



Press Kit



ENHANCING NON-HUMAN NATURE'S VOICE



STAKEHOLDER



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SPEAK4NATURE

Enhancing Non-Human Nature's Voice

MAIN DESCRIPTION

Speak4Nature, a project funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Staff Exchange Action of the European Commission for the years 2023-2027, is on a mission to transfer both theoretical and empirical knowledge associated with techniques that champion the voice of non-human nature in social and legal settings. The project is dedicated to promoting intersectoral and international mobility among researchers within the consortium's institutions.

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION

Specific Description: In the face of the complex ecological challenges of our time, there is a pressing need for advanced methodologies to comprehend our interactions with the environment and to transcend the outdated human-centric perspective of nature. Scientists, governments, and regulators are now tasked with establishing a form of "justice" that reconceptualizes nature as an active participant, aligning with the concept of Ecological Justice (EJ). Speak4Nature, with a consortium comprising nine international interdisciplinary academic institutions (universities and research centers) and non-academic entities (including a for-profit company and NGOs) in the EU and Latin America, is dedicated to pioneering new socio-legal tools and methodologies. These tools aim to provide a shared theoretical and operational foundation in social and environmental sciences, allowing non-human entities to have a voice in legal contexts and contributing to a unified vision for addressing nature effectively in the face of contemporary ecological challenges.

Speak4Nature will develop innovative socio-legal instruments and methodologies to establish a theoretical and operational framework in social and environmental sciences, ensuring the participation of non-human nature in legal contexts. By elucidating why and how various social sciences extend moral consideration to non-human nature, the project will conceptualize Ecological Justice from a multidisciplinary, intersectoral, and international perspective. Ultimately, this work will promote fairness among humans, species, and generations.

Through interdisciplinary and intersectoral secondments and knowledge transfer mechanisms, Speak4Nature will enhance the skills of the staff involved, fostering the study, exchange, and dissemination of knowledge related to the ecology of law. This contribution will lead to the enhancement of EJ standards and policies.

SPEAK4NATURE

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OBJECTIVES

1. Conceptualize Ecological Justice from a multidisciplinary, intersectoral, and international perspective.
2. Define the reasons, methods, and influences behind various social sciences extending moral consideration to non-human nature.
3. Map the current social and legal techniques for asserting the voice of non-human nature.
4. Empower civil society and stakeholders in ecological awareness, restoration, and climate change litigation.
5. Ensure the adoption of project outcomes by developing practical guidelines and training tools on legal techniques and standards to implement Ecological Justice principles in environmental violation disputes.

LEVELS OF ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

The project's implementation approach is organized into three operational, fully interdisciplinary levels of "ecological justice," crucial for achieving project objectives: the "theoretical level" (TLEJ), the "empirical level" (ELEJ), and the "strategic level" (SLEJ). These levels converge to emphasize and facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding new socio-legal tools for representing nature's voice and promoting ecological culture, restoration, and litigation.

- The TLEJ establishes the philosophical framework for the concept of Ecological Justice, focusing on the analysis of justice, law, and human rights applied to EJ, culminating in a compendium of EJ theoretical standards.
- The ELEJ investigates how EJ operates in practice and how diverse knowledge traditions and cultural roots contribute to giving voice to non-human nature. Activities include analyzing the state of the art in implementing nature's inherent value, procedural techniques for representing non-human nature, and the role of anthropology, biology, ecological sustainability, and economics expert reports in case law.
- The SLEJ aims to develop long-term practices in Ecological Justice and contribute to the development of an "ecological citizenship." Activities include mapping and comparing forms of citizen participation in EJ, analyzing the participation of private and public legal entities in EJ instances, creating the Speak4Nature White Book on EJ, and establishing an Observatory on Ecological Justice (OEJ).

STAKEHOLDER

The complexity of current ecological challenges requires elaborate new methods to understand the way we interact with the environment and to eradicate the anachronistic human-centred conception of nature. Scientists, governments and regulators are asked to create a “justice” capable of reframing the concept of nature as an active player, in line with the notion of Ecological Justice (EJ).

Counting on a consortium of 9 international interdisciplinary forefront academic (universities and research centres) and non-academic institutions (including a for-profit company as well as NGOs) in EU and Latin America, Speak4Nature aims to develop new socio-legal instruments and methodologies to provide a common theoretical and operational basis in social and environmental sciences to give voice to non-human beings in legal instances, and to contribute to the creation of a shared vision towards the treatment of “nature” itself useful for the adaptation of the political process to the current ecological challenges.

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Positive



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Video



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We welcome inquiries from journalists and media outlets interested in learning more about the Speak4Nature project.

Dr. Jennifer Lertola is available to provide additional materials, schedule interviews, and offer comprehensive insights into the project's goals, achievements, and impact.

Feel free to reach out for a deeper understanding of our work and its significance in the realm of ecological justice.

Dr. Jennifer
LERTOLA
Communication Manager

+39 320 89 06 729
jennifer.lertola@uniupo.it
www.speak4nature.eu



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE
VIA DEL DUOMO, 6
13100 VERCELLI, ITALY
SPEAK4NATURE@UNIUPO.IT