



## 3rd International Conference on Sustainability Education DAY 2

### Theme: Climate Literacy

September 10, 2021 (Friday)

Session 11: - Nature Connect and Informal Education

By



Time - 15:30 - 16:30 hrs IST (GMT + 5:30)

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

More and more people worldwide are moving into cities with confined green spaces and low nature exposure. As a result, today's digital generation is experiencing less of nature and losing their innate ability to connect with it. The year 2020 led to a multi-fold increase in this disconnect by confining children to indoors with limited opportunities to experience the natural world.

A growing body of research has clearly shown that children and youth who have a greater connection with nature have a better affinity toward the environment, biodiversity and conservation. There is also evidence of benefits in the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of children when engaged with nature around their homes, schools and neighbourhoods. Nature connect is critical for the conservation of our planet and the wellbeing of our people.

Hence, it is essential to adopt new and innovative methods to bring back experiences connected with nature into the lives of young people. The introduction of nature to one's everyday chores are through nature-based solutions. These promote sustainable actions to protect, manage and restore landscapes in any ecosystem to address effective changes. These changes benefit communities and societies to adapt to changing environment and enhancing their economic needs for future. The nature-based solutions can be easily practiced by changing individual habits. They are reaction to a chain of actions created by innovative mechanisms and individuals, for example inclusion of pollinators around agricultural landscapes, production of natural fibre products against plastic polymers, restoration of degraded landscapes, maintenance of green spaces within urban spaces, and plantation of native species. All these activities will advocate the promotion of biodiversity, ecosystem revival and uplift human well-being.

Young people are the ambassadors of their own future, and inculcating nature-based solution practices within their lives from a young age will lead them to increase the environmental footprints to reduce the effects of changing environment. This session will explore and discuss the various tools and experiences that can develop empathy, enjoyment, awareness and



curiosity about nature. We will also explore how educators can integrate them into their education system.

### About the Breakaway Working Session

A breakaway working session of one hour on **nature connect and Informal education** is planned on Day 2 as part of the conference to discuss the importance of connecting with nature and the different tools one can integrate into the education system. The session is envisaged to be attended by education administrators, educators, practitioners, etc.

### The objectives of the session

- To discuss what is nature connect and the importance of an immersive, simulated, experiential and action-based approach to learning about the environment and biodiversity.
- Showcase Various tools associated with nature connect and how the above tools and initiatives can be embedded.
- Understand nature base solutions and how they can be integrated into conservation education.

### Tentative Schedule of the Breakaway Session

Day 2 – 10 September 2021 - Friday

Timings - Session 15:30 – 16:30

Theme: Nature Connect and Informal education

Timings	Session	Details	Speaker/Facilitator
15.30 – 15.35	Welcome	An overview of the session	Radhika Suri, Director, Education WWF India
15:35 – 15:45	Virtual Nature trail	A video of a trail to experience nature from the comfort of your home	
15:45 – 15:55	Introduction to Nature Connect	What is Nature connect and its importance	Radhika Suri, Director, Education WWF India
15:55 – 16:10	Tools for Nature Connect	Various tools of embedding nature experiences into the lives of children at home and at school.	Chetna Singh Kaith Project Lead, Education WWF India
16:10 – 16:25	Nature-based solutions	Understanding and integrating into education. Key Messages from IUCN World Conservation Congress	Ms Archana Chatterjee, Programme Manager, IUCN India
16:25 – 16:30	Key Conclusions and discussion		Chetna Singh Kaith Project Lead, Education WWF India

The duration of the discussion is 60 minutes.

## Expected Outcome

Making educators aware about nature connect programmes and how the various technique through which they can be built into their education system.