

Biodiversity Law & Governance Day 2024

During the COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia
Highlights and Outcomes Report

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

Join the Conversation on Twitter [#BLGD2024](#) [@BLGInitiative](#)

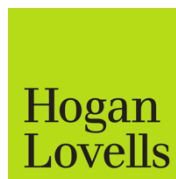
With all appreciation for the engagement of the UNCBD CoP



With warmest of thanks for the contributions of experts from leading international organisations:



And with our deepest gratitude to our platinum law firm sponsors:



Biodiversity Law & Governance Day 2024

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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity 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 Biodiversity Law & Governance Day 2024

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

HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTCOMES REPORT

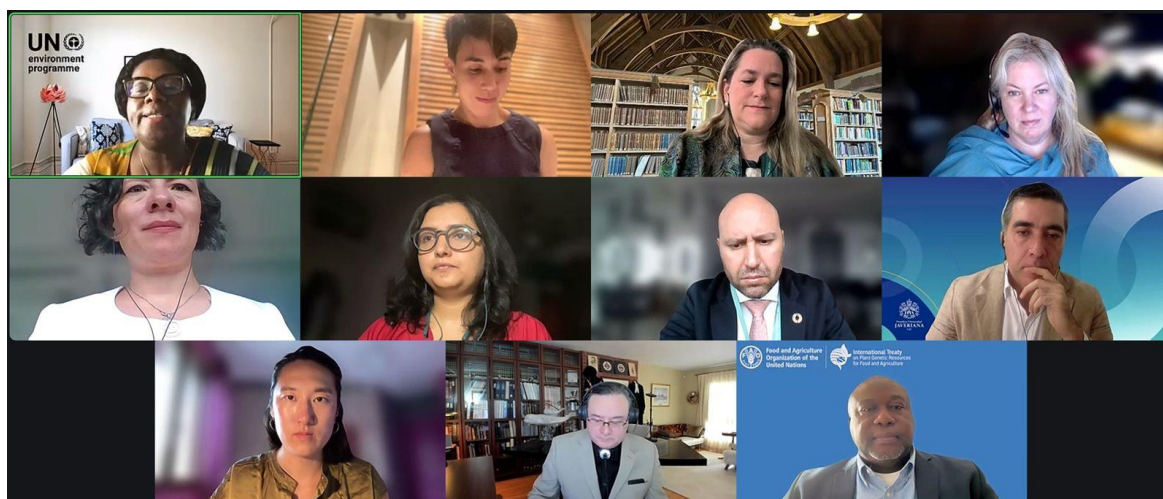
Welcome from Masters of Ceremonies: **Dr Daniel Ruiz De Garibay Ponce** (Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific University / Associate Fellow & BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL); **Adv Tejas Rao** (Senior Manager, CISDL / Research Coordinator, Univ Cambridge); **Eva Wu** (BLGI Programme Co-Coordinator, CISDL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

2024 Biodiversity Law & Governance Day Grand Opening

Chairs: **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger** WJIA 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)



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** WJIA 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)

Session outcomes: International treaty regimes support conservation and sustainable use by creating legally binding rules that help countries align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Treaties like the CBD and CITES motivate nations to establish goals, adopt sustainable practices, and ensure compliance through financial incentives. They also promote cooperation between countries, facilitating knowledge sharing and collective action. By involving Indigenous communities in decision-making and respecting their land rights and cultural practices, these treaties could strengthen biodiversity protection and empower Indigenous groups to manage their ecosystems effectively.

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 to 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)

Session outcomes: Financing for protecting biodiversity and the environment is still evolving. Demands of markets will influence the whole supply chain. Speakers referenced frameworks and projects. Value includes non-financial factors. Financial sustainability must still be proven. Biodiversity credit markets evolve with supply chain impacts. Non-financial values and financial sustainability remain key considerations.

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)

Closing: **Sydnee Wynter** (Child Author, VOFG-CI)

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)

Session outcomes: Much of the world's biodiversity is in territories of Indigenous peoples who have actively conserved biodiversity since immemorial time. Indigenous people across the world integrate deep respect and care for nature in their culture and spirituality. This is seen in the way they interact with nature and the value they place on them through numerous conservation efforts. The responsibility to implement changes needed rests on everyone who interacts with biodiversity, specifically, key actors like governments, non-state actors, businesses, NGOs, individuals must all come together to implement the necessary changes to protect biodiversity. An integral part of this would be collaborating with indigenous knowledge holders in all aspects of decision making as they have so much value to bring in this important and urgent call for action: As they say now, "Nothing about us without us." In addition to this, enforcing and complying with instruments such as the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement, Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement, Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement (IPECTA), Treaty of Hopewell with the Cherokees, or the Culverts Decision, is crucial to support indigenous stewardship.



Centre for International Sustainable Development Law

UNDRIP, SDGs and Indigenous Treaty Innovations

Indigenous Treaties Integrating the SDGs

Fostering or Frustrating: Canada's SDG Progress in the Eyes of Modern Treaties

Indigenous treaties with Canada, specifically modern treaties, likewise integrate SDGs and UNDRIP principles.

Our project analyzes each modern treaties to identify how Canada's progress in achieving the SDG targets are fostered or frustrated through the implementation of these treaty agreements.

The following slides provide preliminary examples of the analysis conducted to understand if Canada's observance of legally binding treaties are fostering or frustrating SDG progress.

6 Modern Treaties Analyzed through the 3 Pillars of Sustainable Development

1 Economy

2 Society

3 Environment





Ms. Elaina Cox (she/her)



Eva Wu

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) & **Bajinath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)*

Session outcomes: Synergies between international treaties, including the CBD, UNFCCC, and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights promotes a holistic approach to sustainable development that complies with environmental and human rights and promotes environmental peace building. This ensures that environmental decision-making is conducted through a human rights lens – to protect the human right to a healthy environment – and prevents the implementation of international law in siloes. Most, if not all, multilateral environmental agreements recognize the relationship between biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, poverty reduction, and the inclusion of Indigenous and local communities in decision-making. By implementing international law in a way that empowers those most affected by environmental degradation to share their knowledge and participate in decision-making, the Global Biodiversity Framework targets can be achieved. With environmental human rights defenders at the forefront of climate and biodiversity crises, their direct actions raise awareness about the critical linkages between environmental degradation and human rights violations. This urges states to address human and environmental rights issues concurrently, recognizing that they are two sides of the same coin.

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: **Bajinath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global) & **Lucia Salazar-Gomez** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)*

Session outcomes: Agroecology promotes empowerment and social justice providing a framework for NBSAPs. Agroecology is a way to preserve indigenous traditional knowledge in terms of biodiversity conservation by families of farmers locally. As an example, the Tanzania NBSAP showcase diverse initiatives for implementation. The coherence between CBD Target 10 of agroecology principles is evident and useful to guarantee social equity and secure land rights. For implementation, the democratic participation of IPLCs is key to overcome challenges as there is no land without agroecology and vice versa. Furthermore, government incentives as subsidies and cross-sectorial interventions with more available data is an asset.

The discussion was focused on land use and drivers of agroecology as well as pressing issues & stress on the impact of biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration that includes diversity of diet, and traditional & indigenous knowledge that could have the potential to protect people from climate shock. Land rights & land availability, in many countries, land belongs to the government in this case agroecological interventions are dependent on government initiation and policy related to land use management. However, in many African countries, the land belongs to the people but in case minerals and fossil fuels are found the government takes over the land forcefully, thus enforcing the people for induced migration, limiting agriculture and agro-ecology interventions.

Some of the arguments entail that genetic modification is not good in the long term at a large level, this limits the climate resistance of naturally grown seeds that are easily adaptable in local ecosystems. To protect from genetically modified seeds there is an urgent need to alliance with women's institutions, farmer institutions, and development partners, and also concerning the role of smallholder farmer and their institutions, they play a key role in the promotion and implementation of agro-ecological intervention.

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)

Session outcomes: International instruments of Biodiversity Law (BL), like the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention, may be used to better protect the biodiversity in armed conflict through two main processes. The first is the interpretation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in light of those conventions – such as the interpretation of the IHL principle of precaution as including the BL requirement of an environmental impact assessment. The second process is the application of those conventions alongside IHL, which raises the issues concerning their continued applicability in armed conflict, their scope of application in this situation and the existence of potential conflict of norms – such as between the IHL targeting ruled and Art. 6 of the World Heritage Convention. . That being said, the limited political willingness to acknowledge biodiversity-specific restrictions on States' capacities to “do war”, and the still lacking normative recognition of the application of environmental law instruments in armed conflict, particularly within the COP framework, along with the limited capacity among military personnel to understand and implement international environmental and biodiversity laws, remain a challenge for the integration of biodiversity protection alongside IHL. For more effective recognition of BL in armed conflict, the International Law of Armed Conflict team at UCLouvain is preparing a *Practitioners' Guide to the Protection of Biodiversity in Armed Conflict*, outlining a set of measures that advance the protection of biodiversity before, during and after an armed conflict.

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 Lledó** (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)

Session outcomes: The Ecocide Law aims to address the impact of industrial and commercial activities on the natural environment and local communities. The Ecocide Law in its current form will be difficult to implement, measure and govern. Each situation will be different, and terms such as “wanton” and “deliberate” and “long-term” create conditions that could be challenged after the event. Funding for development initiatives could be impacted.

Indigenous communities have a significant role in enforcing Ecocide law because of their strong ties to the environment and years of customary sustainable knowledge, making them key players in protecting ecosystems. For Indigenous Peoples, the land and biodiversity are central to their culture and way of life, driving their dedication to stopping large-scale environmental damage. Their traditional practices offer valuable insights that can enhance and support modern science. Likewise, youth also have an equally important role to play in boosting the impact of Ecocide law by bringing fresh energy and a sense of urgency to the fight against environmental destruction. As the generation is the most affected by the climate crisis, they're motivated to push for legal accountability and influence policies that help protect the environment. By shaping societal values and raising awareness, young people help create a culture of environmental responsibility. Their commitment to ecological justice can turn today's challenges into opportunities for resilience and a sustainable future.

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)

Session outcomes: Investing in nature opens significant opportunities, such as ecotourism and improved sales of Indigenous produce. Benefits include local skills development and increased returns to communities. Requirements include data standardisation and availability, value chain transparency, and compliance with laws and market requirements. Data integrity will address the risk of greenwashing. These can all be achieved with modern information technology. This is urgent. Funding and cohesive education and infrastructure programmes are present challenges.

Biodiversity-linked financial instruments, such as green bonds and impact investing, can redirect financial flows toward nature-based and tech-based solutions that enhance conservation efforts in Colombia's biodiversity-rich regions. By funding initiatives like ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture, these instruments address the biodiversity and climate crises while supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adjusting these financial products to focus on specific biodiversity goals ensures that investments support initiatives that benefit local ecosystems and communities. By integrating clear and sustainable practices into financial decision-making, one can build trust and inspire businesses to get involved, effectively directing resources toward successful conservation and sustainable development efforts.

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, BLGI)

Session outcomes: In the case of Colombia, as the country with the highest number of environmental defenders killed in the world, the Escazú Agreement provides for the protection of environmental defenders, which will reshape environmental governance. However, as local communities have a critical role in the monitoring of protected areas, their voices remain unheard in decision-making. This framework of environmental democracy may be upscaled through a "participatory turn" in which the contributions and views of steward communities become, not only inclusive, representative and effective -according to the CBD-, but binding. In consequence, studying governance allows us to identify the different approaches to what is understood by territory and development. The task of finding different approaches opens a space that encourages the participation of different actors, including ethnic communities which play a relevant role in the protection and conservation of protected areas. One of the most important contributions of communities is that they have ancestral knowledge and practices that are key to natural resources management. In this matter, one of the most important challenges is to be able to document these practices for the subsequent distribution of their benefits. Likewise, the private sector plays a role in the protection of biodiversity as they have the power to finance, incentivize and lead conservation initiatives, for example, through the implementation of biodiversity bonds.

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)

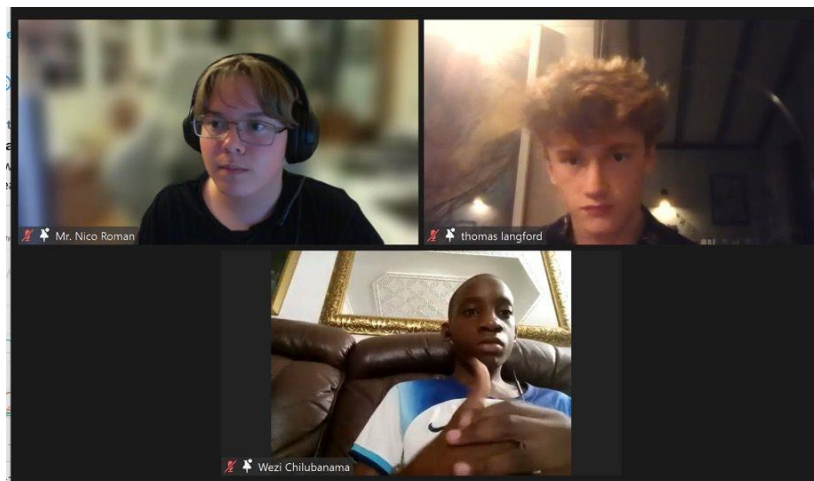
VOFG Speakers / Discussants: Rehema Kibugi (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Ryan Hill** (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Saira Thomas** (Child Author, VOFG CI); **Freya Kotter** (Councillor, GYC / Child Author VOFG CI)

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) & **Bajinath Kumar Paswan** (Course Leader, DemEd Global)

Session outcomes: Various youth leaders' experiences in promoting biodiversity conservation and their willingness to participate actively in system change. Young people can and should get involved in negotiations, so the importance of capacity building in biodiversity and climate change action is key. The importance of intergenerational advocacy in action and leadership for preserving healthy ecosystems. In various books written by young leaders to a young public, there is inspiration which contributes in different ways on improve human - nature relationship. For instance, by developing a website with accessible indicators in climate change and conservation nexus. The present-future generations recognise that decision-makers should be doing more provided more awareness of the planetary crisis. Finally, in a global scope there is a need to re-build trust in multilateral processes and for that youth inclusion is a solution.



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** ^{WJIA} 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)

Moderators: **Eva Wu** (BLGI Programme Co-Coordinator, CISDL / Prof Armand de Mestral Scholar, McGill Univ); **Adv Diana Quevedo Niño** (Researcher, Univ Externado de Colombia / Assoc Fellow, CISDL) & **Natalia Andrea López Acero** (MSc Cand, Univ Coll Dublin / Secretariat Member, BLGI)

Session outcomes: Implementation of international instruments, like the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, requires clear measures and goals. For example, objectively determined measures to reduce greenhouse gases and pollution are necessary to achieve the goals of frameworks like the Paris Agreement and the UNCLOS. There is also an emphasis that states must take the precautionary approach, recognize that everything is interconnected, and states with capacity must contribute more to rectifying environmental damage. Failure to take effect steps will expose the state to responsibility. Despite ongoing challenges at basic levels, there continues to be scaling up governance initiatives. This includes nature-based disclosure requirements, including Indigenous people as stakeholders, and integrated solutions for energy transitions. Conservation for biodiversity also needs to extend beyond conservation areas which is largely delivered by the stewards of those lands and through shared governance. Implementing these frameworks requires peace, both human-to-human and human-to-nature. This requires listening to the underrepresented and mind-set shifts for disclosure and financial instruments.



Closing & 2024 Global Biodiversity Law & Governance Leadership Awards

Closing address of BLGD 2024: **Basile van Havre** (Director-General, Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC) BLGI is honoured to present the 2024 Global Biodiversity Law & Governance Leadership Awards to **Sir Partha Dasgupta** (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Univ Cambridge); **Hon Ivonne Higuero** (Secretary General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES); and **Prudence Tangham Galega** (Cameroon / Former Secretary General, IPBES)

Sir Partha Dasgupta (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Univ Cambridge) is internationally renowned for his transformative work in economics and biodiversity, particularly through "The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review" commissioned by the UK government, and also awarded the prestigious Blue Planet Prize in 2015 as well as the UN's Champion of the Earth award in 2023.

Hon Ivonne Higuero (Secretary General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES) is celebrated for her extensive contributions to global biodiversity and sustainability as the first woman to lead the CITES. She has led several deeply essential initiatives related to biodiversity conservation, green economy, and sustainable trade across the UNECE and UNEP.

Prudence Tangham Galega (Cameroon / Former Secretary General, IPBES) is recognized for her expertise in environmental law and policy, especially as a judge and leading jurist in Cameroon and for her leadership as Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), where she significantly advanced policies to protect biodiversity in Cameroon and beyond.



With special recognition to all BLGD 2024 Session Hosts:



University
of Victoria



McGill
UNIVERSITY



FACULTAD DE DERECHO
Departamento de Derecho Comercial



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



IITIO



Cambridge Journal of
International Law



Wolters
Kluwer



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



MJSDL

McGill Journal
of Sustainable
Development Law



RDDDM

Revue de droit
du développement
durable de McGill



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

And warmest of thanks to our academic collaborators:



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Pontificia Universidad
Javeriana
Cali

Universidad
Externado
de Colombia

Université
de Montréal



University
of Victoria



Università
della
Svizzera
italiana



UNIVERSIDAD DE
COSTA RICA



McGill
Faculty of
Law Faculté de
Droit



BALSILLIE SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UQÀM



Observatoire
sur l'Agenda 2030
des Nations Unies



**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT
ENTERPRISE & DEVELOPMENT**
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO



UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL
AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO

ITAM

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO AUTÓNOMO DE MÉXICO