



BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



International University for the Bio-Environment

Comments from Students

***Sustainable Forest Protection
and Management***

2013, 2011, Fall Quarter

BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

International University for the Bio-Environment

e-Learning Programme

Sustainable Forest Protection and Management

Fall Quarter 2011

Comments and Feedback from Students

*The course material was very useful and contributed much to my knowledge about issues concerning the forest. It also gave me an in-depth knowledge about the main challenges and emerging issues affecting the world's forests. It also gave me extensive information about the causes of deforestation, how to overcome it and its effect on the world as a whole. This information was very useful for my work. Additionally, the material has given me a better understanding of how people perceive the forest; not only for wood production but for a balance of wood production and other multiple use activities. I hope this balance of multiple uses of the forest can be incorporated into the forest system in my home country. The most valuable aspect of the course is how to manage the forest for specific purposes. The detailed description of silvicultural techniques used to manage the forest was also very valuable. This is because there is always a conflict of interest related to the management of forests for specific purposes and the use of forests. Besides, some foresters sometimes wonder about the best silviculture technique needed to achieve a specific objective. The reading materials have given an in-depth knowledge of the different ways to manage the forest for specific purposes and the silviculture techniques needed to be applied to achieve these purposes. This has boosted my desire to be a forestry consultant in my home country to give advice to people concerning forest management. I hope to incorporate all the knowledge gained and make useful suggestions to help solve problems related to forest management in my country to improve the forest sector. **Evelyn Bempah, Student, University of Eastern Finland, Finland***

*This course is very useful for me and my work performance. In my work I implemented some of the material, for example, the forest environment, principles of sustainable forest management, challenges and emerging issues, forest health, etc. I used this information in carrying out some lessons for school children, workshops for teachers, and meetings of an informal network of environmental organizations on climate change in Kyrgyzstan. And I am sure that I can also use the other topics in my future activity. I really liked the material on agricultural lands and urban agriculture, and agriculture and the environment. **Elena Shilonosova, Head of the Ecology Department, Republican Children's and Young Centre of Ecology, Local History and Tourism under Department of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan***

The module is very relevant to my work on the PAGE program, because PAGE implements multi-sectoral projects: agriculture, governance and natural resources management. Our key focus is on forest resource management and how governance fits into the setting up of forest co-management committees and the application of best practices for rural farmers with the aim to sustain our environment. This course sharpened my focus and broadened my horizons of understanding forest concepts, and

their application, and potential insights as to what constitutes sustainable forest protection and management. It has also supplied facts that, as a communications specialist responsible for designing key media themes/messages and I can to mentor radio spokespersons to talk on forest resource governance at national and local levels. This is incredible for me. Sierra Leone needs to have a deeper understanding and better application of these issues, and, in fact, no university offers such module. I feel empowered! The benefits of this three-month course are immense and interesting. It was well structured, simple to read and understand. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to Dr. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis and her team for putting these priceless academic materials together. The materials will go a long way in helping me build and sustain forest governance issues with the use of advocacy and empowerment. Furthermore, I have been inspired to write a publication. In this, I will require the attention and sense of direction of Dr. Vlavianos Arvanitis. The proposed title is "Thinking green and living green." Once again, I thank you very much. **Unisa Mansaray, Media, Communications Coordinator, PAGE, Freetown, Sierra Leone**

I hold a relatively high position in an ecological company and need to be well informed concerning the problems of environmental protection and all the possible ways of their solution. As the Kyoto Protocol (under which our company works) is directed at the reduction of dangerous emissions, I appreciate all possible information that allows saving our planet. The most valuable aspects of the course for me were forest health and principles of forest management. **Yevgeniy Altukhov, Head of Company Representation in South-East Ukraine, LLC "Global Carbon Ukraine," Ukraine**

I have found the course very interesting and educative and I am very happy that I have had a chance to be a participant of this course. I would like to use this chance to express my sincere gratitude to B.I.O. I learned a lot of new and interesting things regarding sustainable forest protection and management, I hope to incorporate this knowledge in the future. Thank you very much. **Marina Ordulu, Turkey**

The course addressed the important issues in the area of Sustainable Forest Protection and Management. It is fortunate that the material covered in the module helped me to revise and update the course on "Soil and forest conservation" that I am teaching. Thus, I will incorporate the course material, especially the sections on forest conservation, in my institute. **Hayal Desta Yimer, Lecturer, Addis Ababa University, EiABC, Ethiopia**

Having learned the material provided by your Professors in this course, I must say that this information plays an important role in forest protection with less harm to the environment. The only thing left is realizing all the possible ways of protecting forests and achieving good silviculture as described in the course. I am very grateful for your great work in providing this knowledge. **Vladislav Antypov, Deputy Head of Company Representation in South-East Ukraine, LLC "Global Carbon Ukraine," Ukraine**

The material in the course is good and valuable for the general view of sustainable forest management and protection. **Tram Nguyen, Assistant, AKIZ Project, Vietnam**

I really enjoyed getting new information on a subject that I once learned about at the University of Debrecen. I will use the revised and new knowledge I acquired in international capacity building issues, and in the writing of border-crossing,

international applications and projects. The subject matter contains a lot of good and practical examples that can be useful in the development of the region of Szabocs-Szatmar-Bereg. I will use the knowledge which I acquired from this course in the framework of teaching, capacity building sessions, local and international appointments, and conferences. **Tamas Szabo, Nature Park Manager/Ranger, The Public Benefit Foundation for the Conservation of Nature and Environment to Protect the Cultural Values of Szabocs-Szatmar-Bereg, Hungary**

Various chapters made it easier to cross reference the suggested practices and my company's current practices. The information presented covers various topics which my colleagues find very relevant in a South African context, as we are in a transitional phase and work with various communities that were previously deprived from accessing the economic benefits of forests and participating in general forest activities. The material that was provided to us was very useful and is the most valuable asset to me, my colleagues and company, as it forms the basis on which to build our strategy to involve surrounding communities in forest resource participation. **Goodman Gcaba, District Manager, Komatiland Forests, South Africa**

As director of an environmental NGO, the material covered in the course module is very much related to my work. It introduced me to a number of new concepts and tools in sustainable forest management, especially in relation to urban areas, and helped me to become acquainted with concepts and aspects of the environment which I would not have given attention to. The most valuable aspect of the course was the way in which it is organized and delivered. Although it is an e-learning course, it has a classroom feeling to it. In this way, it can reach and transfer knowledge to a large number of people around the world. I use the concepts discussed in the course materials in my day to day work. Moreover, I use the concepts discussed in the new projects I develop and in revising some projects already developed by incorporating the new concepts I am introduced to as a result of this course. I also use the ideas in the training and awareness raising workshops I organize. In the future, if it is possible to organize sessions and group discussions via the internet (eg Skype), I suggest that the Biopolitics International Organisation raise issues on a weekly basis which participants could discuss and share their experiences. **Solomon Desalegne, Executive Director, Clean and Green Addis Ababa Society, Ethiopia**

The course material is good and the information is very valuable. The course material on sustainable development and management of forests is useful in my academic work, as it provides good information about forest management which is very useful for further studies and also elucidates many unknown aspects which will enrich my knowledge. **Shamshad Ahmad, MSc. Student, Baba Sahib Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, India**

The material of the given course module is very interesting. Students and experts alike can obtain a lot of helpful information. The material allows an expanded outlook in the field, as the majority of disciplines are directly connected with ecology, and consequently with natural resources. Each area deserves proper attention. And for Russia, forestry is a special theme. Without having a lack of wood resources, we face a problem of city gardening. Therefore, the development of the given field of knowledge can find wide application. **Gennady Potanin, Saint-Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, Russia**

This course helped me to learn about how to protect forests internationally and how to deal with regulations that can help the environment. As a lawyer who works in environmental law, the course helped me to learn about the reasons for the regulations and how they help the environment. **Rania Ghallab, Lawyer, Environmental Law and CSR, Civil Society Activist in Alexandria, Private Law Office, Egypt**

The material covered in the course module helped my studies. The most valuable aspects of the course are forest generation and forest health. **Artan Beka, IT System Administrator, PTK, Kosovo**

I appreciated the review of all issues regarding forestry, especially the ones I am not familiar with (economy, politics), and the list of references which can be of use to me. And, of course, the opportunity to practice the English language and learn new terms is very valuable for me. **Petra Albrechtova, Postgraduate Student, Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic**

This is a nice educational project, well written and well-summarized. Every citizen on the planet should pay attention to the information provided in this course, and, for sure, an extra effort is needed from the trainees so that this information can be applied to forest protection and management around the world. The Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) has succeeded in placing a uniquely rich source of information and training material at the fingertips of teachers, students and professionals around the world. This course is very useful and helpful in providing information on forest types and forest development, and on the factors affecting forest soil, and on some main principles of forestry and forest conservation. I believe that this course can offer a lot to my future research. **Osama Abdella Abdelshafi Mohamad, Assistant Lecturer, Suez Canal University, Egypt**

Since marketing management, organization and administration are key areas of my specialty, this course, especially the parts related to forest management and forest marketing and organization, has broadened my scientific horizons and my professional perspectives, to the extent that biopolitics is expected to become the central policy in every modern society and state. **Maria Paraschaki, Economist-International Business Consultant, Greece**

The course material is very useful from an ethical point of view. It includes many interesting aspects connected with many disciplines, which I now study as part of my specialized training. From an economic and from an ecological point of view, the given material is very useful. By possessing basic knowledge in the field, it is possible to competently structure work in other areas related to it. **Olga Koval, Saint-Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, Russia**

The online course offered a new, structuralized perspective on the importance of sustainable forest protection and management. At present, the Romanian scientific literature has few related resources that are up to date, although there are plenty of forests in the country. As a potential teacher at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in the field of Environmental Policies, this course offered me the possibility to acquire a basic background for my research and also to accumulate useful knowledge for my further activity. The first valuable aspect of the Sustainable Forest Protection and Management course was the fact that the course is organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each issue which helps a lot in understanding and

using the information. The second valuable aspect is the fact that the course addressed the most important problems of managing woodlands in a sustainable manner under the circumstances of increased population growth pressures. **Oana-Cătălina Țăpurică, Ph.D. Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

As I work for a company that deals with the Kyoto Protocol and other ecological issues, it is really important for me to broaden my knowledge in this sphere. Thanks to your courses, I have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable and get the newest information about the environment. Thank you for doing great things! **Kateryna Nesterchuk, Management Assistant, LLC "Global Carbon Ukraine", Ukraine**

Since I am studying at the environmental engineering department, I must obtain information about our environment. Knowledge in this area allows me to look worthy to my classmates. **Ivan Devyatkin, Student, Saint-Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

Through this course I have been able to learn how forests can be established, which I find very informative especially being in a country where we are trying to recover the forests which have deteriorated. The culture of growing trees can be instilled in my students by forming environmental clubs which will teach the students the importance of growing trees, how to grow them and even how to maintain them. **Irene Orina, Jomo Teaching Assistant, Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Kenya**

The course material was well structured, very interesting and covered many important issues. For me the most valuable aspect of the course was the part concerning forest health and maintenance, and the regeneration of forests. Following this course, I have a better understanding of the forest environment and the importance of sustainable forest management, and I hope that I will be able to incorporate this in my future work. **Imola Koszta, Administration and Project Officer, The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary**

The course material helped me to understand the general ways of conservation and different methods to control forest management. I got more insights into the different ways sustaining a forest and how it can be protected and managed. **Gopikrishna Mantha, Research Assistant, National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan R.O.C.**

Thank you for providing this opportunity to learn online. The materials are useful and relevant. We must acknowledge the enormous, irreplaceable contribution that the world's forests make to the survival of biodiversity and human society. From international policy changes to school and community projects, the year 2011 has seen an unprecedented level of attention placed on forests, and the challenges facing them. A suggestion is to have a topic dedicated to identifying practical actions linking climate change and biodiversity objectives through forest and landscape restoration, using the REDD+ mechanism as a vehicle. I am also keen to learn more on the history of forest management, especially in Asia. For instance, in Bhutan, government policy protects 60% of land under forestry cover and it is essential to manage the challenge of timber as a building material and to search for alternatives, such as bamboo. There is also a move towards a more decentralised and people-centred approach to forestry. Many thanks. **Kwang Boon Lee, Vice President, United Nations Association of Singapore, Singapore**

The online course provided a complete overview of the role and importance of sustainable forest protection and management. The material is very useful because my Ph.D. thesis is on the promotion of sustainable development policies in the Romanian economy. Also, the course provided the basic background for developing new investment projects, and the practical examples may become real opportunities for developing new activities and SMEs in Romania. **Florin Tache, Ph.D. Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

As a student studying various issues related to sustainable development, this course has helped me to understand sustainable development from a different perspective. It will help me in my work as an agent of development. I enjoyed almost all the modules but I particularly liked the one on forest economics and rural development because of my background. **Enoch Assan Ninson, Student, University of Trento, Italy**

The material covered in the course module can help me in my future job. Right now I can use it in the ecological camps where I help students to better understand the processes which are taking place in nature. The course consists of a lot of useful information and it is a great opportunity to have access to it. Thank you! **Ekaterina Petruneva, Student, Saint-Petersburg State Polytechnic University, Russia**

It has been so wonderful. I actually learnt a lot and have recommended the course to several other professionals. **Muganzi Edgar, Conservation/Extension Officer, Hope Restoration Initiative, Uganda**

The course material is very clear and easy to understand. All the topics covered are very important, and I consider them equally valuable. The material presented was able to build upon the topics covered in preceding chapters, and I found it quite interesting. In the end, the course covered the whole concept of forest management. It refreshed my knowledge of forest management practices and gave me, in a simple package, information on what forestry is all about and on the present and future challenges in forest management. **Augustine-Moses Gaavwase GBAGIR, Student, University of Eastern Finland, Finland**

I have always wanted to learn more about forest protection, but, unfortunately, my university programme only had a small part dedicated to it. The material is packed with crucial and genuine information about how important forests are and how everyone can take part in the process of protecting and managing them. Personally, I think that this course has given me a lot more information than any other material that I have read in the last two years, and it will make a huge difference when I write about environmental issues and ways to get involved. **Ramona–Mariana Dragomir, Freelance Journalist, Romania**

The information provided is very well structured and describes actual trends. I believe these lectures are useful in improving my knowledge. **Dragomir Zahariev, Bulgaria**

I am an environmental officer working with the Division of Environment in Tanzania responsible with advising on various matters related to environmental management, particularly forest management. This course material has been very useful to my daily activities, as it refreshed my knowledge and added the awareness of sustainable forest protection, especially in the European area. I have been enjoying reading and applying

the course material to my day to day activities. The most valuable aspect of this course is how it deals with real issues in the forest sector; most of the examples used are recognised and are easily understandable, therefore it has been easy to follow the material and relate it to my working area. **Deogratius Eugen Paul Nyangu, Senior Environmental (Forest) Officer, Division of Environment, Vice President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania**

I think this course was worth attending because it is very interesting and helpful. The lecture material is explained in a very detailed and clear way. I learned a lot of new information about forests, forest protection, forest management, forest health and tree planting techniques, which are very interesting for me. The course has helped me to become more familiar with this contemporary topic. After this training course, I have had new ideas on how to enrich and improve my seminars. I am going to recommend the training course to other colleagues from my country. **Anna Dimitrova, Assistant Professor, Department of Materials Science and Technology, Faculty of Industrial Technology, Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria**

The given material helped me to extend my knowledge on forest management. The texts are very useful in teaching environmental science, as they present general facts about forest management. Moreover, they provide practical examples of how to sustain this process. The material does not describe common management procedures in technical detail, which would offer a complete "recipe" of "how to." I consider the chapters on woodland planting and establishment as the most valuable for my education, while each method and procedure regarding planting and care is written carefully and comprehensibly. **Alexandra Lešková, PhD. Student, Department of Ecosociology and Physiotactics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia**

In my work as a Junior Expert/Project Manager, this material will help me in several ways. I am managing a project that aims to develop local strategic documents in the Western Balkans, in the field of biodiversity and nature conservation. The process is participatory, so stakeholders involved often include foresters and people engaged in the forest sector. This course expanded my knowledge in this area, and it will help during the planning sessions with stakeholders, in order to improve their capacities for sustainable forest management issues. **Aleksandra Sasa Solujic, Junior Expert for Local Governance/Deputy Project Manager, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary**

My work is concerned with sustainable development, control of environmental protection activities and audits of company facilities. As my place of employment maintains the HSE MS in compliance with ISO-14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007, it is concerned about good track recording of environmental issues and well-timed trouble shooting. So I really obtained valuable information from the course materials and gained knowledge. Forest sustainability is not my area of expertise, however, this course introduced me to the main aspects of forest development and helped me to learn more about the structure of forests, environmental challenges and potential development methods. I am grateful to the teaching personnel for the detailed, valuable and informative learning materials that helped me to substantially improve my knowledge for future use in my daily activities. **Oxana Beloglazova, Senior Environmental Specialist, PetroKazakhstan Operating Services Inc., Republic of Kazakhstan**

I really liked this course and gained a lot from it. This will help me in life and work. I will train volunteers in my organization. Thanks a lot. **Evgeniia Shvartsman Specialist, Civil Society Support Centre, Kyrgyzstan**

The course is highly informative and helped me to understand concepts that are vital to my present work. The material is very clear and easy to understand, which helped me to go through the entire course easily, even though I was involved in my work. **Sonali Pradhan, Senior Research Fellow, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, India**

Since my position in the Agency involves monitoring natural resources, including forests, the knowledge gained from this course will help me very much to understand the role of forests in environmental protection. I consider as the most valuable aspects of the course the chapters on forest environment, forest health, and principles of forest management. **Qenan Maxhuni, Biodiversity Officer, Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, Republic of Kosovo**

The material was very lucid, highly informative and useful for understanding current environmental problems and their possible solutions. The course has helped me to pursue my current research work. **Parth Sarathi Mahapatra, Project Associate – II, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR), India**

The material covered in the course module is useful in my professional career by enriching my knowledge about forestry, and valuable in my practice in project valuation of forestry measures of EU financing programs. **Angela Altunian, Expert, State Fund for Agriculture, Bulgaria**

I am very satisfied by this course. The lectures are very informative, in good order and approachable. They gave me good general and detailed information about the forest protection field. All this rich information provided a good reference regarding forest protection, and indicated some things that I should pay attention to. I am sure that, in the future, I can apply this information in my work as my major is related with this topic. **Tsvetelina Naydenova, Project Assistant, University of Forestry, Bulgaria**

I thank you for granting me this opportunity to participate in your courses on environmental and natural resource management, which has further broadened my horizons and experience in environmental and natural resource management. I also thank you for the new knowledge and energy that has been injected in me, which my organization will benefit from. **Eya E.S. Sosokoneh, Multimedia Officer Environmental Foundation for Africa, Sierra Leone**