



**GARN**  
GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR  
THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

## **Statutes of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature**

*(Adopted at the Hacienda Manteles, Patate, Ecuador, on 5 September 2010)*

### **Preamble**

We, the people and organisations meeting at the Hacienda Manteles at the foot of Mama Tungurahua from 2 to 5 September 2010 (“the Founding Members”);

Recognizing that we are all part of an indivisible, living Earth community of interrelated and interdependent beings;

Conscious of being complemented by the presence of the lizard, the hummingbird, water, fire, earth, moon, sky and other beings to create an integral Earth Community;

Motivated by our love of Earth and of all beings and by a vision of creating societies that live in harmony with Nature, are socially just and spiritually fulfilling;

Recognizing that ancient native communities have always defended Mother Earth’s rights because those rights are inherent in their cosmovision.

Believing that the universal recognition and implementation of the Rights of Nature is essential to achieve this vision and to avert catastrophic harm to humanity and life as we know it;

Hereby adopt these Statutes.

### **Establishment of Alliance**

1. We hereby establish the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (“the Alliance”) to recognize the Rights of Nature and to promote the universal adoption and effective

implementation of these Rights.

2. The Alliance may apply for official recognition in any country.

## **Membership**

3. Any person or organization (other than a sovereign State) may become a member of the Alliance if that person or organization:

- Endorses the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth proclaimed on 22 April 2010 at Cochabamba, Bolivia;
- Endorses these Statutes.

4. The Founding Members of the Alliance and **signatories to these Statutes are listed in Part A of Appendix 1.**

5. Each member of the Alliance must promote the recognition and effective implementation of the Rights of Nature (also referred to as “Mother Earth” or the “Earth Community”) and must act in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of the Alliance.

6. The Alliance has the right to refuse any person or organization membership or to terminate the membership of any member in accordance with these Statutes. The Alliance shall also have the power to create additional membership qualifications.

## **Fundamental Principles**

7. The Fundamental Principles of the Alliance are set out in Appendix 2.

## **Operational Principles**

8. The functioning of the Alliance shall be guided by the following operational principles:

- Decisions by the Alliance shall be taken by consensus unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing.
- No member may vote on a matter in which they have a personal interest.
- If the Alliance cannot reach consensus on whether or not to participate in a meeting or activity or to support a statement or position, that does not preclude any members from doing so in their own name.

- A member is not entitled to represent the Alliance or to speak on its behalf unless the Executive Committee or the GARN Staff Coordinator has approved.
- Each member of the Alliance must collaborate in good faith with other members, and, as far as reasonably possible, act in a manner that promotes the cohesion and effective functioning of the Alliance and respects the views of other members.
- Any entity that forms part of the Alliance may adopt its own rules of procedure, insofar as these do not conflict with these Statutes or with decisions of the Executive Committee.
- The Alliance must respect the right of each member to decide which activities of the Alliance to participate in and which statements or positions proposed by other members to support.

## **Founding Council**

9. The Founding Council consists of the Founding Organisations and Founding Members listed in Part B of Appendix 1.

10. The purpose of the Founding Council is to ensure that, regardless of changing representation and leadership, the Global Alliance remains true to its original mission.

11. The Founding Council must:

- make an ongoing analysis of GARN's decisions and trajectory in relation to its Fundamental Principles;
- ensure that the Global Alliance acts in accordance with these Principles.
- promote harmony, solidarity and unity within the Alliance; and
- meet at least once every year.

12. A quorum for a meeting of the Founding Council shall be 75% of the members present in person or by proxy. A member who is not physically in the presence of other members of the Founding Council shall be regarded as being present if he or she is able to hear and speak to the other members of the Founding Council through technological resources.

13. Decisions of the Founding Council must be made by consensus.

14. The Founding Council may:

- amend these Statutes;

- amend any strategy or policy of the Alliance; and
- overrule a decision of the Executive Committee.

## **Executive Committee**

15. The Alliance shall be co-ordinated by an Executive Committee of thirteen people representing the thematic and geographic breadth of the Rights of Nature movement. The Executive Committee is not a management body, but a governance body whose function it is to steer the direction of the Alliance as a whole.

16. The Executive Committee will meet on a monthly basis.

17. Out of the 13 people on the Executive Committee, 6 will always be regional representatives (North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania), 4 will be non-regional hub representatives (Indigenous Council, Youth, Legal, and Academic), 1 will be the GARN Team Coordinator, and the remaining 3 will be nominated and picked by the Executive Committee itself.

18. New regional representatives will be nominated onto the Executive Committee by the Hubs, or, in the case of regions not yet represented by Hubs, by a panel of Rights of Nature leaders from the region invited to do so by GARN. They should not be the same people as the Hub facilitators.

19. New non-regional Hub representatives will be nominated onto the Executive Committee by their respective hubs. They should not be the same people as the Hub facilitators.

20. The Executive Committee will cycle at least two members every year, to ensure that there is both change and continuity in GARN's leadership. Leaving the Executive Committee will be voluntary, mutually agreed upon, and done with at least two months' prior notice so that a voting process may be held in the respective Hub or regional panel.

21. Prior members of the Executive Committee may be re-elected after having stepped down.

22. A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be 75% of the members present in person or by proxy. A member who is not physically in the presence of other members of the Executive Committee shall be regarded as being present if he or she is able to hear and speak to the other members of the Executive Committee through technological resources.

23. The Executive Committee must:

- co-ordinate the Alliance;
- meet once a month;
- make decisions by consensus;
- prepare and approve a strategic plan and budget for the Alliance at least once every two years;
- coordinate and monitor the activities of the Working Groups; and
- invite other members to participate in enlarged Executive Committee meetings where necessary or desirable to address specific issues.

## **Hubs**

24. Hubs are semi-autonomous committees formed by GARN members and member organizations to coordinate the Global Alliance's projects in a particular geographic region, demographic, or area of expertise.

25. Regional Hubs include the Europe, Latinoamérica and Africa Hubs, and non-regional Hubs include the Indigenous Council and the Legal, Academic, and Youth Hubs.

26. Hubs must meet regularly and make decisions through their own internal governance structure, which must include one Facilitator in charge of liaising with the Executive Committee and the GARN Team staff. It is recommended that Hubs have three Facilitators, in charge of Membership, Communications, and Governance, which will be able to coordinate with the respective Facilitators from other Hubs and with the GARN Team staff.

27. Unlike Working Groups, Hubs are permanent structures, which have their own membership systems and adopt projects successively, rather than being created to address a single project.

28. Any GARN member organization may apply to create a Hub, and the Executive Committee must vote to approve its creation. Hubs must fulfill a necessity; that is, they must exist to coordinate the work of the Global Alliance in an area where Rights of Nature work is occurring without the presence of the Alliance, such as a region where we are underrepresented.

29. Upon their creation Hubs are provided with a seed fund to promote their growth. They may apply for additional funds from the Global Alliance's budget by submitting project proposals to the GARN Executive Committee.

30. Hubs may apply for their own funding to any grant or fellowship so long as it does not come into conflict with the fundraising efforts of the Global Alliance as a whole. All funding applications should be coordinated with the GARN Team fundraiser.

## **Working Groups**

31. Any two or more organization members may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, establish a Working Group to deal with a specific function or theme on behalf of the Alliance.

32. A Working Group must report regularly on its activities to the Executive Committee, and if requested, to the Founding Council.

## **Advisory Council**

33. The Executive Committee may invite any person to become a member of the Advisory Council of the Alliance if the Executive Committee believes that that person will contribute to the effectiveness of the Alliance, for example by virtue of their skills, reputation or position.

34. A person who accepts appointment as a member of the Advisory Council becomes a member of the Alliance and must advise the Founding Council, Executive Committee and General Assembly and promote the Alliance, its vision and Fundamental Principles.

35. The Advisory Council will meet on a yearly basis.

## **Adoption of the Statutes**

The Executive Committee shall within three years of the signature of this Declaration, present a draft Constitution to the General Assembly for adoption.

Signed in both the Spanish and English languages at Hacienda Manteles, Patate, Ecuador this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010

Revised and updated in June of 2021.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **PART A: FOUNDING MEMBERS**

PART B: FOUNDING ORGANISATIONS

PART C: INITIAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**APPENDIX 2**

**FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ALLIANCE**

The primary premise of the Alliance is that in order to insure an environmentally sustainable future, humans must reorient themselves from an exploitative and ultimately self-destructive relationship with nature, to one that honors the deep interrelation of all life and contributes to the health and integrity of the natural environment. An essential step in achieving this is to create a system of jurisprudence that sees and treats nature as a fundamental, rights bearing entity and not as mere property to be exploited at will. Breaking out of the human-centered limitations of our current legal systems by recognizing, respecting and enforcing Rights of Nature is one of the most transformative and highly leveraged actions that humanity can take to create a sustainable future for all.

As members of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, our decisions and actions will be guided by the following principles.

- As members of an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings we each have a responsibility to contribute to the health and integrity of the whole Earth community.
- In order to achieve our vision of societies that flourish in harmony with other beings, are socially just and spiritually fulfilling, we must recognize, respect and defend the rights of all beings.
- We will work in solidarity with one another to promote the recognition by all people that all beings are subjects with rights, to ensure that humans respect and uphold those rights, and to defend the rights of all beings.
- We will integrate practices and rituals into our work that strengthen our connection to, and respect for, the Earth community and that evoke gratitude and humility regarding our place within it.