

Introductory Course to International Environmental Law

Course Syllabus



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Learning objectives

Widespread concern about the need for global action for the protection of the natural environment is a relatively recent phenomenon. Some inter-state efforts to address problems relating to the oceans, endangered species, and other natural resources, date back to the nineteenth century.

This course introduces you to treaty law and key concepts of international environmental law. International environmental law is a relatively recent subset of international law; and international law has been developing over a long period of time.

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

1. Describe the sources of international law
2. Explain how a Multilateral Environmental Agreement is made and its basic architecture
3. Define and provide examples of key principles and concepts of international environmental law

Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 3 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external websites

It will take you 90 minutes approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

Assessment and certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. There are 10 questions in the course, which will change if you take a second attempt to pass the quiz.

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 course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 1 – Sources of international law	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. International Court of Justice and sources of international law 3. Law of Treaties 4. Terms 5. Actions 6. Customary Law 7. General Principles of Law 8. Judicial Decision and Qualified Teachings 9. Others 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the sources of international law 2. Define terms and treaty actions related to the Law of Treaties 3. Tell when a rule of customary international is create
Unit 2 – Multilateral Environmental Agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Negotiating Multilateral Environmental Agreements 11. Administering Treaties 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the negotiating process of a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) 2. Name the main bodies involved in the administration of an Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Unit 3 – Principles and concepts of international environmental law	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Introduction 13. Sustainable Development 14. Inter-generational and intra-generational equity 15. Responsibility for transboundary harm 16. Transparency, Public Participation and Access to Information and Remedies 17. Cooperation, and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities 18. Precaution 19. Prevention 20. “Polluters Pays Principle” 21. Access and Benefit Sharing regarding natural resources 22. Common Heritage and Common Concern of Humankind 23. Principle of progressive realization and non-regression 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define key principles and concepts of international environmental law 2. Illustrate and provide examples of key principles and concepts of international environmental law



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