

Course title: Forest Law and Policy			
Course code MPL 158	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P distribution: 24-4-0	Learning hours: 28
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None			
Department: Centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies			
Course coordinator (s): Mr. Amrithnath S.B.		Course instructor (s) : Mr. Amrithnath S.B.	
Contact details: amrith.sb@gmail.com			
Course type	Core		
Course offered in	Semester 2		
Course Description State’s approach towards forests has changed over a period of time. From being considered as an impediment to agriculture during the initial years of colonization, forests were seen as an important source of revenue during a significant part of the colonial rule. The discourse on climate change has forced to view forests as carbon sinks. This course is an attempt to provide an overview of the forest laws and policies both at the national and international level.			
Course objectives 1. To understand the legal regime on forestry in India and the changes in the policy over a period of time. 2. To analyse the role of local communities in forest management under various laws and policies. 3. To appreciate the evolving international law in the field and the concerns of the developing countries.			
Course Content	L	T	P
Module 1: Introduction	4		
History of forest laws and policies in India: Different stages Functions of forests, Purposes of forest management Definition of forests and its importance			
Module 2: Overview of the legal regime	6	1	
Constitutional Provisions – Indian Forest Act 1927, Classification of forests – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – CAMPA, 2016 –Forest Rights Act, 2006 – Role of Judiciary: Forest Conservation case			
Module 3: Forest dwellers and forest governance	4	1	
Van Panchayats, Joint Forest Management, Forest Rights Act, 2006 PESA and its impact on forest governance			
Module 4: Wildlife conservation and forests	4	1	
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Protected Areas – Forest dwellers and wildlife conservation, Interface with FRA Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 – ESA Notifications			
Module 5: International Legal regime on forests	6	1	
Regional Agreements: Trends; Soft law instruments: Stockholm Declaration, World Charter for Nature, Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Forest Principles 1992, Forestry Principles, 2007, SDGs – Goal 15. Treaties: Ramsar Convention, CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, World Heritage Convention, International Tropical Timber Agreement			

REDD+, Economic Law and Forests			
Total	24	4	
Evaluation criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation : 10 • Term Paper : 25 • Presentations : 25 • Test 3 : 40 			
Learning outcomes By the end of the course, it is expected that the students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be able to critically analyse the forest laws and policies both at the national and international level. 2. Be able to contribute to the debates and literature on the subject in the form of articles and comments. 			
Pedagogical approach Predominantly based on classroom teaching. A lot of emphasis will be given for self-study. For this module wise reading material will be distributed in advance.			
Materials Suggested Readings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dutta, Ritwick (2012), <i>Supreme Court on Forests</i>, New Delhi: Universal. 2. Gadgil, Madhav and Guha, Ramachandra (1992), <i>This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India</i>, Berkely: University of California Press. 3. Guha, Ramachandra (1989), <i>The Unquiet Woods: Ecological Change and Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya</i>, Berkely: University of California Press. 4. Poddar, et al (Eds.) (2011), <i>Forest Laws and Policies in India</i>, Kolkatta: Regal Publishers. 5. Divan, Shyam & Rosenzcranz, Armin (2001), <i>Environmental Law & Policy in India</i>, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 6. Tucker, Richard P. (2012), <i>A Forest History of India</i>, New Delhi: Sage Publications. 7. Lele, Sharachchandra and Menon, Ajit (2014), <i>Democratizing Forest Governance in India</i>, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 8. Sahu, Geetanjay (2014), <i>Environmental Jurisprudence and the Supreme Court</i>, New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan. 9. Singh C. (1986), <i>Common Property and Common Poverty</i>, New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 10. Upadhyay S. and Upadhyay V. (2002), <i>Hand Book on Environmental Law- Forest Laws, Wildlife Laws and the Environment</i>, Vol. I, New Delhi: Lexis Nexis- Butterworths-India. 11. Hooker, Ann (1994), "The International Law of Forests", <i>Natural Resources Journal</i>, 34: 823- 877. 			
Additional information (if any)			
Student responsibilities Students are expected to come prepared with readings and actively participate in the discussions.			

Course Reviewers:

1. Prof. Arup Poddar, Professor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.
2. Dr. Jacob Joseph, Assistant Professor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.