

# Ecocide could become an international crime

B2-C1

## 0. Pre-listening activity: match the words with their definitions

1. statute	a. A written law passed by a legislative body.
2. drafting	b. An act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something.
3. regulation	c. Preparing a preliminary version of a text, report, law, etc.
4. destruction	d. About a law, rule, or obligation being able to be imposed so that it must be complied with.
5. enforceable	e. A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
6. initiative	f. The action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.
7. voiced	g. Expressed an attitude or opinion.
8. harness	h. Relating to, done by, or affecting large numbers of people or things.
9. accountable	i. The full range of different levels of people or things, from the lowest to the highest.
10. corporate	j. Control and make use of natural resources, especially to produce energy.
11. scale	k. An act of fishing in a boat with a very large net.
12. mass	l. Of a person, organization, or institution required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible.
13. trawling	m. Instances of liquids (e.g. oil) coming out of something and going into a river, sea or other place.
14. spills	n. Relating to a corporation, especially a large company or group.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A new law on the environment has been passed into the statute books. **T / F**
- b. Lawyers want ecocide to be a crime like genocide. **T / F**
- c. The ecocide initiative is being led by a group of environmentalists. **T / F**
- d. Vanuatu and the Maldives backed the new ecocide law. **T / F**
- e. A professor said now was not the time to incorporate ecocide into law. **T / F**
- f. The professor wants to hold governments accountable for ecocide. **T / F**
- g. An ecocide foundation said most ecocide is caused by corporations. **T / F**
- h. The foundation highlighted oil spills and deep-sea trawling. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article you are going to hear.

1. <b>statute</b>	a. proposal
2. <b>globe</b>	b. won over
3. <b>initiative</b>	c. responsible
4. <b>attracted</b>	d. law
5. <b>voiced</b>	e. devastation
6. <b>harness</b>	f. extent
7. <b>accountable</b>	g. expressed
8. <b>outlined</b>	h. exploit
9. <b>destruction</b>	i. defined
10. <b>scale</b>	j. planet

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1. There could be a new law on the international	a. a huge scale
2. Lawyers across the globe are	b. enforceable crime
3. Ecocide is the destruction of the	c. accountable
4. Lawyers want to make it a legally	d. world's ecosystems
5. Island nations at risk from	e. the power
6. The time is right to harness	f. destruction
7. hold governments and multi-national corporations	g. statute books
8. In most cases ecocide is likely to be a	h. rising sea levels
9. mass, systematic or widespread	i. corporate crime
10. Amazon deforestation on	j. drafting regulations

## LISTEN:

## 4 GAP FILL

There could be a new law on the international (1) \_\_\_\_\_ books. Lawyers across the globe are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ regulations to make ecocide a crime. Ecocide is the destruction of the world's ecosystems. Lawyers want to make it a legally (3) \_\_\_\_\_ crime, much like crimes against humanity, war crimes and (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The initiative is being led by a professor from University College London (UCL) and a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ judge at the International Criminal Court. It has attracted support from (6) \_\_\_\_\_ European countries, notably France and Belgium. Island nations at (7) \_\_\_\_\_ from rising sea levels, such as Vanuatu and the Maldives, have (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their support. A politician in the UK has called for ecocide to be incorporated into law.

Professor Philippe Sands of UCL spoke about why there is a need for ecocide to be made (9) \_\_\_\_\_. He said: "The time is right to harness the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of international criminal law to protect our global environment." He wants the law to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ governments and multi-national corporations (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for the environmental damage they cause. The Stop Ecocide Foundation said: "In most cases ecocide is likely to be a (13) \_\_\_\_\_ crime." It outlined the scale of destruction that would (14) \_\_\_\_\_ an ecocide law being used. It said: "It would have to involve (15) \_\_\_\_\_, systematic or widespread destruction. We are probably talking about Amazon deforestation on a huge scale, deep sea-bottom (16) \_\_\_\_\_ or oil spills."

*enforceable*

*former*

*risk*

*statute*

*drafting*

*voiced*

*genocide*

*several*

*hold*

*corporate*

*mass*

*power*

*trawling*

*accountable*

*illegal*

*require*

## 5. Choose the right word and put in the right preposition.

There could be a new *law / legal* the international statute books. Lawyers across the globe are *draughty / drafting* regulations to make ecocide a crime. Ecocide is the destruction the world's ecosystems. Lawyers want to make it a *legally / legalised* enforceable crime, much like crimes humanity, war crimes and *genocidal / genocide*. The initiative is being *led / bled* a professor University College London (UCL) and a *former / firmer* judge the International Criminal Court. It has *detracted / attracted* support several European countries, *notably / regrettably* France and Belgium. Island nations *to / at* risk rising sea levels, such as Vanuatu and the Maldives, have voiced their support. A politician in the UK has called ecocide to be incorporated *into / onto* law.

Professor Philippe Sands of UCL spoke *what / why* there is a need ecocide to be *made / done* illegal. He said: "The time is *rightly / right* to harness the power international criminal law *for / to* protect our global environment." He wants the law to *hold / grasp* governments and multi-national corporations accountable the environmental damage they *cause / clause*. The Stop Ecocide Foundation said: "In most cases ecocide is likely to be a corporate crime." It *inlined / outlined* the scale destruction that would require an ecocide law being *uses / used*. It said: "It would have to involve *mass / massed*, systematic or widespread destruction. We are probably talking about Amazon deforestation a huge scale, deep sea-bottom trawling or oil *spill / spills*."

## ACADEMIC WRITING

Write the answer to the following prompt (between 200-225 words)

Ecocide should be made a crime and be subject to severe punishments.

Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons.

**There is NO auto-check for Writing Task. Results in person on submission.**

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS :)

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