



Introductory Course to Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

UN 
environment
programme

Course Syllabus

Learning objectives

Marine biological diversity (biodiversity) of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) provides us with many goods and services, from the fish we eat to the regulation of the global climate cycle. Yet it has been recognized that many anthropogenic pressures, cumulatively, put BBNJ at risk, including overfishing and destructive fishing practices, climate change and ocean acidification and pollution from various sources. States began a process in 2004 to seek to address these increasing pressures on BBNJ, and to strengthen cooperation and coordination to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

This course provides an introduction to areas beyond national jurisdiction and key milestones in the process relating to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, a detailed synopsis of the applicable legal framework, and an overview of the current process to develop an International Legally Binding Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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

1. Define areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and key milestones in the process relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ);
2. Describe the relevant legal framework;
3. Define the key issues in the process to develop an International Legally Binding Agreement under UNCLOS.

Content and duration

This online course is comprised of 3 lessons, which provide relevant information about BBNJ and the process to develop an International Legally Binding Instrument. 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 approximately 180 minutes 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: Introduction

1.1 Learning objectives

1.2 Areas beyond national jurisdiction

1.3 Decision of the General Assembly to develop an International Legally Binding Instrument under UNCLOS

1.4 Recap

Lesson 2: The Legal Framework

2.1 Learning objectives

2.2 The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – General Aspects

2.3 Maritime Zones – where are areas beyond national jurisdiction?

2.4 Protection and preservation of the marine environment

2.5 Regime for activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction

2.6 Marine scientific research and the development and transfer of marine technology

2.7 Recap

Lesson 3: The Development of an International Legally Binding Agreement

3.1 Learning objectives

3.2 The Package of Issues

3.3 Issue 1 – Marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits

3.4 Issue 2 – Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

3.5 Issue 3 – Environmental Impact Assessments

3.6 Issue 4 – Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology

3.7 Issue 5 – Cross-cutting issues

3.8 Recap