

CBD Obligations: Getting To Grips With Governance

By

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Abstract

This paper briefly explores the linkages between the obligations ensuing from the Convention of Biological Diversity and current government institutional framework. Biodiversity governance in Malaysia is based on a complex network of government agencies that control various aspects related to biological resources; habitats; ecosystems; activities related to utilisation of resources; and impact management. Mapping the governance framework necessitates the detailing of institutional structures (looking at both jurisdiction and scope); systems deployed (tools used, e.g. laws); and processes involved (from policy making to management). The structure used to monitor implementation of CBD provisions via a host of programmes of work, can be used as a point of departure to identify stakeholders and roles. A preliminary study on the linkages between current institutional framework in Malaysia, National Biodiversity Policy strategies and CBD thematic and crosscutting areas was conducted to map the existing institutional landscape and identify initial gaps and potentials for the development of an integrative institutional framework based on either institutional structure coordination, systems coordination or process harmonization. Early results indicate that a comprehensive information system on stakeholders and the status, trends and threats to biodiversity is the required platform for integration to serve both national governance needs and CBD obligations.

¹ Sarah Aziz is a Research Fellow of LESTARI. Nurul Wahida Othman is credited as a Research Assistant at LESTARI who contributed to the project on which this paper is based on. Views, opinions, ideas and thoughts expressed herein are those of the first author's and do not in any way represent those of LESTARI.