

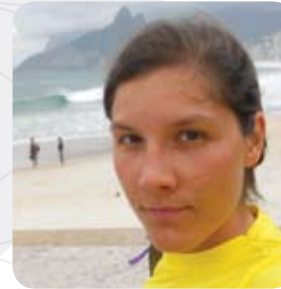
# END ECOCIDÉ

A GLOBAL CITIZENS' INITIATIVE  
TO PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS

*Future generations depend on present decisions*



**End Ecocide  
on Earth**



**Maja Horvat**  
**EEE country coordinator, Slovenia**

Humanity is on a new quest. Many call it changing our paradigm of old and out-lived fossil fuels and continued exploitation of natural resources, we call it active citizenship and recognition of the Rights of Nature. We are a group of citizens, just like you, and we feel something has to be done in order to preserve our species and the planet as a whole.

End Ecocide on Earth as our initiative is called now, started as an European Citizens' Initiative, because we wanted to tell our European leaders we care about Nature and we wanted to use democracy as a tool to be heard. But as our initial path began on the European level, the challenge of Ending Ecocide grew and is still growing much bigger, so we decided we have to change the name. We have thus become a global community, a grassroots movement now called End Ecocide on Earth. For Earth is one thing we all have in common.

The first steps were of course the hardest, but when you include passionate and committed people from all over the world, every step seems to be lighter. We are all volunteers which makes this movement so much more special and unique. We want to take responsibility for our actions and we are aware that what we do today will set a future world for next generations. And that is why we also want to mobilise young people so that they realise it is in their power to change anything, as long as they get active. Our team consists of many different profiles, ages, races and mindsets and it's truly amazing to see the results we are achieving.

We started with a European Citizens' Initiative, followed by several volunteer trainings, attended and initiated many smaller and bigger actions, conferences, workshops and protests all throughout Europe. We have initiated a global call to establish a European and an International Criminal Court of the Environment and Health, to end Ecocide on Earth and organized a Brussels Conference of Ecocide. But we do not end here, because Nature still needs our voice and humanity still needs to realize the importance of a sustainable living in harmony with Nature. We need to remember them. As the Indian legend goes »There will once come a tribe of all colours and all races and these warriors will teach peoples of the world how to have love and reverence for Mother Earth.«

This booklet represents our movement, what we want to achieve and how we plan to do it. Read in the following pages about the concept and history of ecocide. Learn about the activities we organised for the European Citizens' Initiative, our values, vision, and mission, and the new strategy.

We realise we can't do it alone, so we have invited other experts from different fields of expertise such as Health, Law, Environment, Economics, and the Entertainment industry to give us their insight and opinions. Meet some of our supporters and explore some examples of ecocide.



**Prisca Merz**  
**Initiator European Citizens' Initiative**  
**End Ecocide in Europe**

Over two and a half years ago I heard about Ecocide for the first time – and the concept immediately convinced me. What a genius idea: criminal liability for large-scale environmental destruction. Exactly what we need, I thought!

As I knew the instrument of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI, i. e. the voice of 1 million EU citizens requiring the European Commission to react), I suggested to start an ECI on Ending Ecocide. Said and done! What began as a crazy brainstorming idea, started to take shape. We started building the team, finding more and more volunteers, friends, companions and supporters. We submitted all paperwork required by the European Commission – and on January 22nd 2013 finally the day had come where we could start collecting signatures. Throughout Europe we organised numerous activities - which you can read about in the following pages - and encouraged EU citizens to vote for ending ecocide in Europe and beyond.

The somewhat sobering conclusion of this experience is that it needs money and human resources – a marketing campaign with a team of qualified full time employees – to reach out to millions of people – something a volunteer-run grassroots initiative simply cannot achieve. Nevertheless, while we failed to collect 1 million signatures, this initiative still has been a success. We did make the concept much more known throughout Europe and built a coalition of supporters, partners, and followers who will continue to work on this for the future. We have also brought together many experts working on these issues and connected them with civil society – something that was missing so far. Because the only way to implement the law of ecocide prevention is to have three things: a sound legal proposal, which can withstand criticism, political will, but most importantly a vibrant civil society demanding the radical change we need. Because politicians will only ever act when citizens demand such action.

That's why this initiative has been so important. It has contributed to raising the awareness, built a pan-European and beyond team of like-minded individuals willing to take action to achieve a world in which ecosystems are legally protected.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank every individual who has been part of this journey: first and foremost all our wonderful team members, our partners and supporting groups and organisations who have shared our information and encouraged their members to sign, the political leaders who have spoken out in support of the law of ecocide prevention, as well as leaders from other areas such as the arts, fashion, economy, academia, etc, and most importantly every individual who has exercised their legal power to vote for the proposed Ecocide Directive and forwarded the information to their friends and family. Without you, none of this would have been possible!

We are at a crossroads now, as the European initiative has come to an end – but this is a great opportunity to look ahead to the future. I'm excited what it will bring and wish the next generation of End Ecociders all the best! Don't forget what Margaret Mead so wisely said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". Together we have the power to make the change happen that the Earth, our Home, so urgently needs!



End Ecocide is a grassroots movement aimed at **protecting ecosystems** on which all life on earth – including human – depends. The main idea is intriguingly simple: **The destruction of ecosystems must become a crime.** A crime for which both, decision-makers in business and government, as well as their organisations can be held accountable. This crime has a name: **Ecocide.**

Eco-cide derives from the Greek “oikos” meaning “house” or “home” and the Latin “caedere” meaning “stike down, demolish, kill”. It literally translates to killing our home.

Ecocide has been defined by international lawyer Polly Higgins as **the extensive damage to, destruction of or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory** to such an extent that peaceful enjoyment by the inhabitants of that territory has been or will be severely diminished.

The proposed Ecocide crime is fundamentally different from existing environmental legislation. First of all, it proposes the application of criminal law to cases of environmental destruction, a novelty in many countries.

Second, it looks at entire ecosystems. While under existing law interdependencies and connections between the elements contributing to life are neglected, the law of ecocide prevention applies a holistic perspective and offers the possibility to account for interdependencies.

The law of ecocide prevention further shifts the focus from assessing risks and probabilities towards assessing potential consequences of an activity: if an activity has potentially devastating consequences, this activity must not be allowed. This constitutes an important change of perspectives and encourages decision-makers to apply the precautionary principle.

## Strategy

The ultimate goal of the initiative is that ecocide will be recognised as a crime around the world. This means not only national ecocide crimes in all states but also the recognition that ecocide is an international crime which can be enforced with an international court. To that end, ecocide should be incorporated into the Rome Statute as international Crime against Peace under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. This can be achieved via an amendment of the Rome Statute which the Head of any State party can propose. We advocate for ecocide to be included as a crime without intent, applying to individuals (according to the principle of superior responsibility) and corporations.

From the initial step of launching a European Citizen’s Initiative to the recent launch of the Charter of Brussels and the Alliance for International Justice of the Environment and Health, the story of End Ecocide has evolved and gained momentum. Read more in the following pages, but first an excursion into the history of the concept.

### Why do we need the law of ecocide?

- to act as one law to end different types of environmental destruction
- to hold decision-makers directly liable and accountable
- to preserve and protect biodiversity
- to protect entire ecosystems, not just individual elements such as soil, air, fauna & flora
- to trigger the transformation to a sustainable and low-carbon economy
- to honour our duty to future generations
- to contribute to a shift in values recognising the earth’s intrinsic value



**Prof. Damien Short PhD**  
**Human Rights Consortium and Senior Lecturer**  
**in Human Rights**

The term 'ecocide', the extensive destruction of ecosystems, has been around since at least the 1970s. Remarkably, Prof Arthur Galston, the scientist whose discovery led to the development of Agent Orange, responsible for wide-spread destruction of Vietnam, was among the first who called for a new international agreement to ban ecocide. Following a civil society movement in the 1970s, ecocide has been the subject of academic and legal debate for over 40 years and a version of the crime was included in the draft of the Rome Statute establishing the international Crimes against Peace. However, it failed to make it through to the final version. The trajectory of the crime of 'ecocide' and its relation, 'extensive environmental damage', through the UN system is a complex and somewhat murky story. The Ecocide Research Project at the University of London has brought together many documents to shed a light on this tale but further research, particularly regarding the manner of demise, is needed.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the idea of expanding the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to include a specific section on 'ecocide' led to extensive studies and consultation within the United Nations. But when the Genocide Convention revisions came to nothing three options were discussed on how to include extensive environmental destruction (with no specific mention of the word 'ecocide') into the draft Code of Offences Against the Peace and Security of Mankind (the 'Code'), the precursor to the Rome Statute establishing the ICC: 1) as stand-alone crime, or 2) including under Crimes against Humanity, or 3) including under War Crimes. The 1991 version of the Code included draft Article 26: "An individual who wilfully causes or orders the causing of widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment shall, on conviction thereof, be sentenced ...". The commentary to this article clarified that the scope of the crime should apply to both, times of peace and war. As environmental crime was highly contested, a working group was established inside the International Law Commission to look into the issue of 'wilful and severe damage to the environment'. Its chair clearly demonstrated why the destruction of the environment would fit in the context of the Code and thus also in today's Rome Statute. Nevertheless, after a series of somewhat arbitrary dilutions, Article 26 was eventually withdrawn from the draft Code, most likely it seems following political pressure from a few countries, including the Netherlands, UK, France, Brazil, and the US.

The only remainder in the Rome Statute was Article 8.2.b.iv under the war crimes "intentionally launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause [...] widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment which would be clearly excessive in relation to the [...] military advantage anticipated". Without sanctions nor liability for negligence or carelessness, as well as the additional requirement of being 'excessive' compared to 'military advantage', the Rome Statute's formulation constituted a significant step backwards. To date no single party has been convicted of the environmental war crime.

Extensive debates over 40 years, with committees of experts specifically tasked to undertake examination of ecocide and environmental crimes, tell us that this was well-considered law; from the outset with 'ecocide' as a potential method of genocide, and with subsequent formulations as a stand-alone Crime Against Peace – both during war and peacetime. With the rapidly proceeding depletion of resources and increasing destruction of ecosystems, the time has come to revisit the earlier discussions and implement ecocide as the missing Crime against Peace it is. The citizens' initiative is both timely and vital in our fight against the perfect storm of dwindling resources, species and habitat destruction and potential runaway climate change.

### **History of ecocide - key dates**

- 1950s: first discussions of the concept
- 1972: United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment: Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, calls Vietnam war "outrage sometimes described as ecocide"
- 1973: Draft Ecocide Convention (focused on environmental warfare)
- 1980s: Ecocide considered by the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and environmental destruction discussed by the International Law Commission
- 1990: Vietnam makes ecocide a domestic crime
- 1991: Ecocide listed as Crime Against Peace in the draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind (precursor to the 1998 Rome Statute): only three countries are on record as having opposed its inclusion; namely the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America
- 1995: withdrawn from the project of the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court
- 1998: Rome Statute adapted, making ecocide a war crime (Art 8.2.b.iv)
- 2010: Polly Higgins delivers her definition of ecocide to the International Law Commission
- 2013: Start of the European Citizens' Initiative
- 2014: Launch of the Charter of Brussels and the Alliance for International Justice of the Environment and Health



End Ecocide in Europe was born out of a bold vision: to end the destruction of ecosystems. This can be achieved using a relatively new tool of direct democracy in Europe: The European Citizens' Initiative. 1 million EU citizens can thus call on the European Union to implement specific legislation.

We thus started a European Citizens Initiative with the goal to implement a European Ecocide Directive which would criminalise ecocide in five cases:

- On EU territory, or
- committed by EU citizens, or
- committed by EU companies, even if happening outside Europe
- The import of goods and services resulting from activities causing ecocide into the EU; or
- The financing of activities causing ecocide by EU banks and other financial institutions, no matter where these activities take place

The initiative was run on an entirely voluntary basis, with virtually no financial resources, with the exception of donations via the website, together with a grant from the EU's Youth in Action programme, supporting some of our activities involving in particular young people.

Our team was based in countries all across Europe, including young and old. At times, the team consisted of over 400 members, active on the local, national or European level. As grassroots initiative, we see ourselves as evolving movement, always happy to welcome new ideas and people.

### **Our Values**

- Empathy and Care · Determination · Endurance and Courage · Optimism · Authenticity
- Groundedness, and self-reflectiveness

### **Our Vision**

A healthy and sustainable planet where we, future generations, and all living beings, live in harmony in nature.

### **Our Mission**

Protect ecosystems by creating a legal and moral framework to prevent and outlaw ecocide.

### **What is a European Citizens' Initiative?**

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is a democratic tool allowing EU citizens to propose EU legislation. When one million citizens from at least 7 EU countries support an ECI via electronic or traditional signature, the European Commission will have to consider the legislative proposal and a public hearing will be held in the European Parliament. Voting for an ECI is thus much more than signing a petition, it's exercising your legal right to participate in the political process.

## **Our journey to End Ecocide**



24 August 2012: The team establishing the European Citizens' Initiative to End Ecocide in Europe and beyond met for the first time. We had a workshop with Polly Higgins on the Ecocide Law and brainstormed our strategy, activities, and ways to recruit further team members.



September - December 2012: Hard work on documentation for the European Commission, certification of the online system, strategy work, and so on.



22 January 2013: Official launch of the ECI in the European Parliament. From the start, the citizens' initiative was supported by MEPs Keith Taylor (UK), Eva Joly (France), and Jo Leinen (Germany). Later, many others joined our supporters.



22-25 May 2013: Our spokesperson Valérie Cabanes at the 5th World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes, France, in an interview with Nnimmo Bassey.



4-7 June 2013: End Ecocide in Europe present as only European Citizens Initiative (ECI) at the Green Week in Brussels.



Kadri and Prisca from our team together with Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik.



# THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE TO END ECOCIDE IN EUROPE



July 2013: Our supporting MEPs Ulrike Lunacek and Eva Joly requested the law of ecocide prevention at Belo Monte dam in Brazil, one of the sites where ecocide is occurring right now.



21 September 2013: Hands UP to End Ecocide. Volunteers throughout Europe paint their hands on the international day of peace to show their support for End Ecocide.



End Ecocide Flashmob by the Austrian Team



31 January 2014: After finishing ECI, we launched the next chapter on our journey: The Charter of Brussels calling for a European and International Criminal Court of the Environment and Health - because without a court, an ecocide law cannot be enforced. For this, we joined hands with renowned experts, such as the Association of Former Ministers of the Environment, GLOBE (Legislators for the Environment) and the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment.



August 2013: Row and his creative crew produced the amazing Eradicating Ecocide Rap. Check it out on Youtube.



September 2013: Some of our most active volunteers and new people wanting to get more involved met in the beautiful village of Bad Breisig, Germany, to learn more about ecocide, the ECI, campaigning, communication, and all other skills needed to promote End Ecocide effectively.



5 December 2013: An ECI that works



11 December 2013: The European Economic and Social Committee has invited Prisca to present the initiative, starting a very interesting debate.



Different activities from around Europe with our volunteers.







**Perspectives from Estonia:**  
**Kadri Kalle, „Lõpetame ökotsiidi Euroopas“  
campaign leader**

Author Mark Kurlansky states in his book „Non-violence“ that we do not have a word of its own for non-violence, we just have „the absence of violence“. And he wonders whether we would have less violence in the world, if we would have a more active word for it. End Ecocide campaign had similar aim for me: as human world starts with the definitions we make in our heads, would environmental destruction be taken more seriously, if we had a specific word for it?

Of course our objective was to collect 1 million signatures across Europe but to me the bigger goal was always to plant the word „ecocide“ into society to start shifting the way we look at nature and our behaviour regards it.

As I happened to be one of the founding people behind ECI „End Ecocide in Europe“ and the only one representing tiny European country Estonia, I suddenly became the country coordinator for it. I've always said that most of the things that happened were out of luck or because Estonia is simply a small country. So during the weekend after I got back from our ECI launch in Brussels, I translated our press release into Estonian and sent it to one volunteer-based environmental news portal in Estonia. Two days later, at 7 am, I was already in live studio of our national TV station's morning programme, explaining what is ecocide and what is our initiative about. And all that before I even had managed to start putting together a country team.

So the start was fast and first couple hundred votes came flooding in. But of course, the majority still had to be convinced. And introducing a new word and explaining rather complex legal proposal in a country, where most people (even the green ones) are skeptical about everything new, was not easy. Even recruiting team members took its time and explaining. But we did manage to form a small team and even organise some activities.

Like said, we were lucky with many things. When representing End Ecocide in Green Week in Brussels, I happened to be next to Prisca, when she approached Commissioner

Potočnik, and so I ended up in the same picture with them as well. And then it was just a matter of catching an Estonian journalist at Green Week, send him the picture and next week it was in one of Estonia's biggest newspapers. But our biggest ally was actually a rap singer who last year also happened to be a head of one of Estonia's national radios, which is especially popular among younger generation. He saw that picture in the newspaper and got in touch, asking if we could make a whole thematic week about ecocide in the radio. So we ended up with 5 live shows on air, plus promotion banners all over their facebook page and different radio hosts mentioning ecocide in their own shows. Not to mention that the rapper himself even called people to vote in one of his concerts! So, here I give my thanks to Henry Kõrvits aka Genka.

The challenge to explain ecocide to people still remains, of course. But no big idea gets accepted and implemented fast. And when I now google the Estonian word „ecocide“, I find a specific thematic media page for that. And that is a good start.



**Youth organisation, not only participation**  
**Paulo Gaspar, Portuguese coordinator**

I discovered End Ecocide in Europe online through one of the many Facebook groups I have joined.

Today loads of information circulates in the web and Facebook is today's coffee-shop and today's central square where people gather to meet and share ideas. This is the first important aspect of my participation in this project: sharing ideas and spreading them. Then, how to choose the relevant information in this web chaos? Why did I get involved in this initiative?

The answer is the second aspect: I felt motivated somehow. I got interested because it was a real youth-run citizens' initiative even I had never been involved in an environmental project before. It can seem obvious that motivation is a key factor but this is still one of the main reasons why young people do not participate. Actually we are tired of false youth projects in which all the concepts are already built and just need to be executed.



In End Ecocide the idea and the campaign needed to be built and young people were not invited to participate in the end. This project was youth organisation and not only youth participation.

Finally, keeping the motivation a year was not an easy task. However, I was given the opportunity to challenge myself all the time. I just needed to write an email to become a volunteer and I finished to be coordinating a marvellous team in Portugal, learning how to make a campaign happen and now (it is still hard to believe) we are in Brussels organising a conference.

Young people just need the opportunity to involve and not just to be involved, to organise and not just to participate. I believe this is what makes a citizens' initiative come true.



Portuguese team

## Our new strategy to End Ecocide on Earth

***End Ecocide on Earth is a global grassroots movement aimed at protecting ecosystems on which all life on earth - including human - depends. And you're part of it!***

The main idea is intriguingly simple: **the destruction of ecosystems must become a crime**. A crime for which those in positions of superior responsibility can be held accountable according to criminal law.

This crime has a name: ***Ecocide, defined as extensive damage or destruction of ecosystems of a given territory.***

The ultimate goal of the initiative is that ecocide will be recognised as a crime around the world. This means not only national ecocide crimes in all states but also the recognition that ecocide is an international crime which can be enforced with an international court. To that end, ecocide should be incorporated into the Rome Statute as international Crime against Peace under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. This can be achieved via an amendment of the Rome Statute, which the Head of any State party can propose.

The European Citizens' Initiative has raised considerable awareness in Europe and beyond for the concept of ecocide and has led to a first debate within the European institutions about this concept. But this is not enough. Because ecocide is global and affects people across the world, in particular in countries with higher amounts of resource extraction. That's why we are now becoming End Ecocide on Earth.

It is in our collective power to make this change happen, in the years to come till 2017. This is the radical change we need, and we are building a global movement to make it a reality. The first step is to focus on the upcoming COP21 Climate Conference in December 2015 in Paris for which we aim to create huge public momentum supporting End Ecocide.

***We plan to pursue our goal via the following 3 pillars of our strategy:***

## **Global Call for International Justice for the Environment & Health**

We have initiated and written with 9 other organisations the "Charter of Brussels", a global call requesting the establishment of a European and an International Criminal Court of the Environment and Health. The Charter calls for the recognition of environmental crimes as crimes against Humanity and Peace by the United Nations. The Charter is now open for signatures by individuals and organizations and will be handed over to Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, during the COP21 Climate Conference in December 2015 in Paris.

Let's join our forces by signing the Charter of Brussels and show our political leaders that the civil society demands environmental justice, by

1. Signing the Charter of Brussels 2014 on the website: <http://iecc-tpie.org>
2. Promoting the initiative to your members and your networks via your website, your Facebook page, your newsletter... and encouraging them to sign the Charter of Brussels.
3. Actively engaging civil society around the world, including you, to publicize this initiative to the different opinion leaders and decision-makers in your country, asking them to support our proposed amendment of the Statute of the ICC, which will be presented in 2015.

More info can be found on the website of the Charter (in 11 languages), including a communication kit, the main principles and the objectives of the initiative.

**Besides supporting the Charter of Brussels, we see it also very important to raise public awareness in the streets and therefore plan a**

## **Social Mobilisation Campaign for COP21**

At the COP21 in December 2015, we plan to mobilise tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters in the streets to demonstrate our dedication in protecting our Planet and Future Generations by asking to stop dangerous industrial activities.

Till then local volunteers lobbying, politicians and local NGOs, supported by End Ecocide steering group visits, will prepare the field for a star shaped march to Paris. Groups will start from Ecocide sites in Europe and converging in Paris, supported by flash mobs in Paris and throughout Europe. In addition, the longest press conference in history discussing ecocide cases around the world will be organised including a mock trial of oil pollution in Nigeria with the help of Friends of the Earth Nigeria.

We encourage the End Ecocide team members as well as all other interested activists to join all events in the world preparing the COP21 conference throughout the year 2015, to raise awareness for the law of ecocide prevention. The preparations are organised by Climate Justice coalitions and movements.

Volunteers can explain End Ecocide on Earth's strategy and invite other organisations to join the Global Call, to sign and promote the Charter founding a global network of volunteers and NGOs that are united in bringing justice to our planet and nature.

A planned website showing the progress of our mobilization campaign is currently implemented at <http://cop21.endecocide.org>

**And finally we need to work out a detailed legal proposal on how to enforce justice for our planet by drafting a**

## **Concrete proposal of Criminal Law recognizing Ecocide**

Under the lead of End ecocide on Earth, a legal and scientific working group of renowned international experts is set up and will meet personally on the 14th of October 2014. The expert group will prepare a draft amendment to the Rome Statute in order to include, within the ICC prerogatives, environmental and health crimes. Organisations joining the Charter's global call and the expert working group commit to lobby with us the different opinion leaders and decision-makers in their country, asking them to support the proposed amendment of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. The process of revision of the statute is very simple: one member state shall propose the amendment to the UN Secretary-General, who then distributes the proposal to the other member states during a general assembly or convenes a revision conference.

## **The ultimate goal**

The draft amendment will be given to the UN Secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon, the latest at the COP 21, by representatives of member states of the ICC supporting the text, together with the civil society petition asking for an International Criminal Court of the Environment & Health. The next revision conference already planned will not meet before January 1st 2017. This is why we shall continue lobbying throughout the year 2016 to get as many members states on board as possible before the Revision Conference, and make our wish into a reality.

**To celebrate the new age of the End Ecocide movement becoming global, End Ecocide on Earth invites you to come to a free Public Conference on 13-14 October in Brussels. Over 170,000 citizens have supported our call on EU leaders to implement the law of ecocide prevention in Europe. As the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has closed, End Ecocide on Earth is born - as the whole world is affected by ecocide.**





## WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...



**Vivienne Westwood**  
*English fashion designer*

Our financial rulers and the politicians who help them are playing a giant game of Monopoly with the world's finite resources - completely abstract from reality - even though they accept the facts of Climate Change. And yet, you can't play Monopoly when everybody's dead. They imagine they'll be the last people. They don't care so long as they win.

### ***A great example of collaboration with our supporters:***

We are very lucky to have Dame Vivienne Westwood on our side as an avid supporter of the work of End Ecocide. She is not only a very successful fashion designer who is continuously on top of her game, but a cultural and political icon of great weight, whose work never loses its political edge. Not only does her support provide the movement with huge visibility, it provides our work with cultural and political recognition and weight. With more big names like hers behind us, End Ecocide is bound to make a global impact!

*Alex Janaszewski, End Ecocide England team, Producer*

Just this summer we filmed a short campaign video with the collaboration of Vivienne Westwood, and her husband Andreas Kronthaler. The concept is a powerful and quirky one, they star as Adam and Eve in a post-apocalyptic garden of Eden, ravaged by extensive acts of ecocide. We are both very excited about the outcome. The final version will be published in December 2014, so stay tuned. In the meantime we have put together a short teaser and call to action which Vivienne showed at her Paris Gold show, resulting in even more visibility, weight, and recognition of End Ecocide in the eyes of the public.

*Markus Schinnerl, End Ecocide Austria team, Director*



**Vandana Shiva**  
*Indian environmentalist and activist*

For 40 years I've been trying to build a movement that makes us recognise we are part of the Earth, not its owners and conquerors. Above all are the rights of the earth. Since the earth is a living subject, she is Gaia, she is our mother, a violation of the earth is a very serious violation. We already know that the majority of ecosystems are at the verge of collapse. So ecocide is a crime and I fully support the campaign to declare ecocide as a crime.



**Kumi Naidoo**  
*Executive Director Greenpeace International*

Currently, we allow our political and business leaders to get away with murder. Now is the time to change that. We need direct liability for those who are destroying our future and this planet. We need fast, profound and systemic change. History only moves forward when courageous people get up and act. That's why I support this citizens' initiative to recognise ecocide as the crime it is.



**Nnimmo Bassey**  
*Former Chair of Friends of the Earth International*

I fully believe in this cause. Making ecocide a recognised law will place a cap on the irresponsible actions of fat cats who hide behind corporate shields to destroy lives and harm the planet. Polluting nations and corporations are engaging in acts of aggression against nature and against humanity. These are extreme acts of mass destruction that may affect the planet in cataclysmic ways. These acts must be recognised for what they are and duly punished. This Ecocide law may be the only way to make climate criminals rethink their crimes of commission and omission.

## WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY ...



**Mairead Corrigan Maguire**  
*Nobel Peace Prize winner*

Making the destruction of ecosystems a crime is an excellent idea! The destruction of the environment should be added to the Statute of Rome, because it is a crime against people and Mother Earth.



**Niko Paech**  
*apl. Professor Dr., University of Oldenburg*

The initiative to outlaw ecological destruction as major crime is a cause I can only support. This is not only about the protection of the environment anymore but about the preservation of the natural capital without which we can't provide for ourselves. This affects particularly people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For - as a consequence of the destruction of European natural habitats - we are increasingly using the landscapes of other continents, for example through land grabbing. We sack them and take away the basis of food production for those living there.

## EXPERT OPINIONS ON ECOCIDE



**Polly Higgins**  
*Barrister, International Lawyer, Author*

It was back in March 2010 that the United Nations first received the draft amendment for a law of Ecocide to be included into the Rome Statute. Since then so much has come to light. But there is more than that, here is a law that can effect great change in our lifetimes and in the lives of many more to come.

There is missing law here and over the past 4 years academics, lawyers, ministers, ambassadors, students, mothers, fathers, teachers, farmers - in short anyone who cares about the Earth today - are all supporting Ecocide law. Not least of all, the many volunteers who are taking out to the wider world an idea whose time has come. The European Citizens Initiative has paved the way for something greater to emerge. Whilst there may be a diversity of voices on the detail, the common unifying intent is the same: to end the era of Ecocide.



**Dr. Sandor Fülöp**  
*former Parliamentary Commissioner for future generations in Hungary*

Amidst the global system of imminent environmental catastrophes, there is a clear recognition by the scientific community of the threats the system of ecological disasters poses to the recent civilisation of humankind. This urges us to harness all the available and possible legal and institutional tools, including criminal law. Similar to the set of problems we try to cope with, our responses should be systematic. Therefore, criminal law tools shall form a part of a network of legal and institutional responses, actually a last resort kind of response to the most severe infringement of the values and interests of the concerned communities. The network shall encompass the system of administrative environmental measures and the relevant institutions, too, especially those laws and institutions that are able to abandon the short sighted "here and now" attitude of our recent social and political world.

Institutions representing future generations usually try to apply the whole range of the available legal tools in order to enforce the solutions for the present ecological disputes in a way that is tolerable from the viewpoints of the future generations, too. Their encountering with the Crime against Ecocide needs further scrutiny.





**Prof Steven Freeland**  
*Professor of International Law, Co-Director of Research and HDR School of Law, University of Western Sydney*

Humankind has, for far too long, regarded the environment only as of secondary importance when engaged in other activities involving trade and commerce, industrial development and the conduct of armed conflict. Those existing international laws that have been codified and which may be relevant are, generally, either too compromised in their terms or have not been respected

for lack of effective sanctions. Many members of civil society, academics, lawyers, NGOs and parliamentarians are now working towards rectifying this situation, and the work of the European Citizens Initiative to 'End Ecocide in Europe' represents an important part of this process and should be supported in every possible way.



**Prof Laurent Neyret**  
*University Versailles Saint-Quentin*

The consecration of an international crime of ecocide, falling under criminal law, international right, and right of the environment, implies, before everything else, the implementation of a strict methodology of work. Realistic and efficient means to punish environmental crimes are to be considered. To achieve this, several questions must be addressed, among them especially: how to define the crime of Ecocide? Which legal strategy should we take to

make it recognize: between national rights, transnational rights and supranational rights? Which jurisdiction should be relevant to judge such a crime?



**Jan van de Venis**  
*President Stand Up For Your Rights and Legal Desk Director WaterLex*

Climate Change Litigation. Environmental Justice. Ecocide. A Human Rights Based Approach. Crowdfunding for Justice or Growding. All relatively recent ways of looking at legal solutions to stop the degradation of our planet. Is there one silver bullet? Is Ecocide just that? I do not think so. The concept of Ecocide is part of the cocktail of solutions.

Ecocide can be seen as a crime against humanity, against peace. But also as a crime against our planet. Against our home. Against the nature that we are part of. Making someone ill with intent or negligence is a crime. The same goes for our planet. That indeed must be recognised.

The new legal ways of approaching environmental degradation, are not silver bullets on their own, but together they are big drops, buckets full, currents in a streams, rivers, ocean currents. And they together can surely be a part of the tidal wave of justice we all long for.



**Wouter Veening**  
*Chairman, Institute for Environmental Security*

Climate change and its impacts on food, water, energy, shelter security and on the condition of the oceans, waste dumping, overfishing, wildlife poaching and trafficking wiping out species, deforestation by illegal logging, drilling for oil and gas in shale layers, tar sands, Arctic waters, smuggling of ozone-depleting substances, threaten the survival of man and nature both directly and by undermining peace and stability. Going

on with these activities either knowing what the effects are or, if not, not applying the precautionary principle, is/should/will be considered a crime against humanity and the community of life in general.



**Marie-Odile Bertella-Geffroy**  
*Judge, Vice President Paris Regional Court*

Human health is severely affected by the deterioration of global ecosystems that sustain life in the planet: the consequence is the considerable increase of existing and emergence of new diseases affecting populations. The big difficulty lies in the fact that links between environment and health are often indirect, displaced in space, delayed in time, and multifactorial; we might call them global health catastrophes with low noise.

Criminal justice is the only one able to determine the causes and to identify the responsibilities of collective infringement of health and human life, especially environmental, whether national, European or international, and this, to punish industrial managers, multinational companies and governments, and especially to

prevent new disasters. International justice is the only way to harmonize the search for causes and responsibilities with the aim of prevention in mind.

To call this criminal infringement of the fundamental right to health and human life "ecocide", whether perpetrated in a deliberate way or neglecting the risks for humans, is a big step towards the establishment of an international justice, and the only way to prevent present and future environmental health disasters.

Ecocide = kill life; let's protect it!

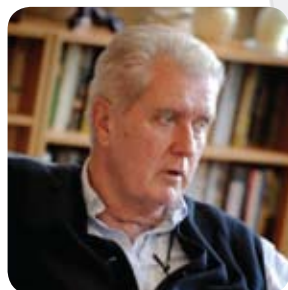


**Gert-Peter Bruch**  
*Planète Amazone*

All over the planet, the final natural environments, vital organs of the global climate, and indigenous people who occupy them, continue to be sacrificed on the altar of the sacrosanct "development".

Today, industrial projects dubbed by governments have become weapons of mass destruction. It is a war, indeed, and indigenous peoples have, in Brazil or elsewhere, no

really effective weapon to defend themselves. Nature either. But both of them are nevertheless essential to us. The indigenous peoples are not only the guardians of the last preserved environments and thus of the global climate but they also hold valuable knowledge that we cannot let them destroy. No one should be able to validate a decision involving the possible disappearance of cultures, languages, spirituality and secular medicine without being accountable for it before all of humanity.



**Dr Jim Skelly**  
*Director Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies,  
Juniata College*

We cannot continue the wanton violation of Nature! The campaign to End Ecocide and make it a Crime Against International Peace is an initiative every right-thinking person should join!



**Dr Mark Gray**  
*Canadian-Australian lawyer,  
author of 'The international crime of ecocide' (1994)*

Twenty-five years ago, I proposed a definition, based on existing international human rights and environmental law, of ecocide, to help develop the concept for acceptance as an international crime. I am therefore delighted to see it being taken up today by End Ecocide in Europe. I believe this legal foundation, if applied to transboundary action or neglect of sufficient magnitude and consequence which is wasteful and unnecessary for human survival, can form the basis of a new international crime. Europe, with its high degree of industrialisation and interdependence, combined with a sophisticated legal and regulatory framework, is a great place to start.



**Leida Rijnhout**  
*Director for Global Policies & Sustainability at European  
Environmental Bureau (EEB)*

One of the important results from an international program on Environmental Justice, Liabilities and Trade is the interactive online Atlas of Environmental Justice. The main goal of developing such an atlas is to show the amount of environmental conflicts in the world, the facts and figures of them, and the stories of struggle and victories behind. It is a result of hard work from 23 partners from 18 countries. "End Ecocide" is an interesting angle to urge accountability from companies and governments for the huge damage they cause with their activities and/or policies.



**Ecocide happens all across the world.** It is the task of the court to clarify if a certain case of environmental destruction is ecocide. According to the draft ecocide law as proposed by Polly Higgins, first it must be certified that an ecosystem was damaged (an ecosystem is a community of living organisms and their environment which build a system exchanging matter and energy). Then, a test must be applied examining the size, duration and impact of the extensive damage, destruction, or loss of ecosystem(s).

## **Alberta Tar sands, Canada**

Referred to as the most damaging project on the planet, it ranks top of the list. Known as 'dirty oil' due to its excessively damaging outcomes, if proposed expansion proceeds, tar sand extraction will result in the loss of vast tracts of boreal forest and peat bogs of a territory the size of England. Read more at Tar Sands Network. European companies such as BP and Shell are involved and the endeavour is financed by major European banks such as Barclays, BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole, ING, Rabobank, RBS, and many more.



## **Mining Industry pollution**

### **Mountaintop removal mining**

Mountaintop removal mining (MTR) is a form of surface mining that involves the mining of the summit or summit ridge of a mountain. Entire coal seams are removed from the top of a mountain, hill or ridge by removing the land above them. The resulting debris is then piled back on the ridge to reflect the approximate original contour of the mountain. The excess amounts of land (soil, stones, flora, and fauna) that cannot be replaced on the ridge-top are moved into neighbouring valleys and streams. It is the predominant method of coal mining in the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern United States. The process involves blasting the mountain with explosives to remove up to 120m of mountain to expose underlying coal seams. Excess rock and soil laden with toxic mining byproducts are often dumped into nearby valleys.



## **Rosia Montana**

Since 2002, the inhabitants of Rosia Montana (Transylvania, Romania) have been fighting against the implementation of a gold mining project: the largest open cast cyanide use gold mine in Europe.

This project belongs to a Canadian company called Gabriel Resources. If implemented, it could cause a huge environmental, social and cultural disaster. For each year of activity, 12,000 tons of cyanide would be used for metal extraction, a giant lake filled with water contaminated with poisonous cyanide would stand where today is a village, the landscape will be devastated and Roman remains destroyed. More than 900 families living in Rosia Montana have already been asked to leave their homes. A law of ecocide would have prevented years of confrontation and would ensure that this project could not be implemented.



## **Talvivaara Mine, Finland**

The Talvivaara mine in Sotkamo was granted a license to mine nickel in 2006. The local activist group « Stop Talvivaara » claims that since 2008 they also started to extract uranium without official permission. Despite the fact that this represents a violation of environmental legislation, it also led to a huge environmental disaster in 2012. Indeed, several leaks in the wastewater pool happened in 2008, 2010 and 2012. The last one demonstrates high concentrations of nickel and uranium into the nearby lakes. This just represents one case of ecocide happening here in Europe. An ecocide law could stop not only this but many others.



## Destruction of entire ecosystems caused by dams

### Belo Monte

The Belo Monte Dam is a hydroelectric dam complex currently under construction on the Xingu River in the state of Pará, Brazil. By building three dams the river will be impounded, building two lakes with a combined size of 500 km<sup>2</sup>.

In order to construct the dam, about 20,000–40,000 indigenous people will be relocated and an area of 1,500 square kilometers of Brazilian rainforest will be destroyed. In addition, the dam will affect hundreds of animal species, mostly endemic and some of them already in danger of extinction.

The Brazilian rainforest is a unique ecosystem. Such an extensive damage of a unique ecosystem on which we all depend for life is ecocide.



### Hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

Induced Hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, is a technique used to extract hydrocarbons such as natural gas and petroleum from the ground. Large reservoirs of natural gas and petroleum are stored in sandstones, limestones, dolomite rocks, shale rocks or coal beds. In order to release these resources, a fluid is injected into the ground at high pressure, so that the rock cracks and the natural gas stored inside is released. Using this technique, natural gas and petroleum stored between 1.5 and 6km beneath the earth's surface can be accessed. Fracking has potentially severe side effects, including the contamination of groundwater, air pollution, the migration of gases and hydraulic fracturing chemicals to the surface, and surface contamination from spills and flowback, all of which impact not only on our natural environment but also constitute a threat to human health. Scientists agree that emissions from shale gas obtained through fracking are much higher than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from burning standard natural gas. This is due to the potential of methane leaking during the process which is much worse for climate change than CO<sub>2</sub>.



In addition, a large amount of water is needed in the process, given increasing water scarcity around the world an irresponsible waste of resources.

Fracking is particularly relevant in Europe as scientists expect large amounts of natural gas to be buried in European soil which could be accessible using this technology. Several EU countries such as Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Poland have started investigating the options given the recent economic "success" story of shale gas in the US. The Netherlands and the UK are already practicing it. France has banned fracking.

## Oil exploitation

### The Niger Delta, Nigeria

The Niger Delta, formed by the Niger River at its mouth in the Atlantic Ocean, is located in Nigeria.

30 million people are living in the delta. Given the grid of pipelines and wells belonging to multinationals such as Chevron, Exxon Mobil and Total, this region is constantly polluted by oil spills. Oil extraction in the region began 50 years ago and today Shell is the largest operator in Nigeria. According to the company, criminals are responsible for the majority of leakage (theft, sabotage and terrorist activities). But according to Amnesty International, the poor maintenance of oil infrastructure and the failure of some equipment have their share of responsibility.



This is a serious ecological disaster, but also a drama that affects the inhabitants of the delta on a daily basis. They can no longer live from the land, because it is too polluted. Fishermen must now travel dozens of miles to find fish.

A Dutch court sentenced the subsidiary Shell Nigeria on January 30, 2013 to pay compensation to one of the victims who filed a case at the court for the oil spill. While the court found that the leaks were caused by sabotage related to oil thefts, it nevertheless upheld that Shell Nigeria should have intervened to prevent the alteration of its pipelines.

However, the court dismissed the remaining claims of four Nigerian farmers and fishermen who accused the parent company Shell for polluting their villages (especially Goi and Oruma) in the delta, ensuring that the group did not have the obligation to prevent its subsidiaries "of doing harm to others." The oil company hasn't been held responsible as parent company of maintenance facilities defect.



## Nuclear power

### *Fukushima, Japan*

There are 427 nuclear reactors currently in operation, in 31 different countries. Even under normal circumstances, nuclear power has an impact on humans and ecosystems. Uranium mining generates an enormous amount of pollution. It contaminates thousands of workers and local residents – often indigenous peoples, who are already disadvantaged and discriminated against – in Niger, India, Australia, Canada and elsewhere. The low doses of radiation that are continuously being emitted by nuclear power plants are strongly suspected of increasing the number of childhood cancers within a 5km radius.



### *As for serious accidents...*

On 26th April 1986, reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded. The radioactive emissions mainly contaminated Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, but also thirteen European countries including Italy, Germany and France, and beyond that, the northern hemisphere. In 2010, the New York Academy of Sciences published the results of the research that prominent Russian and Byelorussian scientists had carried out into the health consequences of Chernobyl. Their conclusion: 984,000 dead between 1986 and 2004. The health of millions of others, who have absorbed low doses of radioactivity from water and contaminated food, has also suffered: the thyroid, the cardiovascular system, the kidneys, the liver, the immune, hormonal and reproductive systems are all affected.

It is still much too early to assess the full impact of the Fukushima disaster, which began on 11th March 2011. Unfortunately there is every reason to fear a comparable or even greater toll than that from Chernobyl. In the course of two years, about 350,000 people have left their homes, but the government is now trying to get the evacuees to return to the contaminated areas. The damaged reactors continue to release high levels of radioactivity into the environment. Naoto Kan, who was Prime Minister of Japan in 2011, now maintains: "the best guarantee of safety in the nuclear industry is to have no nuclear power at all."

## We can End Ecocide

As you can see, ecocide is a big problem but luckily there is also an easy solution: establishing a criminal liability for environmental destruction. You can become part of the movement to make that happen!

## SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE

### *Keep updated & Spread the word*

- Join our mailing list & invite your friends to join our mailing list
- Forward our information and invite your friends and family to sign
- Like End Ecocide on Facebook or like your country page & share our Facebook page and country pages with your friends
- Follow @EndEcocideEU on Twitter & Share our tweets
- Embed a "Vote now" widget on your website

### *Show support*

- Print off our End Ecocide posters and flyers and put them somewhere for people to see
- Change your Facebook picture so it includes the End Ecocide logo
- Make a donation

### *Discuss it*

- Suggest Ecocide as a discussion topic with your local community group, society or club or run a session to explain what Ecocide and the European's Citizen's Initiative are.
- If environmental issues are not normally covered by your local community, suggest it as a topic to increase awareness.
- You can also discuss the democratic aspect of the ECI as fostering citizen participation

## GET INVOLVED

### *Let us know*

- Let us know about events, companies and groups we can collaborate with
- Do you know any famous politicians, actors, singers who could support the Initiative?

### *Volunteer*

- To volunteer or join a country team contact [info@endecocide.eu](mailto:info@endecocide.eu)
- Help us translate our material to reach as many people as possible
- Set up a country page in case your country doesn't have one yet
- Download our volunteers pack from the website to get some inspiration

## GET INVOLVED:

### **Working groups**

Join one of our working groups

### **Organise a local activity or event**

- Flashmob
- Festival
- Open space
- Workshops in schools
- Lectures in university
- Action in your main square

### **Special skills**

- What are your special skills?
- Can you write? Write poems and articles to be published!
- Can you sing or play or dance? Make a Youtube video with your interpretation of the challenge!
- Can you draw or design or paint? Make beautiful pictures and images for us to share!

### **Network**

- Create a mind map and reach out to your network.
  1. Write your name in the centre of a blank sheet of paper.
  2. Around your name write down people you know personally or who a friend or family member knows who are in a position of influence.
  3. Write a message and post or email it to the people in your network.

### **Write letters**

- Start a letter writing group; get your friends, family and community involved in writing letters to:
  1. Your local politician
  2. Your President/ Prime Minister
  3. Your favourite celebrity

### **Get talking**

- Give a talk on Ecocide
- You could include one of our videos
- Or get in touch if you would like to organise an event for a representative of our team to speak at.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Mead*

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**End Ecocide**  
on Earth