

20-02-2020

Rights of Nature in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Rights of Nature provide the underlying legal basis for a necessary transformation of the human-nature relationship. To ensure the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and safeguard life on Earth, **we ask the parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to recognise Nature as a rights bearing entity and to state the need for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, with the goal of adoption by 2030.**

Nature is currently not included as a rights-bearing entity in most legal systems. But, as noted by the [UN Harmony with Nature Programme](#), federal, state and local governments around the world are increasingly adopting laws that recognize the rights of Nature and the natural world to exist and flourish. In many cases, these new laws are the product of collaboration between non-governmental organizations, civil society associations, legislators and legislative bodies, working together to draft, adopt and implement laws recognizing Nature as a subject of rights and/or a legal “person”, protected by law.

Efforts already underway for a Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth:

- The [Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth](#) (UNDRME) adopted at the Peoples conference on climate change in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2010.
- The global signature campaign in support of UNDRME running at www.rightsofmotherearth.com which has gathered almost 300'000 signatures from civil society.
- The decision by IUCN, at World Conservation Congress in 2012¹, to "*Invite the Director General and IUCN members to promote the development of a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature*
- The recommendation from the Report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature²: "*Member States may therefore wish to consider (to) ... engage in a formal dialogue among academics, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations regarding the drafting of a universal declaration of the rights of Mother Earth reflecting the growing worldwide commitment and calls to protecting Earth and future generations of all species. Such a universal declaration will provide an international moral compass to guide humanity to a better understanding of a life in Harmony with Nature.*"

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

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Experts in UN Harmony with Nature knowledge network www.harmonywithnatureun.org

¹ WCC-2012-Res-100. Incorporation of the Rights of Nature as the organizational focal point in IUCN's decision making <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/44067>

² At the seventy-fourth session (UN A/74/236) <https://undocs.org/A/74/236>