



## Book Review

# Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law

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**Anthony R. Zelle et al (Eds.), *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law— A Guide for Practitioners*, Wolters Kluwer, New York, 2021.**

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The concept of standing can be said to be one of the pivotal aspects as far as any law is concerned and has been discussed and deliberated upon for quite a long time. Environmental jurisprudence, too is no exception when it comes to this aspect. Ever since baby steps were taken by Professor Christopher Stone in his seminal work, *Should Trees Have Standing?*<sup>1</sup>, the concept has traversed a long way, obviously, with a whole lot of challenges that it had to overcome. But nevertheless, it did taste success on a number of occasions. Stone's version led to a situation wherein extending standing was not construed as absurd or unlikely, as it was sure that there would always be someone who would speak for the environment itself. Having influenced Justice Douglas in penning down his much-celebrated dissent in *Sierra Club v. Morton*<sup>2</sup>, Trees definitely was one article which was not lost in oblivion and one that has been quoted on many an occasion to cement this idea in jurisprudence, especially environmental jurisprudence.

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher D Stone, *Should Trees Have Standing? – Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects* (1972) 45 Southern California Law Review, 450.

<sup>2</sup> 348 F. Supp. 219 (N.D. Cal. 1972).

The importance that one can attach to this article is evident from the fact that Stone revisited it<sup>3</sup>, after thirteen long years because he was under an incredible time constraint when he first wrote down *Trees* and was not able to pen down his thoughts in their entirety. *Trees* was reproduced as a book, and the cover puts across the essence that one can attach to this book - a tree stump standing alone - which begs the question as to who spoke for it.

Ever since, there have been numerous occasions wherein the concept of standing has been extended so as to ensure that entities and their inherent, intrinsic rights were being recognised and protected. A new line of jurisprudence that speaks this line of thought has emerged, making it clear that environmental law, as we know it, is not how it should be. By laying bare the anthropocentric aspects writ large in environmental law, this line of jurisprudence has been able to portray the shallowness that can be attached to the said worldview, and very rightly so. The shift towards an eco-centric approach, especially in the realm of environmental jurisprudence, is the need of the hour, and numerous steps are taken in this direction. At this juncture, this edited version which collates the works of numerous stalwarts in the field of Earth Jurisprudence, assumes a lot of significance, as it has been able to trace the history of Earth Jurisprudence and detail the nuanced approach in a simple, yet powerful way. The book is a collaborative effort of many people, drawn from various fields, aimed at furthering the idea of Earth Jurisprudence.

The foreword, authored by Mary Christina Wood, highlights the fork in our future path - one in which *nature* has helped us survive and another, a world wherein we would face umpteen problems. By highlighting the failure of environmental law, she reveals a grim picture that evidently reveals itself. She falls back on the steps taken in the U.S. and details how it lost its way - despite a promising start. The foreword also discusses the judiciary's role in a climate emergency and the steps taken during Obama's and Trump's tenure as Presidents. Relying on recent decisions,

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<sup>3</sup> Christopher D Stone, *Should Trees Have Standing? Revisited: How Far Will Law and Morals Reach? A Pluralist Perspective*, (1985) 59 Southern California Law Review 1.

including the *Juliana*<sup>4</sup>, the author has been able to discuss the various nuances that exist. She has also touched upon the paradigm shift that law needs to achieve if it were to move toward an eco-centric approach.

Terming it as a must read for judges, lawyers, students and anyone who is interested in the area, the foreword encapsulates the need of having such a book and what it will definitely, be able to achieve. By mentioning the four unifying themes that exist in the book, which makes it different from the rest, namely reference to Nature's Supreme Laws, Fundamental Rights, Recalibrating Governance, and Inspiring Transformation, she concludes by making a very right observation – one that sets the tone – that Earth Law comes to the world not a moment too soon.

The Introduction, written jointly by the editors, speaks volumes about the emergence of an eco-centric law and the way in which we are to conceive a future environmental law. Clearly laying down that the book seeks to provide those interested in protecting the environment for its own sake, the foreword subtly puts across the need and the necessity to foster Earth Law. Subtitled as “a guide for practitioners”, the book aims to be treated as a one-stop shop for those interested. This is made even more clear when one notices that after every chapter, the editors have formulated ‘Study Questions’, which help the reader gauge his/her understanding of the subject. The book is divided into five major sections which discuss various aspects of Earth Jurisprudence – the emergence of Earth Law, addressing threshold challenges, litigation strategies, transforming the law and a global survey of Earth Law developments.

In Section 1, the emergence of Earth Law is discussed in three separate chapters, which throw much-needed light on the origins of Earth Law and its basic concepts. Margaret R. Stewart, Director of the Centre of Earth Jurisprudence at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, Florida, along with contributions from the Earth Law Centre, discusses the existing environmental laws in the U.S. as well as the judicial decisions. The chapter begins by tracing the history of modern environmental law, and looks into

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<sup>4</sup> *Juliana v. United States*, 947 F. 3d 1159 (9th Cir. 2020).

certain triggering events which has played an important role in shaping it. It further charts the history of environmental law by tracing the various legislations, over time, in the U.S. while also discussing various legislations and judicial decisions. One highlight that we see throughout the book is that there are a lot of excerpts from the original judgments, which are in tandem with the discussion and give a complete picture to the reader. Delving into various legislations and court interpretations of the same is the right start to understanding a new area of jurisprudence. A major takeaway of this chapter is that the author has carefully laid down the specific issues that need to be discussed.

Chapter 2 under this section, jointly authored by Grant Wilson, Herman Greene, Dalit Paradis, Andrew Cliburn, and Michelle Maloney, provides a history of Earth Law and states that Earth Law is both a departure from environmental law and a new context for its extension. By touching upon the movement from a legal system based on the separation between humans and other entities, the chapter discusses various emerging approaches to Earth Law. The authors fall back on the need to come up with a connection rather than separation, as it currently exists, and details the reasons for this separation while analysing why environmental laws have failed. Relying on history, the authors have been able to specifically touch upon the effect of separation on environmental laws and examine whether such a separation has succeeded. Concluding that it has not, the authors further explore whether there could be a connection that exists and delves into the various emerging approaches to Earth Law. The chapter's major takeaways include understanding the departure from environmental law to Earth law and highlighting a new form and context of what Earth Law is all about.

The conceptual framework of Earth Law, written by Herman F Greene and Alessandro Pelizzon, is the third chapter in this section which discusses the various characteristics of different Earth Law approaches. By including a detailed description of what is in store over the chapter, by dividing it into ten sections, the authors have been able to carefully answer some of those very basic questions, which obviously would go a far way in making people aware of this new area of jurisprudence. Starting with a description of the

Anthropocene Epoch<sup>5</sup>, and tracing the history of humankind through the various epochs, the chapter describes and brings to light the concept to the common reader, in simple terms. It also looks into the connection between Earth Law, philosophy, and jurisprudence and mentions that Earth law challenges some of these set principles. By discussing nature and the cultural divide that exists in preserving nature, this chapter gives a detailed insight into the preservationist and conservationist approaches to nature protection. Referring to the Gaia theory and discussions surrounding that is yet another highlight. The chapter puts forth a holistic understanding of the earth as a system and is keen to showcase the differences in approach between anthropocentrism, biocentrism, and ecocentrism. The chapter also discusses, by referring to Thomas Berry's influential work<sup>6</sup>, ten principles which put forth a case for Nature Rights. A thorough discussion about the role of law and legal ethics provides the reader with an inkling of what is expected from a legal system.

Section two starts by addressing the threshold issues to the formalisation of Earth Law and discusses the various challenges to be met. More concentration is on the aspect of how nature is not thought of as human property but rather on providing rights on its own. Chapter 4, Property Law in the U.S., authored by Ted Hamilton and Zachary Klein, discusses property law in the U.S. by delving into the conflicts between a constitutionally recognised right to property and the Rights of Nature. Philosophical moorings of these rights are looked into and the reference to the works of Locke<sup>7</sup> and Singer<sup>8</sup> provide better insights. The chapter also discusses the rights in conflict with environmental regulations and references made to cases *Boomer v. Atlantic Cement Co.*<sup>9</sup> and *Lucas v.*

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<sup>5</sup> The word for the first time appeared in an article published in 2000. Paul J. Crutzen & Eugene F. Stoermer, *The Anthropocene*, IGBP Newsletter 17 (May 2000).

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Berry, *The Great Work: Our Way into The Future* (1999).

<sup>7</sup> John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, in *Two Treatises of Government*, Vol. 2, § 49 (1688).

<sup>8</sup> Joseph William Singer, *Sovereignty & Property*, 86 NW. U. L. REV. 1, 18-19, 50-51 (1991-1992).

<sup>9</sup> 26 N.Y.2d 219 (1970).

*S. C. Coastal Council*<sup>10</sup>, help the reader immensely. The extent of property rights and the role played by the governments, both the federal and the state, is also looked into - by discussing *Forest Guardians v. Wells*<sup>11</sup>. These discussions would certainly help the reader be aware of the ever-increasing tension between the emergence of Earth Law and property rights as we know of it, in any legal system.

Chapter 5, authored by Tony Zelle, discusses the crux of an Earth Centric Law - the concept of standing. No discussion about standing can begin without a direct reference to *Sierra Club v. Morton*<sup>12</sup> and that's exactly where this chapter too, starts its journey. Discussing the concept and the importance of standing, this chapter is able to take the reader on a rollercoaster ride - one wherein a clear, in-depth picture is provided for by referring to a number of cases. Tracing the history of a concept is never an easy task, and the chapter does justice to the same - especially by discussing at length various legislative steps and decisions, interspersed with study questions, which do help the reader a lot. The chapter concludes that the question of legal standing has been insurmountable regarding the development of the Rights of Nature.

Guardianship arrangements in the Rights of Nature Legal Provisions are discussed in Chapter 6, authored by Craig M. Kauffman, which looks into the procedural and substantive rights of ecosystems and examines how a voice can be lent to them. By discussing various prevalent models across the globe, this chapter gives the reader insight into how these rights are institutionalised. Differences in approaches are also dealt with, with countries taking different approaches ranging from constitutional provisions to legislation. The inclusion of tables that visually represent these complex ideas is a bonus.

Section three starts off from where Section Two has stopped. The barriers that had been identified have to be done away with and Section three discusses the litigation strategies that need to be followed if one were to strengthen their case for Mother Nature.

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<sup>10</sup> 505 U.S. 1003, 1005-32 (1992).

<sup>11</sup> 201 Ariz. 255 (2001).

<sup>12</sup> 405 U.S. 727 (1972).

The seven chapters that find a place under this section have each been carefully tailored to provide a seamless connection and put across a litigation strategy that would, in all means, strengthen one's case. Chapter 7, authored by Noah Hall, discusses the Public Trust Doctrine and examines it as an active foundation for Earth Law. The history of the PTD and the limitations of private property are deftly described and help the reader get a clear picture. This chapter is able to provide the very basis of the concept of Earth Law, as this is where it all starts.

Stacy Jane Schaefer has authored Chapter 8, which throws light on the rights of future generations. This area assumes a lot of significance, especially when one discusses aspects of rights and duties. Questions as to how one can define a generation and provide a roadmap to identify future generations are discussed at length. The chapter seeks to answer questions regarding future generations, especially those relating to their rights, with a strong focus on their ability to assert their rights and enforce duties owed to them in courts. By tracing indigenous customary law, the environmental movements in the USA, and international soft laws, this chapter builds a case for the rights of future generations and to secure that reads into the Public Trust Doctrine a legally enforceable duty to protect the environment for future generations. Fiduciary duties owed and trustee concepts are details and provide the reader clarity. Constitutional rights are also referred to in this context. The chapter ends with a caveat that planet earth does not suffer and submit beyond a point - that the earth is the ultimate court of appeals.

Chapter 9, authored by Elizabeth M. Dunne and Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, discusses the Rights of Nature movement in the U.S. by tracing the historical evolution of this right. Beginning with the colonial legacy and indigenous heritage, this chapter discusses the concept of movement lawyering - a movement where lawyers work within social movements aimed at change. The chapter includes an in-depth analysis of various case studies in local lawmaking - instances of local communities taking legal steps to protect Mother Nature. It also further discusses the presence of ecocentric laws in State Constitutions and provides the reader with a clear picture. References to tribal governments and spiritual

dimensions of sacred places have instilled much-needed vigour in the larger discussion.

Rachel Adam has authored Chapter 9, which discusses the symbiotic relationship between Human Rights and the Rights of Nature. Stressing on the aspect of co-violations of rights, this chapter has been able to build a case wherein the intersection of the aspects of human rights and Rights of Nature has been detailed. The *Chevron case*<sup>13</sup> has been discussed and used as an example to further this thought. The presence of an institutional framework – the International Rights of Nature Tribunal, has been acknowledged and discussed. The chapter identifies a number of legal forums, avenues and lawsuits which pursue Earth Jurisprudence and thereby provides the reader with a comprehensive picture of the status of Earth law-related judicial steps.

An important part of Earth Jurisprudence often sidelined in an anthropocentric world, is the rights of non-humans. Chapter 11, by Kevin R. Schneider, tackles this very issue by citing numerous instances of non-human lives at stake. By exploring the aspects of rights extended to non-human entities, this chapter provides the reader with the challenges it poses and how it could be circumvented. By referring to numerous instances from across, the globe, the author has been able to put across the importance that needs to be attached to such rights. Basic concepts like legal personhood and the value of habeas corpus are detailed. Strategies that are to be followed to secure non-human rights project litigation too are thrown light upon by referring to the decisions rendered in *The Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc., on Behalf of Tommy v. Lavery et al.*<sup>14</sup>, *Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc., on Behalf of Kiko v. Presti et al.*<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *Chevron Corp. v. Donziger*, No. 14-0826 (2d Cir. 2016).

<sup>14</sup> Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, New York 2014 124 A.D.3d 148, 998 N.Y.S.2d 248.

<sup>15</sup> Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, New York 2015 124 A.D.3d 1334, 999 N.Y.S.2d 652.



and *The Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc., on behalf of Hercules and Leo v. Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M. D*<sup>16</sup>, to name a few.

Chapter 12 deals with the concept of Ecocide and has been authored by Bedirhan Erdem, and Ug̃ur Orhan. An action that should have been criminalised under the Rome Statute is discussed in detail, and the nuanced approach that the authors have relied on is a delight for anyone interested in the concept. By citing case studies and delving deep into them, the chapter traces the history of the crime and ends with a discussion on who should actually be treated as a victim, what is the quantum of harm caused, who should be held responsible, and what should be the penalty. The Amazon rainforest is used as a case study, and nothing could possibly match the extent of destruction that man has brought upon it. By detailing the repercussions of such destructive actions in-depth, the chapter uses it as an example to catapult the discussion to the next level. Ecocide, its history and its journey have been well documented – with steps taken by various people to secure its recognition as a crime against humanity the icing on the cake.

Lance N Long and Ted Hamilton discuss Climate Change, Civil Disobedience and the Necessity Defense in Chapter 13. The authors have put in a lot of effort to point out the fact that the window of opportunity to tackle climate change repercussions is fast narrowing and that imminent, urgent steps have to be taken. Discussing the Paris Negotiations and the steps that had been taken to tackle the issue, this chapter, through case analysis, showcases the many obstacles that exist for climate litigants. *People v. Gray*<sup>17</sup> is discussed as it provides, in the words of the authors themselves – full consideration of the defence's elements. The chapter also discusses a couple of cases from various states in the U.S. - *United States v. De Christopher*<sup>18</sup> and *Washington v. Ward*<sup>19</sup> to drill home the point.

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<sup>16</sup> Supreme Court, New York County 2015 49 Misc. 3d 746, 16 N.Y.S.3d 898, 322 Ed. Law Rep. 440.

<sup>17</sup> 571 N.Y.S.2d 851, 866 (Crim. Ct. 1991).

<sup>18</sup> No. 2:08-CR-183, 2009 WL 3837208 (D. Utah Nov. 16, 2009), upheld in *United States v. De Christopher*, 695 F.3d 1082, 1087-88 (10th Cir. 2012).

Section four describes ways and avenues to transform the law – the actual shift from an anthropocentric legal system to an ecocentric legal system. Chapter 14 under this section takes the reader on a solemn, poignant journey that describes what it is to lose one’s habitat from the perspective of a bear. Reed Loder, in this chapter, has been able to encapsulate and put across, in the most touching way, the story of a mother bear and her multiple generations of cubs. The focus is most definitely on the general state of human relations with wild animals. By pointing out the bear’s perspective, the author has been able to make the reader understand the travails which the bear and her cubs have to undergo, and by connecting it with earth jurisprudence, brings to the minds of the reader various perspectives and challenges, which is sought to be answered.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Initiatives form the basis of Chapter 15, authored by Yann Aguila and Shehana Gomez. They take us through the history of the United Nations and its long-cherished dream. Steps and initiatives taken under the auspices of the United Nations have been discussed at length and provide the reader with a crisp, concise, yet informative read. The authors have also looked into certain emerging paradigms which call for a global pact for the environment and examined its feasibility. By tracing the history and detailing the principles recognised under this step, the authors rely heavily on the fact that sustainable development alone cannot be seen as a one-stop solution and reverse the current ecological crisis. It calls for the United Nations to take concrete steps and develop a global environmental governance model, which would transcend the anthropocentric model of sustainable development and promote a much better acceptable eco-centric model.

Chapter 16, authored by Herman Greene, aims to discuss the idea of eco-centric governance that calls for a new ecological social contract that would revolutionise environmental law. By relying on the social contract theory, this chapter looks into the role lawyers are to play to secure earth justice and uses Bolivia as a case study.

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<sup>19</sup> 438 P.3d 588 (Wash. Ct. App. 2019).

By using Bruno Latour's lecture<sup>20</sup> as the take-off point, the chapter puts across the concept of planetary boundaries and builds a case to pen down a new ecological social contract. The chapter further discusses Bruce Jennings<sup>21</sup> and his take on ecological governance and reads into it the views of Hobbes, Locke, and Rosseau, which it is felt, is very insightful. By building on this premise, the idea of a new ecological social contract is mooted. The chapter also discusses the role that lawyers do have to play in ecological governance and provides an insight as to what to expect when earth happens to be your client!

Section five takes stock of Earth Law – a global survey. This section looks into how Earth laws are implemented and read into a country's legal system. Chapter 17, authored by Julio Prieto Méndez and Hugo Echeverria, looks into the first instance of the Rights of Nature being afforded constitutional protection. In its Constitution, Ecuador, the world's first country to include Rights of Nature, is delved into in detail. The chapter provides an excellent take on the legal ramifications and problems that the country has faced in implementing such a right. What exactly does the right encapsulate and how is it to be implemented are some of the very pertinent questions sought to be answered in this chapter. The authors also discuss the clash between indigenous belief systems and western norms while reiterating that several indigenous customs, traditions, and practices have been afforded legal recognition. *Sumak Kawsay* or the concept of good living is also discussed and provides an insightful read. Constitutional provisions are referred to, and an analysis of various cases forms an integral part of this chapter.

Chapter 18 explores Colombia's legal system, written by Camila Bustos and Whitney Richardson, which aims to catalogue the Colombian courts' response in matters relating to the Rights of Nature. The chapter briefly describes the legal system and

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<sup>20</sup> Bruno Latour, *Facing Gaia: Six Lectures on the Political Theology of Nature* (2013), [https://eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/wakefield15/files/2015/01/LATOUR-GIFFORD-SIX-LECTURES\\_1.pdf](https://eportfolios.macaulay.cuny.edu/wakefield15/files/2015/01/LATOUR-GIFFORD-SIX-LECTURES_1.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> Bruce Jennings, *Ecological Governance: Toward A New Social Contract with The Earth* 173-174 (2016).

highlights the need to focus more on socio-economic rights. By discussing a number of recent cases, including the *Atrato River Basin case*<sup>22</sup>, the chapter is able to provide deep insight for those interested.

Chapter 19 puts across the instances of Earth Law in Brazil and Mexico and is able to concisely provide a peek into the situation in Latin America – a world leader in the Rights of Nature movement. The authors have been careful to include aspects of environmental protection in the Constitution and other relevant legislation. The much-debated developments in Brazil under Bolsanaro, which have been discussed at length, for sure would boil the blood of Earth Lawyers. Cases in Brazil have also been discussed, and the chapter provides valuable insight into the legal system. Local Rights of Nature initiatives are galore in Brazil, and the chapter does justice to it by referring to them in detail. Indigenous leaders' role too has been highlighted and numerous instances of them joining hands for Mother Nature has been mentioned. The same line of approach is followed in the case of Mexico as well, wherein the author has explored the different instruments which foster environmental rights in general and Rights of Nature in particular. The part which speaks about deriving Nature Rights from human environmental rights is well-thought-out and forces the reader to acknowledge the same. Indigenous rights too are looked into and by putting across in a simple fashion, the intricate connection that they have with the environment, the chapter adds a lot of value. The role of civil societies too has been discussed on the basis of an interview with Alberto Ruz, an environmentalist, which is a welcome addition.

The members of the Earth Law Centre have joined hands and authored Chapter 20, which deals with the developments in India. Identifying the legal landscape of rights in India and discussing the constitutional connotations, the chapter is able to provide a clear picture of where exactly things stand. By discussing the decisions rendered in *Mohammed Salim v. State of Uttarakhand & Others*<sup>23</sup>, Lalit

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<sup>22</sup> Corte Constitucional [C.C.] [Constitutional Court], Sala Sext de Revisión noviembre 10, 2016, M.P.J. Palacio, Sentencia T-622 (Colom.).

<sup>23</sup> W.P.(C.) 126 of 2014.

*Miglani v. State of Uttarakhand & Other*<sup>24</sup> & *Narayan Dutt Bhatt v. Union of India & Others*<sup>25</sup>, this chapter provides a bird's eye view of the legal developments in India.

Rachelle Adam has authored Chapter 21, which deals with Israel and provides insight into the Rights of Nature movement in a country lacking resources due to its geographical features. This has led to Israel taking adequate care and a considerable amount of litigation – all of which have been discussed at length in this chapter. Though the Rights of Nature concept is in its nascent stages, the author has looked into two specific case studies - one related to Nature's right to water and another related to the Israeli mountain gazelle, and this helps the reader understand how the Rights of Nature movement takes roots.

Chapter 22 deals with New Zealand and is authored by Catherine J. Iorns Magallanes and provides a wholesome picture of one of those countries in the world which have had a number of initiatives taken in the field of Earth Jurisprudence. This chapter takes us on a well-drafted journey through the history of the Rights of Nature movement in New Zealand by highlighting the various legislative steps taken. Relevant parts of the legislation are reproduced and provide the reader with information as well as clarity. The chapter also discusses cases and legislative measures taken, while also deftly putting across to the reader Māori environmental philosophies, which have played an integral role in promoting the Rights of Nature.

The situation in the Netherlands with a specific reference to the *Urgenda case*<sup>26</sup> forms the basis of Chapter 23, authored by Valentijn Punt. The chapter takes one through a well-laid-down articulation of the European Convention on Human Rights and discusses certain rights available under it. The *Urgenda case* forms the backbone of this chapter and much of this chapter has been dedicated to discussing this case – right from its very initial stage to its conclusion. The high point of this chapter is a comparative

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<sup>24</sup> W.P.(C.), No. 140 of 2015.

<sup>25</sup> W.P.(C.), No. 43 of 2014.

<sup>26</sup> *The State of the Netherlands v. Urgenda Foundation*, ECLI:NL:HR:2019:2006.

analysis of *Urgenda & Juliana*<sup>27</sup>, wherein the authors have highlighted the contrast between these two. The chapter further discusses the impact of the *Urgenda* decision on climate litigation. A relatively new concept - Atmospheric Trust Litigation - is also discussed in this chapter, which is welcome.

Chapter 24 deals with Africa and is authored by Roger Chennells, who has been able to bring his expertise as a lawyer and discusses many of the nuances that exist, especially when one understands that Africa is a pluri-legal continent. By mentioning the role that African Earth Jurisprudence practitioners play in promoting this line of jurisprudence, this chapter provides a panoramic view of Africa and its tryst with Earth Jurisprudence. References made to traditional governance systems that exist in Africa and the problems that they did face - a shift from colonial rule to self-governance, have been traced beautifully and add value to the whole discussion.

One welcome addition, which seldom finds a place in Earth Jurisprudence-related books, is a specific chapter dedicated to Indigenous Legalities. Chapter 25, authored by Iván Darío Vargas Roncancio, delves into the role played by indigenous communities in fostering better Earth governance. Relying heavily on the term 'Indigenous Legalities', this chapter provides the reader a response put forth by them to the Western Legalities. The chapter also discusses Colombian and Inter-American case law by delving into the basic tenets and methods followed by indigenous legalities, especially in the Americas. Colonialism and its after effects have been dealt with in detail. It gives the reader a picture of the harsh circumstances that had existed and the struggle that indigenous legalities had to face to break free. The highlight of the chapter, though, are references made to imbibe indigenous legalities into western legal systems and thereby transform them. The chapter concludes by discussing Wuasikamas - a particular Indigenous legal system - and discusses at length the prominent features of the same.

The value one can attach to the book, which already is at its zenith, is pushed even higher after one goes through the Afterword,

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<sup>27</sup> *Juliana et al. v. United States*, D.C. No. 6:15-cv-01517- AA, at 5 (2019).

authored by Cormac Cullinan, a South African lawyer, and a notable Earth Jurist. Taking one through the nuances of anthropocentric law and moving away from it, the afterword encapsulates everything this book is about – what next? The discussion surrounding the future of Earth laws is a joyous journey that every lover of Earth laws would relish. Adroitly switching between crucial questions that arise and providing definite answers, the chapter reiterates that laws of nature trump human laws. It calls for action, especially action resulting from the environmental crisis in which the world finds itself, and calls it a catalyst fostering legal transformation. Judicial innovations and their role in promoting this line of jurisprudence too has been touched upon. Referring to Stone's idea as a Wild Idea, the necessity for innovation and the challenges that it puts forth has been emphasised as well. By the time one reads the conclusion, one would be sure that a change towards an ecologically viable human society would not be possible without bringing about a significant change – a radical transformation of our current legal systems.

Such has been the developmental shift from a restricted anthropocentric worldview towards an all-inclusive eco-centric view that it is high time that those who are interested, common man included, lay hands on a book that provides the reader a crisp, easy-to-understand, yet all-inclusive book - and, without a second thought, one can definitely recommend this book. High on content, a detailed analysis of various topics, coupled with experts from respective fields contributing – this book has it all to be a one-stop shop for matters related to Earth Jurisprudence. Right from the word go, this book ensures that the reader is hooked on to it. Seldom does it lose the plot and that is exactly why one would want to recommend this read to anyone who is keen on understanding a much nuanced, in-its-initial-stage area of jurisprudence. The editors have been careful to divide the book into different sections, with each section containing chapters that speak volumes. This division into sections, one does notice, has been able to clearly demarcate the areas; yet stitch together a seamless connection between them, providing even a novice with a wholesome experience.

Embellished with numerous instances of Earth Jurisprudence principles in practice, case laws that have been deliberated, discussed and debated upon, excerpts from these judgments, and the right mix of legislation being discussed, the editors have definitely, taken a monumental effort in bringing this book out in its present form. The study questions posed between the chapters' content and even after each chapter allow the readers to test their understanding of the subject after having had an opportunity to go through the discussions. It helps the reader keep a tab on his progress and sure does go a long way in helping him understand the nitty-gritty of the much-debated subject. An opportunity to answer these study questions, based on cases that have been decided, is a sure shot way of getting to know more about the subject, and the authors as well as the editors need to be praised. Seldom does a book do justice to a highly nuanced topic and *Earth Law: Emerging Ecocentric Law – A Guide for Practitioners* does actually pull it off - and how! A must read for Earth Lawyers - experts as well as wannabes.