

12-05-2020

## 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 to live in harmony with nature by 2050, **we ask the parties of the Convention on Biodiversity to recognise Nature as a rights bearing entity and to state the need for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.**

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.

**In order to recognise the Rights of Nature in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we propose the following wording and placing in the [zero draft](#):**

### ***E. Implementation support mechanisms***

13. *Effective implementation of the framework requires implementation support mechanisms commensurate with the ambition set out in the goals and targets of the framework and with the transformative changes required to reach them. These include:*
- (a) *Action against environmental crime affecting biodiversity; making ecocide an international crime. Including Nature in legal systems of all nations as a rights bearing entity and subject of law with the right to exist and flourish independently of the use to humans. Adopting a Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth by the UN to complement the Human Rights Declaration, in order to prioritise the protection of the natural “system” that enables life on Earth.*

Thank you for taking a stand to make sure Rights of Nature get recognised in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the CBD!

Sincerely,

*Pella Thiel*  
*Rights of Nature, Sweden*  
[www.naturensrattigheter.se](http://www.naturensrattigheter.se)

*Doris Ragetli*  
*Rights of Mother Earth, Switzerland*  
[www.rightsofmotherearth.com](http://www.rightsofmotherearth.com)

*Experts in UN Harmony with Nature knowledge network*