The Earthducation team is traveling to climate hotspots on each continent in search of local answers to one fundamental question: “How can education advance sustainability?” For its third expedition, Earthducation is heading down under to the driest inhabited continent on Earth: Australia! Home to plants and animals found nowhere else on the planet as well as the world’s largest coral reef system, Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries on Earth. Unfortunately, the continent also has one of the highest extinction rates, and is typically cited as being one of the countries most at risk from climate change.

During Expedition 3: Australia, many topics will be investigated including biodiversity, uranium mining, sustainable tourism, the School of the Air (a government-sponsored distance education program for students living in remote communities), the worldwide importance of the Great Barrier Reef, the role of reconciliation in the recent history of Australia, and the contributions and insights of the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to both the environment and the culture in this ancient and unique continent.

How do the locals view these topics? Where are the intersections between education and sustainability found? What is being done to curb growing environmental risks and trends? The Earthducation team aims to find out as they travel from the most densely populated region of Australia (the city of Sydney in New South Wales) to the most sparsely populated (the Northern Territory), before heading east to visit the Great Barrier Reef communities along the Queensland coast. The team will be traveling within Australia from February 27 - March 12, 2012.

Visit Earthducation.com to join the conversation and view the archived expedition field reports and media scrapbooks from Earthducation 1: Burkina Faso and Earthducation 2: Norway.

The mission of Earthducation is to explore the global intersection of education and sustainability. As we travel to climate hotspots on all 7 continents, we will collaborate with cultures from around the world to create an ecological narrative of our collective educational and sustainability beliefs. Teachers, students, and the online community will expand upon and discuss how education influences the future of our planet.

Expedition Team Leaders
Dr. Aaron Doering and Dr. Charles Miller
Exploring Digermulen, Norway, Expedition 2