

TEACHING MATERIALS ON PROTECTED AREAS LAW AND GOVERNANCE

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Area-based conservation – including protected areas and connectivity conservation -- is one of the oldest and most important means of protecting biological diversity and essential ecosystem services. Protected areas and their connected ecosystems are a primary resource for biodiversity conservation, and are recognized as essential in order to maintain the basic ecosystem services and functions that sustain human life. They provide a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to people and communities worldwide. There are over 200,000 designated protected areas in the world, covering about 12% of the surface of the earth.¹

Today, protected areas face many challenges. Climate change, human-caused habitat destruction, and over-exploitation of resources threaten biodiversity within protected areas. Conflicts between conservation interests and interests in development or resource exploitation are impacting protected areas across the world. Protected areas also face management and governance challenges, which affect and involve communities and stakeholders living in and around the areas, and in some cases threaten their existence. Legal frameworks are critical to creating and maintaining effective and sustainable protected areas. However, the legal aspects of protected areas management and governance are often not well understood.

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¹ Barbara Lausche, *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation* (Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, 2011).

IUCN has developed a set of educational tools for teaching and learning about protected areas law and governance.² They cover key legal aspects of management and governance of protected areas and connected landscapes, systems and processes in the terrestrial and marine contexts. The materials are primarily intended as resources for face-to-face instruction. They are designed for use in a wide variety of settings, including training sessions, workshops, university courses and practitioner seminars. The materials are freely available at www.protectedareaslaw.org.

The course consists of twelve interactive modules, which can be taught together as a complete course, or used individually or in different combinations, or together with other materials. Each module addresses a particular aspect of protected areas management or governance and explains connected legal, political and scientific concepts. The course is based on two main IUCN texts: *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation* (2011); and *The Legal Aspects of Connectivity Conservation* (2013).

The first six modules represent the core course and focus on generic aspects found in PA law. They cover: introductory concepts, governance, legislative drafting and institutions, planning and declaration, management, and regulation and financing. The other six modules of the course explore more specialized aspects of protected areas law: international law, connectivity, marine protected areas, and transboundary protected areas.

Each module includes an outline, a seminar presentation, interactive exercises, and short videos. These materials are generic. Educators should adapt them to their specific circumstances and audiences. This can include, *inter alia*, adding case studies and examples from the relevant country or region, or removing slides and other materials that do not apply or that duplicate other materials used. Elements from different modules can be put together in different combinations, or used in different settings. For example, an educator could use a video from Module 1 (introduction), a seminar presentation from Module 7 (international) and an exercise from Module 9 (connectivity) for a session on protected areas and connectivity in the context of a course on international law.

The module outlines contain detailed guidance on how to adapt and use each module. Module outlines also contain assessment questions and additional resources that can supplement the main texts.

The seminar presentations include a PowerPoint and notes for the educator thoroughly and comprehensively explaining the subject of the module. They emphasize engagement of learners, for example through prompts for discussion. Each presentation is

² Alexander Paterson, Barbara Lausche, Jamie Benidickson, and Patti Moore *Building Capacity on Protected Areas Law and Governance* [Training Modules] Lydia Slobodian (ed) (Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, 2015). Available at: <www.protectedareaslaw.org>.

designed to take approximately two hours, but could be easily adapted for longer or shorter training periods.

Each module includes two exercises, which can be used in class or as assignments. They include exercises such as role play negotiations, discussion forums, and legal drafting problems. Most exercises are based on fictional case studies, accompanied by detailed descriptions and maps. For example, one exercise challenges participants to take on the roles of a protected areas authority and a local community in negotiating a co-management agreement for a new protected area. The materials include a case study, map of the area, and negotiation mandates for each side – including revised mandates introduced part-way through to reflect concessions and shifts in the objectives of the different parties.

Each module also includes a short video, designed to provide an accessible overview of main concepts and issues through a combination of animation and video footage from different protected areas. An additional set of short videos use interviews from leading experts and case studies from around the world to provide perspectives on special types of protected areas, such as marine protected areas, or particular concepts like connectivity conservation.

The course can be used in many different circumstances and settings, including university courses, workshops, and training sessions for practitioners and legislative drafters. They are appropriate for training lawyers as well as non-lawyers who work with or are involved in protected areas. They can be used for legal graduate and undergraduate students, and students in different fields, from biology to international relations.

This project represents a collaboration between the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, working with the World Commission on Protected Areas, the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, and IUCN regional offices for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO), West and Central Africa (PACO), and Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC). It is generously supported by the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation.

All of the materials are provided through an online platform: www.protectedareaslaw.org. No registration is required to access the materials: they are freely available. The website also provides a place for instructors to upload additional materials, which can be used by others. This might include versions of the IUCN presentations or exercises which have been adapted for specific circumstances, or additional case studies or resources that could be used to supplement the existing materials. All users are encouraged to register and contribute. For further information, please contact the IUCN Environmental Law Centre at ELCSecretariat@iucn.org.