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Professional Certificate in International Disaster Law

## Environmental Law in Disaster Management

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**\*\*Adaptation:\*\*** The process of adjusting to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events. Adaptation measures can be structural (e.g., building sea walls) or non-structural (e.g., changing land use policies).

**\*\*Biodiversity:\*\*** The variety of life on Earth, including the variety of species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity within species. Biodiversity is essential for maintaining the health and productivity of ecosystems, which provide vital services such as air and water purification, soil formation, and climate regulation.

**\*\*Carbon Footprint:\*\*** The total amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with a product, service, or organization, expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). Reducing carbon footprints is an important strategy for mitigating climate change.

**\*\*Climate Change:\*\*** A long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define local, regional, and global climates. Climate change is primarily caused by human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, which increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**\*\*Command and Control Regulations:\*\*** A regulatory approach that sets specific performance standards or emission limits, and enforces compliance through inspections, penalties, and other mechanisms. Command and control regulations are often used in environmental law to address pollution and other environmental harms.

**\*\*Disaster Management:\*\*** The process of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters, including natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as technological and human-made disasters. Disaster management involves a range of activities, including risk assessment, emergency planning, evacuation, and recovery.

**\*\*Eco-Labeling:\*\*** A voluntary program that provides information about the environmental performance of products or services, using a label or symbol that is easily recognizable by consumers. Eco-labeling can be an effective tool for promoting sustainable consumption and production practices.

**\*\*Emissions Trading:\*\*** A market-based approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in which governments or regulatory bodies set a cap on emissions and allocate or sell emission allowances to companies. Companies can trade allowances with each other, providing a financial incentive to reduce emissions.

**\*\*Environmental Assessment:\*\*** A process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project or activity, including the likely effects on air, water, soil, flora, fauna, and human health. Environmental assessments are required by law in many countries, and are used to inform decision-making and ensure that projects are designed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner.

**\*\*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):\*\*** A type of environmental assessment that evaluates the potential positive and negative impacts of a proposed project or activity on the environment. EIAs are typically required for large-scale projects, such as mining operations, dams, and highways.

**\*\*Environmental Justice:\*\*** The principle that all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, have the right to live, work, and play in a healthy environment, and to participate in decision-making processes that affect their environment. Environmental justice seeks to address the disproportionate impacts of environmental harms on marginalized communities.

**\*\*Greenhouse Gases (GHGs):\*\*** Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change. The most common GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

**\*\*Hazardous Waste:\*\*** Waste that poses a significant threat to human health and the environment, due to its toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive properties. Hazardous waste must be managed in accordance with strict regulations to prevent harm.

**\*\*International Disaster Law:\*\*** A body of law that governs the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery from disasters that occur across national borders. International disaster law includes treaties, customary international law, and other sources of law, and is designed to promote cooperation and coordination between states and international organizations.

**\*\*Mitigation:\*\*** The process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other drivers of climate change, in order to limit the magnitude and impacts of climate change. Mitigation measures can include energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, and reducing deforestation and land degradation.

**\*\*Natural Disaster:\*\*** A sudden or prolonged event that causes damage or loss of life, and is caused by natural processes or phenomena, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Natural disasters can have significant social, economic, and environmental impacts.

**\*\*Pollution Prevention:\*\*** A proactive approach to reducing pollution, by eliminating or reducing the use of hazardous substances and waste at the source. Pollution prevention is more effective and cost-effective than traditional end-of-pipe pollution control measures.

**\*\*Precautionary Principle:\*\*** A principle that calls for taking action to prevent harm, even in the absence of scientific certainty about the risks. The precautionary principle is often applied in environmental law, to address the potential risks of new technologies or activities.

**\*\*Renewable Energy:\*\*** Energy that is generated from sources that are naturally replenished, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal. Renewable energy is an important strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development.

**\*\*Resilience:\*\*** The ability of a system, community, or society to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptive events, including natural disasters, climate change, and other shocks. Resilience is

an important goal of disaster management and sustainable development.

**\*\*Risk Assessment:\*\*** The process of evaluating the likelihood and consequences of potential hazards, in order to inform decision-making and risk management. Risk assessments are used in a range of contexts, including environmental regulation, disaster management, and public health.

**\*\*Sustainable Development:\*\*** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is based on the principles of economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection.

**\*\*Technological Disaster:\*\*** A sudden or prolonged event that causes damage or loss of life, and is caused by technological or human-made processes or phenomena, such as industrial accidents, transportation accidents, and cyber attacks. Technological disasters can have significant social, economic, and environmental impacts.

**\*\*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):\*\*** A treaty adopted in 1992, that provides a framework for international cooperation to address climate change. The UNFCCC has been ratified by nearly all countries, and is the basis for ongoing negotiations on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**\*\*Vulnerability:\*\*** The degree to which a system, community, or society is susceptible to harm from potential hazards, including natural disasters, climate change, and other shocks. Vulnerability is determined by a range of factors, including exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

**\*\*Waste Management:\*\*** The process of collecting, transporting, treating, and disposing of waste, in a manner that minimizes harm to human health and the environment. Waste management is an important component of environmental law and sustainable development.

**\*\*Water Pollution:\*\*** The contamination of water bodies, such as rivers, lakes, and oceans, with harmful substances, such as heavy metals, nutrients, and pathogens. Water pollution can have significant impacts on human health, aquatic life, and the environment.

**\*\*Wetlands:\*\*** Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, such as marshes, swamps, and bogs. Wetlands provide important ecological functions, such as water filtration, flood control, and habitat for wildlife.

**\*\*Zero Waste:\*\*** A philosophy and goal of reducing waste to the greatest extent possible, by minimizing consumption, reusing and repairing products, and recycling or composting materials. Zero waste is an important strategy for promoting sustainability and reducing environmental harm.