



Earth Jurisprudence Update

Earth-centred News and Inspiration

Greetings Friends,

“We are all nurtured by the same sunlight and moon and share the same breath of life from the forests, grasses, oceans and sky. Everything, including we humans, is interdependent in this glorious, intricate, interconnected web of life. And just as a bird sings because it has a song, and a river flows to reach the sea, our inner nature is to revere our common home.”

So begins The Seed of Siena Declaration, co-drafted by attendees of this month’s international gathering hosted by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature in Siena, Italy.

And, as the movement for Earth Jurisprudence gathers momentum, we share the latest ecocentric legal developments, insights into Earth Jurisprudence in practice and a celebration of the sacred lands and waters of the Mediterranean.

With warm, wild wishes,

Carlotta, on behalf of the Gaia Team

Earth Jurisprudence in Practice

Trainings For Transformation: Rewilding Worldviews & Envisioning Life-sustaining Futures

The Gaia Foundation runs a unique and UN-commended three-year *Trainings for Transformation*. The programme accompanies African leaders who are reviving Indigenous lifeways that are rooted in reciprocity with the Earth. This summer, we brought together Earth Jurisprudence advocates from Cameroon, Benin, Uganda and Zimbabwe for a virtual weeklong retreat. Our theme was life-sustaining systemic alternatives to the dominant and destructive industrial growth system. Gaia’s Carlotta Byrne reflects on the week...



Ben Gray on behalf of The Gaia Foundation

Earth Jurisprudence in Practice

This September, The Gaia Foundation joined a webinar, *Earth Jurisprudence in Practice*, hosted by Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA). Gaia's Carlotta Byrne joined AELA'S Michelle Maloney and Margaret Stewart from the Center for Earth Jurisprudence and introduced Earth Jurisprudence and the work of the African Earth Jurisprudence Collective. How might a moment in a meadow seed an international movement? Tune in to find out more.

Planet over Profit?

Nature Joins the Board of Eco Beauty Company

In September, Faith In Nature announced the appointment of a new non-executive director for Nature. The natural world will now have a voice in its business strategy. "Through the model of legal personhood and 'guardianship', whereby nature is represented by a proxy on the board, Faith in Nature has given itself the mandate to take rights of nature into account in company decision making," **commented Brontie Ansell** (director of Lawyers for Nature) who will act as the non-executive director for Nature.

Patagonia: Mother Earth Becomes a Shareholder

“As of now, Earth is our only shareholder,” Patagonia has announced. “ALL profits, in perpetuity, will go to our mission to ‘save our home planet’.” “[Patagonia Founder] Mr. Chouinard, his wife and two adult children have transferred their ownership of Patagonia, valued at about \$3 billion, to a specially designed trust and a nonprofit organization. They were created to preserve the company’s independence and ensure that all of its profits — some \$100 million a year — are used to combat climate change and protect undeveloped land around the globe.”

Rights of Nature Developments

Spain: Mar Menor Recognised as Legal Person

The endangered saltwater lagoon, Mar Menor, was recognised as a legal person by Spain’s senate this September. Under the new legislation, the lagoon in Murcia has the right “to exist as an ecosystem and to evolve naturally” and the right to protection, conservation and restoration. “There’s still a lot of work ahead, but today is a day to celebrate,” the Pact for the Mar Menor Platform said in a tweet, adding: “The Mar Menor has made history and so have the more than 640,000 people who signed their names so that it could have legal status as a person.”

Australia: Mornington Peninsula Council Resolution on Rights of Nature

On 18th October, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council passed a resolution to explore the impacts of adopting Rights of Nature as a foundational framework for its future strategies. “While Local Councils do not currently have the power to create Rights of Nature laws, by using the framework of the Rights of Nature, the Council can begin important new conversations about how to build a regenerative, sustainable future for their unique local communities and ecosystems,” commented Councillor Debra Mar.

England: Rights of the River Deben Declared

Organised by Save the Deben campaigners, in late September around 300 people gathered for the declaration of the rights of the River Deben. “Sailors passed ‘the declaration of the rights of the river’ from boat to boat before it was read out by guest speaker, barrister Paul Powlesland – co-founder of Lawyers for Nature – and signed by the town’s Mayor, Patrick Gillard. ‘Today was a drawing of a line in the sand,’ said one of the event organisers, Ruth Leach. ‘Our river is in a bad state and we need to raise our voices. We need to say we’re not standing for it and our rivers have rights.’”

Rights of Nature Global Gathering

This October the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) hosted a global gathering in Siena, Italy. “The overarching goal...was to define a framework of action to keep expanding the global implementation and integration of the Rights of Nature all around the world.” Among the outcomes, participants co-drafted *The Seed of Siena Declaration*: “We are all nurtured by the same sunlight and moon and share the same breath of life from the forests, grasses, oceans and sky. Everything, including we humans, is interdependent in this glorious, intricate, interconnected web of life. And just as a bird sings because it has a song, and a river flows to reach the sea, our inner nature is to revere our common home.”



Photo by Pixabay

Eco Jurisprudence Monitor

This month the Eco Jurisprudence Monitor was officially launched – “an interactive online platform that compiles ecological jurisprudence initiatives globally as well as related resources for researchers, lawyers, policymakers, and activists... Our intent is to broadly identify culturally distinct expressions of ecological jurisprudence and create common tools for analyzing them in order to foster global discussion and future ecological jurisprudence expressions, and to create a portal that inspires new research and frameworks.”

Sacred Lands and Waters

Sacred Natural Sites in the Mediterranean

In this Landscape Magazine article, Liza Zogib and Sandra Spissinger-Bang share accounts of a number of sacred sites through the lens of reverence, respect and reciprocity. “Over the past few years, DiversEarth — a small NGO working globally at the interface of nature, culture, and spirituality — has inquired into over 500 of these sites in twenty-two countries of the Mediterranean. Each of these sacred sites, from twenty-three different spiritual traditions, has an amazing story to tell — a story of protecting, maintaining, and enhancing nature and its gifts and inspiring others to follow suit.”