

# A simple nature council

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Methods and Guidance for the Practical Implementation of Ecodemocracy



**Context:** This resource is suitable for a broad range of applications. It is intended as a stand-alone activity.

## Advance preparation

In advance of running your **nature council**, a chair should be appointed. Then, as a group, you should work together to draw up a list of **stakeholders** in the scenario for which you are aiming to reach a decision or make a plan of action. There should be just enough stakeholders so that every person (not counting the chair) can be assigned exactly one to represent as a proxy.

Each proxy should be given time to read up about their designated stakeholder, in order to determine what their interests may be pertaining to the scenario.

## Possible stakeholders

Stakeholders could include a population of a bird species, the species itself as an entity, the soil, the living community within the soil, humans, a stream, or any other element within nature that is deemed to have interests relating to the scenario in question.

## The nature council

During the nature council, the chair should oversee a discussion into which all parties (acting as proxies for the identified stakeholders) have a chance to input, based on the **preparation** they have undertaken to fulfil the role.

The **ultimate goal** of the council will be for the group, acting with the chair's assistance, to reach a decision or make a plan of action that seems fairest across the balance of interests for the identified stakeholders.

This resource is inspired by the Council of All Beings (see, for instance, *Thinking Like a Mountain* [New Society Publishers, 1988]): <https://archive.org/details/thinkinglikemoun0000unse>