



The Open University of Sri Lanka
Diploma in Environmental Science Programme - Level 03
Final Examination - 2017
BYD1109 – Environmental Law

Date – 19th May 2017

Time – 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Answer any four(04) questions only.

01. a. “The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations”
 (Principle 03 of the Rio Declaration 1992)
 Which concept of environmental law do you understand by the above mentioned principle? Explain with suitable examples from the current context. (12.5 Marks)
- b. Briefly explain the connection between human rights and environmental protection with suitable examples. (12.5 Marks)
02. a. What is “Biological Diversity”? (05 Marks)
- b. What are the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)? (05 Marks)
- c. Explain some legal measures Sri Lanka has taken to protect the country’s biological diversity. (15 Marks)
03. a. “Heritage conservation covers both natural and cultural heritage”
 Do you agree with this statement? Explain, citing relevant legal provisions in your answer. (12.5 Marks)
- b. Briefly explain the laws relating to public nuisance in Sri Lanka. (12.5 Marks)
04. a. Explain what is meant by Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA)? (05 Marks)
- b. What are the benefits of doing an EIA before implementing development projects? (08 Marks)
- c. Zeylan is a forest in Indranesia which is famous as a bird habitat. It contains a huge diversity of animals and plants including the endangered red crested Cockatoo, as well as several important medicinal plants that are endemic to this area. The forest is home to several endangered species of migratory birds. This forest is also a popular tourist destination, attracting around 500 tourists per day.

The Tourism Ministry of Indranesia has decided to build a five star hotel which consists of more than 100 rooms with a golf course to attract more tourists to Zeylan. The proposed area for the hotel includes several acres of the forest inhabited by the red crested Cockatoo.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out which concluded that there would be no significant impacts on the forests or on the biological diversity. Scientists argue that this project will cause serious environmental problems and further state that the EIA report is drafted in highly technical language which cannot be understood by the average person.

The people of Indranesia are alarmed at the idea of a hotel being built in Zeylan. Last week, a group of people started a protest to stop this project.

Assume that the legal system of Indranesia is similar to the legal system in Sri Lanka and advise protestors on what remedies they may have for the problems that are arising from this project. (12 Marks)

05. a. What is the legal definition of the term "coastal zone" in Sri Lanka? (05 Marks)
 - b. What are the objectives of the Coast Conservation Act No.57 of 1987? (05 Marks)
 - c. Discuss what legal measures Sri Lanka has taken to protect coastal and marine areas? (15 Marks)
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06. Write short notes on **any two(02)** of the following: (12.5 x 2= 25 Marks)
 - a. National Environmental Act No 48 of 1980
 - b. Environment Protection License
 - c. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) 1971