

# First International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth

Celebrating World Environment Day

Mexico City | June 1-5 2016





## **Movement: horizon, path, and destiny**

### **Horizon**

It is time to globalize legislation for the Rights of Mother Earth and establish a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature, to recognize her as a living being- the biggest of all-, to protect her, restore her, and link her to humanity by way of respect and preservation of all her species.

Only this action can stop the irrational exploitation and the utilitarian view that today drives the relationship between mankind and Nature.

Therefore, this declaration is the first step to ensure the future of the innumerable forms of existence, including the human species, on our planet.

### **Path**

Mexico has gained significant legal steps to shift from an anthropocentric to a biocentric view, such as the Law of Protection of the Earth in Mexico City and the constitutional recognition of the rights of Nature in the state of Guerrero. These legislative advancements



motivate various national and international organizations and social networks to convene the First International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth on June 1st through 5th, 2016 in Mexico City, surrounding World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5th.

## **Destiny**

The First International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth brings legislators, scientists, philosophers, ecologists, artists, keepers of ancient traditions, and social and spiritual leaders together to define actions that ignite social awareness —extensive, diverse, and in solidarity— centered around the importance of legislating the Rights of Mother Earth.





## **Legacy: continuity, web weaving, and consciousness raising**

The First International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth will leave a legacy in three areas

### **Continuity**

- » Manifesto to be presented at the COP 7 (Convention on Biological Diversity), which will take place December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.
- » Multidisciplinary international work group to provide follow-up on the implementation of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Nature.
- » Creation of a manual to mobilize national and international legislations in favor of a biocentric vision.
- » Establishment of a Global Senate for the Rights of the Mother Earth, in accordance with the International Tribunal of Mother Earth Rights.
- » Editorial and audiovisual memory that accounts for this historical initiative.

### **Web Weaving**

- » Permanent point of convergence for the visions surrounding the Rights of Mother Earth.

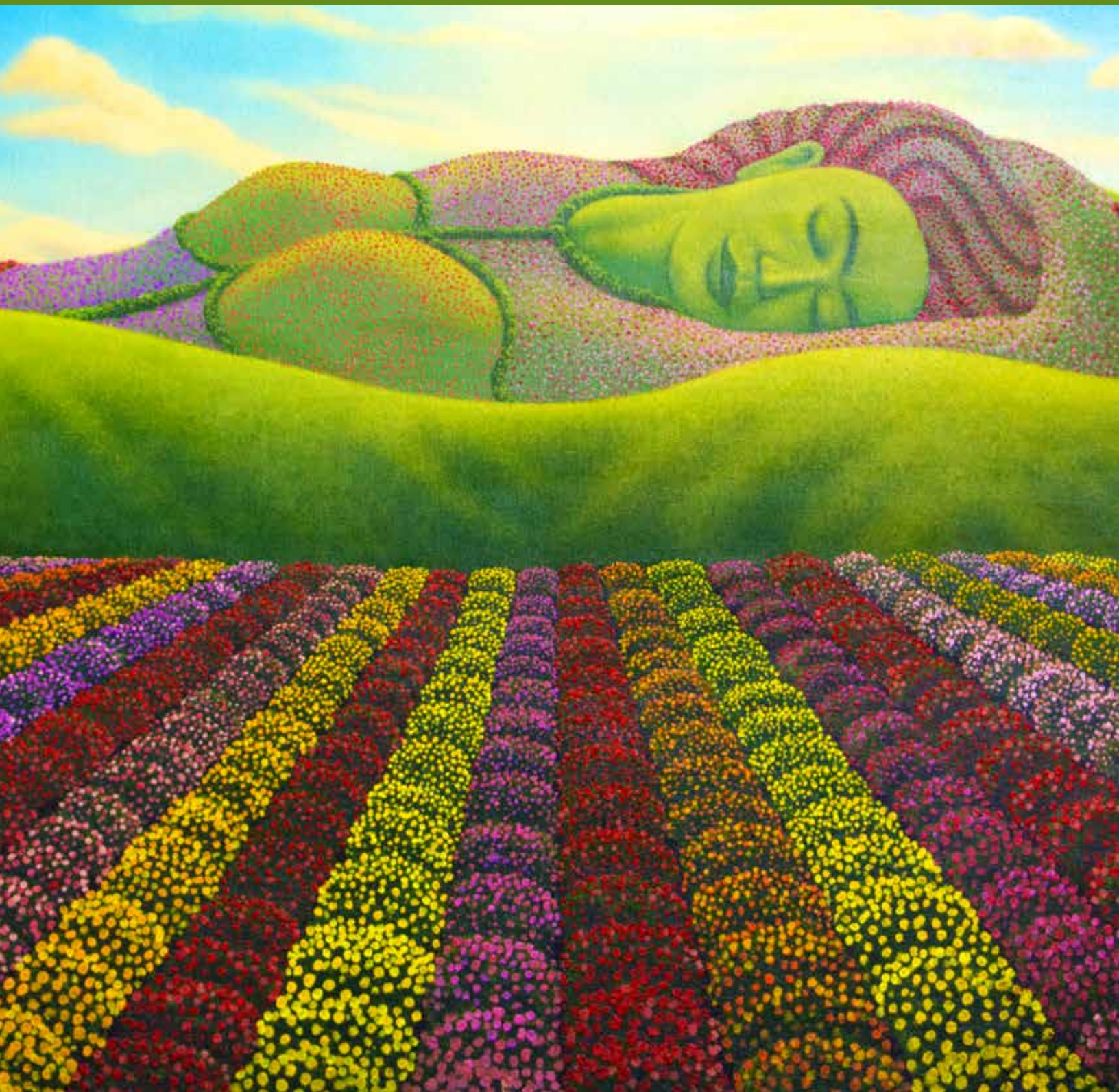


- » Analysis and dissemination of the words, projects and thoughts of those fighting for the rights of nature.
- » Map of new networks to ensure respect for the natural rights and common goods of the Earth.
- » Groundwork to strengthen, support, and implement the current Law of Protection of the Earth in Mexico City and to call for a constitutional amendment to enact the Rights of Mother Earth in the rest of the country on the occasion of the Constitutional Centennial of Mexico in 2017.

### **Consciousness Raising**

- » Broadcasting a message of global impact from the depths of Mexico.
- » Recognition and placement of indigenous peoples as guardians of the wisdom to preserve our planet.
- » Worldwide spreading of a wave of awareness regarding the Rights of Mother Earth.
- » Status that gives rise to biocentric studies on the relationship between Nature, the economy, social processes, political platforms and cultural identities.

# Program





## Multidisciplinary Forum for Mother Earth

### University Cultural Center Tlatelolco-UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) | June 1, 2, & 3

Roundtables and lectures with leading activists, theorists, researchers and community organizers in the world regarding the unbalanced relationship between Mother Earth, the minerals, the waters, the plants, the animals and human beings, with an emphasis on the vision, knowledge and experiences of indigenous peoples.

### Thematic Geography

The map of conversations covers the following topics:

- » Earth: the effects of an economic perspective on the environmental balance (such as mining-water relations)
- » Plants: the role of agriculture in the contemporary world (such as deforestation and the production of genetically modified organisms)
- » Animals: their presence within the different human spheres and the paradigm shift of these relationships (such as bullfights)
- » Humans: inherent rights, social contexts and individual-community ties (such as human rights)



## Intersectionalities

These public dialogues are aligned to six frameworks:

- » Legislative
- » Social
- » Scientific-ecological
- » Eco-pedagogic
- » Cultural-spiritual
- » Tourist-situational







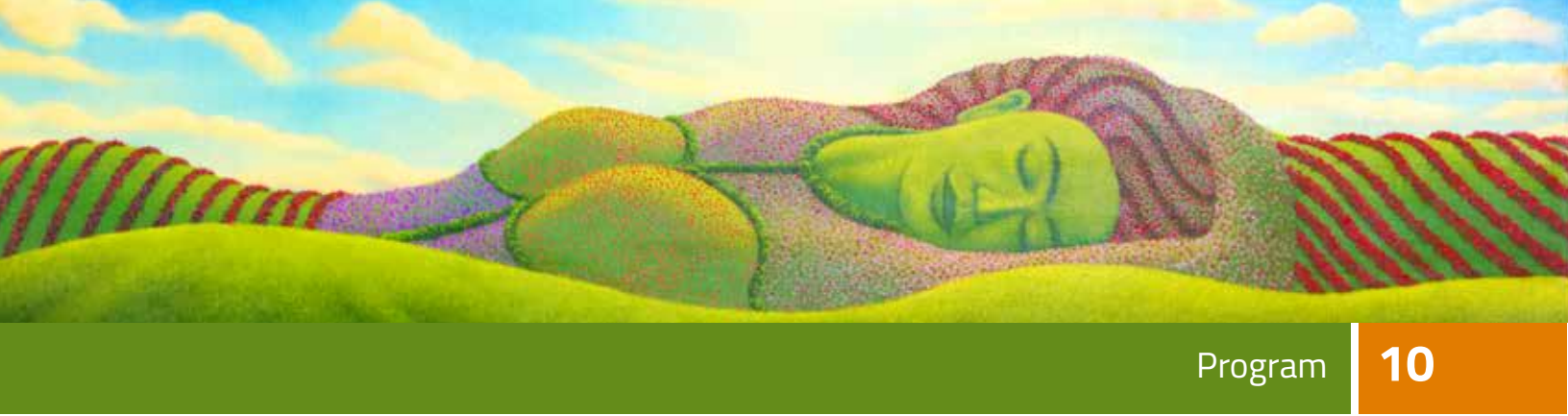
## Pachamama Fest Mexico 2016

### Monumental PLAZA DE TODOS, Colonia Ciudad de los Deportes | June 4th

Mega-concert with international “artists” committed to environmental and humanitarian causes. This concert brings rock, troubadour, traditional music, electronic sounds and many other genres reverberating in pro of the earth.

Artivists (in alphabetical order)

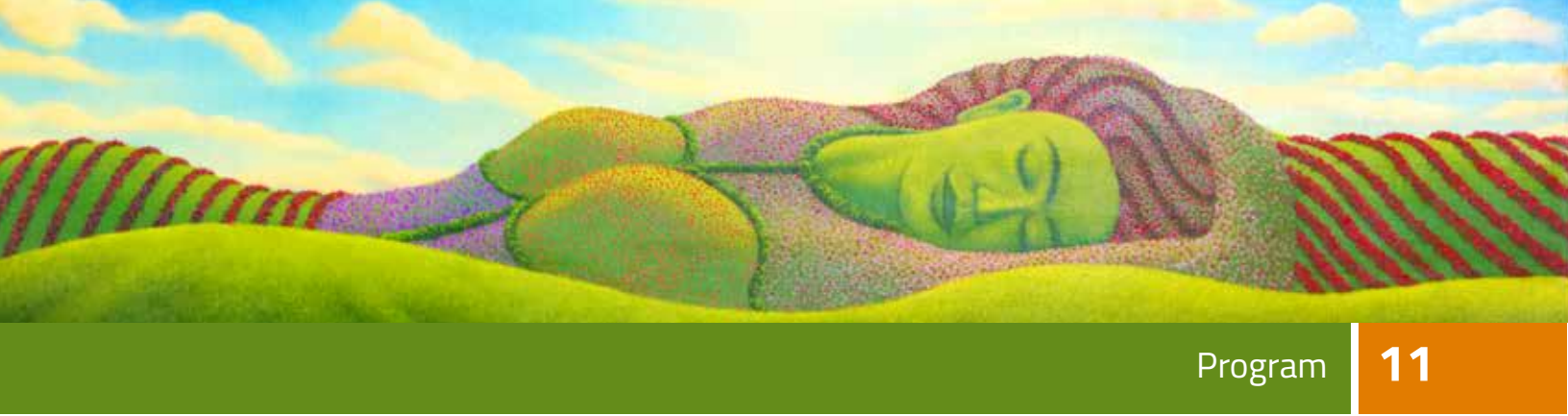
- » Aterciopelados
- » Celso Piña: cumbia (México)
- » Choc Quib Town: hip hop and alternative music (Colombia)
- » Chucho Merchán: rock and pop (Colombia)
- » David Ruiz
- » Doctor Krápula: rock (Colombia)
- » Edgard Oceransky: troubadour, pop and ballad (México)
- » El Gran Silencio: fusion of rock, reggae, dancehall and hip-hop with traditional Latin-American music such as cumbia, vallenato and norteño (Mexico)
- » Enrique Quezadas: fusion of blues, jazz, danzón and huapango (México)
- » José Hidalgo: medicine music (Venezuela)
- » Mexicanto: troubadour (México)



- » Moyenei Valdés: afro, hip hop, soul and latin-american sounds (Chile)
- » Paloma del Cerro
- » Rap de Luz
- » Roco Pachukote: fusion of rock, ska, reggae, punk, danzón and bolero (México)
- » Rubén Albarrán con Hoppo!: Latin American folk (México)
- » Susana Harp: traditional music (México)
- » Santiago Cruz
- » Venado Azul
- » Viento Wirikuta

Plus other artists that join this initiative.





## **Root Words**

This event includes messages from world personalities in support of harmony between all expressions of life and the collection of signatures for the Rights of Mother Earth.

## **Peace Village and Festival “From the Heart of Mother Earth”**

### **Lindbergh Forum, Parque México, Colonia Condesa June 5th, World Environment Day**

Installed during World Environment Day, the Peace Village and Festival becomes a space for ceremonies with the participation of Grandmothers and Grandfathers of the first nations and people of diverse spiritual paths, as well as other activities with citizenship participation.

## **Spiritual Sowing**

Ritual planting of a tree with two symbolic aspects: gratitude to the Earth and a spiritual return of those who have disappeared physically but who now encourage our spirit.

This action will kick off the National Reforestation Campaign led by Reforestamos Mexico, which will plant 26 thousand trees.



## Permanent Branches

### Living Market

A mobile space that is present in the Thematic Forum, the Pachamama Fest and the Peace Village. It offers information, interaction and connection between citizens, artistic activities and installations, workshops, participation of social movements, organic farmers, healers, dancers, eco-technique specialists, publishers, videographers, and community organizers.

### Native Knowledge

Exhibition which shows the ancestral relationship of indigenous peoples with Mother Earth.

### The Earth Online

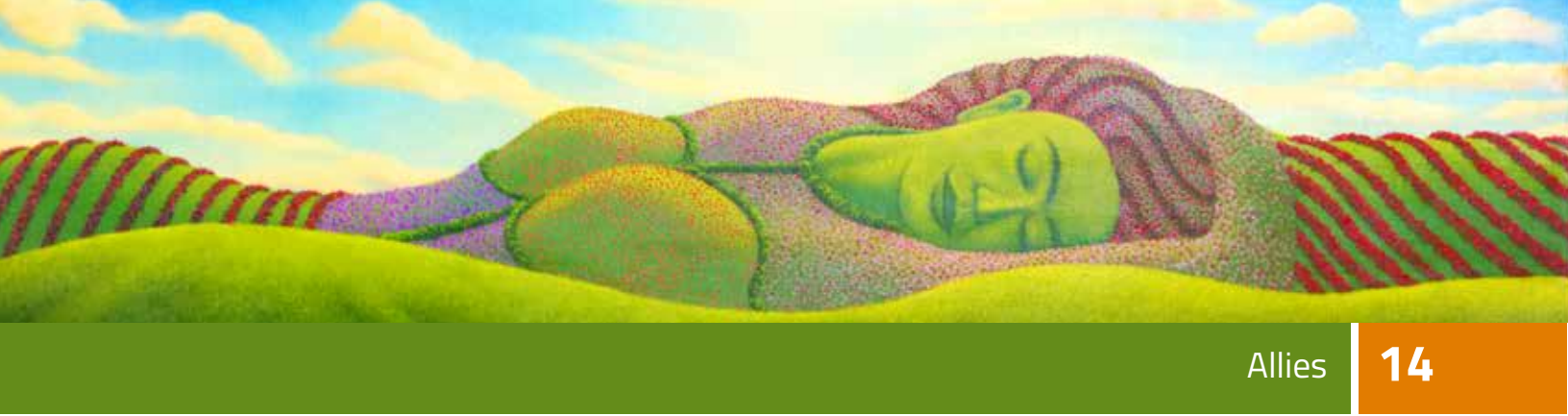
Interaction and dissemination on the Internet brings about three elements for learning and for the exchange of experiences:

- » Previous Conversations: a calendar of dialogues that allows those interested to converse with field experts on the themes from the First International Forum for the Rights of Mother Earth.
- » Real-time Viewing: live streaming of lectures and workshops.
- » Digital Milpa (traditional crop system that centers around corn): compilation of doubts, questions, operative needs and appropriate strategies for the proper development of initiatives in pro of Mother Earth. The “harvest” is comprised of advice from field experts.



# Allies





## Mexico

Anima Naturalis

Animal Heroes

Cali-México

Caravana Biotu

Caravana de Medicina Ancestral y Alternativa

Centro de las Artes Indígenas (Center of Indigenous Arts)

Chaski Fest-México

Círculo Internacional del Sonido

Colectivo Futuro Ancestral

Colectivo Ojos Verdes

Colectivo Raíz Espiral

Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Communities)

Consejo de Visiones Guardianes de la Tierra (Earthkeepers Council of Visions)

Consejo Supremo Totonaca (Totonaca Supreme Council)

Delfín Sensorama Hernández

Diálogo de Ecosistemas Sociales

El Buen Viaje

El Charco producciones

Espolea

Cumbre Tajín (Tajin Summit)

Festival Xicome

Guadalupe Madre Tierra, A. C. (Guadalupe Mother Earth)



Instituto de Ecología, A. C. Xalapa (Institute of Ecology)

Organi-k a. c.

Pepeña Fest

Renacimiento Mexicano (Mexican Rebirth)

Reforestamos México A. C. (Reforesting Mexico)

Ruta Ahimsa (Ahimsa Route)

Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Equidad para las Comunidades (Ministry of Rural Development and Equity for Communities)

Semillas de Vida (Seeds of Life)

Sin Maíz no hay País (No Nation Without Corn)

The Climate Reality Project-México

Transición México (Mexico Transition)

Universidad de Guerrero

Universidad Veracruzana (University of Veracruz)

## **International**

All Species Project

Congreso Biorregional de Norteamérica (Bioregional Congress of Northamerica)

Consejo de Asentamientos Sustentables de las Américas (Council of Sustainable Settlements of the Americas)

Federation of International Communities

Fundación Cuatro Mundos (Four Worlds Foundation)

Global Alliance for Nature's Rights



Harmony with Nature

MAPAS-Brasil

Naciones Unidas del Espíritu (United Nations of Spirit)

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura  
(The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture)

Pachamama Alliance

Pacto Mundial Consciente (Conscious Global Pact)

Raíces de la Tierra

Rights of Nature-Europa

Red Global de Ecoaldeas (Global Web of Ecovillages)

Transition Network

Tribunal Latinoamericano del Agua (Latin American Water Tribunal)

Universidad Gaia-U

## **Sponsors**

Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco-UNAM (University Cultural Center-UNAM)

Consejo Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (National Council of Human Rights)

Gobierno de la Ciudad de México (Government of Mexico City)



# Participants



**Adelita San Vicente Tello (México)**

She is a doctoral candidate for Agroecology from Antioquia University, Colombia. She directs the Seeds of Life Foundation, whose mission is for the defense of healthy and non-GMO nutrition and for the protection of seeds in Mexico, particularly corn.

She is a distinctive representative of the collective that in September of 2013 achieved to provisionally discontinue planting of genetically modified corn in Mexico. Adelita is a counselor to the Global Women's Fund (GFW), a universal network of people committed to the achievement of equality and social justice around the world.

**Arnold Ricalde de Jager (México)**

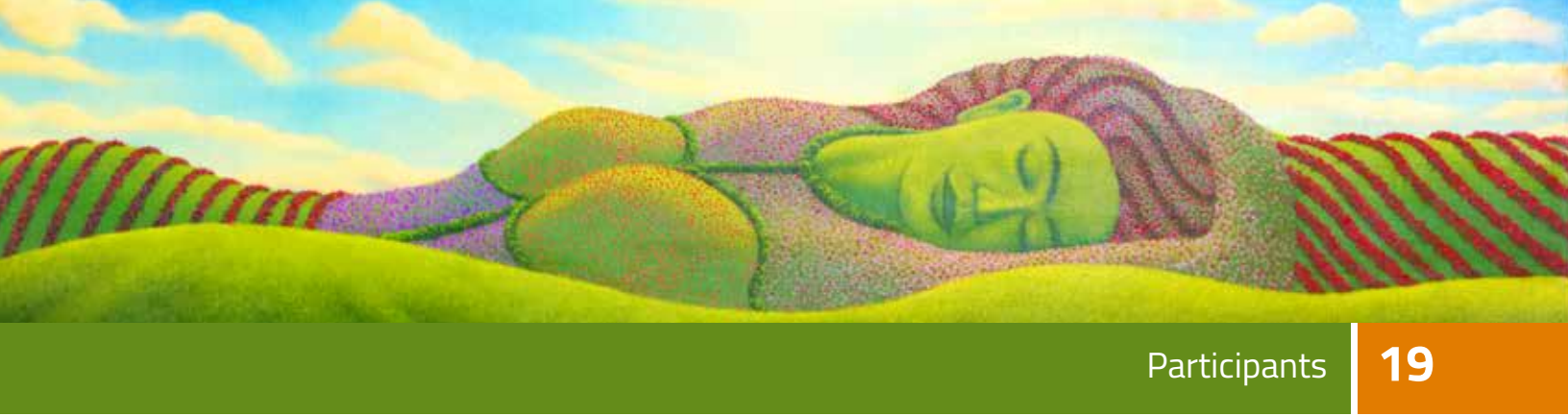
He is an environmentalist and co-director of the Organi-K association and of the Integrative Environmental Systems and Services (ISSA). He is advisor to the government of Mexico City on matters of large-scale recycling and coordinator of Pепенafest Festival, Mexico's largest event on the use of disposable materials.

He has organized organic markets in different delegations in Mexico City and is one of the pillars for the movement Council of Visions of Earth Guardians. He has contributed to the dissemination of bioregionalism, permaculture and the Mexican and Global Ecovillage Network.

With Organi-K, he actively participated in the *Ecobarrios* program in Coyoacán in Mexico City and for 10 years has been organizing Ecohousing, Ecovillage Design and Sustainable Settlements workshops

**Ati Quigua (Colombia)**

She is a public administrator. She holds a Master's Degree in Government and Public Policy and holds a Ph.D in Law and Political Science and Public International Law. She is of the Arhuaca nation and was Councillor to the Bogotá Assembly in 2004-2007 and 2008-2011, with major achievements relating to the conservation of nature.



She is founder of the “Seed of life and peace” network, based on the vision that unites all the indigenous peoples in their relationship with Mother Earth and claims the collective, sacred, ancestral and cultural order of their territories and the rights of nature, through better living. She is a member of the organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon, the Tayrona Indian Confederation, the Natural Network and several councils of South America.



**César Daniel Madrugá (México)**

He holds a degree in Public Administration and Political Science from the Universidad Iberoamericana and a scholar of environmental legislation.

From 2009 to 2011, he was a Federal Representative in the LXI Legislature of Mexico, chairing the Committee on Climate Change. From 2012 to 2015, he was Representative in the Legislative Assembly of Mexico City and president of the Tourism Commission. Out if his interest in environmentalism and the rescue of traditional cultures, he convened the First International Gathering of the Council of Ancestral Wisdom for the purpose of bringing together representatives of social organizations and networks in the country to participate in a multidisciplinary dialogue to bring about a Mexican rebirth.

That first gathering was followed by two more, out of which came the proposed law for the recognition and protection of the Rights of Mother Earth, which was discussed in the Mexican House of Representatives in 2013, but not approved. However, the Legislative Assembly approved the Law of Protection of the Earth in Mexico City.



**Claudia Brindis Zavala (Mexico)**

Yoga teacher, Emotional Therapist, Coach and Facilitator. Specialist in human development. Director and Consultant at Ixtli House. Facilitator, Training Leader and Communications Team Member for Pachamama Alliance in Latin America. She has been Vice President of the Mexican Committee of Yoga.



She has worked with: UNILEVER, Ibero-American University, UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), DIF-DF, Thomson Reuters, Community Foundation, Bicentennial Park, Chapultepec Park, Xtract Logistics, Move for your City AC, Construye-t (Program of the United Nations) SEMARNAT, YMCA, Children's Cancer Hospital, Here Nobody Surrenders AC, Light of Life IAP, INJUVE, EMPREDERED Tula, Juntos Mover a Mexico program, ITESM, EVENPLAN, ENEDCONADE, National Medical Center Oncology Hospital S. XXI, Center of Civic Collaboration, among others.



### **Totonaca Supreme Council (Mexico)**

The highest traditional authority of Totonacapan —the land of hearts—. Housed at the Center for Indigenous Arts in Papantla, Veracruz, this Council of Elders is guide of ancient memory to the Totonac culture, who can be a compass for the present and a path towards the future.

The Center for Indigenous Arts was included in the World List of Best Practices for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2012) for contributing to the creation of a space enabling the Totonac people to transmit their teachings, art, values and culture.



### **Coyote Alberto Ruz (Mexico)**

Is one of the founders of the first eco-village in Latin America (1982), Huehuecōyotl; originator and promoter of the Earthkeepers Council of Visions movement (1990), and originator and coordinator of the Rainbow Caravan for Peace, a project that toured 17 Latin American countries sowing seeds of change through countless geo-political, ethnic, social and cultural borders from 1996 to 2007. For this project, he received in 2002 a scholarship from the Ashoka Foundation and the Living School Award from the Ministry of Culture of Brazil.

He is Coordinator of the *Ecobarrios* program in Mexico City. He was nominated for the National Award For Ecologic Merit (2011); Director of Environmental Culture of the Ministry of Sustainable Development in the state of Morelos

(2013); advisor to the Legislative Assembly of Mexico City for the Law on Earth Rights (2014-2015), and emeritus advisor to the Global Ecovillage Networks (2009-2015). In 2016, he received the Kozeny Communitarian Award from the Fellowship of Intentional Communities.



### **Dorian Antuna (Mexico)**

He is an activist for the Rights of Mother Earth. He is a collaborator for Conscious Global Pact and is a co-founding member of the United Nations of the Spirit, technical secretary and director of art and culture of the Mexican Renaissance.

He is a self taught artist, poet, chronicler, novelist, author of works of fiction, translator (English and Portuguese), historian, documentary filmmaker, singer, mime, clown, actor, reader of Tarot, musician, radio broadcaster, playwright and poetry curator.

He is the creator of the graphic novel-documentary "the Obsidian Swallow", about the Law of Rural and Sustainable Agricultural Development of Mexico, in which he includes more than 100 characters.



### **Doris Ragettli (Switzerland)**

Co-Founder of Rights of Mother Earth, a civil society movement founded in 2010, committed to the adoption and ratification of The Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth by the UN and all Nations.

From 1991-2004 Doris was co-accountable for The Hunger Project Switzerland and in charge of Youth Ending Hunger Switzerland and Europe from 1991-95. In 1991 she leads a successful grassroots campaign in Switzerland for the ratification of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. As a-founder of Cyclists Ending Hunger, she joined a team in 1994 till 2001, to lead 7 cross-USA bicycle rides in support of poverty and hunger eradication programs. Since 1991 she works as a Flight Attendant for Swiss International Airlines.



### Esperanza Martínez (Ecuador)

She is an activist and member of Oilwatch and Ecological Action. She is coordinator of the Amazon Campaign for Life and co-author with Alberto Acosta of *Rights of Nature: The Future is Now*, a work that includes texts from the main defenders of Nature's rights: Eduardo Galeano, Nina Pacari, Eduardo Gudynas, Mario Melo, Antonio Elizalde Hevia, Carlos Larrea and Vandana Shiva.

The activist called out to her nation's President, Rafael Correa, when she wrote: "Many years ago environmentalists were pointed out by reactionary governments as being enemies of development; do not repeat these errors. You are the President of a country that loves nature, where its people promote *sumak kawsai*, not as a symbolic fact, but as a proposal of genuine livelihood, people who acknowledge and fight for changes and for which a significant part of these changes is the care and respect for nature".



### Gabriela Cano (Mexico)

She is Director of the Guadalupe Mother Earth. A. C., arising in the year 2006 as a movement of artists for the environment, committed to spiritually viable projects, pushing forward social-environmental work, and promoting the creation of community-solidarity business models and their system of sustainable use of resources.

Guadalupe Madre Tierra A. C is characterized by its versatility and readiness to develop existing rescue, preservation, and restoration programs that respond to the country's urgent needs. Its actions extend throughout Mexico, in response to their commitment to peace processes, social and environmental solidarity through cooperation.



### **Helen Samuels**

Activist dedicated to the Rights of Youth and the protection of Indigenous Cultures and Mother Earth. She is an ASHOKA Fellow and the founder of the TEKIO and Eko-Habitat Projects known for creating and producing events and intercultural exchanges amongst Indigenous Nations and Youth groups promoting the protection of Mother Earth and Sacred Sites, as well as proposing solutions for sustainable renovation of the devastated urban wastelands.

For 30 years Helen has traveled to over 25 countries serving as a project facilitator and catalyst for Community Based Organizations. Some of the projects include; the EKO-Punks project "Tierra Viva", Children of the Earth Coalition", the "Children's Torch of Hope". The "Earth Crew" and the "Urban Courage" youth coalition who were awarded "Best Youth Practices" at the UN HABITAT event in Turkey.

She is Special Advisor to the Four Worlds Institute and Board member of the "Council of Interfaith and Indigenous Women, and Youth Organization". Presently she is the Ambassador Diplomat for the Choctaw Musgokee Yamassee Confederation and has been creating an extensive support network of adult and youth mentors to inspire and train youth in sustainable technologies and practices supporting this new generation who is standing to protect the Rights of Mother Earth.



### **Irene Goikolea (Spain)**

Irene Goikolea, facilitator, coach and doctor in Deep Psychology, has been working for more than two decades in the awakening of consciousness, facilitating group and personal process of development and growth.

Throughout her life she has elaborated a work of personal integration that has been enriched by an eclectic mixture of various methodologies. Among those, she acknowledges the chamanic traditions, oriental and Jungian psychology or Hakomi, without forgetting the wisdom from the ancestral roots of her original Basque culture.

Main inspiration for the materialization from the project Amalurra, composed from three intentional ecovillages in the Basque country, Andalucía and Cataluña, this successful projects are part of RIE (The Iberic Network of Ecovillages), make Irene an active representative and ambassador from the Global Network of Ecovillages (GEN)



### **Laura Esquivel (México)**

She is a writer and has distinguished herself as a woman committed to supporting the best social causes of Mexico.

She is federal representative for the Party of National Regeneration Movement (Morena), supports legislative initiatives for the protection of nature, and promotes various proposals to rebuild the social fabric of the country.

In 2009, she was the General Director of Culture in Coyoacan in Mexico City. Under her administration, the Eco barrios program was carried out for the training of environmental promoters in 10 towns and neighborhoods of such precinct.



### **Laura Kuri Valdés (México)**

She is an artist, environmental activist, facilitator of group meetings and main promoter of bioregionalism in Mexico. She is one of the pioneer and co-organizers of the Guardians of the Earth Council of Visions since the early nineties.

She is coordinator and editor of *Welcome Home: Life Experiences and Bioregional Thinking*, published by the organization that she presides in, Ayotl A.C. This work, published in 2003, brings together texts from a broad spectrum of the most renowned environmental activists across the country, the United States and Canada and is a manual of best practices, visions and proposals to support sustainable living.

She is co-author, along with Arnold Ricalde Lager, of *Ecohabit: Experiences Towards Sustainability*, published in 2006.





### **Leonardo Boff (Brazil)**

Philosopher, theologian and member of the international initiative of the Earth Charter. He has received awards in Brazil and abroad. In 2001, he was awarded the Right Livelihood Award (the Alternative Nobel Prize) in Stockholm, Sweden.

His work has had much influence on the liberation theology movements since the seventies and, currently, in movements that have adopted eco-theology as an active expression for the defense of the rights of Mother Earth. He was consulted by Pope Francisco to draft a proposal for integral ecology.



### **Lorena San Román Johaninnig (Costa Rica)**

She is a biologist with a Masters in Natural Resources and has extensive experience in forest ecology, natural resource management and sustainable development. She was coordinator for the Earth Council of Latin America and the Caribbean in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 1996 to 2002, and Vice Rector of Extension and Cooperation at the University for International Cooperation.

She has worked in institutions like the United Nations, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Earth Council, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank (WB), among others.



### **Marta Delgado Peralta**

She is an environmental activist and chairs the Honorary Council of Mexican Citizen Presence, A.C.. She is the founder of the Mexican Alliance for a New Water Culture, coordinates the International Secretariat of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, which brings together 340 mayors from 60 countries to combat global warming. She is currently undertaking postgraduate studies on Sustainability at Harvard University.

She is a member of the advisory committees of Momentum for Change Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and of Experts on Water & Human Settlements for UNESCO.

During her tenure as Secretary of the Environment of the Federal District (Mexico City), she established public policies that gave the city international recognition on environmental matters.



### **Mateo Alfredo Castillo Ceja (Mexico)**

He is an international expert on the implementation of Local Agenda 21 and Ethics for Sustainable Development (Earth Charter). He founded and chaired the State Council of Ecology of Michoacan (COEECO). He founded the National Secretariat for the Earth Charter.

In 2005, he was awarded by the Commission of the Earth Charter with the First World Earth Charter Prize, "Max T. Kalaw Jr.", for his activities and work in Mexico to promote a just, sustainable and peaceful world. In 2010, the World Organization for Peace awarded him the recognition "Defenders of the Earth" for his actions in Mexico with the Earth Charter.



### **Mumta Ito (Scotland)**

Mumta Ito is one of Europe's leading experts on rights of nature. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Rights of Nature Europe, an organisation dedicated to establishing rights of nature in law throughout the EU via citizens' initiatives. She is also a director of the Association for the European Citizens Initiative, which campaigns for reform of participatory democracy in Europe, and the founder of the International Centre of Wholistic Law which approaches law-making, legal practice and dispute resolution from a paradigm of restoration, reparation and healing. In her career as a lawyer she advised investment banks, multinationals and governments as well as NGOs and grass-roots organisations working to protect nature. She also set up an NGO in the Caribbean to create a people's movement to save an ecosystem of global ecological importance



### **Natalia Greene (Ecuador)**

She is a Professor of Energy Efficiency at Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB), a consultant for Rights of Nature at Fundación Pachamama and is the focal point for Rights of Nature in Ecuador for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. She held a very important role in the Third International Tribunal for the Rights of Mother Earth, which took place within the framework of the COP-21 in Paris.

She advocated for the recognition of the Rights of Nature in Ecuador's Constitution. With a group of environmental activists and representatives of civil society, she was one of the most recognized spokesperson to promote a legislation that recognizes the Earth as a living entity with own rights.



### **Nelson Denman (United States)**

He is a musician, writer, teacher, political eco-activist, author and composer of the 'Greening of Harvard '(1995) and 'Derechos de la Naturaleza/The Rights of Nature', Cantos y Cuentos de una Opera Folklorica (2016), 'Earth Doctor' ,and other CDs.

As a pioneer from the North American Bioregional congress, Nelson has been using the arts to catalyse social change, Nelson has dedicated his life to learning, composing and playing beautiful music, and to educating humanity about ecology and solutions to our environmental crisis. Rooted in the Quaker tradition of nonviolence and enriched by studies in Buddhism, Taoism, Hawaiian spirituality and respect for indigenous traditions of the Americas and the World. He is deeply committed to celebrating and restoring our kinship with Nature.

His work as an 'eco-troubadour' has taken him to schools, hospitals, colleges, camps, conferences and festivals in the Americas and beyond. He is a proud member and supporter of El Consejo de Visiones & Las Guardianes de la Tierra and from the All Species Project in México and the United States.



### **Pablo Solón Romero (Bolivia)**

He is executive director of Focus on the Global South, based in Bangkok, Since 2012. He works to promote the Declaration on the Rights of the Mother Earth and to combat climate change.

He was Bolivia's Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) from February 2009 to July 2011. As Ambassador to the UN, he led successful operations on the Human Right to Water, International Earth Day, Harmony with Nature and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He participated in the organization of the World People's Conference on Climate Change in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Global Exchange awarded him the International Prize of Human Rights in 2011.



### **Rex Weyler**

Writer and ecologist. In the 1970s, Weyler was a cofounder of Greenpeace International, director of Greenpeace Foundation until 1982, and editor of the Greenpeace Chronicles. He served on campaigns to preserve rivers and forests, and to stop whaling, sealing, and toxic dumping. En 2006 he was Program Director of the World Peace Forum

His books include *Blood of the Land*, a history of indigenous Western Hemisphere, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; *Greenpeace: The Inside Story*, a finalist for the BC Book Award and the Shaughnessy-Cohen Award for Political Writing; and *The Jesus Sayings*, a deconstruction of first century history, a finalist for the BC Book Award.

He currently posts the Deep Green column at the Greenpeace International website and appears on *The Tyee*, *Common Dreams*, and at his site, [rexweyler.com](http://rexweyler.com). He lives on Cortes Island in British Columbia, with his wife, artist Lisa Gibbons.



### **Roberto Restrepo (Colombia)**

He is an anthropologist and biologist at the University of Medellin and coordinator of the Latin American Culture and Water program of UNESCO (the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization).



He supports the proposal of the original peoples of the world to create the Spiritual Reserves of Humanity, an international project that will be presented to UNESCO in 2017 with the aim of protecting and nominating sites in accordance with their sacred values, and constitute a global network with these sites of excellence.



### **Saamdu Chetri (Bhutan)**

He was chosen by the Prime Minister of Bhutan as Executive Director of the Gross National Happiness (GNH) Center in Bhutan. He made a brilliant career in the private sector.

Currently, he directs the Commission of the GNH Center, which promotes the philosophy of the National Product of Happiness (FNB). This administration, eminently Buddhist, seeks to achieve a fair and balanced socio-economic development, integrated with environmental conservation, cultural promotion, psychological well being and a good governing system.



### **Salomón Bazbaz Lapidus (México)**

Director of the Cumbre Tajín Festival, he is also the creator, founder, developer, and operator of the Center for Indigenous Arts, a formal public education institution for the intergenerational transmission of indigenous values through art and culture, using traditional methods from the culture itself.

He coordinated the record for the inscription of the Ritual Ceremony of Voladores, which in 2009 was named an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, and currently heads the State Council for the preservation of such heritage.



### **Shannon Biggs (Estados Unidos)**

She is the Director of the Community Rights program at Global Exchange and the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. Shannon holds a Masters in Economics/Politics of Empire from the London School of Economics (LSE). She originates from California, United States.

She recently co-authored two books, *Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grass Roots* and *The Rights of Nature*. She is also a coordinator for the Global Alliance for the *Rights of Nature* and Co-founder of Movement Rights. She was part of a delegation at the COP 21, in Paris, to promote grass-roots alternatives to the current UN process.



### **Srila Bhakti Aloka Paramadvaiti Swami (Germany)**

He is a writer and master practitioner of krishnaism (Bengal Vaishnavism) and founder of the Vrindavan Institute for Vaishnava Culture and Studies.

He is the founder of Conscious Global Compact, an international movement whose main goals are to disseminate information and carry out campaigns and activities for the Rights of Mother Earth. Recently he led the creation of the United Nations of Spirit movement, uniting the voices of dozens of representatives of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.



### **Vandana Shiva (India)**

She is a physicist, philosopher, environmental activist and ecofeminist, as well as a writer. She received the Alternative Nobel Prize in 1993. She is one of the *leaders* and board members of the *International Forum on Globalization*.

In 1973, she participated in the Chipko movement, formed by women to prevent the logging of forests in the Himalayas. In 1982, she created the Foundation for Scientific, Technological and Ecological Investigation, which has generated several initiatives that link women and the Earth.

In 1993, she won the Global 500 Roll of Honor of the United Nations Environmental Program and the United Nations Earth Day International Award.



### **Vanessa Hasson (Brasil)**

Vanessa Hasson is a Brazilian lawyer who recently launched the Campaign for the Rights of Mother Earth in Brazil (São Paulo). She is a Specialist in Environmental Law and Doctor of diffuse and collective Rights, and is involved in the management and development of socio-environmental projects in the first and third sectors.

She is currently the Director of MAPAS (Social and Environmental Practices Support Methods). For several years, she has been researching the theme of Mother Earth as a legal entity, examining these issues in her doctoral thesis, which was very well received by the United Nations Harmony with Nature movement.

In July 2015 she started the collection of signatures for the Brazilian state to legally recognize the rights of Mother Earth, with an event in Ibirapuera Park, São Paulo, in which also participated Conscious Global Pact activists.



### **Víctor M. Toledo (México)**

He is a biologist, ecologist and poet promoter of the ideas of political ecology. In his long academic career, he has explored the relationship between traditional cultures and nature. He is a pioneer and leader of ethnoecology at a worldwide level.

He is founder and editor of *Ethnoecology*, a magazine of international circulation devoted to such study of relations between indigenous cultures and nature.

In the fall of 2001 he was elected by the magazine *Medio Ambiente* of Barcelona, Spain, along with 10 other personalities, as one of the references of contemporary environmental thought.



### **Veronica Sacta Campos (Ecuador-Mexico)**

Veronica has been an activist since she was very young in different social, cultural environmental movements in her country, and traveled through Latin America working in different social projects as a promoter of ecological consciousness with the Rainbow Peace Caravan.

She coordinated the project Caravana Cultura Viva, realized with the Ministry of Culture of Brazil , and in the year 2017 she was elected national representative in the area of Peace Culture at the National Commission of Points of Culture, and in 2008 the Caravan was awarded the Prize Living School as a recognition of the innovative pedagogy developed and applied in different states of Brazil. Veronica was articulating with the local communities in the project “Eco-neighborhoods” at the municipality of Coyoacán in Mexico from 2010 to 2013.

She considers herself an ecofeminist, educator through art, and one of the pillars of the Vision Council of Guardians of the Earth. From cañari origins in Ecuador, she is a keeper of traditions and ceremonies of her ancestors, from the Andean cosmogony, and she is a carrier of the message of “ Well Living (Buen Vivir) and the rights of Nature. She has shared as part of her mission, seeds of consciousness, love, respect for life and a deep connection with Mother Earth.



### **Xiuhtezcatl Roske Martínez**

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez 15 years old and his brother Itzcuahtli Martinez 13 years old are Indigenous Environmental Activist’s and the Youth Directors of Earth Guardians an organization of young activists, artists and musicians from across the globe stepping up as leaders to protect the Earth, the air, the water and the atmosphere. Xiuhtezcatl is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Obama administration for their failure to protect the atmosphere as part of the public trust.





They have traveled to many parts of the world educating their generation about the importance of protecting Mother Earth. Their movement has grown to over 800 Earth Guardian groups globally working on the frontlines to protect the Earth. Their work has been featured on PBS, Showtime, National Geographic, Rolling Stones, Upworthy, Vogue, CNN, MSNBC, HBO and many more.

