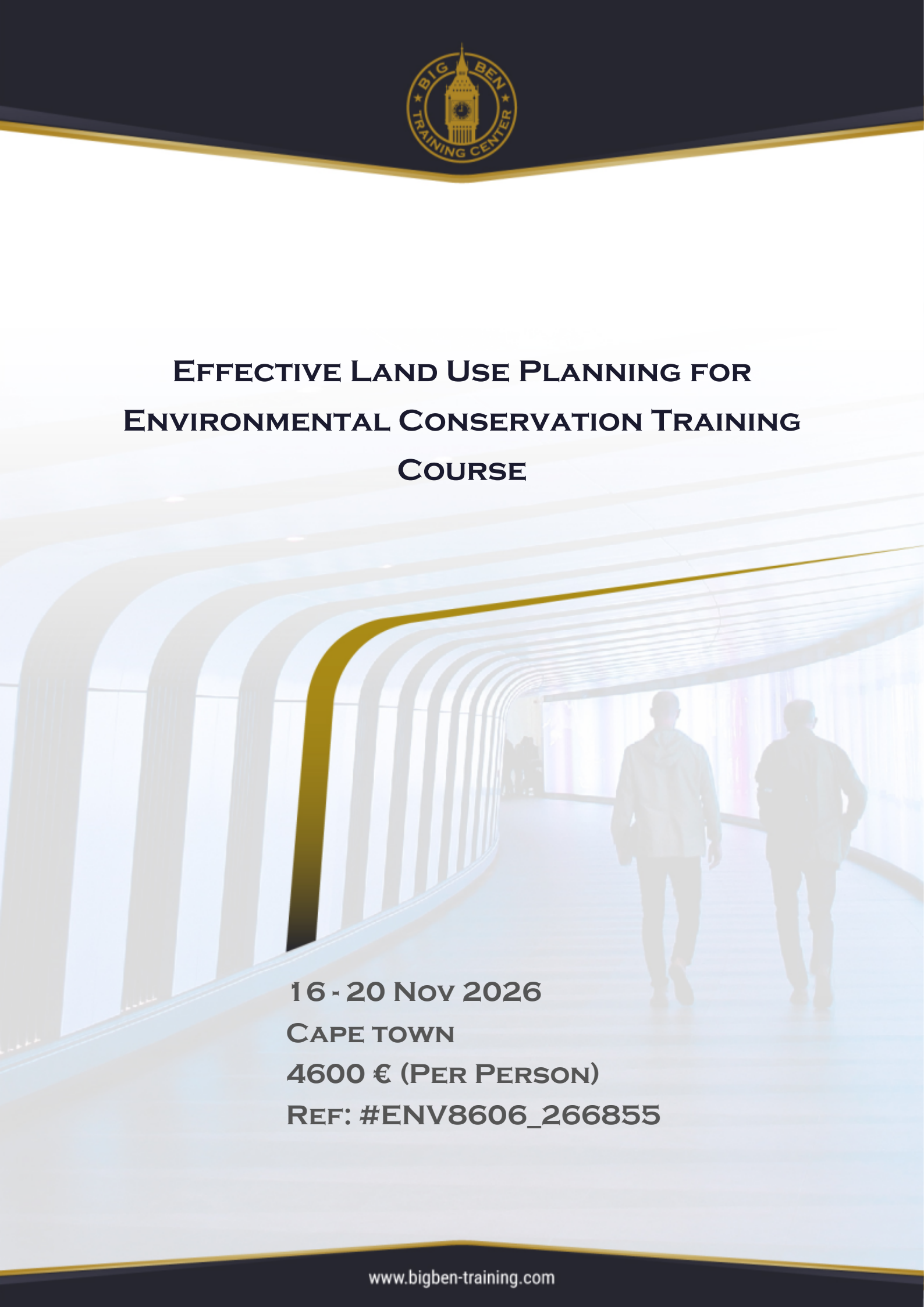
# Effective Land Use Planning for Environmental Conservation Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ENV8606_266855

## Course Introduction / Overview:

This training course is designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to integrate environmental conservation into land use planning. The way we plan and develop land directly influences the health of ecosystems, the quality of our natural resources, and the resilience of our communities. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, provides a strategic framework that goes beyond conventional planning by emphasizing sustainable practices, regulatory compliance, and the preservation of natural assets. We will explore how smart planning can mitigate environmental risks, from habitat fragmentation to water pollution, while also supporting economic and social goals. The curriculum is informed by leading academic work in the field, including the book Land Use Planning for Sustainable Development by Chris Maser and J. Silberstein, which provides a blueprint for creating resilient and sustainable landscapes. The course prepares participants to navigate the complex interplay of human development and environmental protection, ensuring that land is used in a way that provides for current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. We will guide you from understanding foundational concepts to developing and implementing real-world plans.

## Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Urban and regional planners.
- Environmental consultants and scientists.
- Real estate developers and managers.
- Government officials in land use and environmental departments.
- Architects and landscape architects.
- Civil engineers and surveyors.
- Non-profit professionals in conservation organizations.
- Government agencies and equivalents.

## Target Sectors and Industries:

- Urban and regional planning.
- Real estate development.
- Environmental consulting.
- Government and public administration agencies.
- Construction.
- Agriculture and forestry.
- Non-profit and conservation organizations.
- Utilities and infrastructure.

## Target Organizations Departments:

- Urban and regional planning departments.
- Environmental affairs.
- Public works.
- Facilities management.
- Strategic planning.
- Legal and compliance.
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- Project management.

## Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Assess environmental impacts of proposed land use projects.
- Develop and implement land use plans that prioritize conservation.
- Navigate complex environmental regulations and policies.
- Use geographic information systems (GIS) for conservation planning.
- Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders.
- Mitigate risks associated with habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Create sustainable development and smart growth strategies.
- Design a framework for green infrastructure and ecological corridors.

## Course Methodology:

This training course uses a highly practical and project-based methodology to ensure participants can immediately apply what they learn. We will use a series of case studies from different regions and sectors, showing both successful and unsuccessful land use planning efforts. The program includes hands-on workshops where participants will use planning tools, including GIS mapping, to analyze a hypothetical land use scenario and develop a comprehensive conservation plan. We will also use interactive group discussions to explore the political and social dimensions of land use decisions, emphasizing collaborative problem-solving. The curriculum is designed to be highly engaging, with a focus on real-world challenges and solutions. BIG BEN Training Center is committed to providing a learning environment that is both intellectually rigorous and practically focused, ensuring that participants leave with the skills and confidence to lead effective land use planning and conservation initiatives.

## Course Agenda (Course Units):

### Unit One: Foundations of Land Use Planning and Conservation

- Defining land use planning and its environmental context.
- Historical perspectives on land use and conservation.
- Understanding the legal and policy framework.
- The role of zoning, easements, and other planning tools.
- Identifying key environmental resources and ecosystems.
- Assessing a site's environmental carrying capacity.
- Stakeholder analysis and public participation.

### Unit Two: Environmental Impact Assessment and Analysis

- Conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA).
- Analyzing ecological impacts of land development.
- Methods for habitat assessment and biodiversity conservation.
- Water resource protection in land use planning.
- Assessing soil quality and erosion risks.
- Using GIS tools for environmental analysis.
- Climate change adaptation in planning.

### Unit Three: Strategic Conservation Planning

- Developing a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Strategies for green infrastructure and open space networks.
- Planning for wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.
- Tools for conservation: land trusts and conservation easements.
- Managing urban sprawl and promoting smart growth.
- Urban regeneration and brownfield development.
- Agricultural land preservation.

## Unit Four: Implementation and Regulatory Framework

- Navigating the regulatory landscape.
- Developing and implementing environmental policies.
- The role of federal, state, and local governments.
- Public-private partnerships for conservation projects.
- Enforcement and compliance.
- Funding mechanisms for conservation.
- Monitoring and adaptive management.

## Unit Five: Emerging Trends and Future Challenges

- The role of technology in land use planning.
- Planning for resilience in the face of natural disasters.
- Integrating social equity into conservation.
- Innovative approaches to land management.
- Case studies in successful and innovative projects.
- Career pathways in land use planning.
- The future of sustainable land use.

# FAQ:

### Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

### How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

## Something to think about:

How can land use planning effectively balance the competing demands of economic development and environmental conservation in a way that is both socially equitable and ecologically sound?

## What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course stands out by providing a specific and integrated curriculum that directly links land use planning with environmental conservation. Many planning courses address environmental issues as a secondary topic, but our program places conservation at the very core of the planning process. We go beyond theoretical concepts to provide practical, hands-on experience that includes working with real-world tools and data. The course focuses on both science and the strategy behind effective planning, teaching participants how to build a strong business case for conservation and how to engage diverse stakeholders to achieve shared goals. This course is for professionals who want to lead the charge in creating more sustainable communities and landscapes, ensuring that development serves both human needs and the health of the planet.