



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2020 #02 --- Feb 2020

The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Hi everyone, it feels like the year is just whipping past, I hope that you enjoy the latest issue of the newsletter.

We welcome two new newsletter contributors – Anna Ostrowski and Jason Ello.

Highlights of February include HOPE's Strategic Planning Meeting (8th) and our "Earth Laws" Forum (24th) both being held in Toowoomba Qld. (see Office News on page 2 for further information)

Karolina Firman, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2020 National/International Events Calendar

February

2	World Wetlands Day
8	HOPE Strategic Planning Meeting, Toowoomba QLD
11	International Day of Women & Girls in Science
24	HOPE 'Earth Laws' Forum, Toowoomba Qld
25	Business Clean Up Day - https://www.cleanup.org.au/business-clean-up
28	Youth and Schools Clean Up Day - https://www.cleanup.org.au/get-involved-as-a-school-or-youth-group

March

1	Clean Up Australia Day - https://www.cleanup.org.au/get-involved-as-a-community-member
3	World Wildlife Day
7-15	World Parks Week
8	International Women's Day
8-14	National Ground Water Awareness Week
21	International Day of Forests
22	World Water Day
23	World Meteorological Day
28	Earth Hour

April

18	World Heritage Day
18Apr-19May	National Trust Heritage Festival
22	Earth Day

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much-needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering a 15cm x 4cm sized 'strip' adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustralia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

HOPE Office News --- February 2020

Good morning folks,

Firstly, good and bad news for the month of January.

On 20th of January we received notification that our GCBF grant application for a new computer system was successful. Yahoo!!

Then on 21st of January, the office computer crashed and wasn't able to be restarted. Damn!

So, we were able to engage Colmac Computers (Toowoomba) to assist in recovering our files and transferring them to the new computer ... which is working beautifully!

February highlights include our upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for Saturday 8th February and our "Earth Laws" Forum being held on 24 February. Details of both meetings are noted below.

Input to and/or support of both activities is welcomed.

Lastly, we are still seeking volunteers with media experience, good writing skills and, of course, an interest in "advocating for a better environment". See "Volunteers Needed" item below.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135, www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Strategic Planning Meeting, Saturday 8 February 2020 -- HOPE office – 22 Vacy St, Newtown Toowoomba

Key questions for your consideration include:

- What are we doing right?
- What are we doing poorly?
- What are our strengths?
- What are our shortcomings?
- What are your key environmental issues of interest and/or concern?
- Which other organisations/groups should we partner with?
- What would you like to see us do more of?
- And, most importantly, what would encourage you to be more active in HOPE?
- Other suggestions?

Earth Laws Forum, Monday 24 February 2020 – 1pm-5pm, Toowoomba City Library meeting rooms (3rd floor, corner of Herries and Victoria Streets, Toowoomba)

Principal speakers are Ms. Michelle Maloney from Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) and Ms. Revel Pointon from Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Qld.

Full event details and registration information available shortly.

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications, work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include: Researchers; Media Officers; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Current volunteer positions available are:

- **Media Officers** – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
 - Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets
 - Membership Officer – assist Office Manager with recruitment, training and management of volunteers; also responsible for maintaining Membership database (using Excel Spreadsheet)
-

Feature Articles

[Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law \(APEEL\) Blueprint Summary](#)

By Anna Ostrowski, HOPE Researcher (SA)

Current environmental law in Australia is regarded by The Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law (APEEL) as inadequate. This is because many environmental laws have been developed in a haphazard way. They have been built in response to specific issues, overlap one another, are inconsistent or ineffectively implemented. Furthermore, there are diverse stakeholders within governing institutions, some of which are holding back positive changes and progress. The result is an incomplete and chaotic approach to environmental law. Instead, a more comprehensive system of laws should be developed. APEEL has outlined some suggestions on how to implement such a drastically new strategy. Rather than focus on specific issues, such as forestry or public health, their suggestions are more-broad, in reference to the overall framework. There are 57 specific recommendations which can be found in the link at the end of this article. These can then be summarised into three broad categories.

The first category refers to the foundations of environmental law. APEEL believes the foundation should be clear, comprehensive and understandable. Primarily, there should be an agreed societal goal to replace the current National Strategy for Ecological Sustainable Development. There should also be clear design and direction principles which are universally used as rules, not guidelines, when creating the next generation of laws. An environmental duty should be imposed on all individuals, corporations and government bodies to minimise and repair the harm caused to the environment. And finally, APEEL has suggested that there be a clear outline of environmental rights developed through environmental democracy. This means greater protection, engagement, education and participation from individuals and communities.

APEEL is also promoting “collaborative environmental governance”. This means that different societal bodies (government, business and individuals) would assume different specific roles. APEEL believe that the Commonwealth should have greater responsibility to provide national strategic leadership as it has the capacity to both legislate and expend funds. In terms of the private sector, there should be reform designed to incentivise environmentally beneficial practices, increase the security of investments from climate change and crucially, there should be a requirement for private sector firms to report on their environmental performance. Furthermore, there should be more effective engagement with Indigenous Australians, allowing contributions to policy, plans and decisions. APEEL also suggests there should be greater integrity and accountability by establishing a department to monitor and report on the environmental performance of environmental agencies. Resources should be managed through a National Environmental Investment Plan to increase environmental law implementation. Finally, increasing data collection would improve the effectiveness of monitoring, evaluation and reporting of environmental performance.

The final broad category of reform proposals refers to more specific environmental issues. The first is to conserve nature through bio-regional planning. This would include cross-sectoral, ecosystem-based planning and management in terrestrial, marine and coastal areas. Finally, and possibly most importantly, future laws should provide a comprehensive response to climate change, something which is sorely missing from current legislation. APEEL includes suggestions such as imposing a price on carbon and removing fossil fuel subsidies.

Changing the law and the structure of law should not be looked upon lightly, and APEEL acknowledges the likely unpopularity of some of their suggestions. Nevertheless, APEEL will continue to advocate for their proposals by promoting understanding amongst governing bodies and creating a community of support. If environmental law can be designed well, it would be a monumental step to improving the state of the Australian Environment and its certainly worth trying.

References

APEEL (2019) 57 Recommendations for the Next Generation of Australia’s Environmental Laws. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56401dfde4b090fd5510d622/t/58f99d3c9de4bb35974ae5a5/1492753725897/APEEL_recommendations.pdf]

APEEL (2019) Blueprint for the Next Generation of Australian Environmental Law. Available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56401dfde4b090fd5510d622/t/59bb6fe3f43b55b154728d29/1505456149104/APEEL+Blueprint+for+environmental+laws.pdf>]

What is Environmental Stewardship?

By Ray Mathers, HOPE researcher Qld

Environmental stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Aldo Leopold (1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic "dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it."(Wikipedia)



I was talking to an environmental lawyer many years ago and he said that as part of environmental stewardship, he had to apply the precautionary principal regularly; so what is the [precautionary principle](#)?

The **precautionary principle** in relation to the public means that if the public is at risk from a potential action relating to the environment (in this case), the governments at all levels have a social responsibility to protect the public - and thus the environment - from exposure to harm.

The **precautionary principle** when applied to environmental science means that when the environment is affected by some human action that precautionary measures should be taken even if some of the cause and effect are not fully known beyond scientific doubt.

The **precautionary principle** in environmental law means that if there is evidence or strong suspicion that an activity might have detrimental consequences for the environment, it is better to take action **now** rather than wait for incontrovertible scientific evidence that this act is harmful.

The lawyer also said that in one case he argued, a certain tree should not be cut down because using the precautionary principal it may have been genetically different from others in nearby bush land and thus may have been significantly important to the nearby bush land. With the environment there is always a cause and effect where one action may precipitate another action or multiple other reactions. The effect with the environment is not a linear one; for example, some causes may not have an immediate effect but might combine with other causes which can result in multiple reactions from the environment. The cutting down of this tree may have caused this species to become extinct, locally.

Sometimes when an action has gone ahead you need to mitigate the effects of the action. Mitigation simply means to lessen or reduce the severity, seriousness or painfulness of the effects of that action to the environment or to us humans. Conserving after the fact is less effective than prevention but it is part of environmental stewardship to further protect the environment.

Humans are the great adapters. We have existed for at least 1 million years and have a presence on all the continents and all environments. Not all of our animal kin have the same ability and some live only in certain climates and environments. So, as part of environmental stewardship, we need to adapt again to a greener way of living to protect the environment as the changes that are taking place at the moment are moving at a rate much too fast for the populations of these animals to adapt themselves.

As with everything government, there are complicating factors - such as jobs - over the future of the planet. It may seem like an obvious choice to us but to those who rely on the votes of the public it's a real conundrum. The shortsightedness of the politicians and the public for that matter means that there will always be conflicting policies rather than complementary policies. A good example of this is the approval of mines in Queensland which the government knows will be bad for our future, while the government tries to maintain a green image of itself. We **cannot rely** on big business or government to invest in environmental stewardship, **we must insist that they do!**

Call to Action!

By Alessi Claudi, HOPE researcher Qld)

Climate change is real, in the last decades it showed its effects and how it can impact our well-being.

Now more than ever, even starting from a local level, concrete actions can truly make the difference.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is founded on the vision of a society which is sustainable ecologically, economically and socially.\

Our slogan is: "Think Globally - Act Locally"

We investigate global environmental issues of concern (and trends) – as well as 'good works' being advocated and/or undertaken.

We then endeavour to translate these matters into a local context and see what we can do as individuals, families, communities, etc. to ameliorate/mitigate/minimise adverse impacts such as pollution and waste of resources.

While HOPE endorses individual action, it also encourages people to act together in their local community, and in society as a whole. Whether you live in urban, rural or regional Australia, you too can lessen your impact on the global environment by adopting sustainable living practices at home, at work and at school.

Although membership is free, we do welcome financial donations. We especially welcome members' contribution of time, expertise and other resources to further our activities.

REMEMBER YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

To learn more about us and what we stand for, see the HOPE Charter at:

http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/uploads/media/Brochure_HOPE_Charter_2012_07_.pdf

National News



[World Wide Fund for Nature \(WWF\)](#)

Main Objectives:

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, working in the field of wilderness preservation, and the reduction of human impact on the environment.

WWF aims to "stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature." WWF has also launched several notable worldwide campaigns including Earth Hour and Debt-for-Nature Swap, and its current work is organized around these six areas: food, climate, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans.

Major Achievements to-date:

Montenegro 21 Oct 2019 - The Montenegro government has started negotiations to terminate contracts to build several small hydropower plants in four municipalities, all located along the Bukovica River. In addition, construction will also stop on the Bistricka, Murinska, Đurička, Komarnička, and Trepačka Rivers.

The softening of the government's position regarding small hydro comes after years of opposition from local initiatives fighting to save their rivers, and local and international NGOs supporting them. Over the years, WWF has played an important role in shining light on these issues not only in Montenegro, but in the wider region of Southeast Europe, by supporting local resistance and the willingness of communities to stand up for nature.

As part of WWF's campaign to stop small hydro development in Southeast Europe, the Montenegrin government was asked to establish a multidisciplinary workgroup to evaluate the current concession politics.

Songea, Tanzania 01 Oct 2019 – The Lumecha-Makanini Water Source is rehabilitated and open to the public through the WWF Forest Programme. The works involve cementing the water source, installation of two taps; planting 540 trees, making boundaries and training of leaders in water management. The taps at the source yields 40 litres of water per 20 seconds and will benefit approximately 4,205 individuals in two villages.

Nacula, Fiji 03 Sep 2019 – WWF, through funding by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), has completed the introduction of economic, agricultural and disaster empowerment programs for the women of Navotua and Natutu villages.

The Disaster Risk Reduction project activities which ran for 3 years (2016-2019) have strengthened the community women's role towards becoming resilient rural women through improving their livelihoods, enabling them to access markets sustainably, undergo training and improve their awareness on the challenges their community faces from the changes experienced by climate change.

Colombia 31 July 2019 – Conservation success is reaping benefits in Utria National Park in Colombia, thanks to communities and park agency working together – and with other entities such as WWF and USAID - developing and implementing a strategy that clearly outlined who owns what and how natural resources can be used.

Normandy, France 13 Jun 2019 – Biggest dam removal in European history commenced in the Vezins Dam in Normandy – the biggest dam removal in Europe to-date. This landmark event was part of a long-term project involving WWF to free the Selune River and bring salmon, eels and other wildlife back to the river and to the famous Mont-Saint-Michel Bay – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's prime tourist attractions.

The elimination of the Vezins Dam – as well as another old, obsolete dam, La Roche Qui Boit – over the next two years **will open up 90 km of the Selune River**; improving water quality, allowing migratory salmon to return to their ancient spawning grounds, and benefiting people and nature all along the river.

Current Projects/Campaigns/Events:

25 Nov 2019 | Campaign | Environment

WWF launches Plastic Smart Cities initiative in South East Asia with a \$40M USD commitment - WWF is calling on cities in South East Asia to join Patong (Thailand), Donsol (Philippines) and Phu Quoc (Vietnam) in making a commitment to eliminate plastic pollution, by developing an action plan and trial innovative solutions.

Plastic Smart Cities is a WWF initiative bringing together cities and tourism destinations to commit to fight plastic pollution. Countries involved in this initiative to date are Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines.

[Free newsletter subscription](#)

(Written by Jason Eilo, HOPE researcher Qld)



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
AUSTRALIA

Humane Society International (HSI)

Main Objectives:

Humane Society International (HSI) is the largest and most effective international charity working for a more humane and sustainable world for animals. As one of the top animal protection charities, the HSI is a leader in saving endangered species and their habitats and reducing cruelty in farming, trade and other industries.

HSI addresses issues such as inhumane practices and conditions affecting companion and farm animals, illegal trade in wildlife, threats to endangered species, slaughter of marine mammals, and the use of animals in research and testing. HSI works with national and jurisdictional governments, humane organizations, and individual animal protectionists in over 50 countries worldwide to find practical, culturally sensitive, and long-term solutions to common animal problems and to inculcate an ethic of respect and compassion for all life.



HSI cooperates with policymakers on international treaties and free trade agreements to conduct briefings and to help draft legislation, regulations, policy statements, and resolutions affecting animals. HSI supports the efforts of governments, industries and NGO's to promote the protection of animals through trade capacity building projects in developing countries and international campaigns to reduce suffering caused by exploitation of marine mammals, factory farming, the fur trade, trophy hunting, and animal fighting and cruelty.

Major Achievements to-date:

2 Apr 2019 - HSI wins court case against killing of sharks in Great Barrier Reef. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has ordered an end to lethal culling in the World Heritage-listed Reef. They have mandated nine very important variations on the permit for 173 lethal drumlines within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

20 March 2019 - Campaign launched to recruit champions for Australia's sharks and rays. The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and HSI launched the Shark Champions campaign to build a national community of advocates for protecting sharks and rays in Australia.

18 Feb 2019 – HSI successfully convinced Australia's former Environment Minister Melissa Price to include the spectacled flying-fox in the lists an Endangered species.

14 Feb 2019 - HSI was able to get the Australian Government eleven (11) substantial reinforcing commitments to ensure that all cosmetic ingredients are captured by the promised cosmetics animal testing ban! This means Australia became the 39th country to end animal cruelty in the testing of cosmetics.

Current Projects/Campaigns/Events:

Online Petition | End the Yulin Dog Meat Festival in China

Throughout many parts of Asia, stolen pets and street animals suffer terrible abuse for the dog and cat meat trade before being killed through horrific means, such as beating or hanging.

HSI implores China – as the country with the largest dog and cat meat trade in the world – to show leadership by ending the annual "festival" in Yulin, as well as the outward display of animal cruelty and officially ban the dog and cat meat trade in the country.

Online Petition | End to live sheep exports

Transporting sheep vast distances to be slaughtered in the Middle East is cruel. There is no getting around it. The journeys are gruelling and sheep routinely die in terrible circumstances, yet the Australian government continues to allow it.

Online Petition | Stop the WA Government declaring open season on dingoes

Just months after backing down to public pressure and admitting that the dingo is a native species, the Western Australian Government has made it legal to use prohibited weapons and methods to kill them. New exemptions specifically targeting dingoes are sowing confusion about which otherwise prohibited killing methods are allowed, and conflict with several other WA laws and regulations.

The HSI is calling the WA government to stop this subsidiary legislation.

Online Petition | Stop killing sharks in the Great Barrier Reef

The Queensland Government's shark control program kills marine wildlife in the Great Barrier Reef on lethal drumlines. 19 species that survive hooking on the drumlines are shot. Since the 1960s, tens of thousands of sharks have been killed in this program. Reef sharks, hammerhead sharks and other vulnerable and harmless species are being inhumanely executed in their own natural environment.

HSI and AMCS needs support as they fight for the lives of our sharks and the health of the Reef.

Online Petition | Stop Japan from continuing the whaling industry

In defiance of the ongoing global ban on commercial whaling, Japan has commenced their new commercial whaling programme putting hundreds of whales at risk of suffering long and painful deaths from exploding harpoons.

However, the Japanese people appear to be divided over whaling, in part, as a growing number are concerned that it tarnishes Japan's international reputation. HSI wants to make it clear to whale friends and foes in Japan that this cruel and unnecessary industry has no place in today's world.

Online Petition | Stop NSW Government from using shark nets

Shark nets are indiscriminate, outdated and ineffective. They have been installed at NSW beaches since the 1930s, killing hundreds of marine animals every year for nearly a century. They do not provide protection, but instead a false sense of security.

Sign the online petition to tell the NSW Government to ditch the nets for good and to continue investing in non-lethal alternatives. Let's end the slaughter of dolphins, turtles, sharks and rays.

Campaign | Humane Choice



Humane Choice is the certification scheme launched by Humane Society International in 2006 to improve the welfare standards of farm animals across Australia.

The Humane Choice label denotes the animal has had the best life and death offered to any farm animal and treated with respect and care over the entire course of its life. It ensures the highest standards of animal welfare and guarantees that the animals are truly free range.

The Humane Choice label covers pasture raised pork, beef, lamb, chicken and eggs. Procedures such as mulesing, nose ringing, tail docking, beak trimming, or any form of mutilation are not allowed. Sows are never confined in stalls or crates, and transportation is kept to a minimum. The animals live their lives on pastures where they are allowed to satisfy their behavioural needs, to forage and to move untethered and uncaged. They have free access to outside areas from birth, shade and shelter for protection from the elements, and a good diet.

[Free newsletter subscriptions.](#)

(Written by Jason Ello, HOPE researcher Qld)

International News



International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Main Objectives:

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 member organisations and the input of more than 15,000 experts.

The Union is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. IUCN's mission is to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."

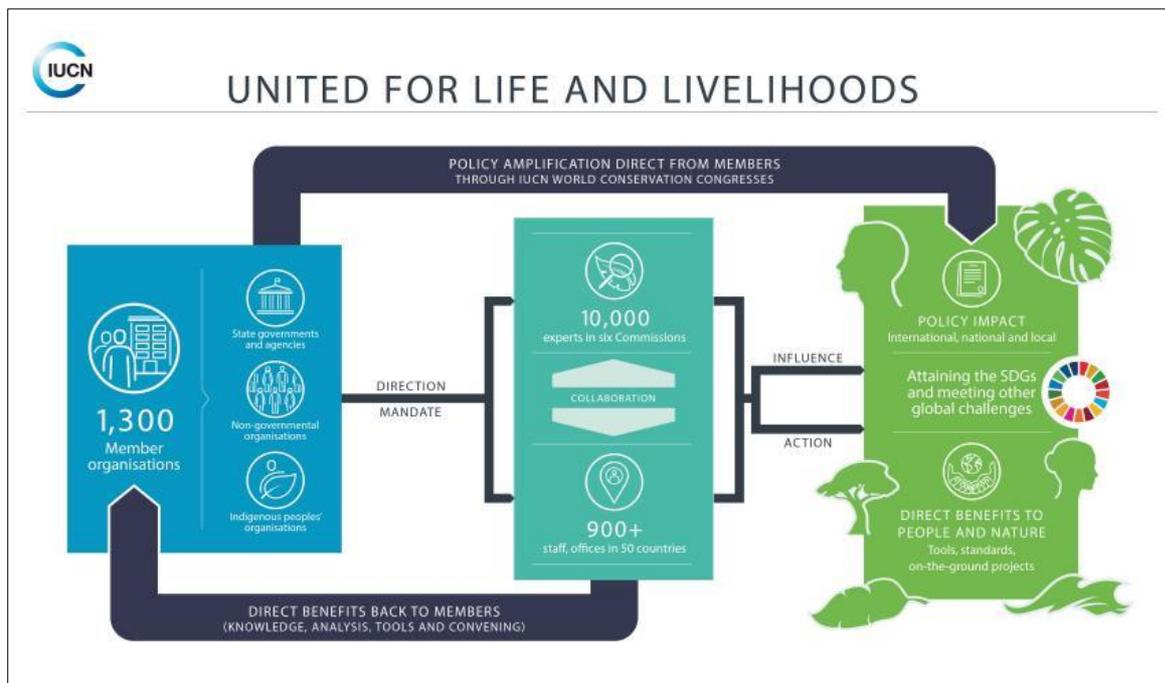


Fig. 1 Operational framework of IUCN

Major Achievements to-date:

Gland, Switzerland 19 Sep 2019 – IUCN and the University of Oxford published a report that reveals countries are not fully taking into account the considerable potential of ecosystems such as mangrove and peat lands to tackle climate change in their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2019-030-En.pdf>

New Delhi 06 Sep 2019 - IUCN launched a report at the Conference of the Parties to the United National Convention to Combat Desertification, emphasizing that by aligning land restoration commitments countries could bring more degraded land back to health.

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48515>

Gland, Switzerland 18 Jul 2019 – IUCN released an updated Red List of Threatened Species, stating that over fishing has pushed two families of rays to the brink of extinction, while hunting for bush meat and habitat loss have led to the decline of seven primate species. <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/201907/unsustainable-fishing-and-hunting-bushmeat-driving-iconic-species-extinction-iucn-red-list>

Free newsletter subscriptions: <https://www.iucn.org/newsletters>

(Written by Jason Ello, HOPE researcher Qld)

Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

By Anna Ostrowski, HOPE researcher SA

The environment is connected to human actions in so many ways. Yet all these interactions are controlled by one thing. The law. The Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) is an environmental advocacy group whose main aim is to endorse changes in the law to protect the environment and human rights. It does so through research, advocacy, education and support of like-minded NGO's and communities. CEIL is now celebrating its 30th year of pursuing a better world and that means it is time to reflect on some of its key achievement of the last year and its continuing progress.

The projects that CIEL works on span numerous different industries and issues. This year, their key achievements fall into five categories; toxic waste, plastic, fossil fuel, climate accountability and deforestation. Within each of these categories is outlined some of their most significant accomplishments and goals.

Reducing Toxic Risks

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals disturb hormone production and can, therefore, affect fertility and cancer rates. In response to CIEL's advocacy, the European Parliament called upon the EU commission to create a concrete plan to eliminate such chemicals from cosmetics, toys and food packaging by 2020.

Currently, the responsibility of proving a chemical or ingredient to a product is harmful lies solely in the hand of the independent consumer. CEIL is advocating for a more precautionary approach where companies should have to prove their chemicals are safe before being used in consumer products.

Plastic

As we all know, plastic is terrible for the planet and recycling helps to combat that harm. Yet still, only 9% of recycled plastic is ever actually recycled. Most is incinerated, thrown in landfill or sent "away". Waste brokers are often guilty of sending plastic waste to countries in Southeast Asia without their permission. But CIEL and its partners have succeeded in convincing 187 countries to make an amendment to the Basel convention which now requires importing countries to give their consent. This will help communities who are otherwise left drowning in unwanted plastic waste.

Pollution has been the key focus of the majority of campaigns against plastic. However, CIEL has instead focused on the issues related to the impacts of plastic production on local communities with harmful chemicals and emissions raining on towns close to production plants. After successfully delaying an air permit for the plastic production plant in Oregon, CIEL is now setting its sights on international treaties to stop plastic production at its source.

Fossil Fuel

Fossil fuel companies have been profiting from the inertia of institutional investors for years. Now, CIEL is putting an end to this behaviour by equipping advocates and communities with the tools necessary to encourage these institutional investors to divest from fossil fuels and transition into renewable energy investments. So far there have been numerous successes including California passing a law requiring the two biggest pension funds to state how climate change will affect their investments.

Climate Accountability

There is demand around the world for those most responsible for climate change, both corporations and states, to be held accountable for their actions. CIEL has been and continues to help those at the front of the fight. For instance, CIEL's 'A Crack in the Shell' research is being used as evidence to sue Shell for its contributions to climate change in The Netherlands.

Protecting Forests

Peru has notoriously strict regulations relating to the forest governance and yet timber mafias still prevail, illegally trading timber from protected areas of the Amazon rainforest. CIEL has investigated the issue in a ground-breaking report which outlines just how deep government corruption goes. Thankfully, this report has been having huge effects, such as preventing the Agency for Supervision of Forest Resources and Wildlife (OSINFOR) <http://www.osinfor.gob.pe/osinfor/> being stripped of its autonomy. ONSIFOR verifies that timber was in fact logged illegally and therefore plays an important part in enforcing Peruvian timber laws.

The achievements of CIEL are many. They have impacted domestic laws, international treaties and perhaps most importantly, they have improved the lives of hundreds of communities. However, with humanity slow to realise the true implications of its own actions on the planet, CIEL's fight is far from over. Hopefully, CIEL continues to do ground-breaking work for another 30 years.
