



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

SYLLABUS

 Knowledge to lead



Series of e-Courses on
International Environmental Law

The series of e-Courses on International Environmental Law is implemented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)'s International Law Programme (ILP)¹.

¹ <http://www.unitar.org/ilp/>

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Background

UNITAR has over 40 years of experience in the delivery of training in the field of international law.

As of 1997 international environmental law was introduced as one of the main issues for international law training within the Institute. In order to be in a position to better respond to the numerous requests for innovative training, UNITAR is complementing its face-to-face training activities through internet-based training methodology. Thus, since 2003, UNITAR has been successfully delivering e-learning courses through its Internet platform.

The e-learning training allows participants to combine learning and work while benefiting from high quality courses on international environmental law at a moderate cost. The Series of e-Courses on International Environmental Law (IEL) are conducted and moderated by high-level experts and professors in international law who will assist participants in their learning process and answer their questions. In addition, UNITAR staff will provide technical support on how to use the learning tools available on UNITAR's e-platform.

Furthermore, participants also enjoy the flexibility of being trained at their own pace with full access to the course anytime and anywhere, thus reducing stress and increasing satisfaction. With this platform, the participants get an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with fellow trainees from different backgrounds and countries.

Goal of the e-Courses on IEL

The aim of the e-Courses on IEL is to provide a broad introduction to international environmental law's main topics, introducing its fundamental principles, law-making processes, main actors, implementation and compliance procedures, and negotiations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) based on the current legal challenges in international environmental law.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the e-courses on IEL, participants will be able to:

- Identify the sources, principles, concepts and law-making procedures framing international environmental law;
- Differentiate the role of the main actors involved in the development of international environmental law, in the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements, as well as in the formulation of policy instruments;
- Identify the techniques and procedures to further improve compliance and enforcement of international environmental obligations at the national level;
- Describe and explain the international environmental law negotiation process;
- Examine and interpret the content of MEAs.

Content

The series of e- Courses on IEL consists of four e-learning courses:

Module	Content	Moderators
e-Course 1 Introduction to IEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ General Introduction▪ Historical Evolution▪ The Making and Application of IEL▪ Fundamental Principles of IEL▪ Concepts Framing IEL	Prof. Peter H. Sand
e-Course 2 International Environmental Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ General Introduction▪ Elements of IEG▪ Regional Environmental Governance▪ Reform of IEG	Dr. Lothar Gündling
e-Course 3 Techniques and Procedures in IEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regulatory Measures▪ Environmental Impact Assessment▪ Licensing and Permitting▪ Economic Measures▪ Public Participation▪ Implementation and Compliance▪ Enforcement and Remedies	Prof. Donald Anton
e-Course 4 International Environmental Negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Negotiation in General▪ Multilateral Negotiations▪ Environmental Negotiations▪ Advice to Negotiators	Prof. Iwona Rummel-Bulska

Methodology

The series of e-courses on IEL will be delivered over a period of ten weeks, giving two weeks per e-course and having a two weeks break. At the end of the tenth week, two more weeks will be allocated for providing feedback and grades and delivering course certificates.

Each e-course is comprised of several lessons which are structured to provide participants with a sequential flow of reading materials and assessment activities. Participants will follow the reading materials of each e-course either by consulting them online or by downloading them for offline reading; submit the assessment and exercises requested by their tutors and participate in the discussion forums.

Participants in the e-courses will be lead in their learning process by tutors (course moderators) who will provide them with personalized assistance. A different tutor is designated for each e-course.

The completion of the four courses requires 8 weeks of committed study, with an average study-time of **8 hours per week**.

Completion Requirements

The completion of the following assessment activities is **absolutely mandatory for each of the e-courses**:

- Taking the course-based quiz (one quiz to be taken per e-course)
- Answering to a case study proposed by the e-course moderator (one case study to be submitted per e-course)
- Submitting written reports of 800 words (one report to be submitted per e-course)
- Participating actively in the discussion forums (one forum will be organized by e-course)
- Submitting the Course Evaluation² on quality of the e-course (organization, tutors, facilitators, course material, performance of the platform, etc.)

Grading Policy

The above-mentioned mandatory assessment activities will account for the final grade for each of the e-courses as follows:

- Written Report: written report accounts for **20% of the final grade**.
- Case study: answers to case study account for **40% of the final grade**.
- Quiz: for each e-course, participants must take an online course self-assessment (quiz); each quiz accounts for **30% of the final grade**.
- Discussion Forum: The number and quality of participants' contributions to discussion forums organized for each e-course accounts for **10% of the final grade**.

Participants who successfully complete an e-course on IEL will receive a Certificate of Participation for the respective course followed.

Participants who successfully complete the series of e-courses on IEL will receive a Certificate of Completion of the UNITAR Series of e-Courses on International Environmental Law.

The minimum score to be entitled to receive a Certificate of Participation is of 70% per each e-course. Participants in the entire series of e-Courses on IEL must obtain the minimum score in each e-course in order to receive the Certificate of Completion of the UNITAR Series of e-Courses on IEL.

² At the end of each individual e-course, participants must fill out the "Course Evaluation". This survey will help UNITAR to make the necessary adjustments in the course in order to improve its quality.

Certificates of Participation as well as Certificates of Completion are issued by UNITAR.

Study Planning Chart

Over the duration of the series of e-courses on IEL (from 25 February to 3 May 2013), the workload is estimated to be about 8 hours per week. This includes study time (about 5 hours/week) and participation in collaborative activities (about 3 hours/week). **Time dedicated to assessment activities is not taken into account in this estimation.**

The following study planning chart indicates when each e-course item starts and ends, and whether it is mandatory or not.

e-Course	Mandatory	Opening	Closing/Deadline
e-Course1: Introduction to IEL from 25 February to 10 March 5 Course lessons	Yes	25 Feb	18 May
Course Manual Introduction to IEL, by A. Kiss and Dinah Shelton and updated by Peter H. Sand	No, but recommended	25 Feb	18 May
Additional Readings recommended by your tutor	No, but recommended	25 Feb	18 May
Documents placed in the Cybrary related to the e-Course content	No	25 Feb	18 May
Online Assessment (Quiz)	Yes	25 Feb	2 Mar
Discussion Forum	Yes	25 Feb	8 Mar
Written Report	Yes	25 Feb	9 Mar
Case Study	Yes	25 Feb	10 Mar
Course Evaluation	Yes	25 Feb	31 Mar

e-Course	Mandatory	Opening	Closing/Deadline
e-Course2: International Environmental Governance from 11 to 24 March 4 Course lessons	Yes	11 Mar	18 May
Course Manual International Environmental Governance by UNITAR and IUCN	No, but recommended	11 Mar	18 May
Additional Readings recommended by your tutor	No, but recommended	11 Mar	18 May
Documents placed in the Cybrary related to the e-Course content	No	11 Mar	18 May
Online Assessment (Quiz)	Yes	11 Mar	16 Mar
Discussion Forum	Yes	11 Mar	22 Mar
Written Report	Yes	11 Mar	23 Mar
Case Study	Yes	11 Mar	24 Mar
Course Evaluation	Yes	11 Mar	31 Mar
e-Course3: Techniques and Procedures in EIL from 8 to 21 April 7 Course lessons	Yes	8 Apr	18 May
Course Manual Techniques and Procedures in IEL by Dinah Shelton	No, but recommended	8 Apr	18 May
Additional Readings recommended by your tutor	No, but recommended	8 Apr	18 May
Documents placed in the Cybrary related to the e-Course content	No	8 Apr	18 May
Online Assessment (Quiz)	Yes	8 Apr	13 Apr
Discussion Forum	Yes	8 Apr	19 Apr
Written Report	Yes	8 Apr	20 Apr
Case Study	Yes	8 Apr	21 Apr
Course Evaluation	Yes	8 Apr	18 May

e-Course	Mandatory	Opening	Closing/Deadline
e-Course4: International Environmental Negotiations from 22 April to 3 May 4 Course lessons	Yes	22 Apr	18 May
Course Manual International Environmental Negotiations by Brook Boyer	No, but recommended	22 Apr	18 May
Additional Readings recommended by your tutor	No, but recommended	22 Apr	18 May
Documents placed in the Cybrary related to the e-Course content	No	22 Apr	18 May
Online Course Assessment (Quiz)	Yes	22 Apr	27 Apr
Discussion Forum	Yes	22 Apr	3 May
Written Report	Yes	22 Apr	4 May
Case Study	Yes	22 Apr	5 May
Course Evaluation	Yes	22 Apr	18 May
Wrap-up weeks for the series of e-Courses: from 10 to 21 Dec	n/a	n/a	18 May
Pending assessments Feedback/ Posting grades on the Platform	n/a	10 May	18 May
Delivery of course certificates	n/a	14 May	18 May
Closing of the e-course platform	n/a	n/a	18 May



Note that the deadlines for submissions expire on the indicated day at 23h00 Geneva Time.

Written reports and case studies must be uploaded as Microsoft Word or PDF files (max 2MB)

On the header of your assignments do not forget to put your full name, the kind of assignment and the respective course.

**Please put your full name on your papers and name your files to be uploaded on the Platform
e.g.: Monica Nunez_WReport_Mod1**

Learning Materials

Learning materials are provided in different ways. Part of this material is compulsory reading for participants to adequately acquire the expected knowledge. Optional materials, i.e. recommended readings, are also provided on the platform

The learning materials for each e-course are organized as follows:

1. The e-Courses' Lessons

The e-course's lessons are the **core mandatory learning activity** as they provide the integral content of the subject matter. Each e-Course is divided in several lessons (in average 5 lessons per module) and each lesson is divided in sections and subsections.

Navigating through them is as simple as clicking at the bottom of the lesson pages. Links to the glossary of terms, to relevant documents from the Cybrary (cyber-library) and to relevant external websites are provided throughout the content of the lessons. **Please note that links to websites and glossary terms are displayed in gray, therefore the reader should use the mouse while reviewing the course lesson in order to spot them.**

To facilitate offline reading, a printable version (PDF) of each e-Course is available under the "Resources" section at the bottom of the course homepage. You can also find the printable versions at the end of each e-course's home page.

2. The e-Courses' Manuals

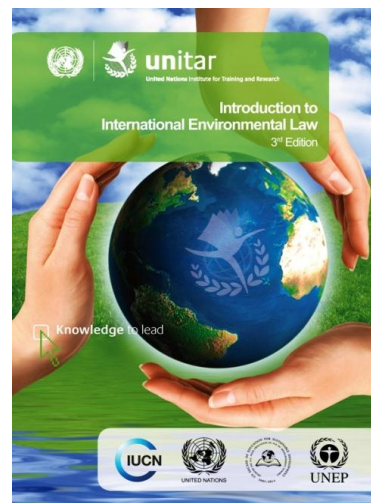
The content of the series of e- Courses on IEL is based on the following manuals:

Kiss, A. & D. Shelton (2010, 3rd Revised Edition), Introduction to International Environmental Law, UNITAR, Geneva, Switzerland, 108 pp.

IUCN International Environmental Centre (2010), International Environmental Governance, UNITAR, Geneva, 90 pp.

Shelton, D. (2004, 2nd Revised Edition), Techniques and Procedures in International Environmental Law, UNITAR, Geneva, 156 pp.

Boyer, B. (2006), International Environmental Negotiations, UNITAR, Geneva, 108 pp.



These publications are posted in the section "Resources", at the bottom of the course home page (Cybrary).

3. The Glossaries

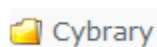


The Glossary of Terms provides definitions of relevant course-related terms. In addition, there are two other specialized glossaries which are posted in the section “Resources”.

UNEP (2007), Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, 106 pp.

UNITAR (2005), A Glossary of Terms for UN Delegates, 188 pp.

4. The Cybrary



At the end of each of the e-courses' home page, participants can find the Cybrary section. Cybraries (cyber library) contain additional resources, a large number of which are of the source documents cited in the lessons, or additional reading suggested by course moderators. Documents from Cybraries can be read online or saved on a hard disk.

Assessment Activities

The assessment activities to be undertaken during the e-courses include participating in the discussion forums, taking the online quizzes, preparing and solving case studies and drafting compulsory written reports.

1. Quizzes

The quizzes (true or false and multiple choice questions) are placed in the Assessment e-Course strings. After completing the compulsory reading, participants can take the course content assessment (online quiz). A minimum of 8 correct questions out of 10 is required to pass this online test. If participants do not obtain the minimum passing grade, they are advised to re-consult the compulsory reading and take the assessment once again. Please note that each of the e-course's **assessment can be taken only up to four times. Only the last attempt will be registered on the platform.**

2. Written Reports

Participants have to prepare and submit one mandatory written report on one of the topics proposed in each e-course. Written reports must be submitted through the UNITAR's virtual platform within the allocated deadline (please consult the study planning chart on page 5). This activity aims at evaluating participants' comprehension of a particular subject of the course content. Course administrator or tutors will present participants with a subject to be developed **of a maximum of 800 words (2 A4 page). Please note that footnotes are not considered in the word account.**

The topics for the written reports will be posted at the start of each course. Note that the reports have to be submitted exclusively on the “Written Reports” strings which are placed on the respective e-course homepage.

3. Case Studies

The case study will allow participants to use the knowledge freshly acquired in the framework of a practical exercise. The basis of the case study scenario will be the concrete situation with which participants will be faced. You will have to analyse this situation in detail and answer precise questions formulated by tutors who could request participants to answer questions working in groups. The maximum word count for answers is 1600 words (this count does not consider footnotes or the bibliography).

Participants will be guided and assisted by tutors in the preparation of the answers to case studies.

As with written reports, answers to case studies must be submitted through the UNITAR's virtual platform within the allocated deadline (please consult the study planning chart on page 5). On the respective e-course homepage participants will find the "Case Study" string specially created to upload their works.

4. Social Activities

Participants can access user-friendly **forums to discuss** topics initiated by course tutors. The topic for the discussion board will be posted at the beginning of each e-course. Participants are highly encouraged to participate actively by submitting their views and commenting on the views of others. All forums will be moderated by the course tutor who will summarize the issues discussed and present comments and remarks.

Course Moderators

The course will be moderated by renowned international experts in environmental law, both practitioners and academicians.

Professor Donald K. Anton



AntonD@law.anu.edu.au



Don Anton teaches, researches, and advises in the areas of international law and environmental law. His current emphasis is the intersection between international human rights and the environment. His books include: *Human Rights and the Environment* (with Shelton) (forthcoming 2010); *International Environmental Law: Cases, Materials, Problems* (with Charney, Sands, Schoenbaum & Young) (2007); *International Law: Cases and Materials* (with Mathew & Morgan) (2005); *International Law: Politics, Values and Functions* (with Charney and O'Connell) (1997); and *A Question of Justice Challenge: Global Environmental Protection* (1996).

Anton has been a tenured member of the faculty at the Australian National University College of Law (ANU) since 2000. He served as Director of the Australian Centre for Environmental Law and Convener of all Environmental Law Programs at the ANU until July 2003. He has taught across a wide range of subjects including International Law, Human Rights, Property, Torts, International Environmental Law, Human Rights and the Environment, Marine and Coastal Law, International Trade and the Environment, International Procedure and Advocacy, Federalism and the Environment, and Environmental Dispute Settlement.

Anton consults regularly with government and international organizations. He has been a consultant to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Australian Senate Committee on Environment.

Anton is an Australian Research Council Expert of International Standing in international law. He also serves on the Executive Council of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law and is the Chairperson of the Fulbright Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Awards Selection Committee in the ACT.

Anton has been a Visiting Professor at the law schools of the University of Michigan (2008-2010 & 2003), University of Alabama (2007); University of Sydney (1997-1999), and the University of Adelaide (1995-96). He served as a Lecturer in Law at the University of Melbourne from 1994-1997. From 1992-1993, Anton was employed as a Research Associate in International Law at Columbia University in New York working with Professors Louis Henkin and Oscar Schachter.

Anton is admitted to practice law in Australia and the United States. He has a law degree from St. Louis University.

Dr. Lothar Gündling



lguendling@guendling.com



Picture : Agerpres

Dr. Lothar Gündling is an attorney at law (Rechtsanwalt), member of the Bar of Karlsruhe, Germany. He is a specialist in environmental law covering expertise in international environmental law, European Union environmental policy and law, and comparative environmental law. He holds two German law degrees and a PhD in law from the University of Frankfurt/Main.

Dr. Gündling in his more than 30 years of professional activities in the field of environmental law combines academic background with experience as practicing lawyer, mostly in international environmental law consultancies advising governments in many countries in all parts of the world on drafting environmental legislation and implementing international environmental agreements. In recent years he has also acted as team leader and resident advisor in European Union institution-building projects in new member states managing complex projects on the approximation of national environmental law to the EU Acquis Communautaire.

Dr. Gündling is the author of books and articles on international environmental law, EU environmental policy, comparative environmental law, and the law of the sea. He is also the author of two course materials of the UNITAR International Environmental Law Programme (vol 7: Atmosphere, Freshwater and Soil; vol 8: Marine Environment, Polar Regions and Outer Space). Currently he is also teaching courses of environmental policy and law at the Free University of Brussels.

Dr. Iwona Rummel – Bulska



iwonarummel@gmail.com



Serving as the Professor in the School of Law in the University of Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Rummel – Bulska has over 30 years of professional experience in the field of international law and relations and has served in various capacities. Previous to this she was the, Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Environmental Law Branch, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP.

She has played a pivotal role in the development of many of the most important international treaties on the environment, now known as MEA's and she has also served as the executive secretary of several intergovernmental negotiating committees and has drafted several key environmental conventions. These include the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Biodiversity Convention and others. She played a major role in implementation of the Ozone Convention and its Montreal Protocol (1985-

1991). She has been instrumental in starting international environmental law courses in various universities, and some of these courses have become a trademark for UNEP, like the Global Training. She has taught in various prestigious universities some of them are Warsaw University, Wuhan University, Geneva University and Vienna Academy on Environment and Security.

Having authored and/or co-authored a large number of books, articles and papers on international matters in particular in the field of international negotiations, international and environmental law and institutions, among others:

- The negotiating process leading to the Convention on Biological Diversity ; (co-author) in the book International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy Review, Joensuu, Finland 2007.
- The Montreal Protocol – 20 years ed. by Cameron May Ltd , 2007: “The Story of the Ozone Layer” 2007 (co-author).
- Kluwer Law International the Monograph: World Meteorological Organization, December 2004.
- Kluwer Law International Law of Marine Environmental Protection, December 2003.

Professor Peter H. Sand



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Peter H. Sand is a lecturer in international environmental law at the Institute of International Law, University of Munich. After studying law in Germany, followed by post-graduate work in international law at the University of Paris and the University of California at Berkeley, he received an LL.M. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada (1962), and was Associate Professor of Law at McGill University until 1969.

Professor Sand has held a variety of international positions, including: Senior Legal Officer for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy 1970-1978; Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Morges, Switzerland 1978-1981; Assistant Director-General / Acting Director-General, World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Gland, Switzerland 1981-1983; Chief, Environmental Law Unit, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya 1983-1986; Senior Environmental Officer, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva, Switzerland 1986-1991; Principal Programme Officer, UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro 1992; Legal Adviser for Environmental Affairs, at the World Bank in Washington/D.C. 1992-1994; and Commissioner for Environmental Claims from the 1991 Gulf War, at the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) in Geneva 1999-2005.

He is the author of several books (including UNITAR Course No.2 on “The Role of International Organizations in the Evolution of Environmental Law”, 1997) and more than

100 articles in the field of international law and environmental policy; visiting professor at the universities of Addis Ababa, Duke Law School (Durham/N.C.), Geneva, Helsinki, and Paris II. In 2004, he was awarded the Elizabeth Haub Prize in international environmental law, by the International Council of Environmental Law and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is co-editor of *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* (2005-); and a member of the editorial boards of the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law*, the *Journal of Environment and Development*, and the *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law*.

Technical Support and Coordination

For any technical issue or coordination matter, participants may contact Ms. Monica NUNEZ at monica.nunez@unitar.org

Monica is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Online support hours are CET (Central European Time) 9 am to 5 pm from Monday to Friday. In order to know the time in Switzerland, consult the following websites:

<http://www.horlogeparlante.com/>,

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>,

<http://www.timezoneconverter.com/>



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