




COHAB

Environmental landscape ethics: A theory of cohabitability



A wide-angle photograph of a landscape featuring several white wind turbines on a grassy hill. The hill is covered in green grass and some hay bales in the foreground. In the background, a blue ocean stretches to the horizon under a clear sky. The turbines are spaced out across the hill, and their long shadows are cast on the ground.

Landscapes and land use have so far been studied in ethics
with almost solely human-concerned viewpoint.
COHAB aims to change this.



Land use and nonhuman flourishing: the starting point

Currently, more than half of habitable land on Earth is in human use. Nonhuman life and diversity can be given more chances to flourish by

- a) Reducing the share of land in human use (quantitative)
- b) Using the appropriated land in 'better' ways (qualitative)

Environmental ethics has frequently suggested (a) as our moral obligation. Shouldn't (b) be given attention, too?



A black-spotted longhorn beetle (*Rhagium mordax*)



Perspectival shift

- From humans to multispecies: looking at nonhumans, or *all* forms of life (including) together, and how human land use and design practices influence them
- From 'naturalness' to cohabitability: Addressing environmental ethics of land use without grounding work on problematic ideas such as 'naturalness / intactness / artificiality'
- From subjects to qualities: Broadening the viewpoint towards landscapes' and habitats' *quality attributes* such as cohabitability for multiple species-groups





Interdisciplinary approach to landscape ethics





Different work packages build the goals together

- **WP1** Theoretical and conceptual grounds for environmental landscape ethics: builds the philosophical methodology and approach for interdisciplinary environmental ethics
- **WP2** Constituents of cohabitability: conceptual-theoretical building of 'cohabitability' into a full framework, drawing on multiple disciplines and their perspectives to cohabitation
- **WP3** Normative implications: examination of the implications of cohabitability-thinking in ethical terms, e.g. duties and norms
- **WP4** Actors and action for cohabitability: studies who can/ought to promote cohabitability and how in different contexts (urban, agricultural, etc.)





Work package illustration in a picture

