Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Forest

AND THE FOREST LIFE

Proposal by
Société Audubon Haiti
Haiti National Trust
06/05/2020
Preamble

- Considering that the life that appeared on our planet billions of years ago is one and indivisible.

- Considering that all organisms and living beings have a common origin and have become differentiated in the course of evolution.

- Considering that any organism or living being has natural rights and that every plant and animal ecosystem has special rights.

- Considering that the contempt, even the simple ignorance of these natural rights causes serious attacks on the biological balance of the forest ecosystems essential for life and lead man to commit crimes against the forest and the forest life that it shelters.

- Considering that the coexistence of species in the world implies the recognition by humans of the right to existence of other animal and plant species.

- Considering that the forest plays an irreplaceable role in the carbon cycle by producing the essential oxygen for life.

- Considering that a world without forests is a world without a future.

- Considering the right to life and the preservation of nature for future generations.

- Considering that respect for the forest by human beings is inseparable from respect for human beings among themselves.

In order to have a date with history, it is universally stated the following:

**Article 1**
All forests as specific biological ecosystems have equal rights to existence, respect and protection within the framework of global biological balances.

This equality in no way overshadows the diversity of forests.
Article 2
All forest life is entitled to the respect and protection of human beings, States and International Organizations.

Article 3
1. No forest shall be subjected to abusive or destructive exploitation.
2. If the exploitation of a forest is deemed necessary, it must be conducted under the supervision of scientists whose competence in their discipline is recognized and carried out by qualified professionals with adequate legal authorizations.
3. The forest must be treated with awareness of its importance for the survival of the global ecosystem of which humans, animals and plants are a part.

Article 4
1. The natural forest has the right to respect for its environment and to exist and reproduce without human intervention, except where scientific purposes are aimed at its knowledge or protection.
2. The infringement of this freedom by deforestation, cutting or burning, but also by hunting, fishing, hiking or any form of sports and recreation, as well as any other use for purposes other than vital, are contrary to this right.

Article 5
1. The forest that man cultivates and exploits must have the same rights as the natural forest, i.e. respect, protection and appropriate and attentive care provided by competent human organizations empowered to do so by legal State or private institutions.
2. Under no circumstances shall it be left fallow or unjustifiably destroyed.
3. All forms of forest cultivation and exploitation shall respect the physiology and characteristics of the biotopes of the variety of its species.
4. All forms of communication concerning the forest must respect the rights pertaining to it and must not involve any violation of these rights.

Article 6
1. Scientific research and experimentation on the forest and forest life involving physiological, physical or psychological suffering violates the rights of plants and forest life.
2. Alternative methods must be developed and systematically implemented according to the state of the art.

Article 7
Any act involving, without legal necessity, the destruction of all or part of a domestic or natural forest and any decision leading to such an act constitutes a crime against life.
Article 8
1. Any act compromising the survival of a forest or the survival of the living species of which it is the biotope, and any decision leading to such an act, constitutes forest genocide, i.e. a crime against the genome and thus the universal right to life.
2. Uncontrolled deforestation, destruction of forest life, pollution and destruction of biotopes are genocide in the legal sense of the term.

Article 9
1. The legal personality of the forest integrating forest life, i.e. the indigenous human beings, plant and animal species in their entirety living there and their rights must be recognized by the law of nation states and the regulations of international organizations.
2. The defense and safeguarding of responsible and sustainable forestry and natural forests must have representatives in the state bodies of nations.

Article 10

Education and public instruction shall lead human beings, from childhood, to observe, understand and respect the forest and domestic or natural forest life.

Article 11

Any natural person or legal entity in possession of all its faculties is entitled to initiate any proceedings it deems useful before the civil or public court of its choice to denounce facts or practices of a criminal nature with regard to the proclamations of the present Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Forest and the Forest Life.
Proclaimed in Port-au-Prince, by the SOCIÉTÉ AUDUBON HAITI and HAITI NATIONAL TRUST on the first of June of the year 2020 of our era (I.VI.MMXX) to contribute to the safeguarding and future of the natural and domestic woodland heritage of humanity.

Société Audubon Haiti
Haiti National Trust
06/05/2020