

# @ActivistChat + @ShortSearch Philanthropists Supports Constructive Change Leaders Of Global Alliance for Rights of Nature UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Prof. Stephen Hawking "Pollution, Greed and Stupidity are the Greatest Threats to Earth."  
"Intelligence is the Ability to Adapt to Change"

## Article 1. Mother Earth Rights

(1) Mother Earth is a living being.

## Article 2. Inherent Rights of Mother Earth

(e) the right to water as a source of life;  
(f) the right to clean air;  
(g) the right to integral health;  
(h) the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste;

**Article 1.** (6) Just as human beings have human rights, all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the communities within which they exist.

## Article 3. Obligations of human beings to Mother Earth

(1) Every human being is responsible for respecting .....



@BDDLM 2011 Video Response to Stephen Hawking @ShortSearch @NowruzEarthDay @DolphinRights @SuperfoodShortsearch 2018 - 2019 [ <https://youtu.be/HTjKo-Agik> ]

**Are We Accepting Rights of Mother Earth & Respecting to Live in Harmony with Mother Earth 8 million Species and Become Immortal by 10 fold Return of Clean Air, Water and Soil?**

What is Constructive Lifestyle & Cultural Change at Strategic Inflection Point to Reverse Earth Ecosystem Destruction by Humans Omnivore in Next 100 Years?  
If **#SaveEarth** = **#RealChange** + **#EarthCare** + ... & If **#Thrive** is **#RealChange** = **#ShortTermSolution** + **#LongTermSolution** + ... Then

**#ShortTermSolution** = **#SelfCare** + **#Truth** + **#Honesty** + **#Integrity** + **#GoodThoughts** + **#GoodWords** + **#GoodDeeds** + ... & If

**#LongTermSolution** = **#ChangeCulture** + **#LifestyleChange** + **#Freedom** + **#WomenRights** + **#AnimalRights** ... **#EarthCare** = **#CleanAir** + **#CleanWater** + **#CleanSoil**

Sharing 2010-2019 Evolutionary Thought Process: BDDLM 2011 Response to Stephen Hawking @ShortSearch @DolphinRights @NowruzEarthDay @SearchAltEnergy @SuperfoodShortsearch





*Osprey Orielle Lake*



*Natalia Greene*



*Valerie Cabanes*

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature  
Click To See Leadership Profile



*Vandana Shiva*



*Tom BK Goldtooth*



*Samanta Novella*



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# WHO WE ARE

## The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature

### Executive Committee Members

- **Cormac Cullinan, Wild Law Institute, Enact International ([www.Enact-International.com](http://www.Enact-International.com)), South Africa**



**Cormac Cullinan** is an author, practicing environmental attorney and governance expert who has worked on environmental governance issues in more than 20 countries. He lives in Cape Town, South Africa and is a director of a specialist environmental and green business law firm ([www.cullinans.co.za](http://www.cullinans.co.za) (<http://www.cullinans.co.za/>)) of the governance consultancy, EnAct International ([www.enact-international.com](http://www.enact-international.com) (<http://www.enact-international.com/>)), and of the Wild Law Institute. His groundbreaking book "*Wild Law A Manifesto for Earth Justice*" has played a significant role in informing and inspiring a growing international

movement to recognize rights for Nature. In 2008 he was included in *Planet Savers. 301 Extraordinary Environmentalists*, a book that profiles environmentalists throughout history. At the invitation of Bolivia, Cormac spoke at the 2009 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and led the drafting of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth which was proclaimed on 22 April 2010 by the People's World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Bolivia. In September 2010 he played a leading role in establishing a Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and currently sits on the Executive Committee of the Alliance.

- **Osprey Orielle Lake – Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), United States of America, North America**



**Osprey Orielle Lake** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN). She works nationally and internationally with grassroots and Indigenous leaders, policy-makers and scientists to mobilize women for climate justice, resilient communities, systemic change and a just transition to a clean energy future. Osprey serves on the Executive Committee for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and is the visionary behind the International Women's Earth and Climate Summit, which brought together 100 women leaders from around the world. She directs WECAN's advocacy work in areas such as Women for Forests, Divestment/Investment, Indigenous Rights, Rights of Nature and United Nation Climate Conferences. Osprey is the author of the award-winning book, *Uprisings for the Earth: Reconnecting Culture with Nature*. [www.wecaninternational.org](http://www.wecaninternational.org) (<http://www.wecaninternational.org>)

• **Natalia Greene – CEDENMA ([www.cedenma.org](http://www.cedenma.org))**  
**(<http://www.cedenma.org>)), South America**



**Natalia Greene** is part of the International Rights of Nature Tribunal's Secretariat. She was actively involved in the recent Constitution process in Ecuador, particularly with the 'Rights to Nature' clause and the role of civil society and indigenous people in the process. Natalia is a consultant for Rights of Nature with Pachamama Alliance and is the focal point in Ecuador for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. She graduated in Hampshire College, holds a Political Science master's degree from FLACSO Ecuador and a master's degree from UASB on Climate Change. She promoted the recognition of Rights for Nature in Ecuador's Constitution and has worked on the environmental and indigenous aspects of the Yasuní-ITT Initiative to keep oil underground in the Amazon. From 2011 until 2013, Natalia Greene was the President of CEDENMA, the National Coordinating Entity for Environmental NGO's, now re-elected for the 2018-2020 period. Nowadays she coordinates the Climate Justice National Platform and works with Terra Mater and Fundación Pachamama.

• **Valerie Cabanes ([www.valeriecabanes.eu](http://www.valeriecabanes.eu))**  
**(<http://www.valeriecabanes.eu/>)), Europe**





**Valerie Cabanes** is a lawyer in international law with an expertise in international humanitarian law and human rights. She spent 18 years leading international programs in the fields of health and human rights for people with disabilities, women and children exploited and abused, street children and refugees. Since 2006, she has been involved in defending the rights of indigenous people. She started a PhD in Legal Anthropology in northern Quebec with the Innu people and then became involved in the defense of their ancestral territory threatened by large hydroelectric dam projects. In 2011, she also opposed such industrial projects in the Brazilian Amazon, in particular the Belo Monte dam, by preparing reports debated in the United Nations Human Rights Council or the European Parliament. In 2013, she participated in the launch of a European citizens' initiative proposing a European directive on the crime of ecocide. Then, in 2015, she worked on a proposal for amendments to the Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of ecocide given to Ban Ki Moon at COP21. Valerie also co-organized during COP21 the 3rd International Tribunal on the Rights of Nature which took place in Paris in December 2015, then in 2016 in The Hague, the one organized by The Monsanto Tribunal foundation. She is, since 2016, part of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network. She contributed to 7 collective books and she is the author of *Un nouveau Droit pour la Terre, pour en finir avec l'écocide* (Paris, Seuil, 2016) translated by Natraj Publishers under the title *Rights for the Earth* (New Delhi, 2018), and *Homo Natura, en harmonie avec le vivant* (Paris, Buchet/Chastel, 2016).

• **Vandana Shiva, Founder of [www.navdanya.org](http://www.navdanya.org) (<http://Navdanya%20www.Navdanya.org,%20India%0d>), India**



**Vandana Shiva** is a philosopher, environmental activist, and eco feminist. Shiva, currently based in Delhi, has authored more than 20 books and over 500 papers in leading scientific and technical journals. Among her books are *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*; *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*; and *Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis*. She was trained as a physicist and received her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

She is one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization and a figure of the global solidarity movement known as the alter-globalization movement. She has argued for the wisdom of many traditional practices. She is a member of the scientific committee of the Fundación IDEAS, Spain's Socialist Party's think tank. She was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 1993.

- **Michelle Maloney, PhD, Convenor, Australian Earth Laws Alliance** ( (<http://www.wildlaw.org.au/>)[www.earthlaws.org.au](http://www.earthlaws.org.au) (<http://www.earthlaws.org.au/>)), Australia-Oceania





**Michelle Maloney** holds a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and History) and Laws (Honours) from the Australian National University and a PhD in Law from Griffith University. She has more than 20 years' experience designing and managing climate change, sustainability and environmental justice projects in Australia, the United Kingdom and the USA. Michelle met and fell in love with Earth jurisprudence and Wild Law in 2009 and since 2011 has been working to promote the understanding and practical implementation of Earth centred law and governance in Australia.

As Co-Founder and National Convenor of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance, Michelle manages the strategic direction and governance of the organization, including the extensive partnerships and networks that AECLA has with the legal, academic and environmental advocacy communities. Michelle is author and co-editor of '**Australian Wild Law Judgments Project**' (forthcoming 2016), co-edited with Nicole Rogers and '**Wild Law in Practice**' (<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415663342/>), (2014) Routledge Press, Law, Justice.

**There are six other representatives on the Executive Committee:**

- Tom Goldtooth, IEN – Indigenous Leadership



**Tom BK Goldtooth**, Dine'/Dakota, United States is the Executive Director of the Indigenous Environmental Network, an international indigenous NGO based in Bemidji, Minnesota near the border of United States/Canada. A social change maker within the Native American community for over 36 years, has become an internationally renowned environmental, Climate and economic justice leader, working with many Indigenous People and social movements around the world. Tom co-produced the award-winning documentary, Drumbeat for Mother Earth, which addresses the effects of bio-accumulative chemicals on indigenous people. Co-founder of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. Nationality: United States. President of the Fourth Rights of Nature Tribunal in Bonn, Germany.

- Shannon Biggs, Movement Rights



**Shannon Biggs** is the co-founder and Executive Director of Movement Rights, advancing legal rights for communities, indigenous peoples and ecosystems. Working in California and with Native American tribes and allies nationally, Shannon assists communities to ban harmful projects by passing binding laws that assert the rights of communities and nature over corporate projects. Internationally she is a recognized leader of the rights of nature/Mother Earth movement, a co-founder of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, and the co-author/editor of two books including "The Rights of Nature, Making the Case for the Universal

Declaration on the Rights of Nature.” Though Movement Rights she also leads trainings on community rights and rights of ecosystems throughout the US. Previously she was a senior staffer at Global Exchange and the International Forum on Globalization. She holds a Masters of Science degree from the London School of Economics (LSE) in Economics — Politics of Empire. Nationality: United States

- Michelle Bender, Earth Law Center



**Michelle Bender** is the Ocean Rights Manager at the Earth Law Center where she works towards promoting legal rights for marine ecosystems and species. Michelle is an environmental law and policy specialist with expertise in ocean and wildlife law, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. She conducts ongoing research and analysis for Friends of the Sea Otter and Donald Baur where, among other things, she advocates for the continued protection of the Southern Sea Otter and assisted with amicus brief preparation for federal court litigation in opposition to captive display of cetaceans (The ‘Born to be Free’ documentary involving this case is on Netflix). She previously created a strategic plan for reducing the sources of plastic pollution entering the ocean at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, focusing on how to use law and policy to drive change. Michelle graduated Summa Cum Laude from Vermont Law School, where she earned a Master’s in Environmental Law and Policy and holds a B.S. in Biology with a Marine Emphasis from Western Washington University.

- Fiona Wilton, Gaia Foundation





**Fiona Wilton**, grew up on the beautiful coast of Cornwall in the UK, with a passion for the sea, sailing and big storms. Since the early 1990s, she has lived mostly in South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay) and worked alongside visionaries, activists, indigenous communities – all sharing the conviction that *protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust*.

Indigenous self-determination, reviving bio-cultural diversity, the protection of sacred natural sites, and promoting Earth-centered governance, or Earth Jurisprudence, have been key areas in her work and life, from grassroots to policy.

Fiona has worked for over 25 years with two remarkable NGOs, The Gaia Foundation (UK) and Gaia Amazonas (Colombia), mixed with occasional consultancy work for both international agencies and local indigenous organizations. She is currently involved in exciting new initiatives such as 'The Path of the Anacondas', for Andes-Amazon-Atlantic eco-cultural connectivity, and marine-coastal conservation along Uruguay's 'Route of the Whale'.

She has a MSc in Protected Landscape Management, is a member of the IUCN specialist group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas and the UN Harmony with Nature knowledge network, and advisor to 1Earth Institute.

- Margaret Stewart, CEJ/Barry University



**Margaret Stewart** serves as the Director at the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, a United States based legal advocacy center. The mission of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence is to advance law, policy, and governance systems aimed to legally protect the sustainability of life and health on Earth. She oversees CEJ's programs and operations and represents the Center on various coalitions. She has created educational forums throughout the United States and abroad and generates strategic partnerships. She manages CEJ communications, including social and print media, and is responsible for the identification and application of grants and other fundraising initiatives that have supported CEJ's continued work. She also serves as the key Advisor to three law students that work with CEJ as Earth Law & Policy Fellows.

Margaret serves on the Executive Committee and formerly chaired the Legal Committee of the Florida Springs Council. She serves on the Board of the Orange County League of Women Voters, chairs the Natural Resource Committee, and chairs the Solar Co-Op Committee. She is a member of the Central Florida Association of Women Lawyers, the Orange County Bar Association, and the Environmental & Land Use Law and Public Interest Law sections of the Florida Bar. She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, her Masters in Non-Profit & Human Resources Management from Penn State University, her Juris Doctor from Barry University School of Law, and her LL.M. from Western New England School of Law.

- Samanta Novella, Nature Rights, France



**Samanta Novella** lives in Paris. She is French and was raised in Paraguay. She is the director of the NGO NatureRights and an artistic director. She gives a lot of time and energy to the End Ecocide movement, helping to organize, fund and promote our public events, as she truly believes that the recognition of the crime of ecocide will help to protect the rights of nature. She is very grateful for this initiative and proud of NatureRights for being a partner of such a movement. She was a key ally in the organization of the Third International Rights of Nature Tribunal in Paris, France.

- Enrique Viale, Argentina



**Enrique Viale** is an environmental lawyer. He became a lawyer in 2000, graduating from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and then conducting postgraduate studies and specializing in Environmental Law. In 2004, he founded, together with other young colleagues, the Asociación



Argentina de Abogados Ambientalistas (AAdeAA). He is a professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and a visiting professor at other universities.

He is a critic of the “development” model based on unlimited growth, promoter of the Rights of Nature and has coined the concept of “urban extractivism” to refer to the role of real estate speculation in urban and peri-urban areas. He is also the author of several articles addressing Development, Politics, Law and Environmental Justice published in Argentina and abroad.

## **MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **AS OF 7 March 2018**

- Pablo Solón – Fundación Solón, Bolivia
- Alberto Acosta – Ecuador
- Linda Sheehan – Planet Pledge, USA
- Carolyn Raffensperger – Rights of Future Generations, USA
- Bill Twist – Pachamama Alliance, USA
- Alicia Jimenez – Earth Charter, Costa Rica
- Patricia Siemen, USA
- Lisa Mead, Earth Law Alliance, UK
- Esperanza Martínez, Acción Ecológica, Ecuador
- Atossa Soltani, Amazon Watch, USA
- Liz Hosken, Director, Gaia Foundation

### ***Rights of Nature Team***

- Hana Begovic, Organizer, Sweden – Ecuador
- María del Mar Iturralde, Communications, Ecuador
- Ashley Cline, Development Coordinator, USA
- Robin Milam, Communications – USA

## **Founding Members**

### **Latin America**

- Fundación Pachamama, Ecuador [www.pachamama.org.ec](http://www.pachamama.org.ec)  
(<http://www.pachamama.org.ec/>)

- Centro para el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico (CEDIA) [www.cedia.org.pe](http://www.cedia.org.pe) (<http://www.cedia.org.pe/>)
- Shinai [www.shinai.org.pe](http://www.shinai.org.pe) (<http://www.shinai.org.pe/>)
- Fundación Herencia [www.herencia.org.bo](http://www.herencia.org.bo) (<http://www.herencia.org.bo/>)
- Comité Permanente de la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos [www.cdh.org.ec](http://www.cdh.org.ec) (<http://www.cdh.org.ec/>)
- Frente de Defensa de la Amazonia [www.texacotoxico.org](http://www.texacotoxico.org)
- Comité de Solidaridad con Bolivia
- Ecolex, Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental [www.ecolex-ec.org](http://www.ecolex-ec.org) (<http://www.ecolex-ec.org/>)
- Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad [www.ambienteysociedad.org](http://www.ambienteysociedad.org) (<http://www.ambienteysociedad.org/>)

## North America

- Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) [www.celdf.org](http://www.celdf.org) (<http://www.celdf.org/>)
- Global Exchange [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org) (<http://www.globalexchange.org/>)
- Pachamama Alliance [www.pachamama.org](http://www.pachamama.org) (<http://www.pachamama.org/>)
- Council of Canadians [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org) (<http://www.canadians.org/>)

## Australia

- Australian Earth Laws Alliance (Formerly Earth Laws) <http://www.earthlaws.org.au/> (<http://www.earthlaws.org.au/>)

## Africa

- EnAct International [www.enact-international.com](http://www.enact-international.com) (<http://www.enact-international.com/>)

## Europe

- The Gaia Foundation [www.gaiafoundation.org](http://www.gaiafoundation.org) (<http://www.gaiafoundation.org/>)
- WildLaw UK [www.wildlawuk.org](http://www.wildlawuk.org) (<http://www.wildlawuk.org/>)

## Asia

- Navdanya International [www.Navdanya.org](http://www.Navdanya.org)  
(<http://www.navdanya.org/>)

## Expansion Members

- AI Builders & Adaptations Design Studio <http://aibuilders.ws/>  
(<http://aibuilders.ws/>)
- Active Remedy Ltd [www.activeremedy.org.uk/](http://www.activeremedy.org.uk/)  
(<http://www.activeremedy.org.uk/pages/>)
- Adonito <http://www.adonito.com/> (<http://www.adonito.com/>)
- Advocates for Environmental Human Rights ("AEHR")  
[www.ehumanrights.org](http://www.ehumanrights.org) (<http://ehumanrights.org/>)
- Aid Organization (AO) <http://www.aidobd.org>  
(<http://www.aidobd.org>)
- Alfombra Bird Observatory, Costa Rica
- Aluna Healing <http://www.alunahealing.co.uk/>  
(<http://www.alunahealing.co.uk/>)
- Africa Biodiversity Network [www.africanbiodiversity.org](http://www.africanbiodiversity.org)  
(<http://www.africanbiodiversity.org/>)
- African Conservation Foundation  
<http://www.africanconservation.org/>  
(<http://www.africanconservation.org/>)
- L'Association Citoyenne pour le Suivi, l'Etude et l'Information sur les Programmes d'Intervention Climatiques et Atmosphériques (ACSEIPICA) [acseipica.blogspot.com](http://acseipica.blogspot.com)  
(<http://acseipica.blogspot.com/>)
- Asaseyaamma- Accra, Ghana
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- Beautiful Economy [www.beautifuleconomy.com/](http://www.beautifuleconomy.com/)  
(<http://beautifuleconomy.com/>)
- Beyond War [www.BeyondWar.com](http://www.BeyondWar.com) (<http://beyondwar.org/>)
- Biodiversity Matters [www.biodiversitymatters.org](http://www.biodiversitymatters.org)  
([http://biodiversitymatters.org](http://biodiversitymatters.org/))
- Biodynamic Agricultural Association of Southern Africa  
[www.bdaasa.org.za](http://www.bdaasa.org.za) (<http://www.bdaasa.org.za/>)
- Biohabitats [www.biohabitats.com](http://www.biohabitats.com) (<http://www.biohabitats.com/>)



- Building Natural Life [buildingnaturallife.tumblr.com](http://buildingnaturallife.tumblr.com/)  
(<http://buildingnaturallife.tumblr.com/>)
- Boulder Rights of Nature [boulderrightsofnature.org](http://boulderrightsofnature.org)  
(<http://boulderrightsofnature.org/>)
- Cal Con Con [www.CalConCon.com](http://www.CalConCon.com) (<https://www.calconcon.com/>)
- California Verde Corporation [www.californiaverde.org](http://www.californiaverde.org)  
(<http://www.californiaverde.org/Web/>)
- Canadians for Action on Climate Change [www.climatesoscanada.org/](http://www.climatesoscanada.org/) (<http://www.climatesoscanada.org/>)
- Caravana Arcoiris por la Paz – Rainbow Peace Caravan [www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com](http://www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com)  
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- CEDENMA <http://cedenma.org/> (<http://cedenma.org/>)
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- Caravana Arcoiris por la Paz [www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com/](http://www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com/)  
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- Center for Earth Jurisprudence [www.earthjuris.org/](http://www.earthjuris.org/)  
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- Center for the Rights of Nature [rightsofnature.commonsonline.org/](http://rightsofnature.commonsonline.org/)  
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(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mccron/>)
- Derechos de la Madre Tierra Mexico
- Earth Ethics Institute [www.earthethicsinstitute.org/](http://www.earthethicsinstitute.org/)  
(<http://www.earthethicsinstitute.org/>)

- Earth Junkies [www.earthjunkies.org](http://www.earthjunkies.org)  
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- Earth Justice [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org) (<http://earthjustice.org/>)
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- Earth Law Center [www.earthlawcenter.org/](http://www.earthlawcenter.org/)  
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- Earth Life Institute [www.earthlifeinstitute.eu/](http://www.earthlifeinstitute.eu/)  
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- Earth Partners Trust [www.earthpartnersfoundation.eu](http://www.earthpartnersfoundation.eu/)  
(<http://www.earthpartnersfoundation.eu/>)
- Echo Valley [www.echovalleyfarmwisconsin.com](http://www.echovalleyfarmwisconsin.com)  
(<http://www.echovalleyfarmwisconsin.com>)
- Ecobirth – Women for Earth and Birth [www.ecobirthwomenforearthandbirth.org](http://www.ecobirthwomenforearthandbirth.org)  
(<http://ecobirthwomenforearthandbirth.org/>)
- Ecologie Organics [www.ecologieorganics.com.au](http://www.ecologieorganics.com.au)  
(<http://www.ecologieorganics.com.au/>)
- ECOTERRA [www.ecoterra-international.org](http://www.ecoterra-international.org) (<http://www.ecoterra-international.org>)
- Ecovillage Huehucóyotl, Tepoztlán-Morelos <http://www.huehuecoyotl.net> (<http://www.huehuecoyotl.net>)
- Edible Planet [www.EdiblePlanet.org](http://www.EdiblePlanet.org)  
(<http://www.EdiblePlanet.org>)
- Ejagswod-Ghana
- Empowerment works [www.EmpowermentWorks.org](http://www.EmpowermentWorks.org)  
(<http://www.empowermentworks.org/main.html>)
- End Ecocide on Earth <http://www.endecocide.org/>  
(<http://www.endecocide.org/>)
- Environmental Education Fund <http://environmentaleducationfund.org/>  
(<http://environmentaleducationfund.org/>)
- The Enviro Show [www.enviroshow.wordpress.com](http://www.enviroshow.wordpress.com)  
(<http://enviroshow.wordpress.com/>)
- Eradicating Ecocide [www.eradicatingecocide.com](http://www.eradicatingecocide.com)  
(<http://eradicatingecocide.com/>)
- Eros Global Community [www.eroscommunity.blogspot.com](http://www.eroscommunity.blogspot.com)  
(<http://www.eroscommunity.blogspot.com/>)

- La Esperanto-Klubo Sudtirolo  
esperantosudtirolo.wordpress.com  
(<http://esperantosudtirolo.wordpress.com/>)
- Flutewalker Musical Arts [www.flutewalker.com](http://www.flutewalker.com)  
(<http://www.flutewalker.com/>)
- Food and Trees for Africa [www.trees.co.za](http://www.trees.co.za)  
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- Foundation for a Sustainable Future [www.sustainable-future.org](http://www.sustainable-future.org)  
(<http://www.sustainable-future.org/>)
- FourYears.Go [www.fouryears.go.org/](http://www.fouryears.go.org/)  
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(<http://www.gaiauniversity.org/>)
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- Global Advocates for Justice (Kenya) [fssg.blogspot.com](http://fssg.blogspot.com)  
(<http://fssg.blogspot.com/>)
- Grá Nádúr – Nature's Love [granadur.net/](http://granadur.net/) (<http://granadur.net/>)
- Great Lakes Earth Institute [www.glei.org](http://www.glei.org) (<http://glei.org/>)
- Growing Air Foundation [www.growingairfoundation.org](http://www.growingairfoundation.org)  
(<http://www.growingairfoundation.org/>)
- Grüne Dinslaken <http://www.gruene-dinslaken.de/>  
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- Hapicultuur <http://hapicultuur.be/> (<http://hapicultuur.be/>)
- Human Dimensions TV <http://www.humandtv.com/>  
(<http://www.humandtv.com/>)
- Humanity's Calling
- Indigenous Environmental Network <http://www.ienearth.org/>  
(<http://www.ienearth.org/>)
- Institute of Wellbeing [iwbbd.org](http://iwbbd.org) (<http://iwbbd.org/>)
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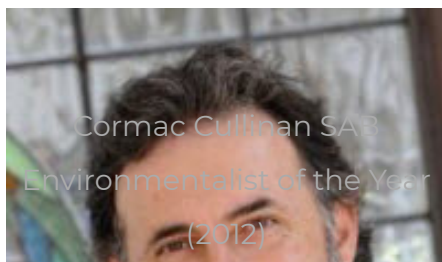


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- Pan African Climate Justice Alliance [www.pacja.org](http://www.pacja.org) (<http://www.pacja.org/>)
- Panted Monkey – DOWS Radio
- Polidoc Productions [www.polidoc.com](http://www.polidoc.com) (<http://www.polidoc.com/>)

- Project 90 by 2030 [www.90x2030.org.za](http://www.90x2030.org.za)  
(<http://www.90x2030.org.za/>)
- Prypac Cosmos – Accra Ghana
- Rainbow Peace Caravan [www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com/](http://www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com/)  
(<http://www.caravanaarcoiris.blogspot.com/>)
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Red Bear Healing Home Society [www.redbearhealinghome.ca](http://www.redbearhealinghome.ca)  
(<http://www.redbearhealinghome.ca/>)
- Resistance – Holistic Health Studio <http://www.resistense.com>  
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- Surya Namaskar for World Peace  
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- SouthWest Pride, Inc. <http://swpride.org/> (<http://swpride.org/>)
- Sublimewe [www.sublimewe.net](http://www.sublimewe.net) (<http://www.sublimewe.net/>)
- Sustainable Summer [sustainablesummer.org](http://sustainablesummer.org)  
(<http://sustainablesummer.org/>)
- Tantra Foundation [www.TantraFoundation.org](http://www.TantraFoundation.org)  
(<http://tantrafoundation.org>)
- The Bridge [www.thebridgetampa.com](http://www.thebridgetampa.com)  
(<http://www.thebridgetampa.com/index.php>)

- Transition Express [www.TransitionExpress.vpweb.com](http://www.TransitionExpress.vpweb.com)  
(<http://www.TransitionExpress.vpweb.com>)
- Uganda Coalition [www.ugandacoalition.or.ug](http://www.ugandacoalition.or.ug)  
(<http://www.ugandacoalition.or.ug>)
- Unified Field Applied World <http://www.ufaworld.org/>  
(<http://www.ufaworld.org/>)
- Vital Systems [www.vitalsystemsca.com](http://www.vitalsystemsca.com)  
(<http://www.vitalsystemsca.com/>)
- Voces de Tierra – Evolve to Ecology <http://www.vocesdetierra.com/> (<http://www.vocesdetierra.com/>)
- Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International [www.wecaninternational.org](http://www.wecaninternational.org)  
(<http://www.wecaninternational.org/>)
- Well Worn Theatre Company [www.wellworn.org.za](http://www.wellworn.org.za)  
(<http://www.wellworn.org.za/>)
- Whale of A Time [www.whaleofatime.org](http://www.whaleofatime.org)  
(<http://www.whaleofatime.org/>)
- Wisconsin Wildlife Ethic-Vote Our Wildlife (Wisconsin WE VOW) [wiwildlifeethic.org/](http://wiwildlifeethic.org/) (<http://wiwildlifeethic.org/>)
- Wiser Earth [www.wiserearth.org/group/TechSkepticsUnited](http://www.wiserearth.org/group/TechSkepticsUnited)  
(<http://www.wiserearth.org/group/TechSkepticsUnited>)
- Women's Earth and Climate Caucus [www.iwecc.org](http://www.iwecc.org)  
([http://www.iwecc.org](http://www.iwecc.org/))
- **W.O.P.A Green Project** <http://wopagreenproject.kbo.co.ke/>  
(<http://wopagreenproject.kbo.co.ke/>)
- WonderWorks Consulting [www.WonderWorksLeadership.com](http://www.WonderWorksLeadership.com)  
(<http://www.wonderworksleadership.com/>)
- World Consciousness Pact [worldconsciouspact.org](http://worldconsciouspact.org)  
([http://worldconsciouspact.org](http://worldconsciouspact.org/))
- Yoga et Sante [www.yogaetsante.net/](http://www.yogaetsante.net/)  
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- Youth Ecology Club – Serbia
- Zero Waste Kauai [www.zerowastekauai.org](http://www.zerowastekauai.org)  
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# UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

**April 22, 2010**  
**World People's Conference on Climate Change**  
**and the Rights of Mother Earth**  
**(<http://pwccc.wordpress.com/programa/>) Coch**  
**abamba, Bolivia**

Printable PDF of Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth  
 (<https://therightsofnature.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-UNIVERSAL-DECLARATION-OF-THE-RIGHTS-OF-MOTHER-EARTH-APRIL-22-2010.pdf>)

Click to sign our petition in support of Rights of Mother Earth  
 (<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/yes-to-rights-of-nature/>)

From *World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth* (<http://pwccc.wordpress.com/programa/>),  
 Cochabamba, Bolivia, 22 April – Earth Day 2010.

English (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/declaration/>)— Francaise  
 (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/declaration/droits-de-la-terre-mere/>)  
 — Espanol (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/declaration/derechos-madre-tierra/>) — Deutsch (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/rechte-der-mutter-erde/>)—Italiano  
 (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/dichiarazione-universale-dei-diritti-della-madre-terra/>)— Portugues  
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 (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/declaratia-universala-a-drepturilor-mamei-terra/>)— русский (<http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com/russian/>)

# Preamble

We, the peoples and nations of Earth:

considering that we are all part of Mother Earth, an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny;

gratefully acknowledging that Mother Earth is the source of life, nourishment and learning and provides everything we need to live well;

recognizing that the capitalist system and all forms of depredation, exploitation, abuse and contamination have caused great destruction, degradation and disruption of Mother Earth, putting life as we know it today at risk through phenomena such as climate change;

convinced that in an interdependent living community it is not possible to recognize the rights of only human beings without causing an imbalance within Mother Earth;

affirming that to guarantee human rights it is necessary to recognize and defend the rights of Mother Earth and all beings in her and that there are existing cultures, practices and laws that do so;

conscious of the urgency of taking decisive, collective action to transform structures and systems that cause climate change and other threats to Mother Earth;

proclaim this Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and call on the General Assembly of the United Nation to adopt it, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations of the world, and to the end that every individual and institution takes responsibility for promoting through teaching, education, and consciousness raising, respect for the rights recognized in this Declaration and ensure through prompt and progressive measures and mechanisms, national and international, their universal and effective recognition and observance among all peoples and States in the world.

## Article 1. Mother Earth

(1) Mother Earth is a living being.

- (2) Mother Earth is a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces all beings.
- (3) Each being is defined by its relationships as an integral part of Mother Earth.
- (4) The inherent rights of Mother Earth are inalienable in that they arise from the same source as existence.
- (5) Mother Earth and all beings are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as may be made between organic and inorganic beings, species, origin, use to human beings, or any other status.
- (6) Just as human beings have human rights, all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the communities within which they exist.
- (7) The rights of each being are limited by the rights of other beings and any conflict between their rights must be resolved in a way that maintains the integrity, balance and health of Mother Earth.

## **Article 2. Inherent Rights of Mother Earth**

- (1) Mother Earth and all beings of which she is composed have the following inherent rights:
  - (a) the right to life and to exist;
  - (b) the right to be respected;
  - (c) the right to regenerate its bio-capacity and to continue its vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions;
  - (d) the right to maintain its identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being;
  - (e) the right to water as a source of life;
  - (f) the right to clean air;
  - (g) the right to integral health;

- (h) the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste;
  - (i) the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens its integrity or vital and healthy functioning;
  - (j) the right to full and prompt restoration for violation of the rights recognized in this Declaration caused by human activities;
- (2) Each being has the right to a place and to play its role in Mother Earth for her harmonious functioning.
- (3) Every being has the right to wellbeing and to live free from torture or cruel treatment by human beings.

### **Article 3. Obligations of human beings to Mother Earth**

- (1) Every human being is responsible for respecting and living in harmony with Mother Earth.
- (2) Human beings, all States, and all public and private institutions must:
- (a) act in accordance with the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
  - (b) recognize and promote the full implementation and enforcement of the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
  - (c) promote and participate in learning, analysis, interpretation and communication about how to live in harmony with Mother Earth in accordance with this Declaration;
  - (d) ensure that the pursuit of human wellbeing contributes to the wellbeing of Mother Earth, now and in the future;
  - (e) establish and apply effective norms and laws for the defence, protection and conservation of the rights of Mother Earth;
  - (f) respect, protect, conserve and where necessary, restore the integrity, of the vital ecological cycles, processes and balances of Mother Earth;

- (g) guarantee that the damages caused by human violations of the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration are rectified and that those responsible are held accountable for restoring the integrity and health of Mother Earth;
- (h) empower human beings and institutions to defend the rights of Mother Earth and of all beings;
- (i) establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing species extinction, the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles;
- (j) guarantee peace and eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;
- (k) promote and support practices of respect for Mother Earth and all beings, in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and customs;
- (l) promote economic systems that are in harmony with Mother Earth and in accordance with the rights recognized in this Declaration.

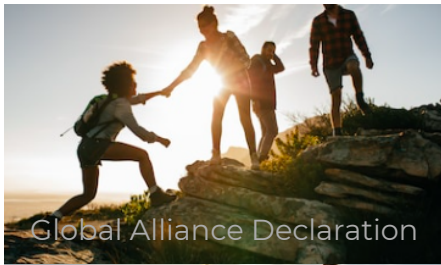
#### **Article 4. Definitions**

- (1) The term “being” includes ecosystems, natural communities, species and all other natural entities which exist as part of Mother Earth.
- (2) Nothing in this Declaration restricts the recognition of other inherent rights of all beings or specified beings.

To show your support for the Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth, please click the FaceBook Like icon!

Thank you!

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**1972**

The Southern California Law Review published law professor Christopher Stone's seminal article, "Should trees have standing – toward legal rights for natural objects." Stone described how under the existing structure of law, nature was considered right-less, having no legally recognized rights to defend and enforce.

## **1989**

Professor Roderick Nash, published *The Rights of Nature: A History of Environmental Ethics* in which he explains how, throughout history, the right-less – slaves, women, others – have struggled to expand the body of legal rights to include themselves. Nash provides a context for how and why the body of rights is moving in the direction of expanding to include nature.

## **2001**

Thomas Berry published *The Origin, Differentiation and Role of Rights* in which he described how all members of the Earth community possess inherent rights.

## **2003**

*Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice*, was published. Authored by South African attorney Cormac Cullinan, with Thomas Berry, he opens up a new front on the Rights of Nature – adding a significant spiritual and moral element to the legal and historic discussions begun by Stone and Nash.

## **2006**

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) worked with the small community of Tamaqua Borough, in

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, as it sought to ban waste corporations from dumping toxic sewage sludge in the community. CELDF assisted Tamaqua to draft a Rights of Nature law which banned sludging as a violation of the Rights of Nature. With the vote of the Borough Council, Tamaqua became the very first place in the United States, and the world, to recognize the Rights of Nature in law.

## **2008**

In September, the people of Ecuador voted in support of the proposed Constitution; hence, Ecuador became the first country in the world to recognize the Rights of Nature in its national constitution.

## **2009**

On April 22nd, the UN General Assembly, at its 63rd session proclaimed 22 April “International Mother Earth Day” (A/RES/63/278) (<http://undocs.org/A/RES/63/278>) and the Bolivian president, Evo Morales Ayma delivered a statement at the General Assembly on the declaration of International Mother Earth Day (A/63/PV.80) ([http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/63/PV.80&referer=/english/&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/63/PV.80&referer=/english/&Lang=E))

## **2010**

In April, Bolivia held the World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth which resulted in the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth. Following the conference, Bolivia submitted the declaration to the U.N. General Assembly for its consideration.

In August, the first Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature was published (A/65/314) (<http://undocs.org/A/65/314>).

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature was formed at a meeting held in Patate, Ecuador, with founding members from Ecuador, USA, Africa, Australia, Asia and Europe.

In November, an ordinance recognizing the Rights of Nature was passed unanimously by the City Council of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as part of a ban on shale gas drilling and fracking. This the first major city in the U.S. to codify the legally enforceable Rights of Nature.

Bolivia's Legislative Assembly passed the Law of the Rights of Mother Earth.

In December, the UN General Assembly, at its 65th session, the second Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/65/164) (<http://undocs.org/A/RES/65/164>) was adopted. It requested the Secretary General to host the first Interactive Dialogue to commemorate International Mother Earth Day, issue a Second Report on Harmony with Nature and start developing the Harmony with Nature website.

## 2011

The first Rights of Nature lawsuits were decided in Ecuador under the country's constitutional provisions, upholding the rights of ecosystems. The first case, heard by the Provincial Court of Justice of Loja, featured the Vilcabamba River as the plaintiff. Thus, the river itself was able to defend its own rights to 'exist' and 'maintain itself' – as it sought to stop a government highway construction



project that was interfering with the natural flow and health of the river. The court ruled that the project be stopped.

The UN General Assembly, at its 66th session, adopted the third Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/66/204) (<http://undocs.org/A/RES/66/204>).

In August, the second Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/66/302) (<http://undocs.org/A/66/302>) was published.

A campaign was launched in Nepal to advance the Rights of Nature. Today, Members of Parliament are considering a Rights of Nature constitutional amendment.

## 2012

Bolivia adopted its Law Under the Mother Earth and Integral Development for Living Well. Passed by Bolivia's Plurinational Legislative Assembly, the law recognizes the Rights of Mother Earth in statutory law.

The national government of New Zealand reached an agreement with the Whanganui River iwi, and local Maori people, to recognize a legal persona for the Whanganui River.

In August, the third Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature was published (A/67/317) (<http://undocs.org/A/67/317>).

On June 20th to the 22nd, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), outcome document “The Future We Want”, paragraph 39 on Harmony with Nature ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E)) mentions Rights of Nature.

In April the second Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature (<http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/index.php?page=view&type=12&nr=10&menu=198>) to commemorate International Mother Earth Day was held. The Dialogue discussed “Scientific findings on the impacts of human activities on the functioning of the Earth System”.

A campaign was launched in India by Ganga Action Parivar and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance-India to recognize rights of the Ganga River and drafted the National Ganga River Rights Act. New Delhi declined this petition.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) adopted a policy to incorporate the Rights of Nature in its decision-making processes.

In December, the UN General Assembly, at its 67th session, adopted the fourth Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/67/214 (<http://undocs.org/A/RES/67/214>)).

## 2013

The campaign for the European Citizens Initiative for the Rights of Nature was launched. This initiative allows citizens to present proposals to the European government for consideration.

The UN General Assembly, at its 68th session, adopted the fifth Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/68/216) ([http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/216](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/216)).

The fourth Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature was published (A/68/325) (<http://undocs.org/A/68/325>).

## 2014

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature sponsored an International Gathering on Rights of Nature and held the world's first Rights of Nature Tribunal in Quito, Ecuador presided by Vandana Shiva (Navdanya-India).

*Judges:* Tom Goldtooth, (Dine'/Dakota, IEN-USA); Alberto Acosta (Ecuador); Elsie Monge (Ecuador); Tantoo Cardinale (USA); Atossa Soltani (USA/Iran); Blanca Chancoso (Kichwa - Ecuador); Julio César Trujillo (Ecuador); Cormac Cullinan (South Africa).

*Cases:* Chevron-Texaco (Ecuador); 2) BP spill (USA); 3) Yasuní (Ecuador); 4) Great Coral Reef (Australia); 5) Condor Mirador (Ecuador); 6) Fracking (USA), 7) Persecution of Defenders of Mother Earth (Ecuador) 8) GMOs and 9) Climate Change.

The New Zealand Parliament passed the Te Urewera Act, finalizing a settlement between the Tuhoe people and the government. The Act recognizes the Te Urewera – a former national park, of more than 2,000 square kilometers – as having “legal recognition in its own right”.

The Colorado Community Rights Network proposed a state constitutional amendment which would authorize communities to establish the Rights of Nature in law.

The UN General Assembly, as its 69th session, adopted the sixth Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/69/224) ([http://http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/224](http://http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/224)).

The fifth Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature was published (A/69/322) (<http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/content/documents/285N1450929.pdf>).

In December, the Second International Rights of Nature Tribunal was launched in Lima during the COP20, presided by Alberto Acosta (Ecuador).

*Judges:* Raúl Prada Alcoreza, (Bolivia); Hugo Blanco, (Peru); Tantoo Cardinal, (Canada); Blanca Chancoso, (Ecuador); Tom Goldtooth, (USA); Francois Houtart, (Belgium); Osprey Orielle Lake, (USA); Edgardo Lander, (Venezuela); Veronika Mendoza, (Peru); Rocío Silva Santiesteban, (Peru); Atossa Soltani, (USA); Terisa Turner (Canada).

*Cases:* Yasuní (Ecuador); Chevron-Texaco (Ecuador); BP (Gulf of Mexico); Fracking (USA/Bolivia); Condor Mirador (Ecuador); Conga – Cajamarca Mine (Peru); Climate Change and False Solutions; Great Barrier Reef (Australia); Defenders of the Earth– Bagua (Peru); 4 Basins- Corrientes (Peru); Belo Monte (Brazil); and REDD.

## 2015

Sweden's Riksdag considered a motion to create a commission to prepare a proposal on how the Rights of Nature can be incorporated into Swedish law.

In May, Pope Francis launched the encyclical *Laudato Si* (<https://laudatosi.com/watch>), "On Care For Our Common Home" which critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, and laments environmental degradation and climate change. The call that he makes for a unified swift in global action is the basis for Rights of Nature.

On April 11th, a Special Tribunal Audience was held for Yasuni, presided by Boaventura de Sousa Santos

On August 15th, a Special Tribunal Audience was held for Yasuni, presided by George Caffentzis

On October 15th, a Special Tribunal Audience was held for the Great Barrier Reef, presided by Brendan Mackey.

The UN General Assembly, at its 70th session, adopted the seventh resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/70/208) ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/208](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/208)).

The Sixth Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature was published (A/70/268). ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/268](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/268))

The Third International Rights of Nature Tribunal in Paris during COP21 presided by Cormac Cullinan (Wild Law – South Africa).

*Judges:* Tom Goldtooth (USA), Alberto Acosta (Ecuador), Osprey Orielle Lake (USA), Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria), Ruth Nyambura (Kenya), Damien Short (UK), Felicio Pontes (Brazil), Terisa Turner (Canada), Atossa Soltani (USA), Christophe Bonneuil (France), Phillippe Desbroses (France) y Dominique Bourg (Suiza).

*Cases:* Climate Change; Financialization of Nature / REDD; GMOs, Defenders of Nature; Mega Hydroelectric Plants (Brazil); oil exploitation in Ecuador (Yasuní and Chevron) and presentation of new cases (Corralejas Colombia; 570 hydro power dams in Eastern Europe; Gold mining in Galicia, Greece & cyanide spill in Romania; Lack of int'l coherence in ocean "management"; Shell in Nigeria + Tar Sands in Canada).

## 2016

On February, the Green Party of England and Wales adopted a Rights of Nature policy platform. The Greens in Scotland have taken similar steps.

In September, the General Council of the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin approved an amendment to their tribal constitution to recognize the Rights of Nature. The full Ho-Chunk membership will vote on the amendment in 2017.

Colombia's Constitutional Court ruled that the Atrato River possesses rights to "protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration", and established joint guardianship for the river shared by indigenous people and the national government.



A Special Tribunal Audience was held in April 30th on the San Francisco Bay-Delta Ecosystem with Pennie Opal Plant, Liz Husked, y Gary Mulcahy, Tim Stroshane.

The UN General Assembly, at its 71st session, adopted the eighth Resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/RES/71/232) ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/232](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/232)).

The first Experts' Summary Report on Harmony with Nature addressing Earth Jurisprudence was published (A/71/266). ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/266](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/266))

## 2017

The New Zealand Parliament finalized the *Te Awa Tupua Act*, granting the Whanganui River legal status as an ecosystem.

The High Court of Uttarakhand in India issued rulings recognizing the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers, glaciers, and other ecosystems as legal persons with certain rights.

Mexico City passed new Constitution including provision requiring Rights of Nature law such as the recognition and regulation for “broader protection of rights of nature formed by all its ecosystems and species as a collective entity subject of rights”.

In October, the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, USA took the historic step to add a statute to enact the Rights of Nature.

Lafayette, Colorado, in the USA, enacted the first Climate Bill of Rights, recognizing rights of humans and nature to a healthy climate, and banning fossil fuel extraction as a violation of those rights.

On April 21st, the Seventh Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature (<http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/index.php?page=view&type=12&nr=58&menu=198>) to commemorate International Mother Earth Day addressing Earth jurisprudence and the Sustainable Development agenda was established.

Colorado River vs. State of Colorado was filed in the U.S. federal court. In this first in the nation lawsuit, an ecosystem is seeking recognition of its legal rights.

On October 27th, the US Rights of Nature Symposium was held in Tulane University, New Orleans, and was sponsored by CELDF, The Myrin Institute.

On the 7th and 8th of November, the Fourth International Rights of Nature Tribunal in Bonn-Germany was held during COP23, presided by Tom Goldtooth (Turtle Nation -EUA)

*Judges:* Alberto Acosta (Ecuador), Osprey Orielle Lake (EUA), Simona Fraudatario (Italia), Fernando "Pino" Solanas (Argentina), Shannon Biggs (USA), Cormac Cullinan (South Africa), Ute Koczy (Germany), Ruth Nyambura (Kenya)

*Cases:* Climate Change (false energy solutions); financialization of nature; water deprivation in Almería – Spain; Defenders of Mother Earth; Lignite Mining in Germany; threats to the Amazon (Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia-

Tipnis and French Guyana); implications of free-trade agreements to Nature.

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**Rights of Nature** is the recognition and honoring that Nature has rights. It is the recognition that our ecosystems – including trees, oceans, animals, mountains – have rights just as human beings have rights. Rights of Nature is about balancing what is good for human beings against what is good for other species, what is good for the planet as a world. It is the holistic recognition that all life, all ecosystems on our planet are deeply intertwined.

Rather than treating nature as property under the law, rights of nature acknowledges that nature in all its life forms has the *right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles*.

And we – the people – have the legal authority and responsibility to enforce these rights on behalf of ecosystems. The ecosystem itself can be named as the injured party, with its own legal standing rights, in cases alleging rights violations.

For indigenous cultures around the world recognizing rights of nature is simply what is so and consistent with their traditions of living in harmony with nature. All life, including human life, are deeply connected. Decisions

and values are based on what is good for the whole.

Nonetheless, for millennia legal systems around the world have treated land and nature as “property”. Laws and contracts are written to protect the property rights of individuals, corporations and other legal entities. As such environmental protection laws actually legalize environmental harm by regulating how much pollution or destruction of nature can occur within the law. Under such law, nature and all of its non-human elements have no standing.

By recognizing *rights of nature* in its constitution, Ecuador – and a growing number of communities in the United States – are basing their environmental protection systems on the premise that nature has *inalienable rights*, just as humans do. This premise is a radical but natural departure from the assumption that nature is *property* under the law.

*“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”*  
— R. Buckminster Fuller[1]

Learn more about Rights of Nature through:

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**Ecuador Adopts Rights of Nature in Constitution**  
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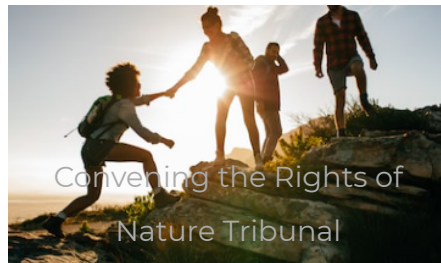
[1] ([https://therightsofnature.org/a-tribunal-for-earth-why-it-matters/#\\_ftnref1](https://therightsofnature.org/a-tribunal-for-earth-why-it-matters/#_ftnref1)) Richard Buckminster Fuller (12 July 1895 – 1 July 1983) was an American philosopher, systems theorist, architect, and inventor, known to many of his friends and fans as “Bucky” Fuller. This quotation was quoted in *Beyond Civilization : Humanity’s Next Great Adventure* (1999), by Daniel Quinn, p. 137.

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# OUR MISSION

## Global Alliance for Rights of Nature

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (the “Alliance”) is a network of organizations and individuals committed to the universal adoption and implementation of legal systems that recognize, respect and enforce “Rights of Nature” and to making the idea of Rights of Nature an idea whose time has come.

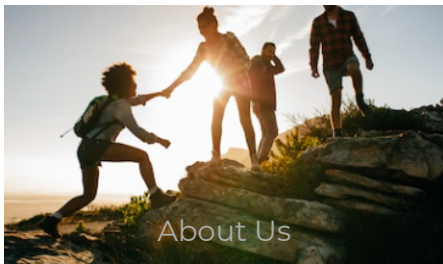
The primary premise of the Alliance is that in order to insure an environmentally sustainable future, humans must reorient themselves from an exploitative and ultimately self-destructive relationship with nature, to one that honors the deep interrelation of all life and contributes to the health and integrity of the natural environment. An essential step in achieving this is to create a system of jurisprudence that sees and treats nature as a fundamental, rights bearing entity and not as mere property to be exploited at will. Breaking out of the human-centered limitations of our current legal systems by recognizing, respecting and enforcing Rights of Nature is one of the most transformative and highly leveraged actions that humanity can take to create a sustainable future for all.

As members of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, our decisions and actions will be guided by the following principles for our present and our future:

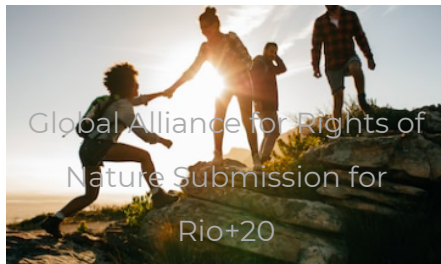
1. As members of an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings, we each have a responsibility to contribute to the health and integrity of the whole Earth community, including future generations.

2. In order to achieve our vision of societies that flourish in harmony with other beings, that are socially just and spiritually fulfilling, we must recognise, respect and defend the rights of all beings.
3. We will work in solidarity with one another to promote the recognition by all people that all beings are subjects with rights, to ensure that humans respect, uphold and guarantee those rights in law and elsewhere, and reject the commodification of Nature.
4. We will integrate practices into our work that strengthen our connection to, and respect for, the Earth community and that evoke gratitude and humility regarding our place within the universe.
5. We recognize the special contribution of Indigenous Peoples who have maintained cultures that respect Mother Earth and acknowledge their wisdom and leadership within the Alliance.

## RELATED POSTS:



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# ABOUT US

## WHO WE ARE

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (the “Alliance”) is a global network of organizations and individuals committed to the universal adoption and implementation of legal systems that recognize, respect and enforce “Rights of Nature”. Rather than treating nature as property under the law, the time has come to recognize that natural communities have the *right to exist, maintain and regenerate their vital cycles*. Join us today!

Our members are a diverse network of scientists, attorneys, economists, indigenous leaders, authors, spiritual leaders, business leaders, politicians, actors, homemakers, students, activists: people from all walks of life in over 100 countries on 6 continents of North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia who are looking to transform our human relationship with our planet.

## Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and Tribunal Story



The primary premise of the Alliance is that in order to insure an environmentally sustainable future, humans must reorient themselves from an exploitative and ultimately self-destructive relationship with nature, to one that honors the deep interrelation of all life and contributes to the health and integrity of the natural environment. An essential step in achieving this is to create a system of jurisprudence that sees and treats nature as a fundamental, rights bearing entity and not as mere property to be exploited at will. Breaking out of the human-centered limitations of our current legal systems by recognizing, respecting and enforcing Rights of Nature is one of the most transformative and highly leveraged actions that humanity can take to create a sustainable future for all.

The Global Alliance is the founder and secretariat for the International Rights of Nature Tribunal. The Tribunal examines systemic Rights of Nature based alternatives to the false solutions and failed negotiations of governing States. This “People’s Tribunal” is a vehicle for re-framing and adjudicating prominent environmental and social justice cases within the context of a Rights of Nature based earth jurisprudence. The Tribunal provides a framework for educating civil society and governments on the fundamental tenets of Rights of Nature and an instrument for legal experts to examine constructs needed to more fully integrate Rights of Nature.



## International Rights of Nature Tribunal Paris Introduction



### GLOBAL ALLIANCE'S OBJECTIVE

The Alliance's objective is to encourage the recognition and effective implementation of Rights of Nature through the creation of a world network of individuals and organizations that, through active cooperation, collective action and legal tools based on Rights of Nature as an idea whose time has come, can change the direction humanity is taking our planet.

For more information about the Global Alliance click on the following links:

- Global Alliance Fundamental Principles (<https://therightsofnature.org/fundamental-principles>)
- Global Alliance Executive Committee (<https://therightsofnature.org/executive-committee/>)
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