ESSC

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

ESSC is a Jesuit research and training institute that promotes environmental sustainability and social justice through the integration of scientific methodologies and social processes.

ESSC also contributes to building scientific capacity that engenders people's commitment and integrity to see the changes emerge and develop, and enables a discernment of our life in the world with a deeper human spirit.

ESSC networks across the Asia Pacific region and globally in moving an agenda of science for sustainability, with more than 30 years of engagement in local, national, and international research and dialogue to contribute to an understanding and sustainability of community-based management through nurturing a "science for social change."

VISION

A trusting and empowering society that promotes environmental integrity and social justice

MISSION

To contribute to a critical and holistic understanding of the dynamic relationship between biophysical and social processes in collaboration with partners for the appropriate management of the environment for integral human development

Our scientific pursuit

ESSC uses science to understand the ecological dynamics between people and environment, and to develop methods that nurture this relationship.

ESSC connects environmental studies and social sciences then engages society in constructive dialogue to tackle the injustice and better manage resources.

ESSC strongly believes in people-based science and is convinced that involving communities is one of the most effective ways to achieve environmental stability.

Our social commitment is to:

- Build scientific capacity that engenders people's commitment in promoting environmental integrity and social justice
- Establish robust and high-quality baseline data
- Collaborate with international, national, and subnational actors to promote wider sharing of relevant data to a diverse audience

Our research areas are:

- Forest, watershed, and land cover assessment, including land use change impacts and drivers
- Disaster risk and vulnerability, including climate-induced displacement
- Agroecology, including food and water vulnerability
- Ancestral domain management, including assisted natural regeneration
- Climate justice and advocacy

Our training areas are in:

- Forest, Farm, and Leadership in the Margins (with the Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center)
- Geomatics training for local government planning (for disaster risk reduction, forest land use planning, comprehensive land use planning, among others) using QGIS (basic and advanced), also open to other interested groups
- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Culture-based education (with the Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center)

ESSC has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and observer status with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2021. ESSC is also a member of the Society of Jesus Social Apostolate (SJSA) network of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.

ESSC provides secretariat and technical assistance to the River Above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Networking (RAOEN) and serves as the assisting organization of the Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center (APC) that provides culture-based education and lifelong learning experiences to support the holistic development of Pulangiyēn children and youth in Mindanao, Philippines.

ESSC
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