MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND NEW AVENUES FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW MAKING

LAW AND NATURE DIALOGUES SERIES

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Prof. Elisa Morgera | 30 June 2021, 6pm-7pm (AEST/Sydney time)

Session Chair : Dr Shireen Daft

This seminar will explore the still insufficiently mapped inter-linkages between international obligations on the protection of marine biodiversity and international human rights law obligations, with a particular focus on the human rights of indigenous peoples, small-scale fishing communities, rural women, children, and environmental human rights defenders, as well as everyone's right to human health and to science. The presentation will assess the extent to which existing international treaties clarify the content and extent of State obligations (with reference to environmental assessments, marine spatial planning and marine protected areas), as well as the need for further international interpretative guidance and international law-making. On the latter, the seminar will consider the potential role of the current negotiations of an international legally binding instrument on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction to consider human rights as a lens for contributing more holistically to the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Prof. Elisa Morgera

Elisa Morgera is Professor of Global Environmental Law and the Director of the UKRI GCRF One Ocean Hub. She is a member of the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance. She specializes in international, European and comparative environmental law, with a particular focus on the interaction between biodiversity law and human rights (particularly those of indigenous peoples and local communities), equity and sustainability in natural resource development, oceans governance, and corporate accountability.

Prof Elisa Morgera was awarded a £20-million grant from the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) One Ocean Hub on transformative, sustainable and inclusive ocean governance (2019-2024). The One Ocean Hub is an independent programme for collaborative research for development, delivering the UK AID strategy and putting UK-led research at the heart of efforts to realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Hub is a community of scholars from 22 leading international Universities and Research Centres from the UK, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. The Hub collaborates with 30+ Project Partners, including UN Agencies, regional intergovernmental organisations, national government departments, community representatives, NGOs, charities and media organisations.

Previously, Elisa held a European Research Council Starting Grant (2013-2018) on the legal concept of fair and equitable benefit-sharing in different areas of international law (environment, oceans and human rights) and a grant under the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme (funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)) investigating specifically fair and equitable benefit-sharing in international fisheries law and policy (2015-2016).

Prof. Morgera was appointed by Scotland's First Minister to an Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership in 2018 to provide independent advice to the government on how Scotland can continue to promote and support human rights, with a focus on social, economic and environmental rights. From 2019-2020, she was appointed to the National Task Force for the development of a legal framework on human rights leadership for Scotland.