

Biodiversity Law & Governance Day 2024

During the COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia

Full Programme

8:30 – 15:45 COT / 13:30 – 20:45 GMT | Saturday, 26 October 2024

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8:30 – 15:45 COT / 13:30 – 20:45 GMT on Saturday, 26 October 2024
During the COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia

On 26 October 2024 at COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Parties and Observers to the CBD and other biodiversity accords convene experts, practitioners, scholars and stakeholders from law, governance and other fields, in order to scale up efforts to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, implement the post 2020 Strategic Framework and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through legal and institutional measures.

The **2024 Biodiversity Law & Governance Day** seeks to facilitate dialogue, engagement and action to implement the CBD regime, engaging a growing global biodiversity law and governance community of practice. The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) and partner universities, with guidance from leaders in the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (SCBD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UN-Environment), International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Commission for Environmental Law (IUCN-WCEL), International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and other organisations are honoured to bring Parties, UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, academia, private sector actors and civil society together, building upon the success of the inaugural 2016 Biodiversity Law and Governance Day (BLGD) held in Cancun alongside CBD COP13, the 2018 BLGD held in Sharm-El-Sheik alongside CBD COP14, and the 2022 BLGD held in Montreal alongside CBD COP15. By tracking trends, sharing knowledge and practical experiences, and building capacity, BLGD 2024 advances legal elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; strengthens the effectiveness of CBD and its protocols; and enhances synergies between biodiversity treaties and other international regimes.

Themes of Biodiversity Law & Governance Day 2024:

- **Advancing legal elements of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:** CoP16 is the first since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 in December 2022, and Parties are expected to show how their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) have aligned with the framework. Much can be learned from law and governance reform experiences, including Indigenous law and philosophies, and ways that all levels of decision-makers are integrating the different value systems that nature embodies, in their implementation of the GBF.
- **Enhancing nature-based solutions, sustainable use of natural resources and synergies with biodiversity and other treaties:** Many international treaties and processes are key for biodiversity and ecosystems, including the CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Wetlands Convention, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, the UNCCD, the oceans and water conventions, human rights covenants and accords, trade and investment agreements, and indigenous treaties. Parties to the CBD and international organizations must strengthen and improve cooperation to enhance synergies and address intersections between regimes.
- **Strengthening the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol and addressing genetic information:** The Nagoya Protocol entered into force in 2014. Many lessons can be learned from recent national and regional Access and Benefit Sharing (“ABS”) agreements implementation and capacity building efforts. For these agreements to be truly equitable and fair, and agreements to be meaningful and accountable, these concepts should mean the same to all involved, providers and users alike.

Offering dialogue, keynotes, and parallel roundtable/panel sessions, BLGD 2024 stimulates knowledge exchange, builds synergies for capacity building and research collaborations, and inspires cross-pollination between different fields of law, policy and jurisdictions to encourage innovation in legal and institutional tools for mainstreaming biodiversity, to:

- Profile and share innovative multi-level biodiversity law and governance mechanisms, challenges and best practices;
- Catalyse knowledge exchange between delegates, legal practitioners and the legal academic community to co-generate new law and governance knowledge and approaches; and
- Facilitate collaboration within the law and governance community to support capacity development for implementing the CBD, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and SDGs 14 and 15.

Advancing the Global Biodiversity Framework through Policy, Law & Practice

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during the CoP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia

FULL PROGRAMME

**8:30 – 9:00
COT**

Welcome from Masters of Ceremonies: **Dr Daniel Ruiz De Garibay Ponce** (Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific University / Associate Fellow & BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL); **Adv Tejas Rao** (Senior Manager, CISDL / Research Coordinator, Univ Cambridge); **Eva Wu** (BLGI Programme Co-Coordinator, CISDL / Prof Armand de Mestral Scholar, McGill Univ)

2024 Biodiversity Law & Governance Day Grand Opening

Chairs: Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge) & **Prof Carlos Andrés Echeverry Restrepo** (Director, Dept of Legal & Political Science, Pontificia Univ Javeriana, Cali)

Welcome: Prof Ivonne Díaz Pérez (Dean, Pontificia Univ Javeriana, Cali); **Prof Patricia Kameri-Mbote** (Director, UNEP Law Division); **Prof Jorge Cabrera** (Univ Costa Rica / Lead Counsel, CISDL); **Dr Michelle Lim** (Deputy Chair IUCN WCEL Biodiversity Law Specialist Group & Assoc Prof, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management Univ); **Adv Kelly Sporn** (Special Counsel & Intl Head of Strategic Delivery - Sustainability & ESG, DLA Piper); **Prof Damilola S. Olawuyi** (Vice-Chair, Intl Law Assoc / UNESCO Chair in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, Hamad Bin Khalifa Univ); **Adv Prudence Galaga** (Permanent Secretary, Cameroon)

Moderator: Natalia Andrea López Acero (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BLGI) & **Adv Diana Quevedo Niño** (Researcher, Univ Externado de Colombia / Assoc Fellow, CISDL)

**9:00– 9:45
COT**

Opening Plenary: Conservation & Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Intl Treaty Regimes

How can international treaty regimes help foster conservation and sustainable use efforts to align with the goals and targets set out by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

Hosted by CISDL, Univ Cambridge, Univ de Costa Rica, Univ Javeriana Cali, Univ Externado de Colombia

Chairs: Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in SD Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge) & **Prof Patricia Kameri-Mbote** (Director, UNEP Law Division)

Plenary Speakers: Hon Ivonne Higuero (Secretary General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES); **Adv Amy Fraenkel** (Executive Secretary, Convention on Migratory Species CMS); **Dr Kent Nnadozie** (Secretary, Food and Agricultural Organisation International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture FAO ITGRFA); **Adv Wayne Garnons-Williams** (Chair & Founding President, International Inter-Tribal Trade and Investment Organisation IITIO)

Moderators: **Natalia Andrea López Acero** (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BLGI) & **Adv Smriti Pokhrel** (Law Officer, Nepal Law Commission / PhD Cand, Univ Victoria)

9:45 – 11:00
COT

Concurrent Experts Panels / Roundtables Sessions (I)

I. Experts Roundtable: Sharing Experiences from the Commercial Frontline - Financing 30/30

How can biodiversity credit markets support the financing of the 30x30 conservation goal? What commercial partnerships, legal drivers, and market adoption challenges for achieve this goal? How can law facilitate the adoption, implementation, and effectiveness of these markets?

Hosted by Hogan Lovells

Chairs: Adv Bryony Widdup (Partner, Co-head of Sustainable Finance & Investment, Hogan Lovells)

Speakers / Discussants: Alex Adam (Deputy Director Strategy & Stewardship, The Rivers Trust); **Celia Cole** (Head of Environment, Sainsburys); **Elizabeth Beall** (Managing Director, Finance Earth); **Marcela Flores** (CEO, Tierra Foods); **Harry Wright** (CEO, Bright Tide)

Moderator: Adv Emily Julier (Counsel Knowledge Lawyer, Sustainable Finance & Investment, Hogan Lovells) & **Ms Gwynne Foster** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)

II. Roundtable Workshop: Fostering Biodiversity through Indigenous Treaty Law

What lessons can we respectfully learn from Indigenous knowledge-holders to foster global biodiversity? Who holds the responsibility of implementing the changes required to restore and revitalized our ecosystems? How can we support Indigenous stewards of biodiversity as allies?

Hosted by CISDL, International Inter-Tribal Trade and Investment Organization, Univ Victoria, McGill Univ

Chairs: Adv Wayne Garnons-Williams (Chair & Founding President, IITIO) & **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger** WJIA FRSC FRSA (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in SD Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge)

Presentation: Eva Wu (BLGI Programme Co-Coordinator, CISDL / Prof Armand de Mestral Scholar, McGill Univ) & **Elaina Cox** (Policy Analyst, Parks Canada / Youth Advisory Council Member, The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada / Indigenous Leadership Commission Member, UNESCO / Researcher, CISDL)

Speakers / Discussants: Dr Rebecca Major (Assoc Prof / NVD Research Chair, Yukon Univ); **Dr Wenona Singel** (Director, Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State Univ); **Adv Smriti Pokhrel** (Law Officer, Nepal Law Commission)

Moderator: Adwoa Appiah (PhD Candidate- Sustainability Management School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED), University of Waterloo) & **Natalia Andrea López Acero** (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BLGI)

III. Experts Panels: Synergies between International Treaties for Catalysing Environmental Democracy

How can synergies between international treaties contribute to environmental democracy? How can environmental democracy treaties help achieve the Biodiversity Plan? What is the role of environmental human rights defenders in catalysing peace with nature?

Hosted by Raoul Wallenberg Institute on Human Rights & Humanitarian Law-Lund Univ, Global Network for Human Rights and Environment (GNHRE)

*Chair: **Dr Claudia Ituarte-Lima** (Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights & Humanitarian Law-Lund Univ / Director of GNHRE)*

*Speakers / Discussants: **Dr Jing Jing Zhang** (Founder & Exec Director, Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability); **Prof Fariborz Zelli** (Prof, Dept Political Science, Lund Univ); **Dr Britta Sjöstedt** (Senior Lecturer, Dept of Law, Lund Univ)*

*Moderator: **Adv Kanisha Acharya-Patel** (Staff Lawyer, Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence / Assoc Fellow, CISDL) & **Baijnath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)*

11:00 – 12:15
COT

Concurrent Experts Panels / Roundtables / Workshop Sessions (II)

IV. Roundtable Workshop: Advancing Biodiversity Law and Fair Governance through Agroecology

How can agroecology advance biodiversity law and fair governance? How can the current food systems governance be best designed to better take into account biodiversity and vice-versa? How can stakeholders promote a more inclusive and representative governance system to ensure more equity and enhanced biodiversity law?

Hosted by Agroecology Coalition and IPES-Food

*Chair: **Oliver Oliveros** (Coordinator, Agroecology Coalition)*

*Speakers: **Martha Ngalowera** (Environmental Education Officer & NBSAP National Coordinator, Vice President's Office, Division of Environment, Tanzania); **Lim Li Ching** (Co-Chair, IPES-Food & Senior Researcher, Third World Network); **Michael Taylor** (Exec Director, Intl Land Coalition); **Fikru Takele** (National Coordinator, Land for Life Ethiopia); **Ysabel Calderón** (Founder & CEO of Sumak Kawsa, Member, Young Professionals for Agriculture & Rural Development Peruvian Chapter)*

*Discussants: **Kwami Kpondzo** (Executive Director, Centre pour la Justice Environnementale Togo) & **Christa Suter** (Coordinator, RAISE Consortium)*

*Moderator: **Adv Kanisha Acharya-Patel** (Staff Lawyer, Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence / Assoc Fellow, CISDL) & **Baijnath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)*

V. Roundtable Workshop: Advancing the Legal Protection for Biodiversity in Armed Conflict

How does international biodiversity law intersect with international humanitarian law to promote the protection of biodiversity in armed conflicts? What legal and policy challenges impede the integration of biodiversity protection into the law of armed conflict? How can legal recognition and protection of biodiversity be advanced before, during, and after armed conflicts?

Hosted by Charles De Visscher Center for Intl & European Law (CeDIE) at Université catholique de Louvain (Univ Louvain)

Chair: Prof Raphaël van Steenberghe (Prof, Univ Louvain / Qualified Researcher, Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research)

Speakers: Prof Jérôme de Hemptinne (Assist Prof, Utrecht Univ / Researcher, Univ Louvain); **Adv Razy Aman Eddine** (Researcher, Univ Louvain)

Discussants: Dr Mara Tignino (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Univ Geneva)

Moderator: Adv Lucía Soto Rincón (Research Assistant, Univ Externado de Colombia) & **Natalia Andrea López Acero** (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BLGI)

VI. Roundtable Workshop: Engaging Ecocide Law as a Mechanism for Climate Ambition

What role do Indigenous communities play in the enforcement of the Ecocide Law? How can their traditional knowledge systems be integrated into the global legal frameworks for environmental protection? What role can youth play in amplifying the impacts of Ecocide Law?

Hosted by Youth for Ecocide Law (Y4EL), Stop Ecocide International

Chair: Léa Weimann (Co-Lead, Y4EL / PhD Cand, Univ Cambridge)

Speakers: Judy Foster (Head, Operations & International Outreach, Stop Ecocide International); **Reagan Eriga** (Diplomatic Liaison for Youth for Ecocide Law Uganda); **Dr Rodrigo Liedó** (Americas Director, Stop Ecocide International)

Discussants: Debbie Buyaki (Global Co-Lead, Y4EL)

Moderator: Adv Smriti Pokhrel (Law Officer, Nepal Law Commission / PhD Cand, Univ Victoria) & **Ms Gwynne Foster** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)

12:15 – 12:45 **Break**
COT

12:45 – 14:00 **Concurrent Experts Panels / Roundtables / Workshop Sessions (III)**
COT

VII. Experts Roundtable: Investing in Nature - Financial Innovation and Good Corporate Governance and Dispute Resolution for Biodiversity Strategies and Frameworks

How can corporate governance frameworks and public policy shift towards more sector-specific reporting requirements, particularly in the construction and ecotourism sectors, to produce verifiable environmental outcomes in rural areas? In what ways can stakeholder engagement, especially the inclusion of local communities and environmental groups, be enhanced to ensure that biodiversity conservation becomes central to corporate decision-making, aligning with

Colombia's NBSAPs and the Kunming-Montreal GBF? What role can biodiversity-linked financial instruments, such as green bonds and impact investing, play in incentivizing private sector participation in conservation efforts in Colombia's biodiversity-rich regions, and how can these tools be tailored to ensure alignment? How can Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms be effectively utilized to manage biodiversity-related conflicts, particularly in disputes involving corporate activities, Indigenous communities, and environmental groups, while ensuring that both legal and biodiversity conservation goals are met?

Hosted by Univ Externado de Colombia, Instituto Interamericano de Justicia y Sostenibilidad (IIJS), IUCN, UNEP

Chair: Dr Ligia Catherine Arias-Barrera (Prof, Univ Externado de Colombia / Registered Expert, IMF / CEO, Financial Services Consulting LLP / ICC Working Group, Sustainable Finance)

Speakers / Discussants: Adv Fabio Andrés Bonilla Sanabria (Prof, Univ Externado de Colombia); **Adv Nicolás Lozada** (Prof, Univ Externado de Colombia)

Moderator: Adv Smriti Pokhrel (Law Officer, Nepal Law Commission / PhD Cand, Univ Victoria) & **Ms Gwynne Foster** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)

VIII. Roundtable Workshop: Strengthening environmental governance for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

How can the Escazú Agreement impact the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? How can environmental governance improve the protection and conservation of transnational and national protected areas? What is the role of the private sector and local and ethnic communities in the protection of biodiversity?

Hosted by Univ Externado de Colombia, Hicha Uaia, Vamos por los Derechos

Chair: Adv María Daniela De la Rosa (Associate, Holland & Knight LLP)

Speakers / Discussants: Adv Luis Felipe Guzmán Jiménez (Research Prof, Univ Externado de Colombia); **Adv Diana Quevedo Niño** (Researcher, Univ Externado de Colombia / Assoc Fellow, CISDL); **Adv Gisela Paredes** (Officer, Protected Areas Planning and Development, Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia); **Adv Adriana María Ruíz** (Coordinator, Innovation and Sustainability, Toronto Transit Commission); **Adv Laura Daniela Ballesteros Rojas** (Lawyer, Vamos por los Derechos) **Adv Mario Alejandro Ardila Castañeda** (Educator and Environmental Leader, Vamos por los Derechos); **Adv Claudia Lorena Esquivel García** (Assist Prof, Pontificia Univ Javeriana, Cali)

Moderator: Lucía Soto Rincón (Research Assistant, Univ Externado de Colombia) & **Natalia Andrea López Acero** (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BGLI)

IX. Leadership Roundtable: Youth Voices in Biodiversity Governance

How can youth-led initiatives advance biodiversity when grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child? What is the role of youth in biodiversity conservation and the legal frameworks? How can young leaders be empowered in in global biodiversity governance and policy-making?

Hosted by Voices of the Future Generations Children's Initiative (VOFG CI), Global Youth Council on Science, Law & Sustainability (GYC), Youth Negotiators Academy (YNA), Danish Youth Delegates to UN on Climate & Environment, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Global Landscape Forum

Chairs: Elianys (Ela) Martinez (CISDL, VoFG CI, GYBN) & **Marie-Claire Graf** (Youth Negotiators Academy)

VOFG Speakers / Discussants: Rehema Kibugi (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Ryan Hill** (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Saira Thomas** (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Freya Kotter** (Councillor, GYC / Child Author VOFG CI)

GYC Speakers / Discussants: **Nico Roman** (Chair, GYC / Child Ambassador VOFG CI); **Wezi Chilubanama** (Chair, GYC / Child Ambassador VOFG CI); **Thomas and Harry Langford** (Councillors, GYC); **Varnessa Varlyngton** (Youth Contributor, GYC); **Carlos Caballero** (Youth Contributor, GYC)

YNA Speakers / Discussants: **Sigurd Seindal Krabbe** (Danish Youth Delegate); **Lise Coermann Nygaard** (Danish Youth Delegate); **Alicia Maldonado** (Former Youth Negotiator)

Moderator: **Lucia Salazar Gomez** (Course Leader, DemEd Global) & **Bajjnath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)

14:00 – 15:15
COT

High-Level Plenary: Legal Dimensions of Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

How to advance the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by scaling up law and governance capacity, practice and reform?

Hosted by CISDL, Univ Cambridge, Univ Costa Rica, Univ Javeriana Cali, Univ Externado de Colombia

Chairs: Prof Jorge Cabrera (Univ Costa Rica / Lead Counsel, CISDL) & **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger** WIJA FRSC FRSA (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in SD Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge)

Plenary Speakers: Prof Cymie Payne (Prof, Rutgers Univ / Chair of Ocean Law Specialist Group, IUCN); **Tim Scott** (Senior Policy Advisor, Environmental Governance, UNDP); **Dr Harry Jonas** (Sr Director, WWF / Co-Chair, IUCN WCPA Specialist Group on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures); **Dr Claudia Ituarte-Lima** (Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights & Humanitarian Law-Lund University / Director, GNHRE), **Adv Kelly Sporn** (Special Counsel & Intl Head of Strategic Delivery - Sustainability & ESG, DLA Piper)

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15:15 – 15:45
COT

Closing & 2024 Global Biodiversity Law & Governance Leadership Awards

Closing address of BLGD 2024: Basile van Havre (Director-General, Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC)*

** Subject to change / invited but not confirmed.*



With special recognition to all BLGD 2024 Session Hosts:



With gratitude to our law journal, publishing and other partners:



And warmest of thanks to our academic collaborators:

