



## Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia

curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



619050-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP



### URGENT Project – Available Training Courses

<b>Title:</b>	Applying the Concept of Ecosystem Services for Development Planning
<b>Based on:</b>	Training developed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ( <a href="http://www.aboutvalues.net">www.aboutvalues.net</a> )
<b>Trainer:</b>	Arjan de Groot (Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg)
<b>Available for:</b>	Students of URGENT Partner Universities, Staff of URGENT Partners, Members of URGENT SIP

#### 1. Training Structure

The primary goal of this training course is to familiarize participants with basic concepts and approaches related to ecosystem services (ES). Participants learn about different types of trade-offs that are associated with ES, related challenges in implementing policies and measures as well as possible ways to assess and overcome such challenges. The training can be held over a three to five day period, or can be adjusted and delivered in a condensed manner during a one-day intensive training session. The training is based on the Harvard Case Methodology, and as such consists of expert input through lecture format followed by interactive group exercises by the participants. All modules of the training follow a similar sequence, consisting of the following crucial elements:

- An Introduction given by the trainer, providing the necessary theoretical background for the group work.
- The Group work, giving participants the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge gained to practical work while showcasing interesting scientific tools and methods
- A Presentation of the results, allowing participants to showcase their results to the plenary and fostering a discussion.
- A Reflection after the presentation, enhancing the lessons learned and allowing participants to reflect on their own experiences in their respective fields of work.

#### 2. Background

During the last decades and especially after the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategy Plan 2010-2020, practitioners and policy makers are more frequently confronted with a set of multifaceted challenges regarding the identification, assessment, integration and reporting of ecosystem services in different management areas and sector strategies. Projects and policies intended to meet development goals often go forward unwittingly at the expense of nature, e.g. a national plan to expand agriculture to increase food production may increase deforestation leading to soil erosion and flooding. People who depend on nature for their livelihoods and well-being feel those effects. Recognizing the linkages between ecosystem services and development goals can make the difference between a successful strategy and one that fails due to unexamined consequences for an ecosystem service.



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A better ability to assess, describe and value benefits of ecosystem services, can help development planners to better understand how their actions depend on and change ecosystem services, to consider the trade-offs among options, and to choose policies that sustain such services.

### 3. Rationale of the Training

The training is based on a Guide developed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and teaches participants how to go about applying Ecosystem Services for Development Planning. The training advocates a stepwise approach through which it is possible to recognise, demonstrate and capture the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for development planning. The training combines the theoretical and practical elements of the stepwise approach and guides participants through the application of each step:

- (1) Defining the Scope and Setting the Stage
- (2) Screening and Prioritising Ecosystem Services
- (3) Identifying Ecosystem Service Conditions, Trends and Trade-Offs
- (4) Appraising the Cultural and Institutional Framework
- (5) Preparing better Decision Making
- (6) Implementing Change

### 4. Objectives

The training course introduces the theoretical and practical starting points of integrating ecosystem services into development planning. Participants will gain a general understanding of ecosystem services (ES) and the ecosystem services approach, and will learn about the potential application during development planning.

During the training, participants will identify arguments to convince different stakeholders via an ecosystem services perspective. Moreover, participants will learn about a number of useful tools and instruments to value and assess ecosystems. After the training, participants can use this knowledge to apply the IES 6-step approach in their own real-life work and find new solutions to challenges in the field of natural resource management.