

Call for Abstracts on Ecocide

Should harm to the environment be criminalized?

Organisers: Merle Kooijman and Laura Burgers

The call for criminal liability for the causation of harm to the environment has been gaining renewed traction. France is drafting a law on so-called *ecocide* and in June 2021, the European Parliament, in its biodiversity strategy, called for the EU to promote inclusion of ecocide in the Rome Statute. Questions arise about the scope of the potential criminal definition, which court(s) should have jurisdiction and whether damage to the environment should be dealt with in the field of (international) criminal law at all. The University of Amsterdam's Sustainable Global Economic Law research center wishes to offer an appraisal of Ecocide on 22 October 2021, 2-5 pm, in a (virtual) roundtable discussion with Sectorplan colleagues and other interested academics.

This roundtable addresses some of the possibilities and limits of the criminalization of ecocide, reflecting on the recent [work by the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide](#). This draft aims to embed ecocide in the Rome Statute as a fifth crime against peace. However, is it acceptable to speak of a universal humanity (singular) in the context of ecological disaster, while causes and effects are disproportionately distributed over the global north and global south?

The goal of this conversation is to critically engage with the possibility and necessity of a crime of ecocide on the (inter)national level, and to assess its future directions. We will also specifically reflect on the definition of ecocide by the expert panel.

Call for abstracts

We hereby cordially invite abstract proposals dealing with the (inter)national crime of ecocide. Abstracts dealing with a regulation, governance or foundational perspective are also welcome. The roundtable will serve as a first chance to workshop the authors' abstract ideas and discuss publication venues for the final papers.

Please send your abstract, with a maximum of 300 words (in English), before 19 September 2021 to Merle Kooijman at m.kooijman@uva.nl. The roundtable will be hosted in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Participants and viewers will also be able to take part in the conference online.

Chair

Dr Laura Burgers, Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law

Speakers

Prof dr Harmen van der Wilt, professor of international criminal law, University of Amsterdam, t.b.c.