

Ecocide – An encounter with Environmental Crime

Paris, 10 Dec 2012, TERRE Policy Centre today released a second policy recommendation related to the necessity of taking stronger action under international environmental law for environmental damages.

“The principle of ‘loss and damages’ agreed by the government negotiators in United Nations Climate Change meeting in Doha is the right step forward. However, there is a need to look at the other means available in the international community to introduce deterrent mechanisms against the environmental loss and damages”, said Rajendra Shende, Chairman, TERRE Policy Centre.

The policy paper researched by Charlotte Collin, a post-graduate student of the Sorbonne Law School, Paris and a researcher at TERRE Policy Centre, urges international organizations like International Law Commission to provide real teeth to introduce deterrent mechanisms against the environmental crime. It is titled ‘Ecocide: A crime against the environment under international law?’

There are more than 200 major Multilateral Environmental Agreements globally and regionally. For their effective implementation, each agreement has its own compliance mechanisms. However, such mechanisms are too soft-as evidenced by the Kyoto Protocol on climate change-and have proven to be quite weak to ensure strict-compliance. The paper advances the concept of ‘Ecocide’ and suggests the mechanism for deterrence.

Ecosystem has become a silent victim, while world community accelerates its unsustainable practices of consumption and production. Green economy if and when deployed, may set the world in sustainable path. But such concepts are progressing with glacial-speed while the avalanches of impacts of degradation of ecosystems are rolling down with fatal speed. “The governments who have initiated the negotiations on the new climate Protocol, have a unique opportunity to consider effective legal mechanisms to prevent ecocides”, added Mr. Shende.

See the detail paper on: <http://www.terrepolicycentre.org/default.html>

Note to the editors:

TERRE Policy Centre is a non-profit, non-partisan and independent organization dedicated to the sustainable solutions to our developmental imperatives. Our areas of focus are sustainability, energy and food security issues in which we execute and encourage Projects, Evidence-Based Policies, Discussions and Research.

TERRE provides a forum for objective research, projects and analysis for developing pragmatic policies and solutions to often polarized and politicized issues. We strive to reach all strata of the society, particularly young generation and people at the bottom of the pyramid with the help of our ‘Environmental Tool Kit’: i.e.

Technology, Education, Research, Rehabilitation for the Environment.

Policy Recommendations, related to International Environmental crime, emerge from TERRE’s ground level efforts and evidences to Restore and rehabilitate the ecosystems and bio diversity to ensure the food security, particularly in the developing countries.

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