



Seventy-fifth session

Item 18 (g) of the provisional agenda*

Sustainable Development

Harmony with Nature

Supplement

Summary

This special Supplement complements the Report on Harmony with Nature (A/75/266). The Supplement includes over 170 inspiring range of cases and developments in Earth Jurisprudence, advances in law and policy, and initiatives in both formal and informal education, learning and public outreach activities worldwide, during the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. Advances which are contributing to the non-anthropocentric or Earth-centered approach for the protection of planet and people.

It is important to note, however, that due to the COVID-19 pandemic many events and activities were moved online, postponed or cancelled, while other events were re-scheduled to the later part of 2020.

Of particular note are the rise in legal challenges and gains for the rights of Nature, and the growing numbers of schools, universities and academic institutions designing and delivering programmes and projects that focus on an Earth-centered paradigm. Many of these advances are led by expert members of the UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network. We take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions to the UN Harmony with Nature Programme.

* A/75/150.

I. Introduction

1. During the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020, federal, state and local governments around the world have been adopting laws that recognize the rights of Nature¹ and the natural world to exist and flourish. In many cases, these new laws are the product of collaboration between non-governmental organizations, civil society associations, legislators and legislative bodies, working together to draft, adopt and implement laws recognizing Nature as a subject of rights and/or a legal “person”, protected by law.

2. Likewise, non-governmental organizations and civil society associations have successfully expanded their efforts to use formal and informal education to promote awareness, discussion and actions in support of Nature’s rights, and to strengthen collaboration and cooperation across the United Nations Harmony with Nature platform.

3. Many schools, universities and academic institutions have introduced or strengthened their curricula in relation to Earth Jurisprudence, which recognizes that human interconnectedness with Nature is a prerequisite for ecological sustainability and should be recognised as the foundation of our legal system; while public engagement has grown in diversity, with a shared goal of increasing awareness and understanding of this legal paradigm.

II. Trends in the implementation of Earth-centred law²

A. Key legislation adopted to grant rights of Nature

4. In Brazil, on 21 March 2019, the Superior Court of Justice of Brazil, under the guidance of NGO Método de Apoio à Práticas Ambientais e Sociais, recognized the rights of the Turquoise-fronted Amazon parrot, (*Amazona aestiva*), which lives in the Amazon forest, on the basis of rights of Nature principles. On 11 June 2019, the Municipal Chamber of the city of Florianópolis voted to adopt Organic Law 133 of the Municipality of Florianópolis granting rights of Nature. The Law entered into force on 20 November 2019.

5. On 1 April 2020, an unprecedented court settlement to the Ashaninka people of the state of Acre, in the Brazilian Amazon, signed by the Prosecutor General of the Republic, Augusto Aras, guaranteed reparations for crimes committed almost 40 years ago against the Ashaninka people whose lands were deforested in the 1980s to supply the European furniture industry.

6. In Canada, the ?Esdilagh First Nation people (translated as Where the Land meets the Water) of the T?ilhqot’in Nation have documented their rights and responsibilities as traditional caretakers of ?Elhdaqox (Sturgeon River, also

¹ The capitalization of Nature was recognized in and incorporated into General Assembly resolution 73/235, twenty-ninth preambular paragraph and the previous report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/74/236).

² Legislation and policies adopted and/or ongoing featured in this section are available at: <http://harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsOfNature/>

known as the Fraser River). Endorsed by the Tsilhqot'in Council of Chiefs on 28 May 2020, the ʔEsdilagh Sturgeon River Law states that people, animals, fish, plants, the nen ("lands"), and the tu ("waters") have rights.

7. In Colombia, in 2020, the governance framework for the Atrato River Basin was mandated by the Constitutional Court to create a multi-stakeholder commission of stewards made up of scientific agencies, universities, NGOs, national and international environmental organizations, public and private institutions, and civil society. The ruling ordered that this commission of stewards be supported and supervised by a board of experts integrated by several supervisory state agencies, NGOs, academic centres, the petitioners, and the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner.

8. The Court also ordered that several national, regional and municipal governmental agencies undertake social and environmental programmes for toxicological and epidemiological research, decontamination, definitive neutralization of illegal mining and logging along the Atrato River Basin, and for ethnic-development plans to recover the communities' food security and protect other human rights that had been violated, including the prevention of further displacement.

9. On 12 July 2019, the Third Court of Penalties and Security Measures in Cali recognized the Pance River, including basin and tributaries, as a subject of rights. The Court decision came in response to a writ citing the violation of rights due to contamination. The court also acknowledged the rights of present and future generations to clean water, life with dignity, health and a healthy environment.

10. On 15 July 2019, the department of Nariño became the first in the country to recognize Nature as a subject of rights through the signing of Decree 348 to promote the protection, conservation and restoration of strategic ecosystems in the Province, highlighting areas in need of special ecological protection and adopting them as rights-holders. The Nariño authorities also addressed how they planned to tackle deforestation resulting from the expansion of the agricultural border, industrial stockbreeding, illegal mining and illegal crops.

11. On 11 September 2019, the Fourth Court of Penalties and Security Measures in Pereira recognized the Otún River, including basin and tributaries, as a subject of rights to be protected, conserved, maintained and restored by municipal, provincial and national authorities. The court highlighted the right to a healthy environment, life, health and public sanitation for present and future generations.

12. On 24 October 2019, the First Criminal Court of the District of Neiva, recognized the Magdalena River, its basin and its tributaries as an entity subject to rights for protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration by the State, to be protected by the Ministry of the Environment and the public environmental agency Corporación Autónoma Regional del Río Grande de la Magdalena. Furthermore, the ruling protects the fundamental rights of future generations to water, health, a dignified life and a healthy environment.

13. On 12 November 2019, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace recognized Katsa Su, the vast territory of the Awá people, as a subject of rights and a victim of the armed conflict. It further recognized 32 indigenous cabildos and

the ecosystems as victims highlighting the interdependence and inextricability between these communities and the environment.

14. On 5 December 2019, the Administrative Court of Quindío, Colombia, recognized the Quindío River as a subject of rights to protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration.

15. On 17 June 2020, the Supreme Court of Justice of Colombia, declared the Isla de Salamanca National Park as subject of rights to protect it from rampant deforestation.

16. In Ecuador, on 19 June 2019, the Constitutional Court of Imbabura ruled in favour of the Los Cedros Protected Forest, recognizing that mining activities would violate the Rights of Nature.

17. Also, in Ecuador, on 17 July 2019, a court in Sucumbíos Province recognized claims by the Cofán indigenous people of Sinangoe regarding violations to the collective rights of free and informed prior consultation, the rights of water, and the rights of Nature in the community of Sinangoe. The court ordered to end mining on their land.

18. On 16 August 2019, a judge in Quevedo, Ecuador, accepted and granted a protection order in favour of the peasants of the province of Los Ríos, noting that genetically modified crops violated the rights to life, health, work and a healthy environment, as well as the rights of Nature.

19. In Guatemala, on 7 November 2019, the Constitutional Court rendered a verdict recognizing the spiritual and cultural relationship between indigenous people and the water element, recognizing water as a living entity. In the verdict, it was noted that the Agrarian Transformation and Mining Laws of Guatemala excluded the sacred character that water possessed and the possibility that water was a living being, a subject that merited having rights, and therefore could not be killed by contamination. It was also noted that water was a living entity with cycles, that connected with the cosmos and that was a *nahual* (guardian spirit) for the Maya people.

20. In India, on 2 March 2020, the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in Chandigarh declared Sukhna Lake a legal person for its survival, preservation and conservation, and declared all citizens of Chandigarh responsible for saving the lake from extinction.

21. In Mexico, a ban on cockfighting, as part of the Animal Protection Bill of Veracruz State, was challenged by the local cockfighting industry, claiming it violates the right to culture and property, among other human rights. A ruling by the Supreme Court stated that, “no practice that involves the mistreatment and unnecessary suffering of animals can be considered a cultural expression protected by the [federal] constitution.”. The Supreme Court’s decision established a precedent for the recognition of the rights of non-human animals in Mexico.

22. In the Netherlands, the municipality of Dongeradeel, which in 2018 adopted a motion on special rights for the Wadden Sea, merged with two other local municipalities into the municipality of Nordeast-Fryslan and, on 11 July 2019, the city council of Nordeast-Fryslan adopted a motion granting special

rights to the Wadden Sea and urged the appointment of an independent governance authority.

23. In Nigeria, on 30 September 2019, the Federal Ministry of Environment ruled in favour of the River Ethiope Trust Foundation's petition against oil palm and rubber activities carried out by Presco Plc. on the River Ethiope. The Ministry ordered Presco Plc. to abide by the terms and conditions of the petition and thereby all the environmental rights to protect and sustain the integrity of the river.

24. In Uganda, where the Rights of Nature were included in the 2019 National Environmental Act, the Buliisa District Local Government Council signed a Resolution on 22 November 2019 in recognition of the Customary Laws of the Bagungu Custodian Clans, noting “the concern of the Bagungu clan leaders for Butoka (Mother Earth) and for the future generations of all species of the Earth”, and their “ancestral responsibility to protect the well-being of their land, and of the planet”.

25. In Santa Monica, California, United States, the city developed an environmental staff and sustainability taskforce, and the City Council approved metrics for evaluating progress toward attainment of the sustainability rights of humans and natural communities, guaranteed by the city's Sustainability Rights Ordinance as of 2019. The city's 2019 Sustainability Rights Report was presented publicly, to the City Council on 25 February 2020.

26. On 16 January 2020, the Menominee Tribe, in Wisconsin, recognized the “inherent and legal rights” of the Menominee River. In its resolution, among other provisions, the Tribe recognizes “the right to restoration, recovery, and preservation” and “the right to be free of activities or practices, as well as obstructions, that interfere with or infringe upon these rights” and that those rights should also be held up by neighbouring Tribes and other governments.

27. On 20 June 2020, the General Council of the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho passed a resolution recognizing the Snake River as a living entity that has rights, including the right to exist, flourish, evolve, flow and regenerate and the right to restoration. Native Americans have long held the worldview that humans and Nature are inseparable. Now they are beginning to formalize this belief through Western law

28. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, on 6 February 2020, rendered its decision on the case *Indigenous Community Members of the Lhka Honhat (Our Land) Association Vs. Argentina*. The ruling states that the Wichí (Mataco), Iyjawaja (Chorote), Komlek (Toba), Niwackle (Chulupí) and Tapy'y (Tapiete) peoples are entitled to their ancestral land in northern Salta Province, and a single deed to the community property must be delivered to them.³ In its ruling, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights stressed that changes in the lifestyle and cultural identity of the indigenous communities were the consequence of interference on their territory, which affected the traditional food supply of these hunter-gatherer peoples and their access to clean water.

³ Centre for Legal and Social Studies, “The Inter-American Court of Human Rights found Argentina guilty and ruled in favour of the indigenous communities of Salta”, 7 April 2020.

With its verdict the Inter-American Court sets a precedent on the right to water, food, a healthy environment, and cultural identity.

B. Key ongoing legislative processes granting rights of Nature

29. In Argentina, on July 2020, a group of children represented by their parents and the non-governmental organizations the Paraná Ecological Forum and the Civil Association for Environmental Justice (AJAM) filed a class action suit with the Supreme Court of Justice to preserve the integrity of the wetlands of the Paraná Delta, and on behalf of future generations. Various constitutional, legislative and comparative legal precedents, from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, India and New Zealand, were cited to support the petition, stating that “the Paraná Delta lives, breathes, develops, pulses, feels. The petition “goes beyond the demand of the right to live in a healthy environment, it goes beyond the right to a healthy environment of the citizens who inhabit these territories, it goes beyond the ailments that affect us in our environment, our life, our health, the Delta has its own life and it is succumbing. It deserves protection and the recognition of rights.”

30. In 2019, there was a proposal to reform the Constitution of the Province of Santa Fé, Argentina, to include the rights of Nature. The Province's constitution is currently being debated by members of local governance.

31. In Australia, on 24 November 2019, members of the Western Australia Parliament introduced the Rights of Nature and Future Generations Bill 2019. It is the first piece of legislation before the Australian Parliament aimed at recognizing the rights of Nature.

32. In El Salvador, in August 2020, non-governmental organizations Ecología Rebelde Movement, Sí por los Derechos de la Naturaleza and Asociación Comunitaria Unida por el Agua y la Agricultura, will present a proposal to the Legislative Assembly to amend the Constitution to recognize the rights of Nature. The Constitutional Amendment would include recognition of the Rights of Nature through an article stating: "Nature is also recognized as a subject of rights, since it generates, reproduces and realizes life. It recognizes the rights to full respect for their existence, the maintenance and regeneration of their life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes".) Furthermore, the non-governmental organization Sí por los Derechos de la Naturaleza (Yes for the Rights of Nature), is working on a proposal to recognize the rights of the Lempa River, which is the main river in El Salvador and shares its basin with Guatemala and Honduras.

33. In Mexico, on 12 December 2019, a proposal was presented to the Congress of the state of Mexico to include the rights of Nature in both the constitution of that state and the federal Constitution. It is expected that the proposal will be reviewed by the Congress of the Union in late 2020. Furthermore, in June 2020, a proposal was presented to the Senate of Mexico to recognize the rights of the Planet. It is expected that both proposals will be reviewed in late 2020.

34. In Nigeria, in August 2019, the River Ethiope Trust Foundation and the Foundation for Conservation of Nigerian Rivers in partnership with Earth Law

Center presented the Nigeria Rights of Rivers and River Ethiopia Rights Bills to the Senate chamber of the National Assembly.

35. In the Philippines, in October 2019, two bills on the rights of Nature were presented in the Senate and the Congress respectively. The bills will be taken up by the chambers in 2020.

36. In Romania, the Chamber of Deputies, Romania's lower house, debated a bill that would recognize dolphins as "non-human persons". The bill was introduced by Romanian activist and former member of the Chamber of Deputies, Remus-Florinel Cernea. Article 3 of the bill would place dolphins under the same provisions of the penal code as human beings.

37. In Spain, on 23 July 2020, the municipality of Los Alcázares, Murcia, approved a legislative initiative to grant rights to Mar Menor, the largest saltwater lagoon in Europe, and its basin, and to recognize this ecosystem as a subject of rights. Teresa Vicente, Professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Murcia, was responsible for drafting the bill, which has been backed by a citizen Mar Menor Pact and civil society groups, as well as environmental activists, academics and politicians. The Regional Parliament of Murcia will decide whether to admit this proposal to give legal personality to the lagoon and its basin.

38. In Sweden, in October 2019, a motion was presented by the Green Party to the Parliament to include in the Constitution, namely the right to naturally exist, thrive, regenerate and evolve; the rights to restoration, recovery and conservation; and the right to perform its natural functions.

39. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the non-governmental organization Nature's Rights has been working with the Town Council of Frome to implement the rights of the river Frome and Rodden Meadow. In 2020, the by-laws drafted on the rights of Nature were rejected by the central government on the grounds that by-laws cannot be used if there are existing laws covering pollution. The town council is contemplating its next move.

C. Policy trends relating to the rights of Nature

40. In Brazil, in June 2019, non-governmental organization MAPAS, coordinated a seminar titled "Brazil Forum of Environmental Management", which resulted in proposals to create public policies that took into consideration living in harmony with Nature.

41. Further, there have been advances in the construction of public policies, in Brazil, to encourage agroecology as a model of sustainable rural development. Agroecology recognizes a relationship of coevolution between human beings and Nature and draws from the close observation of Nature to achieve a balance between production and conservation.

42. In Chile, on 18 March 2020, an online event on the rights of Mother Earth was held as a contribution to the plebiscite to create a constituent assembly process to develop a new Constitution in Chile. The aim is for constitutional change that reflects the current times and protects Nature through the recognition of rights. In the coming months, a series of other meetings will be

held online to strengthen this process. The date for the plebiscite is scheduled for October 2020, subject to the constraints of the current pandemic.

43. In Denmark, the Danish political party Alternativet, during its campaign for the 2019 general election, adopted a political programme that would include the rights of Nature in the country's Constitution.

44. In El Salvador, on February 2020, the Municipal Council of Ahuachapán began its consideration of a proposal to make El Espino Lagoon a subject of rights.

45. In France, on 19 October 2019, a number of regional partners of the Loire Region initiated debates to create the first parliament for the Loire River, in which the fauna and flora and the various organic and inorganic elements of the river will be represented. This initiative drew inspiration from the legal personhood granted to the Whanganui River in New Zealand and the Atrato River in Colombia.

46. On 29 March 2019, in Toulon, France, after a trio of Colloquiums on the legal personality of animals, law school students released the *Toulon Declaration* in response to the *Cambridge Declaration* of 7 July 2012 reaffirming the legal status of non-human animals and the need for recognition of their rights at international level.

47. A group of French lawyers supporting the French committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) drafted a Rights of Nature motion to be considered by the IUCN General Congress Assembly, which has now been rescheduled from 7 to 15 January 2021.

48. In Germany, from 16 to 19 June 2019, the conference Kairos for Creation: Confessing Hope for the Earth – The Wuppertal Call, was held in Wuppertal, hosted by the Protestant Association of Churches and Mission, the Evangelical Church in Germany, the United Evangelical Mission, Bread for the World and the World Council of Churches (ahead of the forthcoming eleventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches). Adopted recommendations and goals included the promotion of “United Nations processes to create a legal framework for a binding Universal Charter of the Rights of Mother Earth (Cochabamba 2010), an Earth International Jurisprudence System, to explore the possibilities of a United Nations council for the rights of Nature, as well as the recognition of ecocide as a criminal offence in the International Court of Justice”. The eleventh assembly of the WCC will take place in the later part of 2020 and will address the recommendations and goals as submitted by the Wuppertal Call.

49. In Italy, in 2019, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Italy proposed a petition to change the name of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea into the *Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition and Sustainability* to better emphasize the crucial role of eco-sustainability.

50. On 1 July 2019, the Municipality Council of Acri, in the Calabria Region of Italy, approved a motion to support of the citizens of Toledo, Ohio (U.S.), who are engaged in a legal battle for the recognition of Lake Erie's Rights against the State of Ohio in the United States Federal Court. The purpose was to recognize the necessity of supporting an “environmental revolution”.

51. In Mexico, on 20 June 2020, the Commission of Hydraulic Resources, Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Chamber of Deputies of the XLIV Legislature, Mexico, agreed to draft a new General Water Law that would include the Rights of Rivers and Water Sources as well as many other human rights.

52. In Spain, on 7 May 2020, the government of the Valencian Community expressed its intention to recognize the rights of Nature in the Statute of Autonomy of the Valencian Community, as proposed in the government agreement Acord del Botànic.

53. In Sweden, on 30 May 2020, in an article titled *The Swedish Labor Movement Calls for Ecocide as a Crime*, the Chairman for the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, and Secretary General for Olof Palme International Centre, Anna Sundström, voiced support for making Ecocide an international crime. Furthermore, the organizations Swedish Earth Rights Lawyers and Rights of Nature Sweden drafted a Declaration for the Rights of Lake Vattern, in which protective rights would encompass all-natural water functions within Lake Vattern.

54. In Switzerland, in July 2020, a new citizen, popular and transnational mobilization was launched by the Association ID-EAU, which aims to recognize the legal personality to the Rhône River, from its glacier source in Switzerland to its delta in France. This transnational mobilization, under the banner Appel du Rhône (Rhône Appeal) aims to safeguard the river, and it is in response to current led law being based on reparation rather than protecting habitat conditions for future generations.

55. In the United States, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Council on Environment and Climate Crisis, in its Environmental and Climate Policy Recommendations for the 2020 Democratic Party Platform, with regard to Biodiversity and Nature, called on 4 June 2020, for the establishment of a commission similar to the President's Council on Sustainable Development, to explore incorporating Rights of Nature principles into United States law.

56. In Florida, as of 3 January 2020, various counties were advancing ballot votes on the rights of rivers to naturally exist, flourish, regenerate, evolve, rehydrate and on their right to restoration: a committee in Orange County was aiming to have rights granted to the Wekiva River and Econlockhatchee River; petitioners in Alachua County were campaigning to have the Santa Fe Bill of Rights passed; and, citizens of Lee County were striving for the adoption of the Caloosahatchee Bill of Rights.

57. A Global Freshwater Summit will be held at the historic blue-ribbon Missouri History Museum in St Louis, Missouri, from 23 to 25 April 2021, with an online streaming option, organized by the Global Being Foundation and the Earth Law Center. Lead-up to the Summit includes a grassroots peoples' movement to honour and recognize the rights of the Great Rivers Mississippi and Missouri. Organizers are working with a wide range of river-related groups, Indigenous peoples linked to the rivers, youth, farmers, artists, and people who live in the 124 riparian communities along the Mississippi

River, with a view to activating civic spaces and shining a light on the regenerative powers of freshwater biomes and the rivers' right to flow.

58. In 2020, the non-governmental organization Earth Law Center (ELC) prepared a zero draft resolution recognizing the rights of the Mississippi River. The resolution is being consulted by communities along the Mississippi River, with a view to a final resolution being presented and signed by citizens during the Global Freshwater Summit, 23 to 25 April 2021.

59. ELC also drafted a declaration on the rights of insect populations. It draws attention to the Rights of Nature extending to ecosystems and to floral and faunal life within those ecosystems, and that the insect populations, which constitute a part of the faunal life, possess fundamental rights.

60. Furthermore, ELC released a toolkit to address plastic pollution based on concepts of ecocentric law. The toolkit gives examples of policies and strategies that local communities in coastal settlements around the world can implement to minimize marine plastic pollution based on Earth law and related concepts. It includes a sample ordinance for passage by local communities.

61. In the Holy See, the rights of Nature were recognized in the final document of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region convened by Pope Francis from 6 to 27 October 2019.

62. In April 2020, the non-governmental organizations Rights of Nature Sweden and Rights of Mother Earth and proposed the inclusion of Rights of Nature to the zero draft of the post-2020 Global Framework of the Convention on Biodiversity. They stated that Rights of Nature provide the underlying legal basis for a necessary transformation of the human-Nature relationship.

63. There is also a growing call for Ocean Rights, for humans to treat the Ocean as a fellow member of the Earth community rather than a resource for consumption. A 'One Ocean' symposium, in August 2019, explored how the rights of Nature might apply to the context of Ocean biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Other advances include a voluntary commitment undertaken at the UN Ocean Conference, in June 2019, to accord the Pacific Ocean the same protective legal rights as individuals now enjoy, with a view to drafting a Convention on the Rights of the Pacific Ocean.

64. Over the past five years, the Partnership on the Rights of Nature: Integrating Nature into the Implementation of the SDGs has been preparing reports on integrating Nature into all the Sustainable Development Goal and almost all of its targets, with contributions from mainly United Nations-related organizations worldwide. The UN Major Groups Commons Cluster of NGOs has acted as lead agency and its outcome was the publication of three reports, all entitled *Transforming our World in Harmony with Nature: Integrating Nature into the Sustainable Development Goals*.

65. The reports, each of which addresses a different set of Goals, primarily intended for government ministries, are also useful to anyone working on implementing the Goals in any of the areas discussed therein. Each report has a section on means of implementation in the areas of environment, education and research, society and infrastructure, culture, economy and financing,

development, technology, policy and law and agriculture and also contain executive summaries as overview of the main points.

66. A coalition of environmental and Nature rights organizations have spearheaded the drafting of a Universal Declaration of River Rights.⁴ It describes the basic rights to which all rivers are entitled, as determined by international legal precedents and the ecological principles of river health. The initiative has received contributions from more than 200 organizations and individuals, including scientists, indigenous leaders, lawyers and others. The aim is to bring the Declaration to the attention of government officials for use as a starting point to establish river rights within their own country, and to seek its adoption by the United Nations.

III. Education on Earth jurisprudence

A. Formal education on Earth jurisprudence

67. As of 2020, the Law and Social Sciences Faculty at the National University of Littoral, Argentina, offers an online Rights of Nature course in which students from Australia, France, UK and the USA participate. The course analyzes how Latin American countries are addressing environmental issues through the acknowledgment of rights of Nature.

68. In January 2020, the School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University, Australia offered a course on Ecological Jurisprudence. The course offered students an opportunity to engage with a host of theoretical concerns, and discussions were submitted to the UN Harmony with Nature Programme.

69. In early 2020, Faculdades de Campinas (FACAMP) a college located in Brazil, completed a comparative study on sustainable development and Harmony with Nature within the United Nations agenda. The 20 participants analysed consumption and production patterns in consideration of ecological economics, concluding that there is a need for greater participation of indigenous people in this debate and the importance of affirmative actions through education and legislation.

70. In May 2019, the Regional Federal Tribunal of the 4th region (TRF4) in Florianopolis, Brazil, added a course on environmental law with a focus on the economic impact of judicial decisions in environmental matters and the principle of solidarity.

71. In Costa Rica, the Gaia Foundation has been working with the Ministry of Public Education to implement the educational program called “I Am the Answer”. The program seeks to standardize topics such as the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Declaration of Principles for the Conscious Evolution of Mother Earth, and the Mother Earth Peace and Wellness Agreement across all Costa Rican public schools.

⁴ <http://files.harmonywithnatureun.org/uploads/upload987.pdf>

72. In Denmark, the University of Copenhagen has been hosting a variety of guest lecturers during the 2019-2020 academic year, to address the rights of Nature and this growing legal movement.

73. In Ecuador, the University of Guayaquil, the largest university in the country, included a course on Environmental Rights and Rights of Nature, during the 2019-2020 academic year, as part of the University's mandatory coursework for all students.

74. In El Salvador, on 5 October 2019, in Ahuachapán, the non-governmental organization Sí por los Derechos, de la Naturaleza hosted a workshop called "Laguna El Espino, as Subject of Rights Analysis of the Declaration Proposal".

75. In Italy, in 2019, the University of Bologna developed a course on "Climate Change, Environment and Resources". One of the modules is dedicated to analysing Sustainable Development, Nature Rights and Earth Jurisprudence.

76. In 2019, the first Biophilia Classroom in Italy was launched in Valle D'Aosta, at the primary school Gressoney La-Trinité. The school was provided with a "restorative schoolroom" which offers students a natural setting for learning, to better sustain the learning process.

77. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Biocentric Parental School for children in Turin, Italy, began including permaculture into their coursework. The school, which is for students up to 14 years old, aims to promote biocentric education based on the values of curiosity, awareness and respect for the Planet. The goal is that students learn from Nature while being surrounded by Nature.

78. In Mexico, in 2019, the Faculty of Law of the University of Guerrero held its Fourth Seminar on the Rights of Nature. The Master of Law programme has established multiple research projects on the Rights of Nature with some of its collective work on the topic being published. During COVID-19, the programme launched webinars along with other institutions on Rights of Nature.

79. In the Netherlands, from 3 to 5 June 2020, the University of Amsterdam hosted an online conference entitled 'Private rights of Nature'. The conference explored how private property and the rights of Nature can be reconciled through theories inspired by indigenous principles. The need to update the traditional binary private law dichotomy between 'things' and 'persons' was also discussed.

80. On 3 February 2020, the Department of Public Law and Governance of Tilburg University, Netherlands, hosted the Colloquium "River Rights in the Anthropocene, In Harmony with Nature." The conference discussed the viability and usefulness of different conceptions of Rights of Nature as they increasingly occur throughout the world, particularly with regards to rivers. The Tilburg University also set up a research programme called "Constitutionalizing the Anthropocene", which addresses the rights of Nature.

81. In Nigeria, in July 2019, the University of Abuja and Earth Law Center signed a memorandum of understanding to promote education, training, advocacy and outreach of rights of Nature in Africa, beginning with Nigeria and Ghana. Furthermore, in January 2020, the River Ethiope Trust Foundation drafted a proposal to establish RETFON Harmony with Nature Academy (RHNA) to educate and train experts in Earth Jurisprudence in Nigeria.

82. In Norway, in 2020, the Faculty of International Studies at Oslo Metropolitan University is conducting a research project called “Riverine Rights – Exploring the Currents and Consequences of Legal Innovations on the Rights of Rivers”. The project will investigate and analyse legal cases from New Zealand, Colombia and India, where rivers have been granted legal personhood.

83. In Spain, in 2019, the Universitat Rovira i Virgili began offering a Masters’ programme in environmental law which includes several seminars on the rights of Nature; and the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, and the Tarragona Centre for Environmental Law Studies (CEDAT) in Tarragona, organized a course on environmental justice that addressed various themes including the rights of Nature. Furthermore, the University of Valencia added in 2019 the subject of Latin American constitutionalism, with references to Rights of Nature, to their constitutional law Masters’ degree program.

84. Between 2019 and 2024, Lieselotte Viaene, Professor at the Carlos III University de Madrid (Spain) will be developing an interdisciplinary research project to pioneer new ways of thinking about water and "nature" beyond the modern divides of culture/nature. "RIVERS - Water/human rights beyond the human? Indigenous water ontologies, plurilegal encounters and interlegal translation", supported by the European Research Council (ERC). RIVERS explore indigenous visions/practices, beyond water as a natural resource and a human right, focussing on the contexts of Guatemala, Nepal and Colombia; and the UN human rights system.

85. This ERC research project RIVERS was internationally launched on 8 November 2019 during the international seminar "The Rights of Nature: a Legal Revolution or Ontological conflicts", with participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpus, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Anne Nuorgam, Belkis Izquierdo, indigenous Judge of the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace, Guillermo Fernández-Maldonado, deputy representative of OHCHR-Colombia and Dambar Chemjong, head of the anthropology department of Tribhuvan University in Nepal.

B. Informal education and public engagement on Earth jurisprudence

86. In Argentina, the Animal Rights Observatory opened the cycle of international online conferences, which began at the end of June and will continue until September. This site created in Argentina and dedicated to the fight for the recognition of non-human animal rights provides more than 60 speakers from different countries in Latin America and Europe who will lecture on the animal theme under anti-species and abolitionist guidelines in a space of joint collaboration. Its main goal is to provide tools to legal professionals and society for the defense and legal protection of other animals,

making the animal cause transcend borders as a continuation of the work carried out by the 1st International Virtual Congress on Animal Law organized and transmitted from Argentina at the end of May of the current year and that promoted the realization of this kind of activities that were replicated in the rest of the world.

87. In Benin, non-governmental organization GRABE-Benin has been working in 2019-2020 with the communities of Lindja-Dangbo, Latchè, Kogbomey and Wamon to restore their indigenous knowledge and practices for the revival of traditional seed diversity and protection of their sacred forests, along with media and public outreach to increase understanding of Earth Jurisprudence and the need for restoring harmony with Nature.

88. A small group of civil society leaders from Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe started the final stage of their training, in July 2019, to become African Earth Jurisprudence practitioners. The three-year training course, led by a UK-based non-governmental organization, the Gaia Foundation, takes a deep dive into Earth-centred policies and practice, builds a skillset for better engaging with public and policy makers on customary laws underpinned by respect for Nature, and raises the voices of a new generation of African advocates for Earth Jurisprudence.

89. In 2019, the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, hosted the first International Colloquium on Ecological Law in the Anthropocene. Gathering researchers and professors from Brazil, South Africa and Spain, the objective was to discuss how to address urgent environmental problems through different approaches and perspectives of Law and Social Sciences, based on the necessity of recognizing the Rights of Nature.

90. On 22 July 2020, at the 24th Congress of Public Advocacy in Brazil, the Brazilian Institute of Public Advocacy hosted a panel on Ecocriticism and the Environment which addressed, among other topics, the rights of Nature.

91. From 6 to 8 November 2019, the XIII Symposium on “Scientific Initiation” and the IX Postgraduate Meeting of the University of Marília, Brazil were held on campus. The theme was “Research and sustainability, together for the future of the planet”. As part of the event, seventy native trees were planted on the campus.

92. In December 2019, the Brazilian non-governmental organization MAPAS presented their educational programme, “Nature’s Ambassadors”, at the conference “Rights of Nature for Peace and Sustainability” promoted by non-governmental organization Objectif Sciences International. The programme was developed to promote ecological education in Brazil.

93. In December 2019, the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brazil, held the IX Congress on Constitutionalism and Democracy under the theme "The New Latin American Constitutionalism: Living, Creating, and Producing Economies of Decolonialism," participants explored systems of harm and systems of hope rooted in harmony with Nature, including ecological economics, Earth jurisprudence and Earth ethics.

94. As of April 2020, the Argumentum Journal of Law published by the University of Marília in São Paulo, Brazil, introduced a new permanent

section on Harmony with Nature to be featured in all publications. The purpose of the section is to disseminate studies, research and documents on current legal issues related to Earth Jurisprudence.

95. On 5 May 2020, the University of Marilia, São Paulo, Brazil, invited UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network member, Professor Alessandro Pelizzon, of Southern Cross University, Australia, to give a lecture on the Rights of Nature, titled “Neither Natural nor Posited - The Journey Toward an Ecological Jurisprudence”. This lecture was a part of a bimonthly speaker series on Earth Jurisprudence hosted by the University of Marilia, which also featured the former Mayor of the City of Santa Monica, California, and a member of the UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, Marsha Moutrie, whose presentation was on “The History of the Rights of Nature Movement in the United States” and Professor Rubén Martínez Dalmau, of the University of Valencia, Spain, whose lecture was on the “Protection of the Rights of Nature in Times of Crisis”.

96. On 5 June 2020, World Environment Day, Farias Brito Educational Center, in the city of Ceará, Brazil, launched an initiative to restore writing of the word Nature with capital N in the Portuguese language. This initiative reflects the intrinsic value of the natural world and rejects the objectification of Nature.

97. On the same day, a group of Brazilian scholars, experts of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, launched the Harmony Manifesto calling for the extinction of values and principles that have perpetuated the objectification of Nature, conflicting with fundamental understanding of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in their relationship with the natural world. The Harmony Manifesto further proposes: 1. Nature as subject, spelled with "N"; 2. Primacy of the common over the private; 3. Planetary, popular citizenship, instituting a democratic and intercultural global Constitutionalism; 4. Harmony among all beings of Nature and the Cosmos; and 5. Adoption of a Universal Declaration of Mother Earth Rights.

98. In November 2020, Vanessa Hasson de Oliveira, President of MAPAS will be attending a meeting with Pope Francis for a discussion around a new economic system that promotes life in Harmony with Nature.

99. As part of an academic research initiative at the Catholic University of Pernambuco, Brazil, the non-governmental organization MAPAS is offering support to municipalities that are willing to promote living in Harmony with Nature by introducing new public policies in education, economy and health in respect of Nature’s Rights.

100. In 2019, Brazilian professor and UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network expert, Cristiane Derani, published a book titled “Law, Humanity and the Environment” which focuses on ensuring sustainable production and consumption standards under the sustainable development goals. In 2020, Professor Derani published a second book titled, “Themes of Economic Environmental Law, the Six Extinction and the Law for an Ecological Economy”.

101. On 1 August 2020, a virtual forum will take place entitled “Honouring Pachamama. Voices and Paths for the Rights of Mother Earth: A Harmony

Manifesto”. The online event seeks to highlight a new consciousness based on Harmony with Nature and the rights of Mother Earth (Pachamama). Sessions will cover a range of issues around the rights of Nature, the commons, planetary citizenship and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, including the presentation of a Harmony Manifesto. The forum will bring together global participants from wide range of civil society groups and networks, academic and jurists, such as the Federal-Brazilian Justice Council, Federal University of Ceará, Federal University of Santa Catarina, University of São Paulo (Brazil), Luso-Afro Brazilian Integration University (Brazil), MAPAS (Brazil), Rights of Mother Earth-Mexico and Chile, Madinatu Manawara community (Senegal), African Latitudes (Africa), Rights of Mother Earth (Switzerland), International Alliance for the Rights of Mother Earth, Conscious World Pact (International), United Nations of the Spirit, Council for Sustainable Settlements in Latin America (CASA), Xicome, Nation of the Fifth Sun, Paxamama News, Water Guardians Network, and Circle of Women Guardians of Life.

102. In Canada, the Leadership for the Ecozoic (L4E) partnership led by McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and the University of Vermont, USA, held its symposium “From the Anthropocene to the Ecozoic” (A2E) in October 2019. Participants contributed to a series of articles on the Green New Deal (GND) for Uneven Earth’s GND Series. In 2020, L4E initiated a new monthly webinar series, From the Anthropocene to the Ecozoic. The L4E Law and Governance research group also co-sponsors the Ecological Law and Governance Association’s (ELGA) webinar series in 2020.

103. L4E partnership led by McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and the University of Vermont (UVM), USA, held its symposium From the Anthropocene to the Ecozoic (A2E) in October 2019. The event was a celebration of the Economics for the Anthropocene project and a welcome to the new L4E partnership. Participants contributed to a series of articles on the Green New Deal for Uneven Earth’s GND Series. In Spring 2019, Vermont Law Review published a special issue with articles on ecological law by members of the L4E Law and Governance (L&G) research group. L&G continues to co-sponsor the Ecological Law and Governance Association’s (ELGA) webinar series and hosted the first 2020 webinar on Ecological Law Case Studies. In 2020, L4E initiated a new monthly webinar series, From the Anthropocene to the Ecozoic and the L4E Policy Lab was initiated at UVM. L4E continues to support many activities lead by student members, including Degrowth Fest 2020 in Burlington, CANSEE’s June 2020 on-line Student Symposium, development of an Ecological Economics/Ecozoic Wiki, co-edited special issue in Journal of Human Rights and the Environment with the theme: 'Post-human Legalities: New Materialism and Law Beyond the Human', among many others. L4E members continue to publish widely.

104. In Colombia, in August 2019, the “Council of the International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth” was founded at the 3rd International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth. The Forum was held in Bogotá, Colombia, with representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and the United States.

105. In Costa Rica, in November 2019, the Gaia Foundation of Costa Rica inaugurated the “Mother Earth Wellness Tourism project”, which promotes the development of wellness tourism destinations. The destinations seek to

transcend traditional spas and link new wellness services with climate change and harmony with Nature. In April 2020, the Gaia Foundation launched a volunteer program called “the Mother Earth Peace Trails Project”. The program will work to construct and maintain the T rraba Peace Trail, located in the T rraba indigenous community, in the Brunca region of Costa Rica. The objective is to promote informal education on Nature's rights through the creation of a model farm for education on climate change and wellness.

106. In 2020, the University of Costa Rica, under the guidance of the Gaia Foundation, began the second stage of its Labyrinth Earth Jurisprudence program. The University has begun the construction of labyrinths to symbolize and promote the signing of the Mother Earth Peace, the Wellness Agreement and the values of the Declaration of Principles for the Conscious Evolution of Mother Earth.

107. In the Dominican Republic, from 1 to 2 April 2020, Ombudsman Dr. William Vivas addressed Rights of Nature at a forum held at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. A second forum on Human Rights is being planned for the fall 2020 and will include a dialogue on the Rights of Nature.

108. In France, the French non-governmental organizations Notre Affaire   Tous and WildLegal are providing legal expertise and training on Earth Jurisprudence for middle school to university level students. The programme is dedicated to helping students understand the current limits of environmental law and legal issues relating to the recognition of the Rights of Nature.

109. A new European hub for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature was formed by French non-governmental organizations Notre Affaire   Tous, WildLegal, Nature Rights France and France Libert s-Foundation Dani le Mitterand. The hub unites around 30 organizations and aims to organize a European Rights of Nature Tribunal, In Defense of Aquatic Ecosystems, during the next IUCN congress in January 2021. On 7 May 2019, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, with the support of Danish student organisations Casus Clima, Den Gr nne Studenterbev gelse and SIMA, held a Rights of Nature Workshop at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

110. In Italy, in 2019, the Perma+Project was launched under the umbrella of the Erasmus+ Project, in coordination with non-governmental organization Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE), to design an undergraduate program in Italy that would increase the involvement in permaculture. It will be implemented at universities including Accademia Italiana di Permacultura and across departments ranging from agriculture, horticulture, bioscience engineering, economics and philosophy.

111. In 2019, an online platform Scuole Naturali was launched to increase networking among outdoor education professionals. Registered users can access reading materials and videos on Italy's most important Nature pedagogical experiences.

112. In 2019, the Municipality of Merate, Italy, began implementing training initiatives for educators to better prevent Nature deficit disorders in children at the cooperative, Sineresi and the nursery school, Nido Girotondo di Merate. The initiative focuses on encouraging outdoor activities and enhancing contact with Nature for children.

113. In February 2019, Teleromagna, a local TV channel broadcasting in the Italian Region, Emilia-Romagna, aired an episode titled “Have We Still Got Time? Climate Change and Energetic Transition”. During the episode Silvia Bagni, professor at Bologna University and UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network Expert was interviewed on Nature’s Rights.

114. On 23 October 2019, the University of Siena hosted a seminar titled “Harmony with Nature: A New Approach for the Protection of the Environment”, in collaboration with the UN Harmony with Nature Programme. The seminar discussed the evolution of the HwN Programme with students, researchers and professors from the University.

115. At the end of 2019, the Libera Università del Bosco (Free University of the Forest) was launched in Monte di Brianza, Italy. The university is open to anyone and aims to promote harmony with Nature, using experiences in Nature as the “first teacher” and highlighting the importance of a deeper relationship between human beings and the environment.

116. At the end of 2019, the environmental education project, #SOSStenibilmente was launched in Italy with the aim of encouraging public participation in environmental issues. The project provides reading materials for primary and secondary schools’ students and offers courses to teachers, environmental activists, public officials and journalists.

117. A study completed in 2020, coordinated by Italian researcher Luca Coscieme, investigates how the word “Nature” is used in more than sixty languages. The paper, titled “Multiple conceptualizations of Nature are key to inclusivity and legitimacy in global environmental governance,” the study shines a light on how different relationships between human beings and Nature, as expressed in different languages, determine the approaches to Nature.

118. In 2019, “Protection of Ecological Values in Italy” was published by Camerino University. The book includes a chapter titled “Towards legal personhood for animals, plants and habitats”, which covers recent progress in the field at international, European and Italian levels.

119. In February 2020, Pope Francis released a document titled “Querida Amazonia”. The Pope stressed the deep interconnection among the care of people and the care of the ecosystem. It calls for a halt to the mistreatment and extermination of Mother Earth and extends an invitation to protect and defend the natural ecosystem, to feel ourselves as intimately united to it.

120. On 5 June 2020, at the Vatican, Pope Francis inaugurated the University of Meaning, hosted by Scholas Ocurrentes, with a focus on linking education and ecology. Youths from 170 cities from around the world participated in an online meeting. Nine First Ladies from Latin America and the Caribbean took part and read passages of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si’* on care of our common home, planet Earth.

121. In the Republic of Korea, from 20 to 22 September 2019, the non-governmental organization People for Earth hosted its second International Conference for Ecozoic Culture, titled “PLZ Forum for Ecozoic Era 2019”.

The theme was “The Rights of Nature and Ecological Transformation” and conversation centred around challenges and responses to the climate crisis and post-transition systems of governance and alternative ways of living, which existing legal systems have not covered. At the end of the PLZ Forum, presenters announced a Youth Declaration for Rights of Nature and Ecological Transition, and a Declaration of Lawyers Calling for the Government to Recognize Reality and Take Action on the Climate Crisis, which were adopted by participating Korean and international lawyers.

122. In the Netherlands, in 2019, “A case for granting legal personality to the Dutch part of the Wadden Sea” was released. Under Dutch law, legal personality could be granted to the Wadden Sea in the form of a “Natureship” (natuurschap). The article proposes that Wadden Sea Natureship would maintain the ecosystem in a healthy condition for all life, for the benefit of present and future generations.

123. In November 2019, UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network Expert, Femke Wijdekop, published an eBook called Voices for the Earth. The book interviews ten ‘green pioneers’ whose expertise varies across Earth law initiatives.

124. Dutch non-governmental organization Embassy of the North Sea has organised numerous events in 2019-2020 bringing together artists, philosophers, scientists and policy makers to discuss environmental impacts to the Holocene. The organization also organised a student design contest to encourage thinking from a non-human perspective and launched a “Voices of the North Sea” podcast.

125. On 27 May 2020, an online streaming session hosted by the Ocean Race Summit from The Hague, was dedicated to how Rights of Nature could accelerate action for the preservation of our blue planet.

126. In Nigeria, in January 2020, the River Ethiope Trust Foundation and Foundation for Conservation of Nigerian Rivers, in partnership with Earth Law Center, organized a second stakeholder conference on the Ethiope River. The conference led to the declaration of the Rights of Ethiope River signed by all the participants.

127. In Peru, from 30 to 31 July 2020, the Seventh International Meeting of Initiatives for Good Living and Suma Kawsay 2020 will take place online. During the meeting, several dialogue tables will be organized and one of them will be dedicated to the rights of Mother Earth in order to strengthen the movement in Peru.

128. In the Philippines, in 2020, Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) launched a series of webinars titled, “Imagining a Just and Green Recovery: An Online Conversation”. Speaker lectures included Ms. Indira Lacerna-Widman (Executive Director of Katala Foundation) on Community based approach to Environmental Protection and Conservation; Mari Margil, (Executive Director of Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights, U.S.) on the Global Movement for the Rights of Nature; Rev. Fr. Daniel Franklin Pilari (Saint Vincent School of Theology) on Ecological Justice, and Senator Risa Hontiveros (author of the Philippine’s Rights of Nature Bill) on the

importance of implementing Rights of Nature into the country's legal framework.

129. The non-governmental organization Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT), has been working with local communities in Tharaka district, Eastern Kenya, to revitalize their Earth-centred customary laws and indigenous practices, to help build back resilience in climate-changed times. In 2019 traditional rituals at sacred natural sites were reintroduced, part of the Tharaka peoples' customary governance systems, to restore order and balance to the cycles of Nature in their territory.

130. On 24th September 2019, Simon Mitambo of SALT joined two other African Earth Jurisprudence Practitioners and UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network experts, Dennis Tabaro from Uganda and Method Gundidza from Zimbabwe, for a webinar on the theme 'Water is Life', hosted by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN). The practitioners discussed how to revitalize Indigenous and traditional communities' relationships with water as a sacred source of life with an intrinsic right to fulfil its vital role in the ever-renewing processes of the Earth community.

131. In South Africa, in August 2019, a five-day training course for judges was hosted by the Judicial Institute for Africa. Judges from nine different African countries participated in the discussions on Earth Jurisprudence and ecocentric judicial decision-making.

132. Furthermore, the non-governmental organization SeaChange has produced a film, for release in September 2020, titled "My Octopus Teacher", which seeks to motivate scientists, policymakers and individuals to renew a harmonious relationship with the oceans, through a focus on the Great African Sea Forest.

133. In Spain, on 14 May 2019, an international meeting on Human Rights and Mother Earth was hosted by the University of Seville and the Andalusian Association of Law, Environment and Sustainable Development. The meeting discussed the Research Project, "State of the art, foundations and effectiveness of the principle of Harmony with Nature and the rights of Pachamama".

134. In June 2019, the IV Tarragona International Environmental Law Colloquium (TIEC) was held at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain. The event included discussions on justice and environmental litigation, and lawsuits based around the rights of Nature.

135. On 5 November 2019, the University of Valencia, Spain, held a special event for two books, "Nature as a subject of Rights in Democratic Constitutionalism and Nature Rights: theory, policy and practice" and "Bibliographic Fund for Nature Rights."

136. In early 2020, a seminar on the rights of Nature was planned by the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain and the University of Hiroshima, Japan. Due to COVID-19 it has been postponed for later in 2020.

137. In Sweden, in November 2019, the General Synod of the Church of Sweden approved a motion to include Rights of Nature into education across

the entire organisation. The Church of Sweden is the largest member-based organisation in Sweden.

138. Ecopedagogy, a new Swedish non-governmental organization for the rights of Nature emerged with the purpose to empower people as co-creators of a sustainable and rights-based global culture. The organization is working in close partnership with the rest of the Earth rights movement in Sweden.

139. In Switzerland, the NGO Objectif Sciences International hosted its 8th annual International conference on the Rights of Nature on 9 to 11 December 2019 in Geneva. The conference brought together more than 100 speakers and contributors from networks working on initiatives relating to the rights of Nature, as well as jurists. The next conference will be held on 7 to 9 December 2020.

140. Objectif Sciences International has also organised multiple-science summer camps called meetings of excellence, to train and coach youth on real research projects related to the rights of Nature. The goal of this programme is to empower individuals to take responsibility for Mother Earth.

141. Swiss non-governmental organization Rights of Mother Earth continues to encourage the United Nations to engage in the formal drafting of a universal declaration of the rights of Mother Earth and has collected more than 301,690 signatures as of April 2020.

142. In March 2020, a new film titled, “Custodians of Life - Reviving Culture and Nature in Uganda’s Great Lakes”, was launched by The Gaia Foundation, African Institute for Culture and Ecology (AFRICE), Advocates for Natural Resources and Development (ANARDE), and the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE). The film explores how the Bagungu Indigenous People are reviving the diversity and health of their Earth-centred culture and climate-critical ecosystems.

143. A national-level colloquium on Earth Jurisprudence was planned for March 2020 in Kampala, Uganda. Hosted by AFRICE, ANARDE and the Gaia Foundation it has been postponed until 2021, due to COVID-19.

144. The United Kingdom based non-governmental organization the Global Ecocentric Network for Implementing Eco Democracy (GENIE) has continued to increase its public outreach throughout 2019 and 2020, developing materials to support small-scale advocacy initiatives for the representation of non-human Nature.

145. The Ecological Citizen, a peer-reviewed periodical registered in the United Kingdom, focuses on topics such as “confronting human supremacy in defence of the Earth.”. During 2019-2020 the online periodical offered free-to-access issues during a 12-month period, ending June 2020, in order to help increase public awareness.

146. In 2020, Palgrave Macmillan publishing company will be producing a textbook titled, “Value-creating global citizenship education for sustainable development: Strategies and approaches”. The book will highlight the work of various UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network Experts on Rights of Nature and Earth Jurisprudence while engaging in topics such as climate

change, peace and non-violence, and human rights from an Earth-centered perspective.

147. In New York City, U.S., the Center for Earth Ethics (CEE) under the aegis of the Union Theological Seminary, gave a two-day intensive workshop class, on 28 and 29 February 2020, titled “Rights of Nature”. The workshop included topics such as religious history, economic analysis, Indigenous knowledge and case studies in Earth Jurisprudence. CEE has also been working with Union students on personalized studies in order to bridge the disciplines of law and theology and develop curriculum that can be more widely shared.

148. The Earth Law Center (ELC), in partnership with Howell Conservation fund, gave a webinar on ‘Rights for Reefs’ to the United States Coral Reef Task Force. The webinar focused on the need to evolve coral reef conservation to include a rights-based approach, while a Coral Reef toolkit offers pathways for evolving coral reef governance by incorporating a rights-based approach to protect and conserve coral reefs.

149. Furthermore, ELC created the first-ever blueprint for enforcing Nature’s rights, featured in an article published in the Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal, entitled “Envisioning Nature’s Right to a Stable Climate System”; Earth Law Center also launched the Earth Law Society, a professional society for those committed to learning about and advancing ecocentric law, including the Rights of Nature. The Society’s goal is to equip tens of thousands of lawyers, judges, politicians, and other professionals with the tools they need to help save the planet.

150. In 2020, ELC completed a manuscript for its forthcoming textbook, “Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law, A Practitioner’s Guide.” This is the world’s first law school coursebook that focuses on training Earth lawyers with the skills they need to create and enforce a new generation of Earth-centred (or ecocentric) laws.

151. ELC also published two eBooks on the Rights of Nature and Ocean Rights. “Three Solutions to Save Planet A” provides a concise exploration into the concept of Earth Law, while “Ocean Rights: A Roadmap to a Liveable Future” outlines the need for a new approach to ocean conservation.

152. In September 2019, women seed custodians from Bikita, Zimbabwe, gathered for a 3-day sharing of traditional knowledge, organic and traditional food, and stories at the Good Food Festival. The custodians are working with the Earth Lore Foundation to build their food sovereignty, revive ‘lost’ varieties of indigenous seeds that are diverse, nutritious and resilient to climate extremes, and enforce their customary laws which inherently acknowledge the rights of Nature.

153. In May 2020, Earth Advocacy Youth (YEA) was launched. The organization is composed of professionals working to identify and apply bold ecocentric solutions and practices across their varying professional fields. YEA’s mission is to introduce Earth Jurisprudence and Rights of Nature based solutions through policy work with governments, organizations and education systems.

154. The Earth Charter International Festival, held online on 29 June 2020, included 71 guest appearances by musicians, artists, politicians, scientists,

activists, youth, indigenous peoples and world faith representatives. Celebrating 20 years of the Earth Charter, the event was organized by the Esquel Foundation, Association Alternativa Terrazul, the Earth Charter Brazilian Network and a partnership of 30 organizations, presented by Brazilian actress Maria Paula Fidalgo and included a message from Pope Francis. The musical interventions and reflections by people from all regions of the world, broadcast in both English and Portuguese, reached a live audience of over 80,000 on social media channels. It was a timely reminder of the core tenet of the Earth Charter, “Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”

155. In 2019, the Ecological Law and Governance Association (ELGA) partnered with the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the Center for Environmental Ethics and Law, Earth Law Center, the Australian Earth Law Alliance and L4E to host a monthly webinar series of courses by expert practitioners and academics in ecological law and governance. ELGA also held a workshop, “Imagining Ecological Law and Governance,” at the 27th annual gathering of the Global Ecological Integrity Group at the University of Trieste, Italy, with live and virtual access, and a second biennial meeting at the University of Siena, Italy, to explore best practices of ecological law and governance. A South American Center for Ecological Law and Governance was inaugurated at the Federal University of Santa Catarina.

156. In Siena, Italy, in October 2019, ELGA hosted the second global symposium at the University of Siena. The main focus was to set the framework for mapping emerging approaches in ecological law and governance. Participants addressed how to promote a more ecologically oriented implementation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, from the local to the global level.

157. Throughout 2019, the Ethics Specialist Group (ESG) of the World Commission on Environmental Law continued to explore the ethical and legal implications of Earth jurisprudence, Earth democracy, and Earth trusteeship in its Biosphere Ethics Initiative. ESG presented at the International Exchange Platform “The Rise of Earth Trusteeship,” at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, at the Conference on the Earth System and International Law at the University of Porto, Portugal, and at the Australian Earth Laws Alliance and the Australian Catholic University conference titled “Building Earth Ethics in Australia: Pathways and Challenges”.

158. In December 2019, the European Commission reached out to three UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network experts to conduct a study for the European Economic and Social Committee, titled “Towards an EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Nature”.

159. During 2019-2020, the Gaia Foundation, has continued to be a reference point for Earth Jurisprudence, reaching out to African and international audiences through its renewed Earth Jurisprudence Quarterly Newsletter and fortnightly news digest. Published articles and outreach materials include “Earth Jurisprudence: our guide at a time of emergence and emergencies”, an interactive “New Story for the Earth”, and “Earth Jurisprudence: law for an Animate Earth”, by Gaia’s Carlotta Byrne, member of the UN Harmony with

Nature Knowledge Network, which questions whether a sea-change in our legal system, from a human to an Earth-centred approach, help re-balance the broken relationship many societies have with Nature?

160. The International Council on Environmental Economics and Development (ICEED) will be working with UN Harmony with Nature on an Earth Jurisprudence study based around and the role of values and ethics in development. The study will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, analysing how Earth Jurisprudence and Rights of Nature influence “development”.

161. In October 2019, the non-governmental organization Kids for Planet Rights wrote the first European Declaration for the Rights of the Planet. It was written by children and youth, between 7 and 17 years old, and presented to the European Parliament on 27 November 2019. The Declaration is an inspiring action by children and youth asking policy makers to protect the planet. It further marks the growing trend in children and youth education and awareness around climate change and biodiversity loss. For almost two years, journalist Elsa Grangier followed their work and launched a documentary series.⁵

162. In March 2020, Elsa Grangier launched the book titled “Dream Big. These Children Who are Committed to the Planet”. The book follows the process behind the youth organization, Kids for Planet Rights and the development of the Declaration for the Rights of the Planet.

163. In March 2020, the Gary Rise project was launched in partnership with the non-governmental organizations Center for Environmental Ethics and Law and the United Urban Network. The project focuses on earth ethics, ecological law and governance, and the harms done to the land and people of the Indiana dunes region in the United States.

164. In 2020, non-governmental organization Nature’s Rights presented a workshop at the Climate Change and Consciousness international conference at Findhorn, a UNITAR endorsed best practice ecovillage in Scotland.

165. On 22 April 2020 a webinar for the rights of Mother Earth, entitled "Voices for the rights of Mother Earth and Nature", was attended by representatives from Latin American countries, including several experts from the UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network and included the participation of many Latin American NGOs that promote the rights of Nature. The event reached a live audience of 4,000, with more than 6,000 persons viewing the retransmission.

166. On 21 June 2020, the event "Solstice for Abya Yala" took place online with the participation of representatives of the Latin American ancestral peoples. A recording of the event has been seen by more than 100,000 people.

⁵ <https://www.francetvpro.fr/france-tv/communiqués-de-presse/first-european-declaration-of-rights-for-planet-and-living-write-by>

167. Public engagement has grown around increasing awareness and understanding of this legal paradigm. The Rights of Nature page in Wikipedia generated over 12,000 new views in a 24-hour period over 7-8 July 2020.

168. In 2019 and 2020 numerous new publications have appeared that feature Rights of Nature. These include: “Nature as a subject of Rights in Democratic Constitutionalism in Bogotá, Colombia” and "Rights of nature: Theory, politics and practice".

169. Along with the 2020 edition of the Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law, which includes a chapter on Earth Jurisprudence and “Sustainability and the Rights of Nature in Practice”, a large array of contributions from practitioners around the world discussing their successes and challenges in moving toward a legal personhood for Nature are also featured.

170. In 2019, Routledge Press published a textbook co-edited by UN Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network experts titled, *Routledge Handbook on Applied Climate Ethics* (2021). The goal of this publication is to help civil society and policymakers identify and respond to ethical issues that arise in government responses to climate change. The publication included chapters on the duties not to harm (as related to the rights of Nature) and Earth jurisprudence.
