

The State of Organic Rights

Abstract

This essayreport explores the current state of organic rights, including the legal challenges faced in protecting all forms of life, from soil to wind currents, bugs to whales, and bees to plants.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the report

The aim of this report is to thoroughly analyze the existing status of organic rights, specifically focusing on the legal safeguards and obstacles confronting various aspects of the environment. The report will present a comprehensive overview of organic rights, encompassing their definition and breadth, as well as the criticality of preserving all forms of life. It will also delve into the current legislative measures and regulations governing organic rights, including international treaties and agreements pertaining to this domain.

Moreover, the report will tackle specific areas of concern such as the rights of soil and air currents, insects and marine mammals, as well as bees and plants. Each section will scrutinize the prevailing legal protections in place for these natural elements, along with the impediments in acknowledging and conserving their rights.

Legal hurdles for organic rights will be emphasized, accompanied by case studies highlighting successful advocacy endeavors in this realm. The implications for future action will be explored, in addition to recommendations for further steps to safeguard organic rights.

This report seeks to illuminate the intricate landscape of organic rights and offer valuable insights into the legal safeguards and challenges encountered by diverse components of nature. See references: (Rein, 2018, pages 1-5)^[5], (Keene, 2023, pages 16-20)^[8], (Vidal et al., 2023)^[18].

1.2. Background information on organic rights

The National Organic Program (NOP) was established by the USDA in 1990 to set national standards for organic production in response to the increasing demand for organic goods. However, there is a growing 'alternative organic' movement of non-certified producers, raising questions about their rights to label and market their products as organically grown.

Despite the increase in demand and sales of organic products, global organic supply chains make it difficult to monitor and enforce standards, leading to concerns about maintaining the integrity of organic products and potential fraud. Over 90 countries have regulations for organic agriculture, with the IFOAM advocating for sustainable and ethical practices within organic agriculture.

The concept of Rights of Nature advocates for non-human entities to be recognized as legal entities with the right to thrive, regenerate, and exist, gaining momentum worldwide. The rise of private and public regulations concerning organic agriculture reflects a social movement that

emerged as a response to the environmental impact caused by conventional farming during the 1920s, aiming for a comprehensive, sustainable production management system. As consumer demand for organic products grows globally, the landscape of organic rights continues to evolve, presenting challenges related to monitoring, enforcement, integrity, and ethical principles within both conventional and organic agriculture. See references: (Rein, 2018, pages 1-5)^[5], (National Organic Program (NOP); Strengthening Organic Enforcement, 2023)^[10], (Chopin et al., 2023)^[16], (Vidal et al., 2023)^[18], (Meemken & Qaim, 2018)^[19], (The new EU organic regulation and its consistency with WTO law, 2019, pages 6-10)^[21].

2. Overview of Organic Rights

2.1. Definition and scope of organic rights

The concept of "organic rights" encompasses the fundamental rights and protections granted to all forms of life on Earth, extending beyond traditional human rights to recognize the intrinsic value of every living being and the interconnectedness of our ecosystem. Organic rights include the right to clean air, protection of water bodies, preservation of biodiversity, and acknowledgment of animal rights. This revolutionary perspective calls for a shift in our relationship with nature, moving from exploitation to reverence and from dominance to stewardship.

The recognition and upholding of organic rights are essential for shaping a sustainable and just future for our planet. By embracing these rights, we acknowledge the fundamental importance of every element in our ecosystem and promote environmental stewardship. The soil, wind currents, insects, whales, bees, and plants all deserve respect, protection, and preservation. This fosters a deep sense of interconnectedness among all living beings.

The Universal Declaration of Organic Rights (UDOR) serves as a manifesto for this transformative approach, advocating for the rights of every living being and the planet itself. It highlights the need for environmental justice, global responsibility in combating climate change, and sustainable development.

Through personal, community, and global efforts, we can create a world where the well-being of every living being is prioritized and environmental sustainability is at the core of our actions.

Safeguarding organic rights through laws and regulations at local levels as well as international treaties ensures not only human well-being but also that of our entire ecosystem.

Recognizing organic rights goes hand in hand with environmental justice, fostering a compassionate relationship with nature that allows us to embrace practices honoring and sustaining the natural world. See references: (Search For Organics, 2023)^[4], (Regulations.gov, 2023)^[11].

Source	Nutrient content g kg ⁻¹			Nutrient ratio
	N	P	K	N:P:K
Maize (<i>Zea mays</i> L.)	13.5	1.8	14.1	7.5:1:7.8
Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	12.4	1.3	13.8	9.5:1:10.6
Oat (<i>Avena sativa</i> L.)	9.0	1.8	16.9	5.0:1:9.4

Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i> L. Merr.)	31.7	3.8	15.4	8.4:1:4.1
Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.)	39.9	3.3	29.3	12.1:1:8.9
Liquid manure, dairy cattle	3.5	0.8	2.4	4.3:1:3.0
Solid manure, beef cattle	7.4	2.4	5.7	3.1:1:2.4
Liquid manure, pig	4.0	1.3	1.8	3.1:1:1.4
Solid manure, poultry (layer)	19.3	8.9	8.0	2.2:1:0.9
Primary paper-mill sludge	1.7	0.4	0.6	4.3:1:1.5
Secondary paper-mill sludge	31.3	7.3	4.5	4.3:1:0.6
Municipal wastewater effluent (liquid)	34.0	7.3	1.1	4.7:1:0.2
Municipal wastewater effluent (aerobic)	1.2	0.6	0	2.0:1:0
Municipal wastewater effluent (anaerobic)	2.8	1.4	0	2.0:1:0
Municipal wastewater effluent (cake)	37.6	13.1	1.1	2.8:1:0.08
Composted effluent cake	13.0	24.0	0.5	0.5:1:0.02

Table 1: Approximate amounts of macronutrients present in some agricultural crops at harvest, in various livestock and poultry manures, industrial and municipal biosolids, expressed in g kg⁻¹ dry matter (source: reference (Tubeileh et al., 2013)^[2])



Figure 1: From: Converging and diverging principles and practices of organic agriculture regulations and agroecology. A review (source: reference (Wezel & Migliorini, 2017)^[4])

Category of practices	Organic agriculture EU regulation (EC ; EC)	Organic agriculture IFOAM Norms (IFOAM)	Agroecology (Wezel et al.)
1. Soil tillage	Use tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or increase soil organic matter, enhance soil stability and soil biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and soil erosion.	Take measures to prevent erosion and minimise loss of topsoil such as minimal tillage, contour ploughing, maintenance of soil plant cover.	No tillage with direct seeding: planting of crops directly in preceding cover crop (living or destroyed) or crop residues. Use of superficial tillage without soil inversion.
2. Soil fertility and fertilisation	Use of multiannual crop rotation including legumes and other green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic material, both preferably composted. Only fertilisers and soil conditioners referred to in Annex I may be used and only to the extent necessary. Mineral nitrogen fertilisers shall not be used. The total amount of livestock manure may not exceed 170 kg N per year/hectare.	Return microbial, plant or animal material to the soil to increase or at least maintain its fertility and biological activity with green manure, compost or mulch (organically produced on the farm, obtained from the surrounding farms or natural environment or from other inputs allowed under In appendix: Other techniques can be crop rotation, use of nitrogen fixation plants. Restrict land preparation by burning vegetation. No use of sodium (chilean)	Split fertilisation: fertiliser application (chemical and organic) with several operations Biofertiliser: application of living microorganisms to seed, plant surfaces, or soil Organic fertilisation: Application of exclusively organic or mixed with inorganic fertilisation.

		nitrate, of synthetic fertilisers or fertilisers made soluble by chemical methods, e.g. superphosphates.	
3. Crop and cultivar choice	Choice of appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and disease. Only organically produced seed and propagating material. Use of non-organic may authorise if not available from organic production. Prohibition of genetic engineering and its products.	Selection of species and varieties adapted to the local soil and climatic conditions and tolerance to pests and diseases. Give preference to organically bred varieties, when available. Prohibition of genetic engineering and its products.	Use of resistant crops to biotic and abiotic stresses (and mixing them) or crops with selected traits that enhance rhizosphere activities.
4. Crop rotation (including cover crops and green manure)	Multiannual crop rotation including legumes and other green manure crops.	Alternating the species or families of annual and/or biennial crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence. Crop rotations shall be diverse and include soil improving plants such as green manure, legumes or deep rooting plants.	Integration of different crops in rotations (including cover crops).
5. Intercropping	Not mentioned	No specific description. The term intercropping is mentioned in the following sections of the Norms: organic crop production management; pest and disease and weed management.	Intercropping: coexistence of two or more crops on the same field at the same time. Relay intercropping: undersowing of relay crops in already existing crop.
6. Management of landscape elements and habitats	Not mentioned but indirect link to habitat development (natural barrier) as precautionary measures to be taken in order to reduce the risk of contamination by unauthorised products or substances by conventional neighbour	Maintain and improve landscape and enhance biodiversity quality, by maintaining on-farm wildlife, refuge habitats or establishing them where none existing (e.g. extensive grassland, hedgerows, field margins; pools and ditches).	Planting and management of vegetation strips and hedges in fields and at field borders. Management of hedges, vegetation strips and other landscape elements at territory scale.
7. Pest disease and weed management	Prevention and indirect: pests, diseases and weeds shall rely primarily on the protection by natural enemies, the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation, cultivation techniques and thermal processes. Direct: certain plant protection products can be used as referred to Annex II of Regulation.	Prevention and indirect: species and varieties choice; crop rotation, intercropping and companion plant; provision of favourable habitat for natural enemies. Direct: release of predators and parasites, mulching, traps; on-farm preparations (plant, mineral, micro-organism). When these measures are not sufficient, pest, disease and weed management substances permitted may be used from Appendix 3.	Prevention and indirect: cultivar choice; crop rotation, intercropping and cover crops; reduced tillage; direct seeding. Direct: control of weeds, pests and diseases based on introduction of natural enemies, pheromones, pesticides derived from plants or plant extracts, integration of allelopathic plants in crop rotation; trap crops or push-pull strategies.
8. Water quantity and quality management practices	Use responsibly water. In order to avoid environmental pollution of natural resources such as soil and water by nutrients, an upper limit for the use of manure per hectare and for keeping livestock per hectare should be set. This limit should be related to the nitrogen content of the manure.	Prevent or remedy soil and water salinisation, nor excessively exploit water resources and preserve water quality and possible recycle rainwater and monitor water extraction.	Use of drip irrigation (without or in combination with cover crops or mulch). Use of cover crops or intercropping to reduce nutrient leaching.
9. Agroforestry	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Alley intercropping with crops

		and rows of woody vegetation. Scattered fruit trees in meadows or pastures.
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[Table 2](#): Description in EU regulations and IFOAM norms concerning crop production practices in organic agriculture compared to agroecological practices From: Converging and diverging principles and practices of organic agriculture regulations and agroecology. A review (source: reference (Wezel & Migliorini, 2017)[\[4\]](#))

2.2. Importance of protecting all life

The notion of organic rights transcends the conventional understanding of human rights and recognizes the intrinsic value of all life forms on Earth. This transformative perspective urges a shift in our relationship with nature - from exploitation to reverence, from dominance to stewardship. The Universal Declaration of Organic Rights (UDOR) serves as a manifesto for this approach, advocating for the rights of every living being and the planet itself, acknowledging their interconnectedness and mutual dependence. Embracing organic rights means acknowledging the fundamental importance of every element in our ecosystem. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil that supports life, and the plants and animals that share our planet - all deserve respect, protection, and preservation. By safeguarding organic rights, we ensure the well-being of not only humans but also the entire web of life.

The significance of organic rights lies in their moral and ethical imperative. By recognizing the inherent value of all living beings, we foster a compassionate and empathetic relationship with nature. This shift in perspective allows us to embrace practices that honor and sustain the natural world, leading to harmonious coexistence and a healthier planet. The UDOR addresses various aspects of organic rights, including the right to clean air, protection of water bodies, preservation of biodiversity, and acknowledgment of animal rights.

In conclusion, organic rights and the Universal Declaration of Organic Rights are essential for shaping a sustainable and just future for our planet. By recognizing and upholding these rights, we can promote environmental stewardship, foster a deep sense of interconnectedness, and ensure the well-being of all living beings. See references: (Search For Organics, 2023)[\[4\]](#), (Climate Change, 2016, pages 11-15)[\[7\]](#), (Vidal et al., 2023)[\[18\]](#).

3. Laws and Regulations for Organic Rights

3.1. Overview of existing laws and regulations

The concept of organic rights is paramount in safeguarding the authenticity and reliability of organic products. The USDA has outlined several fundamental principles that are essential to the purpose of these regulations, such as organic authenticity, organic deception, audit trails, and supply chain transparency. Organic authenticity pertains to the distinct characteristics that define a product as organic and establish its organic status. Conversely, organic deception involves deliberate deceit for unlawful financial gain, where non-organic products are labeled, sold, or portrayed as organic. The proposed regulation aims to reinforce the enforcement of

USDA organic standards by strengthening control systems, improving import supervision, clarifying certification criteria, and enhancing supply chain visibility. Additionally, the proposed regulation would expand and mandate the use of NOP Import Certificates for all imported products intended for sale as organic in the United States. This stipulation offers traceable and auditable confirmation that a specific shipment of imported organic products complies with USDA regulations. Moreover, it facilitates investigations in cases where non-compliant products are exported and misrepresented as organic for sale in the United States. Furthermore, certifying agents would be obligated to furnish standardized organic certificates generated from INTEGRITY, a web-based system hosted by USDA. This initiative aims to ensure uniform content and format of all organic certificates, making it simpler for purchasers of organic products to identify and authenticate legitimate certificates. In summary, these laws and regulations aim to mitigate the risks associated with uncertified businesses handling organic products, enhance traceability and fraud prevention in intricate supply chains, and strengthen consumer confidence in the USDA organic label. See reference (Regulations.gov, 2023)^[11].

Type of livestock manure	Persistence (days)			
	VTEC	Salmonella	Campylobacter spp.	Listeria spp.
Liquid manure				
Dairy	64	120	34	120
Beef	16	120	64	120
Pig	16	56	36	120
Solid manure				
Dairy	34	120	64	120
Beef	64	34	120	120
Sheep	16	120	34	120
Pig	16	120	34	120
Broiler chickens	16	56	64	56

Table 3: Persistence of pathogenic bacteria from animal manure in agricultural soils after land application and incorporation (source: reference (Tubehleh et al., 2013)^[2])

(a) soil-specific legal instruments	countries (%)
explicit soil policy	7
soil conservation/erosion law(s) [explicit/explicit + implicit]	34/79
soil contamination/pollution law(s) [explicit/explicit + implicit]	27/65
soil sealing law(s) [explicit/explicit + implicit]	3/27
generic or other soil protection law(s) [explicit/explicit + implicit]	28/71

soil protection monitoring and/or targets [explicit/explicit + implicit]	21/47
reference to soil embedded within environmental legislation	88
reference to soil embedded within agricultural or land rights legislation	72
reference to soil embedded within spatial/regional planning legislation	50

Table 4: Proportions of countries with soil-related legislation. (source: reference (Peake & Robb, 2021)^[9])

3.2. International treaties and agreements related to organic rights

International agreements and treaties concerning organic rights play a pivotal role in upholding and safeguarding the rights of organic products. The right to access information, as acknowledged by the ICCPR and UDHR, is crucial for exercising other procedural rights related to public involvement and access to remedies. Additionally, nations have an obligation to evaluate and disclose potential environmental risks as part of their affirmative responsibilities to safeguard various human rights. This encompasses environmental risks resulting from government activities, as well as other environmental threats that jeopardize human rights. The expansion and advancement of the organic industry have prompted a revision of the organic legislative framework in the EU, leading to the introduction of the new EU organic regulation, Regulation (EC) 2018/848. This regulation seeks to establish a fair playing field for operators and maintain consumer trust in the authenticity of organic products. However, there have been concerns raised regarding modifications in the import regulations and recognition of third countries' equivalence.

Moreover, international trade holds significant importance for the economic prosperity of the organic sector. The proposed AMS rule on accepting foreign conformity assessment systems aims to facilitate trade and ensure strong oversight of imported organic products. The equivalence determination process employed by AMS has been formulated based on guidelines from international organizations like WTO, ISO, FAO, and IFOAM.

In summary, international treaties and agreements pertaining to organic rights are vital for protecting human rights within the realm of environmental impact assessments and ensuring the genuineness of organic products through trade arrangements with other nations. See references: (Climate Change, 2016, pages 31-35)^[7], (Regulations.gov, 2023)^[11], (The new EU organic regulation and its consistency with WTO law, 2019, pages 6-10)^[21].

4. The Rights of Soil and Wind Currents

4.1. Current legal protections for soil

The legal safeguards for soil vary greatly from one country or region to another, with some areas having more comprehensive regulations than others. For instance, in Ecuador, the

Constitution explicitly declares that soil conservation is a matter of public interest and national priority. The Organic Environmental Code in Ecuador also emphasizes the right to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, including the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of soil. These measures aim to prevent erosion, degradation, desertification, and pollution.

However, the level of protection for soil rights is not consistent worldwide. In certain regions, there may be limited regulations governing soil conservation and management. This can result in issues such as desertification, land degradation, and erosion, which can have significant environmental and agricultural impacts.

In addition to domestic legal protections, international agreements also influence soil rights. For example, the pursuit of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is an international endeavor supported by organizations like the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies. Access to relevant scientific information is also acknowledged as crucial for preventing land degradation and promoting land restoration.

Overall, while there are existing legal protections for soil rights in specific jurisdictions and international agreements, there are still significant challenges related to soil conservation and management on a global scale. Efforts to address these challenges include implementing the right to a healthy environment as well as promoting good practices in combating desertification and reversing land degradation. See references: (Tubieleh et al., 2013)^[2], (Keene, 2023, pages 16-20)^[6].

Manure type	Total N g kg ⁻¹	Mineral N		Organic-N g kg ⁻¹	Dry matter %
		NH ₄ ⁺ -N g kg ⁻¹	NO ₃ ⁻ -N g kg ⁻¹		
Cattle manure—liquid	1.8	1.3	0.002	0.5	4.2
Cattle manure—composted	5.9	0.07	0.25	5.6	29.9

Table 5: Distribution of N and P forms in some animal manures expressed in g kg⁻¹ dry matter (source: reference (Tubieleh et al., 2013)^[2])

Animal category	Manure type	Copper mg kg ⁻¹ (dry-matter basis)	Zinc mg kg ⁻¹ (dry-matter basis)	Cadmium mg kg ⁻¹ (dry-matter basis)
Cattle				
Dairy	Liquid	1.0–352 (55)	<5–727 (266)	<0.08–3.2 (0.31)
Beef	Liquid	12–267 (49)	88–938 (277)	<0.08–0.80 (0.32)
Dairy/Beef	Solid	2.5–80 (35)	40–448 (181)	0.04–3.1 (0.31)
Pigs				
	Liquid	<1–1386 (714)	<5–5832 (1427)	0.06–1.3 (0.65)
	Solid	134–780 (447)	206–1220 (678)	0.19–0.53 (0.34)
Sheep				
	Solid	13	104	ND

Hens				
Layers	Solid (deep litter)	17–486 (72)	237–789 (515)	0.09–2.04 (0.53)
Broilers	Solid	8.4–173 (72)	52–473 (355)	0.11–1.16 (0.27)

Table 6: Ranges of metal contents of manure (source: reference (Tubeileh et al., 2013)^[2])

Factor	Enteric bacteria	Viruses
Moisture content	Greater survival time in moist soils and during times of high rainfall	Some viruses persist longer in moist soils than dry soils
Moisture-holding capacity	Survival time is less in sandy soils than in soils with greater water-holding capacity	Soils with a larger water-holding capacity will retain moisture longer than those with a smaller capacity
Temperature	Longer survival at low temperatures; longer survival in winter than in summer	Viruses survive longer at lower temperatures
pH	Shorter survival time in acid soils (pH 3–5) than in alkaline soil	Most enteric viruses are stable over the pH range 3–9: survival may be prolonged at near-neutral values
Sunlight	Shorter survival time at soil surface	Desiccation will reduce survival
Organic matter	Increased survival and possible regrowth when sufficient amounts of organic matter are present	Presence of organic matter may protect viruses from inactivation; others have found that it may reversibly retard virus infectivity
Antagonism from soil microflora	Increased survival time in sterile soil	Some viruses are inactivated more readily in the presence of certain microorganisms; but, adsorption to the surface of bacteria can be protective
Salt species and concentration	Salt concentration is important for the initial retention of bacteria in soil	Some viruses are protected from inactivation by certain cations; the reverse is also true
Association with soil	Adsorption onto soil particles is important for bacterial retention	In many cases, survival is prolonged by adsorption to soil; however, the opposite has been observed
Aggregation of microbes	Reduces their mobility and hence increases the retention of bacteria in soil	Enhances survival
Soil properties	The mobility, and hence the residence time of bacteria, is very dependent on the surface properties of soil particles	Effects on survival are probably related to the degree of virus adsorption
Microbe physiology	Different pathogenic bacteria vary widely in their response to environmental stress.	Different virus types vary in their susceptibility to inactivation by physical, chemical and biological factors

Table 7: Factors in the retention and survival of enteric bacteria and viruses in soil (source: reference (Tubeileh et al., 2013)^[2])

4.2. Challenges in recognizing and preserving wind

currents' rights

Air currents play a pivotal role in the environment, yet there are significant hurdles in acknowledging and safeguarding their rights. Unlike soil and other living organisms, air currents are intangible and challenging to quantify in legal terms. This presents a difficulty in establishing concrete legal protections for air currents. Moreover, the fleeting nature of air currents makes it difficult to track and monitor their movements, further complicating efforts to preserve their rights.

Additionally, there is a lack of international treaties and agreements specifically addressing the rights of air currents. While there are laws and regulations in place to protect air quality and reduce pollution, these measures do not explicitly focus on the rights of air currents as living entities. This oversight makes it challenging to advocate for the protection of air currents on a global scale.

Another challenge relates to the interconnectedness of air currents with other elements of the environment. Changes in land use, deforestation, and industrial activities can disrupt natural airflow patterns, impacting not only air currents but also soil health, plant life, and animal habitats. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that considers the broader ecological impact of human activities on air currents.

To overcome these challenges, there is a need for interdisciplinary research and advocacy efforts that emphasize the importance of recognizing and preserving the rights of air currents. This includes integrating scientific data on air movements with legal frameworks to establish enforceable protections for air currents. Additionally, raising awareness about the significance of air currents in sustaining ecosystems can foster public support for policies aimed at safeguarding their rights.

In conclusion, recognizing and preserving the rights of air currents presents unique legal and practical challenges that require innovative approaches to ensure their protection in an ever-changing environment. See references: (Tubieleh et al., 2013)^[2], (EJNI Briefing Paper Rights of Nature Jan 21.pdf, 2022, pages 1-5)^[6].

5. The Rights of Bugs and Whales

5.1. Current legal protections for insects

Insects play a crucial role in the ecosystem, contributing to processes such as pollination, decomposition, and nutrient cycling. The current legal protections for insects primarily focus on regulating pesticides and conserving their habitats. However, there are still significant challenges in ensuring the rights of insects.

Existing laws and regulations often do not fully address the necessary protection needed for insect species. International treaties and agreements related to organic rights do not always provide comprehensive measures for insect conservation. This leaves many insect species vulnerable to habitat destruction, pesticide exposure, and other threats to their well-being. Efforts to protect insects can also be hindered by agricultural practices that prioritize crop production over insect welfare. The use of chemical pesticides and monoculture farming can have detrimental effects on insect populations, leading to declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health.

To truly uphold the rights of insects, it is essential to develop and enforce regulations that prioritize their well-being. This may include implementing sustainable agricultural practices that

minimize pesticide use and promote biodiversity. Additionally, efforts to preserve natural habitats and create insect-friendly landscapes can help support thriving insect populations. Overall, while there are some legal protections in place for insects, there is still much work to be done in order to fully recognize and preserve their rights within the context of organic rights advocacy. See references: (Wezel & Migliorini, 2017)^[4], (Climate Change, 2016, pages 16-20)^[7].

Category of practices	Organic agriculture EU regulation (EC ; EC)	Organic agriculture IFOAM Norms (IFOAM)	Agroecology (Wezel and Peeters ; Peeters and Wezel)
Integration of cropping and animal systems	Livestock production related to the land, where the produced manure is used to nourish the crop production.	Landless animal husbandry systems are prohibited.	Optimum management of organic matters and transfer between livestock and arable land (manure) and between arable land and livestock (litter, forage, by-products) to close the matter and nutrient cycling.
Animal management	Animals should have, whenever possible, access to open air or grazing areas, weather conditions permitting, and such open air areas should in principle be organised under an appropriate system of rotation. Particular attention should be paid to housing conditions, husbandry practices and stocking densities. Annex IV Maximum number of animals per hectare. Animal-health management should mainly be based on prevention of disease.	Ensure that the environment, the facilities, stocking density and flock/herd size provides for the behavioural needs of the animals. All animals shall have unrestricted and daily access to pasture or a soil based on open air exercise area or run, with vegetation, whenever the physiological condition of the animal, the weather and the state of the ground permit.	Systematic use of prevention methods to apply integrated disease and parasite control (e.g. rotational grazing, balanced feeding, adapted housing, hygiene, rustic breeds, mixed grazing of different livestock species).
Breed choice	Animals shall be selected to avoid specific diseases or health problems associated with some breeds or strains used in intensive production. Preference is to be given to indigenous breeds and strains.	Breeding systems shall be based on breeds that can reproduce successfully under natural conditions without human involvement.	Use of locally adapted breeds for maximum use of grasslands to reduce concentrate feed including commercial feed. Use of modern types of double-goal breeds to have both meat and milk production to limit hyper-specialisation of high yielding animals while conserving good income.
Animal housing	Insulation, heating and ventilation of the building shall ensure that air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentration, are kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals. The building shall permit plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter. Stocking density: provide for the comfort, the well-being and the species-specific needs of the animals (species, breed, age). Take into account the behavioural needs of the animals (in particular the size of the group and animals' sex). Provide sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves, assume all natural postures	Where animals require bedding, provide adequate natural materials. Bedding materials that are normally consumed by the animals shall be organic. Building construction provides for insulation, heating, cooling and ventilation of the building, ensuring that air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity, and gas concentrations are within levels that are not harmful to the livestock. No animals shall be kept in closed cages. Animals are protected from predation by wild and feral animals. Animals are regularly visited and monitored.	No specifications to housing, just: systematic use of prevention methods (e.g. rotational grazing, balanced feeding, adapted housing, hygiene, rustic breeds, mixed grazing of different livestock species).

	and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping. Annex III: The minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas, and other characteristics of housing for different species and categories of animals. Specific housing conditions and husbandry practices for mammals, poultry and beekeeping are provided.	When welfare and health problems occur, appropriate management adjustments are implemented (e.g. reducing stocking density).	
Animal welfare	Animal welfare is a priority and therefore may go beyond community welfare standards which apply to farming in general. Mutilations which lead to stress, harm, disease or the suffering of animals should be banned. Operations such as attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail-docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning shall not be carried out routinely. Any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by carrying out the operation only at the most appropriate age by qualified personnel.	Sufficient free movement and opportunity to express normal patterns of behaviour, such as space to stand naturally, lie down easily, move around freely, groom themselves, sleep and nest comfortably, as well as assume all natural postures and movements such as stretching etc. Sufficient fresh air, water, feed, thermal comfort and natural daylight, to satisfy the needs of the animals. Access to resting areas, shelter and protection from sunlight, temperature, rain, mud and wind adequate to reduce animal stress. Provision of suitable materials and areas for exploratory and foraging behaviours. e. in addition to these general welfare conditions for all animal categories, Provisions for specific animal groups have to be taken into account, e.g. for cattle: social grooming and grazing; for pigs: rooting, separate lying, activity/dunging and feeding areas, free farrowing, group housing; for poultry: nesting, wing stretching/flapping, foraging, dust bathing, perching and preening. Mutilations are prohibited. Animals are subjected to minimum stress during transport and slaughter.	Maintenance or establishment of semi-natural landscape elements on the farm or in the landscape to guarantee animal welfare. Give the opportunity to each livestock species to express its natural behaviour in feeding, reproduction, social needs and preferences, and to fulfil its ecological requirements.
Animal nutrition	Feed on grass, fodder and feeding stuffs produced in accordance with the rules of organic farming, by taking into account the physiological needs of livestock. For the basic nutritional requirements of livestock, certain minerals, trace elements and vitamins may need to be used under well-defined conditions. At least 50% of the feed shall come from the farm unit itself or in case this is not feasible, be produced in cooperation with other organic farms primarily in the same region.	Animals shall be fed organic feed. Offered a balanced diet that provides all of the nutritional needs of the animals in a form allowing them to exhibit their natural feeding and digestive behaviour. More than 50% of the feed shall come from the farm unit itself, surrounding natural grazing areas, or be produced in cooperation with other organic farms in the region. List of prohibited substances. All ruminants shall have daily access to roughage.	Giving priority to feed (e.g. fresh grass, hay, silage) compared to food (e.g. cereal, pulses).

	All young mammals shall be fed on maternal milk in preference to natural milk, for a minimum period of 3 months for bovines including bubalus and bison species and equidae, 45 days for sheep and goats and 40 days for pigs. Rearing systems for herbivores: maximum use of grazing pasturage. At least 60% of the dry matter in daily rations of herbivores shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage.	Ruminants must be grazed throughout the entire grazing season(s). Young stock from mammals shall be provided maternal milk or organic milk from their own species	
Veterinary management	Animal-health management should be based on disease prevention. The preventive use of chemically synthesised allopathic medicinal products is not permitted. In the event of a sickness or injury of an animal requiring an immediate treatment, the use of chemically synthesised allopathic medicinal products should be limited to a strict minimum. The use of chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics for preventive treatment is prohibited. The use of substances to promote growth or production (including antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth promotion purposes) and the use of hormones or similar substances to control reproduction or for other purposes (e.g. induction or synchronisation of oestrus), is prohibited. Where despite preventive measures to ensure animal health as laid down in Article 14(1)(e)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 834/ 2007 animals become sick or injured they shall be treated immediately, if necessary in isolation and in suitable housing. Phytotherapeutic, homeopathic products, trace elements and products listed in Annex V, part 3 and in Annex VI, part 1.1. shall be used in preference to chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal, and the condition for which the treatment is intended.	The operator shall take all practical measures to ensure the health and well-being of the animals. If an animal becomes sick or injured despite preventative measures, that animal shall be treated promptly and adequately, if necessary in isolation and in suitable housing. Operators shall give preference to natural medicines and treatments, including homeopathy, Ayurvedic medicine and acupuncture. Use of synthetic allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics will cause the animal to lose its organic status. Producers shall not withhold such medication where doing so will result in unnecessary suffering of the livestock. Prophylactic use of any synthetic allopathic veterinary drug is prohibited. Hormones are prohibited to induce ovulation and birth unless applied to individual animals for medical reasons and under veterinary supervision. Substances of synthetic origin used to stimulate production or suppress natural growth are prohibited. Vaccinations are allowed only - when an endemic disease is known or expected to be a problem in the region of the farm and where this disease cannot be controlled by other management techniques, or - when a vaccination is legally required.	General use of prevention methods: e.g. rotational stocking including optimum stocking rate and long rest periods of grasslands, mixed stocking of different livestock species, balanced feeding, adequate mineral supplementation, continuous provision of straw or late cut hay at grazing especially on high quality swards and during rainy periods, use of tannin-rich forage species for parasite control, well-designed housing, hygiene, use of rustic breeds, isolation of sick animals in case of infectious disease; When necessary disease treatment with plant extracts, essential oils (phytotherapy) or other natural means such as clay, vinegar, MgCl₂ to replace synthesis chemical treatments when possible.

Table 8: Description in EU regulations and IFOAM norms concerning animal practices in organic

agriculture compared to agroecological practices From: Converging and diverging principles and practices of organic agriculture regulations and agroecology. A review (source: reference (Wezel & Migliorini, 2017)^[11])

5.2. Challenges in safeguarding the rights of whales

Protecting the rights of whales has been a contentious issue, with international law focusing on overfishing and making exceptions for scientific research and aboriginal claims. The US Coast Guard has implemented Mandatory Ship Reporting Systems to address ship strikes, but legal challenges persist. One obstacle is the lack of recognition of whales as beings with rights under international law. The International Whaling Commission has not explicitly addressed the rights of whales, making it difficult to provide them with adequate protections. There is a need to emphasize the inseparability of environmental rights and human rights, as environmental rights are intertwined with human rights, including the right to life. The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature has established an International Rights of Nature Tribunal to make recommendations about Earth's protection and restoration, indicating how rights of nature could be upheld in practice. In summary, protecting the rights of whales poses significant legal challenges due to their lack of explicit recognition under international law and the need for greater emphasis on the interconnectedness between environmental and human rights. See references: (EJNI Briefing Paper Rights of Nature Jan 21.pdf, 2022, pages 6-9)^[6], (Detailed Discussion: The Global Protection of Whales | Animal Legal & Historical Center, 2024)^[12], (Wichert & Nussbaum, 2016)^[13].

6. The Rights of Bees and Plants

6.1. Current legal protections for bees

The legal protections for bees differ significantly from country to country and region to region. While some places have specific laws and regulations in place to safeguard the rights of bees, including restrictions on the use of synthetic pesticides and other harmful chemicals, many areas lack sufficient legal safeguards, leaving bees vulnerable to environmental threats. The essential role of bees in pollination and ecosystem health has led to a growing push for stronger legal protections. This includes campaigns to prohibit certain pesticides linked to declines in bee populations and initiatives to create more bee-friendly habitats and advocate for sustainable agricultural practices.

Despite some progress in acknowledging the rights of bees, there are still considerable challenges. These include the need for more comprehensive regulations at both national and international levels, as well as more robust enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with existing laws. Additionally, the intricate nature of bee ecosystems means that legal protections must consider not only the rights of individual bees but also the broader impact on hive communities and biodiversity.

Efforts to protect bees have also sparked broader discussions about the rights of nature as a whole. Some advocates argue that legal frameworks should recognize the intrinsic value of all living beings, including bees, and consider their rights in decision-making processes.

In conclusion, while there have been advancements in recognizing and protecting the rights of bees, there is still much work to be done. This includes ongoing advocacy for stronger legal

protections, increased public awareness about the importance of bees, and continued research to better understand and address the various threats facing bee populations. See references: (Peake & Robb, 2021)^[9], (Organic farming - Wikipedia, 2023)^[20].

6.2. Challenges in upholding the rights of plants

The legal protections for bees vary widely from one country to another and from region to region. While certain places have specific laws and regulations in place to safeguard the rights of bees, including limitations on the use of synthetic pesticides and other harmful chemicals, many areas lack adequate legal safeguards, leaving bees vulnerable to environmental threats. The critical role of bees in pollination and ecosystem health has led to a growing demand for stronger legal protections. This includes campaigns to ban certain pesticides linked to declines in bee populations and efforts to create more bee-friendly habitats and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Despite some progress in acknowledging the rights of bees, there are still significant challenges. These include the need for more comprehensive regulations at both national and international levels, as well as more effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with existing laws. Additionally, the complex nature of bee ecosystems means that legal protections must consider not only the rights of individual bees but also the broader impact on hive communities and biodiversity.

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In conclusion, while there have been advancements in recognizing and protecting the rights of bees, there is still much work to be done. This includes ongoing advocacy for stronger legal protections, increased public awareness about the importance of bees, and continued research to better understand and address the various threats facing bee populations. See reference (GMOs - Protecting EU's genetic biodiversity, 2023)^[14].

7. Legal Challenges for Organic Rights

7.1. Overview of major legal challenges

Organic rights face significant legal challenges at both domestic and international levels, stemming from a lack of recognition and enforcement. The current legal framework inadequately protects the rights of soil, wind currents, bugs, whales, bees, and plants, due to the absence of comprehensive laws and regulations specifically addressing these issues. Furthermore, organic farmers lack sufficient legal protection, facing threats to their property rights and livelihoods from nonemergency pest control programs sponsored by the state.

While some countries have established the recognition of nature's rights through constitutional, legislative, and judicial enactments, there remains a prevailing assumption that nature is a resource for human exploitation. Achieving a significant shift in legal and cultural norms to prioritize nature's protection may prove challenging.

The Western legal systems' lack of recognition of nature's intrinsic rights poses a significant obstacle to protecting organic rights, hindering efforts to establish comprehensive laws and regulations effectively safeguarding organic rights. Additionally, increased awareness and advocacy for organic rights are necessary. Advocating for the adoption of laws recognizing

legitimacy and ensuring the safety of human rights defenders against attacks or reprisals is crucial for protecting organic rights.

Addressing these major legal challenges highlights the urgent need for comprehensive legislative reforms at both domestic and international levels to secure and protect organic rights. See references: (EJNI Briefing Paper Rights of Nature Jan 21.pdf, 2022, pages 1-5)^[6], (To Secure These Rights | Harry S. Truman, 2024)^[15], (Vidal et al., 2023)^[18].

7.2. Impact on the protection of organic rights

The rise of the rights of nature movement represents a significant shift in how we view the environment, challenging the idea of nature as just a resource for human use. This movement asserts that all living beings, including non-human animals and ecosystems, have inherent rights and responsibilities. Recognizing these rights is crucial for protecting the environment and ensuring the well-being of all life on Earth.

There have been global efforts to advocate for the rights of nature, such as the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth and the International Rights of Nature Tribunal. These initiatives highlight the connection between environmental rights and human rights, emphasizing that preserving nature is essential for upholding fundamental human rights, including the right to life.

Climate change also emphasizes the link between environmental protections and human well-being, as projects to combat climate change can sometimes harm local communities. A comprehensive approach is needed to address both environmental sustainability and human rights.

It is important to recognize that preserving nature is not only a moral obligation but also a legal imperative. Establishing and enforcing laws and regulations that acknowledge the intrinsic rights of nature are vital for reducing suffering, preventing species extinction, and preserving our planet's life-support systems. Various case studies demonstrate that collective action can lead to positive changes in safeguarding organic rights.

In conclusion, it is essential to take a holistic approach that integrates environmental protections with considerations for human rights. By fostering collaboration and partnerships at all levels, we can work towards creating a more sustainable future where all living beings are valued, and environmental stewardship is deeply embedded in our societies. See references: (EJNI Briefing Paper Rights of Nature Jan 21.pdf, 2022, pages 6-9)^[6], (Climate Change, 2016, pages 31-35)^[7].

8. Case Studies: Successful Organic Rights Advocacy

8.1. Accounts of successful advocacy efforts

Global Organic Solutions (GOS) is a leading advocate for the Universal Declaration of Organic Rights (UDOR, 2023), focused on promoting environmental justice, sustainability, and harmony between humanity and nature. Through research, education, and advocacy, GOS has generated valuable knowledge that informs policy-making and drives positive change. By partnering with governments, organizations, and individuals, GOS has shaped policies and practices in line with organic rights principles.

GOS's commitment to empowering individuals has resulted in impactful changes at the local

level. These successes demonstrate the potential for future action to protect organic rights. As GOS continues its mission to advance environmental justice and sustainability, their advocacy endeavors will contribute to a future where the rights of all living beings are honored. See references: (Search For Organics, 2023)^[4], (EJNI Briefing Paper Rights of Nature Jan 21.pdf, 2022, pages 6-9)^[9].

8.2. Implications for future action

The implications for future action in safeguarding organic rights are extensive and diverse, as evidenced by the advocacy efforts and achievements highlighted in the preceding sections. One of the key lessons from these documents is the significance of grassroots support and public awareness. The emergence of social media has provided a platform for advocacy groups to connect with larger audiences and mobilize support for causes like women's empowerment, human rights defenders, and environmental justice. This underscores the critical need for ongoing education and awareness initiatives to continue building public support for organic rights at the community level.

Moreover, the success stories outlined in the preceding sections illustrate the impact of collaborative efforts between local and international organizations on influencing policy-making and legal frameworks. The examples from Mali, where civil society organizations advocated for legislation to protect human rights defenders, demonstrate how collaboration can lead to tangible change at the national level. Similarly, advocacy initiatives in global governance processes highlight the power of partnerships in shaping policies that align with the principles of organic rights.

Additionally, there are clear opportunities to harness global momentum towards environmental action to advocate for the rights of all living beings. The increasing recognition of environmental issues provides a window of opportunity to integrate organic rights into legal frameworks and international agreements at local, national, and global levels. However, it is important to be aware of potential challenges such as resistance, skepticism, conflicting interests related to economic development, and resource exploitation.

In conclusion, future actions aimed at protecting organic rights should prioritize ongoing education and awareness initiatives at grassroots levels, foster collaborations between local and international organizations to influence policy-making, and capitalize on global momentum towards environmental action while addressing potential challenges. See references: (Search For Organics, 2023)^[4], (ADVOCACY IN RESTRICTED SPACES:, 2020, pages 16-20)^[17].

9. Conclusion

9.1. Summary of key findings

The Organic Rights Report underscores the critical need to safeguard the rights of all living beings and emphasizes the necessity of implementing laws and regulations to uphold these rights. It addresses the difficulties in acknowledging and preserving the rights of soil, air currents, insects, marine mammals, bees, and flora. Additionally, the report delves into significant legal obstacles and successful advocacy campaigns for organic rights while stressing the urgency for additional measures to ensure their protection. See references: (Key Findings - State of Organic Seed, 2022)^[9], (Vidal et al., 2023)^[18].

9.2. Recommendations for further actions to protect organic rights

In order to enhance the protection of organic rights, it is vital to address the deficiencies in current research and legislation. The predominant focus on consumer perceptions of organic food and quality has overshadowed the significance of improving environmental protection within organic systems. It is crucial to transition towards a multidisciplinary approach that integrates diverse perspectives in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the overall impact of organic systems on the environment and socioeconomic benefits. This can be accomplished through conducting experiments that incorporate different disciplines and testing various diversification practices to provide valuable insights. Furthermore, integrating a holistic perspective in research will advance our understanding of how fundamental practices can improve the sustainability of organic cropping systems.

Moreover, it is essential to emphasize all four principles of organic agriculture - health, ecology, fairness, and care - in both research and legislation. The oversight of associated values such as integrity or equity within organic systems has impeded their comprehensive protection. Future research should evaluate organic systems using indicators specifically targeting each principle and their corresponding values to ensure they adhere to the ethical standards established by IFOAM.

With regards to legislation, there is an urgent need for stronger laws and regulations that safeguard the rights of soil, air currents, insects, marine mammals, bees, plants, and biodiversity in a comprehensive manner. Current legal protections for these elements are often inadequate or completely lacking. Establishing comprehensive legal frameworks that acknowledge the intrinsic value of these components will be crucial for protecting their rights. In conclusion, recommendations for further actions to protect organic rights encompass the promotion of multidisciplinary research efforts, enhancing legal protections for various components of organic systems, and integrating a holistic perspective into both research and legislation. See references: (Chopin et al., 2023)^[16], (Vidal et al., 2023)^[18].

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