

# Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

## RCE LUCKNOW

### The region

Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh, the fourth largest and most populated state in India. Lucknow district has a population of 2.8 million in its 3204 sq. km. area. Its old world charm and reputation of a culture that combines warmth, sophistication, and a love of gracious living has given Lucknow the title of the golden city of the east. With its 8 universities, 12 national research institutes and 55 degree colleges, Lucknow is also rich in academic institutions.

The only national park in Uttar Pradesh is the Dudhwa National Park, a landscape of streams and grasslands in the foothills of the Himalayas on the Indo-Nepal border. Lucknow to Dudhwa is a 6 to 7 hour journey by road.

### Regional challenges

The problems of the state of Uttar Pradesh are also the problems of Lucknow. The state's large population has a direct impact on the environment, and population size is also linked to poverty, pollution, deforestation, overuse of natural resources, and waste generation and disposal. The rivers that flow through the area are polluted by domestic and industrial effluent.

Around 70% of the state's population is dependent on agriculture, and the current intensive use of chemicals is causing environmental and health problems. Lucknow also faces problems related to unplanned urbanization such as traffic management issues, pollution from vehicles and waste disposal.

The communities living around the Dudhwa national park depend on forest resources for their livelihood. Livestock grazing has disturbed wild animals, and cattle in the core area of the park have been attacked by tigers, leading to human-animal conflicts. Conservation of biodiversity under such a situation requires involving communities in the decision-making, planning and management of resources.



### Regional role

RCE Lucknow will motivate and involve various stakeholders in promoting education for protecting the environment, managing natural resources and conserving biodiversity for sustainable development.

#### *ESD for protecting the environment*

RCE Lucknow will work towards creating awareness and sensitivity towards use of natural resources through schools, teachers and trainers. The RCE will involve schools and NGOs in the region, and will also collaborate with the Department of Education and Environment.

#### *Biodiversity conservation through natural resource management*

RCE Lucknow will work closely with local communities and the Department of Forests in conserving the biodiversity of Dudhwa. Training of communities to adopt sustainable livelihood options will be piloted in four village clusters. RCE Lucknow will partner with scientific institutions which will provide technical support to the programme.

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## Goals of the RCE

### Long-term objectives

- To involve various stakeholders in implementing ESD programmes
- To build ESD capacity of community groups and partner institutions
- To analyze and assess knowledge, attitudes, policies and practices related to the protection of environment and natural resource management in the region
- To work towards minimizing the pressure of the surrounding rural communities on protected areas (PA) and vice versa

### Short-term objectives

- To conduct education programmes for schools and communities
- To develop awareness building materials for dissemination among selected target groups
- To enhance the capacity of local organizations, institutions, NGOs, policy makers and government organizations to address natural resource management issues
- To build community capacity on sustainable livelihoods
- To create linkages with development and alternative livelihood programmes of the state government

## Organizations involved

Partners from the formal education and government sectors include the Education Department, the Forest Department, the Pollution Control Board, National Green Corps (NGC) schools, the Lucknow University, Indian Institute of Management and the Institute of Engineering and Technology, among others.

Local NGOs, youth groups, the Lucknow Zoo, the Regional Science Centre, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC) and the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) are partners from the non-formal sector.

Partners from the informal education sector include,

- Media – Local Newspapers, Akashvani (Radio), FM radio channels and Television channels
- Community organizations – Panchayat, Village Forest Protection Committees, Village Ecodevelopment Committees, Village Biodiversity Conservation Committees
- Volunteers – Youth and NGO groups

## Decision-making structure

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is the lead organization for RCE Lucknow. The management structure of the RCE would have two levels – an advisory body and a core facilitation group. The advisory body meetings will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the Lucknow University, and will be organized by CEE. The advisory group will also include representatives from IIM, IET and CEE as well as the Chief Wildlife Warden for the state. The core facilitation group will meet quarterly, while the advisory body will meet once a year to review planned activities.

## Activities

RCE Lucknow is involved in the following transformative education activities.

- In the Dudhwa national park, the RCE's current focus is on building linkages with various government programmes to promote sustainable livelihood activities among communities to minimize the pressure of people on the protected area, and documenting traditional knowledge and practices related to natural resource management.
- In Lucknow, CEE is working with a strong eco-club network under the NGC scheme of the Government of India to involve school children and youth in addressing local environment and natural resource conservation issues.
- Discussions with the education department, the tourism department, municipal governments and the panchayati raj (village administration) to initiate capacity building and demonstration projects are ongoing.

Forthcoming activities of the RCE include,

- strengthening the network of stakeholders for collaborative projects,
- facilitating documentation of traditional knowledge base,
- organizing meetings and seminars to sensitize partners towards ESD issues,
- providing training to communities for sustainable livelihood projects, and
- involving school networks for sensitizing the masses towards conservation of natural resources.

## For more information

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