



MISSION LIFEFORCE - ONE LAW TO PROTECT THE EARTH

Our mission: to protect the Earth and future generations by making ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court.

Right now, law is upside down: ecosystems across the world are being destroyed by dangerous industrial activity which is state-sanctioned and therefore legal, while taking action to protect those ecosystems is often criminalised. Our dream is to rectify this on a global scale by establishing a law that creates a different bottom line for states and corporations: a duty to respect life and prevent harm. A law that could turn the whole planetary ship around, and fast; that could re-align human law with a higher law we all recognise in our hearts.

This is not a pipe dream - it is possible. The method is a simple if little-known legal procedural route, creating a legally enforceable duty of care for the Earth by making ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. At present, the ICC prosecutes 4 international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. What is missing is a 5th international crime: the crime of ecocide. Any ICC signatory state can call for a new crime to be adopted. Ratification by a 2/3rd majority of signatory states is possible. There is no veto, no time limit, and each member state - no matter how small - has an equal vote.

Current law is inadequate: climate litigation, declaratory judgments and international agreements (eg Paris) are all in the realm of civil law - they do not and cannot prohibit state-sanctioned ecocides. This means that ecological plundering of the Earth cannot be effectively stopped; cultural ecocide, such as forced displacement of indigenous communities for profit, has no remedy. Where justice is required, it is criminal law that must be applied.

Breaking the vicious circle: ecosystem destruction (ecocide) leads to poverty, and so to conflict over limited resources, often in turn leading to war. Without a crime of ecocide in place, this vicious circle continues unchecked. With it, the cycle of harm is disrupted and ecocide becomes the exception, not the norm.

How can this vision be realised? A number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are already briefed and able to take ecocide crime forward. At the frontline of pollution-driven climate change, they have the urgency to act and many already have the legal ability to do so. But until now this has not occurred. This is because they lack:

1. the funds to attend the yearly ICC conferences in New York and The Hague;
2. the legal support and advice they require; and
3. the international visibility that creates a safe platform for their voices to be heard.

The law has been drafted. But while resourced nation states pay to have their delegates and lawyers attend key meetings, all too often the seats of the SIDS remain vacant. The preparations for submitting this amendment are costly. Small UK non-profit Ecological Defence Integrity has therefore applied its limited means to launching a fundraising campaign, Mission LifeForce, based on a globally validated Trust Fund, to cover key costs and provide expert legal support for these island nations - the "swing states" that have the power to alter the course of history.

Sign up today to help make this happen at MissionLifeForce.org