The Svalbard Global Seed Vault has in the course of its brief history succeeded in acquiring an important position in the world. The cold mountain chamber, filled with the agriculture history of mankind, is and will remain the most important room in the world.

The need for the seed vault stems from an increasing pressure on the earth's resources. This book presents in a unique fashion the seed's fundamental significance for all life on earth, the background for the establishment of the seed vault, and the challenges we face in terms of future world food supply.

Pål Hermanussen is a professional author, photographer, dentist and homeopath. He has extensive knowledge of a wide range of fields, and is one of Norway's leading authors of books on nature-related subjects for the general public. Hermanussen has until now published some 25 titles. As a photographer he works to a large extent within the international market and his credits include a number of exhibitions, and publications in well-known magazines, such as National Geographic Magazine, Geo and Orion. He was chosen by the BBC as one of the world's 10 leading photographers in the field of nature. A number of his photographs have won awards in competitions including World Press Photo and Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Hermanussen is associated with the Norwegian Society of Fine Art Photographers, and is an honorary member of the Norwegian Nature Photographers Association.

In the high Arctic, above Europe and below the Polar ice cap, lies a cold, barren and barely inhabited Arctic land, the Svalbard island group. Its geography is deceptive, as it teems with plant and animal life, and the surrounding pack ice still is a secure habitat for the polar bear, king of the Arctic.

The rough, dishevelled sweep of the landscape and the exquisite interplay with a distinctive lighting impart a lasting impression. Here the landscape dwarfs the individual; a visit to this Arctic Land is a spiritual as well as a physical experience. Once you've been here, you will return again.

Svalbard – Arctic Land is a fantastic portrayal in text and supreme photographs that set a stage of description and beauty that appeals to the imagination and triggers associations, reflections and dreams. It invites viewing.

Do you want to know more about Svalbard?