

# Summary

## Nonformal Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence

### **Key Characteristic #1 – Needs Assessment.**

Nonformal environmental education programs are designed to address identified environmental, educational, and community needs and to produce responsive, responsible benefits that address those identified needs.

- 1.1 Environmental issue or condition;
- 1.2 Inventory of existing programs and materials; and
- 1.3 Audience needs.

### **Key Characteristic #2 – Organizational Needs and Capacities.**

Nonformal environmental education programs support and complement their parent organization's mission, purpose, and goals.

- 2.1 Consistent with organizational priorities;
- 2.2 Organization's need for the program identified; and
- 2.3 Organization's existing resources inventoried.

### **Key Characteristic #3 – Program Scope and Structure.**

Nonformal environmental education programs should be designed with well-articulated goals and objectives that state how the program will contribute to the development of environmental literacy.

- 3.1 Goals and objectives for the program;
- 3.2 Fit with goals and objectives of environmental education;
- 3.3 Program format and delivery; and
- 3.4 Partnerships and collaboration.

### **Key Characteristic #4 – Program Delivery Resources.**

Nonformal environmental education programs require careful planning to ensure that well-trained staff, facilities, and support materials are available to accomplish program goals and objectives.

- 4.1 Assessment of resource needs;
- 4.2 Quality instructional staff;
- 4.3 Facilities management;
- 4.4 Provision of support materials; and
- 4.5 Emergency planning.

### **Key Characteristic #5 – Program Quality and Appropriateness.**

Nonformal environmental education programs are built on a foundation of quality instructional materials and thorough planning.

- 5.1 Quality instructional materials and techniques;
- 5.2 Field testing;
- 5.3 Promotion, marketing, and dissemination; and
- 5.4 Sustainability.

### **Key Characteristic #6 – Evaluation.**

Nonformal environmental education programs define and measure results in order to improve current programs, ensure accountability, and maximize the effects of future efforts.

- 6.1 Determination of evaluation strategies;
- 6.2 Effective evaluation techniques and criteria; and
- 6.3 Use of evaluation results.