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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Institute for Global Sustainability
University of Vermont
322 South Prospect Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
(800) 639-3210
(802) 656-2085
learn.uvm.edu/ecotourism

Global Sustainable Ecotourism Development: Achieving Economic Growth, Alleviation of Poverty, and Environmental Conservation A Five-Day, Intensive Summer Program

Dates: May 23-27, 2011

Time: 9:00AM - 8PM-Monday Night Dinner (12:00PM-2:00PM Lunch & Break)
9:00AM - 6:00PM-Tuesday-Friday (12:00PM-2:00PM Lunch & Break)

Location: UVM campus, Burlington, VT

Registration: Complete a Professional Certificate in Sustainable Ecotourism Practices and four CEUs. College credit is also available. See the web for credit details and pricing.

Professional Development Fee: Includes instruction, course materials, lunch, breakfast, and Monday evening dinner.

Lead Instructor: Megan Epler Wood, Director, Planeterra Foundation, owner, Epler Wood International and founder of The International Ecotourism Society.

Guest Speakers: Guest lecturers will allow students to come to a fuller understanding of ecotourism development in two pivotal countries; Brazil and Rwanda. Guest speakers, Ariane Janer and Miguel Baca will provide in-depth living case studies on the economics of these countries, socio-political outlooks, conservation tools being employed, and poverty alleviation challenges.

Program Summary:

This course will look at ecotourism as a business model first and foremost, which requires a complex series of business approaches to deliver sustainable development benefits. It will teach a holistic approach to planning and tourism development that reviews how governments, NGOs, business and international donors must cooperate to achieve success. Students will learn how tourism can play a broader role in sustainable development, and help transition economies away from destructive development practices.

Why Study Ecotourism at UVM?

The State of Vermont supplies a vibrant location for students from around the world to see how sustainability practices can transform an economy and create a sustainable destination that is based on a wide range of sustainability practices. In 2009, Vermont was rated as the 6th most sustainable destination in the world by National Geographic Traveler magazine.

Megan Epler Wood founded The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) in 1990, the oldest and largest non-profit organization in the world dedicated to making ecotourism a tool for sustainable tourism development worldwide. She was President & CEO from 1991-2002. Since 2003, Megan's firm EplerWood International has devoted itself to aiding some of the poorest countries in the world with sustainable tourism development; including the nations of Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, and Honduras. In 2010, she became the Director of the Planeterra Foundation, a foundation with projects throughout the world in health, microenterprise development, education, environmental conservation, and community development; all associated with the destination stewardship and sustainability mandate of its parent corporation, Gap Adventures, the largest international adventure tour operation in the world.