



UNEP

**Online Course from United Nations
Environment Programme**

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for Free**

Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate

What role do ecosystems play in reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change? This is the topic of an exciting new massive open online course which is being launched in January, 2015. It was developed jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Center for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD) and the Cologne University of Applied Sciences (CUAS), Germany. This is UNEP's first MOOC, developed in the context of its engagement with universities worldwide including the Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES).

The course covers a broad range of topics from disaster management, climate change, ecosystem management and community resilience. How these issues are linked and how well-managed ecosystems could be a bulwark against natural disasters and climate change impacts is the core theme of the course.

The course is designed at two levels: the leadership track, with the first 6 units providing general introduction to the fundamental concepts, which is suitable for people from all backgrounds who wish to have a basic undertaking of the topic. The second level, or expert track comprises 15 units with more in depth learning on the various tools of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The course is delivered by a global array of scientists and practitioners. In addition there are guest lectures from universities and international organizations, such as Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, the Director General of International Union for Conservation of Nature, Rajendra Pachauri of the IPCC and Margareta Wahlström of UNISDR.

Students will be provided the opportunity to enhance their knowledge through quizzes, real life and fictitious problem solving exercises, additional reading materials, videos and a discussion forum. Each week will feature an international expert who will be available to respond to questions and interact with students.

The course is invaluable for universities around the world, where faculty members can use it to update their curriculum and use the lectures and teaching materials for blended learning for their own courses. At the same time, the MOOC format also allows those currently outside the university system also to learn about the new developments in the area of disasters and climate change, without having to enroll in a university or pay for an online course. Those who successfully complete the course will be provided with a certificate of completion, free of charge.

Enroll for free at <http://www.themooc.net>