



**Faculty of Graduate Studies
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**RESPONSE TO THE TEARS OF NATURE: A
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE RIGHTS OF
NATURE IN SOUTH ASIAN REGION**

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Abstract

Nature as the sole provider of the humans provides, a wealthy service which cannot be measured by money. This has motivated humans to protect and conserve environment for their beneficial. Hence, in order to achieve their survival process, humans intended to protect environment. Even though, this 'human rights based approach' or 'anthropocentrism' laid the basic foundation to the existing environmental legal order, the increasing environmental disasters proved the inability of this existing framework to protect environment. Hence, a new legal approach: rights of nature was introduced to protect environment by recognizing that nature also has right to stand up for themselves. Due to the increasing environmental degradations, this Rights of Nature concept was embraced by the world rapidly, and as a result of that in 2010, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Mother Earth was introduced to the world. Gradually, lots of countries and regions recognized these inherent rights of nature and implemented those rights within their national and regional level. In this back ground, this is an attempt to examine, how South Asia; which carried a massive ecological value than any other region and also ranked top in the most polluted regions in the contemporary arena have recognized and implemented this concept of Rights of Nature to protect natural entities. This study mainly focus on black letter approach and comparative approach, to identify the existing environmental legal framework in South Asia, and the recognition and implementation of the rights of nature within the region comparing to the South American and European regions based on International and regional conventions, agreements, legislations and judicial decisions . The results shows that the South Asian region must take initiatives to recognize, implement, and incorporate rights of nature concept into their legal system to protect and conserve nature from this growing environmental problem.

Key words: Rights of nature, South Asian Region, recognition and implementation, environmental degradation