

Pacific Rim nations pioneered the development of access and benefit-sharing laws and policies and have faced a wide variety of technical and legal difficulties in designing and implementing novel access rules and regulations. The new laws must not only embody the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) but also take into account the beliefs and opinions of key sectors of society about how genetic resources and traditional knowledge should be used and administered. Implementation faces legal, conceptual, financial, and administrative obstacles that have prevented scientists from collecting plants and animals for taxonomic and other noncommercial research purposes. However, as countries around the world struggle with creating access regimes and implementing them, they find a dearth of information about the process and the experience of others. The purpose of this book is to address this vacuum, by a comparative analysis of national access and benefit sharing laws and policies in the 41 Pacific Rim countries that signed the CBD.

Book Description

The book provides key insights about the main characteristics of selected access and benefit-sharing (ABS) policies and laws, their development, and implementation process. The book consists of five main parts with a total of 14 chapters. Part I is a detailed comparative analysis of existing laws and policies; Part II presents four case studies of countries with regulations in place; Part III presents the contrasting situation with four case studies of countries that are struggling to develop their regulations; Part IV presents two perspectives of options for an international regime on ABS; and Part V presents a summary analysis of the main lessons and recommendations from the study. Parts I and V were written by the editors and the remaining chapters were developed by experts from Pacific Rim nations.

Potential Audience

- ◆ Social and political scientists in governmental agencies (dealing with policy development on ABS issues) and academia.
- ◆ National and international policy makers, ecologists, environmentalists, biodiversity conservation experts, and those involved in the collection of genetic resources all over the world.
- ◆ Faculty and students of political science, law, sociology, political economy of food, intellectual property rights, anthropology, and environmental science courses at universities throughout the world.
- ◆ Staff of international organizations such as the CBD, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and others.

Assessing Biodiversity and Sharing the Benefits: Lessons from Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity

Edited by Santiago Carrizosa, Stephen B. Brush, Brian Wright, and Patrick E. McGuire

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