



Open Universiteit

Let's GO for Rights of Nature – 'Onboarding' Nature as a next step

**Groene Peper Festival
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LET'S GO FOR RIGHTS OF NATURE

Programme

- Green Office Open Universiteit
- Rights of Nature
- Onboarding Nature
- Interactive: how to get Nature on Board?





- Facts & Figures Open Universiteit

- Since 1984
 - Originally: second chance education
 - Currently: life-long learning
 - Modular, mostly online education
 - 15.241 Students (18-88 years old)
 - 14 study centres (Netherlands and Belgium)
- 





- Since 2021
- Pilot phase (2021-2023)
- Current Phase (2024-2029)
- OU Employees and Students
 - Pro Team & Volunteers
 - Currently: 10 members (6P/ 4V)
 - Interdisciplinary!
- Mostly online
- See www.ou.nl/green-office for more info (+animation)





RIGHTS OF NATURE

RIGHTS OF NATURE

- Definition
- Philosophical & legal
- Fastest growing legal concept
- Rights of Nature & Go OU





RIGHTS OF NATURE

Definition:

“It is the recognition that our ecosystems – including trees, oceans, animals, mountains – have rights just as human beings have rights. Rights of Nature is about balancing what is good for human beings against what is good for other species, what is good for the planet as a world. It is the holistic recognition that all life, all ecosystems on our planet are deeply intertwined.

Rather than treating Nature as property under the law, Rights of Nature acknowledges that Nature in all its life forms has the right to vital cycles.

And we – the people – have the legal authority and responsibility to enforce these rights on behalf of ecosystems. The ecosystem itself can be named as the injured party, with its own legal standing rights, in cases alleging rights violations. For Indigenous cultures around the world, recognizing the Rights of Nature is consistent with their traditions of living in harmony with Nature.

All life, including human life, is deeply connected.

Decisions and values are based on what is good for the whole.”





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RIGHTS OF NATURE

‘Philosophical’ & Legal:

- Open Universiteit curriculum
- Jessica den Outer/ Rechten van de Natuur





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Legend:

- Color:**
 - Light yellow: 5
 - Yellow: 6 - 19
 - Orange: 20 - 39
 - Dark orange: > 40
- Bubble Size:**
 - Small circle: with NO black border
 - Large circle: exist but not yet approved

Approximate Data from Map:

Country/Region	Number of Initiatives	Status
USA	170	Exist but not yet approved
Canada	10	Exist but not yet approved
Mexico	16	Exist but not yet approved
Brazil	76	Exist but not yet approved
Argentina	12	Exist but not yet approved
Colombia	6	Exist but not yet approved
Venezuela	26	Exist but not yet approved
Spain	5	Exist but not yet approved
France	8	Exist but not yet approved
Germany	10	Exist but not yet approved
Italy	5	Exist but not yet approved
UK	10	Exist but not yet approved
Sweden	5	Exist but not yet approved
Norway	5	Exist but not yet approved
Finland	5	Exist but not yet approved
Denmark	5	Exist but not yet approved
Poland	5	Exist but not yet approved
Czech Republic	5	Exist but not yet approved
Slovakia	5	Exist but not yet approved
Hungary	5	Exist but not yet approved
Romania	5	Exist but not yet approved
Bulgaria	5	Exist but not yet approved
Greece	5	Exist but not yet approved
Turkey	5	Exist but not yet approved
India	2	Exist but not yet approved
China	13	Exist but not yet approved
Japan	4	Exist but not yet approved
South Korea	4	Exist but not yet approved
Australia	9	Exist but not yet approved
New Zealand	27	Exist but not yet approved

Countries with NO black border:
Initiatives exist but not yet approved



RIGHTS OF NATURE

[Actie](#)[Initiatieven](#)[Evenementen](#)[Blog](#)[Over ons](#)[Doneer](#)

EEN GROEIENDE BEWEGING

Initiatieven in Nederland

Ondanks het feit dat Nederland de Rechten van de Natuur nog niet officieel heeft erkend, is er een groeiende beweging die zich lokaal en nationaal inzet om de Rechten van de Natuur te bevorderen. De initiatieven variëren van educatieve programma's en gemeenschapsprojecten tot juridische pleidooien en beleidsvoorstellen.

Ons overzicht toont onder andere *bottom-up* initiatieven en toezeggingen van de politiek. Wij begeleiden en ondersteunen Rechten van de Natuur initiatieven in Nederland.



Source: Stichting Rechten van de Natuur:

<https://www.rechtenvandenatuur.org>

Example - Rechten van de Scheldes:

<https://rechtenvandescheldes.eu/>



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RIGHTS OF NATURE & GO OU

- Go Get Together (November 2023)
- GOUD (June 2024)
- LIRS Conference (November 2024)
- Participation in Round Table 'Onboarding Nature' (January 2025)
- Next step...



ONBOARDING NATURE



Source: Onboarding
Nature Toolkit
<https://www.onboardingnature.com>

LET'S GO FOR RIGHTS OF NATURE

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ONBOARDING NATURE



ONBOARDING NATURE ...

- Formalizing the role of Nature as a stakeholder
- Nature-inclusive governance
- Alongside & in synergy with Rights of Nature movement
- 4 models



ONBOARDING NATURE

ONBOARDING NATURE: 4 MODELS

- Nature as Inspiration
- Nature as Advisor
- Nature as Director
- [Nature as Shareholder]





Conceptual definition

Particulars

In its legal form, *Nature as Purpose* is an explicit commitment to Nature by the organisation, as included in the constitutional documents/Articles of Incorporation/Articles of Association/Bylaws. *Nature as Purpose* can operate on its own, and/or be supported by further organisational mechanisms to give Nature as voice

A large green lightbulb is the central element. Around its base and upper part, a circular arrangement of icons represents various aspects of sustainable development. The icons include a house, a solar panel, a wind turbine, a bicycle, a tree, a cloud, a butterfly, a mountain, a river, a factory, and a power line. The entire illustration is set against a white background.

Source: Onboarding Nature Toolkit
<https://www.onboardingnature.com>



Conceptual definition

Particulars

Nature as Advisor can be represented through an individual or through a committee; in addition, an advisory board/role can be either internal or external to an organisation.

Where it is a policy-based entrenchment, the advisory board is a conversational space, where key topics are presented for consultation and discussion. The advisory board then makes its (non-binding) recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Companies that have adopted this alternative model of governance include (not featured in this toolkit): Copains (Impact board); Realco (Vision Board); NGroup (Impact Board), Danone BeLux (Stakeholder meeting).

LET'S GO FOR RIGHTS OF NATURE



Conceptual definition

Particulars

The creation of a directorship role entrenches Nature's input in the decision-making of the company, through a range of rights, including: voting, access to information, reporting review, etc. Nature as Director also has equal rights and duties as other company directors.

The most notable examples of *Nature as Director*, featured in various forms in this toolkit, include Faith in Nature, House of Hackney (interviewed & mentioned), Hub Culture, and Palais de Tokyo.



Source: Onboarding Nature Toolkit
<https://www.onboardingnature.com>



INTERACTIVE: HOW TO GET NATURE ON BOARD?



BRAINSTORM

- What is an educational institution's relationship with Nature, why would such an institution want to bring Nature on board?
- Which model (from the Onboarding Nature's toolkit) fits educational institutions best?
- Can we 'onboard' Nature together? If so, what could be next steps?



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



PLEASE CONTACT US!

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- <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/open-universiteit-green-office/>
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