

NEWS STORIES

Wild Law Institute Director voices opposition to Shell seismic survey

December 14, 2021



Following the widespread publication of plans by Shell to conduct a non-stop five-month-long seismic survey off South Africa's pristine Wild Coast, national outrage has erupted. The seismic survey, which involves firing high-powered compressed air guns towards the seafloor to assess oil and gas deposits, will have devastating impacts on marine life.

The last two weeks have seen protests actions by communities and activists groups al over South Africa, attempting to amplify the voices of Wild Coast communities that depend on the ecosystems there. One of our Directors, Nonhle Mbuthuma, representing the Amadiba Crisis Committee, has expressed this concern powerfully:

"If you destroy the ocean, you destroy human life. Our livelihoods as indigenous people will be history if the South African Government allows Shell to mine our ocean, our spiritual healing place. Communities have the right to choose and we have the right to live in a healthy environment. As the Amadiba Crisis Committee we say no to any kind of extractivism. Let's put people before profit."

Tags

[Earth Advocacy](#) [Oceans](#)

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Email contact@wildlaw.net

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NEWS STORIES

Celebrate World Environment Day by joining the Rights of Nature movement

June 3, 2022



On 5 June 2022, the United Nations celebrates World Environment Day. We invite all readers to join the African Hub of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, and be part of a movement that is ensuring the protection of all beings.

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On 5 June 2022, the United Nations celebrates World Environment Day. It is a day aimed at raising awareness and encouraging action to protect the environment. Almost 50 years since its inception, and coinciding with the Stockholm+50 event which is currently taking place, this day provides an opportunity to reflect back on the past 50 years, how far we have come, and what we have achieved.

Unfortunately, there is little cause for celebration: we are in the midst of catastrophic loss of biodiversity, ongoing degradation to the environment, accelerating climate change, and a barrage of environmental and social injustices.

While this has been known for decades, existing governance approaches have failed to adequately address, or even slow down, these tragedies. In fact, many continue to endorse, legitimise and authorise the ongoing destruction of the planet in the name of economic growth, profit-making and private property rights. In order to address this, we need transformative change; change that gets to the heart of the issues to radically alter our societies. We need a new guiding vision: one that recognises humanity's role within the great web of life, not separate from it.

We must recognise that we are part of an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings and that we each have a responsibility to contribute to the health and integrity of the whole Earth community, including future generations. We must recognise that the destruction of Nature is the destruction of ourselves. We aim for societies where we can live in harmonious coexistence within Nature, in socially just and spiritually fulfilling ways.

This way of living is not new. Indigenous peoples and cultures around the world, including in Africa, have a diversity and wealth of knowledge on how this can be achieved. However, this knowledge continues to be invalidated, delegitimised, and even criminalised. In order to achieve our vision, we need to foreground these knowledge systems and cultures, integrate practices and rituals into our work that strengthen our connection to, and respect for, the Earth community, be grateful and humble regarding our place in the world, and work in solidarity with one another.

One vital step in achieving this vision is to recognise that all beings are subjects with rights, to ensure that humans respect and uphold those rights, and to defend the rights of all beings. This is the work of the [GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE \(GARN\)](#). GARN is a world network of individuals and organisations, from a variety of fields and backgrounds, who are working to change humanity's disastrous trajectory through active cooperation, collective action and legal tools based on Rights of Nature.

GARN is organised into regional hubs that work on achieving this vision in different parts of the world. As the newly established African Hub, we are committed to advancing this vision across the continent. We invite all readers to join the Alliance, and be part of a movement that is ensuring the protection of all beings. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE AFRICAN HUB](#), or [HERE](#) to join the global movement.

NEWS STORIES

Declaration for the Rights of Antarctica – join the movement

November 24, 2021



In celebration of World Antarctica Day on 1st December 2021, Antarctica Rights will be holding a webinar to introduce the drafting of a Declaration for the Rights of Antarctica. The webinar will explore the urgent need for recognizing the rights of the wild continent of Antarctica and the community of life there. The webinar will be an online public event where you can add your voice to the cause.

During the webinar a draft Declaration will be presented, and feedback will be welcome. The Declaration aims at: acceptance of our collective responsibilities to protect Antarctica; recognition of Antarctica as free of any ownership; and establishment of our duties to safeguard the future of Antarctica.

To learn more and register for the online webinar, visit the Antarctica Rights website [HERE](#).

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