



Club van Rome
Nederlandse
Associatie



SCHOOL FOR
WELLBEING
Studies and Research



Invitation

INTERNATIONAL EARTH TRUSTEESHIP GATHERING

Governance, law, advocacy and practice

22 – 24 June 2018, Vrededhuis, Riouwstraat 1, The Hague, The Netherlands

Registration by 1st June 2018

We cordially invite you to participate in the International Earth Trusteeship Gathering. The gathering is meant to bring together initiatives on governance, law and legal structures, Earth practices and advocacy aiming to heal the relationship between humanity and ecosystem Earth and fulfil our responsibilities as Trustees of the Earth (see annex 2). **You are invited for this International Earth Trusteeship Gathering because you are a key person involved in such initiatives.**

“The protection of Earth’s vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust.” – Preamble, Earth Charter

This gathering builds on the Earth Trusteeship Platform Roundtable organised by Hans van Willenswaard on 13 July 2017, in Utrecht, the Netherlands in the context of the international conference “Practicing the Commons”. This Roundtable brought together academics, lawyers, politicians, activists, farmers, researchers and others sharing a variety of initiatives and ideas. Keynote speaker Prof Klaus Bosselmann¹ presented an initiative of the Planetary Integrity Project, supported by the Common Home of Humanity project, to establish an [Earth Trusteeship Council](#) that would focus on maintaining or restoring ecological integrity on a United Nations / planetary scale. He also mentioned new ideas, such as a Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Responsibilities, which could be presented on 10 December 2018, the 70 years Celebration Day of UDHR. Klaus and Hans proposed to have a Preparatory Conference on these themes in June 2018 in The Hague.

The call for an International Gathering further stems from an e-mail discussion of January 2018 with several key persons of different nature rights organisations on the need and opportunity to present a draft Additional Protocol on Nature Rights to the UDHR at the next UN General Assembly. During this e-mail discussion the proposal was made to have a gathering to bring together the many closely related initiatives and ideas that exist

¹ Prof Klaus Bosselmann is chair of Ecological Law and Governance Association; Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Ethics Specialist Group and connected to the Earth Charter Initiative.

around the world and have been able to raise the global awareness of the urgent need to restore our relationship with nature.

Another reason for an International Gathering is to create an opportunity for Dutch human rights, environmental and sustainable development organizations to have an inspiring exchange with these international initiatives.

The Earth Trusteeship Platform, informally constituted during the Roundtable of July 2017 as a network of individuals and organisations (see annex 3), took the responsibility to host and organise this International Earth Trusteeship Gathering. A small coordinating team is voluntarily working towards organising this Gathering².

The Hague, [international city of Peace and Justice](#) is a good location for this Gathering, as peace and justice can only be achieved on a healthy planet. The beautiful meeting venue, [The Vreedehuis](#), is close to the Peace Palace.

We envision a fully participative gathering for inspiration, sharing, enjoying and working together: to present each other's initiatives, ideas and visions, to discuss next steps, promote and support ongoing campaigns, form coalitions, identify what Earth Trusteeship means, explore the need for a platform, make a joint statement or declaration, share information in a more structural way, work towards joined movement building actions around the 70th anniversary of UDHR on 10 December 2018 and other moments such as the review of the SDG process and High Level Political Forum in 2020. We can also create new public momentums, such as a global citizen's election for an Earth Trusteeship Council or promoting a Global Summit on the Urgency of Regenerating the Earth for Future Generations. See Annex 1 for the preliminary Programme and the confirmed and invited speakers.

Participants are expected to cover their own travel and lodging costs. The beautiful venue, coffee, tea and light lunches will be provided.

We invite you to express your interest to Bert de Graaff (degraaff@legra.demon.nl). To register, please send your name, affiliation / organisation / initiative, mail address, telephone number and a few lines on your interest in the event and possible contribution to the program (e.g. a TED talk) to Bert by 1 June 2018.

We hope to meet you and are looking forward to this moment of collectively working to strengthen the global movement for Earth Trusteeship.

On behalf of the hosting organisations,

Alide Roerink, Earth Charter Initiative
Frank Heckman, Embassy of the Earth
Semuel Sahureka, Saka Mese Nusa Allifuru
Bas Jurres, Club of Rome, Netherlands Association
Hans van Willenswaard, School for Wellbeing
Leo van der Vlist, Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples

Annexes:

1. Preliminary Programme with list of confirmed and invited speakers

² Alphabetically, Bert de Graaff, Alide Roerink, Semuel Sahureka, Jan van de Venis, Leo van der Vlist, Hans van Willenswaard, Rembrandt Zegers and Dirk Zeilstra.

2. Preliminary list of initiatives promoting Earth Trusteeship
3. Draft Statement of Intent of an Earth Trusteeship Platform

Annex 1: Preliminary Program

The Gathering will be accompanied by Ceremony, Exhibition, Film, Music / Poetry, Experience and options for Body-Mind Exercise. The venue has a nice garden and there is an old city park close by, for meeting the wind, air, sun, rain, trees, birds, other creatures, plants and the occasional dog walker.

Keepers of space and energy: Frank Heckman, Alide Roerink and Rembrandt Zegers.

Friday, 22 June 2018

Opening of Fire Ceremony in the Garden of The Vredehuis at Sunrise 05:23

Registration 09.00 – 10.00

Plenary sessions: 10.00 – 13.00

Opening Reflections - Keynotes

- Klaus Bosselmann, chair of Ecological Law and Governance Association, Our Commitment to Earth: Rights, Responsibilities and Trusteeship
- Nnimmo Bassey, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) Nigeria, Oilwatch International, Right Livelihood Award laureate: The art of building cooperation and its many cultural ways of doing that

Collective expressions

- Our Timeline of Initiatives for Hope plotted (facilitated collective work)
- Living Statue of our Multicultural Presence (facilitated collective work)

Panel discussion: Human Rights and the Environment

We will look at recent developments within the UN Human Rights system, which increasingly confirm the strong interconnectedness between human rights and nature, for instance the report by UN special rapporteur prof. John Knox on 'Human Rights and Biodiversity' (2017) and his 'Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment' (2018), both adopted by the UN Human Rights Council. At the same time, we see the Rights of Nature increasingly invoked and confirmed in law, agreements and case law (e.g. New Zealand and Columbia).

- Introduction by Soo-Young Hwang, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), who assisted prof John Knox in developing the 'Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment'.
- Conversation with panel (consisting of several members of the gathering).

Parallel Group Sessions 14.00 – 17.00

Inputs from participants. Getting to know each other better and creating a level playing field of available information and resources present in the Gathering. Many speakers already signed up, others still need to be confirmed or may still request for a space. A carousel of 15 minutes TED-talks with 15 minutes of discussion around the following themes:

Earth Trusteeship Governance: New Visions Initiatives to further enhance Earth Trusteeship governance

- Prue Taylor, IUCN Commission of Environmental Law Ethics Specialist Group: Earth Governance: The importance of common heritage
- Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance, UN Harmony with Nature Initiative, the IUCN World commission on Environmental Law, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. (videoconference)
- Jaap Spier, former advocate general Supreme Court Netherlands. Principal author Climate Principle for Enterprises (tbc)
- Massimiliano Massini, vice-chair of Ecological Law and Governance Association; University of Siena, R4S - Regulation for Sustainability; Member of UN Harmony with Nature Initiative, IUCN World commission on Environmental Law, Nature Rights; "Envisioning an ecological approach to environmental law" (videoconference)

Human Rights & Responsibilities and Rights of Nature: Initiatives to further enhance human rights and responsibilities and rights of nature.

- Catherine Iorns Magallanes, Victoria University of Wellington; Adopting and Implementing Legal Responsibilities for Nature; (videoconference)
- Caroline Hunt, Webster University Geneva and Grenoble Business School; A human rights lawyer; Nature's Rights
- Colin Robertson, Lawyer-linguist, Expert with Harmony with Nature
- Michele Perrin-Taillat, member of Rights of Mother Earth and European Citizens Initiative Rights of Nature

Regenerating the Earth, Investing in Natural Capital, Economic Transition Initiatives on ecosystem restoration, reforestation, regenerative agriculture, food transition and how to finance this, changing our business models, the circular economy, true costing.

- Leo van der Vlist, Embassy of the Earth, holistic, community-led ecosystem regeneration
- Volkert Engelsman, President Biological Tradehouse EOSTA, True costing
- Tineke Lambooy, Professor of Corporate Law at Nyenrode Business Universiteit, Netherlands. Research on Corporate Social Responsibility; member Club of Rome.
- Hans van Willenswaard, School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, Earth Trusteeship as a condition for the transition to social entrepreneurship and transformation of the business sector
- Lisa Mead, Ecological Law & Governance Association; Executive Director Earth Law Alliance; Economies for Life
- Dennis Kerkhoven, Earth's real value, restoring the role of the regions (tbc)

Worldviews and Indigenous Wisdom Wisdom and worldviews from around the world expressing and practicing Earth Trusteeship principles.

- Samuel Sahureka, Saka Mese Nusa AlifURU, The Allifuru Way of Life
- Dorine van Norren, PhD 2017 on Development as a Service: a Happiness, Ubuntu and Buen Vivir interdisciplinary view of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Wim Hiemstra, COMPAS, (tbc)
- Awraham Soetendorp (Earth Charter Commissioner, Charter for Compassion, Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values), (tbc)

Movement, cooperation and capacity building Examples and ideas about effective awareness building, creating global movements, campaigns and paradigm shifts.

- Femke Wijdekop, IUCN-the Netherlands Committee; Environmental Restorative Justice
- Alide Roerink, Earth Charter Netherlands/International; Worldconnector
- Mumta Ito, Founder/CEO Nature's Rights, Initiator of a European Citizens Initiative (tbc)
- Doris Ragletti, Co-Founder of Rights Of Mother Earth

Future Generations and intergenerational work The voice of the next generations, transfer of skills and knowledge and caring for the Seventh Generation.

- Youth speaker (Vreedehuis / Jeugd Sectie; Club of Rome; Ekta Parishad, Julius Reubke; etc.)
- Jan van de Venis, acting ombudsman Future Generations Netherlands; vice president Network of Institutions of Future Generations

R&D

- Johannes Kronenburg, Youth Section Anthroposofic Movement; Innovating the economy, thinking and practice (tbc)
- Rembrandt Zegers, PhD Associate University of West of England; International Mediator & Organisation Developer; 'Nature and leadership, personal and cultural frames'. Research in the area of embracing and resisting nature.
- Theun Karelse, Dutch artist, An Environmental Code of Conduct for Artificial Intelligence

Informal evening program (film or music)

Saturday, 23 June 2018

Open Space Work 9.00 – 13.00

We collectively establish an agenda we will work on in several working groups, which can be anything that is coming from the group of participants to bring the issues further. The working groups exchange and reinforce each other during the working meetings. The leading principle is 'voting with your feet', you work on the topic that you want to work on, or want to contribute to. This can also be more than one topic. The outcome will be rich and of great variety, depending on what is needed and gets attention. This includes a variety of art / body work, etc.

Sharing and celebrating outcomes and agreements 14.00 – 16.00

Closing of Fire Ceremony in the Garden of The Vreedehuis 16.00 – 17.00

Informal evening program (film or music)

Sunday, 24 June 2018

Informal networking.

This could include a walk through city of The Hague or along the North Sea beach for those who are still around and interested before they travel.

Annex2: Preliminary compilation of initiatives promoting Earth Trusteeship

If you have suggestions about other relevant initiatives which could be invited, please contact: Leo van der Vlist - leo.vandervlist@nciv.net

Several initiatives, including the [Earth Charter Initiative](#), the [Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth](#), a concept for a law prohibiting [Ecocide](#), the [Network of Institutions of Future Generations](#), the UN General Assembly Dialogue '[Harmony with Nature](#)', the [Thimphu Declaration on Ecological Organic Agriculture in Mountain Agro-Ecosystems: Leading the Transformation](#) and the [Dutch Network Nature-Inclusive Agriculture](#) have been able to raise the global awareness of the need to restore our relationship with nature.

New initiatives have emerged, such as the [UN Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment](#), the [Principles on Climate Obligations of Enterprises](#), the [Rights of Nature Principles](#) and the UN voted on 10 May 2018 to take first steps toward a [Global Pact for the Environment](#). [Rights of Nature Europe](#) (RNE) is developing a proposal for an Optional Protocol on the Rights of Nature to add to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, while some have even written a new version of the UDHR to include nature rights and its implications.

At the same time the world is focused on the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Paris Agreement](#) and the [New York Declaration on Forests](#). At the level of the UN there is also the [Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group](#) and many organisations are working to promote human rights, nature conservation and sustainable development.

Others are working on more immediate action, such as numerous [defenders of the Earth](#), [climate change litigators](#), ecosystem restorers, such as the [Embassy of the Earth](#), [Commonland](#), the [Sekem](#) project in Egypt or through the ["4 per 1000" Initiative](#). Some have achieved to establish rights of nature, e.g. in the case of the [Whanganui River](#) or [Mount Taranaki](#) in New Zealand.

Youth have taken their own initiatives, including the [Earth Guardians](#), and the [Synergized Earth Network](#).

The documentary [Down to Earth](#) connects us to Earth Wisdom Keepers, the [Black Line Initiative](#) of the Koogi's helps us taking care of nature by making use of the black lines, –invisible threads of primordial thought and lifeforce that criss-cross the planet to form a connected network. Ideas for a [new economy](#) to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet, and [worldviews](#) underlining the importance of reciprocity between man and nature already exist. Many artists such as [Artists4Climate](#) and [Artists for Nature](#) have contributed in their own inspiring way.

Annex 3: EARTH TRUSTEESHIP PLATFORM – Draft Statement of Intent

Earth Trusteeship – Vision and challenge

Humanity is an integral part of the living Earth eco-system, gifted with self-consciousness and moral awareness and is one and united in its responsibility as Trustee of the Earth as a common. This poses a new challenge for humanity to define and respect universal rights and responsibilities towards the Earth as a whole, including all living beings and the integrity of ecosystems, in terms of ethical use and good care, sustainability, social justice and the wellbeing of present and future generations.³

Mission

To promote and building pressure for Earth Trusteeship, including the necessary governance arrangements, legal and jurisdictional safeguards and practices at all levels necessary for restoring and maintaining the sustainable dynamic between humanity and the Earth in the spirit of the commons and for the good of all.

Aim

To bring together experts, practitioners, independent researchers, spiritual guides, policy makers, business leaders, civil society organizations and others to share, inspire, learn, connect, support and find ways to effectively build together a global Earth Trusteeship movement.⁴

Objectives

1. To promote awareness building on humanity's role and responsibilities as Earth Trustees.
2. To formulate recommendations and proposals for initiatives that advance the mission.
3. To contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing environmental and governance challenges. In particular in the framework of SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" – including the constitution of (new) institutions for Earth Trusteeship – and, in the same line, SDG 17 "Global Partnerships for the Goals".

Organization

The Earth Trusteeship Platform, currently, is an open and informal mutual agreement implying no other responsibilities for participants than making their best efforts to contribute to its mission and functioning. Activities coming out of this Gathering, will require appropriate arrangements for management and legal responsibilities, whether by setting up a legal entity or by working with existing organisations.

³ A respected early pioneer of exploring civil society consensus on the centrality of Earth Trusteeship in customary international law was Right Livelihood Award laureate and co-founder of the World Future Council Judge C.G. Weeramantry (1926 – 2017), Sri Lanka, former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice, The Hague. At the UN Headquarters, New York, 21 April 2017, Prof. Klaus Bosselmann, delivered a ground breaking speech in the framework of the Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on Harmony with Nature titled: *The Next Step: Earth (T)rusteeship*.

⁴ The Earth Trusteeship Platform was informally constituted at an Earth Trusteeship Roundtable, organised in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 13 July 2017. In addition to a core group in The Netherlands guided by Bert de Graaff, Rembrandt Zegers and Leo van der Vlist, a team has been formed in Bangkok, Thailand to shape the Earth Trusteeship Platform in Asia – Pacific. The Earth Trusteeship Platform is developed as a project of the School for Wellbeing – a campus of the Right Livelihood College (to be confirmed 20 July 2018) – in collaboration with Innovation Network International (INI) – 'INI-tiative for creative space'. The initial team consists of Hans and Wallapa van Willenswaard (INI), with Narumon Paiboonsittikun, Coordinator Towards Organic Asia (TOA). The School for Wellbeing operates under the legal umbrella of the Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), an independent foundation established by Sulak Sivaraksa in 1968.