

THE DECLARATION FOR LIFE ON EARTH

*A declaration affirming the responsibility of humanity to protect the living Earth and the future
of life*

Issued by the People of Earth
in Defense of the Living World
Earth Day — April 22, 2027
Formal Edition

To the people of Earth:

We affirm that the preservation of life on Earth is among the highest responsibilities of humanity and that the living Earth must guide our common future.

Issued in conscience and shared responsibility

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PREAMBLE

To the people of Earth: This declaration is offered as a civic affirmation of responsibility toward the living planet we share. It is not issued in the name of any nation, government, ideology, or institution. It is issued in the name of the common interest that unites all people: the preservation of the living Earth and the continuation of life. Human societies differ in culture, belief, and political systems. Yet all depend upon the same atmosphere, the same waters, the same soils, and the same living ecosystems that make life possible. The fate of humanity is inseparable from the fate of the Earth. We, the people of Earth, recognizing ourselves as members of the living community of this planet, affirm that the preservation of life on Earth is among the highest responsibilities of humanity. Human civilization exists only because the Earth—its oceans, forests, rivers, soils, atmosphere, and countless species—has sustained life for millions of years. Yet within a brief span of human history, the stability of these systems is being profoundly disrupted. Scientific evidence now shows that biodiversity loss and ecological disruption are accelerating at a planetary scale. This destruction is not inevitable. It is the result of human systems that have too often placed short-term interests above the long-term health of the living world. Because the consequences affect all nations, all species, and generations yet to come, the preservation of Earth's living systems is a shared responsibility of humanity. This declaration is therefore offered as a statement of conscience, a point of civic orientation, and an invitation to shared responsibility for the living world.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Life precedes power.

Life limits power.

Life is the foundation upon which all human rights, institutions, and civilizations depend.

The Earth is not merely a resource but a living system upon which all species rely.

No authority is legitimate when it knowingly destroys the conditions necessary for life.

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Humanity possesses both the capacity and the responsibility to act as stewards of the living world.

Future generations—human and non-human alike—possess a moral claim to the continued habitability of the Earth.

THE CONDITION OF THE EARTH

Across the Earth, evidence now demonstrates that:

- Species are disappearing at accelerating rates.
- Ecosystems that regulate climate, water, and biodiversity are being degraded or destroyed.
- Air, water, and soil essential to life are being contaminated.
- The stability of the Earth's climate system is being disrupted.

These conditions are driven largely by human systems of power and production that place short-term interests above long-term planetary stability.

While billions of people seek to live responsibly within the natural world, the decisions shaping global systems are often concentrated among a small number of powerful institutions and individuals.

The consequences of those decisions extend across the entire community of life.

GRIEVANCES AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE POWER

When systems of power repeatedly act in ways that endanger the foundations of life, it becomes necessary for humanity to speak plainly about those patterns. The people of Earth therefore bear witness to patterns of power that have repeatedly:

- Ignored scientific warnings regarding ecological destruction.
- Permitted the widespread degradation of forests, oceans, wetlands, and other ecosystems essential to planetary stability.
- Driven countless species toward extinction through habitat destruction and exploitation.
- Allowed the contamination of air, water, and soil upon which all life depends.

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- Placed short-term interests above the long-term well-being of humanity and the living world.

Limited public accountability for decisions that shape the future of the planet.

When authority is exercised in ways that knowingly endanger the foundations of life itself, it violates the trust upon which legitimate power depends.

THE RIGHTS OF THE LIVING EARTH

That the ecosystems of the Earth possess an inherent claim to exist, regenerate, and sustain the web of life. That all species possess the right to continue their evolutionary existence within the habitats that sustain them. That all people possess the right to clean air, safe water, fertile soil, a stable climate, and a thriving natural world. That future generations possess the right to inherit a planet capable of sustaining life and human civilization. That scientific knowledge essential to understanding Earth's systems must be protected, preserved, and communicated openly. That institutions and leaders whose decisions affect the planet must remain accountable to the people and to the future.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF HUMANITY

With these rights come responsibilities. Humanity bears the responsibility to protect and restore ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and develop economic and technological systems that operate within the limits of the living Earth. Governance must reflect the long-term stewardship of the planet rather than the short-term interests of power. Citizens of every nation share a common responsibility to defend the living world.

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DECLARATION OF PLANETARY RESOLVE

Therefore, we the people of Earth declare:

That the preservation of the living planet is the highest shared interest of humanity.

That the rights of life must guide the decisions of all human institutions.

That humanity must transform systems of exploitation into systems of stewardship of the living Earth.

That the people of Earth retain the moral authority to demand accountability from any power that threatens the future of the living world.

This declaration does not seek domination over any people, nation, or institution.

It affirms a truth older than any government and deeper than any boundary:

Life must endure.

In recognition of this responsibility, we issue this Declaration for Life on Earth.

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FINAL AFFIRMATION

Humanity now stands at a turning point in the history of the Earth.

The choices made in this era will shape the fate of life for generations and species yet to come.

Let it therefore be known that the people of Earth recognize this responsibility and affirm their commitment to the protection of the living planet.

For the living Earth.

For future generations.

For life itself.

THE COVENANT OF EARTH

Recognizing the gravity of this moment and the responsibility we share toward the living world, we who affirm this declaration commit ourselves to the protection of the Earth and the continuation of life.

We pledge to uphold the principles of this declaration in our communities, institutions, and decisions.

We pledge to defend the integrity of the Earth's ecosystems and the diversity of life that depends upon them.

We pledge to act with responsibility toward future generations, whose lives will depend upon the choices made in our time.

We pledge to seek cooperation among peoples and nations in the service of the living planet.

In making this covenant, we recognize that the Earth does not belong to humanity alone.

Humanity belongs within the greater community of life.

Therefore we affirm together, in good faith and shared responsibility, that the preservation of the living Earth shall guide our actions and our future.

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SIGNATURE OF THE PEOPLE OF EARTH

We, the undersigned citizens, scientists, leaders, and communities of Earth, affirm this declaration and enter into this covenant for the protection of the living world.

Name

Nation or Community

Affiliation (optional)

Date

Additional signatories may be recorded on continuation sheets prepared in the same format.

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SCIENTIFIC AFFIRMATION

Scientists and researchers who study Earth systems may affirm the following statement:

“Based on the best available scientific knowledge, the ecological stability of the Earth is under increasing threat from human activity. Immediate and sustained action to protect ecosystems, biodiversity, and planetary systems is necessary to preserve a livable future.”

Name

Scientific Field

Institution

Date

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