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# **The Principle of Common Heritage of Mankind and the Management of Common Pool Resources**

— A Comparative Study on the Concepts and the Institutional Designs

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## Abstract

Most of the environmental problems result from the over-exploitation and use of the so-called “common pool resources.” From the perspective of the global commons, these resources are characterised as either the “common heritage of mankind” or the “common concern of mankind,” and are regulated under various treaty regimes. From a more localised perspective, these common pool resources—located within the territories of nation states—are managed according to national laws. This article, through a preliminary literature review, contemplates to explore and compare the management regimes of the common pool resources at different scale, i.e. those under the “common heritage of mankind” and those under the domestic “common pool resources” management regime. The result of this research concludes that, there is no ideal management regime that can be applied to the use of the common pool resources of different scale. Different institutional designs and management tools are needed to accommodate the use of the common pool resources of different scale. Nevertheless, characteristics common to different man-

agement regimes might be applicable to the use of such resources of different scale, if sufficient flexibilities exist so that they can be adapted to meet the need of the use of the common pool resources at different scale.

Keywords: Common Heritage of Mankind, Common Concern of Mankind, Common Pool Resources, Resources Management