Rights of Nature as a tool for transformational change

Pella Thiel
Rights of Nature Sweden, End Ecocide Sweden
Climate change: 12 years to planet? Make that 18 mon’

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24 July 2019

Warning of ‘ecological Armageddon’ after dramatic plunge in insect numbers

Three-quarters of flying insects in nature reserves across Germany have vanished in 22 years, with serious implications for all life on Earth, scientists say.

Humans are driving one million species to extinction

Landmark United Nations-backed report finds that agriculture is one of the biggest threats to Earth’s ecosystems.
Earth on fire
Marlboro
Smoking causes ageing of the skin

Goldfield
Sök hjälp för att sluta röka: fråga din läkare, på apotek eller Sluta röka-linjen 020-84 00 00.

Excite
Rökning orsakar dödlig lungcancer.

Rökare dör i förtid.
Amazon
PRESS RELEASE | PARIS | SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

WARNING: Embargoed until Monday, September 10, 2018, at 11 a.m. (New-York time) / 16 p.m. (London Time)

Halting biodiversity loss: political actions are required, not additional scientific knowledge

Over 15 years, almost 13,000 scientific papers have been published in the leading conservation science journals. Yet biodiversity remains threatened at a global scale. Two CNRS researchers have focused on this worrisome paradox by taking a deeper look at this large volume of literature. They found that one of the major problems is that decisions are usually more favorable to human activities than to nature protection. Their study appears in Trends in Ecology and Evolution (September 10).

What are researchers doing? The sixth mass extinction continues and is even accelerating, but conservation scientists, it is claimed, have no solutions to offer. Even more worrying, the researchers would be so pessimistic that the warnings they give could be counterproductive. But is this really the case? Two CNRS researchers1 have addressed this question. They examined the 12,971 research articles published during the last 15 years in the main scientific journals dedicated to conservation.
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The world is alive

...but we built a civilisation on the idea that it is not
God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
Technology “helps us to think about the secrets still locked in nature’s bosom. …nature betrays her secrets more fully when in the grip and under the pressure of art than when in the enjoyment of her natural liberty.”

Francis Bacon
Antropocene
The fact is, that each time there is a movement to confer rights onto some new "entity", the proposal is bound to sound odd or frightening or laughable.

Christopher D Stone: Should Trees Have Standing? (1972)
Am I not a man and a brother?
Colorado River vs State of Colorado
Constitution of Ecuador
Chapter 7th: Rights for Nature

• Art. 71.

Nature, or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and occurs, has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes.

All persons, communities, peoples and nations can call upon public authorities to enforce the rights of nature. To enforce and interpret these rights, the principles set forth in the Constitution shall be observed, as appropriate.
Whanganui - Te Awa Tupua

Te Awa Tupua is a **spiritual and physical entity** that supports and sustains both the life and natural resources within the Whanganui River and the health and well-being of the iwi, hapū, and other communities of the River.

Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au: I am the River and the River is me: The iwi and hapū of the Whanganui River have an *inalienable connection with, and responsibility to*, Te Awa Tupua and its health and wellbeing.

Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 2017 No 7
Emergent space

- Draft Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth, 2010
- Constitution of Ecuador, 2008
- Río Atrato, Colombia, 2016
- Whanganui river, NZ, 2017
- >3 dozen municipalities, USA
- Mount Taranaki, NZ, 2017
- Lake Erie, Feb 2019
- Ganges and Yamuna rivers, India, 2017
- Amazonas, Colombia, April 2018
- ?
Sami Parliament of Sweden decides to support the Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth
Lake Erie, Ohio

Lake Erie Bill of Rights

recognizes rights for Lake Erie to “exist, flourish, and naturally evolve”

and rights to a “clean and healthy Lake Erie and Lake Erie ecosystem” for residents of Toledo.

Accepted in a ballot Feb 26, 2019.
What becomes possible when Rights of Nature are acknowledged?
Permakultur-Projektplanung
Naturhof Pramtal
Lake Vättern as a legal subject?
Addition to the Constitution of Sweden

Article 26, Protection of the Natural Environment, to Chapter 2 of the Instrument of Government.

Art. 26. The natural environment, including ecosystems, natural communities, and native species, shall be guaranteed the following rights:

1. the right to naturally exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve;

2. the right to restoration, recovery, and preservation; and

3. the right to perform its natural functions.
Wild mind

"But how do you know what a river wants?"
The urgent need to subjectify

Perhaps what I’m trying to do is to subjectify the world, because look at where objectifying it has gotten us.

Ursula K LeGuin
Tack!

www.naturensrattigheter.se

on Facebook:

Like Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature

Join Naturens rättigheter i Sverige
Nine resolutions of the General Assembly on Earth Jurisprudence

Since 2009, the aim of the General Assembly, in adopting its nine resolutions on Harmony with Nature, has been to define a relationship based on a non-anthropocentric relationship with Nature. The resolutions contain different perspectives regarding the construction of a new, non-anthropocentric paradigm in which the fundamental basis for right and wrong action concerning the environment is grounded not solely in human concerns.
Lawsuits in Ecuador

Rights of Nature vs property rights (shrimp farming)

The Court acknowledged that this reflects ‘‘a biocentric vision that prioritizes Nature in contrast to the classic anthropocentric conception in which the human being is the center and measure of all things, and where Nature was considered a mere provider of resources’’

(Corte Constitucional del Ecuador, 2015, p. 10)
In view of the forthcoming 11th assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2021 we recommend to the WCC, in particular, that it declares a “Decade for the Healing of Creation” with the following goals:

- To promote UN processes to create a legal framework for a binding “Universal Charter of the Rights of Mother Earth” (Cochabamba 2010), an Earth international jurisprudence system, and explore the possibilities of a UN Council for the Rights of Nature and to explore recognition of ecocide as a criminal offence in the International Court of Justice.