

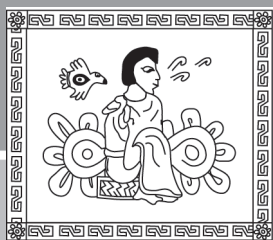


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The logotype of *Environmental Training* combines two prehispanic Mexican seals and a character from the post-Conquers Codex Mendoza. The logotype embodies a meaning of communication and environment, based on the following symbols: the flower seal signifies vegetation and crops and is related to water as shown by the presence of wavy lines. The bird is associated with life in the air and finally, the character with the glyphs represents the communication of thought, traditions and teaching.



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ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING



Letter from the editor

The field of environmental education has been steadily expanding and gaining strength in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the case of Mexico and in follow-up on the launching of the National Strategy of Environmental Education for Sustainability on Earth Day in 2006, the Mexican President announced the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Education Ministry and the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry to take environmental education to all the schools in the country. On World Environment Day, an initiative to form a National Council on Environmental Education for Sustainability was announced. Its purpose is to facilitate the co-responsibility of all social sectors and to foster the development and consolidation of public policies in the field of environmental education for sustainability, both nationally and locally, to help build an environmental culture, improve the population's quality of life, strengthen citizenship and the country's numerous cultural identities, and protect its ecosystems and biodiversity. This Council has been established and, through it, implementation of the National Strategy of Environmental Education for Sustainability in Mexico, 2006-2014, will begin.

In the sphere of higher education, new postgraduate programmes are emerging and becoming stronger. At the Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México, the Master's Degree Programme in Environmental Education, with a consolidated study programme and a strengthened faculty, has begun giving classes to its second group of students. The establishment of a Doctorate Programme in Environmental and Rural Studies at the Universidad Javeriana in Colombia has also been announced and will begin in 2008.

The region has been advancing in interuniversity cooperation to open up greater spaces for environmental studies. Thus, at the Fourth International Seminar on the University and the Environment, held in Bogotá in October of this year and convened by the Colombian Environmental Training Network together with the UNEP Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, it was agreed to create an Alliance of Iberoamerican Networks of Universities for Sustainability and Environment (ARIUSA). It was also agreed to promote an Iberoamerican Association of Graduate Study

Programmes in Environment and Sustainability (AIPAS). Both the Alliance and the Association intend to conduct academic cooperation activities aimed at coordinating events of common interest, at carrying out collaborative research projects and at strengthening postgraduate programmes in environment and sustainability.

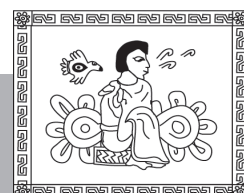
In addition to preparing and approving ARIUSA bylaws, as well as designing and launching the Portal of the Iberoamerican Network of Universities for Sustainability and Environment, the Action Plan for 2008 includes undertaking the following actions: a) Map environmental research centres and university postgraduate programmes in Iberoamerica, b) Advocate and facilitate information exchanges on research of common interest; c) Advocate and facilitate the exchange of teachers for specific activities.

The Plata Basin Socio-Environmental Knowledge and Care Center, on the occasion of the Fourth Meeting on "Cultivating Good Water", held in Foz de Iguazú last November, put into operation its training process by preparing the first two education and training circles called "permanent learning committees".

Finally, the convening of the First Meeting on "Indigenous Construction of Sustainability" by the Environment Vice-Minister of Bolivia should be noted. It will be held in La Paz in February 2008

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Activities in the Region

Fourth International Seminar on the Philosophical, Epistemological and Methodological Implications of Complexity Theory

15 to 18 January 2008, Havana, Cuba

This seminar, organized by the Chair of Complexity of the Institute of Philosophy of Havana, is a very good opportunity to know and discuss the major challenges that lie in this transdisciplinary field of knowledge.

In parallel with the seminar, scientific events such as three symposiums on complex systems, including Complex Environmental Systems, will be carried out through special lectures, panels, roundtables, papers and poster exhibits. Priority will be given to discussion, so as to make the exchange of viewpoints and experiences the centre of the event. It is open to the participation of researchers, teachers, professionals in general and university students.

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Fourth International Workshop on the University, Environment and Sustainable Development

11 to 15 February 2008, Havana, Cuba

The activities of the Sixth International Congress on Higher Education will include this Workshop, a space for pluralistic reflection to review the role of academia and the university in relation to problems of environment and sustainable development.

The themes that will be discussed at this workshop are: university policies and sustainable development, characteristics of environmental knowledge, environmental training in higher education; scientific research as a tribute to sustainability; university outreach in environmental education; environmental problems and university responses; globalization and sustainable development aspirations; and intranational and international environmental cooperation.

There will be some roundtable discussions on themes of particular interest such as: sustainable water and soil management; sustainable desertification and drought management; climate change and sustainable development; treatment, use and final disposal of residues and wastes; and local sustainable development.

A panel discussion on the “environmental education approach in higher education”, a discussion on “comprehensive land-use projects for local sustainable development” and a roundtable discussion on “the university, the energy revolution and Latin American integration” will also be carried out.

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Congress on the Construction of Discourse on Sustainability from the Viewpoint of Indigenous Peoples

19 to 21 February 2008, La Paz, Bolivia

A definition of poverty was reached through a comparison of per capita income of the countries of the South with that of the “developed” countries. Discovering that there were poor persons was converted into a social problem that should be solved, and the solution was found in economic growth as the main indicator of well-being, but it calls for standardizing societies, even in cultural aspects, including pre-Hispanic cultures.

This congress, organized by the Ministry of Biodiversity, Forest Resources and Environment of Bolivia, is being held in the South to disseminate the sustainability discourse of indigenous people and peasant farmers. It seeks to promote in the countries of Latin America the possibility of introducing elements in this discourse through the environmental authorities in order to construct sustainable and more equitable societies and to prepare a declaration of principles and responsibilities to guide the process of building a new society.

Information: www.agrobolivia.gov.bo

Second International Congress on Successful Cases: Education for the Development of Sustainable Societies

6 to 8 May 2008, Boca del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico

The Universidad Veracruzana is convening this congress whose objective is to analyse and identify outstanding initiatives in education and governance in the tropics that have been able to produce habit changes in favour of sustainable practices, alternative technologies and environmental conservation. The event is aimed at peasant farmers, producers, organizations, institutions, public officials, academics and students.

The themes that will be addressed at the congress are: pollution reduction; sustainable practices; ecology and conservation; an ethic for sustainable development, alternative technologies; economic development; information for decision-making; social and cultural well-being; and environmental health.

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Latin American and Caribbean Society of Environmental History

The Latin American and Caribbean Society of Environmental History (SOLCHA) is embedded within a movement that aims to make history more inclusive and less anthropocentric, to facilitate the meeting between the social sciences and natural sciences in the task of building a sustainable future for the life of the human being and their attendants our planet. The efforts to build this society began in Havana, as part of the II Latin American and Caribbean Symposium Environmental History, in October of 2004, and took shape in the Third Symposium held in Carmona, España, in April of 2006. The Fourth Symposium will be celebrate in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in May of 2008.

In keeping with the Symposium of Havana, participants met in general assembly to discuss the statutes of SOLCHA, created by members of the Managing Committee, constitute them formally, and to elect the first Board of Directors. The team selected to lead the task of organizing the new Society was composed of Guillermo Castro (President), from Panama; Micheline Cariño, from Mexico; Claudia Leal, from Colombia; Regina Horta Duarte, from Brazil; and Reinaldo Funes, from Cuba. The primary objectives of this society are: promote research, exchange of views, teaching and dissemination of scientific knowledge concerning the environmental history of Latin America and the Caribbean from an interdisciplinary perspective; encourage cooperation among those interested in exploring the past and contacts with similar organizations in other geographical areas; Contribute to the creation of a diverse and specialized reading of the link between environmental problems of past and present, allowing us to identify actions to promote construction of more sustainable societies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The environmental history deals with the mutual human being interactions with the rest of nature. It tries to understand history as a process of co-evolution between humans and their environment, based on the inseparability of social and ecological systems. The environmental history focused, in the beginning, on issues specific to the United States and Europe, but in recent years, researchers from these countries began to also direct its attention to other regions. At the same time, increasing the number of researchers in Asia, Oceania, Africa and Latin America.

Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology

The Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA), held its first Latin American Science Congress in Medellin, Colombia, from 13 to 15 August of 2007, in collaboration with the University of Antioquia and other colombian institutions. Around five hundred people, representatives from universities, research institutes and NGOs of thirteen Latin American countries presented papers and discussed topics of agriculture, environment and society.

SOCLA is a regional organization of two hundred and sixty members (mostly researchers, academics, professionals and agricultural technicians) from fourteen countries of Latin America. The main objective of SOCLA is to promote the development of the agroecological science as the scientific basis, technical and methodological necessary for a sustainable rural development strategy, which privilege the eating sovereignty, the conservation of the natural resources and the biodiversity, and to give power to rural communities in Latin America. To accomplish this, SOCLA organize a Scientific Congress every two or three years, and a series of short-term training courses in several countries, produces publications of key themes, and maintains working groups to provide information, analysis and technical advice to a large number of academic institutions, NGOs and organized groups of farmers of the region involved with agroecology.

SOCLA is promoting the creation of the first doctorate in Latin American Agroecology, which will be based in Colombia, and in which partners include the University of Antioquia and the Universidad Nacional. This doctorate will consolidate an academic one for advanced studies in agroecology and sustainable food systems in the region.

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Plata Basin Socio-Environmental Knowledge and Care Center

Social-Environmental Training and Formation Programme

The Plata Basin Socio-Environmental Knowledge and Care Center was established through a Technical and Scientific Agreement signed in November 2006 in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil, by Itaipu Binacional, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Itaipu Technological Park Foundation, and its headquarters were established in the Itaipu Technological Park. Its purpose is to work with social-environmental themes in the five countries that form the River Plate Basin: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The main axes of the Information Center include reflections on water as an integrating theme, the River Plate Basin as an area of operations, environmental thought as a conceptual framework for action, environmental education as a social mobilizer and the collective construction of information, actions and organization. On the basis of these premises, the Center has proposed the creation of a Social-Environmental Training and Formation Programme, which will be divided into ongoing learning circles and will be organized in the following manner:

Stage one. Board of Directors and Management Committee

Stage two. Seven promoters, tutors and communicators for each country of the basin

Stage three. 30 social-environmental educators for each country of the basin

Stage four. 900 social-environmental educators for each country of the basin

The social-environmental training process began in November 2007 with the implementation of stage two to prepare 35 promoters and tutors from all the countries of the basin. Their training will conclude in 2008. Stage three will begin the same year with the preparation of 150 educators. The programme is expected to conclude by 2009 with the training of 4,500 educators in the different countries of the basin. Special courses in ecological economics and political economics are also being developed, together with a website that can be used for distance training.

Through its founding entities, the Center has also concerned itself with forming part of world campaigns launched to benefit the environment. That is the case with the call to plant a billion trees throughout the planet in 2007. In June 2007, Itaipu Binacional assumed a commitment to collaborate in planting 500,000 trees, 200,000 of which were planted in August the same year. It should be noted that Itaipu Binacional is producing its own trees for planting and they are all native to the region, an important point among other factors to ensure the greatest number of individual survivors, the regeneration of flora native to the area and the recovery of degraded areas in the zone.

Pact for the Parana

The Pact for the Paraná, created in November of 2007, is a space for the reflection and the debate organized by the School of Education and Environmental Training "Chico Mendes". This School was founded and presented in March of 2007; it works from the perspective of the Latin American Environmental Thought "for rethinking and reimagine knowledge, local development, health, justice and environmental citizenship".

The organizers and sponsors of the Pact for the Parana Pact opened this space for information dialogue, the collective participation, plural and solidarity, seeking for the construction of a new environmental citizenship and a sustainable livelihood project, fair and inclusive. The pact will promote a rich ecosystem diversity of expression, cultural, economic, social, political, educational and scientific in the region of the Parana river, where it is the city of Rosario, headquarters of the School "Chico Mendes".

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CLACSO-Asdi 2008 Scholarships

The Regional Programme of Scholarships of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) has issued an invitation to participate in its 2008 scholarship contest for projects with the themes of "Natural assets, environment and territory" and "State, democracy and social classes" for senior, semi-senior and junior researchers in the region.

Periodically, the Programme invites social researchers of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in two types of contests: research project contests and essay contests. The purpose is to help form social scientists, advocate social research, ensure the dissemination of its outputs, encourage the exchange of academic information and expand the discussions and space for reflection on the problems and challenges facing our societies. The Programme also seeks to promote the development of critical and creative views, to mitigate the inequalities existing in the working conditions of social scientists in the region and to consolidate the participation of new generations of social scientists in institutional research and discussion spaces.

The contests and registration forms will be available at www.clacso.org in late March 2008.

Information: Regional Programme of Scholarships

Callao 875 3° E (AAB 1023) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Phone: (54 11) 4811-6588 / 4814-2301, Fax: (54 11) 4812-8459, 54 11) 4812-8459

probecas@campus.clacso.edu.ar

Programme Coordination: Bettina Levy, blevy@campus.clacso.edu.ar



Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on Environmental History 28 to 30 May 2008, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

The Latin American and Caribbean Society of Environmental History (SOLCHA) is convening the symposium for the scientific and academic community interested in the interactions between social and natural processes and the consequences of such interactions on the evolution of human societies and nature. Its purpose is to foster research, the exchange of opinions, education and dissemination of knowledge on the environmental history of Latin America and the Caribbean from a transdisciplinary perspective. The central theme to be discussed at this meeting of the symposium is "The history and culture of nature".

Themes for the different discussion groups, keynote lectures, plenary sessions, presentations and poster exhibits will include, among other topics: Environmental history, policy and management. the role of the past in building the future; Environmental history theory and method. transdisciplinary approaches; Geographical history; History of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems. teaching environmental history and environmental education; City and environment in the history of Latin America; Environmentalism and environmental thought in Latin America; Global climate change. causes and consequences in Latin America; and Environmental risks and natural disasters.

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Ninth Central American Congress on History 21 to 25 July 2008, San Jose, Costa Rica

The School of History of the Universidad de Costa Rica has issued an invitation to participate in this event in which the environmental problems of the Central American isthmus will be analysed and discussed from a historical perspective. On this occasion there will be an important space for ecological and environmental history, whose importance is becoming increasingly clear in light of the close relations between society and nature in terms of the perception of nature as a changing historic agent and not as a passive object of contemplation. An analysis of the existing relationship between the natural and artificial environments, anthropization processes, relationships between agricultural systems and ecosystems, and interconnections between environment and economic structures, are some of the themes that will be addressed by this field of human knowledge.

The objectives of the congress are: to analyse the contribution of diverse public, academic and governmental institutions and NGOs to ecological and environmental history; to analyse research experiences in the society-nature relationship; to situate similarities, differences and specificities of studies in the regional context related to Central America's environment in the past; to propose new theoretical-methodological approaches for conducting multi, trans and inter disciplinary research in ecological and environmental

history; and to set forth proposals for strengthening research in the area.

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Symposium on Practices and Territorial Knowledge 28 to 31 July 2008, San Jose, Costa Rica

Inside the Second Latin-American Congress of Anthropology, will be carry out this symposium, in which is going to work the theme "Practices and territorial knowledge. Dynamics of use and cultural appropriation of the environment", where they will meet investigators and students of postgraduate course dedicated to this theme, with special attention to the territories and its transformations.

Practices and knowledge involving conflict when the search for a whole act, for example, conflicts between different rationalities, especially when resources are scarce, and, therefore, precious. Visions as different as the ones that there is between the science-technology and the native world views is a case that shows different cultural appropriations in Latin America and, therefore, conflicts in the act and solutions to problems.

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TEIA-USP, Education and Environment Laboratory

TEIA-USP is a space for the production of interdisciplinary knowledge focused on themes of education, environment and citizenship, created in 2005 at the Universidad de Sao Paulo and based on the concerns of students, researchers and academics at the university, including particularly those of the Institute of Geosciences, the area of Environmental Management of the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities; and of the School of Education, where its headquarters are.

Its mission and major challenge is to build an interdisciplinary space to enable quality interrelationships among its members in the activities of research, the quest for participation of the academic community in the discussion, the preparation of public policies in relation to society and the approach to the knowledge generated, together with public and private organizations and the community in general.

Some of the activities carried out by the TEIA-USP Education and Environment Laboratory to achieve its goals are: promoting meetings and seminars with study groups and the public in general; promoting the training and capacity-building of teachers; disseminating publications with research projects and articles on different environmental education themes and practices.

Information: www.teia.fe.usp.br



Posgraduate Study Programmes in Environment

Doctorate Programme in Environmental and Rural Studies

The Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogota is launching this postgraduate study programme whose purpose is to train high-level researchers who will be able to conduct transdisciplinary research related to ecological, environmental and rural studies, and to head work teams of excellence, which will enable them to build spaces for research where different disciplines are integrated in order to understand complex problems.

The thematic areas dealt with in the doctorate programme are: ecology and natural resources management; rural studies; and philosophy of knowledge. Within these areas, some of the courses are: anthropogenic transformations and the global ecological system; the biology of conservation; production and conservation systems; development theories; ecosystem and culture; rural societies and economies; and forms of solidary organization and local development.

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www.javeriana.edu.co/fear/doctorado

Doctorate Study Programme in Environment and Development

The Universidad Federal of Parana, Brazil, announces this doctorate programme to promote the interaction of professionals who are already specialized in their respective areas of training and already involved in environment and development efforts.

In the belief that conceptual and methodological borders established between sciences should be crossed in the search for an adequate approach to environmental issues, the graduate programme seeks to strengthen theoretical, conceptual and practical tools for interdisciplinary dialogue, organizing each new group around research programmes defined collectively by teachers and students.

The research programme to be constructed for 2008 will be based on the major theme of "Nature, society and global changes: local and global risks, vulnerabilities, conflicts and strategies". Crucial themes that will be viewed in this programme include climate change, social technologies, regulatory aspects of environmental issues, management and governance, socio-environmental conflicts and strategies to resist change, forms of organization, cooperation and solidarity in the search for socio-environmental sustainability and strategies for producing society-nature knowledge.

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Certificate Course in Training Sustainable Development Promoters

The Environment, Housing and Land-use Development Ministry of Colombia, in conjunction with the Colombian Environmental Training Network, has created this certificate course to train environmental promoters to stimulate community participation in improving the quality of life in municipalities, based on existing resources.

The programme is divided into five modules – The relationship of man and the environment; Environmental education; Municipal environmental

management systems; Regional and municipal environmental planning and management; and Environmental projects supervision and management – based on the strategy of learning by doing. Throughout the certificate course, the participants will develop a project and put it into practice.

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Magister in Social Sciences. Process studies mention and development in the regional societies

This magister is part of the posgraduate offer of the Center of Studies of the Regional and Local Development of the Universidad de Los Lagos, Chile, an interdisciplinary academic unit, whose purpose is to contribute to the analysis and the promotion of the development in the zones of influence of the University.

The program has four lines of investigation: cultural processes; environment and development; management for the development; and local economies. It is designed for people with bachelor's degree or equivalent professional title.

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Master's Degree Programme in Environmental Education

The purpose of the Master's Degree Programme in Environmental Education at the Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México is to help build a new environmental culture. For that purpose it proposes to train educators who will be capable of favouring lifestyles based on the notion of environment as a human system; that is, an environment structured around the relationships of the human being with nature, with society and with a human being's own situation in the world.

This postgraduate programme places emphasis on the development of critical and reflective thought, and underscores the need to construct environmental commitments through an education strategy with teaching and training projects at the community, regional and national levels.

The programme promotes the need to set up environmental education in the different spaces of human activity, as well as in both formal and informal training processes, all from the perspective of helping to improve the quality of life on the planet.

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convoca_maestria_ea.html



Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Strategy of Environmental Education for Sustainability in Mexico

The Strategy of Environmental Education for Sustainability in Mexico is part of the nation's commitment to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, whose mission is to establish public policies in the field of environmental education at the national, regional and local levels in order to facilitate the building of an environmental culture, upgrade the population's quality of life and protect ecosystems. It is based on values such as respect for life, equity, solidarity and human diversity.

This Strategy seeks to consolidate environmental education as a fundamental public policy in a specific law that cuts across related fields and to offer the country and its different regions environmental training to provide them with environmental teachers, educators and promoters who will help to create citizens who are critical, participate and set forth proposals.

Creation of the National Council of Environmental Education for Sustainability in Mexico

The Government of Mexico, through the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (SEMARNAT), has announced the creation of the National Council of Environmental Education for Sustainability as an advisory body to the Ministry, owing to the need to incorporate society in the construction of public policies for the care of the environment and the development of a culture of responsible environmental protection and improvement.

Among other functions, the Council will provide advisory services and recommendations on environmental policy, analyse specific cases in the field of environmental education, and advocate activities to promote conservation practices, sustainable management of resources and changes in consumption patterns.

Environmental Forums on Sustainable Consumption in Colombia

In the framework of the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Thematic Network of Environmental Education of Colombia (created in 2003 at the Institute for Environmental Studies of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia as part of the Colombian Environmental Training Network), together with other academic institutions and universities, has been organizing spaces for citizen reflection, analysis and increasing awareness concerning environmental themes. For 2007, the theme to be discussed was "the role of environmental education in citizen training for responsible consumption", to find a way for ethical and sustainable human development in local, regional, national and global spheres.

The four forums held between September and November were: Responsible consumption not to destroy the ozone layer; Youth and the globalization of consumption; Ecology of daily life; and Cleaner production and ecotourism.

In this way the Thematic Network of Environmental Education of Colombia, within its sphere of action, has been contributing through activities involving society and joining efforts of different institutions around common objectives of environmental education and training.

Fourth International Seminar on the University and the Environment

An agreement to create an Alliance of Iberoamerican University Networks for Sustainability and Environment (ARIUSA) and other important accords marked the conclusion of this seminar organized by the Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas y Ambientales and the Politecnico Grancolombiano. It is an official event of the Colombian Environmental Training Network, which was held in Bogotá, Colombia, in October 2007.

The seminar focused on the institutional environmental management carried out by universities and guided by the principles of ecological land-use management. The goals set forth for the event included the incorporation of Colombia in the regional activities of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the development of the Iberoamerican University Network in the sphere of sustainability and development for which a public session and a meeting of specialists on the theme were carried out.

Other agreements reached at the seminar were the welcoming of the proposal of the Fifth Iberoamerican Congress on Environmental Education to create the Iberoamerican Association of Postgraduate Study Programmes in Environment and Sustainability, the commitment to support efforts in favour of education for environment and sustainable development, respecting the unique features of each initiative; to conduct academic cooperation activities to coordinate events of common interest, carry out collaborative research projects and support the creation and strengthening of postgraduate study programmes in environment and sustainability.

The International Seminar on the University and the Environment dates back to 1999 and has always been held in Colombia as a programme of the UNEP Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, with universities of the region.

Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education

With the slogan "Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future", the Government of India, through the Centre for Environmental Education and with UNESCO and UNEP as cosponsors, organized this conference in November 2007 in the framework of a series of conferences being held since the first intergovernmental conference in Tbilisi in 1977.

This conference, held during the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), was of special significance because one of its objectives was to reformulate environmental education to support education for sustainable development and review the state of environmental education in the context of DESD.

Approximately 1,500 persons from around the world participated in the conference, including representatives of national governments, United Nations agencies, educators in the field of environment, health, water and sanitation, human rights, gender issues, peace, citizenship, social justice, members of civil society, NGOs, private initiative, academics, mass media, etc.

The conference included plenary sessions, thematic workshops, poster exhibits and parallel events such as the launching of books, artistic performances, movies and special lectures.

