



MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series

Traceability of Marine Genetic Resources under the BBNJ Agreement

Wednesday, January 26, 10:00 – 11:30am (CET)

Traceability infrastructure for monitoring the use and movements of marine genetic resources (MGRs) from areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) will be a key component of the proposed biodiversity (BBNJ) treaty under UNCLOS. Traceability is important for determining origin of MGRs after they are collected from ABNJ and linking origin with the chain of custody of the genetic materials as they pass through national jurisdictions, whose access and benefit sharing measures may apply to the MGR unless they fall outside scope. Traceability infrastructure may help to ascertain whether proposed benefit sharing provisions under the BBNJ draft text will be triggered by the use of MGRs for research, development and commercialisation. The most recent draft text proposes infrastructure including notification, identifiers and a clearing house mechanism. There are important positive and negative lessons to be learned for the BBNJ agreement from the implementation of traceability infrastructure under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention of Biological Diversity, which applies to MGRs within national jurisdiction. This talk aims to highlight some of the lessons learned, explain implications for the BBNJ context and promote discussion on a range of other options for traceability that may accommodate the unique geo-political conditions of ABNJ.



Dr Fran Humphries has specialised in aquatic biodiversity, biotechnology and marine law/policy over the past 20 years. She is a chief investigator on a maritime artificial intelligence project at the Queensland University of Technology Law School, Australia. Her recent research consultancies include aquaculture, agriculture and forest genetic resource access and benefit sharing (ABS) projects for WorldFish, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative. She was on the International Council of Environmental Law delegation for the negotiations of the proposed United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea internationally legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. She has a background in government, working as a legal and policy advisor in the areas of biosecurity, fisheries management and aquaculture, and she is an Australian accredited mediator for maritime/marine disputes.

The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organised by the MARIPOLDATA project.

To register: via email to ina.tessnow-vonwyssocki@univie.ac.at, indicating your name and institution. You will receive an email with further information and the link to participate in the virtual space

More information: <https://www.maripoldata.eu/newsevents/#oceanseminarseries>