

Listing ecocide as an atrocity crime: what, if any, are the benefits for reducing deforestation for animal agriculture?

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Deforestation

Crop growing and animal grazing are the main drivers of deforestation.

Large amounts of land are required to feed the billions of nonhuman animals killed for consumption

This results in increased greenhouse gas emissions which has implications for climate change.



What about the impact of soy?

Between 1990-2013 tofu and soy milk increased from 7.4 to 10.7 million tons.

For the same period, the use of soy-based animal feed, biofuels and vegetable oil increased from 88 million to 227 million tons (Ritchie & Roser, 2021).





Approximately 80% of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest has been done to clear land for cattle. Today, the number of cows in the Amazon Rainforest has grown to 70-80 million compared to 5 million in the 1960's.





Ecocide

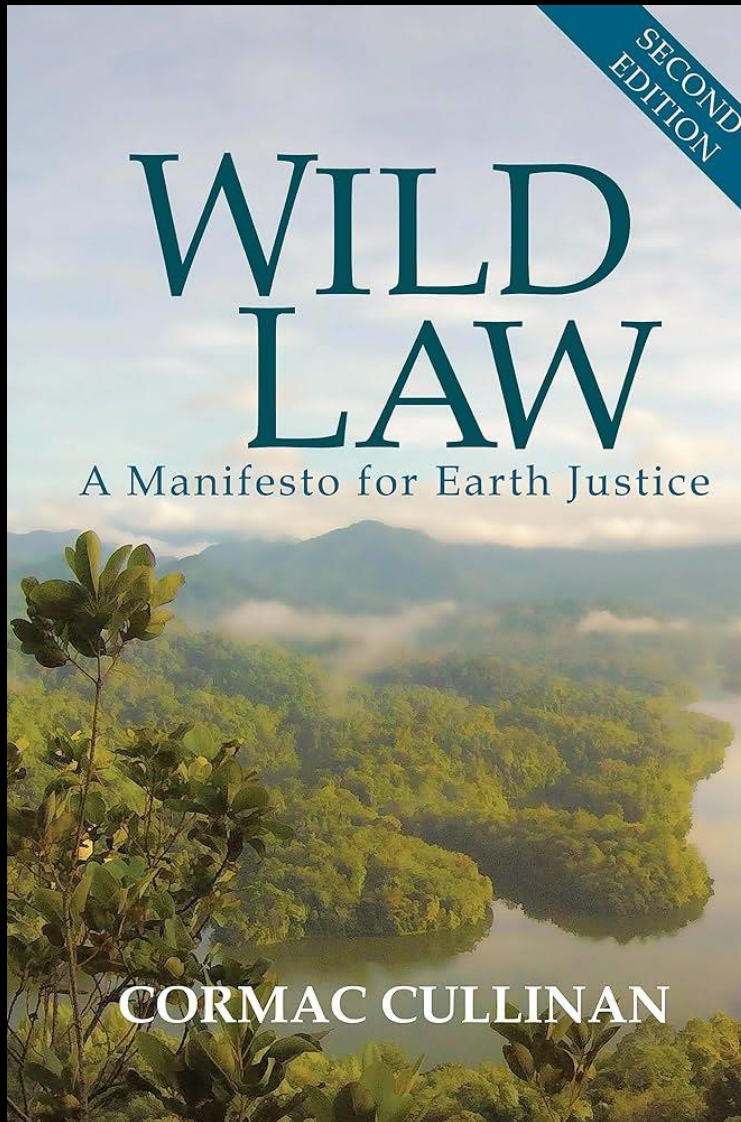
The "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts."



Wantonness

‘Wanton’ means with reckless disregard for damage which would be clearly excessive in relation to the social and economic benefits anticipated





Earth Jurisprudence

“The Rights of Nature law recognizes that an ecosystem has the right to exist, flourish, regenerate its vital cycles, and naturally evolve without human-caused disruption” (Challe, 2021).

Allied to this, if an ecosystem is considered a subject of rights it is entitled to legal representation by a guardian.

In 2018 the Supreme Court of Justice in Colombia ruled in favor of a group of indigenous youth to protect the Colombian amazon from deforestation.

It recognized the Colombian Amazon as a subject of rights; “entitled to protection, conservation, maintenance, and restoration led by the State and territorial agencies”

(Caselaw data base, 2018; Gómez-Betancur, 2020).



If Not Us, Then Who

Legal personhood or naturehood?

“Because legal personhood retains some notions of actual personhood, an important question for ecological law is what kind of person nature is assumed to be if nature is given legal personhood”
(Garver, 2020:94)



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Thank you for listening!