



## **Mainstreaming Poverty – Environment Linkages into Development Planning 7.6 – 2.7.2010**

Integrating environmental, social and economic dimensions is one of the pillars of sustainable development. The contribution of environmental management to improved public health and living conditions, to economic development and to the social resilience of communities, is well acknowledged. For the poor in developing countries it is often critical.

The environment provides services such as the provision of food, water and fuel which poor communities in developing economies rely on disproportionately for their basic needs. Poor communities also depend on the environment to generate income from agriculture, fishing and tourism and are also more vulnerable to natural disasters that threaten their livelihoods and undermine food security. The poor are more vulnerable to health risks and the economic development of communities and regions is directly and indirectly affected by the quality of the environment. In this light, more sustainable management of the environment and natural resources contributes directly to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor growth.

Understanding the linkages between poverty and environment and integrating these into planning and development mechanisms such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and MDG strategies, as well as local development strategies, is a key step to achieving more sustainable use of natural resources. The UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) is a global UN program that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning.

Israel has accumulated practical knowledge and experience in key areas such as improving livelihoods, resilience, health and economic development of poor communities. Practical experience will be integrated into the methodology and experience of UNDP-UNEP PEI.

### **Objectives**

- Introducing the PEI rationale and methodology
- Presenting tools to mainstream Poverty-Environment linkages into local and

regional planning and development processes

- Relevant Israeli knowledge and experience
- Small-group project formulation

### **Program Scope and Themes**

The course will cover three main areas: mainstreaming poverty and environment and how these linkages can be integrated into development planning; environmental priorities with the potential for improving social and economic development; tools for strategic planning.

#### *Environmental priorities*

- Agriculture and land preservation in arid and semi-arid areas
- Water and irrigation technologies for development
- Integrated pest management
- Forest management
- Combating desertification and dry land development
- Waste management and the use of waste for agriculture and economic development
- Renewable energy – technologies and its utilization for development

#### *Local planning for development*

- Building local capacities for integrated, cross-cutting strategic planning
- Land use planning and environmental assessment

The course combines presentations and discussions, professional field trips, personal assignments and group project formulation.

### **Professional Qualifications**

Professionals and decision-makers working in the fields of economic and community development, environmental management and poverty reduction, with practical experience in the field. Priority will be given to those engaged with Poverty-Environment Initiative programs.

### **Application Process**

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, [www.weitz-center.org](http://www.weitz-center.org). The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office ([ronitshp@netvision.net.il](mailto:ronitshp@netvision.net.il)) not later than May 7, 2010.

### **Arrival and transportation**

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the seminar. Transportation will **be free of charge only by this company**.

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' hall, near gate 2.

### **Responsibilities during the stay**

MASHAV will assume responsibility of the participants (medical insurance) for the duration of the course, excluding dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses.

### **Insurance of personal belongings**

MASHAV, Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

**Additional Information**

Any additional information is available at:

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Rehovot 76100 Israel  
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