

2018 Harmony with Nature – Theme: Earth Jurisprudence

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1. **What would the practice of Earth-centered Law look like from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective? How is that different from how Earth-centered Law is generally practiced now? And, what are the benefits of practicing Earth-centered Law from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective?**

Earth-centered Law for every legal system is due. Existing environmental laws are not enough to tackle environmental degradation. With the plethora of environmental laws and policies, both domestic and international, targeted at ameliorating environmental hazards and degradation, environmental degradation has continued to generate unpleasant hazards for health and economic development.

This indicates that the anthropocentric or human-centered way of addressing environmental degradation which basically focuses on human benefits, has to change. It is time for all legal systems to embrace eco-centrism, which brings about focus on all of Nature; and justice for the Earth.

In order to facilitate equality and balance of the Earth for sustainable development, Earth-centered democracy- where the Nature of governance would be government of the Earth, by the Earth and for the Earth, as opposed to the present practice of government of the Earth, by humans and for humans- is required.

2. **What promising approaches would you recommend for achieving implementation of an Earth-centered worldview for Earth-centered Law? (Note: depending on the discipline, approaches could also be theoretical, although practical approaches should be prioritized).**

The adoption of an eco-centric approach to governance by granting rights of Nature will be a good start for achieving the implementation of an Earth-centered worldview. As stated above, there is a need for a change from the Human-centered worldview to the Earth-centered worldview where all of earth's creature matter for economic balance and sustainable development.

However, this eco-centric approach of granting Rights to Nature which is already in existence in some countries, should be adopted globally; legal systems with laws granting rights of nature could be used as persuasive or exemplary authorities for other legal systems.

Proactive initiatives can be made in partnership with Rights of Nature Advocates or Organizations of various Nations to find ways each legal system can accommodate Earth-centered Law's constructs. For instance, River Ethiope Trust Foundation is presently in partnership with Earth Law Center for the enactment of the first law that would grant rights of Nature in Nigeria or perhaps in Africa.

In addition, “social media” approach; a powerful tool in bringing about awareness of all forms of Laws, should also be maximized for the advancement of Earth-centered worldview.

3. What key problems or obstacles do you see as impeding the implementation of an Earth-centered worldview in Earth-centered Law?

One of the major problems could be the non-recognition by legal systems of the need to embrace the Earth-centered law approach to address environmental degradation issues and to preserve the Earth for future generations and for the benefit of all of the ecosystem.

Inadequate reports and follow-ups on enacted Earth-centered laws like the Rights of Nature can also pose a problem to effective implementation of an Earth-centered worldview.

A plethora of court cases brought forward from disputes over the misinterpretations of some of the Earth-centered laws can also contribute to ineffective implementation if the Law is vague.

4. What are the top recommendations for priority, near-term action to move Earth-centered Law toward an Earth Jurisprudence approach? What are the specific, longer-term priorities for action? (Note: give 3 to 10 priorities for action).

Near-term actions

- Encouraging global adoption of Earth-centered law.
- Making Earth jurisprudence, a course in the curriculum of Universities and creating Moot courts called ‘Earth Courts’ at Law Faculties in Universities to train future Lawyers on Earth Jurisprudence.
- Increasing awareness by social media broadcasts.
- Investing in research on the advancement and the implementation of Earth-centered Law. Research should focus basically on making these Earth-laws all-encompassing and being clear enough to reduce disputes in the nearest future.
- Recognition by more Legal Systems of benefits of the grant of Rights of Nature for sustainability and growth; and the grant thereof.

Longer-term priorities for action

- Ensuring regular reports are made on the effects of Earth-centered Laws for follow up.
- Constitutionalism of Earth-centered laws with the inclusion of fundamental rights for all of Nature (Earth).