

Bioprospecting in Antarctica

Ethical, Equity & Environmental Issues

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What is bioprospecting

what is science

- Portable microbes
- Same activities - different purposes
- 'pure' science v. commercial 'exploitation'
- choice of language assumes moral choices
- 'just not cricket'
- morality and the law
- what we say v. what we do

Science isn't what it used to be

- Biotechnologists as the new 'masons'
- Academic institutions paying their way
- Academics 'getting rich quick'

- **So what?**
- Science and commerce are indistinguishable
- Controlling access can't make things ethical

Ownership and Control

in the Antarctic Treaty System

- Biodiversity Convention - new pragmatics
- Antarctic Treaty - the high moral ground
- Ethics and international law
- toothfish poachers and bioprospectors
- Getting the USA to 'muck in'

Sovereign Control and

Common Heritage of Mankind

- UNCTAD/UNCLOS/CBD/CPGR/WIPO
- CBD - the appropriate framework
- resource ownership critical for ethical use
- Access to genetic resources - start of the job
- Bonn Guidelines: "for the guidance of the wise and the observance of fools"

Conditionalities on

Intellectual Property Rights

- A domestic issue
- Countries of origin
- Chains of custody
- Equitable benefit sharing
- Reporting and disclosure
- Compulsory licencing

Corporate Ethics Opportunity or Oxymoron

- Government and Corporate commitments
- Citizens as consumers - the new power
- Ethical behaviour v. law enforcement

Environmental impacts

- Who learns from past mistakes
- Can commerce be trusted
- Embedded prospectors

- Biotech - a global threat and opportunity
- strange proteins in familiar guises
- another day