



Annual Law Group Conference

“Living Environmental Law”

Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 March 2024
Omnia, Wageningen University & Research



We are delighted to announce the fourth edition of the annual Law Group conference at Wageningen University & Research.

This year’s theme is “**Living Environmental Law**”.

Around this theme, we aim to explore the dynamic and complex relationship between environmental law and the rapidly changing natural world. As environmental challenges of our time intensify, we believe it is imperative for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to come together and reflect on the continued relevance and effectiveness of environmental law.

During this two-day conference, we invite scholars to take stock of what *living* environmental law means today, from climate litigation to transnational rule-making; and of what *living environment* the law embodies, today and in the future.

The **first day** of the conference will provide a platform for new voices in environmental law, and related fields, by inviting PhD students to share their work and receive feedback.

The day will be followed by the conference dinner, open to attendees of both the first and second day of the conference.

The **second day** will bring together a varied group of early career and senior researchers around the four sub-topics of the conference.

Call for papers:

We invite abstracts and/or draft papers on all environmental law areas – ideally linked to one of the research streams specified below. We welcome doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, and comparative research papers; innovative interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged.

All sessions will be plenary. As a result, a limited number of papers can be selected. Selection will take place so as to reflect most diversity in terms of perspectives, gender, geography and seniority. While abstracts are welcomed, draft papers are also strongly encouraged.

Research that link with the following themes within the context of living environmental law will be prioritized:

1. **Inclusive environmental law:** Environmental law is often written by a specific group of people, focused on the protection of a specific subset of species/habitats. This panel serves to shed new light on the blind spots of our existing environmental laws – in terms of participation in decision-making and implementation/enforcement – as well as how these can be addressed.
2. **Reviving the environment through law:** With climate change and other environmental challenges accelerating at an unprecedented pace, how can environmental law adapt and foster resilience in the face of uncertainty? And how can we restore damage done by past environmental decisions? How to properly benchmark for restoration, rewilding reforestation and conservation efforts? What are the legal and regulatory strategies to address the complex web of interdependencies between species and ecosystems, both on land and in marine contexts?
3. **Safe and just environmental boundaries:** Where do the boundaries of a safe and sustainable environment lie? And if these boundaries require considerable changes to consumption and production patterns, how to reset these boundaries in just ways? How to make sure that both conservation and restoration can effectively achieve equity? And what does equity mean from a legal and a scientific standpoint? Is this the purview of democratic processes – if so, locally, nationally or transnationally – or increasingly through practice, by implementing actors, judges, interest groups, citizens, and others? This panel specifically welcomes interdisciplinary insights from the field on how environmental law is used, and adapted, on the ground. Empirical work is particularly welcomed.
4. **Environmental law and (environmental) science:** Rapid advancements in technology, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and remote sensing, offer promising solutions for environmental protection. How can environmental law harness the potential of these innovations while addressing the legal and ethical challenges they present? To what extent do our current environmental laws reflect these scientific insights? How can law learn from and possibly influence the life sciences, and vice versa?

Submission Guidelines:

Please send abstracts/papers including a short (100 words) biography to living.law@wur.nl by **15 September 2023**. Indicate whether you will be applying for the **early career day** or the **conference**.

Conference attendees: Please indicate your willingness to be present at the PhD day (12 PM onwards on Wednesday 27 March) to provide feedback to junior colleagues.

Early career scholars: Please indicate how close you are to completing your PhD and whether you will have funding to travel to Wageningen or need support.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 October 2023**.

Full papers (5,000-8,000 words) for selected presentations should be submitted by **1 February 2024**.

For further details, please visit our [conference website](#) or contact (living.law@wur.nl).

We look forward to your contributions and to an enriching conference experience!

On behalf of the LAW Group,

Josephine van Zeben
Edwin Alblas
Francesca Leucci