

American Association of Port Authorities

AAPA - 2023

Environmental Improvement Awards Application

Environmental Education Project - SUAPE

Award Category:

Stakeholder Awareness, Education & Involvement

1 - Summary

The Environmental Pedagogy Project developed by the Suape Port Industrial Complex focuses on raising the awareness of environmental issues in the communities that are located in SUAPE's strategic territory.

This project arose with the objective of training the residents of this region, so that they can act in a sustainable way in the natural spaces, besides making them aware of the importance of the environmental preservation area of the SUAPE Port Complex.

The project is not limited to environmental issues, but also includes socio-environmental responsibility actions, which further enrich the performance with a view to producing good interpersonal and conservation practices in this environment.

2 - Goals and Objectives

- Goal

To train the public living in the Strategic Territory of Suape, where the direct action of the program takes place, through courses with an environmental theme and socio-environmental responsibility actions, working as a mediating object in the improvement of the man-nature relationship. At the same time, to make them allies in the fight against environmental degradation by means of environmental education activities in the communities.

- Goal

The goals of the proposed project are directly related to the modalities of the courses, mini-courses, and socio-environmental responsibility actions and are as follows:

1) Goal 1 (Courses and Workshops of 40 h)

1.1) Environmental Education Free Course: aimed at people with or without experience in environmental issues who are interested in training. It is based on the parameters of the United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

1.2) Environmental Pedagogy Course: aimed especially at educators (any modality), graduates in degree courses, pedagogues, and other professionals who work in education;

1.3) Course on Solid Waste Management - The Suape Experience: aims to demonstrate ways of implementing and monitoring selective collection and solid waste management, providing ecological, legal, technical, and socio-environmental knowledge on such processes, with examples from Suape;

1.4) Nascentes Course - Environmental Education for the Conservation of Water Springs: a specific course on water resources with a focus on springs. It approaches themes about the use of water, conservation and maintenance of springs, legislation about hydric resources, among other themes;

1.5) Forest Restoration Workshop (Atlantic Forest) - training with technical content about production, planting and maintenance of native seedlings of the Atlantic Forest. It has a lot of practical content and is mainly directed to technicians, professionals, students of branches related to flora, plant production or Atlantic Forest.

2) Goal 2 (24h mini-courses)

The mini-courses are new training titles in the Environmental Education Program and together form one of the innovations of the Suape Environmental Pedagogy Project. They were conceived as an alternative of quick, condensed training on current and relevant themes that will bring more diversity in the themes addressed in the Project. Below is a brief description of the mini-courses:

2.1) Minicourse on Environmental Licensing - The Suape Example - aimed especially at professionals or students from areas related to the environmental licensing process or social actors working within this theme. It approaches as examples the licensing of the company Suape and the companies installed in the territory of the Complex;

2.2) Minicourse Sustainable Agriculture: aimed at any professional, student or citizen who has the objective of getting to know the theme and the possibilities of putting agriculture into practice within the concept of sustainability, according to the various aspects that can be understood.

3) Goal 3 (Socio-environmental Responsibility Actions - RSA)

The RSA actions are always directed at improving the conduct of the SUAPE Company's employees and outsourced workers, from the environmental standpoint and/or directed at the population of the SUAPE Strategic Territory, especially those living within the Complex's

territory, with, in this second purpose, a direct return to society in terms of socio- environmental benefits. As these are actions with the possibility of various themes, they can be modified according to the needs of the topics that want to be addressed by the Company, such as Moral Harassment in the workplace, Diversity, Energy Efficiency, etc.

3- Discussion

Background

With the implementation of the Port of Suape and all the necessary intervention works, there were naturally negative impacts on the environment that affected, in the short and medium term, several ecosystems, directly influencing the population that interacts directly with this environment.

Thus, as a form of environmental compensation, Suape reserves 59% of its area for environmental preservation, in addition to other actions aimed at nature conservation. It also offers courses in the environmental pedagogy program and socio-environmental responsibility actions, having as target audience, besides local professionals, the needy population, so that having access to education they can rethink attitudes that are potential generators of damage to nature, as well as enable them to a more active participation in working groups in the community, Conservation Unit management councils, etc.

Although the challenges are many, when it comes to reaching the public most resistant to environmental preservation proposals, the program has managed to achieve its goals and disseminate thinking concerned with the problems regarding environmental issues.

Objectives and methodology

The Environmental Pedagogy Project provides the community living in the vicinity of SUAPE with the ability to act in a sustainable manner in the natural environment, and consequently has the advantage for the company of less compensation for damages caused by the degradation of the preservation areas that Suape maintains.

At the same time, this project aims to develop and implement environmental education activities with the communities located in Suape's strategic territory.

Thus, to achieve the intended goals, the methodology for courses, minicourses, and socio-environmental responsibility actions tends to be flexible, considering that the didactics used will need to be adapted to the target audience, which will vary according to the themes addressed in the courses or minicourses and what the goal of the action will be.

The data collected after the execution of each work is directly related to the students' satisfaction, so that we can adjust our methodology according to the demand of the target population.

Educational materials were developed with language appropriate to the target audience and, at the end, a satisfaction assessment is made of the students who took part in the program, where they have room not only to evaluate, but also to suggest positive changes in the format

in which the work takes place. This data generates information for the SUAPE indicators, which are periodically analyzed and lead to the company's decision making in terms of dealing with the communities.

These data also collaborate to the observation of the change in the population's attitude towards the environment, making them agents in the persuasion of a better performance of the community before the issues of environmental preservation and sustainable use of nature.

How the project meets the criteria:

1. The level and nature of benefits for improved environmental quality and community involvement

For the understanding of the importance of environmental conservation, solid waste management, and sustainable practices in general, courses, mini-courses, and socio-environmental responsibility actions - RSA - were developed (these actions develop activities that work on local themes/problems in evidence for the enlightenment of the communities), which propose to make the residents of the SUAPE territory aware of these themes.

For broad dissemination and environmental education, work is also carried out in schools located in the vicinity of SUAPE. Besides carrying out actions with residents of settlements outside SUAPE's immediate territory to raise awareness about nature preservation.

2. The level of involvement and effort made by the Port

The Port of SUAPE involved all of its directorates, with its most capable professionals, in articulations with the communities of the 8 municipalities of SUAPE's strategic territory, to provide all the appropriate training and qualify the communities of the territory.

In addition to the human resources involved in the execution of this project the entire financial disbursement, of R\$1,500,847.09 since the year 2018, came from SUAPE, also demonstrating the size of the financial investment allocated to this project.

3. The creativity of the proposed solutions

From the standpoint of economic development, and with the concept of a port that in its essence generates impacts when it is set up, SUAPE has managed to ensure that social and environmental practices are integrated with the growth of the port, building up this vision of sustainability together with all the stakeholders (companies, control bodies and civil society) based on a collective, integrated experience taking place in practice in the territory. The great creative construction is based on "doing it together" with the communities, providing them with opportunities for practical experience, with the possibility of using techniques and knowledge in collective actions. The solutions proposed by SUAPE together with the communities are based on the premise of "thinking globally and acting locally".

4. The project results are apparent (the project must have added value and qualification to the territory)

Through SUAPE's Environmental Education Program (PEA), 15 (fifteen) 40-hour courses, 7 (seven) 24-hour mini-courses, and 8 (eight) Socially and Environmentally Responsible Actions (RSA) are held each year in SUAPE's strategic territory. The PEA has been developed by the SUAPE Company for more than 10 years, and during this time we have already been able to observe local changes. It is already possible to point to a greater capacity of the population to deal in a more sustainable way, balancing the man-nature relationship, reflecting a reduction in the degradation of the environmental preservation areas of the SUAPE Industrial Port Complex.

It is also possible to observe the multiplication of allied agents in the fight against the sources of environmental impacts generated by bad social practices that interfere in a harmful way with the environment.

It has already been observed that the actions developed in the schools of the SUAPE communities have collaborated in the formation of students who are better prepared to act in a sustainable manner, in addition to becoming assiduous in the fight against the degradation of nature, because they begin to understand its importance for the planet and for themselves. Thus, we can hope that by working with children and teenagers in schools, parents can be sensitized, thus forming adults who are more aware of the importance of preserving nature and forming more sustainable communities.

5. The Cost-Benefit Ratio of the Project

The SUAPE Environmental Education Program has increased the local communities' knowledge of socio-environmental issues, helping them to deal with local issues/problems. These practices have been reflected in the reduction of conflict situations (caused by the Port's installation/expansion processes) between the communities and the Port of SUAPE. The implementation of education, together with the communities, through courses, mini-courses and socio-environmental responsibility actions. Environmental education has brought scientific information to society in the SUAPE territory in an informal and understandable way. It is necessary to know in order to protect the biodiversity of the environment in which they live.

6. The possibility of transfer/replication of the technology or idea to the port industry

Considering the importance of this environmental education project, on the agenda of the SUAPE Company, this action, among others of socio-environmental responsibility, was published in its GRI - Global Reporting Initiative. In Brasil Exporting, as a member of the ESG - Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Council, where these actions are disclosed as good practices to be implemented.