institutional team will continue anchoring their change project through dialogue with colleagues and other stakeholders in their university. Participants will undertake an institutional audit, and coordinate an institutional seminar involving colleagues, managers and others involved in the change project. Change project implementation will also be started and a brief report about results and challenges will be compiled to be presented during phase 4.

Phase 4 – Scheduled programme in South Africa/China, 2 weeks
During the regional component of the programme the institutional teams will be exposed to regional ESD processes and networks. The institutional team will produce a document reflecting key aspects of their change project, together with a long-term plan for implementation, evaluation and reporting.

Phase 5 – Continued Support Phase
During phase five the change projects will be fully implemented, evaluated and reported on. Throughout the programme there will be on-going interaction between participants, their institutions and the programme management, including follow-up visits. A final workshop within the participant’s institution will conclude the training programme. The institutional teams will be encouraged to publish the outcomes of their change projects and to share this within the GUPES, MESA, RUC/AP and ProsperNet frameworks.

Date and Place
The total duration of the programme is 9–12 months out of which 4 weeks are interactive sessions. The Swedish component will take place April 23–May 4, 2012 in Stockholm and Gothenburg. The two regional follow-up sessions will be in South Africa and China in Oct/Nov, 2012. The timing and location of the national workshops in Phases 1 and 5 are to be decided.

Learning Processes
The programme includes a diversity of teaching and learning methods of relevance for ESD including presentations, participatory methods, group workshops and study visits. Phases 1, 3 and 5 of the programme depend on ‘self motivation’ and cooperative learning.

The focus throughout is on supporting university-based ESD change projects, which will provide continuity to the programme over the 9–12 months.

Management and Staff
Ramboll Natura has the overall responsibility for the programme and planning and implementation are carried out in cooperation with UNEP and a number of key higher education institutions in Sweden, Africa and Asia. Ms. Marie Neeser at Ramboll Natura is the Programme Director and key partners are UNEP, Kenya, the UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) in China and Rhodes University in South Africa.

Participation
Target Regions:
This innovation-based training and exchange programme caters for higher education institutions in Africa: Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, and in Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka.

Target Group:
The programme is intended for key decision makers and university staff involved in formulating and implementing ESD in higher education. The aim of the final selection is to create a group representing the different roles and functions in higher education including policy making, management, lecturing, community engagement and research.

Applicants should have an appropriate tertiary qualification and substantial experience in the higher education sector with high multiplier potential. The selection of participants will to a large extent be based on the commitment of the participant’s home institution and engagement in concrete actions. To achieve good gender balance, women are encouraged to apply.

Family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.
Language Requirements
The training will be conducted in English. Participants shall have proven proficiency in the English language in writing, reading, and speaking. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability.

The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests.

Application Process

Closing date for application is November 11, 2011

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered. Application should be made on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and all required information and documents. The applicant must be nominated by her/his organisation or institution.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate.

Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or telefax. The information of the applicant’s institution to support the development and implementation of the change project will constitute the final criteria for selection.

Cost of Participation
The programme will cover all training and exchange cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation and food. International travel cost to and from Sweden and South Africa or China will be covered by Sida.

The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to participate in sub-regional/national workshops (Phase 1 and 5) and to the nearest international airport when travelling to Sweden and South Africa/China. The Programme will not cover personal expenses.

Accommodation
Accommodation is arranged for the full duration of the scheduled phases in Sweden, South Africa and China. The accommodation will be moderate and will not include special facilities.

Visa
Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary during all phases of the programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant.

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For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html

Insurance
All participants are covered by a group insurance while on scheduled phases of the programme.