

Response

I would like to participate in the International Conference on 'Access to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Benefit Sharing'

Name:

Institution:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Signature:

Information

Fakultät II – Informatik, Wirtschafts- und Rechtswissenschaften

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Registration until
30th June 2025

Registration fee:

Regular fee: 400 € per person

Reduced fee: 200 € (students)

Register: [Go to registration link](#)
(see invitation)

Hotel/Room reservations

Participants are responsible for making their own reservations but we can make recommendations in terms of price and location.

Venue: CvO Universität Oldenburg
Haarentor (Senatssaal)

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

DFG

Thank you for funding us!

Carl von Ossietzky
**Universität
Oldenburg**

International Conference on

Access to Genetic Resources, Traditional
Knowledge and Benefit Sharing

*Alternative models to the bilateral
arrangement as a solution to
ABS challenges*

CvO Universität Oldenburg
Haarentor (Senatssaal)

17th and 18th July 2025

(Thur. 8.00 a.m. – Fri. 5.00 p.m.)

Registration 8:00–8:30



The Focus

... The governance of genetic resources has evolved from a system of open access under the concept of res nullius to one of state sovereignty. The fundamental principle of access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and benefit-sharing (ABS) as affirmed by the Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992 (CBD) is a bi-lateral quid pro quo arrangement: the provider gives access to the user, the user shares benefits from utilization—whether monetary or non-monetary—with the provider. The bilateral quid pro quo arrangement has been fraught with challenges since its inception. The Nagoya Protocol to the Convention that was adopted with the aim of operationalizing ABS has not had much success 10 years since it came into force. Many experts share the view that the ABS situation has become more complex with the Nagoya Protocol. As a consequence, the realization of the benefit-sharing objective of the CBD is disillusioned which impacts negatively on conservation of biodiversity, another CBD objective. We submit that existing challenges can be solved through different models of linking or delinking sovereign rights and benefit-sharing. Our project therefore is **exploring ways to reform** the current quid pro quo system of linking sovereign rights and benefit-sharing as well as **investigating alternative models** that allow for decoupling of sovereign rights and benefit-sharing with the aim of **improving access, utilization, and benefit-sharing mechanisms** and ultimately **increasing revenues and support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use**.

... We shall be sharing insights from our research so far and we would also be delighted to learn from your valuable expertise. We invite you to be part of this important conversation at our conference in Oldenburg, Germany.

Programm

July 17, 2025

8.30 Welcome & opening

Prof. Dr. Christine Godt, Chair, EWR
Prof. Dr. Andreas Rauh, Dean, Fak. II

8.45 Organisational matters
Evanston Chege Kamau, University of Oldenburg, Germany

9.00 Roundtable introduction

I. Current approach, shortcomings and criteria for alternative concepts

9:30 Explanation and analysis of the current bilateral quid pro quo concept of ABS
Explanation and characterisation of fundamental challenges
Evanston Chege Kamau, University of Oldenburg, Germany

10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:45 Principles guiding the development of alternative concepts
Variants of ABS concepts
Gerd Winter, University of Bremen, Germany

II. Improving bilateralism with focus on contracts and public law issues

11:45 Analysis and reform potential of provider – user agreements
Christine Godt, University of Oldenburg, Germany

12:30 Lunch break

13:40 Practical steps improving the administrative law concept
Ellen Frederichs, Caroline von Kries, Andreas Heym, Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), Germany

III. Sectoral to full decoupling

14:25 Designing and evaluating subscription models
Sabrina Brizioli, University of Perugia, Italy

15:10 Coffee/tea break

15:25 Designing and evaluating ABS concerning digital sequence information
Chris Lyal, Natural History Museum, London, UK

16:10 Legal implications of the Decision 16/2 on the use of digital sequence information – a challenge
Caroline von Kries, Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), Germany

Research team and advisory committee meeting

16:55 Further discussions of progress, achievement of research goals and prospects of completion
Chris Lyal, Sabrina Brizioli, Ellen Frederichs, Caroline von Kries, Andreas Heym, Luciana Silvestri, Evanston Kamau, Daniele Manzella (International Treaty, Rome-Italy), Gerd Winter, Christine Godt, Amber Scholz (DSMZ, Braunschweig-Germany), Dominic Muyldermans (Croplife)

20:00 Dinner

July 18, 2025

III. Sectoral to full decoupling (cont.)

09:00 Designing and evaluating bounded openness
Luciana Silvestri, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina

09:45 Designing and evaluating bio-levy
Gerd Winter, University of Bremen, Germany

10:30 Coffee/tea break

III.a Discussion groups (tasks)

11:00 – 12:00

12:00 Lunch break

III.b Discussion groups (reporting)

13:00 – 15:00

15:00 Coffee/tea break

IV. Closing Session

15:20 Assessment/Way Forward

15:50 End

18:00 Excursion / Guided tour followed by dinner