The articles in the present Review are based on lectures given during the eighth University of Eastern Finland – UNEP Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which was held from 4 to 16 September 2011 at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. The special theme of the course was synergies among the biodiversity related MEAs. The aim of the Course was to convey key tools and experiences in the area of international environmental law-making to present and future negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements. In addition, the Course served as a forum for fostering North-South co-operation and for taking stock of recent developments in the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and diplomatic practices in the field.

The lectures were delivered by experienced hands-on diplomats, government officials and members of academia. The Course is an annual event designed for experienced government officials engaged in international environmental negotiations. In addition, other stakeholders such as representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector may apply and be selected to attend the Course. Researchers and academics in the field are also eligible.

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