ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE
Project number: 101129032

Duration: 36 months
(01/01/2024 – 31/12/2026)

LESLIE

LAND MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT & SOLID-WASTE

Co-funded by the European Union

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LAND MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

1.- Introduction to Land Resources and Land Management

Land as a Public Good and Common Wealth

LM-W01-V02

Land as a basis of shared welfare

Core meaning

Land supports production, settlement, ecological balance, and the continuity of community life.

Lesson emphasis

The value of land is judged not only by possession, but also by its effect on society and territory.

Students should be able to:

Explain why land use decisions have consequences beyond a single owner or user.
Show how rational use is linked with stewardship.

Analytical focus

Assess whether a land decision protects land quality, serves legitimate needs, and remains responsible over time.

Presenter video

From a private parcel to a public system

Parcel
One plot
One user
One transaction

Water
Drainage, recharge, runoff

People
Access, health, safety

Nature
Habitats, soil, carbon

Economy
Value, tax base, conflict risk

A land decision is never only local. Its effects move through territory, institutions, and time.

Presenter video

Why “common wealth” is not just a slogan

Uzbekistan’s Constitution states that land and other natural resources are national wealth, must be used rationally, and are protected by the state.

National wealth

Land belongs to the life of the whole country, not only to one transaction.

Rational use

Use must match capability, limits, and long-term productivity.

State protection

Public institutions must guard land from misuse, loss, and irreversible damage.

Presenter video

What is public about land?

Important clarification

Land itself is not a pure public good. But many benefits and many harms from land use are shared.

So the public question is:

Who receives the benefits, who bears the costs, and who protects future value?

Shared benefits

Water regulation
Landscape stability

Shared risks

Flooding
Salinity
Pollution

Shared obligations

Planning
Safeguards
Monitoring

Presenter video

Why land is also a matter of generations

Past

Inherited soils, canals, landscapes, and institutions

Present

Current users benefit from earlier investments and stewardship

Future

Tomorrow's users depend on what we protect or damage today

Irreversible losses matter

Soil loss, severe salinity, wetland loss, and chaotic urban spread are hard and expensive to reverse.

Stewardship principle

Good land management is not only use. It also includes care, restoration, and restraint.

Presenter video

One parcel carries several kinds of value at once

Private value

Income, rent, collateral, market exchange, and investment return

Public value

Food security, service access, public infrastructure, and budget stability

Ecological value

Soil fertility, habitat, water balance, carbon storage, and resilience

Cultural / social value

Identity, heritage, attachment to place, and fairness of access

Presenter video

What ordinary market prices often fail to capture

Hidden ecological costs
Degradation may appear later, outside the original transaction.

Hidden social costs
Weak access, displacement, or exclusion may not appear in price.

Hidden fiscal costs
Restoration, drainage, conflict, and infrastructure burdens can shift to the state.

A parcel can be privately profitable and still be publicly damaging.

Practical implication
Land policy must look beyond sale price or lease revenue and ask what happens to soil, water, communities, and future users.

Presenter video

Common wealth also raises a justice question

Small farmers

Need secure use rights and predictable rules

Women & youth

Often face weaker access and weaker voice

Communities

Need consultation where collective resources are affected

Future users

Have no vote today, but bear long-run impacts

If land is common wealth, governance must ask not only “Who has rights?” but also “Who is left out?”

Presenter video

Principles of responsible tenure governance

Legitimate rights

Tenure arrangements should be recognized, protected, and treated with legal and social respect.

Equitable access

Public policy should not deepen exclusion where access or security is already weak.

Transparency and accountability

Land decisions should be understandable, reviewable, and open to public scrutiny.

Conflict prevention

Clear and fair governance helps stop disputes before they become social and economic losses.

Presenter video

Elements of a sound land governance system

Rights and recognition
Good systems define and protect rights clearly.

Public oversight
Land use, management, and taxation need credible supervision.

Public land
State land requires rules, transparency, and accountability.

Land information
People need access to records and reliable information.

Disputes
Conflict-resolution channels must be available and trusted.

Why it matters
These elements connect land rights with social, economic, and environmental results.

Presenter video

A simple public-interest test for land decisions

Suitable?
Does the use match land capability and local conditions?

Protective?
Does it guard soil, water, and ecological stability?

Fair?
Are costs and benefits distributed in a reasonable way?

Clear?
Is the decision transparent and reviewable?

If one answer is “no”, the decision may still be legal, but it is weak as land stewardship.

Why this helps

It turns a broad ethical idea into a practical classroom tool for evaluating cases.

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Shared consequences in Central Asia

Water-linked landscapes

Use on one parcel can influence drainage, recharge, and neighboring production conditions.

Salinity and restoration

Misuse today may create long and costly recovery burdens for the wider territory.

Pasture and dryland pressure

Overuse weakens household resilience, livestock productivity, and ecosystem stability.

Urban fringe decisions

Expansion choices affect service cost, access, and the loss of productive open land.

In water-scarce and dryland regions, land use quickly becomes a territorial issue with shared costs and shared responsibilities.

Presenter video

Key takeaways from LM-W01-V02

Takeaway 1

Land use must be judged not only by private gain, but also by its territorial and social consequences.

Takeaway 2

Common wealth means responsibility to present users, neighboring communities, and future generations.

Takeaway 3

Responsible land management joins secure rights with protection, openness, and stewardship.

Presenter video

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