

The 'Common Heritage of (Hu)Mankind' Principle and its Implications for the Governance of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Student: Hannah Witt Supervisor: Emily Reid and Andrew Serdy
(Southampton Law School, FSS)

Introduction

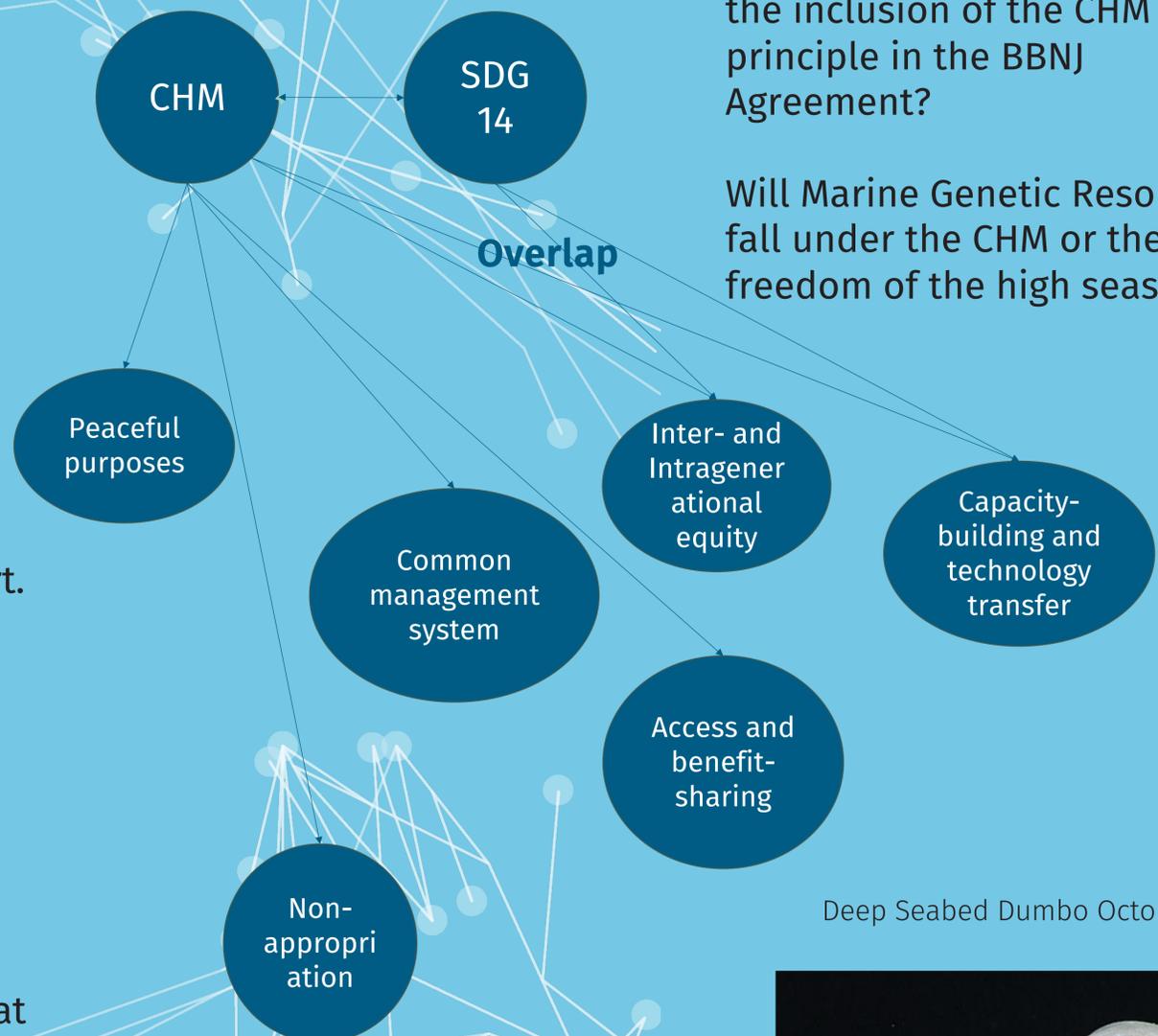
The BBNJ Agreement was adopted in 2023 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

A major point of contention between the global north and global south was the inclusion of the common heritage of humankind (CHM) principle (Art. 7(b)) and its application to marine-genetic resources (MGRs).

Aims and Objectives

My research aims to illustrate that the CHM applies to MGRs and it defines the elements that should be met to ensure the proper implementation of the CHM.

It is further argued that Sustainable Development Goal 14 (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and the CHM are mutually reinforcing, which could help guide how the CHM should be implemented in light of its inclusion in the BBNJ Agreement.



Research Questions

What are the implications of the inclusion of the CHM principle in the BBNJ Agreement?

Will Marine Genetic Resources fall under the CHM or the freedom of the high seas?

Deep Seabed Dumbo Octopus



Impact

Develop a normative framework that will assist us in protecting the marine environment in areas beyond national jurisdiction.