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**Level 5 – 5th December, 2020**

## **Ecocide could become an international crime**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

There could be a new international law to make ecocide a crime. Ecocide is the destruction of the world's ecosystems. Lawyers across the globe are drafting a proposal to make ecocide a crime, similar to crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. A professor from University College London (UCL) and a former judge at the International Criminal Court are leading this initiative. It has attracted support from several European countries, and island nations at risk from rising sea levels, such as the Maldives. A UK politician called for ecocide to be incorporated into law.

A UCL professor spoke about the need for ecocide to be made illegal and said "the time is right" to use the power of international criminal law to protect our environment. He wants laws to hold governments and multi-national corporations accountable for their environmental damage. The Stop Ecocide Foundation said: "In most cases ecocide is likely to be a corporate crime." It added that ecocide involved "mass, systematic or widespread destruction. It said: "We are probably talking about Amazon deforestation on a huge scale, deep sea-bottom trawling or oil spills."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/nov/30/international-lawyers-draft-plan-to-criminalise-ecosystem-destruction>  
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/30/end-impunity-deliberate-destruction-planet-international-lawyers-drafting-plan>  
<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/international-lawyers-draft-law-against-environmental-destruction-to-criminalise-ecocide.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ecocide is the destruction of the | a. ecocide a crime    |
| 2. Lawyers across                    | b. for ecocide        |
| 3. drafting a proposal to make       | c. support            |
| 4. crimes against                    | d. law                |
| 5. It has attracted                  | e. the globe          |
| 6. at risk from                      | f. world's ecosystems |
| 7. A UK politician called            | g. humanity           |
| 8. incorporated into                 | h. rising sea levels  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the need for ecocide to       | a. Amazon deforestation |
| 2. the time is                   | b. criminal law         |
| 3. the power of international    | c. spills               |
| 4. ecocide is likely to be       | d. be made illegal      |
| 5. widespread                    | e. trawling             |
| 6. We are probably talking about | f. right                |
| 7. deep sea-bottom               | g. destruction          |
| 8. oil                           | h. a corporate crime    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

There could be a new international (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ecocide a crime. Ecocide is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the world's ecosystems. Lawyers across the globe are drafting a proposal to make ecocide a crime, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ against humanity, war crimes and genocide. A professor from University College London (UCL) and a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the International Criminal Court are leading this initiative. It has (5) \_\_\_\_\_ several European countries, and island nations at risk from rising sea levels, such as the Maldives. A UK politician called for ecocide to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

A UCL professor spoke about the need for ecocide to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and said "the time is right" to use the power of international criminal law (8) \_\_\_\_\_ environment. He wants laws to hold governments and multi-national corporations (9) \_\_\_\_\_ environmental damage. The Stop Ecocide Foundation said: "In most cases ecocide is likely to be (10) \_\_\_\_\_." It added that ecocide involved "mass, systematic (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "We are probably talking about Amazon deforestation on a huge scale, deep sea-bottom (12) \_\_\_\_\_ spills."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

There could be a new international law to make ecocide a crime. Ecocide is the destruction of the world's ecosystems. Lawyers across the globe are drafting a proposal to make ecocide a crime, similar to crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. A professor from University College London (UCL) and a former judge at the International Criminal Court are leading this initiative. It has attracted support from several European countries, and island nations at risk from rising sea levels, such as the Maldives. A UK politician called for ecocide to be incorporated into law. A UCL professor spoke about the need for ecocide to be made illegal and said "the time is right" to use the power of international criminal law to protect the environment. He wants law to hold governments and multi-national corporations accountable for their environmental damage. The Stop Ecocide Foundation said: "In most cases ecocide is likely to be a corporate crime." It added that ecocide involved "mass, systematic or widespread destruction. It said: "We are probably talking about Amazon deforestation on a huge scale, deep sea-bottom trawling or oil spills."

# ECOCIDE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about ecocide in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Ecocide could become an international crime – 5th December, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201205-ecocide-5.html>

Write about **ecocide** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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