

FACULTY OF BIOSCIENCE ENGINEERING

CONSERVATION, STUDY AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY: THE POLICY CONTEXT

Willy De Greef

- The policy framework around all biological research changed in 1993:
 - Before: biological resources were common good
 - After: each biological resource has an owner
- What changed?



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Article 3. Principle :

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, **the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies**, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.



Article 15. Access to Genetic Resources :

- Recognizing the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, the authority to determine access to genetic resources rests with the national governments and is subject to national legislation.
- Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to develop and carry out scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties with the full participation of, and where possible in, such Contracting Parties.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing of genetic resources (2011)

Article 1. Objective:

The objective of this Protocol is the **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources**, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and **by appropriate funding**, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and **the sustainable use** of its components.

LEGAL STUDIES ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING 1

THE 2010 NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS
AND BENEFIT-SHARING
IN PERSPECTIVE

*Implications for International Law
and Implementation Challenges*

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The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing of genetic resources:

Article 3. Scope:

This Protocol shall apply to genetic resources within the scope of Article 15 of the Convention and to the benefits arising from the utilization of such resources.

Opportunities and challenges

- Constraints on work with and exchange of genetic resources
- Supporting policies for work carried out on genetic resources in compliance with international law
- With the Nagoya Protocol comes commitment to fund work to achieve its objectives

The other major policy player: FAO

- Focused on actual production, but
- Long term support for genetic resource conservation, BUT
- Lots of good policy work, not much implementation
- Resources, resources, resources



What does that mean for Artemia?

- Global distribution
- Threatened in many of its native environments:
 - Climate change, land use change, genetic pollution
- Strategic for aquaculture
- By itself, not able to pay for a comprehensive conservation and sustainable use strategy



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Global distribution

Threatened in many of its native environments:

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Strategic for aquaculture

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use strategy

**Textbook case for an international project
under the hat of the Biodiversity Convention**

Why is this relevant for Artemia?

- Puts work in a high priority environmental policy context
 - The CBD is the prime framework for all environmental research strategies
- Provides policy makers with a potential success story
 - Problems for governments to find high profile projects for implementing Nagoya Protocol
- Provides access to new funding sources
 - Funding comes from the environmental policy resources,

Suggestions for action:

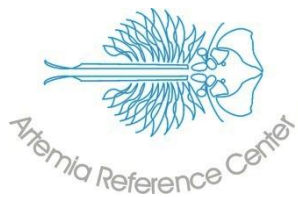
- Explore developing a coordinated international project for Artemia genetic resource **conservation, study, sustainable use** as an implementation of the CBD objectives
- Make it eligible for **CBD related funding** (Global Environment Facility, World Bank, donor countries)

What could it look like?

- a network of ex-situ collections of Artemia, with the aim of serving the role of a global reference collection ;
- efficient methods and protocols for exchange of elements of these collections;
- research to study the diversity of the taxon to create more targeted and improved resources for the aquaculture sector;
- creation of a network of collaborating research institutions, with emphasis on institutions in the developing world, to manage and study the collection.

What could it become?

An institutional framework, in line with the aims and prescriptions of the Biodiversity Convention, to address all issues of ownership, access and benefit sharing, and capacity building around Artemia genetic resources



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Thank you!

Laboratory of Aquaculture and
Artemia Reference Center