

ClientEarth

The crucial years ahead



A word from our CEO

Until 2007, Europe lacked a vital tool to defend nature and combat climate change. Using law to protect the environment was a common concept in the United States but had not taken root over the Atlantic. ClientEarth changed that.

We use environmental law to drive positive and lasting change, filling a gap in the legal landscape. With our home in the EU, we now work across four continents, having grown to over 100 staff in our first ten years.

Our innovative use of the law scores victories that uphold environmental rights and protect the natural world. We have taken governments to court and won – and stopped major polluting projects in their tracks. We have protected irreplaceable forests and vulnerable species. We have empowered civil society to bring environmental cases of their own. Together, we are taking strides towards a cleaner future where environmental rights take priority.

After ten remarkable years, we have reached a significant juncture, and we believe the planet is at a turning point, too. The world is changing dramatically, and the crucial years ahead will determine the health of the planet our children will inherit. Knowing this, we have developed a five-year strategy to deepen and scale our work, focusing on the most pressing global challenges.

Over the next five years, we will pressure governments and companies worldwide to bring the Paris Agreement to life, accelerating the transition to a net zero carbon economy. We will continue to defend our oceans and protect the world's precious forests and wildlife. We will speak up for people's environmental rights and carry on our fight for access to justice for all.

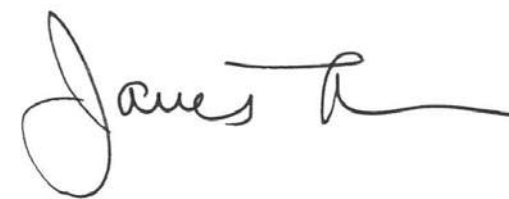
To meet these global challenges, we will draw on our unique expertise, leveraging the power of the law where it makes the greatest difference.

Our five-year strategy commits us to expanding our work and its impacts. We are growing intelligently, building legal capacity where it is needed most. By forging strategic partnerships all over the world, we are maximising the reach and influence of the law.

We have proved to a global audience that the law is powerful, exciting and can fundamentally change the way we live in the world.

We see our work as pivotal to our shared future.
We invite you to join us.

Thank you, and welcome to ClientEarth



James Thornton
Founder and CEO, ClientEarth



Our client is the Earth

We are an environmental charity with a unique approach. We shape and enforce the law to empower people and defend the planet, focusing our legal efforts on carefully identified global challenges.

Case by case, we are changing the face of global environmental action. Our model is innovative, bold and a game-changer in the fight to secure a healthy planet.

Shaping the law

We make sure environmental law starts with science and reflects economic, political and cultural realities. Our international reputation as legal and policy experts gives us a strong basis to intervene where it is needed.

Our finance lawyers issue analysis that sculpts UK corporate and pensions law, setting the direction for how companies and investors play their part in preventing climate change.

We have secured a stronger future for Europe's fish stocks, making sure sustainability is at the heart of the EU policy that dictates how much fishers can catch.

Across Africa, our teams work with communities and local lawyers to develop and enforce national forest laws.

Recognising our unique expertise in environmental law and policy, the Chinese government has sought our assistance in shaping an enhanced environmental legal system.

Enforcing the law

A law is just words on a page unless it is enforced – and increasingly, we are taking up this challenge. Consistently scoring victories in the EU, we are expanding our influence ever further afield.

We have won successive cases on access to justice in the EU, protecting and preserving the right of people and NGOs to go to court to fight for their environment.

In UK, German, Czech, Polish, Italian, Belgian, French and Slovakian courts, we have defended the right to clean air, forcing governments to develop credible solutions to stop illegal air pollution.

We have thwarted plans by the Polish government to build enormous new coal plants and fell acres of ancient forest.

Through innovative legal interventions, we have forced polluting companies to come clean on the risks of their products and practices, shifting international markets towards cleaner growth.

“Lawyers traditionally work on behalf of private clients. Our client is the Earth: the natural world and all who depend on it”

Recognition

Uniquely positioned as a charitable legal organisation, ClientEarth is gaining increasing recognition.

We won the **Financial Times New Model Legal Business Award** and are climbing the ranks in its list of **Europe's 50 most innovative law organisations**.

Our CEO James Thornton has been named by the New Statesman as one of **10 people who could change the world**, appeared in the **Evening Standard's Progress List** of the most influential people in London, and twice won **BusinessGreen's Leader of the Year Award**.

James's contribution to law has earned a **Special Achievement Award** from the Financial Times and our climate and energy lawyer Małgorzata Smolak has been named one of the **most influential women in Poland**.

Our work has also been recognised with awards from the **Charity Times**, **The Lawyer** and the **Legal 500**.

A nationwide poll saw us named the “**UK's most effective environmental organisation**” by the Environmental Funders Network

Our work in the media

ClientEarth has a global media presence. We pair our revolutionary legal projects with strategic campaigns and communications to maximise their potential





Combating

Cleaning up our air

We have made air pollution a front-page issue all over the EU. Our lawyers have scored three resounding victories in the UK courts, defending people's right to breathe clean air. Now, we are fighting the battle in cities across Europe, systematically challenging national governments over illegal air quality in the courts.

Our approach is holistic. We are also finding legal routes to tackle emissions cheating, making sure vehicle approval procedures filter out illegally polluting cars, and addressing the tax incentives that keep dirty transport on the roads.

Designing a clean energy future

We need to produce clean, low-carbon energy but ongoing use of fossil fuels is damaging the climate, nature and people's health. Our coal team is working with partners all over Europe, successfully blocking polluting plants and challenging the public finance that keeps coal alive. Together we are accelerating the end of the coal era.

Moving to a clean energy economy means empowering people and communities. Our energy specialists are working to get the right EU policies to support and scale renewables, storage and community-produced energy.

Our 2018 UK air pollution victory made legal history. Ruling on the case, High Court judge Mr Justice Garnham gave exceptional praise, calling ClientEarth “an expert claimant” and a “valuable monitor” of the UK government's actions

Legal landmark

Our clean air cases in Germany went all the way to the country's top court. The judges ruled that German cities must introduce diesel bans when it is the most effective way to protect people's health.

Hot on the heels of the diesel emissions scandal, faith in manufacturers was already low and the ruling sent diesel sales plummeting. Our action is accelerating the transition to low emission vehicles, protecting people's health and making cities a better place to live.

Fighting climate change is the most urgent challenge of our time. We are holding governments and corporations to account to secure a healthy future for our planet.

climate change and pollution

Bringing the Paris Agreement to life

As leaders in the burgeoning area of climate law, we are pushing governments worldwide to establish national and regional climate laws, plans and policies to uphold the Paris Agreement and speed the energy transition.

Alongside our work with governments, our climate finance team is compelling investors and business leaders to put environmental risk and opportunity at the core of corporate decisions and investments, using existing law to drive this shift.

Tackling harmful chemicals

From children's toys to plastics and make-up, products we use every day often contain chemicals known or suspected to be dangerous. The EU has world-leading chemicals laws but it has not been effective at putting them into practice – and many issues are still not addressed by existing laws.

Our lawyers are working to expand and reinforce EU chemicals law to safeguard people's health. We are helping to score victories that limit the influence of those with strong vested interests in downplaying the impact of harmful chemicals on our health and the environment.

In the next five years

We will use the law to:

- Push governments and companies to slash carbon emissions by 2050
- Compel authorities to cut illegal air pollution across Europe
- Take Europe beyond coal power and into a cleaner energy era by 2030
- Fight toxic pollution by making sure that the products we use, and the way we make them, are safe





Protecting

habitats, wildlife and resources

Inspiring a sea change for our oceans

As our oceans come under ever greater stress, we are shaping and enforcing laws that protect marine habitats, wildlife and fish stocks. We are finding legal routes to combat marine pollution and putting sustainability at the centre of EU fisheries management. Beyond Brexit, we are working to ensure that the UK commits to sustainable standards for commercial fishing.

We work on the consumer side too. We pioneered the Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC), which unites the majority of UK retailers in voluntary sourcing and labelling codes for the seafood they sell. These far exceed sustainability standards under UK environmental law.

Securing a future for forests

The world's forests are one of our biggest natural defences against climate change. They are home to diverse ecosystems and provide livelihoods for communities across the planet. But every day, swathes of forest are logged for timber, chipped and burned for energy, or cleared for agricultural commodities and industrial development.

In Central and Western Africa, we work with local lawyers and communities to design, strengthen and enforce laws around the use of forests and land. We also aim to cut illegal logging by blocking illegal timber from the marketplace, and reduce deforestation by changing how companies and investors perceive forest risk commodities, like soya, palm and biomass.

Revitalising global wildlife

Global wildlife populations are in trouble. Countless species – from large mammals to bees, butterflies and birds – are in rapid decline, with consequences for food security, livelihoods and the survival of key ecosystems.

We are working to protect and rehabilitate natural habitats and restore keystone species by strengthening laws and making sure they are properly enforced. We focus on protecting key European nature sites and combating the misuse of pesticides.

Legal landmark

We stepped in to save Poland's ancient Białowieża Forest from illegal logging, to safeguard this home of rare and endangered species.

Our action, working with national partners, prompted an historic ruling from the European Court of Justice, which told the Polish government its plans to log were illegal and threatened hefty daily fines until it stopped – a victory for wildlife and ecosystems.

OCEANS

An estimated
8 million
tonnes of plastic waste is discarded into the ocean every year. With our partners, we are finding ways to turn the tide



In the next five years

We will use the law to:

- Help implement sustainable EU fishing quotas by 2020
- Protect wildlife and ecosystems
- Preserve global forests by focusing on the international timber trade





Defending environmental rights

Upholding access to justice

When we started our work, barriers to justice were preventing individuals and organisations from bringing their environmental cases to the courts.

The earliest cases at ClientEarth, taken against the UK, Germany, and the EU itself, set out to challenge prohibitively expensive court costs and standing rules which were undermining access to justice.

Our success in these cases provided the foundations for all of ClientEarth's work and we continue to fight for people's right to go to court for the environment.

A new environmental era for China

Recent reforms in China have opened the doors to environmental lawsuits brought by ordinary people, and the judicial arm of the government, against polluting companies. This has substantially increased the number of people working in the field – and the number of challenges against polluters. People are now seeing environmental law differently.

Our office in Beijing is making a leading contribution to the development of environmental rule of law in China. With our formal status as an NGO, we are helping to modernise environmental governance and empowering other organisations to further this work.

Legal landmark

ClientEarth is leading unique work in cooperation with the Supreme People's Court in China, training hundreds of judges to deal with environmental cases, and prosecutors to lead them. We are also building a fund to finance technical experts for these cases, helping to ensure that good precedents are set.

As China's economy grows, our work is putting environmental justice high up the legal agenda, and ensuring national courts are ready to engage with environmental law.

People have the right to a say in the rules that protect the environment but their way is often blocked. We work to enforce international laws to make sure people have a clear path to the courts.

Securing community forest rights

The law is only as good as people's ability to enforce it. Our long-term work in Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Congo ensures people can make legal interventions to defend their environment.

In Ghana, we have worked with local communities to compile the full body of national forest law into a "Forest bible" which residents can now use to negotiate with government authorities. We ensure that rights of local communities are recognised so they can take a leading role in protecting the forests.

Trade that respects the planet

International trade agreements are a global battleground for environmental rights, too often favouring the interests of business and investors, rather than people and planet.

Investors should not be able to hold governments to ransom over laws designed to protect nature, and trade agreements must not have a chilling effect on environmental safeguards.

We are pushing for scrutiny of investment rules in key international trade deals to make sure they comply with EU law.

“ClientEarth is essential to the green movement. Their legal, scientific and policy expertise mean that they are uniquely positioned to bring governments to account and carve out a new environmental agenda”

Brian Eno, Trustee, ClientEarth

In the next five years

We will use the law to:

- Help establish a sound environmental rights system in China
- Take our access to justice cases beyond Europe, opening new avenues for people to defend their environment
- Enshrine community rights in forest laws in Central and West Africa and beyond



Global challenges, global ambitions

The immense power of the law to protect the environment has yet to be fully harnessed on the global stage. We are sowing the seeds for it to be used the world over.

Environmental problems know no borders. Our aim is to increase our impact even further by working with partners in different countries, building legal capacity where it is needed most.

It's a new way of working. Finding the right partners means we become a force for even greater change. Together, we develop strategies to leverage the power of the law for public good.

ClientEarth offices

London Brussels Berlin
Warsaw Beijing New York

Our work on international trade takes our environmental expertise all over the world – from **Vietnam** to **Canada**

Our litigation campaign to combat coal and speed the energy transition will pick up pace in **Europe and beyond** in the next five years

We opened our **Berlin** office in 2018, putting ClientEarth in a key EU capital and a coal and diesel heartland

Our **Beijing** office opened in 2017, at a critical time in China's environmental legal history

In 2017, we took the pioneering Sustainable Seafood Coalition concept to **Spain**, replicating our model in one of the EU's largest seafood markets

Our work on biomass seeks to reduce damage to biodiversity-rich forests in the **Southeastern US**

Already active across **Central and Western Africa** and **South East Asia**, we will continue to protect forests across the globe

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR CHANGE

We now work in more than
20 countries
across
4 continents
and will expand further in the coming years



Investing in our planet's future

Our mission is clear – to protect our planet and all life that depends upon it. But we cannot do it alone.

Already, the visionary support of our donors has taken us from a start-up to an award-winning and internationally renowned environmental organisation. We are now taking our fight to where it is needed across the globe.

As we magnify the scale of our work and impact, we are building a global network of foundations, philanthropists and engaged individuals committed to investing in our planet's future.

“I am delighted to support the essential work of ClientEarth. In a time when the climate is under attack from all sides, ClientEarth can bring governments, businesses and individuals to task. By defending our climate, our land, our health and our oceans through advocacy, litigation and science, we have a chance to protect the environment around us all”

Gregory Nasmyth, Philanthropist



Join us on our journey

As a charity, we rely on those who share our commitment to real, systemic change and know that an investment in our work is a fundamental stake in securing a better world.

In return, we build meaningful and collaborative partnerships with our supporters, deepening their understanding of our work and the global environmental challenges that we fight for side by side.



Join our Leadership Circle

Our Leadership Circle members underpin our every victory, and create a deep and lasting impact for our planet.

Our Leadership Circle recognises and unites the group of private individuals making generous annual gifts to ClientEarth's work each year.

These funds support every aspect of our work, and ensure we can direct resources to areas of most significant need and opportunity.

Be a force for change

Our donors help us drive fundamental change around the world.

Their support enables us to explore new ventures, innovate and seek opportunities and challenges.

We can achieve the greatest impact when we are one step ahead in the fight to protect people and planet.

Leave a powerful legacy

Our vision is a world protected by robust laws where people and nature thrive together.

The world faces an uncertain future. By remembering ClientEarth in your will, you make a lasting investment in our planet, ensuring a greener world for future generations.



“ClientEarth has begun to achieve the impossible, and proven the power of the law to catalyse profound and lasting systemic change. They are creating a better future for us all with win after win for people and planet”

Winsome McIntosh, Co-founder and Trustee, ClientEarth

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ClientEarth is a non-profit
organisation using the power
of the law to protect people
and the planet.

www.clientearth.org

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