



RESOLUTION #6

TITLE:

Advancing Nature Rights Worldwide



WHEREAS

The governance systems of most countries treat Nature (excluding human beings) as property and fail to recognize the inherent rights of all beings to exist, thrive and evolve; and

Recognition and implementation of the rights of Nature is needed to address the failure of contemporary governance systems to protect the integrity and health of ecological communities; and

The 7th World Wilderness Congress (2001) adopted a Resolution, proposed by the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai, stating that delegates should “develop a jurisprudence that recognizes humans as inseparable from the planetary ecosystem”; and

Significant progress in developing this “Earth jurisprudence” and in recognizing the inherent legal rights of Nature have been made since then, including: the adoption by Ecuador of a new Constitution that recognizes the inherent rights of Mother Earth to exist, thrive and evolve; the adoption by Bolivia of two “Laws of Mother Earth” (2010 and 2012); the April 2010 adoption by over 35,000 attendees at the World People’s Conference in Bolivia of a “Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth”; the September 2012 adoption by the IUCN of a Resolution finding that rights of Nature is a “fundamental and absolute key element for planning, action and assessment at all levels and in all areas of intervention”; and the formal recognition by the United Nations General Assembly of these legal advancements and of the call by scientists, economists, and legal experts for a rights-based movement for nature “in order to recognize our dependence on and interconnectedness with the natural world”; and

Recognition and implementation of the inherent legal rights of all members of the Earth community to exist and play their unique roles within the Earth Community is essential to realizing an Earth jurisprudence that safeguards the future of human and other beings.

THEREFORE

Delegates to the 10th World Wilderness Congress recognize the advancements made in the development and implementation of the Earth jurisprudence called for by the 7th World Wilderness Congress, and support the worldwide recognition of the inherent rights of Nature to exist, thrive and evolve.

RESOLVED

- To establish a Global Coalition that will actively advance Nature rights in law and practice, including specifically through:
 - the adoption and implementation of new laws recognizing the rights of nature at the local, regional, national and international levels;
 - the development and promotion of economic systems that are in harmony with the rights of Nature; and

- the establishment and implementation of practices consistent with these rights.
- To urge all delegates to integrate Nature rights into their own work.

PROPOSER

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