



**BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**



**International University for the Bio-Environment**

**Comments from Students**

***Natural Resources***

**2010**

# BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

## International University for the Bio-Environment

### e-Learning Programme

#### *Natural Resources 2010*

#### Comments and Feedback from Students

*The material presented in the course modules is very useful in my work. Correlation between environmental factors, both historically, and of their evolution in time, until today, and the presentation of the impact on these factors of the economic activities that can cause damage, have been well summarized. Presentation of all aspects, the historical, economic, etc. and their importance for sustainable development creates an overview. Most valuable aspects were those related to prevention of the dangers that can threaten environmental factors and thus, damage lives. In my work, as I am working on biodiversity and the department must give points of view on economic activities that may have an impact on the environment, I think that the chapters on dangers threatening and ways of protection are really helpful. I think this course helped me to have an overview in all aspects: historical, economic, social, inter-and intra-specific relationships.* **Nicoleta-Nona Ardeleanu, Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Bacau, Romania**

*Very good course! We have prepared now the Environmental Report and my experience from this course made me want to prepare the entire report. Even though I do not work directly in this area, it was very useful for me to get new information from your lectures. I will use these materials in the future as well. The most valuable aspects of the course were the objectives and the summary/questions. I wish to thank you and hope next time to be able to be more active in the forums and discussions.* **Qenan Maxhuni, Officer for Biodiversity, Republic of Kosovo**

*The materials covered in the course module are of high standard. The updated information on natural resources covered in the course has helped in broadening my knowledge on natural resources. The information on degradation and protection measures of different natural resources as covered in the course is the most valuable aspect of the topic. I have been able to incorporate this information in proposing and managing the project in an environmentally sustainable manner.* **Sakunda Ojha, Environment Officer, Nepal**

*Thank you for the opportunity to complete this training programme. I have found many aspects related to my work that I was not aware of. Now I know that a good management of the soil and water can provide us not only with economic growth, but with a good environment/ground for wellness and future development as well. I can teach people how to find the motivation for putting into practice the theory and how to benefit from their work, as well as make the environment benefit from it.* **Severina-Andreea Batca, Research & Development Assistant, Romania**

*The course material covers some topics of my final PhD specialty exam. It was a very great opportunity for me to prepare and to review the material for the examination. The*

*most valuable aspects are the identification of the main problems that appear in the use of natural resources. And, at the same time, the presentation of a rationale answers to the problems.* **Galitschi Inessa, PhD Student, Moldova**

*The material in the given course module is very interesting. Simple people can gather a lot of helpful information from it as well, and not only the experts in the field. The given material allows to expand considerably an outlook in the field as the majority of my disciplines are directly connected with ecology, and consequently with natural resources. I would like to find application of the given theme in my work, in cooperation with Germany in which methods of collection of energy by means of the sun are actively developed.* **Gennady Potanin, Saint Petersburg State Technological University for Plants Polymers, Russia**

*Natural resources are an integral part of mankind! Water, soil, wood – all these components are interrelated. But I consider that the most important aspect of the course is the problem of the preservation of water. My activity is directly connected with the analysis of natural waters, therefore this course is an advantage for my process of training and will help me to pass my examinations in the summer.* **Maria Volcova, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

*The material in the course module has helped me to prepare for my examinations at the university on soil science and hydrology. The information is presented in an interesting and simple form. And also, I hope, in August of this year, to do my research work on the theme of “Hydrochemical research of water of the rivers and lakes of the Leningrad region” and as a theoretical basis I will use the information of the given course. Thanks for the informative material.* **Olga Koval, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

*The material covered in this course helped me a lot during my work. The most valuable aspect is renewable energy sources. I was able to incorporate it into my own work and it gave me the opportunity to discuss renewable energy sources.* **Artan Beka, University of Prishtina, Kosovo**

*I have found the material covered in the course to be very important in my work. It will help me consider natural resources, their formation, quality, degradation, pollution, contamination, etc. Since my background is social science, I will now be able to entertain and consider the physical aspect of natural resources in the law making process, so that I will be able to help my organization prepare a well built and all-inclusive natural resource law. And, also, now I can give constructive policy advice for my organization with regard to natural resources and their sustainable use. The most valuable aspect of this course is that it will give guidance on how to use natural resources wisely and sustainably. I am now able to incorporate this aspect of the course in natural recourse policy, law, regulations and directives.* **Hilina Getachew Belete, Environmental Legal Expert, Ethiopia**

*The course has provided me with further information regarding natural resources, soil, water, and forests, and the problems that may arise in these areas. The review of the existing institutional provisions for protecting soil was also very interesting, especially since this section discussed the various initiatives and directives concerned with soil. This course has also supplied me with a good background on the importance of water over time in various cultures, and how its hidden power can be used to generate energy.*

*The final section has also helped me understand in a better way how man has affected the natural environment, especially when forest management and forest economics were discussed. I am sure that the additional background that I have gained on the subject studied in this course will help me develop my skills further in my area of study.*

**Jeremy Robert Portelli, Malta**

*This field of study emphasizes natural resources, including land, forest, wild animals, and environmental conservation concerns. It addresses the problems of deforestation, land and coastal ecosystem degradation, biodiversity depletion, diminishing water supply, and other environmental pressures and threats on local, national, regional and global ecosystems. Given the complex nature of natural resources management issues, a wide range of skills and techniques involving advanced tools, field studies and participatory methods of natural resources management are needed to train professionals who can contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial and coastal resources and ecosystems.* **Kateryna Berezovska, Senior Dissemination Officer, Ukraine**

*The material in this course has been helpful to me and the Organisation in enriching our material on what we already had on the topics. We teach environmental education in secondary and primary schools and the course gives us more mastery on some of those technical aspects and facts. The most valuable aspects to me are the introductory modules on forest, soil and water.* **Masango Sone, President, "Green Cameroon," Cameroon**

*The online course offered a new structuralized perspective on the topic of natural resources. At present, the Romanian scientific literature has few resources that are up to date related to this field. As a potential teacher at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in the field of Eco-Technologies, this course offered me the possibility to have a basic background in my research and also to accumulate useful knowledge for my further activity. The first valuable aspect of the natural resources course was the fact that the course had been organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each environmental aspect, which helps a lot in understanding and using the information. The second valuable aspect was the fact that the course provided the most important topics regarding the sustainable management of natural resources and emphasized the importance of the environment for economy and society.* **Oana Catalina Tapurica, Ms. Student, Romania**

*The course was descriptive and it covers almost all areas of natural resources. The course covered in detail the importance, sources of pollution, management, conservation and restoration of natural resources. It added valuable information to my knowledge, which will be helpful for the rest of my life and also in educating others. Thanks to the Biopolitics International Organisation for such courses.* **Afshan Urooj, MS Research Student, Pakistan**

*As I am working as a Program Coordinator of exchange programs between the EU, the USA and Turkmenistan, I deal with different areas: education, sciences and the environment. I am a part of Biocheshme too which is a youth ecological movement. The material that has been provided is very helpful in preparing presentations on new sustainable methods of preserving, conserving and resolving problems regarding extracting and using mineral resources. Turkmenistan is in the fourth place in natural gas resources. Much of it is extracted and exported to other countries. Careful*

*approaches and conservation are required for future generations. Maintenance of exploited spots should be taken into consideration.* **Aleksey Grehov, Program Coordinator, American Councils for Intl. Education, Turkmenistan**

*I am very thankful to the organizers of this course as it is very informative. The course helps me in my current work as a Food and Agriculture employee in seed sector development in Armenia. I consider most valuable the topic on forest economics and rural development and institutional provisions for protecting soil.* **Anahit Aghababyan, Project Assistant, FAO, Armenia**

*I am a student in the final year in Environmental Chemistry and this course completed my faculty studies because it offered me a global view of how nature is connected and affected by human actions. I appreciate mostly that this course also presented positive methods and cases, solutions in environmental protection from which humans and nature can benefit.* **Petruca Ancuta, Romania**

*The materials were well structured and covered both scientific aspects and methodological ones. The information can be easily applied in biology, ecology, geography, geology and chemistry classes. The course model was very useful to be replicated for students, both in formal and non-formal activities.* **Carmen Bucovala, Deputy High School Headmaster, Romania**

*This course helps me in my daily work because I found new information regarding forest administration in different areas in the world. I can also use some information that can be applicable in our county, for instance managing woodlands for recreation purposes and measures to reduce the impact of the main dangers for forests.* **Emilian Ilie Cornea, Engineer, Forest Administrator, Covasna, Romania**

*The material covered in the course module helped me to better prepare for the unified state examinations in geography.* **Nadja Frolova, Student, State Educational Inst. Lycee, Russia**

*The most valuable aspect of the topic for me is “water energy.” I’ll use this information in my later work because I am interested in renewable energy sources.* **George Riabinin, Science Dep. St. Petersburg City Palace for Youth Creativity, Russia**

*In the material covered in the course I found new information linked to my field of expertise which I can use in my daily work as well. I found extremely useful the courses related to water pollution and contamination and measures to control water degradation, soil protection and sustainable development, soil erosion and fertility loss and controlling soil degradation. Courses regarding silviculture and forest management also provide useful information for me as we are in charge of issuing environmental permits for forest exploitation. The whole course enhanced my knowledge and I can share this knowledge with my colleagues at work.* **Ileana Luminita Cornea, Engineer, Environmental Protection Agency Covasna, Romania**

*Water and soil contamination, soil erosion and agroforestry are important topics nowadays to use in my lectures to students. Students should be taught how to conserve water and prevent pollution. Thank you.* **Azza Tawfik, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Assiut University, Egypt**

*Natural resources are an integral part of overall energy policy and strategy, with which my work is closely related. Aspects of using, managing and protecting natural resources, learned through this module, will help in my everyday work, dealing with an analysis of (draft) energy laws, rules and incentive measures. Personally, I have enjoyed very much learning about soil characteristics and types, the relationship between human beings, and water and forest through the centuries.* **Karolina Cegir, Gas Expert, Energy Community Secretariat, Austria**

*This course helps me to bring more materials in class, in my attempt to make my students aware of the environmental problems in our area, which are in fact some of the global environmental issues. We have to deal with water pollution, soil erosion and so on, and my people can be involved in such ecological activities which imply working with adults, so, consequently, the local community can benefit indirectly from the knowledge I have acquired by attending this course, too.* **Loredana Matei, Teacher, Scoala cu clasele I-VIII Asau, Romania**

*The material covered in this course was similar to what I have learned before in my previous studies but, also, the references cited here helped me to learn more and the data provided here are recent and reliable. The mythology of water also added more knowledge. As the course was designed systematically, it definitely helped me to update my knowledge in the proper way. Regarding its implementation, being a student of zoology, natural resources come in every step to do or to write anything. Besides that, I am a media person and can make my listeners aware of environmental degradation. The next step will be teaching, where I will definitely implement these materials. After my graduation I want to devote my life to nature. Our country is a developing country; political instability is its habit because of illiteracy. Illegal poaching and trade cause our natural resources to degrade day by day. People have easy access to F.M. radio produced by China. So I want to start a media (radio) campaign for conservation by awareness creation, as I have experienced from my five years in radio program production.* **Madhu Nepal, Student, Central Dep. of Zoology, Kathmandu, Nepal**

*This course was complex and gave me the opportunities to learn new things about natural resource ecology. Thank you for this e-learning course.* **Pascu Marioara, Professor of Geography, School Asau, Romania**

*The material provided adequate information on water pollution and soil quality. It was very useful in updating my course material on water pollution and environment using more references. Also, in my point of view, the soil chapter gives more detailed and valuable information than other chapters. Soil contamination is explained clearly. However, the chapter on water pollution explained more on the sources of pollution, which is very much useful in research related to water quality in our department. All together, these valuable course materials will support our final year students in collecting more references to complete their research and thesis work.* **Muthucumaran Sugirtharan, Senior Lecturer, Eastern University, Sri Lanka**

*Sustainable management of natural resources is a key issue for the continuation of human life. In particular water and soil are of primary importance for agriculture, producing food and feeding plants. In my institute, we do research and present public lectures besides our regular teaching duties, in order to disseminate knowledge about sustainable agriculture. Thank you.* **Professor Mohamed Fouad Abdallah, Faculty of Agriculture, Assiut University, Egypt**

*Natural Resources and the other two courses I took are totally new fields for me, which I took out of curiosity and a desire to broaden my knowledge and interests. The information provided during the course, however, will help me to compare the agricultural policy of my country, Turkmenistan, and possibly make suggestions on how to improve and make the agricultural policy more efficient.* **Oksana Yeshshyorkina, MA Student, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Germany**

*Definitely, the entire course was very valuable. It talked about Natural Resources, Forests, Soil and Water in depth. The historical background and the conservation approach were very well illustrated. Also, the chapters talked about Pollution Control, Management of Soil Degradation and Forest Management with lucid explanations and very good examples. The e-learning course will definitely help me in my professional life. I am just a fresh graduate and also have just started working in a firm and it has enhanced my knowledge and boosted my confidence.* **Rajiv Ghimire, Student, Central Department of Environmental Science, Nepal**

*The materials were so helpful! Especially the questions. Sometimes there was so much detail but it helped me. I appreciated that the course was simple and easy to understand and focused on the important points more than the details. I liked, also, that it showed me the status of my country in each topic and made comparisons between countries in some cases. I have been using these materials in my work most of the times. Great Job.* **Sali Hafez, Board Member, GLOBE Alumni, Egypt**

*The material provided, explained the topics comprehensively and in a fascinating way emphasising historical and cultural perspectives; the part concerning soil erosion and degradation could have been put in a clearer way. Nevertheless, the concepts have certainly enriched my knowledge and they will be facilitating the setting up of specific programs that I manage.* **Stefania Romano, Head of the Italian Trust Fund, REC, Hungary**

*It is clear and understandable. The examples are very valuable; however I would like to have more recent or updated information. I am going to try to implement some of the examples, since the environment is becoming known in Suriname and I will also try to involve the examples in regulations we have.* **Sylvia Ang, Policy Administrator, Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, Suriname**

*My thesis will focus on environmental issues, therefore the material covered was a great help in understanding the roots of the problems and mitigation measures of negative impacts on the environment.* **Tatyana Geldimammedova, Student, American University in Bulgaria, Turkmenistan**

*As an employee of an Environmental Protection Authority, the course is of much help for my activities in my job.* **Wengelawit Tadesse Teklemichael, Legal Assistant, Federal Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia**

*As a student of sustainable development, I mostly focused on policy-related issues and “the broader perspective,” without going into details on the more technical aspects of natural resource management. This course helped me fill in this gap. The most valuable lessons were for me the ones related to soil and water pollution. Thank you!* **Cristina Apetrei, The Netherlands**

*I was very interested to find out the best measures to reduce the impacts on forests, soils and water. I think this information will help me to provide good consulting services during the improvement of the national environmental security system.* **Galitchi Sergiu, Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova**

*I have learnt many useful things through readings provided for this course. It was more of the scientific information, given in the biology or natural science classes at school, but more in depth description with many relevant examples. I will share the knowledge obtained through this course with my colleagues and friends and perhaps in the future, if I work for a company that applies environmentally friendly practices, my skills could be an asset.* **Gulya Kolakova, Communications & Strategy Coordinator, Central Asia AIDS Control Project, Kazakhstan**

*The materials are well prepared and so organized; it helped me discover new approaches to preserving the natural resources of our planet. In my opinion the most valuable aspects are managing woodlands, soil degradation, and hydropower.* **Mohamed Abdalla, Student, Information Technology Institute, Egypt**

*I benefited most from the international examples as to how innovative forestry, water and soil management were implemented in practice, which has been very valuable for my work.* **Nataliya Dimitrova-Popova, Project Manager, UNDP, Bulgaria**

*The knowledge from this course does not affect my work in a direct manner; however, I decided to take this course in order to gain more knowledge on natural resources and their sustainable management, since I am working in the field of Sustainable Development.* **Olivia Popescu, Project Officer, National Centre for Sustainable Development, Romania**

*This course helped me a lot in learning more about natural resources and how to manage and protect them in both industrial and developed countries, and as a lawyer who works in environmental law the course helped me to know how law can help in protecting natural resources.* **Rania Ghallab, Senior Partner, Mersaw Law Firm, Egypt**

*The material was great and the initiative very much appreciated. I want to organize a project with some municipalities from France, and we want to apply for funds from the European Commission, to organize it for young people living in Europe. The main theme would be related to the one of this course. Thank you!* **Simona Voican, Trainee, Aiesec Bonn, Germany**

*The material is rich in content with references, which helps me gain information in an easy way. I am working in the field of environmental education, environmental Psychology, etc. The material provides an overview of three major natural resources and their management issues. In my work, all the topics are equally valuable. From my personal experience, I have seen how rich forest resources have been exploited and ill-managed. The trend is continuous and seems alarming. The management issues discussed in the literature outlined many aspects quite comprehensively. It seems that only a discussion in an international level aiming at a pragmatic approach can resolve many issues of conservation of forest resources. There are lots of management techniques and issues on soil and water discussed in the literature. I can say I can*

*relate the text to my personal experience. But what more does it say? The lessons tell me how to solve many of the problems through simple change in managerial action. I face the problem in addressing resource management when I want to integrate the fact that resources are shared and distributed inequitably both by natural and man-made influence. But is it the rote of exploitation? That people having less want more and more want more too. Can education successfully foster and impregnate the seed of the attitude of a just use of resources? If possible, then to what extent have I to read further?* **Saurav Shome, Research Scholar, Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education (TIFR), India**

*It is a great pleasure to be enrolled in this excellent course and learn about the different aspects of natural resources. The course perfectly covered the basic natural resources problems and their combating techniques. The course perfectly helped me to look at how sustainably managed natural resources can help a country's development. So I will insist and push decision makers and government officials in my country to give due regard to natural resource conservation and their sustainable use. The most valuable aspect of the course is that it provided examples from many countries that sustainably manage their natural resources which can help me to grasp useful methods of how to incorporate sustainable natural resource management in the current environmental, forest, and water policy of my country. Thank you very much!!* **Shelemat Tesfaye Junfesa, Environmental Legal Expert, Federal Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia**

*Your lectures have given me further information about natural resources. In my university I studied about them, but here you gave me a lot of fruitful information that has extended my previous knowledge. These lectures have given me wide knowledge and at the same time a good base for being competent in the field. The examples shown in the text are very useful.* **Tsvetelina Naydenova, MA Student, University of Forestry, Bulgaria**

*Well, eventually I want to start my own organic orchard and winery, and the information presented in this class, namely the lessons on soil contamination, soil structure, and water contamination due to farming practices, were really useful for me.* **Waling, Student, Bulgaria**

*The course on Natural Resources is complementary to the Green Salary course, in order to have complete knowledge on the natural resources of our planet and their problems, and the risk to be faced from their modification by man. Therefore, a wider panorama of the situation is clear now and it opens my mind to ways of extending a link to solve these problems, also involving the "green salary" solutions.* **Giuliano Zamboni, Export Manager, Italy**

*The online course provided a fully featured approach on the new European Union trends, regarding the common sustainable development programme that relies on the management of natural resources. The material is very useful because it may become the background for developing a more responsible and environmentally-friendly policy in using natural resources. Also, the course provided the basic background for developing new investment projects that aim to "take the pressure off" the use of natural resources.* **Florin Tache, Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

*The material is helpful as a source of valuable information on core issues, regarding environmental and living conditions. Provided that many of the issues regarding the preservation of natural resources can be resolved with a modern approach, it would be useful to consider these possibilities from the standpoint of EU funding capacity, where applicable.* **Angela Altunian, State Fund Agriculture Expert, Bulgaria**

*The material covered in the course helped me guide one of my students with her MPhil, leading to PhD, on soil analysis and its impact on crop production. I was able to guide her during the study and help her write her thesis. Teaching aside, I am also working as an expert for a company that is conducting a study on measuring the impact that groundwater depth can have on the productivity of date palm species in arid areas (the region between Iran and Pakistan). Date palms are the predominant plant species of these areas and they rely on groundwater. Fluctuations in groundwater level can have a negative impact on productivity, where a decrease in groundwater level can influence production negatively. The material covered in the course helped me understand the basics about water so as to be able to analyze the obtained data and design a good methodology for work.* **Dr. Adel Abul-Soad, Senior Researcher, Horticulture Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt**

*The course helped me understand more about environmental problems and the dangers that we face from the depletion of our natural resources by neglecting to take action for the protection of the environment. My work as a civil engineer will benefit greatly from this material. It is important to be able to face all environmental issues with solutions that are based both on environmental and engineering knowledge.* **Amany Youssef, Civil Engineer, Egypt**

*The material covered in the course module was very helpful and enjoyable. I was indeed refreshed and exposed to things that I didn't know or had forgotten. It came just in time when we were directly involved in helping the Government of Liberia (Forestry Department) in restoring proper administration of natural resources and environmental protection. All aspects of the course were very important based on my organization's current focus in the aforementioned subject matter (conservation and environmental protection). I am very appreciative!!* **James Coleman, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Mission in Liberia**

*The course has enabled me to gain wide knowledge on forestry and soil quality. This is important because unsustainable use aggravates land degradation and desertification, which leaves the land barren. I intend to mobilize grassroots organizations in my province to combat desertification and explain the importance of trees to the general community.* **Wilson Rading Outa, Research Fellow, Rand Institute for Policy and Education, Kenya**