

Posters/Artifacts

Michigan Sustainability Cases: An International Platform for Sustainability Education

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Michigan Sustainability Cases (MSC) offers a multimedia presentation exploring the potential of case-based curriculum for sustainability education in the African context. MSC, a recently launched project through the University of Michigan (see: detailed description below), is co-developing unique and relevant case studies to promote more nuanced understanding of international sustainability challenges and environmental decision-making. The presentation will include a poster, outlining the learning objectives of the case-based method and steps to case production, as well as the MSC online platform as "artifact," which will allow conference participants to explore the cases' multimedia components in depth. As MSC is currently producing cases with university partners in Gabon and Ethiopia, the aim of the presentation is to stimulate discussion on adapting the case-based method to Africa's diverse educational contexts, as well as promote awareness of MSC's international case competition and publication opportunities. Michigan Sustainability Cases (MSC): The case-based teaching method is not only the primary pedagogical tool in business and law schools, but has also been proven more effective than traditional lectures in engaging students and promoting inductive understanding of theoretical principles. By partnering with students and faculty from international universities, as well as diverse collaborators from the fields of environment, development, engineering, anthropology, urban planning, and program evaluation, MSC is developing environmental case studies to promote more nuanced understanding of international sustainability challenges. As with the traditional case method, MSCs present the student with the narrative of a decision maker facing a challenge, allowing for student analysis of priorities and tradeoffs in reaching a recommendation. Unlike the traditional case method, however, each MSC is accompanied by two additional "tentpole" components (multimedia "edgenotes" and an hour-long podcast), which together serve to bring greater depth to the case content. Through the seamless incorporation of these diverse audiovisual sources and in-depth interviews with real world decision makers, MSCs provide a more immersive and nuanced educational approach to sustainability and environmental decision making.