



The economics of land use change in developing countries

Profesor: UNAI PASCUAL (Dept. of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, UK)

Lugar: AULA B.08 (Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, Sarriko)

Horario: Jueves 10 de mayo: 15:00- 19:00

Viernes 11 de mayo: 15:00-19:00

Breve descripción del curso:

The general aim of the course is illustrate the connections between economic development and the dynamics of land use and land cover change (LULCC) with a special focus on developing countries. The course will provide the economic-analytical framework to understand the dynamics of LULCC and will shed light on the economic development-LULCC debate. We will start with a general overview of the main problems related to the dynamics of LULCC and how they have affected development paths. We will then pay attention to three separate LULCC problems in developing economies including (i) tropical deforestation, (ii) biodiversity loss and (iii) agricultural soil degradation. These issues will be analysed with a combination of theoretical models and a series of case study empirical examples. The specific aims of the course are to: (i) develop an analytical background for understanding the connection between land use change and rural development, (ii) apply the theoretical material to a series of practical cases, (iii) present the relevant economic literature, and (iv) discuss recent policy issues and alternative strategies for rural development in developing economies.

Programa

1.- Introduction to the course

- The extent and economic implication of land use and land cover change (LULCC)
- LUCC and economic development: a historical perspective
- Conceptual models of land use change

2.- The economics of deforestation

- The extent of tropical deforestation
- Models of Deforestation: Concepts and Theory
- Identifying the economic causes: Empirical Models
- Case Study: The Brazilian Amazon

3.- The economics of biodiversity loss

- The Clark-Swanson model of species extinction
- The metaphor of the African Elephant
- Conservation, trade and development: An example of CITES
- The economics of agrobiodiversity loss: the hidden drama

4.- The economics of soil degradation

- The extent of the problem
- Are technological approaches useful to halt soil degradation?
- Empirical models of technical efficiency in food production
- A case study of Mexico

5.- Poverty and land degradation: The debate

- Welfare poverty vs. investment poverty
- The sustainable livelihood approach
- Poverty vs sustainability: An asset-based approach
- A final paradox: *Are the poor in developing countries consuming too much?*

Organiza:

-Programa de Doctorado en Economía (Análisis Económico, Técnicas Cuantitativas, en Economía y Economía Pública), UPV/EHU

- Instituto de Economía Pública (Unidad de Economía Ambiental), UPV/EHU

Contacto: i.arto@ehu.es, marta.escapa@ehu.es