

Webinar Organized by NLU Delhi  
Under the aegis of the IQAC

# PREVENTING ECOCIDE: A STEP TOWARDS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Exploring International Criminal Liability for  
Environmental Damage

## Meet Our Speakers



**Jojo Mehta**

Co-Founder, Stop Ecocide  
Foundation



**Sanjay Upadhyay**

Senior Advocate, Supreme  
Court of India



**Dr. Emma J. Breeze**

Assistant Professor, Birmingham  
Law School



**Dr. Lovleen Bhullar**

Assistant Professor, Cambridge  
University



### DATE

16 November, 2024

### TIME

4:00 PM IST



## [REGISTER HERE](#)

Register Now - Limited Seats Available! Registrations closes  
on 15th November

# PREVENTING ECOCIDE: A STEP TOWARDS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The perpetual debate between environmental protection and development has spanned decades. Relentless developmental efforts by nations and corporations have led to significant environmental destruction, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities. Every year, the world loses 7 million hectares of forests, an area the size of Portugal. Around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within the next decade. In an era marked by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and unprecedented environmental degradation the concept of ecocide has gained substantial global attention.

The term 'ecocide' was first proposed by Professor Arthur W Galston during the Vietnam War. It was a term used to protest against the use of herbicide and defoliant chemical Agent Orange by the US Military to destroy the foliage cover of enemy troops. Since then, the term 'ecocide' has been understood to mean the destruction of the environment by deliberate human action to the detriment of life.

Environmental experts have long been advocating the need to criminalise ecocide at both domestic and international levels. Presently, international law addresses environmental damage in the context of war through the Rome Statute's Article 8, which is limited to wartime situations and intentional acts. However, this framing has proved to be limited. With the ongoing ecological crisis and growing recognition of environmental rights, there is a global push to make ecocide an international crime. In June 2021 a panel of independent experts proposed a legal definition of ecocide as an international crime. Then 9th September, 2024 saw Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa formally submit a proposal to amend the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and add "ecocide" as a new crime.

Despite such advocacy, the criminalisation of ecocide faces several challenges not least being the significant debate over defining the term 'ecocide'. Further, the larger question persists, how to address activities that bring socio-economic benefits and cause severe environmental damage. This webinar on "Preventing Ecocide: A Step Towards Protecting the Environment" hosted by National Law University Delhi aims to delve into the contentious issues surrounding the move towards criminalising ecocide focussing upon the ongoing debates over the definition, the use of international criminal law as a tool to address environmental harm and the need for ecocide legislation in India.

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS



### Jojo Mehta

Jojo Mehta is the co-founder of the Stop Ecocide Foundation to advocate for the establishment of ecocide as a crime at the International Criminal Court. She is a graduate of Oxford University and has a background in communications, entrepreneurship and on-ground environmental campaigning. She has played a key role in several UN Conferences, diplomatic events and legal summits to campaign for the recognition of ecocide as a crime of international significance.



### Senior Adv. Sanjay Upadhyay

Sanjay Upadhyay is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the founder and managing partner of the India's first environmental law firm, Enviro Legal Defence Firm. Foundation. He has been practicing environment and development law since 1993. He has served as an environmental law expert to many international institutions such as the World Bank, IUCN, UNDP amongst others and been a part of the drafting committees of several forest, wildlife and biodiversity related legislations.



### Dr. Emma J Breeze

Dr. Emma Breeze is an Assistant Professor in International Criminal Law at the University of Birmingham. She specialises in International Criminal and Humanitarian Law, with particular interest in technological development and intelligence studies. She is an interdisciplinary researcher and worked with the Institute for Global Innovation and the Centre for Crime Justice and Policing, and engaged with both academics and practitioners.



### Dr. Lovleen Bhullar

Dr. Lovleen Bhullar is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Law in the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. She is interested in the role of law and policy in addressing climate change and environmental degradation. She has contributed to the development of a framework for a climate law for a state in India. She is also on the editorial boards of many environmental law journals.



## Chief Patron

Professor (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor  
National Law University Delhi



## Programme Director

Professor (Dr.) Ruhi Paul, Registrar  
National Law University Delhi



## Programme Coordinator

Dr. Kheinkor Lamarr, Assistant Professor  
National Law University Delhi & Associate  
Advisor, CELPR

## Organizing Committee

- Dr. Kheinkor Lamarr, Assistant Professor, National Law University Delhi
- Gourav Kumar, PHD Scholar, National Law University Delhi
- Arjun Guru, National Law University Delhi
- Praddosh S M, National Law University Delhi
- Rehan Mathur, National Law University Delhi