

Living Earth Law

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Overview

- Challenges to Earth – our home
- Community Ecological Governance
- Earth Law
- The Great Work Ahead

Earth – Our Home



Main challenges



- Mining
- Tourism
- Industrial agriculture
- Climate change
- Loss of biodiversity and communities



Human-centred thinking

- Humans and Earth are separate
- Earth is 'property' and a 'resource'
- Humans are superior
- Human-centred laws and policies

‘Community Ecological Governance’



Community knowledge, values, customs, laws and **ways of living in harmony with Earth**, according to Earth's laws.

Principles

Intergenerational
learning - Elders and
youth

Protection of Sacred
Natural Sites



Photo by Gaia Amazonas

Eco-cultural mapping and calendars



Venda, South Africa

Pira Paraná, Colombia



Legal advocacy



Venda, South Africa



Sheka, Ethiopia



*Pira Paraná,
Colombia*

Photos (clockwise from top left)
by: Philippa Terblanche and
Dzomo la Mupo, Will Baxter and
Sheka community, and Sergio
Bartelsman and Pira Paraná
community

Thomas Berry

*‘The Earth
Community
is a communion of
subjects and
not a collection of
objects.’*



Photo of Thomas Berry

The Great Work 1999

Earth Jurisprudence/ Earth Law



Photo by Linda Sheehan

Way of thinking
and living in
harmony with the
wider Earth
Community and
Earth's laws

Humans belong to an Earth Community



Photo by Will Baxter

Earth is primary source of law

Human governance needs to derive from and comply with Earth's Laws



Rights of Earth



All beings have rights

- exist

- habitat

- fulfil their role in the evolution of life.

Photo by Will Baxter

Human Responsibility

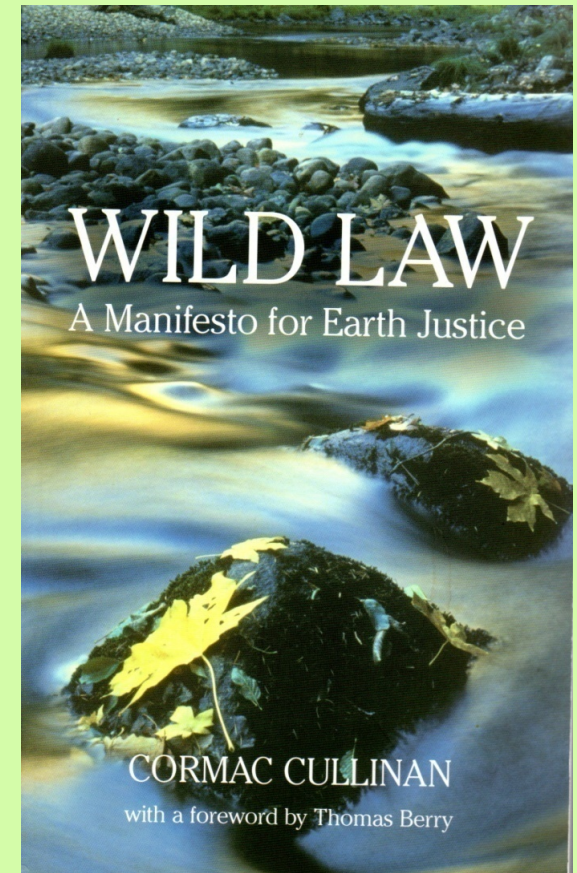


*‘Governance
is written
in the heart’*

Photo by Will Baxter

Wild Law

- Cormac Cullinan
- Precedents e.g.
 - *Ecuadorian Constitution*
 - *Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth*
 - *Proposed crime of Ecocide*



Ecuador Constitution 2008

‘Nature or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structures, functions and evolutionary processes.

Every person, people, community, or nationality can require public authorities to comply with the rights of Nature.’ Article 71

Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth 2010

Article 1 - Mother Earth is a Living
Being

Article 2 - Inherent Rights of Mother
Earth

Article 3 - Obligations of human beings
to Mother Earth

Earth Jurisprudence Network

Includes:

- Gaia Foundation
- African Biodiversity Network
- Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
- Wild Law UK



Photo by UK Environmental Law Association

THE GREAT WORK

- **Personal** – Earth citizens
- **Collective** – Earth communities
- **Professional** – Earth-based values



Photo by Institute for Culture and Ecology

Thank you
for participating
www.gaiafoundation.org

