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UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth

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.

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RIGHTS OF NATURE ARTICLES IN ECUADOR'S CONSTITUTION

Rights of Nature Articles in Ecuador's Constitution

Title II

Fundamental Rights

Chapter 1

Entitlement, Application and Interpretation Principles of the Fundamental Rights

Art.10 Rights Entitlement.- Persons and people have the fundamental rights guaranteed in this Constitution and in the international human rights instruments. Nature is subject to those rights given by this Constitution and Law.

Chapter 7th: Rights for Nature

Art. 71. Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.

Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognitions of rights for nature before the public organisms. The application and interpretation of these rights will follow the related principles established in the Constitution.

The State will motivate natural and juridical persons as well as collectives to protect nature; it will promote respect towards all the elements that form an ecosystem.

Art. 72. Nature has the right to restoration. This integral restoration is independent of the obligation on natural and juridical persons or the State to indemnify the people and the collectives that depend on the natural systems.

In the cases of severe or permanent environmental impact, including the ones caused by the exploitation on non renewable natural resources, the State will establish the most efficient mechanisms for the restoration, and will adopt the adequate measures to eliminate or mitigate the harmful environmental consequences.

Art. 73. The State will apply precaution and restriction measures in all the activities that can lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of the ecosystems or the permanent alteration of the natural cycles.

The introduction of organisms and organic and inorganic material that can alter in a definitive way the national genetic patrimony is prohibited.

Art. 74. The persons, people, communities and nationalities will have the right to benefit from the environment and form natural wealth that will allow wellbeing.

The environmental services are cannot be appropriated; its production, provision, use and exploitation, will be regulated by the State.

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BOLIVIA

LAW OF THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

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CHAPTER I

OBJECT AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1. (SCOPE). This Act is intended to recognize the rights of Mother Earth, and the obligations and duties of the Multinational State and society to ensure respect for these rights.

Article 2. (PRINCIPLES). The binding principles that govern this law are:

1. Harmony. Human activities, within the framework of plurality and diversity, should achieve a dynamic balance with the cycles and processes inherent in Mother Earth.

2. Collective good. The interests of society, within the framework of the rights of Mother Earth, prevail in all human activities and any acquired right.

3. Guarantee of the regeneration of Mother Earth. The state, at its various levels, and society, in harmony with the common interest, must ensure the necessary conditions in order that the diverse living systems of Mother Earth may absorb damage, adapt to shocks, and regenerate without significantly altering their structural and functional characteristics, recognizing that living systems are limited in their ability to regenerate, and that humans are limited in their ability to undo their actions.

4. Respect and defend the rights of Mother Earth. The State and any individual or collective person must respect, protect and guarantee the rights of Mother Earth for the well-being of current and future generations.

5. No commercialism. Neither living systems nor processes that sustain them may be commercialized, nor serve anyone's private property.

6. Multiculturalism. The exercise of the rights of Mother Earth requires the recognition, recovery, respect, protection, and dialogue of the diversity of feelings, values, knowledge, skills,

practices, skills, transcendence, transformation, science, technology and standards, of all the cultures of the world who seek to live in harmony with nature.

CHAPTER II

MOTHER EARTH, DEFINITION AND CHARACTER

Article 3. (Mother Earth). Mother Earth is a dynamic living system comprising an indivisible community of all living systems and living organisms, interrelated, interdependent and complementary, which share a common destiny.

Mother Earth is considered sacred, from the worldviews of nations and peasant indigenous peoples.

Article 4. (LIVING SYSTEMS). Living systems are complex and dynamic communities of plants, animals, microorganisms and other beings and their environment, where human communities and the rest of nature interact as a functional unit under the influence of climatic, physiographic, and geological factors, as well as production practices, Bolivian cultural diversity, and the worldviews of nations, original indigenous peoples, and intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities.

Article 5. (LEGAL STATUS OF MOTHER EARTH). For the purpose of protecting and enforcing its rights, Mother Earth takes on the character of collective public interest. Mother Earth and all its components, including human communities, are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Law. The exercise of the rights of Mother Earth will take into account the specificities and particularities of its various components. The rights under this Act shall not limit the existence of other rights of Mother Earth.

Article 6. (EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MOTHER EARTH). All Bolivians, to join the community of beings comprising Mother Earth, exercise rights under this Act, in a way that is consistent with their individual and collective rights. The exercise of individual rights is limited by the exercise of collective rights in the living systems of Mother Earth. Any conflict of rights must be resolved in ways that do not irreversibly affect the functionality of living systems.

CHAPTER III

RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Article 7. (RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH)

I. Mother Earth has the following rights:

1. To life: The right to maintain the integrity of living systems and natural processes that sustain them, and capacities and conditions for regeneration.

2. To the diversity of life: It is the right to preservation of differentiation and variety of beings that make up Mother Earth, without being genetically altered or structurally modified in an artificial way, so that their existence, functioning or future potential would be threatened.

3. To water: The right to preserve the functionality of the water cycle, its existence in the quantity and quality needed to sustain living systems, and its protection from pollution for the reproduction of the life of Mother Earth and all its components.

4. To clean air: The right to preserve the quality and composition of air for sustaining living systems and its protection from pollution, for the reproduction of the life of Mother Earth and all its components.

5. To equilibrium: The right to maintenance or restoration of the interrelationship, interdependence, complementarity and functionality of the components of Mother Earth in a balanced way for the continuation of their cycles and reproduction of their vital processes.

6. To restoration: The right to timely and effective restoration of living systems affected by human activities directly or indirectly.

7. To pollution-free living: The right to the preservation of any of Mother Earth's components from contamination, as well as toxic and radioactive waste generated by human activities.

CHAPTER IV

STATE OBLIGATIONS AND SOCIETAL DUTIES

Article 8. (OBLIGATIONS OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE).

The Plurinational State, at all levels and geographical areas and across all authorities and institutions, has the following duties:

1. Develop public policies and systematic actions of prevention, early warning, protection, and precaution in order to prevent human activities causing the extinction of living populations, the alteration of the cycles and processes that ensure life, or the destruction of livelihoods, including cultural systems that are part of Mother Earth.

2. Develop balanced forms of production and patterns of consumption to satisfy the needs of the Bolivian people to live well, while safeguarding the regenerative capacity and integrity of the cycles, processes and vital balance of Mother Earth.

3. Develop policies to protect Mother Earth from the multinational and international scope of the exploitation of its components, from the commodification of living systems or the processes that support them, and from the structural causes and effects of global climate change.

4. Develop policies to ensure long-term energy sovereignty, increased efficiency and the gradual incorporation of clean and renewable alternative sources into the energy matrix.

5. Demand international recognition of environmental debt through the financing and transfer of clean technologies that are effective and compatible with the rights of Mother Earth, among other mechanisms.

6. Promote peace and the elimination of all nuclear, chemical, and biological arms and weapons of mass destruction.

7. Promote the growth and recognition of rights of Mother Earth in multilateral, regional and bilateral international relations.

Article 9. (DUTIES OF THE PEOPLE)

The duties of natural persons and public or private legal entities:

1. Uphold and respect the rights of Mother Earth.
2. Promote harmony with Mother Earth in all areas of its relationship with other human communities and the rest of nature in living systems.
3. Participate actively, individually or collectively, in generating proposals designed to respect and defend the rights of Mother Earth.
4. Assume production practices and consumer behavior in harmony with the rights of Mother Earth.
5. Ensure the sustainable use of Mother Earth's components.
6. Report any act that violates the rights of Mother Earth, living systems, and/or their components.
7. Attend the convention of competent authorities or organized civil society to implement measures aimed at preserving and/or protecting Mother Earth.

Article 10. (DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH).

Establishing the Office of Mother Earth, whose mission is to ensure the validity, promotion, distribution and compliance of the rights of Mother Earth established in this Act. A special law will establish

its structure, function, and attributes.

Refer to the Executive Branch for constitutional ends.

It is given in the Assembly Hall of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, on the seventh day of the month of December two thousand and ten.

Sen. René Oscar Martínez Callahuanca

PRESIDENT

CHAMBER OF SENATORS Congress may by Law have directed.

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USA LAW OF THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA**ORDINANCE NUMBER ____ (CCS)****(City Council Series)****AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA****ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, as declared in Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan, a healthy environment is integral to the City's long-term economic and societal interests and, accordingly, the City's decision-making is guided by the mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, as further declared in the Sustainable City Plan, local environmental issues cannot be separated from their broader context; and therefore the City's programs and policies should be developed as models that can be emulated by other communities; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of these commitments and goals, the City must regularly evaluate whether its plans, laws, and programs are sufficient to meet the growing environmental crisis and must explore all means of addressing the growing environmental crisis; and

WHEREAS, in the last fifty years, national and state governments have attempted to address the crisis by adopting specific environmental protection laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act, that limit pollution and resource consumption; but those laws also have proven inadequate to provide long-term protection of our rights to clean air, water, and soil, and sustainable food systems, and the rights of natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the inadequacy of these laws results, in part, from the underlying legal assumption that the natural world is "property", which may be used by its owners -- be they individuals,

corporations, or other entities -- for their own, private, short-term economic benefit, generally with minimal regard for the health of the environment; and

WHEREAS, numerous specific examples show that this underlying assumption has proven destructive to the environment upon which all living things ultimately depend; and

WHEREAS, in response to the evils of treating the natural world as mere property, the world-wide, national and local environmental communities are urging governments to adopt a new paradigm based upon recognition that both individual human beings and natural communities or ecosystems have fundamental environmental rights which should be recognized by the law, that the health of the world's populations and ecosystems depends on the full protection of these rights, and that asserted corporate rights can no longer be allowed to take precedence over these rights to human and environmental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous examples of policy statements and laws based on this new paradigm that recognize the rights of the natural world to exist, thrive and evolve; and

WHEREAS, Ecuador amended its constitution to include the rights of nature in 2008, with the first successful case applying that right concluding in March 2011; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the City of Pittsburgh became the first major city in the United States to adopt a Community Bill of Rights that bans corporations from drilling natural gas within its city limits and elevates the rights of people, the community, and nature over corporate rights; and

WHEREAS, other municipalities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, and New York have adopted similar measures recognizing the rights of people and natural communities and including language that would subordinate the rights of corporations to local sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, Santa Monica's own Task Force on the Environment has studied this growing movement and recommended that the City support it as a means of effectuating the commitments and goals already established by the Sustainable City Plan, and of recognizing the inherent rights of the people and natural communities of the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2012 the Santa Monica City Council adopted a resolution declaring the City's Commitment to Sustainable Rights; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to fully implementing its Sustainable City Plan to further effectuate inherent rights of the people and natural communities of the City of Santa Monica.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 4.75 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

Chapter 4.75 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.75.010 Title

This chapter shall be known as the City of Santa Monica Sustainability Rights Ordinance.

.75.020 Findings

The City Council finds and declares:

(a) With the exponential growth in human population and its increasing per capita resource consumption, the planet cannot sustain our current way of life, which is destructive to the natural elements upon which all species depend -- the air, water, climate, soil and other fundamental elements of the world;

(b) Like all other communities, Santa Monica's welfare is inextricably bound to the welfare of the natural environment; and the City has therefore long been committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment and providing a model of environmental sustainability for other communities to utilize; and

(c) The City Council of Santa Monica has expressed this commitment through a multitude of enactments and actions, including recognizing both the rights of natural communities and ecosystems within Santa Monica to exist, thrive and evolve and the rights of the individual human beings that make up the City of Santa Monica to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The

peoples' rights include, but are not limited to: the right to affordable and accessible water from sustainable water sources for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, as referenced in Calif. AB 685 (2012); the right to a sustainable energy future based on sustainable renewable energy sources; the right to a sustainable natural climate unaltered by fossil fuel emissions; the right to sustainable, comprehensive waste disposal systems that do not degrade the environment; the right to clean indoor and outdoor air, clean water and clean soil that pose a negligible health risk to the public; and the right to a sustainable food system that provides healthy, locally grown food to the community; and

(d) These rights are not sufficiently safeguarded by the existing body of local, national and international environmental policies and laws, which are grossly inadequate to avert the mounting environmental crisis; and

(e) The inadequacy of the current framework of state, national and international policies and laws necessitates re-examination of the underlying societal and legal assumptions about our relationships with the environment and a renewed focus on effectuating these rights.

4.75.030 Purpose

This Chapter is created and exists for the purpose of codifying Santa Monica's commitment to achieving sustainability by among other things: (1) restoring, protecting and preserving our natural environment and all of its components and communities including, but not limited to the air, water, soil, and climate upon which all living things depend; (2) creating and promoting sustainable systems of food production and distribution, energy production and distribution, transportation, waste disposal, and water supply; and (3) to the full extent legally possible, subordinating the short term, private, financial interests of corporations and others to the common, long-term interest of achieving environmental and economic sustainability.

4.75.040 Rights of Santa Monica Residents and The Natural Environment

(a) All residents of Santa Monica possess fundamental and inalienable rights to: clean water from sustainable sources; marine waters safe for active and passive recreation; clean indoor and outdoor air; a sustainable food system that provides healthy, locally grown food; a sustainable

climate that supports thriving human life and a flourishing biodiverse environment; comprehensive waste disposal systems that do not degrade the environment; and a sustainable energy future based on renewable energy sources.

(b) Natural communities and ecosystems possess fundamental and inalienable rights to exist and flourish in the City Of Santa Monica. To effectuate those rights on behalf of the environment, residents of the City may bring actions to protect groundwater aquifers, atmospheric systems, marine waters, and native species within the boundaries of the City.

(c) All residents of Santa Monica possess the right to self-governance and to a municipal government which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent, and that corporate entities, and their directors and managers, do not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law that subordinate the community's rights to their private interests.

4.75.050 Biennial Report

At least once during every 24 month period, City staff shall prepare a written report to the community on the state of the local environment, the realization of the rights recognized in Chapter 4.75, and the City's progress in effectuating and enforcing the Sustainable City Plan and the policies and provisions of this Chapter. The report shall include recommendations for advancing and ensuring compliance with the Sustainable City Plan.

4.75.060 Biennial Hearing

The City Council will bi-annually review the report, conduct a public hearing, assess the City's progress in effectuating and enforcing both the Sustainable City Plan and the policies and provisions of this Chapter, and provide direction to staff to ensure compliance with the Plan's provisions and with the inherent rights of the people and natural communities of the City of Santa Monica described herein.

4.75.070 Compliance Assurance

The City or any City resident may bring an action to enforce any provision of the Santa Monica Municipal Code that advances the goals identified as enforceable in the Sustainable City Plan.

Section 2. Any provision of the Santa Monica Municipal Code or appendices thereto inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and no further, is hereby repealed or modified to that extent necessary to effect the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 4. The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall attest to the passage of this Ordinance. The City Clerk shall cause the same to be published once in the official newspaper within 15 days after its adoption. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from its adoption.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARSHA JONES MOUTRIE

City Attorney

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RIGHTS OF NATURE MOVEMENT

Rights of Nature Timeline

1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christopher Stone publishes his seminal essay, “Should Trees Have Standing – Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects,” 45 Southern California Law Review 450 (1972). ● U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas asserts that natural objects should have their own standing to sue for their own protection, in <i>Sierra Club v. Morton</i>, 405 U.S. 727 (1972) dissent.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thomas Berry publishes <i>The Great Work, Our Way into the Future</i>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Wild Law, A Manifesto for Earth Justice</i> by Cormac Cullinan proposes recognizing natural communities and ecosystems as legal persons with legal rights.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania becomes the first U.S. municipality to adopt a local ordinance (“bylaw” in Canada) recognizing the rights of nature to exist, thrive and evolve. ● Since 2006, over three dozen communities in seven U.S. states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Mexico, New York, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Maine – have followed in Tamaqua’s footsteps, passing local laws which codify nature’s rights.
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swiss Federal Ethics Committee finds “living organisms should be considered morally for their own sake because they are alive” and “arbitrary harm caused to plants to be morally impermissible.” ● Ecuador amends its Constitution to include the rights of nature to “exist, persist, maintain itself and regenerate; the rights of “any person” to enforce these rights in court; and the rights of nature to be fully restored if injured, independent of human claims for restitution.
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Belize court finds ship-damaged reef was not “property,” but a living thing entitled to damages for its own restoration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Over 35,000 people from 140 nations at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia adopted the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth. ● Pittsburgh, PA becomes the largest U.S. city to adopt a local ordinance recognizing rights of nature. ● Bolivia adopts "Law of the Rights of Mother Earth" outlining its commitment to Rights of Nature.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First successful case implementing Ecuador's "rights of nature" Constitutional provision, recognizing the rights of the Vilcabamba River had been violated by pollution and ordering full restoration. ● Ecuador, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Bolivia call on United Nations to include rights of nature in final agreement at the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ("Rio +20")
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supreme Court of India recognizes a fundamental duty of citizens under the Constitution to protect and enhance environment, ruling that "human interest[s] do not take automatic precedence and humans have obligations to nonhumans independently of human interest." ● Final agreement at United Nations Rio +20 Earth Summit reflects the recognition of rights of nature by several member states. ● Final Declarations of the People's Summit at Rio +20 Earth Summit call for adoption of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth and rights for waterways. ● The Rights of Mother Earth signature campaign delivered 120,000 signatures in support of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during a Major Group Assembly at the U.N. Rio+20 Earth Summit. ● New Zealand agreement proposed between Maori iwi and the government recognizes Whanganui River and tributaries as a legal entity, with rights to exist and flourish as an "integrated, living

	<p>whole” and guardians to be appointed to oversee the rights of the river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bolivia adopts "Law of Mother Earth and Integral Development for Living Well", providing details for implementing rights of nature in practice. ● Conference on Rights of Mother Earth: Restoring Indigenous Life Ways of Responsibility and Respect at Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence KS, brought together indigenous leaders from North and South America to explore organizing a system of jurisprudence that treats Mother Earth as a rights-bearing entity. ● The Kathmandu-based Center for Economic and Social Development (CESOD) proposed draft Rights of Nature constitutional provisions to the Nepal Constituent Assembly. Assembly was dissolved with no action. ● A coalition of citizens and organizations launched the National Ganga River Rights movement in India to recognize rights of the Ganga River Basin. The campaign slogan is, “Ganga’s Rights are Our Rights.” ● The Women's Congress for Future Generations gathered in Moab, Utah and created a Declaration of the Rights Held by Future Generations. The declaration is based on and recognizes the Rights of Nature. ● J. Stephen Cleghorn, an organic farmer in Jefferson County, PA became the first landowner in the US to use a conservation easement to recognize and protect the rights of water, forests and wild ecosystems.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two Vermont municipalities become the first to adopt resolutions urging the State Legislature to amend the Vermont Constitution to include the rights of nature; this effort is ongoing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Santa Monica, California becomes first West Coast U.S. municipality to adopt a local ordinance recognizing the rights of nature; also the first to do so in part to support its Sustainable City Plan.● In 2013, the County Commission of Mora County, NM became the first county in the US to pass an ordinance banning all oil and gas extraction and recognize rights of nature.● More US communities are proposing local rights based ordinances. For updates see www.CELDF.org.● A growing number of Conferences around the world are addressing Rights of Nature as keynote topics.
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