

**RCE KwaZulu-Natal**  
**Eco-Schools Highlights 2016/2017**

1. The Eco-Schools National Operators' Meeting (NOM) was hosted in Johannesburg in November 2016. The three-day event saw 85 delegates from over 50 countries around the world come together for an exchange of knowledge and best practice around environmental education at school level. A small delegation from 5 international Eco-Schools/FEE leaders from the Indian Ocean (i.e. Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, Zanzibar, and Seychelles) visited the KZN RCE afterwards to gain insight into how Eco-Schools operate in South Africa in general, and in KZN specifically.
2. The Eco-Schools team conducted numerous workshops in 2017 which were focused on waste, recycling and upcycling, climate change, water conservation, and ecosystems. Educators were trained in environmental education and education for sustainable development. They were provided with practical tools that they could use in the classroom environment to enhance the learning process.
3. The National Eco-Schools toolkit is in the process of review and will be ready for distribution in early 2018. The 5 broad Eco-Schools themes are being replaced by 11 'new' Eco-School themes which directly speak to many of the SDGs.
4. Important partnerships to enable cooperative initiatives within schools in KZN include the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Midlands Environmental Education Forum, Tshwane University of Technology, the Ndumo Community Project, various conservancies and other civil society members. Eighteen Eco-Schools also partnered with the Department of Water and Sanitation to promote healthy living and water conservation.