

# CREATING A MORAL MANDATE TO PROTECT LIFE ON EARTH



The world is in climate and ecological crisis. And right now **ecocide** (large-scale systematic destruction of the natural living world) is legally permitted. Current regulations simply do not stop the harm. We believe the most effective way to prevent further devastation is to **make ecocide an international crime** - and we are actively helping to make this happen.



ECOLOGICAL  
DEFENCE  
INTEGRITY

**STOP  
ECOCIDE**



**EARTH  
PROTECTOR  
COMMUNITIES**



Photos by Ruth Davey/look-again.org

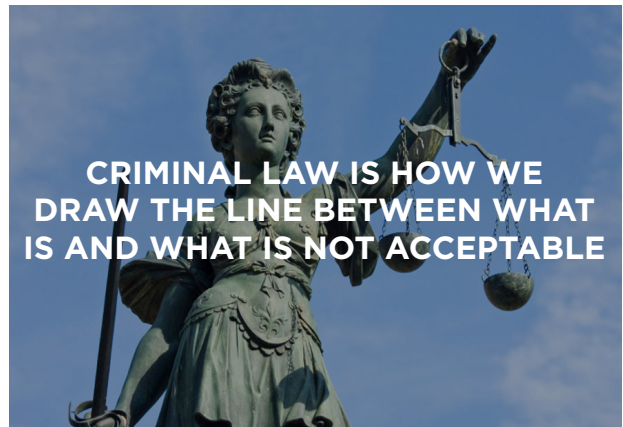
Our NGO Ecological Defence Integrity (EDI), founded in 2017 by UK barrister the late Polly Higgins and environmental activist Jojo Mehta, is working towards the establishment of a crime of Ecocide at the International Criminal Court (ICC), to sit alongside War Crimes, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and - more recently - Crimes of Aggression.

Our charitable organisations support education, awareness-raising and the Earth Protector Communities initiative (see Movement Building below).

## OUR WORK HAS THREE KEY ELEMENTS

**Diplomatic/legal** – EDI’s international team is working with climate- and ecocide-vulnerable states which have the power to propose an Ecocide amendment to the Rome Statute, governing document of the International Criminal Court. The ICC’s annual Assembly in December is the key forum for advancing this work. We have accompanied Small Island (“Great Ocean”) Developing State representatives and helped amplify their voices and concerns there for four consecutive years, as the nations most impacted by climate emergency.

**Campaigning** – our public-facing Stop Ecocide campaign is both funding this work and raising global awareness of ecocide law as a viable solution capable of addressing our global crisis. Supporters declare themselves Earth Protectors and contribute to a globally validated Trust Fund which is ringfenced to support the diplomatic/legal work.



**CRIMINAL LAW IS HOW WE DRAW THE LINE BETWEEN WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**



**AS EARTH PROTECTORS WE CAN FUND THE LAW WE WANT  
INSTEAD OF ALLOWING CORPORATIONS TO FUND THE LAWS THEY WANT**

**Movement Building** – A pilot scheme for Earth Protector Communities is already under way, seeding a global collaborative movement in which towns, schools and colleges, businesses and other institutions work together to protect land, wildlife, air, soil and water, as well as endorsing the Stop Ecocide campaign. Our Regenerative Community Toolkit, a powerful conceptual and practical resource for Earth Protector Communities of all types and sizes, will launch in 2020.



# CHANGING THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION

Any member state, however small, can propose an amendment to the Rome Statute. With a 2/3 majority, amendments can be adopted. But before a single state even ratifies this amendment to international law, it will transform the entire global conversation. This is because a law of this kind will be required - sooner or later - if we wish to survive and thrive on Earth. The proposal of an ecocide amendment makes it visible on the horizon, and enables change to begin.



**At state level** – We have a working relationship of several years’ standing with Vanuatu, a leading Pacific island state which officially called for serious consideration of a crime of ecocide at the International Criminal Court’s annual Assembly in December 2019. The Maldives’ government statement echoed this call shortly afterward.

Meanwhile in the UK 2019 general election, two political parties - Green and, for the first time, Labour - included progressing an international law of ecocide as part of their election manifestos. In both cases we were consulted.

In France, with input from associate group End Ecocide on Earth, the government twice considered legislating for ecocide.

In November 2019 Pope Francis called for ecocide to be made the 5th crime against peace under the Rome Statute, exactly as we have been campaigning for and using the same language and definitions as we do - the Vatican is clearly aware of our work.

**At grassroots level** – Key international NGOs are in dialogue with us about ongoing collaboration, and our own campaign teams (UK, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal) and associates (France, Austria, Sweden) in a growing number of countries continue to amplify the conversation around ecocide law to an expanding public in schools, colleges, festivals, theatres, political parties and media publications on and offline, as well as at public demonstrations.

An introductory ecocide law “film night” premiered in 2019, featuring 3 short films telling first-hand stories of

- climate damage in the Pacific
- deforestation in the Amazon
- the legal perspective on ecocide crime

This collection will be made available as a global campaigning tool in 2020 in English and Spanish initially.





We have a core team of lawyers, academics, researchers and diplomatic contacts working with small states towards proposing a crime of ecocide at the ICC.

We also have an expanding team of international campaign and outreach staff taking forward the Stop Ecocide campaign, supported by over 100 volunteers.

Over 15,000 self-declared “Earth Protectors” have contributed an average of €10 to the Earth Protectors Trust Fund which forms the basis of the Stop Ecocide campaign, including some high net worth individuals’ gifts of up to €100K.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Legal information and history – [www.ecocidelaw.com](http://www.ecocidelaw.com)

Campaign and latest news – [www.stopecocide.earth](http://www.stopecocide.earth)

Earth Protector movement – [www.earthprotectorcommunities.net](http://www.earthprotectorcommunities.net)

## GET IN TOUCH

Legal/Diplomatic – [enquiries@ecocidelaw.com](mailto:enquiries@ecocidelaw.com)

Press & PR ([www.stopecocide.earth/press](http://www.stopecocide.earth/press)) – [press@stopecocide.earth](mailto:press@stopecocide.earth)

Funding/Support – [allies@stopecocide.earth](mailto:allies@stopecocide.earth)

Earth Protector Communities – [hello@earthprotectorcommunities.net](mailto:hello@earthprotectorcommunities.net)



*“By ‘ecocide’ we should understand the loss, damage or destruction of ecosystems of a given territory, so that its enjoyment by the inhabitants has been or may be severely affected. This is a fifth category of crimes against peace, which should be recognized as such by the international community.”*

**Pope Francis**

addressing the International Association of Penal Law  
15th November 2019