

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

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Summary

A description is given in this chapter of the International Centre for Conservation Education (ICCE), which is a small charitable organization established under English law and based in the United Kingdom. Its organizational structure, major activities and educational resource base are described and certain observations made which, if taken on board and applied, should sharpen the focus of such organizations to contribute more meaningfully to the achievement of global environmental sustainability and sustainable development.

1. International Centre for Conservation Education and Its Major Activities

1.1. What is the International Centre for Conservation Education?

The International Centre for Conservation Education (ICCE) originally began in 1975 as an international project on conservation education in developing countries, especially in Africa, working in close collaboration with late Sir Peter Scott and international organizations like IUCN Commission on Education and WWF International.

In 1985 the Centre acquired the status of an independent charity under English law and changed its name to International Centre for Conservation Education. It is a small organization, based in the United Kingdom and supported by charitable donations (www.icce.org.uk), specializing in education for nature conservation.

1.2. Main Areas of ICCE's Activity

Over the years ICCE has undertaken work for IUCN, UNESCO and WWF International, the European Union and several governments and aid agencies; provided consultancy services to many international organizations as well as training in environmental education and communication. ICCE's work, focusing mainly on Africa, may be categorized as follows:

- a) *Research projects*: a typical example is the major research project, entitled Education and Communication for Sustainable Development in Africa (ECoSA), undertaken for the European Union and completed in 1996.
- b) *Practical projects*: ICCE has been involved in a variety of such projects. The construction of mobile education units for Africa is a typical example.
- c) *Publications*: ICCE has published many books, reports and other useful documents. The Pan-African Wildlife Clubs Resource Book, which was produced for the ECoSA project, is a major ICCE publication.
- d) *Technical Support Services*: these include design and production of audio-visual (AV) materials and CDs.

In 1998 ICCE was forced to downsize its activities and revise its organizational structure because of funding difficulties. In the restructuring that followed many of its technical support services (AV and CD production, design and printing) were transferred to Conservation Education Services and ICCE Photo-library, both operating as independent entities (www.icce.org.uk).

2. Current Projects of ICCE

Current major projects of ICCE are the following (www.icce.org.uk).

Eco-Congregation Programme, UK: ICCE is working in close collaboration with the Bethesda Methodist Church in Cheltenham, United Kingdom, which is an all-age worshipping, witnessing community striving to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ and offers a wide range of weekly services and activities to that end, to raise the green credentials of the church under the National UK Eco-Congregation Programme. The project involved establishing “ten green commandments” including among others a “traidgreen” initiative, discussing green issues in house groups and organizing a special “Conservation Sunday”. The project has been very successful — in 2003 the church received the national award for its work.

Wildlife Utilisation Raises Community Standards (WURCS), Malawi: funded by the UK Community Fund, this six-year program is aimed at improving the quality of life of villagers living in the lakeside communities of the *Mangochi* District. Working in collaboration with the Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), ICCE is involved in several of the programme activities including establishment of tree nurseries, bee-keeping, rearing guinea fowl, and improving vegetable growing.

Environmental Publishing Unit, Malawi: in response to the need for a specialized design and publishing service for organizations involved in sustainable development

and related activities in Malawi, ICCE has been providing help to set up an Environmental Publishing Unit (EPU) there. A new EPU office has already been established at the WESM headquarters in *Limbe* and WESM's graphic designer trained at ICCE.

3. ICCE's Educational Resource Base

Over the years ICCE has produced an impressive resource base of audio-visual aid materials for conservation education at primary and secondary levels which can be used to inform and educate general audiences too. The following apply to these materials, available at reasonable prices (www.icce.org.uk):

- Developed by primary school teachers and environmental education experts, these teaching resources are flexible by design and have been thoroughly “field” tested in the classroom;
- Copyright-free masters of work cards and work sheets are included in each resource pack;
- Cross-curricular resources with specific relevance to study programs in science and geography have been produced with the support of the UK Department of the Environment;
- Sets of high quality slides are supplied in plastic pocket wallets with scripts and optional pre-recorded narration on audio cassette;
- Many of the resource packs also contain work sheets and additional information that do not need photo-copying.

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Biographical Sketch

Ms. Krassimira Kazashka-Hristozova received the Masters degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria in 2001, and the European Masters degree in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development from the same university in 2002. Following a short spell at the Executive Environment Agency, Sofia, currently Ms. Kazashka-Hristozova is working as a Senior Expert at the Ministry of Environment and Water, Sofia. Areas of her professional interest include Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), Environmental Protection, and Environmental Education. She has several publications in these and related areas.

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