**WHAT IS AN RCE?**

“Extensive partnerships and networks — within and between sectors — have been key to the successful accomplishments of the Decade.”

— Ina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO

**THE RCE NETWORK & THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ESD HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE THE CORE TO SOCIETAL CHANGE, THROUGH RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS, INSPIRING INNOVATION AND PROMOTING BOTH BEHAVIORAL CHANGE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACROSS SECTORS.**

The United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the designated lead agency for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD 2005-2014) stressed the need to reorient education towards sustainability. In 2003, in response to UNESCO’s call, the United Nations Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) developed a programme on ESD and introduced the concept of RCEs. Two years later, seven RCEs were officially acknowledged and the network tripled in size in its first year. In ten years, the network has expanded into Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

Moving forward, UNESCO has now presented the Roadmap for Implementing the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD with its five priority areas of action: advancing policy by mainstreaming ESD; transforming learning and training environments using the whole-institution approach, building capacities of educators and trainers, empowering and mobilizing youth, and finally accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level. At all levels of society, RCEs play a crucial role in implementing these goals using their local knowledge and global network.

For more information about RCEs or how to become a member, please contact the Global RCE Service Centre Educational for Sustainable Development Programme, UNU-IAS, rceservicecentre@unu.edu

**PARTNERS & WIDER COMMUNITY**

The RCE network’s ties to the UN remain strong. The RCE network’s secretariat is headquartered at the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo, Japan. Its partnership with UNESCO is among its most significant. Others include the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The RCE network also works closely with the Ubuntu Alliance, an association of 14 of the world’s foremost educational and scientific institutions that together signed the Ubuntu Declaration at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. Some Alliance members make up the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs, reviewing RCE Candidates and giving strategic advice on the development of the RCE network.

Ubuntu Alliance members include:
- African Academy of Science
- Association of African Universities
- Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future
- CopenAgro Alliance
- Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership
- International Association of Universities
- International Council for Science
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Science Council of Asia
- The World Academy of Sciences
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations University
- World Federation of Engineering Organisations

*As of July 2015*
REGIONAL CENTRES OF EXPERTISE

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

North Africa: Cairo, Alexandria
South Africa: Cape Town
North Eastern Africa: Addis Ababa
Middle East: Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem, Tehran

ASIA-PACIFIC

Australia: Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide
China: Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong
India: New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad
Japan: Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto
Korea: Seoul, Busan, Incheon
Pakistan: Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi
Southeast Asia: Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Manila

AMERICAS

North America: Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco
South America: Buenos Aires, Santiago, Lima
Central America: Mexico City, Guadalajara, Bogota

EUROPE

United Kingdom: London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Brussels
France: Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux
Spain: Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia

WHAT MAKES RCEs UNIQUE?

RCEs think globally but act locally. They have official links to UN agencies, formal education institutions, and informal educators worldwide. RCEs are the best keepers of knowledge around sustainability challenges in their regions.

The RCE network brings together multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary members who might not usually work together. As such, they are uniquely placed to help create solutions to sustainability challenges through dialogue, education, and learning. They are highly influential policy advocates, able to test policies individually and work collectively to bring policy to scale and advise on future actions.

RCEs ensure that the many facets of sustainable development have a place in primary, secondary and tertiary education and research, as well as in informal learning spaces. Through these efforts, RCEs help prepare local leaders of tomorrow, with the tools and information they need to make smart and sustainable choices for the future.

The success each RCE achieves on the local level is brought to scale through the global RCE network. Local knowledge, expertise and best practices are shared globally and applied successfully in other regions.