



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 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

The Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. By Steinar Andresen and G. Kristin Rosendal, *ASJP African and Francophone Air and Space Power Journal*, Vol 8, No 2, 2017, pp. 45-61

The Convention on Biological Diversity as a legal framework for safeguarding ecosystem services. By Christian Prip, *Ecosystem Services*, published online 30.03.2017 DOI: 10.1016/j.ecoser.2017.02.015

Securing Crop Genetic Diversity: Reconciling EU Seed Legislation and Biodiversity Treaties. By Christian Prip and Ole Kristian Fauchald. *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law*, 2016.

Access and Benefit Sharing legislation for marine bioprospecting: Lessons from Australia for the role of Marbank in Norway. By G. Kristin Rosendal, Anne Ingeborg Myhr and Morten Walløe Tvedt. *Journal of World Intellectual Property Rights*, 2016

Farmers' Rights: Evolution of the International Policy Debate and National Implementation. By Regine Andersen, In Michael Halewood (ed), *Farmers' Crop Varieties and Farmers' Rights: Challenges in Taxonomy and Law*. London/New York, Routledge, 2016 pp. 129-152.

The Missing Link in ABS. The Relationship between Resource and Product. By Morten Walløe Tvedt, Vincent Eijssink, Ida Helene Steen, Roger Strand and G. Kristin Rosendal, *Journal of Environmental Policy and Law*, Vol 46, Nos 3-4, 2016, pp. 227-237

Beyond the Thumbrule Approach: Regulatory Innovation for Bioprospecting in India. By Kabir Sanjay Bavikatte and Morten Walløe Tvedt. *Law Environment and Development Journal*, 2015.

Internationalization of Protected Areas in Norway and Sweden: Examining Pathways of Influence in Similar Countries. By Ole Kristian Fauchald, Lars H. Gulbrandsen and Anna Zachrisson. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services and Management*, 2014.

How May REDD+ Affect the Practical, Legal and Institutional Framework for 'Payment for Ecosystem Services' in Costa Rica? By G. Kristin Rosendal and Peter Johan Schei. *Ecosystem Services*, 2014.

Global Governance of Genetic Resources: Access and Benefit Sharing after the Nagoya Protocol. Edited by Sebastian Oberthür and Kristin Rosendal. Routledge, 2014.

Realising Farmers' Rights to Crop Genetic Resources: Success Stories and Best Practices. Edited by Regine Andersen and Tone Winge. Routledge, 2013.

Transnational Environmental Governance: The Emergence and Effects of the Certification of Forests and Fisheries. By Lars H. Gulbrandsen. Edward Elgar, 2013.

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

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



Selected ongoing and recent projects:

The Access and Benefit Sharing Research Project.

The Farmers' Rights Project.

Legal frameworks for bioprospecting and bio-innovation in Polar Regions (BIOS-POLAR)

Biotechnology in Agriculture and Aquaculture – Effects of Intellectual Property Rights in the Food Production Chain.

Managing Protected Areas in a Time of Internationalization.

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

Competing land-use pressures in Norway: Examining the integration of nature protection concerns in windpower licenses.

International Objectives for Adaptation, Access and Benefit Sharing: Effects on the Management of Plant Genetic Resources in India and Nepal.

FNI's Biodiversity Researchers:



Regine Andersen

Dr. Polit., Senior Research Fellow

Research areas: Biodiversity, Genetic resources and biotechnology; Implementation of international regimes; Farmers' Rights; Politics related to organic food and production.



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., Research Professor

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



Christian Prip

Master of Law, Senior Policy Analyst

Research areas: International environmental policy and law with a particular interest in biodiversity and natural resources management.



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., Associate Researcher

Research areas: Sustainable development; Nature conservation and biodiversity issues at local, national and international levels.



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, Senior 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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