



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: GREEN SPACES AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Global Week Virtual Exchange

Nottingham Trent University

2021



TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING JOURNEYS

EDU Africa aims to promote the process of student transformation by utilizing the unique context of Africa to help students broaden their intellectual horizons and grow personally, cross-culturally, professionally, and as global citizens.



**INTERCULTURAL
COMPETENCE**



**GLOBAL
CITIZENSHIP**



**PERSONAL
GROWTH**



**INTELLECTUAL
GROWTH**



**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

About South Africa

As its name might suggest, South Africa is a country located on the southern-most tip of the African continent. South Africa is well-known on the global stage for its long struggle with Apartheid, transitioning to a democratic nation in 1994. Its formative histories, however, are much longer and more complex than the narrow lens of Apartheid allows. Contact between the indigenous societies of the Khoi and the San, and the waves of migration that brought various Bantu civilizations south from West Africa are a couple of examples. Like many other African countries, South Africa is home to varied people groups, cultures, and religious belief systems; for this reason, it is often called the “Rainbow Nation”. It is also geographically rich and varied, comprising of 8 different biomes that are spread across the country, and is home to a spectacular array of plant, mammal and bird species.

About Kenya

Kenya is a country in East Africa; it is bisected by the Equator and is home to savannah, lake-lands, the dramatic Rift Valley, mountain highlands, and a coastline on the Indian Ocean. It is famed for its scenic landscapes and vast wildlife preserves, but its human history is just as remarkable as its natural heritage. Kenya has been an independent nation-state for just over half a century, but its diverse human history dates back many of years, from the earliest hominids who lived millions of years ago, to the Nilotic and Bantu migrations and the settlement of Arab traders on the coast in the first century AD. One of the country’s two official languages, Kiswahili, has both Bantu and Arabic origins that demonstrate this history, while the second, English, is evocative of its colonial past. The country is home to one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, and relies heavily on tourism. It is Africa’s original safari destination, and shares the world-famous great Wildebeest migration with its neighbour, Tanzania.

Program Content

When considering environmental challenges around the world, it is quickly apparent that the effects of environmental degradation weigh disproportionately on the most vulnerable communities. In the first session, participants work on case studies of Environmental injustice in South Africa and engage with a local organization working to protect natural habitats and create healthier living environments. In the second session, we move on to East Africa, where students learn about reforestation efforts in Kenya. Collaborating in small groups with local experts and community members, students explore the importance of indigenous forests for ecological and community wellness. Throughout the virtual engagement, students will reflect on Environmental Justice in their own context and seek out ways of advocating for environmentally healthier living spaces both locally and globally.

Virtual Exchange Inclusions

Through both synchronous and asynchronous methods, students will explore, experience, and engage with the following:

- Case Study analysis of Environmental Injustice in South Africa and Kenya
- Critical Discussions on effective actions towards Environmental Justice in Africa
- My Greenspace Challenge: Analysis of Greenspaces in the local context

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this program, students should be able to:

1. Define Environmental Justice in the African Context
2. Explore examples of African solutions to Environmental Injustice
3. Critically evaluate Environmental Justice in one's local context

Note: Specific learning outcomes and activities can be constructed in collaboration with EDU Africa's dedicated curriculum development team.

DAILY PROGRAM

Date	Time (GMT)	Session	Facilitator	Learning Outcome Achieved
Pre-Program		Students will be notified of the pre-program preparation material		1, 2
29 April	2 – 2:20pm	EDU Africa Orientation and Introduction to Environmental Justice in Africa	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	1
	2:20 – 2:50pm	Case Study South Africa: Khayelitsha Canoe Club	Siyanda Sopangisa	2
	2:50 – 3:15pm	Breakout Room Collaboration	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	1, 2, 3
	3:15 – 3:30pm	My Greenspace Challenge overview and wrap up	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	3
Activity	My Greenspace Challenge			3
30 April	2 – 2:30pm	Introduction and Greenspace Challenge feedback	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	3
	2:30 – 2:50pm	Case Study Kenya: Brackenhurst Forest	Jane Naitareu Soit	2
	2:50 – 3:15pm	Breakout Room Collaboration	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	1, 2, 3
	3:15 – 3:30pm	Final Reflection and Farewell	EDU Africa Program Facilitator/s	1, 2, 3

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This program engages students with the principles of the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Siyanda Sopangisa (Khayelitsha Canoe Club)



Siyanda is the Co-founder of the Khayelitsha Canoe Club. He started the club in 2013 with the hopes of creating healthier spaces for the children in his community, as well as his own. Offering canoeing in the townships of Cape Town opened up new doors for children that were not interested in Soccer or Rugby. Cleaning up the river and the struggle to keep it free from dumping has been an obstacle to canoeing, but he uses the challenge to educate children on the importance of taking care of their environment and protecting the green spaces that are in their backyards.

Jane Naitareu Soit (Friends of Brackenhurst Forest)



Jane is a young Maasai woman and a passionate environmentalist. Having been born and raised in the world famous Maasai Mara, which holds about 25% of Kenya's total biodiversity, Jane grew up with a deep appreciation of nature, and a strong connection to the environment. Since completing a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Resource Conservation) degree at Kenyatta University, Jane has been interning with Brackenhurst Botanic Garden and Forest, a 20 year old project that has restored 40 hectares of indigenous forest.

ACTIVITIES/SESSIONS

EDU Africa Orientation

EDU Africa offers a comprehensive introductory session at the start of the Virtual Exchange program to kickstart student engagement and manage expectations of their time ahead. The orientation session begins with an overview of EDU Africa and its transformative learning goals. It is led by the local Program Facilitator who will guide and support the group through each session for the duration of the program. The orientation is designed to give students a brief introduction to the country, add context to the program theme, and provide information that is pertinent to the group's overall experience. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions towards the conclusion of the session.

Case Study Reviews of Environmental Justice

The Case Studies present an opportunity for participants to delve in to issues of environmental justice unique to each African country. Learning about the history of the country and the political and social climate lays a foundation to understand the current environmental injustices come communities are facing. Through live discussions with local activists, participants ask questions and learn from their unique African solutions.

Breakout Room Discussions

Students are divided into smaller groups to discuss the presentations by the contributors and apply their learnings in their own local context. It is through critical analysis with their peers that global connections are realized and similarities and differences can be used to create new solutions to environmental issues transnationally.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

My Greenspace Challenge

Participants spend at least 30 min in the closest green space to their home in order to observe distance, accessibility, smells, sounds and impact on emotional and physical health. Findings will be documented in video, photograph, writing or other creative formats.

Reflection Sessions

Reflection sessions encourage students to think through, process and make meaning of their experiences on the program. Through a combination of formal and informal reflection techniques, students will be asked questions and invited to engage in structured activities that encourage them to articulate their thoughts and feelings, internalize any lessons or moments of growth, and ultimately, to transform, in line with the program learning outcomes.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in this program should be aware of and be prepared for the following:

- Ability to access high-speed internet connectivity and use the following online platforms:
 - Zoom
- Willingness to adapt to unpredictable circumstances (e.g. connectivity issues)
- Speaking openly about the themes of justice with people from different backgrounds
- Commit to the hours outlined in the program and be willing to participate in the My Greenspace activity
- Signing and adhering to the policies outlined in EDU Africa's Virtual Exchange Participant Agreement Form which include Covid-19 Protocols.

A donation towards the reforestation and management of Brackenhurst Forest in Kenya on behalf of each participant

Friends of Brackenhurst is a not-for-profit organization working to address deforestation in Africa through the reforestation and management of Brackenhurst forest and surrounding areas. Through their donations, participants play an integral part in reversing deforestation on the African continent and ensuring that communities will be able to enjoy the benefits of this natural indigenous ecosystem for generations to come.

#AFRICAMYCLASSROOM

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