



FNI Research on Biological Diversity



International agreements on biodiversity: Negotiations and implementation



Genetic resources: Access, benefit-sharing, conservation and intellectual property rights



Biotechnology and biosafety



Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) is Norway's leading centre of expertise on political science and legal research on international biodiversity governance. The focus is on the relation between access, benefit-sharing and intellectual property rights pertaining to genetic resources, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in general.

About FNI's Research on Biological Diversity

Biological diversity is vital for ecological systems and thus for life on earth. It is also crucial to food security, the development of medicines, as well as for shelter, watershed protection, and the access to firewood. Most of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and rely on biodiversity for their livelihoods. The availability of these resources is therefore crucial for poverty alleviation. In all parts of the world, however, biodiversity is rapidly eroding.



International biodiversity agreements seek to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and a fair distribution of benefits derived from genetic resources. FNI research is aimed at international processes with ramifications for these objectives, including interaction with agreements on trade and agriculture. Central to this work is the relationship between regimes for access & benefit-sharing from use of genetic resources and legislation on intellectual property rights to biological material.

Research encompasses the management of wild as well as domesticated genetic resources in agriculture and aquaculture. A central topic is farmers' rights pertaining to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Other central topics include the science-policy debate in the management and protection of forest biodiversity, in evolving regulations on GMOs and invasive alien species, and in the Norwegian approach to marine resources and bioprospecting.

International forest politics, forest management and certification (ecolabelling) are other key topics of FNI's biodiversity research. In these studies FNI emphasizes the role of the corporate sector.

FNI also conducts research on the UN and its key role in global environmental governance as both an arena and an actor. The cluster of biodiversity agreements centring on the CBD is given particular attention, as well as important UN bodies like UNEP, GEF and CSD.

The main research disciplines are political science and law.

Key Publications

Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS: A Hypothetical Case Study on Enforcing Benefit Sharing in Norway . By Morten Walløe Tvedt and Ole Kristian Fauchald. *The Journal of World Intellectual Property*, 2011 .

Institutional Design for Improved Forest Governance through REDD: Lessons from the Global Environment Facility. By G. Kristin Rosendal and Steinar Andresen. *Ecological Economics*, 2011 .

Norsk genressursrett ('Norwegian Gene Resource Law'). By Morten Walløe Tvedt. Cappelen Akademisk Forlag, 2010. In Norwegian.

Analytical Framework for Analysing Experiences from Case Studies of ABS in Africa. By G. Kristin Rosendal. *FNI Report 7/2010*

Transnational Environmental Governance: The Emergence and Effects of the Certification of Forests and Fisheries. By Lars H. Gulbrandsen. Edward Elgar, 2010.

Patent Law and Bioprospecting in Antarctica. By Morten Walløe Tvedt. *Polar Record*, 2010.

Who Shall Own the Genes of Farmed Fish? By Ingrid Olesen, G. Kristin Rosendal, Morten Rye, Morten Walløe Tvedt and Hans B. Bentsen. In *Global Privatization and Its Impact*, edited by Hagen & Halvorsen, Nova Science Publishers, 2009.

Governing Agrobiodiversity: Plant Genetics and Developing Countries. By Regine Andersen. Ashgate, 2008.

Scope of Process Patents in Farm Animal Breeding. By Morten Walløe Tvedt and Magnus Finckenhagen. *Journal of World Intellectual Property*, 2008.

Interpreting Sustainable Development and Societal Utility in Norwegian GMO Assessments. By G. Kristin Rosendal. *European Environment*, 2008.

Success Stories from the Realization of Farmers' Rights Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. By Regine Andersen and Tone Winge. *FNI Report 4/2008*.

International Payment for Forest Conservation. Special Case: Compensation for Leaving the Oil in the Ground in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador. By Kristin Rosendal, Peter Johan Schei, Per Ove Eikeland and Lars Gulbrandsen. *FNI Report 2/2008*.

Beyond Access: Exploring Implementation of the Fair and Equitable Sharing Commitment in the CBD. By Morten Walløe Tvedt and Tomme Young. IUCN, 2007.

Balancing Access and Benefit-Sharing and Legal Protection of Innovations from Bioprospecting: Impacts on Conservation of Biodiversity. By G. Kristin Rosendal. *Journal of Environment and Development*, 2006.

The Convention on Biological Diversity and Developing Countries. By G. Kristin Rosendal. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2000.



Selected ongoing and recent projects:

The Access and Benefit Sharing Research Project

The Farmers' Rights Project: Implementing Farmers' Rights under the ITPGRFA

Managing Protected Areas in a Time of Internationalization

Norwegian Biodiversity Policy in the Interface between European Legislation and Multilateral Environmental Treaties: the Seed Issue.

Payments for Ecosystem Services in Latin America : Evaluation of PES Cost-Effectiveness in Landscape and Policy Mosaic.

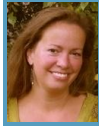
Streamlining Access to and Use of Aquaculture Genetic Resources: Carp and Shrimp in India

Legal Regulation of Animal Genetic Resources

Non-State Global Environmental Governance: The Emergence and Effectiveness of Forest and Fisheries Certification Schemes.

Stimulating Sustainable Innovation in Aquaculture

FNI's Biodiversity Researchers:



Regine Andersen

Dr. Polit., Senior Research Fellow

Research areas: Agrobiodiversity politics and effects of international regimes in developing countries; Access and benefit-sharing; Farmers' Rights; Civil society strategies; Development co-operation.



Steinar Andresen

Cand. Polit., Research Professor

Research areas: International regimes and organizations; Climate and whaling regimes, UNEP and other UN bodies; Institutional design and leadership; Science-policy relations.



Ole Kristian Fauchald

Dr. juris, Research Professor

Research areas: International and Norwegian environmental law, in particular biodiversity; International trade law; International investment law; International treaty law.



Lars H. Gulbrandsen

Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow

Research areas: Eco-labelling; Forest politics; Climate change politics; Corporate social responsibility; Science and politics interactions.



Kristin Rosendal

Dr. Polit., Research Professor

Research areas: Biodiversity; Genetic resources and biotechnology; Implementation of international regimes; Global environmental governance.



Peter Johan Schei

Cand. Real., Director

Research areas: Sustainable development; Nature conservation; Biodiversity; Development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.



Morten Walløe Tvedt

Cand. Jur., Senior Research Fellow

Research areas: Regulation of genetic resources; International law in WIPO, WTO/TRIPS, CBD and FAO; Innovation and development in the context of IPRs in developing countries.



Tone Winge

Master of Development Studies, Research Fellow

Research areas: Regulation of genetic resources; IPR and Open Source solutions; Innovation and development; Rural and agricultural development. Farmers' Rights.



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More information:

<http://www.fni.no/themes/biodiversity.html>