Introduction to Sustainable Development in Practice

Why we need an integrated approach to action on environment, climate and poverty reduction?

e-learning course

SYLLABUS

Introduction

Almost 685 million people are living in extreme poverty across the world assessed against the US$1.90 poverty line (World Bank, 2022). Around 70% of the world's poor draw upon natural resources for most of their livelihoods (UNEP,2018/ Green Economy Coalition,2012). Yet, these natural resources continue to rapidly degrade around the globe. The 2030 Agenda reflects the major poverty-environment challenges facing the world's population: depleted natural capital, climate vulnerability, rural-urban migration, and growing resource demands — all of which disproportionately harm the livelihoods and well-being of the poor, and notably women and marginalized groups. Considering the inextricable nature of these problems, an integrated approach is needed to find plausible solutions.

An integrated approach to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources at the same time addressing poverty was the key focus of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development ("UNDP-UNEP PEA"). The collaboration dedicated itself to bringing poverty, environment, and climate objectives into the heart of national and subnational plans, policies, budgets, and public and private finance in over 10 developing countries. With this goal, the UNDP-UNEP PEA cooperated with a large number of actors to holistically achieve the triple objectives of sustainable development, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability (UNEP,2018).

The UNDP-UNEP PEA and UNITAR have now joined forces to develop and deliver a set of two free, self-paced e-learning courses *"Sustainable development in practice"*.

1. Introduction to Sustainable Development in Practice: Why Integrate Environment, Climate and Poverty Reduction?
2. Advancing Sustainable Development in Practice: How to Integrate Environment, Climate and Poverty Reduction?

The courses are based on years of experience, lessons, case studies, and practical guidance distilled by the PEI/PEA project and synthesized in the PEA Handbook. The courses form part of UNITAR's growing portfolio of trainings that promote an inclusive green economy and a holistic approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Overall Goal and Learning Objectives

The introductory course aims to raise awareness and build capacities for adopting and implementing an integrated approach to tackling poverty and environment issues and achieving the sustainable development goals. The course will explain the rationale, drivers, challenges, and opportunities in integrating environment, climate, and poverty issues, while laying the foundations for a more advanced course focusing on policy analysis, integrated planning, designing interventions, financing, communications, and monitoring and evaluation of poverty and environment issues. After completing the introductory course, learners will be able to:

- Discuss the poverty and environment nexus and related concepts;
- Identify related international developments, global and regional trends, and explore their significance in a local context;
- Explain the rationale and drivers behind integrating policy planning;
- Identify challenges and opportunities for advancing an integrated approach;
- Give examples of enabling policy conditions for integrating poverty and environment issues.

Ultimately, by strengthening capacities for an integrated approach to sustainable development, the introductory course aims to accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Target Audience

The integration of poverty and environment issues in the policy process requires the engagement and intervention of multiple stakeholders. The target audience for the introductory course includes:

- Technical and policy planning staff at the national, regional, and local levels;
- Development practitioners;
- Change agents from civil society and the private sector, including youth;
- Citizens interested in sustainable development in practice.

The course is especially geared towards learners from developing countries, particularly in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which house the largest populations of the global poor, are most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, and are simultaneously facing unprecedented degradation of their natural capital in their current path to development.

Course Scope and Structure

The focus of the introductory course is on providing learners with an overview of the interlinked poverty and environment issues and building a strong conceptual foundation of the core theories based on practical examples and case studies from the PEA project.

The course consists of 4 core modules as follows:

Module 1: Introducing the Integrated Approach.

provides an overview of the interlinkages between poverty and environment issues and the rationale behind adopting an integrated approach to sustainable development. The module will familiarize learners with other related concepts such as low-carbon development, inclusive green economy, climate resilience, natural capital, decent and green employment, and gender equality which adopt or look to adopt such an integrated approach.

After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:

- Identify the linkages and inter-dependencies between poverty and the environment.
- Explain the integrated approach to sustainable development.
- Discuss different types of integrated approaches to sustainable development

Module 2: Drivers of Integration

Module 2 looks at the main drivers for adopting an integrated approach at the International, National, and Sub-National levels.

After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:

- Identify key drivers for an integrated approach at the international, national and sub-national levels;
- Discuss the integration and convergence trend taking place across environmental and development institutions;
- Identify key enablers to greater integration of poverty and environment issues;
- Discuss the role of programmes such as PEI/PEA in mobilizing these drivers of integration.

Module 3: Challenges and opportunities for integration

Module 3 explores the various challenges faced in adopting an integrated approach to sustainable development as well as the possible opportunities for tackling poverty and environment issues holistically. Practical examples from different countries are presented.

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Identify the main challenges in adopting an integrated approach to sustainable development;
- Recognize good practices and opportunities for advancing an integrated approach to poverty and environment issues;
- Relate to examples of challenges and opportunities from different countries/regions/cities.

Module 4: Applying an Integrated Approach

Module 4 discusses the application of the integrated approach and offers an overarching strategic framework to enable the same.

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Explain the importance of working with established policy processes and cycles.
  Identify areas and stages in the policy process which provide an opportunity for integration.
- Describe in a schematic way the process of integrating sustainable development in policies.

Course Methodology

The course is self-paced and takes a total of 1,5 - 2 hours to complete.

The course is interactive, engaging, and relatable. Each of the Modules has a similar flow and feature a combination of the following elements:

- ➢ Interactive videos
- ➢ Interactive lessons
- ➢ Reflection points
- ➢ Discussion boards

- ➢ Polls
- ➢ Knowledge checks
- ➢ Scenarios, and
- ➢ Formal quizzes

The course in a nutshell

MODALITY	SELF-PACED
TARGET AUDIENCE AND OUTREACH	TECHNICAL AND POLICY PLANNING STAFF FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS, CHANGE AGENTS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, YOUTH
ACCESS, FEE	FREE OF CHARGE, SELF-ENROLMENT
SEAT-TIME	90 - 120 MIN, 20-25 MIN PER LEARNING BLOCK
COGNITIVE LEVEL	AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION, BASIC SKILLS BUILT
SUBJECT	POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT NEXUS AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	INTRODUCTORY
LEVEL OF INTERACTIVITY	HIGH (VIDEOS, SCENARIOS, QUIZZES, POLLS, DISCUSSION BOARDS, EXERCISES)
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
PLATFORM	UN CC: E-LEARN
ASSESSMENT	+ COMPLETION OF VIDEOS, INTERACTIVE LESSONS, AND ACTIVITIES + 1 FINAL QUIZ (70% MIN) + PRE AND POST-INTENT-TO-USE SURVEY
CERTIFICATION	CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Completion and Certification

Each module of the course features a module quiz. The wrap up module features a final quiz and an interactive problem-solving scenario. A certificate of completion is awarded to learners who complete:

- All videos, interactive lessons, and activities;
- Final quiz with a 70% or higher score;

The certificate will be available upon completion of the course. Once conditions are met, the certificate will become available to download automatically.

Course evaluation

At the start of the course, a short survey measures participants' motivation and "intent-to-use" course knowledge. At the end of the course, learners can complete the course evaluation survey which measures their satisfaction with the course and intent to use the knowledge and skills acquired. The "intent to use" at the beginning and the end of the course can be compared to assess changes in motivation and abilities.

An impact survey 1 year after the course completion can be carried out to evaluate the impact of the course.

Technical requirements

The course is available solely in an online format. UNITAR recommends the following as minimum hardware and software to take this e-learning course:

- Platform: any modern version of Windows (7/8/10) or Mac OSX (10.9 Mavericks (2013) onwards).
- Browser: any modern version of browsers such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Internet Explorer. Java, cookies, and pop-ups must be enabled.

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