

PRESS RELEASE from Carlow Kilkenny Branch, Green Party Ireland:
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Ecocide Law must be on the agenda for Citizens' Assembly say Irish Green Party

At the 2020 Green Convention, the Irish Green Party aligned with European Governments in [France](#) and [Belgium](#) and growing [international momentum](#) to support an international law against ecocide (man-made ecosystem destruction) and to declare [Ecocide an international crime](#).

The Greens argue **global legal measures to recognise ecocide crime could assist leaders, corporate heads & shareholders that business post-pandemic must operate within new law to safeguard our environments and our futures.**

Green Party member, Dr Cathy Fitzgerald, told the National Party Conference that an international ecocide law could [change the rules of commerce](#) to help business and society transition to a better world.

'We know this can work! Precedents show legal instruments can swiftly and powerfully steer commerce and society in better directions. In the 19th century, new British empire law arose on a tide of new societal values that recognised equality between all people. This international law helped business and society transition to a more just world—without slavery. **Business did not fail without slavery. Business will not fail without ecocide. However, our civilization will fail if we continue to adopt new voluntary Nature pledges, rather than enforceable laws.**'

[Minister of State for Heritage, Malcolm Noonan](#), welcomed the Green Party's overwhelming support for national and international ecocide law given the recent revelations that international voluntary biodiversity agreements are failing. Malcolm Noonan says ecocide law is pro-business and safeguards all our futures. He shared

"Today's serious ecocides result from transnational activity from 13 or so megacorporations. If ecocide crime was recognised it would come under the jurisdiction of the independent International Criminal Court, and through the

ICC the jurisdictions of all ratifying members. The power of this court of last resort is precisely in its ability to create a coherent deterrent across borders."

Dr Cathy Fitzgerald quotes [Jojo Mehta](#), co-founder of [Stop Ecocide International](#) and Chair of the Stop Ecocide Foundation, saying:

"The momentum towards this law is growing very fast. Ireland's Green Party understands that an enforceable deterrent against mass destruction of ecosystems is required, and supporting ecocide as an international crime would also add real weight to the Leaders Pledge for Nature signed by over 70 Heads of State earlier this week."

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Expert panel to draw up "ecocide" definition

So what exactly does "ecocide" refer to? Mehta explains: "While our working definition is in essence mass damage and destruction of ecosystems, committed with the knowledge of the risks, an expert panel of international criminal lawyers, advised by top climate and environmental scientists, is currently being convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation. The panel's remit is to draft a clear and legally robust definition which can be considered for proposal by states at the International Criminal Court. A full list of panel members will be made available in due course."

There is growing state support for the move to make ecocide an international crime: last December the small island states of Vanuatu and the Maldives [called for serious consideration of ecocide crime](#) at the International Criminal Court's assembly; earlier this year the Swedish workers' movement [urged Sweden to lead on proposing it](#); in June President Macron of France [promised to champion it](#) on the international stage. Pope Francis has also stated that he believes ecocide should be added to the list of international crimes; he received Stop Ecocide's Advisory Board member Valérie Cabanes for an [audience recently](#).