

# ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY COMPLIANCE IN HIGER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

by

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## ABSTRACT

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) may be simply described as the provision of education at all levels from a sustainability standpoint. Sustainable development (SD) has been defined severally to include concern for the environment; acknowledgement of climate change and its implications; equity and justice; poverty reduction; pro-poor land tenure systems; gender inequality and other topical issues. Agenda 21 recognizes education in all its forms (including public awareness and training) as an essential means for achieving progress towards sustainable development which will foster the implementation of all chapters of the Agenda. Education is no longer seen as an end in itself but rather as a key instrument for bringing about the changes in knowledge, values, behaviour and lifestyles required to achieve sustainability. One area of growing concern in the higher education sector in Nigeria, and in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology in particular, is the question of how to deliver SD compliant education to a teeming student population in over 30 disciplines before the end of the decade on sustainable development (DESD) 2005 - 2014. The paper outlines a chronological sequence of activities in RSUST from the inception of this process in 2007; the progress to date and our long-term goals for achieving SD compliance.

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