

# Climate Change and the Voiceless

Protecting Future Generations, Wildlife, and Natural Resources

**Randall S. Abate**

*Monmouth University, New Jersey*

Future generations, wildlife, and natural resources - collectively referred to as 'the voiceless' in this work - are the most vulnerable and least equipped populations to protect themselves from the impacts of global climate change. While domestic and international law protections are beginning to recognize rights and responsibilities that apply to the voiceless community, these legal developments have yet to be pursued in a collective manner and have not been considered together in the context of climate change and climate justice. In *Climate Change and the Voiceless*, Randall S. Abate identifies the common vulnerabilities of the voiceless in the Anthropocene era and demonstrates how the law, by incorporating principles of sustainable development, can evolve to protect their interests more effectively. This work should be read by anyone interested in how the law can be employed to mitigate the effects of climate change on those who stand to lose the most.

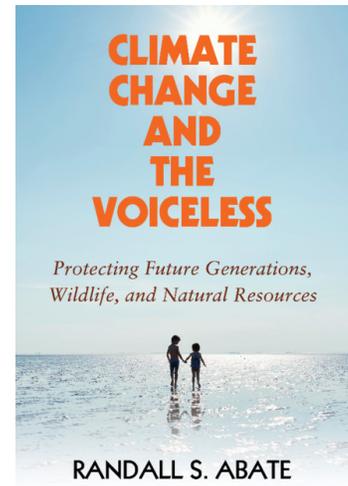
1. An Anthropogenic problem that requires an ecocentric solution; 2. Climate change litigation in domestic courts and human rights commissions; 3. Protection of future generations prior to and during the Anthropocene era; 4. Legal personhood for wildlife: US and foreign domestic perspectives; 5. Rights of nature: US and foreign domestic perspectives; 6. Proposal for enhanced stewardship and rights-based protections for the voiceless; Index.

*"Randall Abate's Climate Change and the Voiceless is an important call to protect those whose lives will be irreversibly impacted by climate change. The author provides a proposal for action premised on clearly articulated reasons that reinforce the immutability of the rule of law in the Anthropocene. It is also a unique project that demands accountability for nature itself, firmly directing future legal action away from a primarily Anthropocentric to an Ecocentric approach. The book is clearly a work of a mature scholar who understands the monumental task ahead, but nevertheless dares to set out the arduous goals that are critical to avert catastrophic climate change impact. As such, the rich legal discussion on the role of law alone makes the book an important read."*

Deepa Badrinarayana, Chapman University, Dale E. Fowler School of Law

*"At a time of climate 'emergency,' this book sounds a clarion call for considering the interests of future generations, wildlife and natural resources—the 'voiceless'—in evolving legal structures. Providing a much-needed synthesis of rights and responsibilities applicable to the voiceless community, this book is essential reading for all engaged in the fight for climate justice."*

Jacqueline Peel, Melbourne Law School



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*"Randall Abate has crafted a timely and relevant exploration of the rights of wildlife, the natural world, and future generations, and has provided a roadmap for how we humans may bear our responsibilities to them. By amplifying voices long silenced in Western jurisprudence—and at a time when climate collapse looms—sustained focus on their needs may well be all of our salvation."*

Maxine Burkett, University of Hawai'i,  
William S. Richardson School of Law



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