

Introductory Course on SDG 14 and Ocean Governance: Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

SDG 14 aims to "Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." The Goal provides a unifying framework for all the interventions we need to make to conserve and continue using the many resources the ocean provides. This course outlines international environmental law's (IEL) contribution towards achieving SDG 14 by examining how, alongside UNCLOS, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) form the bedrock of international cooperation to protect and preserve the marine environment and conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

This is a survey course, covering the MEA and IEL framework of oceans governance through each SDG 14 Target. Material primarily draws from existing UN sources (in particular the 2006 UNEP Training Manual, as updated, and GEO 6), compiled and edited by UNEP and the One Ocean Hub at Strathclyde University, and with inputs from a number of MEAs.

Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 12 lessons which are organized in interactive modules and combine the course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with numerous references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

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

Introductory Lesson: Overview of Oceans Governance

Introducing key international legal instruments and concepts that govern the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.

Lesson 1: SDG 14.1 (Marine Pollution)

Looking at the different sources of marine pollution and the corresponding legal regimes.

Lesson 2: SDG 14.2 (Marine Ecosystem Management)

Describing the ecosystem and precautionary approach, marine biodiversity protections, and integrated oceans management.

Lesson 3: SDG 14.3 (Ocean Acidification)

Explaining the issue of ocean acidification and how it intersects with climate change and biodiversity law.

Lesson 4: SDG 14.4 (Fishing, including overfishing and IUU)

Presenting the legal framework around commercial fishing, including UNCLOS, FAO instruments, RFMOs, and MEAS.

Lesson 5: SDG 14.5 (Marine Protected Areas)

Identifying the different types of area-based management tools, the related MEAs and conventions, and how they interact.

Lesson 6: SDG 14.6 (Fishing Subsidies)

Explaining how fishing subsidies are addressed under negotiations at the WTO, CBD Incentive Measures, and regional trade agreements.

Lesson 7: SDG 14.7 (SIDS and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources)

Studying measures under global and regional agreements to address sustainable use to the benefit of SIDS and LDCs.

Lesson 8: SDG 14.a (Research and Technology Transfer)

Surveying the UNCLOS framework for Marine Scientific Research and MEA measures to promote research and technology transfer.

Lesson 9: SDG 14.b (Small-scale Fisheries)

Explaining the importance of small-scale fishers access to resources, human rights implications, and measures to protect and support SSF.

Lesson 10: SDG 14.c (Ratification and Implementation of UNCLOS and IEL)

Identifying the bodies that oversee the implementation of the law of the sea, and the status of ratification.

Concluding Lesson: Connection to Other SDGs

Explaining how SDG 14 is mutually supportive with SDG and MEAs broadly.