

Lyle Glowka



Lyle Glowka is the Senior Legal Advisor to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). A biologist and international lawyer, Glowka has been providing legal and policy advice on biodiversity-related issues to governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs for nearly 20 years. Prior to joining the CBD Secretariat in 2007, Glowka was with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species in Bonn, where he coordinated bi-diplomatic processes to develop and implement specialised international agreements and action plans for migratory species under that Convention's framework.

He was introduced to genetic resource access and benefit-sharing (ABS) issues at the United Nations Environment Programme while supporting the CBD's negotiating process from 1991-92. He was lead author on IUCN's 1993 explanatory guide to the Convention, was involved with a number of technical legal assistance projects to governments developing ABS legislation and has published widely on ABS issues including a 1998 IUCN guide on developing access legislation. He subsequently worked closely with the international hydrothermal vent research community on the conceptual basis underpinning the 2007 InterRidge Statement of Commitment to Responsible Research Practices at Deep-sea Hydrothermal Vents.

His 1995 seminal paper, subsequent article and advocacy on the genetic resources of the international seabed and marine scientific research placed the issue on the

international agenda. The issue is now being addressed by the UN General Assembly. His most recent publication “Evolving Perspectives on the International Seabed Area’s Genetic Resources: Fifteen Years after the ‘Deepest of Ironies’” (2010) reflects on some of the legal and technical developments since his original work on the issue.

Since joining the CBD in 2007 he has been a senior member of the Secretariat’s ABS team supporting the Nagoya ABS Protocol’s negotiation and adoption, and now provides support to its early entry into force and implementation.