



Free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC):

The Economics of Land Degradation - Assessing the socio-economic benefits of land ecosystems.

About the Course

Land and the benefits that can be derived from it have been taken for granted and undervalued for thousands of years. The negative consequences of land degradation affect us all, directly or indirectly: food insecurity, pests, reduced availability of clean water, increased vulnerability to climate change, biodiversity loss and much more.

Adopting sustainable land management can secure environmental services, increase food security, and alleviate poverty.

This course discloses to you how to assess the economic benefits of land as a first step towards preventing its degradation. It introduces methods of economic analysis and valuation that help you manage land sustainably and efficiently.

Mission

The mission of this course is to transfer knowledge of methods for economic valuation and cost-benefit analysis to land users and decision-makers.

Course Format

The course will be conducted online as a MOOC on the Global Campus 21[®] free of charge. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings and case studies, the online learning room provides interactive tools helping to build vibrant learning communities. These online communities support participants, expert tutors, and moderators in the co-creation of solutions. The course consists of 12 units, based on problem-solving using economics approaches and methods, e.g.

- Adapting decision-making and policy to land needs
- Assessment for Economic Analysis and Valuation of Non-Marketed Goods and Services for Land Conservation
- Multi-Criteria Analysis

User Benefit

Learn how to assess the economic benefits of land in order to be able to plan for sustainable land management.

Prerequisites

Have an interest in solving one of the most important challenges facing the world's population in the next few decades.

Learning Methods

Typical units consist of web-based training as well as text-based study materials. Overall, the course will be complemented by brief expert videos and webinars held by the expert tutor and moderated by an online tutor. These components are combined with multiple choice self-assessments, peer-graded assignments, and further reading.

Duration

Start: 2nd of March - End: 17th of May 2014

Length: 12 weeks

Target Audience

(Future) professionals, decision makers (public, private) and researchers who are already to some extent informed about the topic.

Estimated effort

Participants should plan workload of an average of 3 to 5 hours per week for the duration of the course. Depending on previous experience and knowledge for further research and readings may be needed.

Course organisers

- United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
- giz | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

Certification

The participant will automatically receive an ELD-badge upon successful completion, provided he/she has actively and collaboratively participated in the course. Participants who handed in all assignments, participated in the peer-reviewing and achieved at least 90% will receive a certificate of the United Nations University at the end of the course.

Contact

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Register now at: <http://mooc.eld-initiative.org>



What is the value of soil? Join the MOOC!