

Conservation Education Definitions

At the IZE Conference in Vienna in 2002, delegates were asked to write down their definition of 'Conservation Education'. As you can see we had an excellent response! As one might expect, several themes emerge. One being that Conservation Education isn't perceived as just a philosophy but more a very powerful means to achieving something tangible. 'Awareness to action' sums up a lot of your comments. Perhaps surprisingly only a few people used words such as love, awe, wonder, and beauty. Perhaps the others took emotional engagement as implicit? It would be interesting to repeat this exercise again in the future to see if our perceptions and objectives have changed.

DEFINITIONS

- Conservation Education can be defined as the technicalities or logistics adopted for wildlife restoration campaigns.
- A branch of Conservation Educational branch that has diverse ways of managing or maintaining the value of nature.
- Slogan-like definitions are not helpful – we are not running an advertising campaign. What conservation is, or should be, can only be elucidated through serious debate or reasoning. Indeed, conservation as a personal and social idea has no fixed definition, but is constantly evolving in meaning
- Any type of education that conveys environmental damage and results in improved natural resource management.

A process of :

- promoting the preservation of nature by using communication through interpretation in all forms to convey the desired message.
- conveying messages on the importance of preserving nature.
- promoting the preservation of flora and fauna using different media to convey the message

Education programmes which serve the following tasks:

- Sensibilities of nature and environment
- Raise awareness for conservation
- Empowerment to act both locally and globally on a personal and social level.
- Conservation Education (CE) is the combination of two words that have become one word to zoo educators. CE is the ability to give people opportunities to grow in knowledge and create changes to their life style and their environment.
- The key word is education – which implies creating awareness, changing behaviour and habits and providing skills and knowledge. All this is focussed towards wildlife conservation either in-situ or ex-situ. There is therefore little or no difference if conservation Education is referred to as environmental education, zoo education, etc
- Developing a sense of love, awe and wonder at the natural world, leading to a desire to act in a way which will conserve the biodiversity of the world. To impart a sense of wonder and stewardship for the natural world
- Helping people to gain a wider knowledge and better understanding of the natural world and what effect humankind has had on it. Through this learning we want people to make changes in their behaviour for the benefit of that world.
- Teach people of all ages to take care of all flora and fauna in the world locally and globally by letting people feel, smell and hear aspects of nature and culture.
- Conveying knowledge and attitudes with the specific intention of impacting human behaviour and eliciting positive actions on behalf of the environment and wildlife.

- Education concerned with the teaching and learning of the concepts involved in preserving and conserving biodiversity and the techniques and strategies effective in achieving this objective.
 - To educate people about conservation issues, species, environments, habitats, ecosystems, etc. To help change people's perceptions and therefore actions to a sustainable way of life.
 - Any activities that make people change their mind and above all, their "behaviour" related to nature.
 - Make people understand that to preserve nature means to preserve humankind.
 - Is it right nowadays to think of "conserving" or should we better say "to manage in a sustainable way"?
 - We are first and foremost zoo educators, not preachers of conservation; help people see the wonders of nature and the desire to conserve will naturally follow
 - Learning for sustainability. Act locally, think globally. Raise awareness for changing our (European) lifestyle.
 - Conservation Education is the teaching and learning process of how people and nature interact in such a way that the balance of life on this planet is maintained.
 - Is a methodology to raise awareness of the problems facing wildlife in general by giving more knowledge in an active way on different topics.
 - Conservation education provides information of the actual situation of nature – from single species to biotopes in an affective way. The presentation of ambitious initiatives and projects of organisations (like zoos) as well as individuals stimulates people to take action.
 - We show our zoo's conservation programmes to the audience and draw them into our local work.
 - Every educational activity in relation to a conservation project of the zoo and in the area where the project is carried out.
 - Providing information, activities and experiences to enable people of all ages to discover the world around them and the inter-relationship of species and the environment, as well as the relationship of Man to the world. Cons Ed aims to enable people to make informed choices to act in a more sustainable way and thereby support the conservation of nature and natural resources.
 - Education that in the broad sense affects people to act with more responsibility when it comes to use of resources and the conservation of living organisms. Activity which excites, involves, stirs people into emotionally caring about environmental issues.
 - Leading on to *enabling*, by offering ideas, information and tools (practical and intellectual) to make informed decisions and act in a positive way. Telling stories is not enough, but it's a start. Encouraging the *desire to act* is where it's at, as well as offering the *possibility* to act.
 - Increase awareness on the role that man plays in and the influence that man has on natural processes, starting with one's own immediate environment. And introduce ways in which one can make this role as positive and effective as possible.
 - To increase awareness of people on the beauty and necessity of biodiversity in such a way that the people care more and may alter their behaviour to contribute to conservation and to decrease their environmental destructiveness.
 - All the activities that make people change their mind and, above all, their behaviour related to nature. Make people understand that to preserve nature means to preserve mankind. Two questions: what is the difference between conservation and environmental education? Is it right, nowadays, to say 'conserve' or would it be better to say 'manage in a sustainable way'?
- information about conservation development
 - different target groups
 - create awareness
 - change behaviour
 - invest to achieve conservation goals

- To become part of Nature again through a better knowledge of animals and plants and through respect for them. Conservation education owes a duty, not only to children, but to each and every individual that lives on this planet, be they 0 or 100 years old.
- Conservation education is an action through of it you can teach all about the environment of all the world, and you can use a lot of things for teaching that I think that the conservation education is a tool for the new generations for the future, the new man will be more aware and take better care of the world.
- Facilitate the process: awareness, interest, procedures and understanding for nature, flora and fauna leading to attitudes that secure sustainable use of natural resources.
- The effort to conserve and increase awareness of the wildlife species and natural resources, fauna and flora through systematic methods, programs and activities and using educational tools as a medium to awake human feelings toward living together in a better world.
- Conservation education includes any education about nature, wildlife, the environment etc that has as its underlying mission, the goal of encouraging the development of appreciation, knowledge or participation related to the protection of nature. In short, it is any form of applied environmental education that has conservation as its underlying goal.
To communicate about the interdependence of all living things on the planet.
- Equipping oneself with the necessary information to enable one to make information on the sustainable use/harvesting of natural resources.
- This is a process of promoting preservation of nature by using communication through interpretation in all forms to convey the desired message. A process of conveying messages on the importance of preserving nature. A process of promoting the preservation of flora and fauna using different media to convey the messages.