



Course Syllabus

Learning objectives

Widespread concern about the need for global action for the protection of the natural environment is a relatively recent phenomenon. Some interstate 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

This online course is comprised of 3 lessons, which provides links to relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organized in interactive modules that combine the course theory with exercises and interactions that will facilitate the learning process.

This core content of the lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publications and external websites.

It will take you 90 minutes approximately 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 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 and content

Lesson 1: Sources of International Law

Introduction; sources of international law and the International Court of Justice; law of treaties; customary international law; general principle of law; judicial decisions and qualified teachings; other sources of law; knowledge refresher.

Lesson 2: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Negotiating Multilateral Environmental Agreements; administering treaties; knowledge refresher.

Lesson 3: Principles and concepts of International Environmental Law

International environmental law principles; sustainable development; responsibility for transboundary harm; transparency, public participation and access to information and remedies; cooperation and common but differentiated responsibilities; precaution; prevention; “polluter pays” principle; access and benefit sharing regarding natural resources; good governance; principle of progressive realisation and non-regression; knowledge refresher.