



Healing the Earth 2026

REGISTER HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/4runxntj>

EARTH HEALING SERIES – SECOND HALF OF 2026

20 JULY: Vjekoslav Saje (Balkan as a Soul-Bridge CC)
 “Let Us Cherish the Earth Together - Small Actions Lasting Change”

14 SEPTEMBER (2nd Monday!): Lauren Van Ham (URI Global Earth Restoration Coordinator)
 “Honoring the Rights of Nature”

19 OCTOBER:
 Morgana Systhove & Raoman Smita (HIVE CC)
 “COP31 Turkey: Standing Up for Faith, Nature, and Our Planet - FoRB • Rights of Nature • Ecocide Prevention”

16 NOVEMBER:
 Panel with All Speakers
 “Planet Planning: Joining Forces for Greater Impact” (Working Title)

THIRD Monday of Every Month at 17:00 CEST

Logos at the bottom: ASHA CENTRE, Middlesex University London, TiA, Unity in Diversity, DME, URI UK, Eastern European Forum for Dialogue, uri @ 25 YEARS.

Honoring the Rights of Nature

September 14th, 2026

What becomes possible when we recognize nature, not simply as a resource, but an integral member of our living system with rights of its own?



*Ask the animals, and they
will teach you, or the birds in
the sky and they will tell you;*



**Scientific studies and ancient wisdom validate differentiated sentience:
Animals are intelligent; Nature is intelligent.**



*or speak to Earth and it will
teach you, or let the fish in the
sea inform you.*

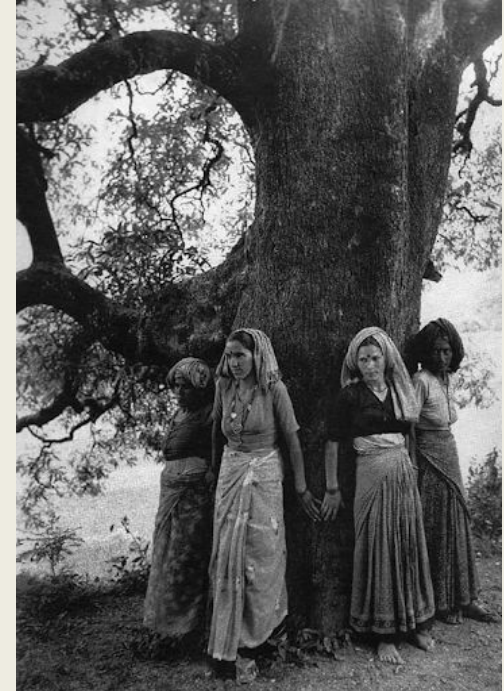
Hebrew Scriptures, Job 12:7-8



And there's more... **Ecology is permanent economy:** When Rights of Nature are included, Ecological Justice supports all members of the Earth Community



- *Chipko* comes from the word “embrace”
- The Chipko movement, 18th century was started by Rajasthan’s Bishnoi community – King of Jodhpur ordered trees be cut down. Women hugged trees to protect them and were killed. The king, in a royal decree, banned cutting of trees in all Bishnoi villages.
- 1973, Chipko strengthened as a non-violent movement aimed at tree protection and conservation after mismanagement and a border conflict with China.



Rights of Nature / Earth jurisprudence, defined

- Challenges 20th century laws that framed nature as a “resource” to be owned, used, degraded
- Systems-based science affirms humans and natural world are fundamentally interconnected
- Survival of humans depends on healthy eco-systems - protecting nature’s rights also protects well-being of humans
- As of May, 2024 - close to 500 rights of nature laws exist at local and national levels in 40 countries

Earth Communities (human and ecological) - We all live in one!

ECUADOR (2008): 1st country in the world to recognize, in its constitution the inalienable rights of ecosystems to exist and flourish. Reflects principles of *sumac kawsay*, “good living,” in Quechua: community-centered, ecologically-balanced and culturally-sensitive.

CHINA (2018): People’s Republic of China incorporated language in its constitution that centers “ecological civilization,” a centralized plan for China’s future, socially, economically, ecologically.

When Nature's Rights are Recognized (river example):

- Provides river with legal standing to exist, flourish & be represented & defended in court
- Helps stop/prevent pollution, unsustainable development, overfishing, etc
- Allows guardians (often Indigenous communities) to sue polluters; hold them accountable for harm caused
- Deepens community governance and resilience, culturally and spiritually
- Promotes nature-based solutions (restoring mangroves, eroded river banks) for climate resilience; restores biodiversity & ecosystem functioning
- Watershed education - *where does your water come from?*

More examples of Nature's Rights around the World

Bangladesh: Legal personhood for Turāg river

Colombia: Atrato River

India: Ganges River

Brazil: Waves off coast

Australia: Grains of Sand

New Zealand: Legal personhood for Whanganui River, Te Urewera Forest & Mount Taranaki

Spain: Mar Menor lagoon is Europe's first ecosystem with legal personhood

CCs of Kerala India

Kottarakara community restores river eco-system & protects clean water with 3-step approach



Interfaith ceremony to honor the river's rights



Youth group works to reduce erosion & nourish soil and eco-system by planting bamboo along river

Water conservation & protection by constructing rainwater harvesting system at public school.



CC example (Enoe/Maria): “100,000 Youth for Water” Six CCs: Brasília, Caminhos da Terra, Ponta Grossa, Amazonizar, Curitiba & URI OSCIP/BR CCs, Brazil

This intergenerational, interfaith initiative focuses on 3 principles: water is a universal human right; water cannot be commodified and water is a sacred being. Community mobilization grew in March, during their two-day *Festival das Aguas* focused on ceremony, education & national advocacy for water protection



TERRA New York University Law Clinic (NYU, School of Law):

Department focused on Earth jurisprudence. Earth Law serves Life, not just humans.

Learn more: <https://chrgj.org/terra/>



Project

Climate Law Accelerator (CLX)

The Earth Rights Research & Action's oldest line of work, CLX is a global collaborative hub that catalyzes legal strategies, tools, and ideas needed to secure urgent and ambitious climate action for climate research, advocacy, and strategic litigation.

[Learn more](#)



Project

More than Human Life (MOTH) Program

An interdisciplinary initiative, the MOTH Program advances rights and well-being for humans, non-humans, and the web of life that sustains us all.

[Learn more](#)



Project

Right to a Healthy Environment (R2HE)

In collaboration with partners like the UN Environment Programme, this initiative documents and analyzes trends and developments in the implementation and safeguarding of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

[Learn more](#)

Australian Earth Law Alliance

Tool-kits, online courses
and more at:

<https://www.earthlaws.org.au/>

Our Programs

Our programs work within, and across, different sectors so that we can catalyse new systems thinking that will lead to the transformation of Australia's governance systems.



Earth Arts
2026 Kinship Program



Ecologically Just
Transitions
Join our Learning Network



Eco-Imaginarium
Exploring econcentric life,
culture and governance



Tools/Resources for Learning More and Taking Local Action...

Group Discussion example:

1. If Trees, Land and Forest Creatures were given a voice in your Earth Community, what would they say or request?
2. In your Earth Community, which relationships are imbalanced or not represented?
3. Is there a spiritually-rooted solution that could bring healing or new understanding?
4. Knowing that resilience increases every time we restore mutually beneficial relationships between humans and nature, which perspectives do we especially need to consider for our community, now?



Values, Culture, and Spirituality:
**Ecosystems Restoration
Conversation Guide**



Center for
Earth Ethics



UNITED RELIGIONS
INITIATIVE

In Arabic,
English,
French &
Spanish!

“Our lived experience shows us that as much as we need to repair our relationship with Earth, we must also repair and improve relationships with each other. Wherever there is a polluted river or landscape littered with trash or broken by mining, there is usually a community of people who have been exploited and degraded as well. We cannot ignore the relationship between the degradation of people and the degradation of ecosystems, nor can we hope to restore ecosystems unless we address the racism, classism, sexism, and colonialism that have facilitated the damage done in our world and to one another.”