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Stockholm+50 Rights of Nature Side Event

*The Urgency of Recognizing Rights for Nature during the Planetary Emergency*

Friday, June 3rd, 2022 - 11h - 12.15h CEST

Stockholmsmässan, Room 1, Stockholm+50

On the week of World Environment Day, the global community is coming together in Stockholm, Sweden for a major international environmental meeting: "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity", which will take place five decades after the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

The UN Environment and Sustainable Development Conferences have led to profound transformations in domestic environmental law. The incorporation of Rights of Nature in Stockholm +50's recommendations of actions seeks to be the impulse needed to encourage governments, international organizations, and leaders to adopt a just and fair legal system that protects both the rights of humans and Nature, to finally reset our relationship with Nature.

In the framework of this event, which will provide leaders with an opportunity to achieve the bold and urgent action needed to secure a better future on a healthy planet, the Rights of Nature are taking center stage at the panel: "*The Urgency of Recognizing Rights for Nature during the Planetary Emergency*", hosted as a side event to Stockholm+50 on Friday, June 3rd, 2022.

The aim of this panel is to talk about the Rights of Nature as a transformative tool to halt transgressing the Planetary Boundaries and keep on track with the laws of Nature.

A prominent group of Rights of Nature experts will demonstrate the growth of the Rights of Nature movement and the extension to which it has been applied and recognized in more than 37 countries at the national and local level, to ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, and natural biomes.

Moderator(s):

Anders Wijkman (Club of Rome)

Panelists:

Constanza Prieto (Earth Law Center)

David Choquehuanca Céspedes (Plurinational Government of Bolivia)

Doris Ragetti (RightsOfMotherEarth.com)

Dr. Bruno Oberle (IUCN)

Dr. Peter Doran (Environmental Justice Network Ireland)

Elin Teilus (Sámi singer, yoiker and artist)

Patricia Gualinga (Pueblo Originario Kichwa de Sarayaku)

Walter Schuldt (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility Ecuador)

Organizers:

Earth Law Center, Rights of Mother Earth, Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, Rights of Nature Sweden

Contact:

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Bios - Moderator and speakers

Anders Wijkman

*Moderator*

Anders Wijkman is an opinionmaker and author. Anders is chairman of the Governing Board of Climate-KIC – the most significant public-private partnership on innovation for low-carbon solutions in the EU. He is a member of the IRP (International Resource Panel) - a UN-appointed expert body: “to build and share the knowledge needed to improve the use of our resources worldwide”. He is chair of Circular Sweden, a platform for producers, retailers, and recycling companies to advance the Circular Economy. Anders is honorary president of the Club of Rome and a member of the Int’l Advisory Board of SITRA (Finnish Innovation Fund). He is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy on Forestry and Agricultural Sciences, the World Academy of Art and Science, and the World Future Council. During his career, Anders has served as a Member of the European Parliament and the Swedish Parliament, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Policy Director of UNDP, Director General of SAREC (the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing

Countries), Secretary-General of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross. Anders is an honorary doctor at Linköping University (2011).

**Constanza Prieto**

*Panelist*

Constanza Prieto Figelist is a Chilean lawyer from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile), a Master's degree in private international law and international trade from the Pathéon-Assas University in Paris (France), and in Environmental and Energy Law from New York University.

Constanza is a leading expert on the Rights of Nature in Latin America, specializing in protecting rivers and marine ecosystems. Constanza works as the Latin American legal Director at Earth Law Center, advocating for ecosystems' rights in the courts now extends to over five countries in Latin America. She is also an expert legal drafter of ecocentric laws and has worked on the recent law that Panama has approved on the Rights of Nature, the Constituent process of Chile, and presenting amicus curiae in cases as relevant as the Cedros in Ecuador.

**David Choquehuanca Céspedes**

*Panelist*

David Choquehuanca Céspedes, born 7 May 1961, is a Bolivian politician serving as the 39th Vice President of Bolivia since 8 November 2020. He served as the Foreign Minister of Bolivia from 23 January 2006 to 23 January 2017. He was designated the Secretary General of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) in March 2017, a position which he held until November 2019. On 19 January 2020, he was designated as the vice presidential candidate of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) in the 2020 Bolivian general election and was elected on 18 October.

**Doris Ragettli**

*Panelist*

Doris Ragettli from Switzerland is the co-founder of the global movement RightsOfMotherEarth.com. She has a degree in retail business management and environmental consulting.

Doris initiated the global signature campaign asking the UN to commit to drafting and adopting a Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth in 2011. The movement has delivered the first account of 117 000 signatures to the former UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon at the Earth Summit Rio+20. Doris worked for a humanitarian organization in Geneva for 13 years. In the nineties she co-led 5 cross USA bike-rides during her vacation, raising

money and awareness for the end of hunger and poverty. On those bike-rides over the Rocky Mountains she saw the damage clear cutting of forests for cattle raising causes to Nature. The logging trucks hauling trees down the highway and the suffering of the cattle that stood knee deep in mud made the cyclists cry. That's when Doris decided to become a vegetarian and to speak up for Mother Earth.

**Dr. Bruno Oberle**

*Panelist*

Dr. Bruno Oberle assumed office as Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in July 2020.

He brings over 40 years of experience to IUCN at a time when redefining humanity's relationship with nature is more urgent than ever. Before joining IUCN, Dr. Bruno Oberle served in some of Switzerland's most prestigious positions related to the environment. Between 2005 and 2015, as State Secretary for the Environment and Director of the Federal Office for the Environment for Switzerland, he represented Switzerland in leading international institutions and international negotiations, playing a key role in the Global Environment Facility and in the establishment of the Green Climate Fund.

Dr. Oberle is a leading expert in the fields of sustainable resource management and green economy and has explored and shaped the interface between environmental policy, economic development, and social equity from the perspective of the state regulator, entrepreneur, and scientist.

Prior to joining IUCN, Dr. Oberle served as Chair of the Green Economy and Resource Governance program at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) from 2016, where he also headed the International Risk Governance Centre. Since 2019, he has chaired the Global Tailings Review, which aims to establish an international standard for the safe management of tailings storage facilities that can be applied to dams around the world. He was also the lead author of the Global Resources Outlook 2019, written in his capacity as an active member of the International Resource Panel, which he joined in 2015.

Preceding his academic and government roles, Dr. Oberle founded and managed companies in the fields of environmental consulting and environmental management, using the expertise gained from his doctorate in environmental sciences at ETH Zurich.

**Dr. Peter Doran**

*Panelist*

Dr. Peter Doran is a senior lecturer at the School of Law at Queens University Belfast in Northern Ireland. He is a founding member of the Green Party in Northern Ireland and a recent

co-founder of the Environmental Justice Network Ireland (EJNI) and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Hub Ireland (WEALL). He is currently leading a legal collaboration on a submission on the Rights of Nature to the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss convened by the Irish Government in Dublin. Dr Doran is the author of *Towards a Political Economy of Attention, Consumerism and Mindfulness: The mindful commons* (Routledge).

**Elin Teilus**

*Panelist*

Elin Teilus is a singer, yoiker, and artist of the Sámi people, from Sápmi, Sweden. She is a force of Nature, a storyteller with a magical voice expressed with a deep love for Earth and all of the living close to her heart. Elin invites you to remember the sacred connection with Life that dwells in every human, the inherent bond with Earth and Spirit.

**Patricia Gualinga**

*Panelist*

Patricia Gualinga (Ecuador) is a defender of native rights and Mother Earth, and the former foreign affairs leader of the Native Kichwa People of Sarayaku, a community located in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Patricia's leadership has contributed to the struggle of the Kichwa people of Sarayaku for the protection of the Living Forest in their ancestral territories. Patricia Gualinga presented a historical case before the Inter-American Human Rights System (SIDH) that ended in 2012. The Native Kichwa people of Sarayaku is now facing other threats such as oil extraction projects by Chinese companies in their territory, and the long conflict over the exploitation of the sacred Bobonaza basin. Patricia is known nationally and internationally because of her ongoing work in defending the rights of native people and the call she has made to amplify the call to keep fossil fuels underground in the Amazon.

**Walter Schuldt**

*Panelist*

Director of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador. Lawyer by the Catholic University of Ecuador, with two Master-Degrees by the University of Sorbonne of Paris in International Public Law and in International Economic Law, as well as a Master-Degree in Business and International Affairs by the Institute of Political Studies of Paris "Sciences-Po".

Diplomat with 25 years of experience in different missions, including at the Permanent Missions to the UN in NY and in Geneva, with strong focus on multilateral negotiations on sustainable development, climate change, biodiversity, oceans, plastic pollution, financing for development, human rights, indigenous peoples and local communities.

He served in the GCF Board and in the Bureau of the UNFCCC-COP, and acted as Chair of the Group of the 77 and China for Climate Change in 2017, while also leading the environmental negotiating team of Ecuador for more than a decade.

Stockholm +50 Rights of Nature side event

# THE URGENCY OF RECOGNIZING RIGHTS FOR NATURE DURING THE PLANETARY EMERGENCY

**Where:** Stockholm+50  
Venue, Room 1

**When:** Friday, June 3, 2022  
11:00am to 12:15pm CET

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Moderator  
**Anderz Wijkman**



**Doris Ragettli**

Declaration for the Rights  
of Mother Earth -  
Switzerland



**Elin Teilus**

Storyteller and  
singer - Sweden



**David Choquehuanca  
Céspedes**

Vice President -  
Bolivia



**Walter Schuldt**

Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs -  
Ecuador



**Patricia Gualinga**

Indigenous Kichwa  
Leader Sarayaku -  
Ecuador



**Dr. Peter Doran**

Rights of Nature  
in Ireland



**Constanza Prieto**

Earth Law Center -  
Chile



**Dr Bruno Oberle**

IUCN Director -  
Switzerland



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