

# Environment and Local Development

In this field of specialization students have the opportunity to explore strategies for reconciling local development with sustainable natural resource management.

Possible topics include:

- theorizing and documenting how the influence of political and economic power, interacting with local social, cultural and economic realities, shapes human interactions with the environment – both sustainable and unsustainable – and the distribution of natural assets;
- exploring culturally appropriate compensation strategies that provide social and economic rewards to the “ecosystem people” who conserve biodiversity, sequester carbon, maintain water quality, and provide other environmental services to humankind;
- investigating how political and economic power shape the distribution of food and the sustainability of its production;
- theorizing and documenting the various forms of economic provisioning – including market and non-market activities – and their role in social, economic, and sustainable development; and
- examining how and under what circumstances local communities undertake the management of local resource use and/or engage in resource co-management with governments.