



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE
profile



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting environmental education and activities in public schools

Providing public access to information on natural resources

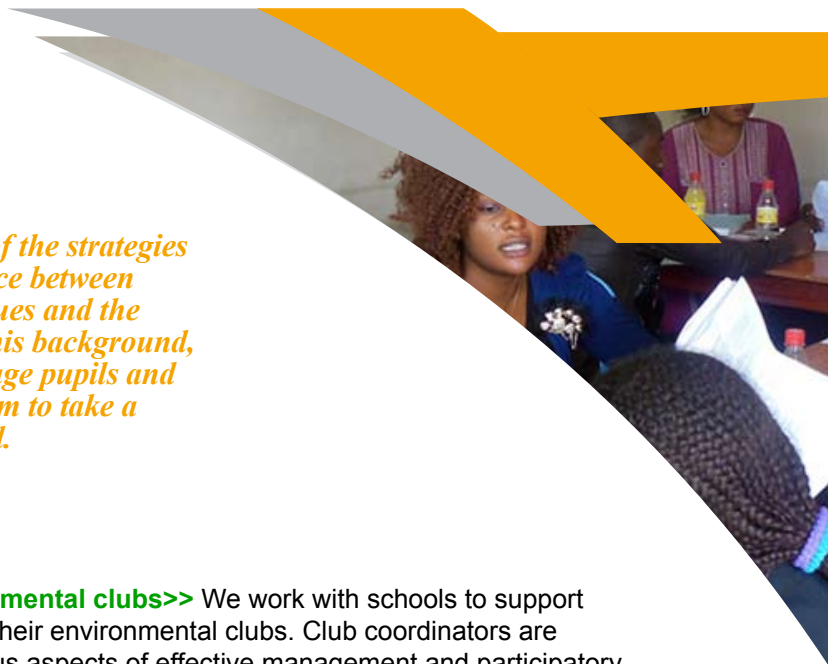
Building the capacity of a new crop of environmental scholars and practitioners



Education for sustainable development is one of the strategies identified in Agenda 21 to help achieve a balance between environmental conservation, socio-cultural values and the sustainable use of natural resources. Against this background, our ESD program is vital in our efforts to engage pupils and young adults in activities that will empower them to take a decisive position in shaping a sustainable world.

School environmental clubs>> We work with schools to support the activities of their environmental clubs. Club coordinators are trained on various aspects of effective management and participatory environmental education methodologies. The training is designed not as a comprehensive step-by-step intervention, but to share some foundational principles on running environmental clubs, which leaves enough room for creativity and innovation to the clubs themselves. We have worked with teachers to produce a guide for running clubs. We also host an annual eco-challenge through which schools explore sustainability challenges and solutions.

Resource Centre>> Established in 2012, EGI's resource centre improves access to up-to-date, accurate data on the state of the environment and natural resources governance to inform policy development. The organization has been admitted to three programmes coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). These programs aim to boost access to information in low income countries across the world. The HINARI Access to Research in Health, Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) programs have enabled us to provide access to tens of thousands of journal titles, books and reference works to the public.





Resident scholars program>>

The purpose of the EGI Resident Scholars program is to provide young scholars and policy-makers, especially from the developing world, with a multidisciplinary context within which to pursue advanced research and training that are of professional interest to the applicant and of direct relevance to the research agenda of EGI. Our resident scholars are typically post-graduate students working on environmental themes such as natural resources management, governance and international environmental law. We offer them a structured work environment, access to resources and supervision throughout their stay with us.

Interns and trainees>>

The underlying principles of the Internship program at EGI are centred on creating a dynamic, challenging and rewarding experience for students and recent graduates. They get training, guidance and hands-on experience as a way of preparing them for future work environments. In the last year, we have hosted seven interns and two trainees. They had the opportunity to attend trainings on various aspects of project management, shadow program staff and to develop and implement their own concepts within wider program strategies.



Esther Makazi, a former intern says: "I never imagined I could stand at the front of a classroom and talk to students but thanks to EGI, I discovered that a person's talent does not depend on his or her imagination but on the skills."

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

EGI's community program aims to contribute to wildlife management and species and forest conservation in the Manyu division through two strategies: The first is information campaigns to change knowledge, attitudes and practices of village communities about protected species, conservation laws, hunting and the bush meat trade; the second is to promote and support village community members to identify and implement alternative sources of subsistence and income.





“After I went for training on environmental protection, we decided to secure a section of our community forest. We are indeed happy that we will be able to plant trees on that land. The trees will help us in future and I hope that our children’s children can grow up to see them as a landmark” - Eyong James Tabot, Regent Mfaitock II village, Mamfe Central

Conservation education>> The conservation education strategy aims to enhance the capacity of village communities, especially hunters, to identify protected species, and participate in wildlife management and conservation; and to increase awareness and participation of young people in species protection and sustainable environment practices. We hold community awareness meetings in villages in Manyu division to explore factors influencing hunting and bush meat trade and to encourage the adoption of alternative livelihoods. The meetings emphasize dissemination of information on the law and community rights and responsibilities.

Agro-forestry>> In the 11 villages of Mamfe subdivision of Manyu division, EGI initiated an agro-forestry project whose aim is to halt and reverse forest degradation and loss of biodiversity by promoting tree growing and participatory forest management practices. In addition to community level meetings and workshops, community volunteers are trained on identification and establishment of

appropriate tree nursery sites and how to care for seedlings. Through a participatory approach, the villages selected the most appropriate tree species. The foundation has been laid, on which EGI can build to increase community members’ capacity to engage in participatory forest and natural resource governance.

Beekeeping>> In 2013, EGI supported common initiative groups to start a pilot beekeeping project in Manyu division. The beekeeping project involves training on beekeeping and honey production as well as effective group management, basic book keeping and marketing. The groups were supplied with beehives, hive maintenance tools, harvesting and storage equipment so that they could start honey production as a means of supplementing their income. In line with EGI’s conservation education strategy, awareness creation on protected species, hunting and bush meat trade is part and parcel of all the community activities.

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE-POLICY INTERACTION

Environmental justice is only possible where states define policies and enact laws that guarantee equitable access to resources and the benefits accrued from them. That is why we place a special focus on policy related work. We aim to provide insightful, in-depth and impartial analysis based on research and practice to opinion leaders, academics, government officials, the media and private sector to stimulate progressive debate on environmental issues; facilitate communities to access information that will empower them to make right decisions and to establish strategic alliances with key institutions to influence policy making and advocate for their entitlements; and Inform stakeholders of international policies that directly or indirectly affect their day-to-day access to and use of natural resources such as land, forests, water, wildlife and the conservation of biological diversity.

Reshaping our interaction with the environment

Human dimensions of wildlife management>> In 2013, EGI developed and launched a project that will explore various aspects of the human dimensions of wildlife management in communities around the Takamanda National Park in Cameroon. The project which is multidisciplinary and partly integrated within EGI's community programs has already begun.

An Assessment of E-Learning for Sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa>> Under the auspices of the organization, an assessment of the contribution of E-Learning to education for sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa was carried out, to determine issues such as inclusiveness and

infrastructural limitations, among others. This work is currently pending publication.

Contributions to Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability>> Contributions were made to the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability on water rights and use in Africa, international conflict resolution and the African Union.

An assessment of the state of water and sanitation facilities in Buea town secondary schools>> EGI completed a rapid assessment of the state of water and sanitation facilities in 11 Buea town secondary schools, with which the organization is piloting an environmental health project.

Documentation of toolkits and manuals>> EGI's knowledge management program strives, among other things, to consolidate the information gathered from practice into toolkits and guides. In 2014, EGI published a teachers' guide entitled "Building effective environmental clubs – a guide for teachers." The organization also started the circulation of its quarterly newsletter "EGI Bulletin" and is currently working on a guide called 'Birds of Takamanda.'



OUR SUPPORTERS

We envision a world where everyone has equitable access to natural resources and their benefits; a world where everyone is able to use these resources sustainably to foster social and economic development.

Our mission is to reform environmental governance in Cameroon as a means to ensure that people have equitable access to basic natural resources and the benefits accrued from them.

In pursuit of this mission, we work in partnership with, and through the support of likeminded individuals and institutions.

- Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)
- Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)
- African Bird Club (UK)
- AGORA Research in Agriculture
- Audubon Naturalist Society (USA)
- Chester Zoo (UK)
- Cologne University (Germany) - Book donations
- Environmental Education and Conservation Global (USA)
- EISERVI (Cameroon) - Book donations
- HINARI Access to Research in Health
- IUCN Law Center, Bonn (Germany) - Book Donations
- New England Biolabs Foundation (USA)
- Prince Bernhard Nature Fund (Netherlands)
- Rhodes Scholars Southern African Forum (UK)
- Rufford Foundation (UK)
- Stetson law has supported some activities in cash and kind (USA)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Central Africa Programme



The Environmental Governance Institute (EGI) is a non-denominational, politically unaffiliated organisation with headquarters in Buea, in the South-West Region of Cameroon. (Registration No. 541/G.37/D14/1/Vol5/SAAJP).

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