



UiT The Arctic
University of Norway

NCLOS
NORWEGIAN CENTRE
FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

From Seas to Cities

Exploring Spaces of Non-State Enforcement and
Implementation of International Environmental Law

Conference Program

6-7 October 2026,

UiT- The Arctic University of Norway,
Faculty of Law Tromsø, Norway



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Date: 6 - 7 October, 2026

Location: Tromsø, Norway, UiT, Teorifagbygget hus 1, Etasje 2, Rom 1.217 (Day1);
Teorifagbygget hus 4, Etasje 2, Rom 4.213 (Day2)

Organiser: UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law; Norwegian
Centre for the Law of the Sea

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About

The proliferation of international environmental law has been accompanied by a widening gap between its normative objectives and underlying realities. Although empirical research on 'living law' remains limited, both academic and compliance communities largely agree that the state supply of remedial measures in response to environmental degradation is far from satisfactory. The implementation and enforcement deficit is further exacerbated by the broader strains in inter-state cooperation affecting the post-WWII international order. Regardless of how these transformations reshape state-centric systems, deepened cooperation on enforcement and implementation is likely to remain a central concern, even under the most realistic scenarios.

At the same time, the trajectory of enforcement and implementation in international environmental law has never been linear. It has been shaped by a plurality of actors and normative orders, concurrent processes of fragmentation and harmonisation, and the interplay of reason and emotion. For one thing, non-state enforcement and implementation have been integral to the field's emergence and development, yet relevant debates have largely focused on how such 'ad-hoc' actions interact with, or at best substitute for, state-based orders. Meanwhile, many complex, parallel interactions that extend beyond state-centric vantage points remain unexplored. The latter is illustrated, in part, by reinvigorated but also polarised debates surrounding the recent wave of direct-action campaigns across the world, mostly in the context of climate change.

Against this background, this conference is open to exploring interdisciplinary perspectives on the pluralist remits of enforcing and implementing international environmental law. The objective is to explore the 'juridical field' that extends beyond concerns over states' falling short in their enforcement and implementation efforts. Participants are invited to reflect on the relevant questions from a range of perspectives, including legal, social-scientific, and normative-philosophical.

The conference aims to stimulate open discussion on the role of non-State actors in enforcing and implementing international environmental law. As you will notice, the sessions are organised under chapter headings suggesting a possible structure for future publication. The moderator of each session will summarise the discussions in writing, with the aim of progressively developing, over the course of the conference, a preliminary outline of the future publication

Opening drinks

Monday 5 October

18:00 – Welcome drinks at ‘No Stress’ bar (Storgata 55, 9008 Tromsø)

Day 1 - Tuesday 6 October

Welcome

9:30 – 10:00

- Conference Welcome

(TBC)

Faculty of Law, UiT – The Arctic University of
Norway

- Organiser’s Welcome

Gor Samvel

Faculty of Law, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway

Chapter 1 – Enforcement and Implementation in Spaces, Emotions, and Relationality of Non-State Actors

10:00 -12:15

- Implementing Repair in an Imploding World: Climate Change,
Reparations and International Law

Tim Lindgren (European University Institute, Department of Law)

- Challenging International Environmental Law’s Binaries

Anne Saab (Graduate Institute Geneva, International Law Department)

- Relating to Water, Relating to Each Other: Hope, Healing, and Care

Margherita Paola Poto (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law)

- Protecting Those Who Protect: Introduction to the mandate of Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention (a pre-recorded video intervention)

Michel Forst (Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention)

- Concluding remarks by Moderator

Nandor Knust (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law)

Location: UiT, Tromsø, Campus Breivika, Teorifagbygget hus 1, Etasje 2, Rom 1.217

Timing: 20-minute interventions, followed by 15-minute Q&A and discussion, and 10 minutes for moderators' concluding remarks.

Lunch Break 12:15 -13:15 | Teorifagkantine (Teorifagbygget)

Chapter 2 – Between State and Non-State Sovereignty

13:30 - 15:40

- From State to Non-State Sovereignty: The Rise of Private City-States

Francesco Pipicella (Uppsala University, Department of Law)

Coffee break

(14:05 -14:20)

- Between Public Mandate and Private Power: State-Owned Entities as Enforcers of International Environmental Law

Mihaela Barnes (Nomos Strategy Consulting)

- Enforcing global biodiversity goals through sovereign debt agreements: The case of TNC

Arinç Onat Kiliç (University of Antwerp, Faculty of Law)

- Concluding remarks by Moderator

Apostolos Tsionvalas (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law, NCLOS)

Location: UiT, Tromsø, Campus Breivika, Teorifagbygget hus 1, Etasje 2, Rom 1.217

Timing: 20-minute interventions, followed by 15-minute Q&A and discussion, and 10 minutes for moderators' concluding remarks.

Dinner

18:00-20:00- Venue (TBC)

(Speakers/Moderators)

Day 2 – Wednesday 7 October

Chapter 3 – Communitas and Authorities from Seas to Cities

9:30-11:50

- Beyond the State: Port Authorities, Passenger Terminals, and the Plural Enforcement of International Environmental Law at the Sea–Port–City Interface

Josep Lluís Díez i Besora (Rovira i Virgili University, Department of Private, Procedural and Financial Law | Tarragona Port Authority)

- Delegated Enforcement: Situating Sea Shepherd's Action within the Scope of Coastal State's Obligations under UNCLOS

Andrea Longo (NOVA School of Law and CEDIS, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)

Coffee break (10:40 -10:50)

- Contested Private Authority: NGOs, Local Coastal Communities and the Implementation of International Environmental Law

Michel Camille (University of Fribourg)

- Concluding remarks by Moderator

Mathilde Morel (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law, NCLOS)

Location: UiT, Tromsø, Campus Breivika, Teorifagbygget hus 4, Etasje 2, Rom 4.213

Timing: 20-minute interventions, followed by 15-minute Q&A and discussion, and 10 minutes for moderators' concluding remarks.

Lunch Break 12:00 -13:15 | Teorifagkantine (Teorifagbygget)

Chapter 4 – Operationalising and Enforcing: Non-State Actors Behind State Obligations

13:30 - 14:50

- Who Enforces International Environmental Law? Private Litigation Beyond the State

Inbar Dryan (University of Haifa, Faculty of Law)

- "The role of NGOs in the operationalization of States' international fisheries obligations"

Eva R van der Marel (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law, NCLOS))

- Concluding remarks by Moderator

Mana Elise Hera Tugend (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law, NCLOS)

Location: UiT, Tromsø, Campus Breivika, Teorifagbygget hus 4, Etasje 2, Rom 4.213

Timing: 20-minute interventions, followed by 15-minute Q&A and discussion, and 10 minutes for moderators' concluding remarks.

**Coffee break
(14:50 -15:00)**

Chapter 5 – In the trenches of implementation and enforcement

15:00-16:20

- The Law Enforcement NGO model: Experience of Wildlife Law Enforcement in Africa

Ofir Drori (The EAGLE Network (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement))

- What does it take to have an alternative (non-state) normative order of enforcement of international environmental law?

Gor Samvel & Nandor Knust

- Concluding remarks by Moderator

Nathalie Otroschi (UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Law)

Location: UiT, Tromsø, Campus Breivika, Teorifagbygget hus 4, Etasje 2, Rom 4.213

Timing: 20- 25-minute interventions, followed by 10- 15-minute Q&A and discussion, and 10 minutes for moderators' concluding remarks.

Chapter 6 - Concluding remarks

16:20-16:50

- All participants facilitated by Nandor Knust and Gor Samvel

Practical information

The Arctic Weather

Early October is still fall in the Arctic, and usually it rains a lot during this month. The first snowfall of the season happens already in September or October, but the weather is **very shifty**, so you can expect both snow and rain. So, keep that in mind when packing.

Getting around

Getting to the hotel from the Tromsø Airport

Local bus — take bus 42/40 from Tromsø lufthavn toward the city centre and get off at Nerstranda/Wi-To. The bus stop at the airport is behind the semi-underground parking lot. After leaving the arrival hall, take the stairs down and walk through. The ride is about 18–20 minutes, and the hotel is just a short walk from the stops. You can get tickets either at the stop or via the [Svipper app](#).

Airport Express (if with luggage) — take the Airport Express (Flybussen) and get off at Prostneset Bus Terminal, which is right by The Edge. The trip is roughly 20 minutes. [Departure timetable](#).

Taxi — Taxis wait outside arrivals. It takes approximately **10 minutes** to the hotel and typically costs around **NOK 300-350**

Getting to the university campus

Take bus 34 from Nerstranda stop to UiT stop (approximately 15 minutes)

Getting to the conference room

Walk from UiT stop to the Mix Kiosk (towards Teorifagbygget hus 1). The organisers will meet you at the Kiosk and take you to the conference room. Please consult the [Campus Map](#).

Social Activities

[Read more about Tromsø on Visit Tromsø's websites!](#)

Inquiries

Inquiries with respect to practical matters should be directed to Gor Samvel gor.movsisyan@uit.no:
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