

ALLIANCE OF MOTHER NATURE'S GUARDIANS



The Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians is an international movement for peace, uniting indigenous peoples and their allies all over the planet, to ensure the protection of all living beings and future generations.

Since its establishment in 2015, on the occasion of the COP 21, the Alliance was strengthened by the organisation of its **First Great Assembly** in October 2017 in Brasilia. This historic event brought together 200 indigenous representatives from 80 different peoples and environmentalists from more than 25 countries, **thanks to the thousands of French-speaking donors of the call for crowdfunding "Join the Guardians of the Earth"**, in the summer of 2016. Adopted in the outcome of the Great Assembly in Brasília, the **Declaration of the Alliance of Guardians and Children of Mother Earth**, reproduced in these pages, is therefore an extraordinary collective work, an inspiring roadmap for humanity, that all those who join the Alliance are called upon to promote and apply.

Having been initiated by traditional indigenous chiefs from forest peoples, the Alliance naturally chose as its first project the development of a comprehensive plan for the protection of forests, their biodiversity, their waterways and indigenous peoples or traditional communities who depend on them and watch over them. It is about promoting cultural diversity, knowledge and providing viable alternatives to the false solutions put in place by States or corporations to combat climate change. We will need everyone so that forests and other ecosystems are recognized by humanity as sanctuaries, of which indigenous peoples or traditional communities will be the guardians, for the preservation of life and future generations.

Our youth is ready, so are we! Let us get to work and together protect our common future.

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THE DECLARATION OF THE ALLIANCE OF GUARDIANS AND CHILDREN OF MOTHER EARTH

A global call to the States and humanity for the preservation of life on the planet and future generations.

Having met as the Constituent Assembly of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians on November 28th, 2015, in Paris, representatives of indigenous peoples, personalities and non-governmental organizations from around the globe reminded:

- That the indigenous peoples represent over 370 million individuals in more than 70 countries on five continents;
- That they form more than 5000 different groups and speak more than 4000 languages.

At the end of the foregoing Constituent Assembly, the Alliance approved seventeen proposals, which are contained in Annex 1.

On the invitation of indigenous leaders from Brazil, indigenous representatives and their allies to meet again in Brasilia, from October 11 to 16, 2017, to strengthen the principles covered in the seventeen proposals.

This Second Assembly is meant to carry the voice of indigenous peoples and their allies, urging humanity to take the necessary measures to protect the sacred character of water, air, soil, earth, fire and lifecycle.

Considering that the change necessarily involves the respect for the Rights of Nature, and the Rights of Mother Earth, as well as the adoption of rules that recognize the equality of rights for ecosystems to exist, thrive and regenerate;

that it is necessary to transform our way of addressing nature i.e., treating it not as a property, but as a subject of law;

that the recognition of such rights can only take place if there is a paradigm shift, particularly if the world's anthropocentric and pyramidal approach is challenged;

they have therefore adopted the following declaration to alert States and humanity:

We, Guardians and Children of Mother Earth's, indigenous peoples and allied partners, held our 2nd Assembly, and our prophecies, our wisdom, our insights have allowed us to see that life on Mother Earth is in danger and is coming to a time of great transformation.

Indigenous peoples have continually taken care of Mother Earth and humanity. We wish that this can continue with the support of the people of the world. The indigenous prophecies place in us the responsibility to tell the world that we must live in peace with each other and Mother Earth to ensure harmony with her natural laws and with the Creation. We are calling for effective solutions that recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are calling to the world leaders, the States, the United Nations and civil society to start thinking about phasing out those juridical systems inherited from the colonial times and replacing them with others that take up Nature, Mother Earth as an entity which has fundamental rights. We must evolve towards a paradigm based on Indigenous thought and philosophy, which grants equal rights to Nature and which honors the interrelationships between all life forms and the preservation of Mother Earth. There is no separation between the rights of Indigenous peoples and the rights of Mother Earth.

As a consequence, we call upon all States and humanity to:

- ▶ **1. Call for the adoption by the United Nations and national and local governments, including Indigenous peoples governance structures, of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth**, as proclaimed by 35,000 people, representatives, and delegates at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 2010. That Declaration is a call stating fundamental and universal principles with the aim to achieve the recognition of the rights of the Mother Earth and all its living beings, to lay the foundations of a culture of respect which is necessary for living well (Buen Vivir) and to unite all inhabitants of the Earth around a common and universal interest: the Mother Earth is alive, she is our common home and we must respect and take care of her and future generations.
- ▶ **2. Implement and affirm the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 2007, in response to the recommendation of UN Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ratify and strictly apply the 169th Convention of the International Labor organization, adopted in 1989.

- ▶ **3. Encourage governments and companies to obtain the consent of Indigenous peoples according to the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)**, through collective decision in accordance with their own procedures prior to the approval of any projects affecting their land and territories, recognizing their right to refuse any project that will impact their peoples and life; including toxic polluting industries, agro-business and extractive activities mining such as subsurface and ocean submarine mining development; with assessment of the impacts on sacred areas, on culture and to human and environmental health.

Indigenous peoples shall have the right to revoke at any moment the consent that may have been granted.

- ▶ **4. Plan a fair transition – at the State and local levels – taking into account indigenous traditional and sacred knowledge, and ensure that their economies make a just transition away from the fossil fuel economy to 100% renewable clean energy**, leaving all the earth elements that release climate changing gasses when burned, under the soil and beneath the ocean floor. We also demand banning all new exploration and exploitation of oil, tar sands, oil/gas shale, fracking, coal, uranium, natural gas, including the transportation infrastructures.



▶ 5. Take action to strengthen the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 to address Indigenous peoples' rights and needs.

The primary concern of Indigenous peoples and their allies is that the Agreement is not strong enough and its ambitions need to be raised with real solutions to stop contenting ourselves with the current projections of voluntary emission cuts, which will eventually lead to an average increase of the world's temperature above 3-4 °C.

Indigenous peoples will educate their communities and develop strategy to take action addressing the following issues: The Paris Agreement is a trade agreement that does nothing but privatize, commodify and sell carbon offsets for ocean, forest and agricultural lands, allowing those who are the most responsible for greenhouse emissions not only to buy their way out of compliance for emission reduction, but also

to make a profit from it; the Agreement proposes a transition that relies on other dirty and destructive energy including hydraulic fracturing, nuclear power, agro-fuels, carbon sequestration and other technological proposals that pose serious ecological risks; as the operating text of the Agreement omits any mention of human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples, we need to work with States to develop protocols that include traditional knowledge in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; also, the Agreement does not address the remedial obligations from the Global North to the Global South, and the demand for payments for reparations and restoration of loss and damaged lands, territories and livelihoods to Indigenous peoples of the South and North.

We believe that climate change is not simply an environmental issue; it is the result of an



unjust economic system that is in the business of pursuing endless growth, concentrating wealth in the hands of a few and over-exploiting Nature to the point of collapse.

▶ **6. Adopt, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples, an international treaty establishing binding obligations on transnational corporations and other business enterprises** to respect human rights, which must include the rights of indigenous peoples, that would fully recognize all State's obligations applicable to Indigenous peoples by virtue of prevailing international instruments.

▶ **7. Put into place mechanisms and legislation to ensure that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be given in order to protect indigenous intellectual property rights, respecting their spiritual, sacred and secret dimensions of their knowledge.** States must prevent unlawful and offensive appropriation of traditional knowledge. The provisions of the FPIC should be applied in the context of accessing such knowledge and sharing of the profits generated.

▶ **8. Take action on the illegal trade in: wildlife, timber, forest products and resources, genetic resources,** endangered species and other biological resources. Assess the application of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as it applies to Indigenous people's rights.

▶ **9. Recognize the actions of corporate and governmental policies that result in the destruction, degradation, contamination and toxic poisoning of the environment, ecosystems and habitat as an eco-crime** against the territorial integrity of Mother Earth – also called ecocide. This shall align with the initiative to bring provisions of international crime of ecocide into the International Criminal Court.

▶ **10. Support the establishment of local, sub-national, nation-State and international programs and cooperation and partnership initiatives to protect, conserve and restore native forests and other ecosystems of the world within and near Indigenous peoples'**

lands and territories, other than market-based systems, with the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples. These programs must include funding for the demarcation and granting of property titles to indigenous forest dependent communities and to include indigenous-approved monitoring and surveillance of all indigenous lands. The self-management and full self-determination of Indigenous peoples in caring for the forests and biodiversity they protect is required. These programs should be evaluated with Indigenous peoples to enable them to be replicated in other forests regions in conjunction with mechanisms to finance the scaling up of implementation.

▶ **11. Urgently protect all primary forest spaces of this planet that are traditionally under the guardianship of indigenous peoples,** as sanctuaries since the UN has already recognized that their presence is a guaranteed factor of the non-deterioration of those invaluable environments.

Indigenous peoples must, once and for all, own and guard these territories and cannot be evicted. The Alliance underlines the need for creating as soon as possible, with the support of States, an international legal status to efficiently protect these vital ecosystems from any form of predation.

These ecosystems must not be used as part of a carbon market mechanisms that quantifies and commodifies Mother Earth, branded as payment for ecosystem services, carbon trading, carbon offsets, carbon pricing, mechanisms for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs), biodiversity offsets and financialization of Nature; turning nature into "units" to be sold in financial markets.





► **12. Protect and secure the future of oceans, oceanic biodiversity, marine species and ocean resources.**

If oceans die, we will die. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish ownership title (título de propiedad) to ocean, sea bed, sea areas, coastal seas and sea ice through the law of the sea and the process set up under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Therefore, to ensure the future of the oceans and oceanic biodiversity, we need to implement the following actions:

- Cease all subsidies from governments of the world to industrialized fishing operations;
- Ban all industrialized fishing technologies like super trawlers, longlines, drift nets, purse seiners, all plastic monofilament nets and lines etc;
- Enforce international regulations against illegal fishing operations;
- Ban all whaling activities, with the sole exception of the one practiced by indigenous peoples for food purposes, to ensure their continued existences;
- Ban all offshore drilling, fossil fuel exploration and sub-marine mining;
- Encourage diversity by favoring population growth in the fishes, marine mammals, seabirds and all other marine organisms;
- End the feeding of fish-meal (some 40% of the fish caught) to domestic animals like pigs chickens, and salmon;
- Stop the dumping of chemicals into the sea and plastic, agricultural run-off and radioactive materials from entering the sea;
- Put an end to sonic pollution caused by sonar exploration for oil and sonic weapon systems.

► **13. Ensure, within the UNESCO framework, the protection and respect of sites and sacred spaces with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples,** in accordance with FPIC, and taking into account their biological and cultural diversity, as well as their land and governance rights.

► **14. Ban the construction of new hydroelectric dams.**

We call for binding international and national laws to regulate the maintenance of existing, permitted hydroelectric dams in operation.

The Alliance also recommends the dismantling of dams built in violation of the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the affected indigenous peoples and other affected populations, and of all other applicable obligations in force.

► **15. Recognize rights for future generations, in particular through the adoption of a declaration of rights (and duties) of humankind.**

The text will aim to remind that the present generation has a duty to protect the heritage bequeathed by past generations, but also make choices which engage its responsibility towards future generations.

The text will establish four fundamental principles: the principle of responsibility, equity and solidarity between generations, the principle of the human dignity, the principle of continuity of the existence of humankind, and finally the principle of non- discrimination between generations.

This aligns with Indigenous worldviews which express that all decisions must take into consideration their effect on future generations of all peoples, life and nature.

▶ **16. Recognize that water is a living being that has rights that must be protected now and for future generations.**

Water is a living spirit that has a right to be treated as an ecological entity, with its own inherent right to exist, including watersheds and aquatic ecosystems having right to be healthy and clean. Water can be either rain water, rivers, source of rivers, headwaters, glaciers, ice, water caches, springs, lakes, streams, waterfalls, coastlines, subsidiaries, estuaries, underground water tables, aquifers or other water bodies. Water is not a commodity and the States must ban the privatization of water. All of Mother Earth's species have inherent rights to water. In particular, Indigenous peoples have inherent rights to water and waterways for navigation, customary and cultural uses. All Indigenous peoples have a right to access adequate supplies of water that are safe for human consumption, hygiene and cooking.

▶ **17. Recognize – at State and governmental levels – and take action against the targeting of Indigenous women and find new ways to end violence that is linked between the dominant society's treatment and objectification of Mother Earth and women.**

Humanity must recognize the importance of indigenous women as caretakers of biodiversity. Women have the strength and resilience to confront man-made climate change and environmental injustice. Indigenous women and Mother Earth

bear the consequences of these effects; compounded by a patriarchal capitalistic society. With extractive industries, women are victim of domestic and sexual abuse; sex trading and prostitution; alcoholism and drug abuse causing disruption of maintaining healthy indigenous families and communities. Women are the "First Environment". Nursing infants are the first victims. Women experience the effects of toxic chemicals and high toxic body burdens in their uterus, causing spontaneous abortions, breast milk contamination, causing harm to future generations. Funding mechanisms must be created to empower Indigenous women and their communities to have a voice in local, national and international levels as decision-makers in climate, energy, environment and health policy.

This humanity made invisible is literally killing Indigenous women, children and future generations.

▶ **18. Protect the existence and respect the will of Indigenous peoples in situation of voluntary isolation to accept or refuse any contact.**

States must protect their territories and must recognize Indigenous peoples already contacted by national societies as guardians of the autonomy and the rights of these peoples. Governments and individuals must behold responsible for violations for rights and damage against Indigenous peoples in situation of voluntary isolation.



THE SANCTUARIZATION OF FORESTS' PROJECT TO FEDERATE CIVIL ACTION



► WHY A PROJECT OF SANCTUARIZATION OF FORESTS ?

The forests of our Mother Earth are home to millions of people, mostly indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

These populations protect the forests because they need them to survive, maintain their lifestyle and ancestral traditions, likewise humanity as a whole needs the forests to survive. This is not a recent concern. Yet the attempts to protect and conserve forests initiated by the UN and various nations have generally been inadequate or have ended in failure. This is the case, for example, with the carbon offset programs such as REDD and its abundant variations and most of so called 'nature based solutions'.

► CONTENTS AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Elaborated with experts from all over the world and taking into account environmental, economic, social and cultural factors, our project of sanctuarization of forests will focus primarily on the ones that are traditionally inhabited by indigenous peoples or communities neighboring their supplying rivers.

It will aim at implementing Proposal 11 of the Declaration of Alliance of the Guardians and Children of Mother Earth, adopted in Brasilia in October 2017, which states that:

"The Alliance underlines the need for creating as soon as possible, with the support of States, an international legal status to efficiently protect these vital ecosystems from any form of predation. These ecosystems must not be used as part of a carbon market mechanisms that quantifies and commodifies Mother Earth."

Our ambition is, once this project is elaborated, to advertise it to the public, personalities and organizations of the entire world so it can receive massive support.

A large scale international campaign would then constitute an efficient way of advocating with state governments, the UN and the international community for the urgent sanctuarization of the forests inhabited by indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

This would imply the creation of a new international legal status, working together with a model of alert, protection and enforcement.

These sanctuaries would have to be protected from privatization and allow their occupying people to continue to be guardians and protectors, as well as to ensure conservation and even development of their autonomy.

Other concepts defended by the Declaration will also be included in the implementation of the project, such as : the recognition of the rights of nature, the acknowledgment of eco-crimes (or ecocides) and rights of future generations, the recognition of natural sacred sites, the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), the protection of water and biodiversity...

► ACTIONS

The project will materialize through a series of actions and initiatives on an international scale, such as :

- elaborating and promoting pilot projects of conservation or restoration of forests under the monitoring of indigenous peoples or traditional communities ;
- opening a dialog to lead to negotiations with the most concerned governments ;
- elaborating advocacy in collaboration with the UN ;
- establishing, on an international scale, of promotion and communication strategies for civil society and the media.

If you wish to join the expert group for the "Sanctuarization of Forests" project, write to **info@allianceofguardians.org**



CHRONOLOGY

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2013

July - Metuktire, Brazil

In his village of Metuktire, in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, cacique (chief) Raoni asks Gert-Peter Bruch, founder of Planète Amazone, to help him bring together indigenous representatives from around the world in order to establish a joint declaration aimed at world leaders.

October - Brasilia, Brazil

First discussions on the project with several indigenous leaders (including Paulinho Paikan and Pirakuman Yawalapiti) during the mobilization marking the 25th anniversary of the Constitution of the country, while the constitutional right of the indigenous people to demarcate their lands is threatened by an amendment (PEC 215).

2014

June - Brazil, France, Monaco, England, Norway

During the "SOS Amazônia Tour", the project of a great global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples is presented by cacique Raoni and Planète Amazone to many

prominent people, including the President of the French National Assembly, the Prince of Monaco, Prince Charles, the King of Norway, the Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and representatives of the Sami people.

2015

April - Brasilia, Brazil

With cacique Raoni, traditional indigenous leaders Davi Yanomami, Aritana Yawalapiti, Pirakuman Yawalapiti, Afukaka Kuikuro and Tabatha Kuikuro sign a global call to join the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians at COP21.

July - Paris, France

At the Conscience Summit for Climate, indigenous leader Valdelice Veron, of the Guarani-Kaïowa people, calls for recognition of the crime of ecocide and to join the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians.

November / December - Paris, France

International launch of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians in Paris, on the occasion of COP 21 (November 30 - December 12).

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On November 28, 2015 at the Théâtre de la Reine Blanche, in Paris, around sixty indigenous representatives (including Mindahi Bastida and Tom Goldtooth), environmentalists and representatives of organizations from around the world, met in a Constitutive Assembly from the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians at the invitation of Cacique Raoni Metuktire and Planète Amazone.

On December 1 and 2, was held the Summit of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians chaired by Cacique Raoni.

Also on the 2nd, a delegation from the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians presented President François Hollande with the Alliance's first 17 proposals.

2016

June - Internet

Responding to a new appeal from cacique Raoni, Planète Amazone mobilizes French artists Pierre Richard, Bernard Lavilliers and Hugues Aufray, as well as Paul Watson and Nicolas Hulot to raise funds for a Great Assembly of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians to be held in Brazil.

Seven preparatory missions are needed to mobilize participants around the world and find partners.

2017

April - Brasilia, Brazil

The forthcoming Great Assembly of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians is announced at the Free Land Camp, organized by APIB. Indigenous representatives from all regions are invited to participate.

October - Luisiania, Brazil

From October 11 to 16, the first International Great Assembly of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians is held in Luisiania (on the outskirts of Brasilia).

For one week, nearly 200 indigenous representatives from around the world and personalities committed to the preservation of the environment discuss topics of global importance for the future of humanity: climate, biodiversity, environment, energy, technology, conflicts, human rights, rights of nature etc... Nearly 80 peoples (Kayapo, Masai, Maori, Otomi, Saami, Dayak,

Yanomami, Navajo, Mapuche, Ashaninka, Sarayaku, Papou, Kanak ...) from 25 countries and five continents, are represented.



Together, drawing inspiration from the challenges faced by indigenous peoples on their threatened traditional territories and their capacity for resilience - whether they are forest, island or arctic peoples, whether they live in the desert, in the steppes, in the mountains - they draft and adopt the Declaration of the Alliance of Guardians and Children of Mother Earth.

From that universal declaration, the Alliance will develop inspiring strategies and projects, offering humankind solutions for conservation and restoration of natural environments and non-predatory development models, aiming to preserve climate, biodiversity and peace for the benefit of future generations.

November - Bonn, Germany

Participation of the Alliance to the COP23 in Bonn (Germany). Meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron.

2018

May - Paris, France

Ten international delegates from the Alliance present the Declaration to the public, media and politicians



June - Nisqually Territory, United States

Participation of the Alliance in the Mother Earth conference on the Nisqually indigenous territory, in front of indigenous representatives and allies from all over the world.

July - Fontainebleau, France

Participation, on August 30 and 31 in Fontainebleau, in the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) 70th anniversary conference.

August - Vatican

On the 14th, Mindahi Bastida (Otomi people, Mexico), member of the Alliance Executive Committee, delivers the Declaration to Pope Francis.

September - Quito, Ecuador

On 27 and 28, participation in the International Symposium on the Rights of Nature organized by the GARN (Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature).

December - Katowice, Poland

From December 1 to 10, participation in the COP24.

to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate and those of sustainable development of the United Nations.

October - Paris, France

On the 23rd and 24th, conference for the benefit of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians «Planetary climate / biodiversity emergency: rebuilding with indigenous peoples to break the deadlock». Extinction Rebellion action in favor of the Alliance, place des Invalides, to ask France to ratify ILO Convention 169, recognizing indigenous peoples and their right to free, prior and informed consultation.

December - Madrid, Spain

Alliance participation in COP25.

2021

February - United States, France

Participation of the Alliance to the "Protecting the Amazon" program, a 4 episode documentary of the EarthX channel, broadcast live and then made available in replay. Also featuring Jane Goodall, Paul Watson, David Suzuki, Princess Esmeralda of Belgium, Nicolas Hulot...

March - Europe

Launch of a petition (change.org) entitled "the fate of the Amazon is linked to ours: Europe must act immediately", bringing together indigenous delegates from the Alliance in Brazil, representatives of youth movements committed to the climate and around 100 civil society organizations.

September - Marseille, France

Participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Organization of a symposium entitled "How to combat green colonialism", at the Centrale Marseille engineering school. Collaborations with the Normandy Chair for Peace.

September - Brussels & Pepinster, Belgium

Creation of a coalition bringing together indigenous representatives of the Alliance, parliamentarians and civil society organizations.

Meeting with those affected by the Pepinster climate disaster with Youth for Climate - Belgium and Princess Esmeralda.

September - France

Tour in France and participation in the Normandy World Peace Forum.

October / November - Glasgow, Scotland

Participation in COP26. Collaboration with Stop Ecocide International, International Rivers and many other partners.

2019

April - France and French-speaking countries

On the 10th, publication of a statement of the Alliance of Mother Nature's Guardians in the French newspaper Le Monde : Call of the indigenous peoples: "Since the election of Jair Bolsonaro, we are living the beginnings of an apocalypse".

From 5th to 20th, a woman chief cacique Tanoné, of the Kariri Xocó people (Brazil), toured France as a delegate of the Alliance.

May - worldwide

Participation in the 6-language appeal launched by hundreds of civil society organizations from around the world: The false promises of hydropower: How dams fail





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