

TEACH for ESD



ESD CONTEXT

OVERVIEW

Environmental Education (EE) and **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** have always been considered important by government, who have integrated it into laws, policies and the curriculum. Many non-governmental organisations have formed or assumed new roles in order to address our environmental challenges.

EE/ESD has a long **history** in Namibia and the southern African region, which can be explored through **policies and strategies**. It is important to develop a strong understanding of the policy frameworks and the **concept of sustainable development** and to learn how we, as educators, can incorporate it into our everyday teaching.

EE/ESD has a bright future in Namibia with the new **National EE/ESD Policy** and technical **ESD Task Force** to guide implementation within all sectors, nationally and internationally, including formal education.

1. HISTORY

The roots of Education for Sustainable Development lie in environmental education and other conservation and nature-based education. Over the past 50 years various names have been coined to adjust to the ever-evolving *understanding* behind the term. These name changes reflect the dynamic nature of **ESD as a field that remains responsive to change**.

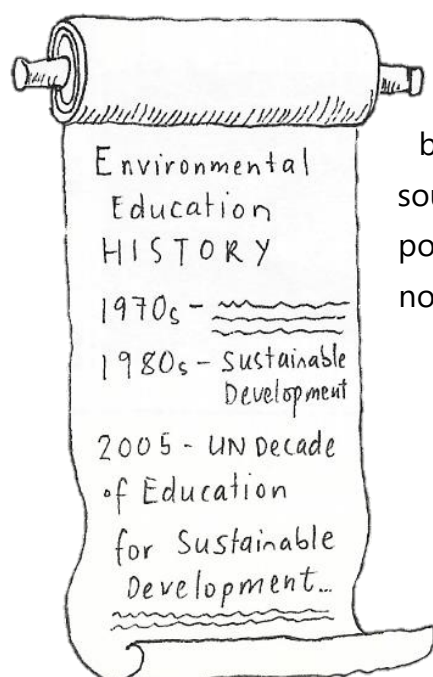
"Namibia embraces both the concepts of EE and ESD..."

NATIONAL EE/ESD POLICY

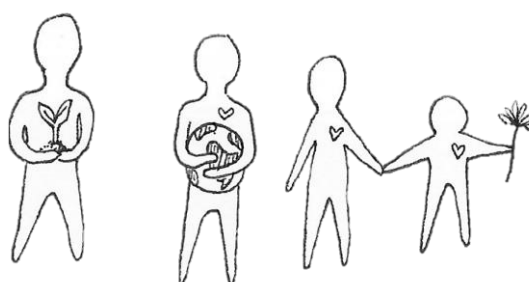
In Namibia, the terms environmental education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are often used interchangeably. There is a continued use of EE by many government ministries and non-governmental actors as well as the introduction of the term ESD. In this Toolkit, ESD is used throughout and reflects its definition discussed in section 2.2 about ESD concepts.

RESOURCE CHECK

To learn more about the difference between Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), read **pg. 39** of **UNESCO ESD Sourcebook**.



Namibia's ESD history is tightly inter-woven with the rest of the southern African region, especially South Africa, and is highly influenced by the region's struggle for Independence and social justice. This gave southern Africa an early recognition of the role of social, economic and political issues in the protection of the environment, something that had not yet been realized by many developed countries in the Global North.

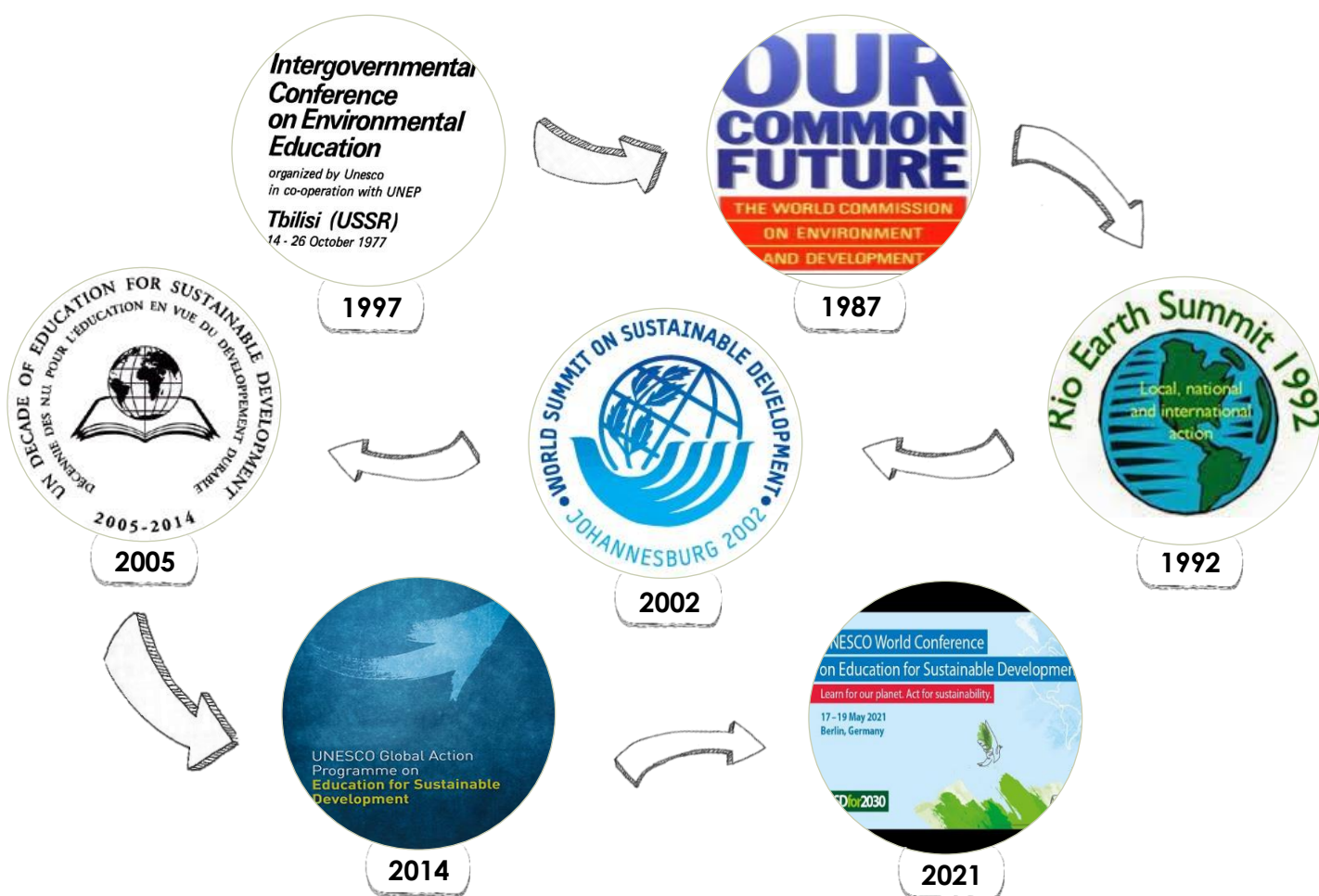


What is your own personal history with EE/ESD?

1.1 GLOBAL TIMELINE

In 1972, the first international conference was held that focussed on the human environment. The global timeline of events spans over a **long history** that includes many major events in ESD. More than half a century of commitments has been made towards addressing our environmental challenges.

KEY GLOBAL CONFERENCES



RESOURCE CHECK

See **pgs. 65-66** of *UNESCO ESD for 2030, A Roadmap* for the full global timeline. Watch the **conference videos** from some of the key events for a historical flashback.

1.2 NAMIBIAN TIMELINE

Namibia's ESD timeline began with Independence in 1990 when our Constitution included the protection of the environment as a fundamental right.

RESOURCE CHECK

See **Namibia's EE/ESD Timeline** to learn more about Namibia's journey with EE/ESD since Independence.

How will this timeline continue? Where will ESD be in 2030?

2. POLICY & FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is shaped by numerous policies and strategies, especially from the environment *and* education sectors. Namibia, as an active member of the United Nations and international community, is a signatory on many **international agreements** that specifically address ESD or include it as a key strategy. This includes the Education 2030 Framework for Action, which focusses on quality education. The **concept of sustainable development** is at the foundation of these policies and strategies.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Brundtland Report (1987)

Sustainable development refers to how our society, economy and environment are interwoven. It recognizes the many processes and strategies that can be used to achieve sustainability – the end goal. There are many ways to depict this concept and debates about which aspect is most important. Essentially, it is **true balance** between all aspects that is needed for a prosperous and healthy planet.

*"There can be no Plan B
because there is
no PLANET B."*

FORMER UN SECRETARY-
GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



Get a clear understanding of the term Sustainable Development in this short video
What is Sustainable Development?

2.1 GLOBAL

There have been a series of **significant international agreements** on the protection of the environment and education. These include the three "Rio Conventions" established in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the World Education Forum to Education 2030 the Incheon Declaration on Education for 2030 was adopted which aims to transform education. The **United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals** bring together these and many other agreements to address the environmental crisis we face today.



Watch this video on the **World Education Forum** to get a clear idea of the Incheon Declaration.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) were agreed upon by 193 countries around the world in September 2015. The SDGs, also referred to as the **Global Goals**, are a set of 17 goals that aim to end poverty, protect our planet and promote peace and prosperity for all by 2030.



RESOURCE CHECK

Learn more about the SDGs by watching the videos **Global Goals for Sustainable Development** and **17 Goals to Transform Our World**.

SDGs

1. ☐
2. ☐
3. ☒
4. ☐
5. ☐
6. ☐

RESOURCE CHECK

Read **The UN Sustainable Development Goals** for a brief explanation of each goal and/or the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** for the full policy document.

In Namibia, the SDGs are being implemented by a variety of stakeholders including government, NGOs, CSOs and international development partners. The United Nations, through its various divisions, is also **directly investing in Namibia** to address the SDGs.

RESOURCE CHECK

Read about UNs SDG work in Namibia in the booklet, **UN SDGs implementation in Namibia**, and check out the link to **UN Work on the Sustainable Development Goals in Namibia** website for more information.

THE SDGS AND ESD

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a key strategy to achieving the SDGs. It is specifically included in **SDG4 on Quality Education in Target 4.7**. ESD is also an important part of achieving each of the other goals. Explore the 17 Sustainable Development Goals below and the **role of ESD** to achieve each one.

TARGET 4.7

to 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 FOR 2030

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the **lead agency** in the United Nations for **ESD for 2030** and aims to mobilise action on all levels to achieve the SDGs.



Watch the **What is UNESCO?** video to get a better understanding of this international agency.

#ESDfor2030

Building upon the work done over the past decades, **Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs**, also called **ESD for 2030**, is the new global framework for ESD implementation from 2020-2030. The goal is to build a more just and sustainable world through strengthening ESD and contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs, especially SDG4 on Quality Education. ESD for 2030 was officially launched at the online World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in 2021.



Read the **Berlin Declaration** from the World Conference on ESD 2021 and a short website article that highlights its significance.

ESD aims to transform society through a mind-set shift by empowering learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to act for a sustainable and just society. Implementation of the **ESD for 2030 Framework for Action** calls for countries to collaborate on a national level, harness partnerships, mobilise resources, communicate and monitor progress. It focuses on the following five priority action areas.



Priority action area 1
Advancing policy



Priority action area 2
Transforming learning environments



Priority action area 3
Building capacities of educators



Priority action area 4
Empowering and mobilizing youth



Priority action area 5
Accelerating local level actions



Read the **UNESCO ESD for 2030, A Roadmap**, visit the **ESD for 2030 Toolbox** and watch the video **Learn for Our Planet** to get a good understanding of this new decade of action.

2.2 NAMIBIA

Namibia has a long history of considering the environment to be an integral part of our country's policies. The protection of the environment is present in the Namibian Constitution, **Article 95, "Promotion of the Welfare of the People"**. It encompasses the importance of inter-generational equality. This has laid the foundation for Namibia's participation in international agreements and in the development of our own sector specific policies and strategies.

NAMIBIA VISION 2030

Namibia's national vision acknowledges the importance of sustainable development and includes environmental protections. Vision 2030 provides an encouraging framework for national development plans.



Read **Vision 2030** for Namibia's path towards sustainable development.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE: VISION 2030

Namibia has a population of healthy, well educated, skilled, pro-active and financially stable people ...
Namibia maintains a healthy, productive land ... rivers run permanently and clear ... natural ecosystems are productive, efficient, diverse, stable and sustainable - socially, economically and ecologically.

Namibia Vision 2030

NAMIBIAN NATIONAL EE/ESD POLICY



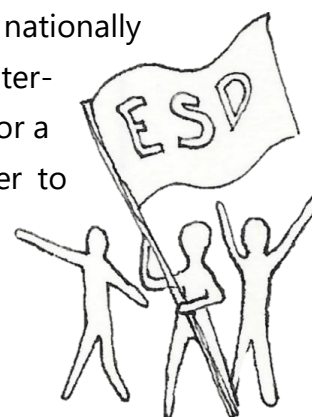
The Namibian National EE/ESD Policy was officially launched in July 2020. It is the **first stand-alone policy on ESD in Southern Africa**. Spear-headed by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, the policy aims for national implementation

NAMIBIAN EE/ESD POLICY VISION

an educated and empowered Namibia with environmentally literate people taking responsibility and action for a sustainable future

The EE/ESD Policy is co-ordinated through a nationally established **ESD Taskforce** that acts as an inter-agency technical committee. The policy calls for a broad base of stakeholders to work together to reach the following goals:

- QUALITY EE/ESD PROGRAMMES
- PARTNERSHIPS
- RESEARCH & INNOVATION
- RESOURCE ALLOCATION
- CENTRAL ROLE IN NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

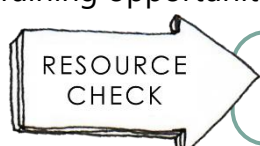


Check out Namibia's key strategies for implementation in the **National EE/ESD Policy**.

NAMIBIAN NATIONAL CURRICULUM

The Namibian National Curriculum from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture includes **environmental learning as a cross-curricular issue** to be "dealt with in each subject and across all phases". With the new national EE/ESD Policy, we expect the education sector to become more engaged with ESD by providing and supporting more professional development and training opportunities, such as Teach for ESD.

Teachers are key implementers of the EE/ESD Policy through curriculum and pedagogical innovation!



Refer to the **National Syllabus** under "Links to other subjects and cross-curricular issues".

RESOURCES

SOURCE KEY

Hardcopy



Softcopy



Online



1. HISTORY

UNESCO ESD Sourcebook



BOOKLET: A sourcebook for teachers and school decision makers to understand the development of ESD and its origins in environmental education. It also includes resources, lesson plans and how to integrate sustainability at a whole school level.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2012)

Link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/926unesco9.pdf>

UNESCO ESD for 2030 Roadmap



BOOKLET: The ESD for 2030 Roadmap outlines the ten-year strategy for ESD on a global scale. It provides policy context, action plans and the role of member states in implementation.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2020)

Link: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374802.locale=en>

Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education 1977



VIDEO: This video from the Tbilisi Conference of 1977 shows clips from the first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education, organised by UNESCO. It highlights some of the main focal points and speakers, giving insight and context to this historical event.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2012)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljDUKg1sUI&t=282s>

Closing Plenary UNESCO World Conference on ESD 2014



VIDEO: This video gives an overview of what transpired at the World Conference on ESD in Japan in 2014. It summarises what came as a result of the conference, including the launch of the Global Action Programme.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2014)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FO77EfBVD_I

Celebrating Environmental Education Tbilisi +40



VIDEO: This animated video gives a rundown of the history and progress of environmental education, in celebration of what initiatives and developments have come since the original Tbilisi Declaration of 1977.

AUTHOR: North American Association for Environmental Education (2017)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wzIKwyYXlw>

Namibia's EE/ESD Timeline



PRESENTATION: An overview of key events in Namibia's EE/ESD timeline, shaping what it is today.

AUTHOR: NaDEET (2021)

RESOURCES

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Hardcopy



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Online



2. POLICY & FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

What is Sustainable Development?



VIDEO: This short animation video explains the concept of sustainable development and its three main pillars of society, economy and environment.

AUTHOR: United Nations Association of Norway, UNICEF (2017)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V8oFI4GYMY>

World Education Forum to Education 2030



VIDEO: This video presents the Incheon Declaration, as adopted in 2015 at the World Education Forum. It explains the purpose of the declaration, a commitment to Education 2030, and explores what that entails.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2015)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uneOexN9IA>

Global Goals for Sustainable Development



VIDEO: This animated video introduces the Sustainable Development Goals. It explains what they are and why they came about, as well as their purpose and implementation strategy at a global and individual level.

AUTHOR: UNSW eLearning (2020)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EW5vVCiXIQ>

17 Goals to Transform our World



VIDEO: This video runs through the SDGs; what each of the 17 goals are with a short individual explanation.

AUTHOR: SDGCAfrica (2018)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW76iOQ7qVQ>

UN Sustainable Development Goals



BOOKLET and WEBSITE: This booklet is the overview document of the SDGs; describing their purpose as a whole and gives a brief outline of what each of the 17 goals entail. There are many websites that are databases of information about the UNDP formulated Goals, the link can be used as a great starting point.

AUTHOR: UNDP (2015)

Link: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



BOOKLET: This is the official publication from the UN detailing the declaration of sustainable development. The agenda explains the actionable points per SDG.

AUTHOR: UN (2015)

Link: <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

RESOURCES

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UN SDGs Implementation in Namibia



BOOKLET: This booklet gives a simple overview of the 17 SDGs and presents examples of how selected sectors have, and can, contribute to their achievement in Namibia. This is a great read to see the implementation of the SDGs in Namibia so far.

AUTHORS: UNDP, K. Schade (2016)

Link: <https://ean.org.na/download/the-un-sustainable-development-goals-some-examples-of-how-selected-sectors-can-contribute-to-their-achievement-in-namibia/>

UN Work on the Sustainable Development Goals in Namibia



WEBSITE: This website on the SDGs relates specifically to the implementation of the goals in Namibia and what work the UN has been doing in this regard. It is a great source to track the progress of the goals and how each sector is doing so far.

AUTHOR: UN Namibia

Link: <https://namibia.un.org/en/sdgs>

What is UNESCO?



VIDEO: This animated video introduces the United Nations for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), showing its formation, structure, purpose and role in addressing global issues.

AUTHOR: France 24 English (2017)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJHsjBvSv74>

Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development



DECLARATION & ARTICLE: The declaration was signed at the 2021 UN World Conference on ESD. It outlines policies to transform education and focal areas in implementation of ESD.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2021)

Link: <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/esdfor2030-berlin-declaration-en.pdf>

<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-declares-environmental-education-must-be-core-curriculum-component-2025>

Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 Toolbox



PORTAL: The link below is a portal to a wealth of further resources and reading on all things to do with ESD, under the ESD for 2030 initiative. Explore for materials and sources that will broaden your ESD knowledge.

AUTHOR: UNESCO

Link: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/toolbox>

RESOURCES

SOURCE KEY

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Softcopy



Online



Start Acting by Learning for Our Planet



VIDEO: This video illustrates the importance of education when it comes to being able to make considered, sustainable decisions for the future of humanity and the planet.

AUTHOR: UNESCO (2021)

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI7TI4EbdN8>

Vision 2030



BOOKLET: This is the main document of Namibia's major development initiative. It stipulates the vision for the country (and how it fits into the national development process), whilst outlining the key themes and targets as well as approaches to achieve this.

AUTHOR: Government of the Republic of Namibia (2004)

Link: <https://www.namfisa.com.na/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Vision-2030.pdf>

National EE and ESD Policy



BOOKLET: This policy is a key document to understand Namibia's approach to implementing Education for Sustainable Development (key focus on strategies), and its guiding principles.

AUTHOR: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (2019)

Link: https://www.met.gov.na/files/downloads/a27_NaDEET%20EE%20Policy.pdf

Namibian National Syllabus



WEBSITE: The link below is to NIED where you will find the National Syllabus as well as curriculums and information about curriculum development and revision.

AUTHOR: National Institute for Education Development (various)

Link: <http://www.nied.edu.na/documents/syllabuses/>