



Knowledge hub - Collection of best practices

Summary of the best practice

1. Title of the best practice (e.g. name of policy, programme, project, etc.) *

Earth School

2. Country or countries where the practice is implemented *

Global

3. Please select the **most relevant** Action Track(s) the best practice applies to *

- Action Track 1. Inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy schools
- Action Track 2. Learning and skills for life, work, and sustainable development
- Action Track 3. Teachers, teaching and the teaching profession
- Action Track 4. Digital learning and transformation
- Action Track 5. Financing of education

4. Implementation lead/partner organization(s) *

UNEP (TED-Ed as a key partner)

5. Key words (5-15 words): Please add key descriptive words around aims, modalities, target groups etc. *

Earth School was co-created by UNEP and Ted-Ed to provide kids, parents and teachers all over the world with engaging nature-focused content to stay connected to nature during the global covid-19 pandemic, which has seen approximately 1.5 billion children out of school. Earth School takes students on 30 quests, each focused on a different nature-related topic.

6. What makes it a best practice? *

First ever joint UNEP/TED-Ed online curriculum focused on climate and nature

Description of the best practice

7. Introduction (350-400 words)

This section should ideally provide the context of, and justification for, the practice and address the following issues:

- i) Which population was affected?
- ii) What was the problem that needed to be addressed?
- iii) Which approach was taken and what objectives were achieved? *

- i) Children, parents and teachers across the world
- ii) During the start of the Covid pandemic, over 1.5 billion children are unable to go to school.
- iii) In response to this crisis, an unprecedented coalition of over fifty environmental and education experts are collaborating to launch The Earth School: 30 adventures for learners of all ages to discover, celebrate, and connect to nature. This global team came together under the guidance and support of TED-Ed and UNEP to design lessons for students of all levels and host Earth School at a time when it matters the most. Over 1,000,000 quests have been taken on the Earth School website.

8. Implementation (350-450 words)

Please describe the implementation modalities or processes, where possible in relation to:

- i) What are the main activities carried out?
- ii) When and where the activities were carried out (including the start date and whether it is ongoing)?
- iii) Who were the key implementation actors and collaborators? (civil society organizations, private sector, foundations, coalitions, networks etc.)?
- iv) What were the resources needed (budget and sources) for the implementation? *

- i) Production of the curriculum alongside 50+ content collaborators, curation of 30+ lessons on nature and climate
- ii) This was launched on Earth Day in 2020 and is still available online (Earth School 2.0 was launched in 2021)
- iii) TED-Ed and 50+ collaborators including NatGeo, WWF, BBC Ideas, UNESCO, etc.
- iv) N/A

9. Results – outputs and outcomes (250-350 words)

To the extent possible, please reply to the questions below:

- i) How was the practice identified as transformative? (e.g., impact on policies, impact on management processes, impact on delivery arrangements or education monitoring, impact on teachers, learners and beneficiary communities etc.);
- ii) What were the concrete results achieved with regard to outputs and outcomes?
- iii) Has an assessment of the practice been carried out? If yes, what were the results? *

- i) Reached millions of people around the world, re-connected children to nature during the pandemic
- ii) 30+ nature focused lessons, millions of people reached
- iii) no

10. Lessons learnt (300 words)

To the extent possible, please reply to the following questions:

- i) What were the key triggers for transformation?
- ii) What worked really well – what facilitated this?
- iii) What did not work – why did it not work? *

- i) During the start of the Covid pandemic, over 1.5 billion children are unable to go to school. Wanted to keep children connected to nature during this time.
- ii) Great partnerships and collaborators coming together to make it happen.
- iii) Exceeded our expectations.

11. Conclusions (250 words)

Please describe why may this intervention be considered a “best practice”. What recommendations can be made for those intending to adopt the documented “best practice” or how can it help people working on the same issue(s)? *

First, there are so many great environmental resources online that future environment experts don't know where to begin. Earth School aggregated a wide span of lessons from trusted sources under a single platform. With these lessons, learners of all ages will be able to explore how to live greener and cleaner lives individually and in their communities.

Secondly, young people (in fact, all people!) were stuck inside, more disconnected from nature than ever before. Earth School encourages young people to understand how nature and our ecosystems provide the foundations for a healthy planet, and healthy people. We aimed to inspire the awe and wonder of nature in Earth School students and help them finish the program with a firm grasp of how deeply intertwined we are with the planet.

And finally, the team at Earth School aimed to help the parents of students around the world, many of whom were taking on their children's education for the first time. Locating quality lessons and activities online is no easy task; we hoped to support them in this unfamiliar moment of global pause and provide the spark of inspiration that will connect young people to nature.

12. Further reading

Please provide a list and URLs of key reference documents for additional information on the “best practice” for those who may be interested in knowing how the results benefited the beneficiary group/s. *

Website: <https://ed.ted.com/earth-school>

Launch article: <https://blog.ed.ted.com/2020/04/21/earth-school-launched-to-keep-students-connected-to-nature/>

More on UNEP site: [https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/education-environment/what-we-do/earth-](https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/education-environment/what-we-do/earth-school#:~:text=Earth%20School%20was%20co%2Dcreated,billion%20children%20out%20of%20school.)

[school#:~:text=Earth%20School%20was%20co%2Dcreated,billion%20children%20out%20of%20school.](https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/education-environment/what-we-do/earth-school#:~:text=Earth%20School%20was%20co%2Dcreated,billion%20children%20out%20of%20school.)