

CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS AND HEALTH

COURSE SYLLABUS

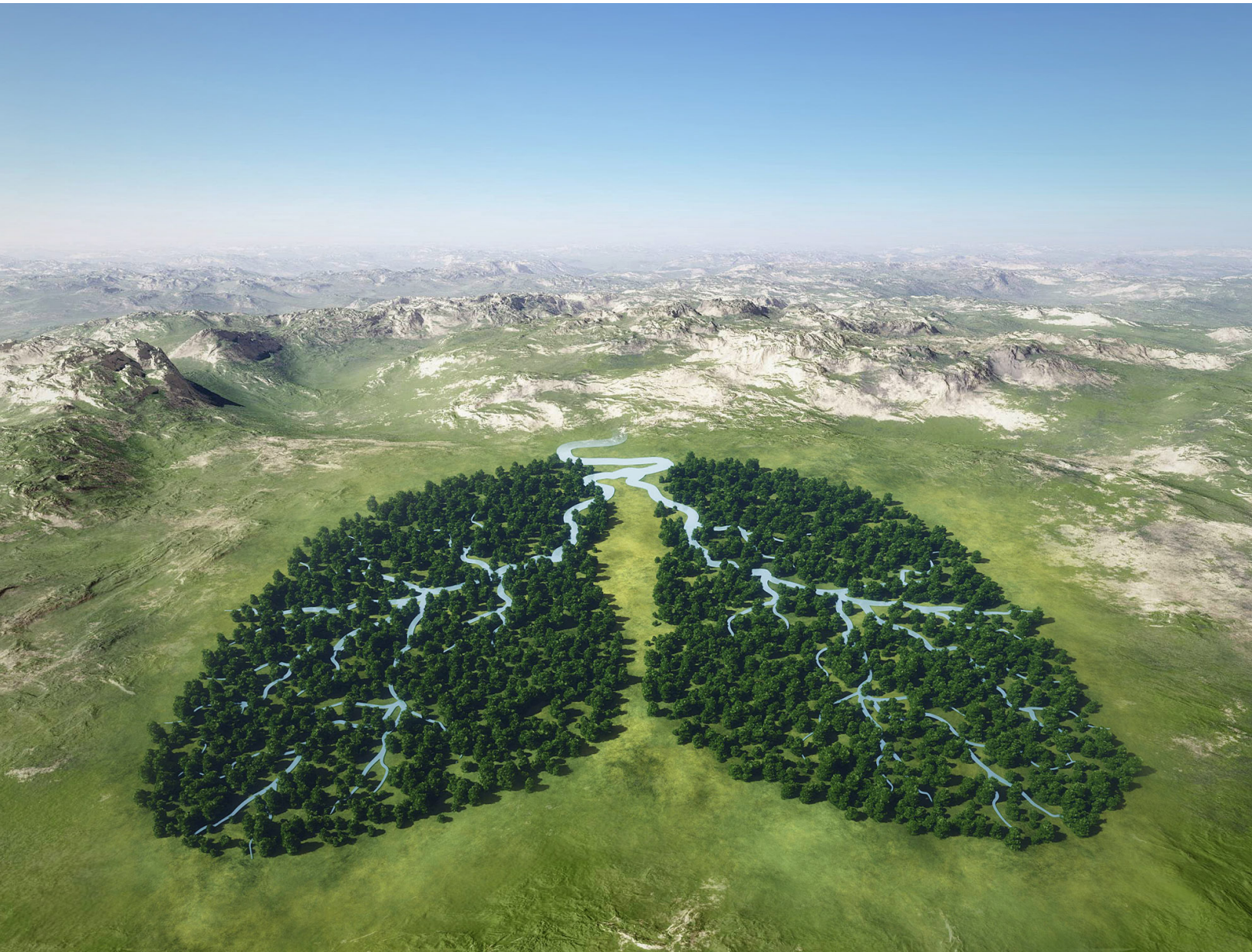


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Background

It is increasingly evident that environmental challenges have an impact on human health, reinforcing existing risks. For instance, it is estimated that climate change will cause around 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 – linked to issues ranging from malnutrition to heat stress, with direct costs to health expected to be between USD 2-4 billion/year by 2030¹. Also, the current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important interlinkages between human health and the state of our environment and economies.

With the recognition that the equilibrium between people and planet is one of the fundamental issues of our time, this online course delves into the interlinkages between climate change and health, with particular reference to the international climate change policy process and the need for a healthy a green recovery from COVID-19.

Specifically, the course aims to support delegates attending the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and participating in climate diplomacy. It also provides valuable insights for the professionals involved in the development and implementation of national climate change and health policies.

Target Audience

The module provides clear, concise, and up-to-date information for anybody interested in addressing the health risks arising from climate change. It should be of particular interest to the following audiences:

- Health sector professionals participating in international climate change negotiations and in national climate change related processes;
- Environmental sector professionals participating in international and national climate change processes as well as climate change negotiators;
- Other interested government officials and practitioners;
- Academics and university students;
- Other individuals interested in learning about the promotion of health priorities in the context of climate change and climate change negotiations.

Learning Objectives

The ultimate objective of the course is to support participants in addressing health within climate change negotiations and national policy processes, as well as in considering climate change in health policies.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain how climate change affects health;
- Recognize the international climate change policy framework;
- Identify the Parties and groups of Parties to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, including their respective commitments and negotiation positions;
- Describe the outcomes of past negotiation sessions;
- Discuss the key issues in the ongoing international climate change negotiations, particularly in relation to the promotion of health priorities and the integration of health in all policies.

Course Structure

The course features key information on climate change and its impacts on human health, provides an overview of the main milestones in climate diplomacy so far, and considers entry points to address health issues and priorities within climate change negotiations and policies.

The course is divided into six self-standing interactive lessons, which include multiple activities, case studies and videos:

Lesson 1: Introduction to Health and Climate Change

This lesson provides an overview of the interlinkages between climate change and human health. Specifically, it presents the health risks arising from climate change, noting their diverse effects across different communities, as well as possible responses.

Lesson 2: History of the UN Climate Negotiations

This lesson introduces the international climate change agenda and the key milestones in climate diplomacy, focusing in particular on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. It highlights how health priorities have been featured in the negotiations so far.

Lesson 3: The Paris Agreement

This lesson presents the Paris Agreement and its key elements, including its main provisions with respect to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, transparency and reporting, and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Lesson 4: From Paris to Glasgow

This lesson provides an update on the status of the negotiations, highlighting the key outcomes of the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the UNFCCC. It also presents the main areas that will be included in the agenda of the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP26), which is planned in November 2021, in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Lesson 5: Health in the UN Climate Change Negotiations

This lesson discusses options for integrating health-related issues into national climate policies and strategies, while providing an overview of climate finance for health. It then presents key entry points to advance health priorities at COP26 negotiations, including health recommendations for action.

Lesson 6: Healthy and Green Recovery from COVID-19

This lesson concludes the course with a reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, it illustrates the WHO Manifesto for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19, including six prescriptions and over 80 accompanying actionables.

Useful Resources

The course contains a wealth of links to other resources on health and climate change and is thus a gateway to more in depth and specific information. A list of reference resources is also available at the end of each lesson.

Methodology, Evaluation and Certification

The course is self-paced and not moderated. It is adapted to the schedule of professionals in full-time work. Participants are provided with the opportunity to learn through various experiences: absorb (read); interact (activity); and reflect (relate to one's own reality). The lessons can be downloaded in PDF format for offline learning.

It is expected that participants will complete the course in three hours. A quiz at the end of the course allows participants to assess the achievement of the learning objectives. A quiz is successfully passed at a score of 70% or higher, within three

attempts. Once the certification criteria have been met, learners can download a certificate of completion from the "Certification" section of the course webpage.

After completion, participants have the possibility to submit a feedback form accessible on the course webpage. Users are also invited to participate in a pre- and post-survey on how they (intend to) use the knowledge acquired.

Technical Requirements

Browser:

- The course works best with Firefox 50 or higher
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome and Internet Explorer
- JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled

Platform: 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X

Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space

Modem: 128 K