

## DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN, PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

*Workshop in the context of the research project BOF23/PDO/103 "Towards compassionate conservation in the EU: aligning EU's biodiversity laws with animal welfare"*  
19.04.2024 in Ghent, Lokaal 4.2, Paddenhoek 1-3, Campus Aula

# PROPOSAL FOR A COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATION LAW

## Injecting compassion in EU nature conservation

### Keynote lecture Prof. Dr. Daniel Ramp

#### 'An interdisciplinary approach of compassionate conservation'

8.30AM-9.30 AM

Mandatory registration: <https://event.ugent.be/registration/KeynoteDanielRamp>

Daniel Ramp is the Director of the Centre for Compassionate Conservation at the transdisciplinary education and research department of the University of Technology in Sydney.

Prof. Dr. Ramp is a conservation biologist with profound expertise in landscape ecology, behavioural ecology, road ecology, and wildlife-human interactions. At the core of his research lies an adoption of the principles of compassionate conservation, an expanding international discipline that promotes the wellbeing of individuals in environmental decision making. He is active in creating science that assists in policy change and his primary goal is to incentivise coexistence with wildlife in agricultural landscapes.

Current research projects include (among others) 'Compassionate conservation: Bringing individuals into conservation decision making', 'Wildlife friendly farming: Helping farmers to benefit from protecting wildlife', 'Wildlife welfare: Non-invasive methods for wildlife welfare assessment', 'Population modelling: Understanding compassionate management options for wildlife'. Some of his recent research publications are: 'Animal cognition and culture mediate predator-prey interactions' (2024), 'Preventing extinction in an age of species migration and planetary change' (2023), 'Ethical Treatment of Invasive and Native Fauna in Australia: Perspectives through the One Welfare Lens' (2022).



### Workshop

9.30AM-11.30 AM [only open to students Animal & Law course]

The workshop will entail a simulation of EU decision-making focused on drafting a proposal for Compassionate Conservation Law. Based on the central assumption that compassionate conservation is the only way forward to prevent the destruction of EU's natural heritage it is high time to translate scientific findings into law. This will involve a transdisciplinary angle combining legal knowledge with ethical concerns as well as ecological insights. Key questions which will be addressed during the workshop are:

- How to define compassionate conservation as well as relevant accompanying concepts and delineate the legal scope?
- What tenets underpin compassionate conservation and how to incorporate these in legal principles?
- Are we in need of establishing a general principle of duty of care for wild animals and how would this look like?
- What difficulties and obstacles can be identified when trying to align EU animal welfare and nature conservation law and how to deal with it? To what extent is installing a legal hierarchy a solution?
- How would a Compassionate Conservation Law relate to existing EU and international (soft) law instruments?
- What legal basis can serve as anchor point for the emergence of an EU Compassionate Conservation Law? To what extent can be relied on existing EU primary law or is creative interpreting of new developments in case law needed?
- Which specific EU instrument is preferred to adequately convey and implement compassionate conservation measures in the EU and its Member States and what motives underly this choice of legal instrument?

Participants will be divided in three groups. A first group will be responsible for developing the recitals of the Compassionate Conservation Law, which will comprehend elaborating on the choice of legal instrument, its legal basis as well as mapping relevant case law and the relation towards existing EU instruments. In addition the recital part needs to cover (scientific, societal, ethical) reasons for and objectives of the proposal. The second group will concentrate on 'chapter one' of the Compassionate Conservation Law which, as introductory general chapter, needs to cover provisions on the subject matter, scope, definitions and key principles (derived from the tenets of compassionate conservation). The third group will delve deeper into three case studies: rewilding, invasive alien species and non-subsistence hunting. A first step will consist of defining each concept. Next, against the background of aligning EU animal welfare and nature conservation law, potential difficulties and obstacles which may arise will be identified and thirdly solutions how to deal with conflicts will be explored and transposed in legal provisions. At the end of the workshop each group will present its results in order to reach to a combined first draft of a (fictional) EU Compassionate Conservation Law.

#### Contact

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