

# Introductory Course to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



## Course Syllabus

### Learning Objectives

This course reviews and discusses the problem of desertification: its causes, manifestations, effects, and scope. It proceeds to provide an overview of international law that has been developed to address desertification and its attendant ecological and socio-economic problems, primarily through the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD).

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

1. Explain the problem of desertification.
2. Describe key provisions of UNCCD.

### Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 2 lessons which are organized in interactive modules that combine course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 1 hour to complete the 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 wish.

## Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of each module in 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: Desertification**

Definitions of dry lands and desertification, causes, impacts and ways to address desertification.

### **Lesson 2: Objective and Key Provisions of UNCCD**

Adoption of the Convention; objective; obligations; other international arrangements; financial resources; technical and scientific cooperation; socio-economic factors; National Action Programmes; research, development and technology; national laws; public participation; institutional arrangements; dispute resolution; measures to resolve questions on implementation; and development since adoption of the Convention.