

HOW TO USE THE PACE ACTION SHEETS

What are the PACE Action Sheets?

Somebody somewhere has found a solution! The idea behind the PACE project is to help spread simple solutions to environmental problems between communities in Africa. From fuel-saving stoves to rainwater-harvesting, compost making to forest product certification, the PACE Action Sheets aim to share vital information about practical ways in which people are addressing environmental problems.

The PACE Action Sheets were created alongside the following educational materials for use by schools, environmental education centres and community based organisations:

- The PACE FILM on VHS or DVD for schools, environmental education centres and community based organisations
- AFRICA, OUR HOME – a beautiful illustrated book for children, teachers and leaders, including environmental education activities on each topic
- The PACE DIRECTORY – Sources of further information
- A wall poster

How were the PACE Action Sheets developed?

The PACE project was started to help organisations in one part of Africa get the benefits from the ideas and experiences of people working in other parts. By sharing ideas we don't have to start from zero, we can learn from other people's experiences and share our own findings with them, so everyone benefits. With improved communications technology, like mobile phones and the Internet, this is becoming easier and easier to do.

The PACE project research team focused on finding people who are developing and sharing straightforward solutions to common environmental problems. You will meet these people in the PACE films, and read about them in the book Africa Our Home. The PACE Action Sheets were compiled to share more detailed information on the solutions and projects featured in the films. They were prepared using information provided by organisations with relevant expertise and knowledge, and reviewed by experts.

Who can use the PACE ACTION SHEETS?

The PACE Action Sheets are aimed at people involved in raising awareness about environmental issues and developing practical ways to address environmental problems. The materials are being delivered to people with experience in spreading ideas and taking positive action. These people are often already involved in networks that allow good ideas to spread like wildfire. They include:

Community workers and representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

– who could use the Action Sheets...

... to inform their own networks

... as a source of information on practical techniques and a starting point for new projects

... as background information for health and environmental campaigns

... at meetings, activities and training workshops with women, farmers, youth groups,

community groups and leaders

Educators and curriculum developers

– who could use the Action Sheets...

... for background information for their own classes and environmental projects

... for classroom activities and experiments

... in teacher training workshops

... on field trips and in laboratories as the basis for experiments and investigations

... for curriculum development

Newspaper and radio journalists

– who could use the PACE materials

... as a basis for articles, programmes or special editions on particular topics, perhaps as a background to interviews with local experts

Using the PACE ACTION SHEETS

You can use the Action Sheets in any way you like. However, there are two main ways in which we hope that they will be useful:

1. Using the Action Sheets to put ideas into practice

The PACE Action Sheets may be useful as a starting point for project development. However, we all know that that written information cannot change the world - only people can do that, and people everywhere live in different environments with different constraints and opportunities.

Before starting out on a new technique or project, talk to others and get local advice if it is available. Set things up so people can learn from your mistakes. One way to do this is to conduct experiments in which different techniques are compared with doing nothing. Measuring the results of these experiments against specific objectives will enable you to work out what works well where you live. Organisations often advise that it is wise to start small, and recognise exactly what you are investing (e.g. time, money, energy) and what you stand to lose or gain (e.g. health, money, new skills). It is also important to find out about and understand any health and safety risks associated with new activities or techniques, and take precautions against them.

How to obtain further information: At the end of each Action Sheet there is a list of useful organizations. You can contact these organizations for more information on putting the ideas covered into practice. Their full addresses are listed in the PACE directory. Some of the organizations listed can give further information about grants and may be able to assist with project development.

As well as contacts, each Action Sheet lists Internet websites, articles and books that could be useful sources of further information.

Using the Internet for research: The Internet is an amazing resource and keyword searches often come up with incredibly detailed information. However, it is always worth bearing in mind that the information you find on the Internet may not always have been rigorously reviewed. It is always wise to check your sources out carefully, and contact people for further information if need be.

Obtaining books and articles: In many areas, there are resource centres and libraries where books can be consulted for free. Many of the books listed will be found at the Practical Action resource centres. TALC, WEDC and ITDG Publishing are useful organisations to contact if you wish to purchase low cost reference material.

Practical Action Southern Africa
Number 4 Ludlow Road (off Enterprise Road)
Newlands
Harare
Telephone: + 263 4 776107, 788157
Cell: +263 091 402 896; 091 226 999;
091 283 060; 091 283 061
Fax: + 263 4 788157
Email: zimbabwe@practicalaction.org.zw

TALC – TEACHING-AIDS AT LOW COST
PO BOX 49 St. Albans
AL1 5TX
UK
Tel: + 44 (0) 1727 853869
Fax: + 44 (0) 1727 846852
Email: info@talcuk.org
Website : www.talcuk.org
– Low Cost Teaching Aids

Practical Action Eastern Africa
AAYMCA Building (Second Floor)
Along State House Crescent
P.O. Box 39493, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: + 254 20 2715293 / 2719313 /2719413
Fax: + 254 20 710083
Email: kenya@practicalaction.or.ke

ITDG Publishing / ITDG Publishing
The Schumacher Centre for Technology &
Development
Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwickshire
CV23 9QZ, United
Kingdom
Email: marketing@itpubs.org.uk
Tel +44 (0)1926 634501 | Fax +44 (0)1926 634502
Website: <http://www.itdgpublishing.org.uk>

A USEFUL BOOK (available from TALC)

Building the Capacity of Local Groups by I. Carter, 2001, TEARFUND;

Aims to increase confidence among group members, so they can successfully manage change.

2. Using the Action Sheets to raise awareness: These Action Sheets may be used for noncommercial, educational purposes, and may be adopted and adapted as you wish. For example, you could adopt the materials in part or in full for inclusion in educational materials, articles, programmes or campaign literature. Or you could adapt the materials so they have more local relevance (see Box on Adapting the PACE Action Sheets at the end of this section). Whatever way you use a PACE Action Sheet, please credit PACE and the sources listed in the acknowledgements section of the sheet.

What you can do for us?

We need feedback on the Action Sheets, as well as all the other materials in the education pack. How useful is this material? How can we make it better? Are there special topics you need information about? Please let us know, and please send us material that you have developed based on the PACE project materials.

We also want to hear about the projects you are working on. Have the PACE educational materials inspired you to start up new initiatives? Was the information in the Action Sheets helpful? How can we improve them in future?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The PACE project is a collaboration between Tusk Trust and Siren Conservation Education. Inspiration for the format and style of the PACE Action Sheets came from materials produced by OUTREACH/TVE, World Agroforestry Centre, Garden Organic, WEDC, Practical Action and the Hesperian Foundation (www.hesperian.org). Each Action Sheet acknowledges the people involved in production and review of that topic. Extracts from the Hesperian booklets "Water for Life" and "Sanitation and Cleanliness" are excerpted from "A Community Guide to Environmental Health" produced by Hesperian in collaboration with UNDP in 2005. These are reproduced with permission from Hesperian Health Guides, 1919 Addison Street, Suite 304, Berkeley, CA 94704, USA; Tel: (510) 845-1447, Fax: (510) 845-9141; E-mail: hesperian@hesperian.org Web: www.hesperian.org

DISCLAIMER

The compilers of these Action Sheets have made every effort to ensure the accuracy and currency of the information presented. The authors disclaim any liability, loss, injury or damage incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of the contents of the PACE Action Sheets.

ADAPTING THE PACE ACTION SHEETS – THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Make it more locally relevant...

- Substitute local species of plants and animals and local cultivation techniques
- Include stories on local environmental issues, controversies, and people
- Include artwork or photographs to reflect local cultures and environments

Communicate!

- Make it easier to understand by shortening sentences, simplifying grammar, and substituting simpler words
- Introduce new words and tell readers what to look for prior to their reading
- Eliminate idiomatic language and scientific jargon
- Translate into the language of the readers

Make it more active, for use in a group!

- Divide material into parts and assign small groups to make presentations
- Introduce material with questions to be answered through reading or listening
- Turn the material into a discovery or problem-solving lesson

Fit it into the learning curriculum...

- Convert environmental data into mathematical problems
- Assign students measurement and data collection tasks and analysing data in class
- Use environmental topics to teach processes
- Analyse the curriculum to find connections to the topic area
- Add reading or writing exercises as pre-work or post-work to environmental education demonstrations or activities

Give it a broader perspective...

- Have learners listen to, read, or discuss materials from different perspectives (e.g, the community, women, extension agents, farmers, children).
- Have learners research and write about the same problem from different perspectives

Cut down on hand-outs...

- Present the same materials in a different way
- Substitute with simpler, locally available materials
- Use one written copy rather than hand-outs and
 - read aloud
 - dictate the main points
 - outline the main points on a blackboard for students to copy
 - have students work in groups to share limited copies

Use it with people who can't read or write...

- Transform written ideas into simple pictures.
- Add more visual aids and demonstrations to the material
- Modify the material for use on radio, or other mass media, if these are important channels of information in your community
- Convert the material into stories, songs, puppet shows, and other forms of popular entertainment to convey environmental messages

SOURCE: Judee Blohm and Jamie Watts, *Adapting Environmental Education Materials*, U.S. Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. USA. (February, 1999) reproduced from OUTREACH/TVE Education Packs

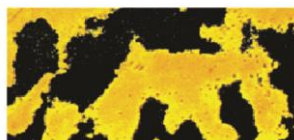


Tusk promotes the protection of wildlife and habitats, sustainable rural community development, environmental education programmes, responsible tourism and constructive wildlife research throughout Africa.

Tusk Trust, 4 Cheapside House, High Street, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AA, U.K.
Tel: +44 (0)1747 831 005 Fax: +44 (0) 1747 831 006
Email: info@tusk.org
UK Registered Charity No. 803118

Tusk USA, 525 East 89th Street, Courtyard Office, New York, NY 10128
Tel: +1 (212) 602 1588 Email: infousa@tusk.org
Tusk USA is a 501(c)(3) registered charity. EIN: 30-0190986

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www.siren.org.uk

Siren Conservation Education sounds the alarm about the state of the planet, working to inspire people to care for and protect the natural world.

Siren Conservation Education, The Hive, The Old Music Hall, Oxford, OX4 1JE, U.K.
Tel: +44 (0)1865 403149
Email: info@siren.org.uk Website: www.siren.org.uk

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