



INTERNATIONAL
RIGHTS OF NATURE
TRIBUNAL

A NEW PLEDGE FOR MOTHER NATURE UNFCCC COP30, Bélem, Brasil, Noviembre 2025

In the course of its first ten years of life, the International Rights of Nature Tribunal has accumulated evidence, pronounced judgments, built networks of advocacy and resistance among indigenous, social and peasant communities and movements that relate to Mother Earth in a respectful and caring manner, while contributing to the elaboration and application of the Rights of Nature as a new ethics, paradigm and civilizational horizon. In the last year we have focused our attention on one of the main threats to the Rights of Nature and those of its guardians and protectors, the exponential expansion of the fossil extractivism frontier and that of large-scale mining, under the pretext of “green” energy transition.

In New York in September 2024 we heard the voices of ecosystems threatened by fossil capitalism, and of movements resisting and practicing alternatives. (1) In Toronto last March, we denounced the impacts of the activities of Canadian mining companies in key sectors for the energy transition. (2)

Today we release our judgments and launch this “*Renewed Pledge to Mother Nature*” as a contribution to the platform of the movements that will meet in the Peoples' Summit and to the international community and governments gathered at COP30.

The challenges we face

Life itself is in danger. and its destinies uncertain.

Rising sea levels, droughts that hinder or ruin harvests, storms that cause brutal floods, water crisis as glaciers recede and rains fail, pollution and acidification of the oceans, heat waves that kill thousands of people and unleash massive forest fires in times and latitudes previously unimaginable, are unequivocally associated with human activities that cause climate change, one of the factors of global ecological collapse. This situation is having a double harsh impact on the poorest populations and those most dependent on natural ecosystems and functions, while putting all of humanity and life at risk, reaching a tipping point to which our weakened democratic institutions are not responding effectively.

We are at a crossroads and need to take responsibility for how the creative evolution of life has been interfered, causing the breakdown of the ecological balance of the planet. Without a swift and radical change of direction, only a few would survive the ecological and social collapse in which we are immersed. At the same time, millions of species we share the Earth with are at risk of extinction.

We cannot accept this fate.

For peace among humans and with Mother Nature and all beings

We are all part of the Earth, an indivisible and living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny but with different existential conditions and rights. The multiple crises we are experiencing are rooted in the economic, political, legal and social systems established by the industrial and growth-oriented cultures that dominate the world today, including capitalism, along with patriarchy, sexism, racism, anthropocentrism.

We call for a deep and swift civilizational change, away from the current dominant paradigm that considers life itself as a source of profit and unlimited growth, and a space for conquest, domination and violence. Peace among humans, which in turn implies Peace with Mother Nature, can be achieved only if we stop all those processes that generate irreversible damage to the environment, affecting communities and the whole of Humanity, while configuring, in many cases, crimes of ecocide that often go hand in hand with genocide.

Such change of direction would simultaneously allow us to mitigate the impacts of this collapse, protect biodiversity, provide reparations, while creating new forms of co-existence that respect ecological cycles and the conditions for life on earth, based on rights of Nature and peoples as well as social justice.

Well aware of the magnitude of our collective task, we highlight some key elements of a necessary path towards new civilizational horizons.

Recognize the Rights of Nature and of the Amazon

Rights of Nature, always walking hand in hand with Human Rights, offer us pathways to tackle the ecosocial collapse, to prevent, repair and restore the damage done, as well as to empower and build all possible alternatives that guarantee a dignified life for human and non-human beings. Therefore, we applaud the Advisory Opinion OC-32/25 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) which, for the first time, recognizes Nature and its components as subjects of rights. (3)

Situating our elaborations and proposals in this place, Belem, chosen by the Brazilian government to host COP30, as a symbol of the importance of the Amazon, we denounce the current and future impacts of the expansion of the extractivist frontier, fossil fuels and large-scale mining.

Considering the Amazon as a reserve of natural resources that must be exploited continues to be the main cause of its destruction. On the contrary, we believe that the Amazon, with its ecosystems, animal and plant species, its vital and reproductive cycles, should be considered as a subject of rights together with the indigenous peoples and communities that inhabit it. We have raised this call on several occasions also based on the work we have done, and after the Tribunal visit to the Amazon, on occasion of the Foro Social Pan-Amazónico (FOSPA) in 2022 and that was followed by a Tribunal judgment. (4)

Along with the recognition of the Amazon as a subject of rights, we call for an indefinite moratorium on the expansion of the oil frontier in the region. In this regard, we commit to convene a specific session of the Tribunal on oil extraction in the Amazon on the occasion of the Pre-FOSPA to be held in March 2026 in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

We call on Amazonian states governments to follow up to the motion recently approved at the IUCN Global Congress in Abu Dhabi that

"ENCOURAGES Amazonian States and Members to declare a 'fossil fuel non-proliferation zone' prohibiting fossil fuel exploration and extraction while ensuring participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, setting an example for zones to be declared in other biodiversity hotspots"

We therefore reaffirm our support for an International Fossil Non-Proliferation Treaty and call on governments present at COP30 to do the same.

For climate justice: Keep fossil fuels underground, support community-based alternatives

No right of Mother Nature can be upheld without climate justice and without bold action to keep fossil fuels underground, along the example offered by the Yasuni initiative in Ecuador and similar undertakings in the Niger Delta. We therefore reaffirm our support for an International Fossil Non-Proliferation Treaty and call on governments present at COP30 to do the same. We reject false solutions based on market tools and financialization of nature, or new forms of extractivism under the pretext of “green transition”, in favor of alternatives generated in respect of its vital cycles, by the communities that live in harmony with it. To achieve this, we propose and support multiple, intersecting, short and long term measures and strategies, including those already in practice by peoples and communities across the planet, such as food sovereignty, defence of the commons, radical democracy and territorial self-determination, solidarity economy, cultural diversity,.

Defend Mother Nature’s defenders

The construction of alternatives to the dominant model is strictly related to the possibility of indigenous peoples, local communities and movements to protect Mother Earth and ecosystems without the risk of threats or harassment. We therefore recognize the key role of defenders at the

individual and collective level and cannot omit to recall the continued threats to defenders worldwide and that Latin America continues to be the continent with the highest number of murders of nature defenders. This is another hidden war that states must definitely put an end to, addressing its root causes and, in the case of Latin America, effectively committing to the implementation of the Escazu Agreement.

Change paradigm, address root causes, provide reparations

The International Rights of Nature Tribunal stands firm in our commitment to further the development of Earth jurisprudence, supporting communities and peoples that are in the frontline in the defense of Mother Nature, as well as calling for the respect of Nature’s rights, and to address root causes of their violations. We believe that these goals cannot be pursued unless they are based on the agency of its guardians, in communities, and in calls for a major cultural, spiritual and philosophical shift., Recognizing Mother Nature’s fundamental rights to exist and to reparations for the damage done in centuries of extractive capitalism is a task even more urgent nowadays, for us humans and non-humans alike.

1. <https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/tribunals/end-of-fossil-fuels-tribunal-2024/> 2. <https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/impacts-of-mining-and-the-post-extractivism-era-tribunal-2025/>
3. In the words of the Court, this recognition “*constitutes a normative development that makes it possible to strengthen the protection of the integrity and functionality of ecosystems in the long term, providing effective legal tools in the face of the triple planetary crisis and facilitating the prevention of existential damage before it becomes irreversible*”.
4. <https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/tribunals/brazil-delegation-2022/>

