

International Introductory course to Land stewardship: from theory to practice



Land stewardship is a strategy that involves landowners and users in the conservation of nature and landscape, with support from a wide range of civil society groups.

Land stewardship is developed through specific tools and practices, such as land stewardship agreements, alliances, funding and communication tools, which in some cases require specific knowledge and skills.

Course provided by:



Dates: 15th September – 30th October 2014

Duration: 30 hours

Languages: Documents and activities in English; interaction with professors in English, Catalan, Spanish or French.

Certificate: Expert on Land Stewardship. Basic Level

Fees: 40 €

Coordination: Pilar Rodríguez (Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori, xct)

Apply [here](#) before 8th September 2014

(Course size limited to 50 students)

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OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the principles and objectives of land stewardship
- To offer basic methodologies and knowledge on land stewardship tools, through the presentation of case studies
- To provide support to the learning process by students, adapted to their knowledge and interests

TARGET GROUPS

- Students and graduates on different areas of knowledge
- Volunteers and professionals in areas related to landscape and nature management
- Staff and volunteers from nature conservation NGO's
- Personal from conservation public agencies
- Social entrepreneurs in rural areas
- People interested on land stewardship and the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

METHODOLOGY

The course is based on **online learning methodologies**, using the online platform of the University of Vic. This educative platform allows students to have access to the documentation of the course, interact with other students through forums, and send consultations to the professors.

The professors will upload the documentation for each of the three modules of the course and the instructions for the associated exercises. During the course, students will present **case studies of land stewardship**, design a stewardship agreement, analyze methods and communication experiences, and funding opportunities for land stewardship.

Online forums will be set for discussion and exchange regarding the content of the modules and other subjects relevant to the course. Professors will also be available to students for questions and issues during the course.

The progress of the students will be evaluated along the course by the professors through the participation on the debate forums and the exercises provided for every module.

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PROGRAMME

FIRST MODULE. LAND STEWARDSHIP'S PRINCIPLES AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 1.1. The basic concepts of land stewardship
- 1.2. Alliances and main stakeholders for land stewardship
- 1.3. A land stewardship organisation in action

Exercises:

Debate in the virtual forum

- Presentation of real cases studies of Land Stewardship organisations and Land Stewardship agreements.
- Comments on the presentation of real case studies

SECOND MODULE. LAND STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS: PROCEDURES AND QUALITY

- 2.1. How to develop a land stewardship agreement
- 2.2. Legal options and mechanisms for land stewardship. Implementation in specific legal frameworks.
- 2.3. Monitoring and evaluating land stewardship agreements

Exercises:

Work in groups

- Analysis of a real stewardship agreement case

THIRD MODULE. STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR LAND STEWARDSHIP

- 3.1. Financing land stewardship
- 3.2. Communicating land stewardship
- 3.3. Complementary tools for land stewardship

Exercises:

Work in groups

- Improvement of the land stewardship agreement case

FINAL DEBATE

Debate in the virtual forum

- Learnings of the course
- The future of land stewardship in your region
- Comments to the land stewardship agreement cases

EVALUATION SYSTEM

The progress of the students will be evaluated along the course by the professors through the participation on the debate forums (40%) and the exercises provided for every module (60%).

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PROFESSORS



Xavier Basora: Environmental consultant specialising in communication and ecotourism, issues on which he lectures in several seminars and postgraduate courses. He also collaborates with various magazines and media specialised in nature and landscape.



Xavier Sabaté: Environmental consultant specialising in public participation and civic engagement in environmental and landscape planning, and Director of a Postgraduate course on Environmental Awareness, in Barcelona (IUSC-UB).

During more than 12 years of professional activity in [Espai TReS · Land and Social Responsibility](#), both professors have helped promote land stewardship in Catalonia and Spain, and have written several publications and participated in various seminars, training courses and other events to share their expertise in land stewardship. Noteworthy, they are co-authors of the European Land stewardship Manual "[Caring together for Nature](#)".

LANDLIFE

This course is part of LandLife (LIFE 10 INF/ES/540), a LIFE+ communication and information project to promote land stewardship in Europe. More information: <http://www.landstewardship.eu/>

LandLife partners:



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