



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO-GEIFON Chair in Environmental Sciences,  
University of Benin, Benin City,  
Nigeria & Global Educational Initiative For Nigeria (GEIFON)

## UNESCO-GEIFON Chair Programme In Environmental Sciences, University Of Benin

### Mission

The mission of the UNESCO-GEIFON Chair programme in Environmental Sciences is to create a world-class environmental teaching and research centre at the University of Benin, which will promote capacity building in Nigeria and internationally, through collaborative research, education, community service, and outreach activities, in response to critical societal needs, to resolve pressing environmental problems in sustainable development.

### Vision

The UNESCO-GEIFON Chair programme will be an internationally-recognized centre of excellence for preparing future leaders in Environmental Sciences disciplines, who are equipped to address complex interdisciplinary environmental problems through collaborative research, training and education.

**Sponsor:** UNESCO

### Duration of the programme:

Initial UNESCO approval is for 4 years, beginning in May, 2011

### Annual Budget

N100 million – for implementation of the strategic plan

### Partner Institutions

- University of Benin (Lead Institution)
- Global Educational Initiative For Nigeria (GEIFON)
- Rivers State University of Science & Technology
- Babcock University, Ilisan, Ogun State
- Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, USA
- University of Southern Mississippi, USA

### Contact Us

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## Background

The UNESCO-GEIFON Chair in Environmental Sciences at the University of Benin was established in 2009 following UNESCO guidelines for the establishment of UNESCO Chairs. The proposal for the Chair was submitted by Global Educational Initiative For Nigeria (GEIFON) - a non-governmental organization committed to promoting global educational partnerships.

## Objectives of the Chair Programme

- To promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation in the field of Environmental Sciences.
- To serve as a means of facilitating collaboration between high-level, internationally recognized researchers and teaching staff of the University of Benin and other institutions in Nigeria, Africa and the USA.

## Long-term Educational and Research Objectives

Develop and implement collaborative course modules in environmental science with emphasis in the following focus areas:

- Oil Spill Cleanup in Coastal Environments
- Prevention of Pipeline Corrosion and Degradation
- Water Distribution,
- Marine Ecosystem Studies
- Prevention of Pipeline Corrosion and
- Petroleum Contaminated Wastewater Treatment
- Municipal Solid Waste Management
- Air Pollution Control
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Subsurface Contaminant Flow
- Groundwater Geology

## Postgraduate Certification Courses

The programme will also conduct postgraduate certification courses in the under-listed Environmental fields:

- Spill control and Management
- Waste Management
- Impact Assessment
- Air Quality
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC)

## Funding for The Programme

The UNESCO-GEIFON Chair programme is **donor-driven**. Funds are required at 2 levels:

- Seed Funds For Fund-raising
- Funds for sustaining activities of the programme

In line with its usual practice, UNESCO provided a start-up grant for the Chair programme (start-up activity is the UNESCO-GEIFON Chair workshop held in UNIBEN in January 27-28, 2011).

## Partnership Invitation

Corporate organizations, government agencies, philanthropists, donor agencies etc. are invited to partner with UNESCO in funding this programme. Contact us for details.