

Background

Natural resource management issues have been at the centre of policy debates as well environmental justice movements. Development requires not only better global economic conditions but also a cleaner environment, with sustainable use of natural resources such as land, water, soil, energy and minerals and their security at both the global and national level including availability, affordability and accessibility to all. Natural resource exploitation and economic activities have played a role in fuelling many violent conflicts. Trans-boundary environmental and economic cooperation, and transparent natural resource management, can be operationalized to support governance processes and also promote peace.

This twelve week blended learning program has been developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and is offered in collaboration with the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Centre (TDLC). Global perspective to the course content has been contributed by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and the Asian Development Bank Institute.

The program will unpack some of key policies and practices related to natural resource management for sustainable development. The program follows an interdisciplinary approach and is enriched by audio, video, and interactive web-based content. It uses the latest information and communication technology (ICT) tools and techniques and also employs a unique format of learning through video conferencing by utilizing the facilities of Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) - an initiative developed by the World Bank in 2000.

Objectives

- A holistic understanding of the nature and issues in natural resource management
- Discuss ways for strengthening of regional cooperation and networks (political, technical, civil society etc.) for sustainable natural resource management

- Contribute towards efforts at fostering South-South knowledge exchange and encourage collaboration through formal and informal networking with other organizations and partners

Learning outcomes

Broadly the expected learning outcomes from this program are:

- Ability to demonstrate knowledge and a holistic understanding of policies and practices for natural resource management in the context of sustainable development.
- Knowledge about issues of resource security
- Apply their knowledge, understanding, and problem-solving abilities, to independently identify basic natural resource problems that affect the development process from multidisciplinary perspectives
- Identify appropriate interventions and approaches to address multi-faceted challenges of trade and natural resources and linkages with sustainable development
- Formulate research questions about the effects of natural resource utilization on development and identify analyze specific development needs pertaining to sustainable development and natural resource management
- Be able to apply the learning of policies and practices constructively in their jobs.

Target audience

- Policy makers
- Researchers and Development practitioners
- Corporate sector
- University and above level students and mid-level professionals
- Members/staff of NGOs or private companies involved in activities related to natural resource management

Prerequisites:

- Knowledge of basic concepts related to natural resource management
- Good working knowledge of English language
- Strong commitment and subject interest

Program approach

The program will commence with an introductory videoconference (VC) session that will provide an overview of the course structure and the core concepts. The 12 week program will consist of six learning modules and will be delivered through a blended learning format comprising video-recorded lectures, academic articles and state-of-the-art multimedia among others. It will adopt an interdisciplinary approach that aims to draw from the disciplines of economics, politics and law.

In order to ascertain assimilation, the participants will be evaluated on

- Participation in activities (15%)
 - Discussion forum
 - Videoconferences
 - Participant feedback
- Intermediate tests (35%)
- Final assignment (50%)

On successful completion of the program, the participants will be awarded a certificate jointly from TERI and TDLC.

Registration fees

US\$ 200 per participant

20-40% scholarship may be offered to undergraduate students, unemployed and low income participants. Applicants can apply at: http://esdonline.org/ppnr/index.php?tpage=scho_form

Program content

Module 1: Natural resources economics

- Natural resources: nature and scarcity
- Natural resources and sustainable development: issues and challenges
- Concepts of environmental and natural resource economics, issues of market efficiency, equity issues
- Sustainable natural resource management: use of economic instruments
- Natural resource accounting and valuation
- Models of resource depletion – exhaustible and renewable resources

Module 2: Governance of natural resources

- Resource federalism
- Understanding the role of federal structure in context of natural resource management
- Examples from across the world
- Challenges to the governance of trans-boundary resources
- Local governance institutions for sustainable natural resource management
- Asymmetric information, uncertainty and public disclosure

Module 3: Natural resources, political economy and conflict issues

- Effective use of natural resources for development purposes
- Resource curse thesis
- Winners and losers in natural resource development: cases of conflict
- Measures for internalizing the environmental externalities and other social costs created on account of extraction/use of natural resources

Module 4: Innovative mechanisms to address conflict issues

- Tri sector partnerships and building trust
- Funds and foundations
- Stakeholder tool boxes

Module 5: Mechanisms of trade, investment and regional cooperation in natural resources

- Reemergence of the importance of resources in international relations
- International trade and investment in natural resources
- Towards environmentally and socially sustainable investment in natural resource sectors
- Transfer of technology for enhancing resource efficiency
- Designing international agreements and strengthening regional cooperation

Module 6: Best practices and tools

- Participatory and community based natural resources management
- Planning: strategic environmental assessment, integrated river basin management, geographic information systems, etc.
- Capacity building and technology transfer
- Awareness raising and communication
- Stakeholder engagement

Schedule

Activity	Dates
Registration	4 th Feb' 13 to 10 th March' 13
Introductory VC session	14 th Mar' 13
Module 1 (including VC)	14 th Mar' to 3 rd Apr' 13
Module 2 (including VC)	4 th Apr to 11 th Apr' 13
Module 3 (including VC)	12 th Apr to 21 st Apr'13
Module 4 (including VC)	22 nd Apr to 2 nd May' 13
Module 5 (including VC)	3 rd May to 17 th May'13
Module 6 (including VC)	18 th May- 27 st May'13
Concluding VC	04 th June' 13

How to Apply

Online registration at:

<http://www.esdonline.org/ppnr/>

Inquiries

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Blended Learning Program on Policies and Practices for Natural Resource Management

14th March-4th June 2013

