

## **Abstract**

### **Protection of biodiversity of deep sea-bed in areas beyond national jurisdiction**

Protection of the marine environment including ecosystems and biodiversity of the seabed, is one of the main goals towards which international environmental law should be aiming. In the first part of this diploma thesis, I presented the main deep-seabed ecosystems, and I drew attention to the main discrepancies between the natural scientific and legal view of these ecosystems. In the second part of this thesis, I presented crucial legal principles and approaches that are applicable to the protection of the deep seabed, and I included examples of binding and non-binding legal instruments which contain those principles. I further outlined their status in the current system of international law, particularly with regard to the international customary and treaty law. In the third part of this thesis, I analysed specific international conventions which apply to the protection of deep seabed biodiversity. First, I analysed the UN Convention on the marine law, and then I focused on two regional legal regulations: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and Antarctic Treaty System. At first, I addressed the question whether they include the main principles and approaches which I presented in the second part. Then, I analysed specific legal instruments which these conventions include, and which may be applied to the protection of deep-seabed biodiversity. Lastly, I summed up the main deficiencies which I found in those conventions. In the third chapter of the third part of the thesis, I also introduced principal legal instruments which will be applicable to the protection of deep-seabed biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction according to the adopted Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. In the conclusion, I presented some possible topics for further research on the effectiveness of legal instruments for the protection of deep-seabed biodiversity in the current maritime legal regime.

**Key words: marine law, seabed, biodiversity**