



## Group Activities Summary

- **RoN** is used in this summary as a catch-all term that includes all variants of Mother Earth Laws, though that is not always the term used by the person. In fact, many, perhaps most attendees, seem to also use some kind of terminology that is adjacent/analogous to RoN, regardless of whether they use Rights of Nature specifically or not.
- The most common kind of work being done seems to be communicational, with many attendees reporting books, articles, and social media publications as some of the main things that they are producing. Of these, we can identify several categories:
  - Professional or academic publications, resources for activists or law professionals seeking to apply RoN (or equivalent concept) in their work. Much of this is research into the history of RoN, or into ways it could be applied.
  - Publications aimed at the general public, largely focused on familiarizing people with the concept or RoN as opposed to other forms of environmentalism.
  - Events (such as the Global Gathering itself, also panels and webinars) aimed mostly at people already immersed within the field, to forge connections and gain momentum. Virtually everyone reports attending/hosting a variety of these.
  - On-the-ground pedagogic initiatives, some of them within indigenous communities, aimed at training people in RoN and how to apply it in their struggles.
  - RoN tribunals, originally developed by GARN. The only one of these currently happening is the European RoN Tribunal beginning in January 2021.
- Another common area of work, in line with GARN's general mission, is "redirecting" people toward existing cases and struggles, trying to connect legal professionals with communities and grassroots movements in a specific place.
  - There is also a big push to connect people working in RoN with other movements pushing for system change, in particular those having to do with alternative economies.

- Aquatic ecosystems, in particular rivers, are by far the most common area of work amongst attendees. There is a notable lack of RoN work happening relating specifically to other kinds of ecosystems.
- Perhaps the least common kind of work being done, at least by the attendees reporting, are actual legal battles. However, there are several cases where the person is directly involved in trying to use RoN in a court of law, including:
  - Representation of indigenous clients in non-indigenous courts.
  - Trying to expand the jurisdiction of tribal laws and constitutions, many of which already incorporate RoN or some variant thereof in one way or another. This is a big one behind successes in both North America and New Zealand.
  - Drafting resolutions to try and apply RoN to various legal bodies/systems.
  - Many people report **geographically-specific** laws, suited to the culture, ecology, and legal systems of a specific region or country, as being both necessary to adequately apply RoN, and something that they are already working on.
- Virtually all participants reported that their work could benefit from some kind of network that would allow for more connection within the movement. There were various specific purposes people would like to see such a network accomplish, including:
  - Bring more visibility to RoN cases and struggles all over the world, helping to attract attention and thus aid. This is something that comes up repeatedly, with many people reporting being surprised to learn of RoN cases throughout the world that they had never heard of despite being in the movement.
  - Parallel to this: bring the attention of the RoN movement toward other environmental and social cases/issues where the framework of RoN is not necessarily being used, but they are applicable.
  - Similarly, to spread awareness about the concept of RoN itself, with the end goal that it becomes something the average person is both familiar with and concerned about.
  - Have resources available that professionals and activists can use to seriously study past RoN cases and learn from the challenges, setbacks, which approaches worked and which did not.
  - Have some kind of legal team available that could be contacted by communities involved in RoN struggles and provide aid in the form of expertise or exposure.