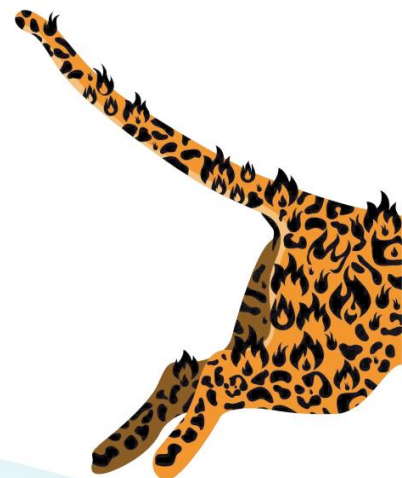




5TH INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS OF NATURE TRIBUNAL

November 3rd & 4th, 2021 ● COP26 ● Glasgow, Scotland, UK



INTERNATIONAL
RIGHTS OF NATURE
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5th INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS OF NATURE TRIBUNAL

False solutions to climate change crisis

Amazon, a threatened living entity

COP 26 - Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Saturday, Nov 6th, 2021

The 5th International Rights of Nature Tribunal took place on Wednesday, November 3rd, and Thursday, November 4th at 4 pm (GMT) in Glasgow, alongside the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26). Due to COVID and traveling restrictions, this Tribunal was a hybrid event – online through Zoom and in person at the Auditorium of the University of Strathclyde.

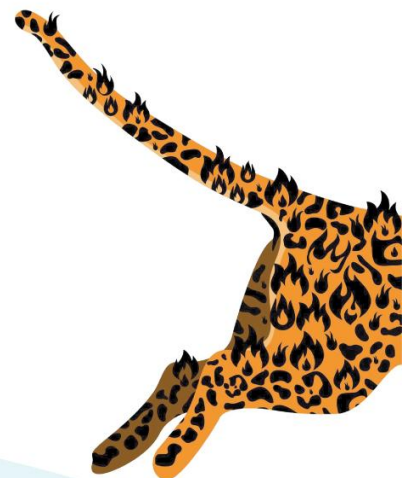
The Fifth International Rights of Nature Tribunal heard two fundamental ecological cases facing the world today: the false solutions to the Climate Change crisis and the Amazon, a threatened living entity. The cases were presented by frontline, impacted communities and experts from around the world, and was heard by a panel of globally recognized judges, who examined and ruled on the cases from a Rights of Nature perspective: Enrique Viale (Argentina), Alberto Acosta (Ecuador), Nancy Yáñez (Chile), Atossa Soltani (EE.UU.), Rocío Silva Santiesteban (Perú), Osprey Orielle Lake (USA), Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria), Lisa Mead (UK), Carolyn Raffensperger (USA), Yaku Pérez (Ecuador), and Princess Esmeralda (Belgium), and were presided over by Leonardo Boff (Brazil).

The aim of this Tribunal is to bring maximum visibility to the current key struggles to protect the world's ecosystems and confront the false solutions that are being presented in the face of



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these crises as well as the solutions emerging from civil society, and to offer legal rulings and precedents that may aid communities and activists in their struggles to protect and restore these ecosystems, and advance the legal recognition of Nature as a rights-bearing entity.

The objective is to mobilize citizens through the creation of a platform of associations calling for the recognition of the Rights of Nature, the Rights of the Amazon, and exposing the false solutions to Climate Change as well as the opportunities to halt the Climate crisis.

FALSE SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS CASE

Just a few years ago, the reality of climate change was subtle enough that many people continued to deny its existence in spite of all scientific data proving otherwise. Today, as extreme weather events, wildfires, droughts, floods, hurricanes, among others, become more and more commonplace—and more extreme—it has become impossible for all but the most cynical to deny the reality of man-made climate change.

And yet, despite the record-breaking wildfires, despite the increased flooding and the destabilized seasons, governments around the world continue to collude with extractivist industries, finding ways to go on permitting patterns of exploitation, production and consumption that are unsustainable.

However, perhaps the most concerning aspect of how this problem is being dealt with at the international level is that, ever since the general public has begun to grow conscious of the threat posed by climate change and to demand change from the authorities, a series of pernicious false solutions have been conceived; false solutions which pretend to address the key issues while in reality only perpetuating this unsustainable status quo, and even worse, “solutions” that may affect and violate even more of Nature’s Rights.



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From the idea that geoengineering will permit us to regulate the global temperature even as we continue consuming fuel and materials at our current rates, to the notion the unexploited fossil fuel reserves in one place can be "traded" for reserves that are being exploited elsewhere, these strategies all have the same purpose: to "greenwash" old practices, while making no substantial changes.

The United Nations Climate Change Conferences —and other similar forums — have become the main arenas for the promotion of these ideas, making it more important than ever to show them for what they are, and to provide both the public and the authorities with a clear, unclouded perspective on why these strategies are not real solutions to the urgent problems that we face— and what some real solutions could be.

Ivonne Yáñez, case presenter at the Tribunal, stated that "the aim is to use carbon as a financial commodity, to transform nature into a sewer and keep exploiting it and the women and the people from the Global South. False solutions are business as usual without thinking about the climate or the people."

Case presenter Tom Goldtooth expressed that "Nature-based solutions often violate the Rights of Nature and are co-opted by corporations. Carbon trading and extractivism are two sides of the same coin. Those in the hallways of COP26 don't understand the sanctity of Mother Earth."

Chief Ninawa, from the Amazon, spoke about the impact of false solutions on Indigenous territories and made three concrete demands for social, environmental, and ecological justice to the Tribunal. "Our territory is sacred. Extractivism is a problem we need to solve today," he added.

Bruno Rodríguez, from Fridays for Future, said: "If we don't protect Rights of Nature, we'll be jeopardizing the future of the younger generations."



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The prosecutor for this case was Julio Prieto, from Ecuador, and the verdict for the case will be presented at the Glasgow Film Theater on November 7th during the People and Nature vs The UNFCCC event.

AMAZON, A THREATENED LIVING ENTITY

One cannot talk about climate change without talking about the Amazon, since there is no solution to the climate crisis without a healthy Amazon. With its rich biodiversity and its massive role in processing so much of the world's CO₂ as well as fostering life in so many magnificent forms, and regulating the world climate, the fate of the Amazon is inextricably tied to the fate of the world as a whole, and yet this fragile, vital ecosystem is being destroyed at a precipitous rhythm. From petroleum extraction to mining; gold panning; poaching; logging; urbanization; soy farming; cattle breeding; uncontrolled wildfires, the threats that the world's most important rainforest faces are myriad and grave, and all the current science indicates that the tipping point is fast approaching.

To truly halt the destruction of the Amazon, real international cooperation will be needed between all of the states who share it as part of their territory, and real public pressure from the people of those countries and the entire world, and furthermore, it will be necessary to understand the Amazon as a whole ecosystem, as a living entity, and not separate it by parts of by countries. It is a single living being upon whose health the balance of the entire planet depends on.

For this reason, the International Rights of Nature Tribunal heard the case of the Amazon - a threatened living entity with the aid of local, world-renowned experts in the subject, who provided a real perspective on what are the problems the Amazon is facing and what are the actual solutions to revert and avoid the tipping point.



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Case presenter Gregorio Mirabal stated at the Tribunal: “We were born from the water, from the jungle, that is our religion as Indigenous peoples. We are born in nature and our balance with nature can’t be broken.”

Alexis Tiouka, case presenter and advocate for the Amazon, asked whether it would be possible to register the Amazon as a World Heritage Site. “If we move towards this process, we could set up a legal watch for the application of all states in terms of international law,” he justified.

Domingo Peas expressed that “All living beings in Nature have a right to live and exist. We need to educate this modern world.”

The prosecutor for this case was Pablo Solón, from Bolivia. Solón said: “We want the Amazon to be recognized as a subject of rights. The living Amazon is on the verge of collapse. If we don’t do anything now, it won’t be there in 10 years.”

The verdict for the case will be presented during the International Assembly on the Amazon and the Climate Crisis on November 9th at the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow.

If you’re interested in learning more about the Rights of Nature Tribunal, click [here](#).

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Watch the 5th International Rights of Nature Tribunal again at:

Original language: facebook.com/rightsofnaturetribunal

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