

Thomas Berry and Earth Jurisprudence

Guy Fisher

Guy Fisher is a researcher with The Gaia Foundation in London. His background includes a focus on Latin America, experience in publishing and journalism, and work with the Wilderness Society's campaign to protect forest areas of outstanding natural beauty.



Thomas Berry laid the foundations for the idea of Earth Jurisprudence. His strong message and clear vision are a constant reference point in our work at the Gaia Foundation to move towards a more equitable and ecologically sustainable age. The potent influence and deep wisdom of Thomas's work has facilitated the emergence and strengthening of an Earth Jurisprudence movement here in the United Kingdom, as well as elsewhere.

Thomas Berry carries the message of our ancestors. He speaks on behalf of the marginalized and those without voice. He speaks for our ecosystems and the diversity of the world's cultures. Thomas Berry is tomorrow's generation: the generation of our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Thomas Berry is a pragmatic visionary who invokes in all of us the need to respect and seek reverence for nature and incorporate this love for life into our institutions, whether they be concerned with education, governance, law, religion or business.

The universal language and gritty substance of Thomas Berry's work is valued, understood and respected by a diverse crowd: among indigenous communities in Africa and Latin America, for example, as well as by those of us who reside in the Northern hemisphere. For so long now, Thomas Berry's books and writings have been incredibly important guides for those of us working on issues and activities around ecological governance. The man himself has played an indispensable role in enabling us to contextualize our work in the bigger picture and remain hopeful for the future.

Thomas Berry will continue to play this role for years to come, inspiring new movements of people and communities to work together creatively to strengthen the well-being of life on Earth for *all*.