



GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON BIODIVERSITY LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Transformative Pathways to “Living in Harmony with Nature”

6 – 8 July 2021

Call for Papers

The Centre for Environmental Law, Macquarie University, Australia, The Research Institute of Environmental Law, Wuhan University, China and The Environmental Studies Program, The University of Colorado Boulder, United States are pleased to announce the call for papers for the first ever **Global Dialogue on Biodiversity Law and Governance**.

Biodiversity sits at the heart of our planet’s ability to sustain life. This capacity of our natural systems is being challenged in ways never before seen in human history. The Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that one million species face extinction unless immediate action is taken to address the drivers of biodiversity loss. Moreover, only 5% of countries are actually on target to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)’s Aichi targets (2011 – 2020). As legal and governance systems underpin our relationships with nature, **transformative change and global cooperation** are vital to securing a thriving planet for present and future generations.

The 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity sees a world 'living in harmony with nature'. This will require rapid fundamental system-wide change across our economies and societies on a global scale (IPBES 2019). In 2021, we have the opportunity to initiate such transformation.

2021 Offers A Super Year for Biodiversity

The 15th CBD Conference of the Parties (COP15) will be held in 2021. COP-15 aims to conclude the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - the collective direction of global biodiversity governance for the next decade.

This year, China will host the CBD COP for the first time. This provides the opportunity for new leadership and innovation towards global biodiversity conservation. Meanwhile, in August 2021, a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is scheduled to be concluded. This new agreement is set to transform governance of biodiversity on the high seas.

A Global Dialogue between an international community at a crossroads

We live in a hyper-connected world, where we are inextricably reliant on each other. Transnational cooperation is essential and opens up pathways to extraordinary opportunities. Choices made in the 2021 'Super Year for Biodiversity' will determine our prospects of realising a socially just and environmentally sustainable future and whether or we will achieve a future 'living in harmony with nature'.

Commencing in the lead-up to forthcoming CBD and BBNJ negotiations, the Global Dialogue seeks to facilitate conversation between decision and policy makers, NGOs and academics across the world.

The aim of the Global Dialogue is to explore innovative pathways towards transformative change to solve global challenges of biodiversity loss and extinction risk and to foster global cooperation, including at the science-policy interface. The Dialogue seeks to address legal and governance questions related (but not limited) to:

1. How can the global community achieve a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that effectively and equitably addresses and overcomes unprecedented global biodiversity loss?
2. What comparative lessons can be drawn from developed and developing countries' domestic implementation and enforcement of international obligations?
3. What synergies can be identified and developed across CBD and BBNJ negotiations?
4. What governance solutions exist at the biodiversity-climate change nexus?
5. Can local and national level governance innovations be scaled up to the global level?

The Dialogue will consist of **high-level panel sessions and academic presentations**

Call for abstracts

Abstracts of no more than **250 words** that advances the aim of the Global Dialogue should be emailed to **A/Prof Nengye Liu** (nengye.liu@mq.edu.au) by **15 May 2021**. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the conference committee, consisting of **Dr Michelle Lim, Dr Cassandra Brooks, Dr Hannah Harris, Paul Govind, Prof Shawkat Alam and Prof Tianbao Qin**. Selected speakers will be notified by **31 May 2021**. It is anticipated that a special issue from the Dialogue will be published by a prominent journal in the second half of 2021.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

A number of distinguished speakers have confirmed their availability to speak at the Global Dialogue, including,



*ARIF HAVAS
OEGROSENO*



*DR ANNE
POLINA*



*PROF XUE
DAYUAN*



*PROF BELINDA
REYERS*

*Ambassador of the
Republic of
Indonesia to the
Federal Republic of
Germany / Former
Vice Minister for
Maritime
Sovereignty,
Coordinating
Ministry for
Maritime Affairs*

*Managing
Director of
Madjulla
Incorporated, is
a Nyikina
Traditional
Custodian from
the
Mardoowarra,
Lower Fitzroy
River in the West
Kimberley region
of Western
Australia*

*Professor,
College of Life
and
Environmental
Sciences, Minzu
University,
Beijing*

*Research Chair in
Sustainability
Science: Future
Africa, University of
Pretoria, South
Africa, and,
Stockholm
Resilience Centre,
Stockholm
University, Sweden*