



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-LRT**

Land Restoration Training Programme

## NEWSLETTER

### Season's greetings!

We are almost at the end of the year 2018. On that occasion, we would like to thank all of our collaborators for the good cooperation during the year and we look forward to a continuing fruitful cooperation. We send our best wishes for the festive season ahead and wish you a Happy New Year.

The UNU-LRT Team



### Short course in Masindi, Uganda

In October, UNU-LRT hosted its second short course in Uganda on Sustainable land management, land restoration and linkages to climate change. This time the course was held in Masindi town in western Uganda. There were 25 participants in the 9-day course, all of them working as environmental/forestry/natural resources officers in their respective districts. Like the previous short course in Uganda, this short course was organized in collaboration with the partner institutions of UNU-LRT in Uganda: NEMA (National Environment Management Agency) and Makerere University. Two former UNU-LRT fellows, Ms Zalfa Businge (UNU-LRT fellow in 2017) and Mr William Nsimiire (UNU-LRT fellow in 2012), assisted with preparations of the course, as well as with the execution. Four lecturers from Iceland took part in delivering the material together with the three main Ugandan lecturers Dr Daniel Waiswa (Makerere University), Dr Gerald Eilu (Makerere University) and Dr Jerome Sebadduka Lugumira (NEMA).

Another short course in Uganda is planned next year.

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[United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme](#)

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Find out about the mission and vision of UNU-LRT in its Strategic Plan 2017-2021 [here](#)

[Here](#) you can read about the Gender Equality Policy of UNU-LRT

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United Nations University Land Restoration Training Programme offers training of specialists from developing countries to combat land degradation and restore degraded land. The Programme aims to assist partner institutions in strengthening institutional capacity and gender equality in the field of land restoration and sustainable land management in developing countries.

## News from former fellows

In November, **Mr Enock Ssekuubwa** from Uganda, a UNU-LRT fellow in 2013, successfully completed his PhD defense at the Environmental Management Department, Makerere University in Uganda. The title of the thesis is *Ecological attributes of restored tropical forests in Kibale National Park, western Uganda*. Mr Ssekuubwa's supervisors were Professor Mnason Tweheyo from Makerere University, Professor Stein R Moe from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and Associate Professor Vincent B Muwanika, Makerere University.



Mr Enock Ssekuubwa

The UNU-LRT Team would like to use the opportunity to congratulate Mr Ssekuubwa on his achievement.

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## Interactive field excursion on bridging ecology and economy

A two-day Experiential Learning module, developed by the ENABLE consortium that UNU-LRT is a part of, was held in southeast Spain in late October. The interactive field excursions focused on equipping the participants with the skills and knowledge required to restore landscapes while bringing back social, cultural, and financial benefits to society.

Participants experienced the impacts of land degradation on nature, society and economy, and studied how to prevent degradation. They also experienced different solutions to restore landscapes based on sustainable business models, and explored the importance of land restoration for ecosystem services. UNU-LRT sponsored two participants from UNU-LRT partner organizations to attend the Experiential Learning module. They were Ms Irene Jamilatu Yenuyet Yaro from the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana and Ms Enkh-Amgalan Tseelei from the National Federation of Pasture User Groups of Herders (NFPUG) in Mongolia.

The Experiential Learning is one of the outputs of the ENABLE consortium, which is a strategic partnership co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The ENABLE consortium consists of UNU-LRT, Rotterdam School of Management at Erasmus University, Commonland, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, and the Spanish National Research Council, which hosted the Experiential Learning module in Spain.

The main goal of the [ENABLE](#) partnership is to develop education on integrated landscape management based on sustainable business models. Such education can bridge the gaps between ecology and economy, environment and business, theory and practice, global and local, and help deal with global challenges as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



*Ms Enkh-Amgalan Tseelei & Ms Irene Jamilatu Yenuyet Yaro*

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### Upcoming short online course about sheep grazing in Iceland

UNU-LRT has collaborated in the development of a short massive open online course (MOOC) on sheep grazing, management and land conservation in Iceland. The course, entitled [Sheep in the Land of Fire and Ice](#), examines the sustainability of sheep grazing in Iceland and explores how history, socioeconomic factors and environmental conditions have influenced the management of grazing resources. Grazing management is a common problem in many regions of the world, and this course uses Iceland as a case study because traditional sheep grazing in Iceland has been associated with extensive environmental degradation.

The course is taught by Dr Isabel C Barrio and a group of experts, including several UNU-LRT lecturers. The short course will be launched on 11 January, 2019 and will be open for all and free of charge. You will be able to access the course through a link that will be posted on the [course website](#). The course is designed for students in environmental sciences and for anyone interested in understanding one of the drivers of landscape change in Iceland: sheep grazing.

For more information about the MOOC watch the [teaser video](#) and visit the [website](#).



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### UNU-LRT announced MSc & PhD scholarships in 2018

In September, UNU-LRT announced scholarships for a Master's study and a PhD study in Iceland for former fellows of the Land Restoration Training programme. A great deal of applications from former fellows were submitted, many of them very good ones. An independent committee evaluated the applications and the UNU-LRT Team took note of that. The successful candidates were:

For the MSc scholarship, **Ms Beatrice Dossah** from Ghana, a UNU-LRT fellow in 2017.

For the PhD scholarship, **Ms Sumjidmaa Sainnemekh** from Mongolia, a UNU-LRT fellow in 2014.



Ms Beatrice Dossah



Ms Sumjidmaa Sainnemekh

The UNU-LRT congratulates them and looks forward to receiving them in Iceland next year. The Team also thanks everyone interested in the scholarships, and those who submitted their applications and/or research ideas are encouraged to submit again if the opportunity will arise.

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### New staff members

On 1 September, Ms Katrin Björnsdóttir started working for UNU-LRT in a part time position as Project Manager. Katrin graduated from the University of Iceland this year with an MSc in Ecology, where she focused on the responses of below-ground processes to climate warming and grazing pressure in sub- and high Arctic environments. After graduating, she was an assistant teacher in field courses in Iceland and Svalbard, as well as participating in several field courses in Svalbard.

Ms Salome Hallfredsdóttir started working for UNU-LRT on 1 October, also in a part time position. Salome is a natural science teacher by training as well as having an MSc in Environmental and Sustainability Science. Salome comes from a position in one of the leading environmental NGO's in Iceland, *Landvernd*.



Katrin Björnsdóttir



Salome Hallfredsdóttir

We welcome Katrin and Salome to the UNU-LRT Team!

## UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY - LAND RESTORATION TRAINING PROGRAMME

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