Call for Papers: ‘Ecocide as an international crime? Perspectives from domestic and international law’

The International Crimes Database invites submissions of short articles for publication in the online paper series ‘ICD Briefs’ on the theme: ‘Ecocide as an international crime? Perspectives from domestic and international law’.

Ecocide as an international crime?

The recent proposal by the Stop Ecocide Foundation to include ecocide as an international crime in the Rome Statute—alongside crimes against humanity, war crimes, acts of aggression, and genocide—has sparked a lively debate amongst legal scholars, practitioners and civil society. While the idea to conceive ecocide as an international crime is not a recent phenomenon, the proposal has given the discussion surrounding ecocide a renewed energy by providing a solid groundwork for how the crime can be formulated, which includes questions such as:

How can ecocide be differentiated from ordinary environmental offences? Should the crime be subject to direct intent, or would negligence suffice? Instead of amending the Rome Statute to include a fifth international crime, is the better option to develop ecocide within the ambit of crimes against humanity? To what extent can legal and political developments concerning ecocide in domestic jurisdictions be extrapolated onto the international setting? Considering these indeterminacies, the ICD welcomes submissions that deal with the conception of the crime of ecocide from a diverse range of domestic and international legal perspectives.

About the International Crimes Database

The ICD is an online database launched in 2013 and is hosted and maintained by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague. The ICD website offers a comprehensive database of international crimes adjudicated by national as well as international and internationalised courts. In addition to case law on international crimes, the website provides background information and news updates about international crimes and the development of international criminal law, both academic and news articles, audio and video lectures through online streaming, and a social media platform to facilitate and stimulate interaction by their various users (see Facebook and Twitter pages). The ICD provides access to a range of information not only for lawyers and judges but also for students, academics, practitioners, policymakers, families and communities affected by crimes, and others.
ICD Briefs

The ICD Briefs series is another way the website provides in-depth information and insights to visitors through short articles on topics related to international crimes and international criminal jurisprudence. In addition, the series offers scholars and practitioners the opportunity to make their work available to an international network of ICD users. Our ICD Briefs are included in the Peace Palace Library and have often been referred to in literature.

Information on how to submit an ICD Brief

If interested in submitting an ICD Brief, please send an abstract of 300 words maximum to editors@internationalcrimesdatabase.org by 1 October 2021 alongside a brief bio of a maximum of 100 words.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by the ICD editorial team via e-mail by 15 October 2021 and will be subsequently invited to submit their full ICD Briefs by 1 January 2021.