



Introductory Course to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) are home to rich biodiversity and provide us with many goods and services, from the fish we eat to the regulation of the global climate cycle. Yet, they suffer from cumulative anthropogenic pressures, such as overfishing and destructive fishing practices, the effects of climate change and pollution from various sources. States began a process in 2004 and, following nearly two decades of negotiations, adopted the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). This course provides an overview of this process, a detailed synopsis of relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as an overview of the issues addressed by the BBNJ Agreement.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define ABNJ and describe key milestones in the process that led to the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement;
- Describe the international legal framework for ABNJ and understand the legal context surrounding the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement;
- Understand the four main elements and cross-cutting issues addressed by the BBNJ Agreement.

Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 3 lessons which are organized in interactive modules and combine course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with numerous references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 3 hours to complete the full course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you like.

Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses, and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Course Outline & Content

Lesson 1: Introduction

Defining areas beyond national jurisdiction and the milestones in the process to adopt a new BBNJ Agreement.

Lesson 2: The Legal Framework

The legal framework around ABNJ and the legal and policy context surrounding the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement.

Lesson 3: BBNJ Agreement

Marine genetic resources (MGRs); area-based management tools (ABMTs); environmental impact assessments (EIAs); capacity building; transfer of marine technology; and how these are addressed by the BBNJ Agreement.

Take the free and self-paced course [HERE](#) (login required)