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## **Multi-Species Survival: Rethinking Climate Action through Animal Rights**

This workshop explores how industrial animal agriculture drives climate breakdown and how current climate and ecocide frameworks marginalize nonhuman animals. It invites participants to rethink climate action through animal rights and multispecies justice.

**Format:** Using short inputs, interactive polls/word clouds, brainstorming and whole-group discussions participants will:

- Reflect on industrial animal agriculture as a driver of climate breakdown
- Reflect on the relationship between climate change and nonhuman animals
- Identify anthropocentrism and speciesism in climate policy
- Explore Indigenous approaches to Nature and the Environment
- Explore the concept of animal ecocide
- Co-create ideas for multispecies climate justice

### **Key concepts:**

*Anthropocentrism:* Human-centered ways of thinking that treat humans as more important than other beings and as the primary reference point in law, policy, and ethics.

*Speciesism:* perceived human superiority over nonhuman animals or discrimination based on species membership.

*Ecocide:* Proposed international crime involving severe and widespread or long-term damage to the environment, predominantly framed in ways that priorities human interests.

*Animal ecocide:* A suggested concept that explicitly recognizes the of harms and deaths of nonhuman animals when the crime of ecocide occurs.

*Indigenous world views:* a recognition of the inter-relationality between human and more-than-human species. A worldview that conceives of people as part of Nature, where emphasis is placed on values such as responsibility, reciprocity and respect for nature.

*Multispecies climate justice:* Approaches to climate justice that attend to the ways that both the human and the more-than-human world are impacted by the climate crisis – an inclusive form of ecological justice that treats all species as worthy of care and repair.

## **Breakdown of the session:**

### **0-5 minutes: Introductions and workshop overview**

Brief description of my background and the outline for the session.

### **5-25 minutes: Context, background, and key concepts**

A short presentation that explores the often-overlooked relationship between climate change and the treatment of nonhuman animals. It begins by examining industrial animal agriculture, framing it as an ongoing species war against nonhuman animals, highlighting its significant yet frequently marginalized role in driving greenhouse gas emissions, land use change, and deforestation. Despite its environmental impact, this sector remains largely invisible within many climate action plans and policy frameworks.

The presentation will explore the concept of ecocide, critiquing its predominantly anthropocentric focus, which tends to prioritize human harm while rendering the suffering and deaths of nonhuman animals invisible. In response, the presentation introduces alternative imaginaries, including Indigenous worldviews and the notion of animal ecocide, which challenge dominant perspectives and broaden ethical and legal considerations.

Adopting a multispecies lens, I will invite reflections on how climate breakdown affects both human and nonhuman life, and how law and policy might better account for these interconnected vulnerabilities, encouraging a deeper engagement with the ethical implications of environmental harm beyond the human.

### **25-50 minutes: Interactive Mentimeter quiz and discussion**

This interactive segment will use a mix of tools - word clouds, polls, rating scales, open-ended questions, ranking activities and brainstorming - to gather participants' views on three interconnected themes: how ecocide is currently defined, what an expanded notion of "animal ecocide" might involve, and what multispecies climate justice could look like in practice.

### **50-60 minutes: Summary, close and feedback**

At the end of the workshop participants will be invited to share feedback and ideas for future collaborations via a short online survey.