

Don't kill the bee!

Legal insights to combat the biodiversity crisis

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POSTER PRESENTATION

Biodiversity Loss Vs The Rights Of Nature (RON) Legal Challenges To Biodiversity Protection

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The convention on Biodiversity recognised the “biodiversity as a global and common heritage” of humankind. In recent times biodiversity is under threat leading to unprecedented loss. The UN estimates that as many as one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction. The “Rights of Nature” (RoN) movement is fundamentally rethinking humanity’s relationship with nature; striving for a paradigm shift in which nature is placed at the center and humans are connected to it in an interdependent way in order to prevent or reduce the loss of biodiversity. The essence of conferring rights to nature is to secure the highest level of environmental protection under which an ecosystem can thrive and whose rights are not violated. Biodiversity conservation and management are inextricably linked to the legal systems enacting the laws and regulations and such regulations are key elements in implementing many conservation strategies and thus foist on Law the insignia of an instrument for transformation towards an ecocentric and biocentric society. The paper finds that the RoN are not incorporated into most of legislations either at national or global levels. The corollary of the omission is the increasing decline in the variety of living beings on the planet due to the anthropocentric attitude to biodiversity and the difficulty in establishing compensation/restoration mechanisms for biodiversity loss. Adopting the doctrinal methodology therefore, the paper examines the legal challenges to achieving a regulatory body that embraces an ecocentric and biocentric values for biodiversity conservation. The paper also explores how to establish appropriate compensation mechanisms for biodiversity loss. In conclusion, drawing from best practices the vignette proffers some salient recommendations.