



## “RIGHTS FOR THE EARTH” TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

From November 30th to December 11th, during the COP21 (UN Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties of 2015) in Paris, the world's nations will reach new agreements on climate change. The major challenge with these negotiations rounds would be the achievement of **sufficiently binding commitment to ensure a sustainable living planet**. Addressing the global climate complexity requires **a moral and legal responsibility that should go beyond the mere “declaration of intentions”**. It is necessary to construct **a social pact for coexistence of a global governance regime and an international legal framework** whose pillars are safeguarding biodiversity and respecting ecosystems' dynamics, on which humanity depends for survival and well-being.

All over the world, initiatives presenting a systemic solution to climate change and the current state of the planet by adapting public international law and criminal law are growing. Whatever may be the approaches or legal tools (Earth Laws, Rights of Nature, Rights of Future generations, fundamental human right to live in a healthy environment, criminal recognition of environmental crimes, ecocides crimes, Global Commons) they all seem to agree in **a new socio-ecosystemic perspective**, acknowledging that humans are inalienable parts of Nature and their actions not only have consequences over their environment, but also for their own well-being. This growing convergence of initiatives is an **historic expression of public will at supranational level to control the way of how norms are defined in the case of major damage to the environment**.

The meeting of two international stakeholders: the coalition “The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature” (GARN) and the citizens' movement “End Ecocide on Earth” (EEE) for the COP21, coming from different fields of law, having both accomplished amazing results on their continents, will be the symbol of this convergence; Seeking to implement a range of actions whose aim is to show the **complementarity and necessity of their approaches**. They get together in a vast program to propose and test new legal concepts:

- **the recognition of the Rights of Nature in the public law** at the international and local level - based on the “Universal Declaration of Rights of Nature” carried by GARN - which recognizes the rights of ecosystems to exist and the duties upon humanity to respect the integrity of their life cycles.
- **the recognition of the Crime of Ecocide by the international criminal law** - based on the EEE proposed amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court - would allow to set up an international legal framework to ensure the safety of planet.

These two initiatives are designing a legal landscape that would strengthen and support future State's “climate” commitments by proposing **international norms to adopt in order to safeguard humanity and nature as well as the judgment and the sanction of environmental crimes**. In highlighting the consubstantial interdependence between men and nature, they are part of a broader fundamental debate that touches human's space within nature, in order to nurture collective consciousness transformation and global governance models.





## **INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE**

The COP21, highlighting the climate emergency is a key moment to to argue initiatives of civil society on the new political, economic, social and ecological world challenges that is now humanity facing. The *Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature* and *End Ecocide on Earth* grass-roots initiative, together with *NatureRights* and *Attac* propose a vast program to design **a legal landscape that would strengthen and support future State's "climate" commitments**. Ensuring **an environmental climate justice** will necessarily be through the establishment of international legal frameworks whose pillars are safeguarding biodiversity and respecting ecosystems' dynamics while preventing and mitigating global warming consequence, environmental prosecution and sanction, and promotion safeguarding of humanity and nature.

### **ROUNDTABLE - EARTH LAW : TOWARDS NEW INTERNATIONAL NORMS**

*PLACE TO B - 3 Décembre (15h - 18h)*

Initiatives convergence to establish an international frame to protection of the planet. Experts will clarify the different concepts and emerging principles of Environmental justice and Earth Laws and the diversity of proposals aimed to raise the right to a healthy environment as a basic standard and to grant rights to nature. They provide relevant insights into the close relations between the fields of environmental law and human rights in order to assert the principle of interdependence binding nature and human beings and their responsibilities. + INFOS <http://www.naturerights.com/blog/?p=1122>



### **INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL OF RIGHTS OF NATURE**

*MAISON DES MÉTALLOS - 4 et 5 Décembre (9h30 - 18h)*

The **third International Rights of Nature Tribunal**, hosted by GARN, in partnership with EEE will feature internationally renowned lawyers and leaders who will hear emblematic environmental violations cases addressing issues such as climate change, GMOs, fracking, extractive industries, for two days. The Tribunal judges will make recommendations for Earth's protection and restoration, based on the **Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth** and the proposed amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to **recognize the crime of Ecocide**. Two sessions of the "International tribunal for Rights of Nature" convened hearings in 2014, first session being presided by Dr. *Vandana Shiva*, in Quito, Ecuador and second session held in Lima, Peru during the UNFCCC COP20 presided by *Alberto Acosta*.

+ D'INFOS ANGLAIS: <http://therightsofnature.org/rights-of-nature-tribunal-paris/> FRANÇAIS: <http://www.naturerights.com/blog/?p=1126>



### **PRESS CONFERENCE "END ECOCIDE ON EARTH"**

*10 December - Anniversary date of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris in 1948*

EEE will publicly announce, in the company of one or more Heads of State, the filing before the General Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, 17 proposed amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court related to the crime of ecocide.

### **"KEEP THE OIL IN THE GROUND"**

Participation in various events related to the divestment from fossil fuels campaign, a major topic of awareness directly related to the Tribunal's recommendations. It will be considered in the light of climate justice concepts, ecocide crime and the rights of nature.

### **BLOG & BOOK ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: "RIGHTS FOR THE EARTH"**

By September 2015, dedicated blog and book "Rights for the Earth" will bring together recognized experts in Human Rights and Environmental law to expose and vulgarize legal approaches and concepts related to their respective fields of expertise, compare points of view and propose restatement options in the current legislation. The goal is to bring together a community of researchers and experts, form different backgrounds, cultures and areas of expertise, in order to put into perspective the convergence of initiatives pursuing a common objective: build a coherent and effective legal framework at the local and international level to preserve ecosystems and humanity that is relying upon.

### **- CITIZEN CAMPAIGN**

Starting September, will be initiated a public campaign in support of the the establishment of a legal framework for the recognition of environmental crimes and Earth Laws. Two major events :

September: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a turning point on the road to COP21 for the recognition of environmental crimes.

December: COP21, momentum to argue the urgency of global climate justice. The campaign will enable the delivery of a petition to Ban Ki-Moon reflecting a massive citizen support to legitimize the courageous approach states willing to supervise the most dangerous industrial activities.

Hosted by the *Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature*, in partnership with *End Ecocide on Earth*, *NatureRights* and *Attac France*.



A special thanks to:



CITIZEN MOBILISATIONS

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**ALTERNATIBA**



## RIGHTS OF NATURE & ECOCIDE CRIME

The meeting of two international stakeholders: the coalition “*The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature*” (GARN) and the citizens’ movement “*End Ecocide on Earth*” (EEE) for the COP21, coming from different fields of law, having both accomplished amazing results on their continents, is the symbol of a growing convergence of legal initiatives proposing **proposing international norms to adopt in order to safeguard humanity and nature as well as the judgment and the sanction of environmental crimes**. Together, these two initiatives seek to implement a range of actions whose aim is to show the complementarity and necessity of their approaches, in partnership with *NatureRights* and *Attac*.



**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE (GARN)** is a network of organizations and individuals committed to the universal adoption and implementation of legal systems that recognize, respect and enforce the Rights of Nature (also “Mother Earth” or “Pachamama”). Rights of nature are based on the “**Universal Declaration of Rights of Nature (UDRME)**”, acknowledging that ecosystems have the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate their vital cycles, with legal standing in a court of law. UDRME arose from the World Peoples’ Conference of **Cochabamba**, Bolivia in 2010 and applauded by over **35,000 participants** from more than 100 countries. Over the last decade, the Rights of Nature has expanded rapidly across the globe, being adopted by legislators of Ecuador and Bolivia, and part of numerous initiatives in several countries. The petition for Rights of Nature has obtained, at this date, **more than 825,000 signatures from 122 countries**. In the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, **Rio +20**, Rights of Nature were articulated in the UN consensus document and recognized in the People’s Summit Declaration by **120,000 signatures** to the UN Secretary-General. <http://therightsofnature.org/>



**END ECOCIDE ON EARTH (EEE)** is a grass-roots initiative aimed to **recognize the crime of ecocide in international criminal law**. An ecocide can be characterized by partial or total destruction of the global commons and/or ecosystem services, threatening living conditions on Earth for present and future generations. EEE has first carried on a project of **European directive on the crime of ecocide** that turned into a petition in 2014 having collected **190 500 signatures**. EEE set up an international legal experts group to draft a proposal of amendment to the **Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, in order to include Ecocide to the list of the international crimes**. Actually, EEE is lobbying head of states in order to bring the amendment project of the Rome Statute to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the COP21. Accordingly, EEE is working on an international mobilisation to speak out people’s demand to protect our ecosystems and our future by the implementation of an international criminal law. <http://www.endecocide.org>

### THE AMENDEMENTS TO THE ROME STATUTE / INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The amendments proposal of EEE would allow effectiveness of all emerging norms through establishment of an international criminal legal framework capable to ensure the safety of planet, in protecting the global commons and transboundary ecosystem services, in compliance with the known planetary boundaries. The fundamental value on which relies the criminalization of ecocide is the “safety of the planet”. This value is set to become a peremptory norm; human in this vision is one of the protected components. Indeed, the prohibition of ecocide will guarantee the human right to a healthy environment but also enshrine the right of nature to be protected. This proposal is therefore a transversal approach between the rights of nature and the rights of humanity that correlates them. It enables a framework to regulate industrial activities and ensure healthy living conditions for present and future generations.



Since 2009, **NATURERIGHTS** advocates a **multidisciplinary approach to “rights of nature,”** understood from the perspective of recognizing and respecting the consubstantial interdependence that binds men to nature in order to redefine the values that govern our perception of life.

NR works in identifying, supporting and connecting initiatives that recognise the Rights of Nature / Earth Law principles and works within the network to establish legal precedents and practices for them to become a philosophic, legal, economic and social reality.

NR is the **operationnal partner of EEE and GARN** for the series of actions during the COP21. NR collaborated with *Pachamama* team in 2010 to support the creation of the *Yasuni ITT Trust Fund*, and is committed alongside the *End Ecocide Initiative* since 2013.

<http://www.naturerights.com/>

### CONTACTS

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Attac is a movement for **people’s education geared towards civil action**. Since its creation in 1998, Attac has fought against financial hegemony and the merchandizing of the world, so that citizens may reclaim power over their lives. **It has worked towards building an active democracy and promoting convergent social and ecological campaigns within a wider alter-**

**globalist movement**. There are alternatives that achieve transition towards a society based on solidarity, justice and respect for nature. We are not condemned to the severe damage caused by globalization, or to the cynicism of elites. A truly unparalleled organization, Attac is financed by its members and is driven by its activists. It is present on the ground in the daily fight against the severe destruction caused by neoliberalism. Attac produces the necessary analyses and organizes actions that help build credible alternatives.

[www.france.attac.org](http://www.france.attac.org)

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