

Desertification

A Global Challenge for Local Action



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e-learning



UNISFÉRA
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE



An interactive, online course
to commemorate the
International Year for
Deserts and Desertification

In cooperation with Unisféra, EarthAction and the UNCCD Secretariat, Earth Council is pleased to offer this interactive, online course on desertification. This course has been specially designed for parliamentarians, policy and decision makers, and civil society.

Enroll now at www.EarthCouncil.com/desertification. Classes start on June 7 2006. Scholarships are available. Only 200 participants will be accepted during the first round of classes. The course is valued at \$180 per participant. This course is highly interactive. World experts facilitate the classes and your classmates are your peers from around the world. It's easier than you imagine.

Earth Council e-Learning

is the world's online learning center for sustainable development. We offer courses on topics of global importance such as climate change, global trade, biodiversity, sustainability, and desertification. Earth Council e-Learning was established in 2001 as part of Earth Council Geneva, an NGO registered in Switzerland.

For more information, visit us at:
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Course description

This interactive course addresses the complex interlinkages between poverty and environmental degradation in dryland regions and raises awareness of the problems and global implications of desertification. It introduces the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought as an innovative global tool for coordinated actions between governments, civil society and international agencies. It highlights the Convention's fundamental principles and raises awareness of the importance of National Action Programs developed by many countries around the world.

Participants will discuss the most critical issues relating to effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels, and will gain a good understanding of the global challenge posed by increasing desertification.

Course facilitators

➤ **Ms. Friederike Knabe, M.A.** specializes in dryland issues and the UNCCD, with emphasis on the correlation of poverty and environmental degradation. She has been an active participant in the UNCCD processes for over 10 years, as civil society representative and member of the Canadian Government delegation. She is currently the Senior Research Associate for Desertification at Unisféra.

➤ **Mr. Karel Mayrand, M.A.** specialises in international environmental policies, trade, agriculture and development issues. He is co-author of *Governing Global Desertification: Linking Environmental Degradation, Poverty and Participation* (Ashgate, 2006). He lectures in environment and international development issues at Université de Sherbrooke, Canada and is currently director of research at Unisféra.

