

This Is Not An Opinion

Why the Earth Must Come Before Politics



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READING SAMPLE

Preface · A 90-Second Guide for Readers

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Preface

From Appeal to Implementation

We know what's happening to our climate—and yet we're barely changing course. Why? While we get lost in debates and excuses, we're approaching potential tipping points.

The main problem isn't a lack of knowledge, but rather how we make decisions. There are plenty of laws, agreements, and programs—but they can be repealed at any time, are fragmented, and are mostly limited to the national level. A Constitution for the Earth establishes a fixed hierarchy above them. Not a world government, not an eco-dictatorship, but something like fundamental rights for the biosphere. This book shows:

1. Why our psychology and political routines are holding us back.
2. How a simple hierarchy of rules can make the biosphere inviolable.
3. Which institutions could make this framework operational—from an Earth Council and an Earth Bank to a Biosphere Court.

Our decisions follow cognitive routines, habits, and value systems. In everyday life, these processes work; on a planetary scale, they lead to a dead end. We react immediately to sudden, personal danger—a bear in the forest triggers a flight response, but a slowly rising sea level does not.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown what societies are capable of when they accept a threat as acute. Within days, measures were taken, routines were disrupted, and enormous resources were mobilized. The climate crisis is deeper, more global, and more enduring—it would require an even greater level of commitment. As long as the biosphere is not given top priority, it remains negotiable: subject to election cycles, lobbying interests, and our psychological defense mechanisms.

The central thesis of this book is:

We need a democratic upgrade that makes long-term decision-making constitutionally enforceable. Just as traffic rules do not destroy freedom but make it possible, the biosphere needs guardrails—not out of romanticism, but from the sober logic of self-preservation.

A Constitution for the Earth is not a "nice-to-have," but a long-overdue tool. It envisages an Earth Council, planetary guardrails with automatic triggers, a Biosphere Court, and an Earth Bank as the financial architecture for the transition. These institutions would not operate outside democracy, but within a higher constitutional framework—like fundamental rights, the separation of powers, and independent courts. Without such a constitution, we remain stuck at the stage of well-intentioned appeals. With it, a structure emerges that can translate knowledge into binding action.

The harsh reality is this: our current democracy is failing in the face of the climate crisis—not out of malice, but due to structural flaws. Election cycles reward short-term successes, media dynamics amplify polarization, well-organized interest groups delay regulation, and responsibility becomes decoupled from consequences. A constitution establishes freedom within defined boundaries; courts review violations of those boundaries, not the current government. This makes long-term thinking enforceable.

There are many issues we can debate democratically: taxes, the welfare state, lifestyles. The protection of the biosphere belongs in a different category. It is not an opinion, but a prerequisite—the very condition that allows us to live, debate, and vote in the first place.

Technically speaking, a global circular economy is already possible today, as is a largely renewable energy supply. On a small scale, we're already taking consistent action. If someone dumps trash on our doorstep. On a planetary scale, it is precisely this framework that is missing.

This book presents an analysis and a blueprint—ranging from the origins of our behavior to the state of the biosphere, the role of artificial intelligence, and the "democracy upgrade," all the way to a Constitution for the Earth and its implementation. It does not aim to provide a perfect master plan, but rather a tool with which knowledge can be turned into action.

Without a constitution, we remain helpless. With it, a structure emerges—and with that, the law provides us with ways to fight back.

Donald Jacob, February 2026

A 90-Second Guide for Readers

This book does not propose a world government nor is it a moral appeal. Rather, it puts forward a constitutional logic: clear guardrails that ensure the survival of the biosphere as a prerequisite for all freedom—with checks and balances, judicial oversight, and democratic accountability. Five components of the Constitution for the Earth:

1) Fundamental rights of the biosphere (do no harm; positive duties to protect). 2) Guardrails and triggers: measurable thresholds that automatically trigger obligations (like fire safety, not like ideology). 3) Institutions: Council (standard-setting within the framework), Court (judicial review), Inspectorate (facts/audit), funding for implementation. 4) Democracy upgrade: participation, transparency, accountability—to prevent abuse of power and lobby capture. 5) Implementation: coalition of the willing, phased approach, incentives/sanctions, practical cases. What is explicitly not intended: –technocratic control of everyday life, eco-dictatorship, replacement for national democracies. or a AI as a decision-maker. Here, AI is a tool for transparency, auditing, and early warning—not a sovereign authority.

Terms as used in this book:

Guardrail: A constitutional limit that is non-negotiable because it protects the foundations of existence (comparable to fundamental rights or safety standards).

Trigger: An objectively measurable threshold that, when exceeded, triggers defined obligations (preventive, not punitive).

Sovereignty: Remains with states and people; the Constitution for the Earth simply sets out conditions without which sovereignty would effectively be meaningless.