

Advanced Course on Natural Resource Governance and Energy Transition: Policies and Practice



ETH zürich

NADEL
Global Cooperation and
Sustainable Development

Master the complexities of resource
governance in a rapidly evolving
energy landscape

15 May – 20 June 2025
Online self-study phase

30 June – 5 July 2025
In-person week in Zürich, Switzerland



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Why this course?

The energy transition is reshaping the global economic and political landscape, bringing challenges to resource-rich states, such as revenue instability, environmental impacts and social inequalities. At the same time, it offers opportunities for innovation, diversification and long-term growth.

The 2025 advanced course equips leaders and decision-makers in natural resource governance with the skills and insights to navigate this transformative era. By addressing the complexities of the energy transition and its profound implications on resource governance, the course empowers participants to drive equitable, sustainable outcomes in their countries and sectors.

Who is it for?

The course is designed for professionals and policymakers from government agencies, civil society, parliaments, media, international development agencies, the private sector and research institutions.

Course delivered by:

The course is delivered in partnership between the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and ETH Zürich (NADEL Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development) with teaching by distinguished experts at a world-class university in Zürich, Switzerland.

What does it offer?

This course provides a unique platform for experienced professionals to:

- Understand the interplay between politics, power, and policy in resource governance.
- Analyze country-specific scenarios and apply actionable strategies.
- Interact with global experts and peers to tackle shared challenges.



Image credit: Robas



Course content

The program combines cutting-edge research with practical tools to enable participants to lead transformative change in resource governance and energy transition.

Core topics



Energy transition and resource governance:

Understand how shifting energy policies, technologies and geopolitics impact oil, gas and transition mineral producers, and learn hands-on tools to overcome energy transition-related domestic challenges and guarantee a just transition in the following areas:

- **Local value creation and economic diversification:** Examine strategies for industrial policy, regional collaboration, and maximizing benefits from natural resources through effective local content and value-creation practices.
 - **Fiscal policies and revenue management:** Explore state-owned enterprise management, sovereign wealth funds, and revenue-sharing mechanisms to enhance economic stability and equitable development.
 - **Socio-environmental impacts and conflicts:** Gain insights into policies and tools for assessing and mitigating environmental and social impacts, fostering inclusive community engagement.
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Negotiation and stakeholder engagement:

Understand the political challenges and power structures and develop practical negotiation and stakeholder management skills to secure equitable deals and foster mutual benefits.

Participants choose from two immersive options:

1. **Tax contract negotiation:** Learning to model extractive projects and analyze fiscal regimes to negotiate extractive contracts and confront tax evasion successfully.
 2. **Community development negotiation:** Learning how to navigate extractive conflicts to successfully negotiate local agreements and guarantee community development, participation and benefit sharing.
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Learning approach

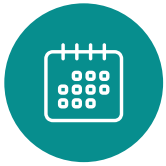
The course combines:

- **Interactive lectures:** Delivered by globally recognized experts.
- **Small-group discussions:** Engage with peers to explore diverse perspectives and challenges.
- **Interactive and hands-on exercises and case studies:** Apply concepts to real-world scenarios.
- **Knowledge-to-action projects:** Participants analyze their country's context and develop actionable strategies.

This course provides a tailored and actionable learning experience for leaders seeking transformative change in resource governance.



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Programme structure

The 2025 Advanced Course is divided into two interconnected phases:

01



An online self-study phase introducing the major natural resource governance topics.

02



In-person week in Zürich, Switzerland, focusing on energy transition-related challenges for producer countries of critical minerals and fossil fuels.



01



Online self-study phase (15 May – 20 June 2025)

Overview: The online phase provides participants with a comprehensive introduction to the key topics of natural resource governance, establishing a solid foundation of knowledge and shared understanding. This prepares participants to delve deeper into the complex economic and political challenges during the in-person week in Zürich.

What to expect:

Introductory sessions

May 15 and May 16, 2-4pm Central European Summer Time:

- Live sessions introducing course themes, structure, and objectives as well as the knowledge-to-action project and course assignments.

Self-study phase

May 19 – June 20:

- **Four online modules for participants to complete in four weeks.**
- **Weekly facilitated group discussions** to engage with peers and faculty.
 - **Fridays, 2-4pm Central European Summer Time**
- Access to diverse online materials, including videos, readings, and case studies.
- Introductory modules:
 - Political economy of challenges and opportunities in natural resource governance
 - Fiscal regime design
 - Revenue management
 - Environmental impacts of extraction
- Flexibility to navigate materials at your own pace while adhering to structured weekly milestones.

02



In-person week (30 June – 5 July 2025)

Overview: The in-person week, held at the vibrant ETH campus in Zürich, Switzerland, offers immersive classes, workshops, interactive sessions and collaborative group exercises. Participants acquire hands-on skills to tackle energy transition-related challenges and seek ways to achieve a just transition for countries rich in oil, gas and transition minerals.

What to expect:

- **Vibrant campus life:** Participants enjoy the thrilling atmosphere on the campus of one of the world's leading Universities (#1 Western European Universities, #7 QS World University ranking).
- **Meeting like-minded experts:** From resource-rich states worldwide, representing governments, civil society, research and the private sector and forming long-term alliances.
- **Core lectures:** Delivered by world-class experts, focusing on leveraging economic diversification, local value creation, revenue management, environmental integrity and measuring environmental and social impacts.
- **Collaborative workshops:** Small-group sessions to analyze case studies and design actionable solutions to shared challenges.
- **Interactive simulations and roleplays:** Engage in mock negotiations on either tax contracts or community benefit-sharing and evaluate projects to enhance practical decision-making skills.
- **Knowledge-to-action presentations:** Participants present their projects during a dedicated session, showcasing country-specific analyses and strategies to peers and faculty.

The 2025 Advanced Course includes a dedicated day during the in-person week for participants to specialize in a focus area, each tailored to address key political challenges in natural resource governance.

01

Option 1: Tax contract negotiation

Participants opting for this immersion will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate national level negotiations on fiscal regimes between extractive companies and national-level governments. They will learn how to secure equitable and sustainable extractive sector contracts.

Key topics:

- **Fiscal regime analysis:** Learn to evaluate and compare diverse fiscal frameworks to ensure optimal resource management.
- **Revenue forecasting:** Master techniques for predicting revenue streams and mitigating risks related to revenue leakages.
- **Policy tools and models:** Utilize standardized fiscal models developed by NRG1 to support informed decision-making and policy analysis.

Practical application:

The focus area culminates in an **interactive mock negotiation exercise**, where participants simulate tax or fiscal discussions to apply their skills in real-world scenarios. This hands-on experience sharpens analytical abilities and equips participants with the confidence to advocate for mutually beneficial deals.

02

Option 2: Community development negotiation

Participants opting for this immersion will gain the skills and knowledge to analyze extractive conflicts and navigate local level negotiations between local communities, extractive firms and local governments to drive economic growth and foster community benefits.

Key topics:

- **Extractive protests and participation:** Analyze extractive conflict and the political space for citizen participation in natural resource governance.
- **Community engagement:** Explore concrete tools and practices that enhance citizen participation and reduce socio-economic conflicts in resource-dependent regions.
- **Local benefits:** Learn to design and evaluate policies that address the social and economic consequences of resource extraction, such as local benefit sharing, community development or agreement practices.

Practical application:

Participants complete this focus area with an interactive **mock community negotiation exercise**, simulating discussions on investment decisions related to energy transition projects. This exercise provides insights into stakeholder dynamics and strengthens negotiation and conflict-resolution skills.



Faculty and speakers

Participants will benefit from a dynamic blend of expertise, with sessions led by NRGi specialists, ETH researchers, and internationally renowned professionals. This collaborative approach ensures that participants gain cutting-edge insights, practical tools, and a deeper understanding of the complexities of natural resource governance.

Global expertise

Our faculty features a diverse range of accomplished professionals and thought leaders with extensive experience in academia, policy-making and industry.

Previous speakers include:

- **Ana Carolina González Espinosa** – NRGi
- **Andrew Bauer** – Independent Consultant
- **Amir Lebdioui** – Oxford University
- **Eric Parrado** – Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- **Fritz Brugger** – ETH Zürich, NADEL
- **Isabelle Ramdoo** – Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF)
- **Nicola Woodroffe** – NRGi
- **Tobias Schmidt** – ETH Zürich, ISTP
- **Valérie Marcel** – Chatham House





Application process



Who should apply?

The course is designed for experienced professionals with at least five years of relevant experience, including:

Government officials: Mid- to senior-level representatives from ministries, departments, or audit agencies involved in policy design, implementation, and compliance.

Journalists: Professionals with experience reporting on natural resource governance.

Civil society leaders: Proven track record in analysis, oversight, and advocacy for governance in extractive industries.

Academics and researchers: Specialists in applied research or teaching on natural resource governance.

State-owned enterprise (SOE) officials: Leaders and advisors managing resources and revenues in SOEs.

Development professionals: Representatives from consultancies, aid agencies, and international financial institutions.

Parliamentary members and researchers: Individuals engaged in legislative oversight and governance of extractive industries.

Industry association leaders: Members of chambers of energy and minerals or think tanks focused on extractive industry governance.

Image credit: International Labour Organization ILO for Flickr



Additional requirements:

- A strong understanding of or background in **economics** is highly desirable.
- The course is conducted in **English**. Applicants who are not native English speakers must demonstrate proficiency through one of the following:
 - Education completed in English
 - Employment in an English-speaking environment
 - English language proficiency tests



For further opportunities, visit the course pages of [ETH-NADEL](#) and [NRGI](#)



How to apply

Applicants interested in participating in the course are required to follow the outlined steps:

01

Complete the online application form available on the [course website](#):
Natural Resource Governance Course – Application Website.

02

Upload the required documentation:

- **Personal CV (one page):** Highlighting relevant professional experience and qualifications.
 - **Brief essay (one page):** Write a one-page explanation of a key governance challenge you are addressing or plan to address in your role. Describe how the course will support you in overcoming this challenge, benefiting you and your organization. Align your discussion with your learning goals and explain why you should be selected for the course. Highlight how your participation will contribute to improving natural resource governance in your country.
 - **Short biography (200 words):** This will appear in the participant guide.
 - **Personal photo:** A portrait-style image for the participant guide.
-

03

Indicate your preferred focus area for the day dedicated to political negotiations (*Tax contract negotiation or Community development negotiation*) and explain its relevance to your work. The course team will make every effort to accommodate your preference.



Ensure all required documents are submitted before the deadline to secure your application. For any questions or assistance, visit the [course website](#).



Fees and scholarships

Course fees

The total cost for participation in the 2025 Advanced Course is CHF 4,500. This includes:

Course participation: 3'000 CHF

- Access to all course materials, including video lectures, readings and case studies
- Online and in-person participation
- Catering for lunch during the entire week, including one dinner and drinks reception

Accommodation: 1'500 CHF

- Participants will be accommodated in the same hotel where possible, with breakfast included

Please note that the fee does not cover travel, visa-related or other incidental expenses for the in-person phase.

Funding support

Due to limited resources, not all scholarship applications can be granted, even if criteria and financial need are met. Applicants without scholarships are encouraged to seek funding from employers or external organizations. The course team can provide an acceptance letter to support funding efforts upon request.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships (covering the course fee and accommodation costs) are available to qualified applicants on a competitive basis. These scholarships are aimed at supporting professionals from **resource-rich countries** and are particularly focused on:

- Public sector officials and civil society leaders.
- Journalists, researchers and individuals from marginalized communities.
- Female and gender-diverse applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility and application process for scholarships

Applicants must demonstrate financial need and meet the following criteria:

- Hold a relevant professional position that aligns with the course's objectives.
- Provide a brief statement on how their participation will contribute to governance improvements in their country or sector.

Scholarship applications are submitted alongside the course application. **Ensure all required documentation is uploaded by the application deadline.**

Cancellation policy

- **Up to 30 days before the course start date:** Refunds are subject to a CHF 50 administrative fee.
- **Within 30 days of the course start date:** The full course fee is non-refundable.



Testimonials

The 2025 Advanced Course has profoundly impacted participants worldwide, providing them with the tools, knowledge, and networks necessary to advance the governance of natural resources. Here's what some past participants have to say:

"The advanced course allowed me to develop my knowledge in natural resources governance. I am currently better equipped as a Tunisian civil society actor to be involved in fiscal policy projects. I also got in touch with my peers worldwide to discuss comparative experiences and build partnership opportunities between our organizations."

Mohamed Adem Mokrani, Lawyer & Legal Advisor, Tunisia Energy Society TENS, Tunisia

"Taking the advanced course has been one of the best experiences in my professional development. It gave me a deep understanding of the best governance practices when dealing with the development of natural resources in developing countries and excellent tools for my performance. After finishing the advanced course, I had to teach a course on Environmental Management in Mine Operations for government officials in Panama, and the information gained during the virtual training with NADEL and NRGI was instrumental in my preparation for it!"

Freddy Caceres, Manager, Extractive Resource Governance Program (ERGP), The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Canada

"The Advanced Course proved exceptionally stimulating and engaging, capturing my particular interest in the Energy Transition (ET) topic. This fascination extended to its significance for small-island developing states (SIDs) and fossil fuel resource-dependent developing countries, especially in the global South. Within these contexts, the achievement of crucial global ET objectives, such as a structured decline in fossil fuel usage and a threefold increase in renewables investments, faces significant impediments, primarily in the realm of finance. Delving into the community engagement path, the course facilitated practical application of conceptual learnings through various group activities. The community engagement activity, for example, served as an illuminating illustration of how the formulation of apt government policies and legislation could foster meaningful engagement between oil communities and operators. This engagement, in turn, promotes a mutual understanding of the needs of oil communities, the creation of well-informed community development plans, and the efficient execution of these plans."

Agbonma Nwosu, Principal Consultant, Crowland, Nigeria



About the host university

- **University:** ETH Zürich, in Zürich, Switzerland
- **Ranks #7** in QS World University Ranking and #1 in QS European University Ranking in 2025
- **22 Nobel Prize laureates** (including Albert Einstein)
- **Center:** NADEL – Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development

About the organizers

This course is delivered through a unique collaboration between two globally recognized organizations: **ETH Zürich's NADEL – Center for Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development** and the **Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)**. Together, they bring unparalleled expertise to natural resource governance, the energy transition and sustainable development.

NADEL – ETH Zürich

The mission of NADEL – Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development at ETH Zürich is to build and share knowledge for effective policy-making addressing sustainable development challenges. This mission is met by offering interdisciplinary postgraduate development and cooperation programs, promoting public outreach activities that bridge science and policy, and engaging in research activities. Our research aims to develop sustainable solutions to poverty reduction and sustainable resource extraction and management.

www.nadel.ethz.ch

Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)

The Natural Resource Governance Institute is an independent, non-profit organization that supports informed, inclusive decision-making about natural resources and the energy transition. We partner with government and civil society reformers to design and implement just policies based on evidence and citizens' priorities in resource-rich developing countries.

www.resourcegovernance.org

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