



## COP28 - From Ecuador to Antarctica, Leaders Unite to Endorse the Rights of Nature as a Real Climate Solution

Just days before the opening of COP28 in Dubai, the Earth broke a terrifying record: “global temperature reached 2°C above pre-industrial average”. While this was a short-term rise, it is a foreshadowing of what is to come if world leaders fail to take “fast, fair and funded phase out on fossil fuels”, the call of GARN and our global allies throughout the COP.

This year’s COP was hosted by the world’s 7th biggest oil exporter, and over 2,400 reps from the oil industry were present, underscoring the power Big Oil still has over these negotiations. It came as no surprise, then, when fossil fuels got a partial “phasing down” in the final agreement, instead of a full “phasing out”.

*Cue the need for real climate solutions.*

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) attended this year’s COP28 to shine a light on the Rights of Nature as a real climate solution. GARN hosted two main events, convening leaders, activists, and experts from around the world to highlight the advance of Rights of Nature around the world and its power to shift the direction humanity is taking our planet. GARN celebrates the growth of this global movement that took off 15 ago when Ecuador enshrined the Rights of Mother Earth in its Constitution, thus becoming a leader and pioneer in this global initiative and inspiring 37 countries to put forward their own initiatives within this global movement.

The distinguished panelists, including Tom Goldtooth, Osprey Orielle Lake, Gloria Ushigua, Juan Bay, Alberto Saldamando, Danielle Kehler, and Nnimmo Bassey, delved into the urgent need for transformative change. The Rights of Nature were presented as a revolutionary approach to address the inadequacies of existing environmental laws and economic systems, and its interconnection with Indigenous rights and human rights. During the events, the Antarctic Rights was presented for the first time - an alliance working towards recognizing Antarctica’s fundamental legal rights and personhood through an Indigenous lens. Check out and download the interactive map of this movement on our [website](#).

At COP28, the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) also held a [press conference](#) emphasizing the pivotal role of the Rights of Nature in combating the climate crisis. At this event, GARN, in collaboration with Movement Rights and WECAN, unveiled a groundbreaking White Paper titled [Redefining Global Climate Solutions & Environmental Protection for Systemic Change](#). The report delves into the significance of the Rights of Nature as a systemic solution and challenges the prevalent myths of “market-based solutions.”



GARN commends the efforts of civil society and Indigenous Peoples in sparking crucial debates on transitioning away from fossil fuels. While COP28's false solutions such as carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) fall short, GARN advocates for bold and swift actions, urging a paradigm shift in our relationship with the Earth. The time is now for recognizing Nature's inalienable rights and adopting the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.

GARN will continue our work to recognize the Rights of Nature, and we invite individuals and organizations worldwide to participate in the Rights of Nature movement. Together we can change our relationship with Nature and build a future where we live in balance with our biosphere.