Preamble

The environment as a life support system is a key determinant of human well-being. However, development attempts have often posed serious threats to environmental quality, stability and resilience. Sustainable community development programs should thus help mitigate such threats to ecosystems and their services. This calls for the operationalisation of a holistic academic, research-based and professional program that equips students with the necessary knowledge and skills for decision-making towards good stewardship of ecosystems for sustainable community and national development.

Rationale

There is need for top professionals who can synchronize development interests at community and national levels while at the same time, conserving the natural resource-base. This program will instil the necessary knowledge and skills required by students who will work for community-centred government agencies, NGOs and community organizations.

Mission

To train environmentally conscious professionals who will research, manage, guide and advise on improving community livelihoods and integrating community interests with national interests.

Objectives

i. To train and equip students with the necessary research and policy analysis competences so as to contribute to informed decision-making towards sustainable Community livelihoods.

ii. To produce high-level professionals and technocrats capable of spearheading sustainable community and national development goals.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must have one of the following qualifications:

i. At least a Second Class Honours (Upper Second) degree in Environmental Studies or in related disciplines such as Geography, Natural Resources Management, Wildlife and Tourism Management, Agriculture & Agricultural Engineering, Urban & Regional Planning, Biological and Physical Sciences, Development Studies, and Economics among others, from Kenyatta University or any other recognized university.

ii. A Lower Second Class (Lower Second) degree in the above disciplines with at least two years of working experience in areas related to Environmental Studies and Community Development.

Duration and Programme Structure

i. Full time Programme

The full time program shall run for eighteen months starting every September of each year. In the first academic year, students shall take a minimum of 12 units. Thesis students have to register for 5 units each in the first semester and second semesters. In the second academic year, students will be required to research for, write and submit a thesis/project that will be examined in accordance with University regulations.

ii. Institutional-Based Programme

The Institutional-based Programme (IBP) runs for two years during the three holiday sessions in a year (i.e. April, August and December). Students will take course work of up to 14 taught units during these sessions, in addition to the final project, which accounts for 4 units.

Certification

The degree to be awarded is designated: Master of Environmental Studies (Community Development).

Examinations

University examination regulations shall apply; i.e. course work, examination, and thesis (for regular master’s programme) and course work, examination and project for institutional-based programme (IBP).

Unit code and Title

ESU 800: Statistics
ESU 801: Research Methods and Scientific reporting
ECD 804: Environment & Sustainable Com. Dev.
ECD 805: Advanced Participatory Com. Dev & Capacity Building
ECD 806: Ethics, Politics and Environmental Governance
ECD 807: Ecosystems and Human Well-being
ECD 809: Environmental Organisational & Institutional Development
ECD812: Environmental, Gender and Sustainable Development
ECD 813: Environmental Security and Peace Building
EPM 861: Planning for Disaster Preparedness and Management
Project option students

In addition to the 10 units above the following units will be taken by project students

ESU 802: Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit
ECD 816: Community Capacity Building and Project management
ECD 817: Population Dynamics and Environmental Health
ECD 818: Environmental resource Mobilization and community development
ECD 825: Master Research Project (IBP Students Only)
ECD 826: Thesis (Regular Students Only)

PhD programme
ECD 900: PhD Thesis

Unit Code and Description

ESU 800: Statistics
Sampling techniques and statistical analysis in environmental education; Descriptive statistics, probability distribution, random variables sampling techniques, hypotheses testing, inference concerning means, proportion, standard deviation, correlations, linear regression, analysis of variance, multivariate analysis.

ESU 801: Research Methods
In-depth case studies of survey research, quasi-experimental research, narrative research, action research, participatory research and evaluation research; key concepts, terminology, issues of quality, epistemology, research ethics, validity and reliability; research proposal development; formulation of concepts, theory and objectives; research designs, sampling, identification of data sources and collection techniques, field research procedures, data collection, tools, management and analysis (Quantitative and qualitative data); reporting and application of research findings.

ECD 804: Environment & Sustainable Community Development.
Environmental-Livelihood nexus, resource use paradigms, community development theories and paradigms, conceptualizing sustainable community development, stakeholders in community development: role of civil society, NGOs, government, international community, private sector; partnerships in community development, poverty and under-development in Africa; aid and debt crises; Re-defining Africa’s Development: NEPAD, Millennium Development Goals.

ECD 805: Advanced Participatory Com. Dev & Capacity Building
Participatory development: Key concepts: participation, grassroots participation, people’s participation in development; Theoretical perspectives to participatory development ;Participatory approaches; Target oriented approach and its variants-Extractionist participation; vertical ; participation; benefit-induced participation (extensionist); Process oriented/people focused participation ; assumptions underlying participatory approaches ;Participatory Development approaches: Rapid Rural Appraisal ; Participatory Rural Appraisal: Participatory approaches and community capacity building: Community Capacity Building definitions and concepts; The CCB process ; Participatory Appraisal techniques and methods:
Community/social mapping; Wealth ranking; Transect walks; Venn diagrams; Livelihoods analysis etc; Participatory Planning: What is participatory planning; Participatory planning workshops; Co-evolving streams of participatory methodologies: Integrated pest management; Stepping stones; Participatory GIS; Participatory Action and learning systems; Community-led total sanitation; Participatory Technology Development (PTD): Historical and institutional contexts for PTD; The PTD process; Typologies of participation: Participatory Evaluation What is participatory evaluation?; The need for participatory evaluation; Differences between participatory and conventional evaluation.

**ECD 806: Ethics, Politics and Environmental Governance**
Key concepts in governance: politics and environmental sustainability; social equity, human rights, justice and community development ethics etc; understand good environmental governance: Environmental corruption: consequences to the environment; strategies for reducing environmental corruption; environmental corruption incidences in Kenya; Globalization and environmental management, Environmental law and policy in Kenya: EMCA and other legislations on environmental governance in Kenya; International environmental law: conventions and treaties, on community development regional and global negotiations e.g. the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, The Brundtland report, the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 etc; Effects of political and economic power in environmental governance, Case studies.

**ECD 807: Ecosystems and Human Well-being**
Ecosystem and the components, Types of ecosystems, Ecosystem terms, structure and functions, Food chains and webs in ecosystems, Ecosystem cycles, services and biodiversity, Keystone species and their role in ecosystems, Concept of functional redundancy, Measuring biodiversity, management of ecosystems, Ecosystem assessment, nature and dimensions of human well being.

**ECD 809: Environmental Organisational & Institutional Dev**
Understanding Organisational and Institutional Development; Nature and functions of civil society organisations; Analysis of CSO in community and national development; Role of Civil Society Organisations in environmental management; Role of UN agencies (UNDP, IFAD etc in community development; Role of governments (CDF-Kenya and IGAD-Regional) in development and environmental management; The NGO council and functions, role of universities in community development; Dealing with conflicts among development stakeholders; Agents of Community Mobilization in Africa; Integration of environmental programmes into community-based development projects; Legal and policy framework in CSO practices; Case studies.

**ECD 812: Environmental, Gender and Sustainable Development**
Conceptualising gender; marginalisation and stratification theories and perspectives; Theoretical and conceptual frameworks of gender responsive natural resource management; From women in development to gender and development; application of gender perspectives in sustainable development; Gender mainstreaming in sustainable environmental management and development policy; Gender and global environmental change; the gender analysis frameworks, The role of sex disaggregated data in sustainable community development, Gender and Policy implications in natural resource management; Gender in NRM Research.
ECD 813: Environmental Security and Peace Building
Introduction: Concepts of: Security, levels of security (individual security, national security, regional security, international security), environmental security, Security theories, Security issues (Global terrorism) Conflict cycle; Links between environment and security; environmental change and human security; Scarcity and Abundance; Impacts of conflict on natural resources and the environment; Security analysis; Conflict management strategies, Conflict prevention measures for specific natural resources; Natural resource certification schemes, environmental justice, Peace processes, Reconciliation, Justice and reintegration; Case Studies: Hydro politics of Nile Basin; The Tormented Great lakes Region: The Sahel.

EPM 861: Planning for Disaster Preparedness and Management
Definitions; Types, nature and trends; Assessment and vulnerabilities; Traditional and conventional coping methods; Agencies and their capacities; Policies, legislation, conventions and constraints; Provision of services and amenities; Reconstruction, relocation and relief (3Rs); Politics and disaster management; Disaster preparedness planning and management; Climate Change and Disasters, Gender and Disasters, Disasters and Development; Selected case studies.

Project option students
In addition to the 10 units above, the following four units will be taken, for project option students.

ESU 802: Environmental Impact Assessment & Auditing
Concepts: environment, its components and project sustainability; theory, principles and steps; typology; EIA methods; management and control; impact significance and analysis of alternatives; integrated environmental assessment; stakeholder and public participation; nature and types of conflicts; industrial ecology and cleaner production; components of EMP; nature principles and steps in conducting EA; structure and NEMA format of EIA/EA reports; EIA report review and decision-making; mainstreaming EIA/EA; EMS; strategic environmental assessment; environmental risk assessment; nature, objectives, steps and application of SIA; policy, legal, regulatory and administrative framework; occupational health and safety management; multilateral environmental agreements and EIA; environmental information systems; cost benefit analysis, total economic value and environmental valuation techniques; selected case studies.

ESU 803: Project Planning and Management
Project defined; characteristics of project; Projects versus programmes: Project proposals and fundraising; Individuals who write proposals; Proposals and the grant market; Motivations and priorities of grant makers and grant seekers: Projects and proposal writing; Proposal writing formats; Proposal for academic projects; Proposals for development projects: Principles of project management; Initiating project planning; Role of project planning; Identifying projects; Sources of project ideas: Project management cycle; Project conceptualization [needs assessment and situation analysis]; Project selection; Project planning and design; Project implementation; Project monitoring and evaluation; Project termination.

ECD 817: Population Dynamics and Environmental Health
Basic concepts in population studies; settlement theories and patterns; complementing and intervening opportunities; network analysis and Gravity Model; population and environmental change, More people less erosion; understanding environmental and public health, role of environmental health in community development, behavioural and cultural eco-toxicology, environmental hazards and health; psycho-pharmacology; environmental quality and aesthetics; hazardous wastes and environmental pollution; principles of environmental sanitation; environmental and chemical risk assessment, Case studies: Malaria and its management, Persistent Organic pollutants.

**ECD 818: Environmental resource Mobilization and community development**

The concept, “Resource mobilization”; elements of resource mobilization; Resource Mobilization Pyramid and the 80-20 Rule; SWOT analysis; internal and external factors affecting an organization resource mobilization abilities; the vision ,the mission, the goals and their impact on resource mobilization; pre-liquisites in attracting donor’s financial support for organizations.

**ECD 825: Master Research Project (IBP Students Only)**

The students shall write a project proposal which will be approved by the graduate school before data collection. After approve the students shall collect data, analysis and interpretation it and write a Masters research project

**ECD 826: Thesis (Regular Students Only)**

The students shall write a project proposal which will be approved by the graduate school before data collection. After approve the students shall collect data, analysis and interpretation it and write a Masters research thesis

**PhD programme**

**ECD 900: PhD Thesis**

The students shall write a project proposal which will be approved by the graduate school before data collection. After approve the students shall collect data, analysis and interpretation it and write a Ph D research thesis