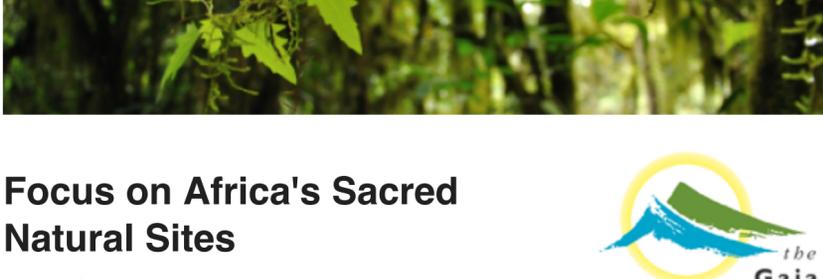


Earth Jurisprudence

Reconnecting with the laws and lore of the Earth

[View this email in your browser](#)



Focus on Africa's Sacred Natural Sites

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to our second Earth Jurisprudence newsletter. We are excited to be able to share with you stories, news, readings and videos from a global network of partners and communities who are working together for a paradigm shift away from an anthropocentric worldview to one where we honour the role of indigenous, earth-centric cultures around the globe.

For most indigenous and traditional peoples, our identity is intimately connected to the land to which we are born and, within that land (or territory), there are sacred natural sites - places of special cultural, ecological and spiritual significance. These are places of potent energy, often referred to as acupuncture points in the body of the Earth, and form an energetic network that maintains the health and viability of the ecosystem. Traditional societies appoint custodians to take care of these sacred places and to ensure that the practices that safeguard them are respected.

Last year, Gaia and the African Biodiversity Network published the report, A Call for Legal Recognition of Sacred Natural Sites and Territories and their Customary Governance Systems, which called on the African Commission to take decisive action for the legal protection and recognition of sacred natural sites and their custodians. We were delighted when, earlier this year, the Ugandan Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Med S. K. Kaggwa, echoed this in a speech presenting the report to civil society groups and press in Kampala.



"Protect Mother Earth" says Uganda's Human Rights Commissioner

In his remarkable speech, Mr Med S.K. Kaggwa, who is also a Commissioner for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) - called for "government, civil society and cultural institutions to embrace and support the recommendations of this report in order for us to protect our Mother Earth and her diverse species and human cultures."

Speaking at a launch organized by the Ugandan environmental group, NAPE, and Gaia on the 26th of May, Mr Kaggwa called on the African Commission, as well as member states, "to play an active role in the most important responsibility of all, namely towards Mother Earth – the source of life for all."

Read the full speech of Commissioner Kaggwa [here](#).

At the heart of the report is a statement from African custodians of sacred natural sites, which details the particular protections they require to be able to exercise and maintain their diverse traditions. This statement asserts that sacred sites should be off-limits, or 'No-Go areas', for extraction, development projects, tourism and other damaging industrial activities.

The report, funded by the European Union and Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) is a joint collaboration involving Gaia, African Biodiversity Network, NAPE-Uganda, MELCA-Ethiopia, CIKOD-Ghana and EarthLore Foundation-South Africa. It is available in English and French and was co-authored by Gaia and South African lawyer, Roger Chennells. You can download a copy [here](#).



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

Putting No-Go Areas to the vote

After Gaia received overwhelming support for their resolution on No-Go Areas at the 10th World Wilderness Congress three years ago, the momentum keeps growing. The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) has since set up a task force to explore no-go policy, and we have drafted a new resolution (Motion 026) which will be debated and voted on at the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in September.

The Congress, held every four years, sets priorities, work programmes and future policy for the IUCN. It brings together government, civil society, indigenous organisations and, controversially, business groups including extractive industries.

While the IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental forum, the growing presence of industry continues to undermine strong positions that need to be taken, given the severity of biodiversity loss, cultural erosion and the pace at which we are exceeding planetary boundaries.

Gaia will be co-hosting a workshop and other events with Sacred Land Film Project and traditional custodians, highlighting the importance of indigenous sacred natural sites. We will also be putting our weight behind Motion 026, calling on IUCN policy guidance to prohibit mining and other industrial activities in sacred natural sites and across all protected and conserved areas. We will join members of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature to raise the call among IUCN constituents for an Earth-centred approach to safeguarding nature.

Events Coming Up – at the IUCN World Conservation Congress!

September 4th, 8.30am, Room 318A, Hawaii Convention Centre

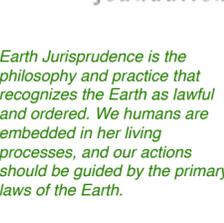
"Earth-Centered Law and Regulation for Safeguarding Nature."

Join the Earth Law Center and NAPE-Uganda, exploring the latest developments on the rights of nature and our responsibilities towards nature, and reparations for ecological damage. This session is part of a series of events to promote implementation of the IUCN Resolution 100 (2012) which calls nature's rights a "fundamental and absolute key element for planning, action and assessment" for the IUCN.

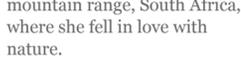
September 4th, 11am, Room 315, Hawaii Convention Centre

"From Rhetoric to Reality: Exploring laws, customary governance and no-go area policies for protection of sacred natural sites."

Join Gaia and the Sacred Land Film Project, along with traditional custodians from Africa, the Amazon, Central Asia, USA and Hawai'i, national park authorities and conservation practitioners, to explore effective tools for meaningful progress in restoring, protecting and legally recognizing indigenous sacred natural sites and territories and governance systems. The workshop will also rally support for a new IUCN Resolution (Motion 026) calling for their sacred natural sites, territories and all protected and conserved areas to be off-limits for extractive and industrial activities.



Earth Jurisprudence is the philosophy and practice that recognizes the Earth as lawful and ordered. We humans are embedded in her living processes, and our actions should be guided by the primary laws of the Earth.



I've been taught by Mother Earth

Lilhe Mbokazi grew up with the picturesque Drakensburg mountain range, South Africa, where she fell in love with nature.

She became the first African woman wilderness guide and has spent her life inspiring others with her passion for Mother Earth.

Read more about Lilhe [here](#).

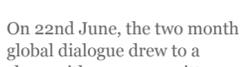


Putting an Earth-centred lens on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

"Indigenous governance systems provide us with the inspiration that we humans have the capacity to organise ourselves in harmony with nature", says Method Gundidza from Zimbabwe - a view shared by many in the UN dialogue on Earth Jurisprudence.

On 22nd June, the two month global dialogue drew to a close, with over 140 written submissions. A report for the UN General Assembly will carry recommendations.

Read Method's full submission [here](#)



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

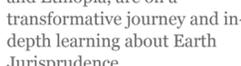
The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

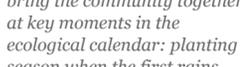
The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.



Strengthening an African Earth Jurisprudence Movement

Gaia has launched an ambitious, 3-year training course for African EJ practitioners. Through experiential and participative learning processes, assignments and field practice, participants from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, are on a transformative journey and in-depth learning about Earth Jurisprudence.

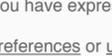
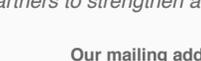
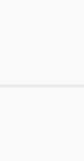
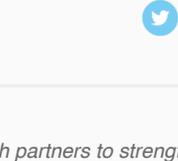
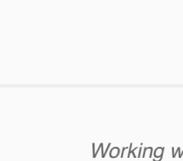
The course accompanies their work in-country with local communities, reviving traditional knowledge and community ecological governance systems as well as strengthening advocacy. The course is led by Liz Hosken of Gaia and South African Lawyer Roger Chennells, as well as a range of African and international tutors.

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- **Principles:** [Thomas Berry's Ten Principles on Earth Jurisprudence](#)
- [Goethe and the Evolution of Science](#) by Craig Holdrege
- [Every Being Has Rights](#) by Thomas Berry
- **Film:** [Yaigoje Apaporis - traditional knowledge at the heart of protecting the Colombian Amazon.](#)
- **Film:** [Revival - reviving biocultural diversity in Ethiopia, and a gathering of African custodians of sacred natural sites.](#)

News

- [State protection of minority and indigenous cultures falls seriously short according to new global survey.](#)
- [Indigenous Hawaiians reflect on kinship with nature in advance of IUCN 2016.](#)
- [In Nicaragua, indigenous Miskitu and Mayagna are under threat from settlers; fighting for progressive laws to be enforced.](#)
- [UN Human Rights Council declares protecting the climate as key to protecting communities.](#)
- [Gathering in Canada of First Nations seeks to establish indigenous renewable energy projects.](#)
- [Bay Area in California holds a tribunal on the Rights of Nature.](#)
- [First World Environmental Law Congress makes Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law.](#)



Working with partners to strengthen an African Earth Jurisprudence.

Our mailing address is:

The Gaia Foundation, 6 Heathgate Place, London NW3 2NU

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Earth Jurisprudence.

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)