

**Stop Ecocide Foundation
Sue Miller
Head of Global Networks**

**24th October 2022
Governance Round Table**

This statement is submitted on behalf of:

Stop Ecocide Foundation, Stop Ecocide International, Youth for Ecocide Law, Faith for Ecocide Law, End Ecocide Sweden, Searious Business, Vikela.Earth, Gallifrey Foundation, Where's The Fish and Ocean Community Associação Ambiental

Statement:

The legal framework protecting water ecosystems across the globe is inadequate and poorly enforced. Better legal protections will safeguard clean, healthy water, support the water-energy-food nexus and help promote sustainable economic and urban development.

The creation of a crime of ecocide under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court would be transformative. It would fundamentally strengthen existing environmental law by creating personal, criminal responsibility for key decision makers behind unlawful or wanton acts which cause severe and widespread or long-term damage to water ecosystems.

Rather than treating fines for destructive acts as a cost of business, corporations and their leaders would be genuinely deterred from dangerous practices and incentivised towards healthier ones. As long as serious and widespread damage to nature is allowed to continue with impunity, it will continue by default, regardless of whatever pacts, agreements, goals and targets may be put in place. It is simply too easy to carry on with established and profitable practices.

A new crime of ecocide would create a strong preventive deterrent whilst supporting all other measures being taken to protect the Earth's water. It is an essential piece of the framework of measures being created to protect the Earth and future generations.