



UNESCO WORLD CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The San Development Programme: An Integrated Approach to Education

The UNESCO *World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade* is being held in Bonn, Germany, from 31st March to 2nd April 2009. Organizers of the conference are UNESCO and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO.



Five years into the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for which UNESCO is the lead agency, the conference aims to highlight the relevance of ESD to all of education; promote international exchange on ESD, especially between countries of the North and the South; carry out a stock-taking of the implementation of the UN Decade, and develop strategies for the way forward.

Within the conference venue, there is an exhibition presenting 25 ESD projects. The projects are balanced both in terms of regions and types of education settings and recognise visible, effective and relevant initiatives finding creative, innovative and sustainable solutions to common problems.

Among 5 African ESD projects exhibited, the *San Development Programme - an integrated approach to education in combination with Sustainable living in an arid country - practical evidence from two innovative projects* was selected to represent Namibia.

The integrated education approach for San communities introduced by UNESCO Windhoek Cluster Office in partnership with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Acacia Grassroots Development Network is good example of sustainable development because it looks holistically at the education of the child. It addresses issues of **poverty alleviation** because of the realization that children cannot learn

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on empty stomachs; **health promotion** to ensure a vibrant community of learners; **citizenship** to build learners' self-esteem and involve parents and community members to ensure successful learning and **cultural diversity** to promote mutual understanding among learners of different cultural and language backgrounds, as well as enhance teachers' understanding of the learning needs of all children.

Website

<http://www.esd-world-conference-2009.org>