

GUPES Pillars

Education

Focusing on inspiring, mentoring, informing, supporting, facilitating and enabling universities to undertake *curriculum innovations* for sustainability as well as *greening of universities*.

Training

Developing applied competence by enhancing knowledge and awareness on UNEP's priority thematic areas as well as equipping the target audience (mainly mid-level managers and policy makers) with the relevant skills, values and attitudes on key environmental and sustainability themes, issues and emerging concepts such as 'Green economy' through scheduled training courses in universities as well as environment and sustainability seminars and leadership programmes.

Research

Strengthening and developing capacity for *Applied Research* in universities globally in response to emerging needs in context; and to explore potential for South-South and North – South collaboration in substantive areas of applied research.

Crosscutting Networking

To encourage and strengthen 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 GUPES network. To further establish linkages with other higher education initiatives for sustainability around the world and recognize programmes of excellence.

Preamble

GUPES was the result of a consultative forum organized by UNEP and its partners to increase successful engagement with universities. It builds on the successes of the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA), the nascent Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in the Caribbean Universities (MESCA) and the Asia-Pacific Regional University Consortium (RUC). GUPES serves to increase the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability practices and curricula into universities around the world. It is also geared towards encouraging further interaction between UNEP and universities, around the three pillars of education, training and applied research. This is done in accordance to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and in partnership with UNESCO, UNU and other organizations.



For more information on how to join, contact:

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The Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability

Enhancing the quality and policy/practice relevance of university education globally in the context of sustainable development and the emerging paradigm of Green Economy.

Overall Goal of GUPES

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

Developmental objective of GUPES

To enhance the quality, policy, practice and relevance of university education globally in the context of sustainable development, taking into account the emerging paradigm of Green Economy.



The Six Regions of UNEP

- ✓ Africa
- ✓ Asia and the Pacific
- ✓ Europe
- ✓ Latin America and Caribbean
- ✓ North America
- ✓ West Asia

GUPES Objectives

- To build, through university education systems, professional capacity for the prevention of and responses to environmental issues, risks and associated sustainable development challenges;
- To maximize development opportunities provided by ecosystem services in a sustainable manner in line with the principles of '**Green Economy**' and in context of sustainable development;
- To contribute to revitalizing the global higher education system and enabling it to address current sustainable development challenges according to UNEP's thematic priorities;
- To contribute to knowledge generation in UNEP's thematic priorities and other contemporary and emerging environmental and sustainability issues, risks and challenges;
- To help prepare the world for projected impacts of global *climate change, disasters and conflicts, harmful substances and hazardous wastes*;
- To assist in reversing and mitigating negative environmental and sustainability trends.

The Six Thematic Priority Areas



GUPES Milestones

GUPES Consultative Forum

The consultative meeting was held in Nairobi on November 19, 2010. The forum adopted a number of decisions, recommendations and initiatives aimed at converting GUPES into a living and dynamic structure.

Some of the key outcomes from the Nairobi meeting are as follows:

- The adoption of a GUPES Charter and related By-Laws
- The appointment of an interim Steering Committee
- The adoption of key elements of an evolving Action Plan
- The decision to strategically mainstream GUPES into the Rio+20 process and to formally launch the partnership during the Rio +20 Summit; among others.

GUPES Partners

GUPES seeks to partner with actors from the private sector, development partners, research centers, and other organizations with similar or related objectives to achieve its objectives.



Members pose with Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of DEPI, during the GUPES Consultative Forum.