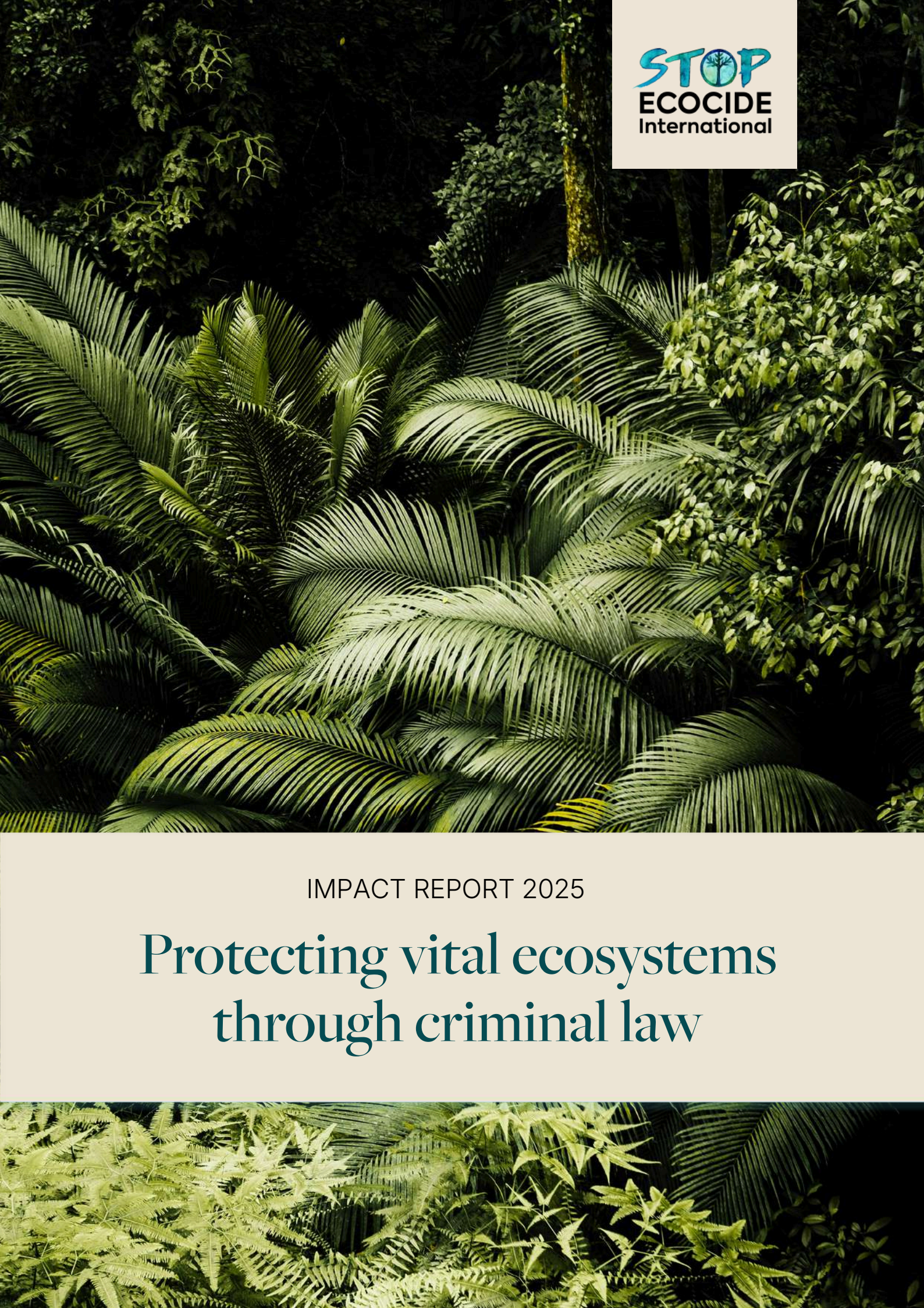




IMPACT REPORT 2025

Protecting vital ecosystems through criminal law

Foreword

Building the legal foundations to protect nature

2025 was a landmark year for ecocide law. Stop Ecocide International helped drive major legal and diplomatic progress, from an IUCN motion (backed by 23 states) to national legislation proposed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, India, Ghana and Scotland. African leadership also grew, with the DRC championing ecocide recognition at the UN and COP30.

In 2025, ecocide law moved further into the mainstream of international law and policy. Governments, parliaments and major institutions increasingly recognised that the most severe destruction of nature should be treated as a serious crime.

Looking ahead, Stop Ecocide International is focusing this momentum on the specific corridors of power where legal recognition is decided: national legislatures, the ICC's Assembly of States Parties and key regional bodies. We will continue to do this through our four core capabilities: diplomacy, legal development, public narrative and alliance-building.

Together, we're transforming a landmark year of diplomatic and legal progress into the lasting change our planet needs.



Driving the progress

Our team at Stop Ecocide International helped create the conditions for progress through providing trusted legal expertise, building diplomatic support, connecting decision-makers and developing public understanding around ecocide law. This sustained work helps move ecocide from legal concept to political consideration, and from political consideration towards legislation and international recognition.

Our advocacy for the work we do is based on the [Independent Expert Panel \(IEP\) legal definition of Ecocide](#). The panel was convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation in 2021 to develop the definition and since launch has proved both authoritative and legally robust, catalysing proposals of law in multiple countries as well as at the International Criminal Court.

A clear case for change

The case for change is increasingly clear. A 2024 Global Commons Survey conducted by Ipsos UK found that **72%** of respondents across G20 countries surveyed agreed that the most severe forms of environmental harm should incur criminal prosecution.

23 governments
backed Stop Ecocide
International's IUCN
ecocide law motion

72+ public events
involving Stop Ecocide
International, including
conferences, webinars
and academic seminars

**47+ international
media features,**
interviews and podcasts
featuring SEI & the wider
network

**30+ news updates and
analysis pieces** tracking
global progress on
ecocide law

7+ multi-state briefings
with government
representatives

-
-
-

40+ states
in substantive, high-
level engagement
with Stop Ecocide
International

A year of significant milestones

Ecocide recognition gained major ground in 2025, from UN and COP30 endorsements to a landmark IUCN motion and new proposed legislation in the Dominican Republic, India, Ghana and Scotland.



Our expertise and engagement, while often delivered under conditions of confidentiality, were also reflected in the public record: Stop Ecocide International was invited to give expert evidence to the Scottish Parliament; Panama's National Assembly publicly reported engagement with our Americas team on ecocide legislation; and national legislative proposals drew on the Independent Expert Panel definition of ecocide.

A landmark European treaty

In May, the Council of Europe adopted the *Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law*. It enables states to prosecute intentional conduct causing environmental disasters “tantamount to ecocide” and closely reflects core elements of the 2021 Independent Expert Panel definition.

Ecocide became a continental priority in Africa

In July, [African environment ministers agreed to include ecocide as a top priority at the UN Africa Summit](#) among the continent’s strategic environmental priorities for 2025-2027. An ad hoc committee will examine the legal classification of mass ecosystem destruction as a crime. The Democratic Republic of the Congo played a central role, with the [Republic of Congo and Burundi also expressing formal support](#). In October, the [Congo Basin Climate Commission \(CBCC\)](#) representing 17 African states called for ecocide to be recognised as an international crime.

International political leadership grew

The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo reaffirmed support for recognising ecocide as a standalone international crime at both the [UN General Assembly](#) and [COP30](#), amplifying African leadership alongside the Pacific Island states of Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa.

The world's largest conservation network acted



In October, members of the IUCN World Conservation Congress adopted Motion 061, ["Recognising the crime of ecocide to protect nature"](#), proposed by Stop Ecocide International and formally co-sponsored by Vanuatu's Ministry of Climate Change and numerous civil society organisations.

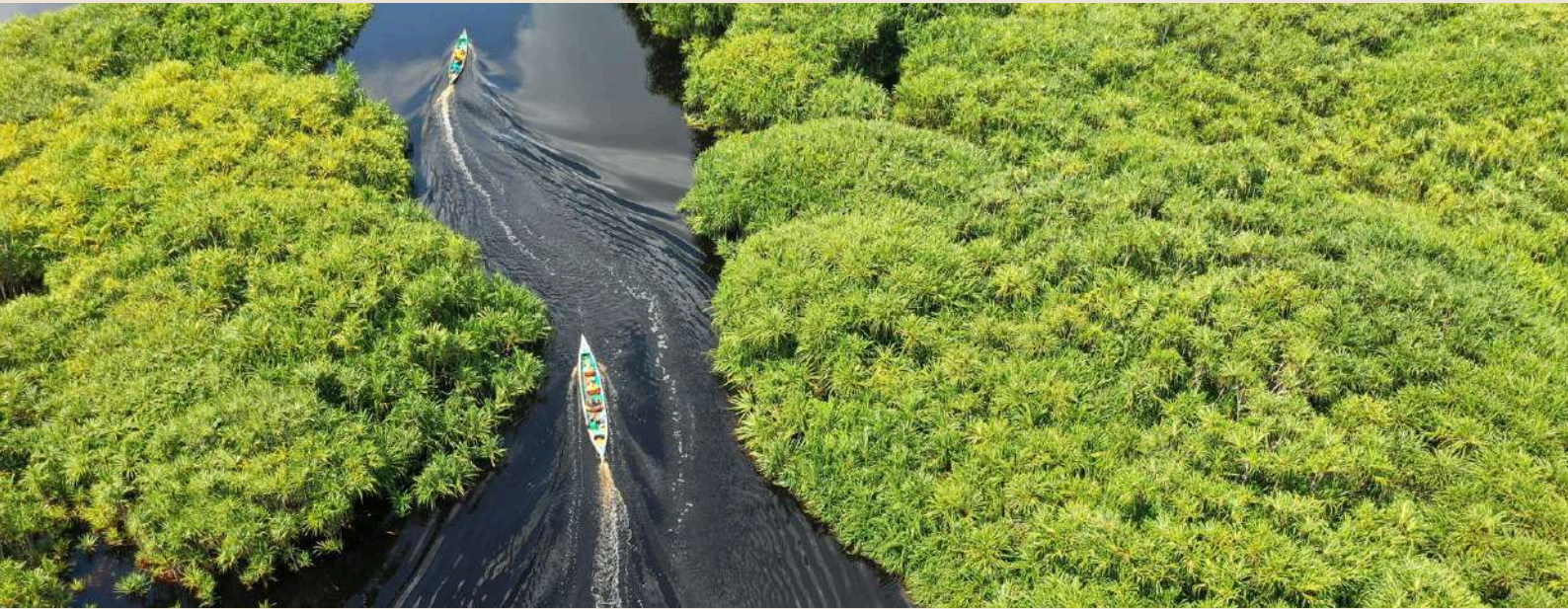
Twenty-three states voted in favour of the motion, which endorses recognition of ecocide in national and international law and calls on the Director General of the IUCN to prepare a report on ecocide law for circulation in 2028.

National law-making accelerated

The Dominican Republic introduced a proposal of law to criminalise severe or irreversible ecosystem damage; India's Parliament saw the introduction of an ecocide bill; and Ghana's state-mandated constitutional review recommended creating a national offence of ecocide. A landmark Ecocide Bill was also introduced in the Scottish Parliament, bringing ecocide into formal legislative consideration in Scotland.

Continually driving change

Legal change of this scale does not happen through a single campaign or event. It grows through sustained, carefully connected work across five areas:



1. Diplomatic traction

As well as hosting or co-hosting at least seven multi-state government briefings in 2025, we maintained ongoing bilateral engagement with legislators across the world. Much of this diplomatic work is necessarily non-public; its impact becomes visible as governments move towards public support, legislation and international action.

2. Legal development

Providing expert analysis, advice and model frameworks grounded in the 2021 definition developed by the Independent Expert Panel convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation continues to be a strong pillar of our strategy. The 2021 Independent Expert Panel definition continued to inform legislative and policy processes in multiple jurisdictions during 2025, providing a common legal reference point for emerging ecocide laws.

3. Public narrative

We make ecocide law understandable and credible, so that severe environmental destruction is increasingly recognised as a matter of criminal accountability - not simply a cost of doing business. During 2025, Stop Ecocide International and members of its wider network were referenced, quoted or featured in major outlets such as The Times, The Guardian and France 24, alongside numerous specialist publications, podcasts and regional media across multiple countries and languages.

4. Alliance building

We connect governments, legal experts, international institutions, civil society, Indigenous leaders, academia and business around a shared legal goal.

Working across diplomacy, law, communications and international networks allows SEI to connect developments that might otherwise remain isolated — helping emerging political support translate into coherent legal momentum across jurisdictions.

5. Building understanding and trusted relationships

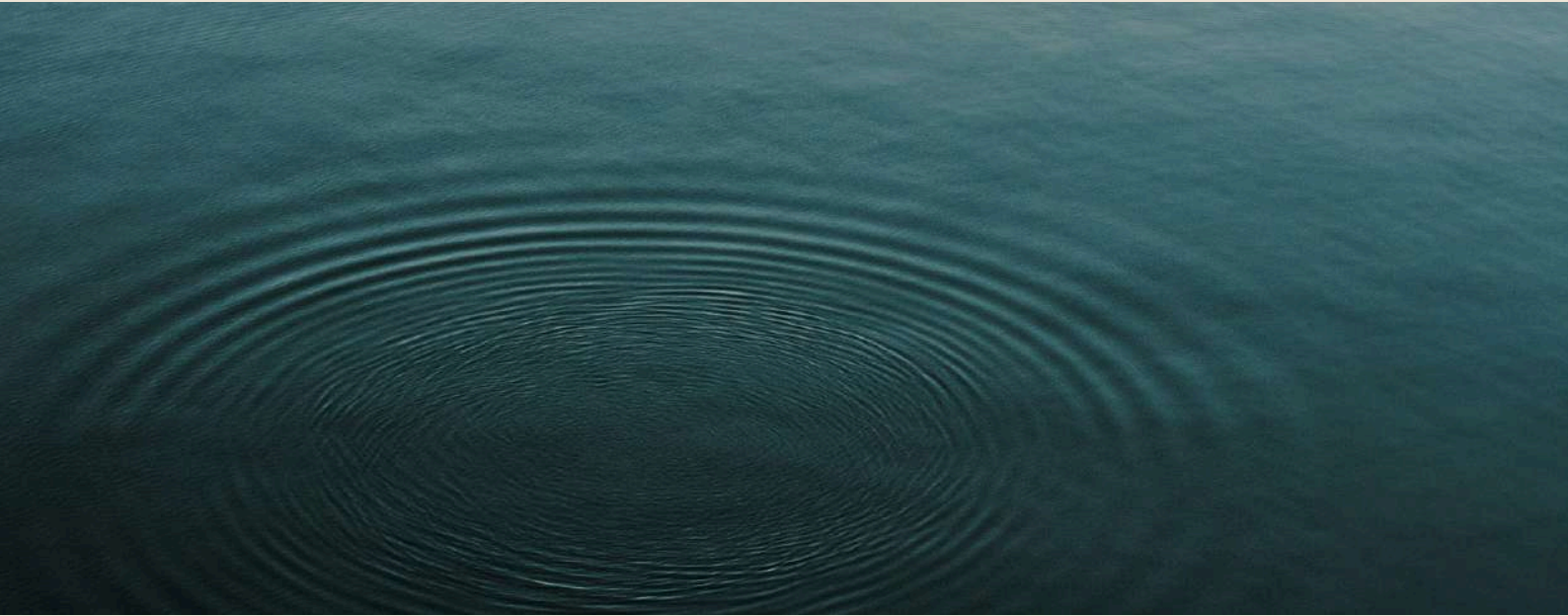
In 2025, we deepened global engagement on ecocide law through events, analysis and briefings at major international gatherings.

We also contributed to major international gatherings including COP30, UNEA-7, the UN Ocean Conference, Africa Climate Week, London Climate Action Week and the IUCN World Conservation Congress.



Why continued funding matters

The momentum is real, but we need to turn this into adopted laws worldwide.



Continued philanthropic support enables us to respond when political and legal opportunities arise, deepen diplomatic engagement, provide trusted expertise and strengthen the alliances needed for lasting change.

Looking ahead, we're targeting the specific corridors of power where legal recognition is decided: national legislatures, the ICC's Assembly of States Parties and key regional bodies.

We're prioritising jurisdictions according to alignment of incumbent governments with this criminal law approach, in order to rapidly build a coalition that is broad, credible and will create leverage with other countries.

Together, we are helping establish a common-sense, clear and protective legal boundary against the worst destruction of nature - protecting people, ecosystems and the future we all share.

To our funders, thank you for making this long-term, systems-level work possible. To our prospective funders, we're truly excited at the prospect of growing this thriving global movement for change with your support.

Join us in advancing the legal conditions for life to thrive.



GETTING IN TOUCH

For further information or a conversation please contact
fundraising@stopecocide.earth