

DUBIOUS CONCEPTS IN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GENETIC RESOURCE, BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE, AND BIODIVERSITY

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A review of conservation terms shows that a select number of them are conceptually flawed. The argument advanced stresses the fact that the controversy raised does not revolve around idiosyncratic interpretation. Rather, the polemic touches the very core of scientific epistemology and its foundations. The study gives particular attention to article 2 ('use of terms') of the Convention on Biological Diversity which shows conceptual inconsistencies. One neologism in particular, viz. biological resource, threatens the established acceptance and use of the term genetic resource. The analysis of article 2 reveals, among others, errors in three key concepts of conservation, namely genetic resource, biological resource, and biodiversity. It is argued that genetic resource and biological resource stand for the same thing, the latter is redundant. Because the definition of genetic resource is covered by the principle of priority, it has the primacy of use over the rival synonymous term biological resource. In turn, the standard concept of biodiversity, which regularly includes biotic and abiotic elements in its formulation, is equally shown to be defective. The term is not a definition in the sense of the word but rather a conglomerate with multiple elements. It is further argued that the sole inclusion of biological organisms in the definition of biodiversity suffices for the purposes of clarity, comprehensiveness, and fulfilment. Finally, because the Convention acts as an international legal binding document of the United Nations and ranks as an enforcing law among signatories of the letter, national legislations of state members are required to copy *verbatim* the terminology of article 2. This has perpetuated incongruities in official environmental documents and enforcing legislations. An amendment is opportune for article 2 of the Convention.

Key words: Concepts, Genetic Resource, Biological Resource