

## 2019 Mid-Year Report

### Ethics Specialist Group

Prepared by Specialist Group Chair Klaus Bosselmann

#### I. Activity Updates

During the reporting period, several ongoing Ethic Specialist Group (ESG) projects were further advanced. These included Climate Ethics (coordinated by Prue Taylor and Don Brown), Earth Democracy (coordinated by Klaus Bosselmann, Peter Burdon and Ron Engel), The Future of Conservation (coordinated by Kathryn Gwiazdon), and Ecological Law and Governance (coordinated by Klaus Bosselmann and Kathryn Gwiazdon). Collaborators in all these projects presented on several international conferences, and published articles and book chapters. Two projects that started in 2018 concern the Global Pact for the Environment (coordinated by Paulo Maghalaes and Klaus Bosselmann) and the Earth Trusteeship Initiative (coordinated by Klaus Bosselmann and Prue Taylor).

Highlights included:

1. Following an ESG workshop in conjunction with WCEL “From Environmental Law to Ecological Law” at the 2016 IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in Oslo, the Ecological Law and Governance Association (ELGA) was established in October 2017 and promoted throughout 2018. ELGA-workshops were held at the 2018 IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in Glasgow, the 2018 Global Ecological Integrity Group conference in Salerno, Italy, and several other international conferences. ESG has a firmly established leadership role in promoting the shift from environmental law to ecological law.
2. ESG members were instrumental in drafting “The Hague Principles of Responsibilities for Human Rights and Earth Trusteeship” and their adoption in the Peace Palace, The Hague, on occasion of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2018. This event saw also the official launch of the Earth Trusteeship Initiative (ETI), a collaboration of nearly 100 civil society organisations to promote Earth trusteeship obligations of nation states and the United Nations.
3. ESG prepared the concepts for two workshops to be held at the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille: “The Future of Conservation: Intergenerational Approaches to Ethics, Rights, and Responsibilities” and “The Rise and Importance of Earth Trusteeship”.

Other activities of ESG members during the reporting period included conference presentations, reports, and publications in the areas of global ethics, Earth jurisprudence, global environmental law, climate change, ecological integrity, trophy hunting, and the Global Pact for the Environment, among others.

## **II. Member Engagement**

Current membership consists of 30 individuals who are also members of WCEL and further 15 “affiliates”; ESG projects often include participation of non-members (other institutions).