

Dataset: Universal Declaration of Organic Rights, Principles, and Laws (2025)

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Preamble

Affirming that all life on Earth is interconnected, interdependent, and part of a single, indivisible planetary biosphere, whose health and integrity are paramount.

Recognizing that humanity is part of nature, not separate from it, and that human well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of the ecosystems and species with which we share this planet.

Understanding "Organic" not merely as a method of cultivation, but as a fundamental principle reflecting the inherent organizational intelligence, cyclical processes, regenerative capacity, and holistic nature of living systems.

Believing that a just, peaceful, and sustainable future requires a fundamental shift in human consciousness and behavior, moving from anthropocentric and extractive paradigms to ecocentric and regenerative ones.

Acknowledging the intrinsic value of all living beings and natural systems, independent of their perceived utility to humans.

Concerned by the escalating ecological crises, including climate disruption, mass extinction, pervasive pollution, and soil degradation, driven by unsustainable human activities.

Inspired by the wisdom of indigenous cultures, ecological science, deep ecology, and holistic philosophies that recognize the sacredness and intricate balance of life.

Declaring these universal organic rights, principles, and laws as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance.

Part I: Foundational Organic Laws and Principles

Article 1: The Law of Interconnectedness (Unity)

- 1.1 All entities within the biosphere—living and non-living, micro and macro—are intrinsically interconnected and interdependent, forming a complex, self-regulating planetary system

(Gaia).

- 1.2 Actions affecting one part of this system inevitably ripple through and impact other parts, often in unforeseen ways.
- 1.3 Human existence, health, and culture are inseparable from the health and functioning of the wider ecological community.
- 1.4 *Principle:* Decisions and actions must consider their potential impacts across multiple scales (local to global) and domains (ecological, social, economic).

Article 2: The Law of Cycles (Circularity)

- 2.1 Natural systems operate in continuous cycles (water, carbon, nitrogen, etc.), where outputs from one process become inputs for another, ensuring renewal and minimizing waste.
- 2.2 Life depends on the constant flow and transformation of energy and matter through these biogeochemical cycles.
- 2.3 *Principle:* Human systems (economy, agriculture, production) must strive to emulate natural cycles, designing out waste, promoting reuse, and ensuring the safe return of materials to the biosphere or technosphere.

Article 3: The Law of Regeneration (Renewal & Resilience)

- 3.1 Living systems possess inherent capacities for self-organization, healing, adaptation, and regeneration following disturbance, provided core conditions remain viable.
- 3.2 Ecological health is characterized by resilience—the ability to absorb change and disturbance while maintaining essential functions and structures.
- 3.3 *Principle:* Human activities should support and enhance, rather than degrade, the regenerative capacities of ecosystems and the biosphere. Priority should be given to restorative and regenerative practices.

Article 4: The Law of Biodiversity (Diversity & Complexity)

- 4.1 Biological diversity (genetic, species, ecosystem) is fundamental to the resilience, adaptability, and functioning of living systems. Complexity provides stability.
- 4.2 Each species and genetic variant potentially holds unique ecological roles and evolutionary potential.
- 4.3 Cultural diversity, including diverse ways of knowing and relating to the environment, mirrors and supports biological diversity.
- 4.4 *Principle:* The preservation, enhancement, and restoration of biological and cultural diversity are essential for long-term planetary health and human well-being. Monocultures (biological or cultural) are inherently vulnerable.

Article 5: The Law of Limits (Carrying Capacity & Boundaries)

- 5.1 Ecosystems and the planet as a whole have finite capacities to produce resources, absorb wastes, and withstand disturbances without undergoing critical state shifts.
- 5.2 Sustainable existence requires recognizing and respecting these ecological limits and planetary boundaries.

- 5.3 *Principle:* Human populations, consumption patterns, and economic activities must operate within the Earth's carrying capacity, ensuring equitable distribution and sufficiency for all. Perpetual material growth on a finite planet is impossible.

Article 6: The Law of Intrinsic Value (Inherent Worth)

- 6.1 All living beings, species, ecosystems, and natural entities (like rivers, mountains, forests) possess intrinsic value, irrespective of their instrumental value or utility to humans.
- 6.2 This inherent worth confers upon them the right to exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve according to their own nature.
- 6.3 *Principle:* Respect for the intrinsic value of all life must guide human ethics, laws, and interactions with the natural world.

Article 7: The Law of Precaution (Anticipatory Care)

- 7.1 Where activities raise threats of serious or irreversible harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.
- 7.2 The burden of proof for demonstrating safety should fall on the proponents of potentially harmful activities.
- 7.3 *Principle:* Prudence, humility, and foresight are necessary when making decisions that could impact complex living systems. We must err on the side of caution.

Article 8: The Law of Intergenerational Equity (Responsibility to the Future)

- 8.1 Present generations hold the Earth in trust for future generations of humans and other species.
- 8.2 Actions today must not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and inherit a healthy, diverse, and functional planet.
- 8.3 *Principle:* Long-term ecological and social well-being must take precedence over short-term gains.

Part II: Rights of Nature and the Living Environment

Article 9: Fundamental Rights of Nature

- 9.1 Nature, encompassing ecosystems, natural communities, species, and geophysical entities, possesses the inherent and inalienable right to exist, persist, maintain, regenerate, and evolve its vital cycles, structures, functions, and evolutionary processes free from systemic anthropogenic disruption.
- 9.2 Specific ecosystems (e.g., forests, rivers, wetlands, oceans, mountains, deserts, atmosphere, cryosphere, soil communities) have the right to maintain their health, integrity, and characteristic composition and functions.

- 9.3 These rights shall be recognized, respected, protected, and enforced by law and societal practice. Humans and institutions have a duty to uphold these rights.

Article 10: The Right to a Healthy Atmosphere and Stable Climate

- 10.1 The Earth's atmosphere has the right to maintain its composition and dynamic balance, free from harmful levels of pollution and greenhouse gases that cause dangerous climate disruption.
- 10.2 All beings have the right to air quality that supports health and ecological integrity.
- 10.3 This includes the right to protection from transboundary air pollution and atmospheric degradation.

Article 11: The Right to Clean and Living Waters

- 11.1 All water bodies (oceans, rivers, lakes, aquifers, glaciers, wetlands) have the right to flow, maintain their natural cycles, biodiversity, and water quality necessary to sustain the ecosystems and life they support.
- 11.2 Water is a sacred commons, not merely a commodity, essential for all life. All beings have the right to access sufficient clean water.
- 11.3 This includes the right to protection from pollution, depletion, damming, and diversions that fundamentally compromise ecological integrity.

Article 12: The Right to Healthy, Living Soils

- 12.1 Soil ecosystems have the right to maintain their structure, fertility, biodiversity (microbiomes), water retention capacity, and ability to function as a living matrix supporting terrestrial life.
- 12.2 This includes the right to freedom from erosion, degradation, desertification, contamination by persistent pollutants, and destructive land use practices.

Article 13: The Right to Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity

- 13.1 Biological diversity at all levels (genetic, species, ecosystem) has the right to be protected, conserved, and restored.
- 13.2 Species have the right to exist, thrive in their natural habitats, and fulfill their ecological roles without being driven to extinction by human activities.
- 13.3 Ecosystems have the right to maintain their characteristic structure, function, composition, and resilience. Critical habitats, migration corridors, and ecological processes have the right to protection.

Article 14: The Right to Ecological Restoration

- 14.1 Where ecosystems have been damaged or destroyed by human activities, they have the right to be restored to a state of health, integrity, and resilience.
- 14.2 Humanity bears a collective responsibility to actively engage in and support ecological restoration efforts globally.

Part III: Rights of Animals

Article 15: The Right to Life, Dignity, and Sentience

- 15.1 All sentient animals possess the right to a life appropriate to their species, free from deliberate cruelty, torture, neglect, and unnecessary suffering.
- 15.2 Animal sentience—the capacity to experience feelings and sensations—shall be universally recognized and respected in law and practice.
- 15.3 Animals have the right to be treated as subjects of a life, not mere objects or property.

Article 16: The Right to Natural Behaviors and Habitats

- 16.1 Animals have the right to live in conditions that allow them to express innate behaviors essential to their physical and psychological well-being.
- 16.2 Wild animals have the right to their natural habitats, sufficient territory, freedom of movement, and intact social structures, protected from human encroachment and destruction.
- 16.3 Domesticated animals have the right to conditions that meet their species-specific physical, behavioral, and social needs.

Article 17: The Right to Freedom from Exploitation and Commodification

- 17.1 Animals have the right to be free from systemic exploitation that treats them solely as resources for human consumption, labor, entertainment, or experimentation, particularly where such use causes significant suffering or disregards their intrinsic value.
- 17.2 Practices involving extreme confinement, painful procedures without adequate justification and analgesia, and genetic manipulation solely for productivity at the expense of welfare, violate these rights.
- 17.3 A transition towards plant-based food systems and alternatives to animal use in research and testing is encouraged where feasible and ethically imperative.

Part IV: Human Rights within an Organic Framework

Article 18: The Right to a Healthy Body and Environment

- 18.1 Every human being has the fundamental right to live in an environment that is safe, clean, healthy, and ecologically sustainable, supporting physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
- 18.2 This includes the right to be free from exposure to harmful levels of toxins, pollutants, pesticides, radiation, and other hazardous substances in air, water, soil, and food.
- 18.3 This right extends to protection from environmental factors contributing to disease and ill-health.

Article 19: The Right to Organic and Agroecological Food and Water

- 19.1 Every human being has the right to access sufficient, safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound, socially just methods like organic farming, agroecology, and permaculture.
- 19.2 This includes the right to food sovereignty—the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.
- 19.3 Every human being has the right to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic uses, sourced sustainably.

Article 20: The Right to Information, Education, and Awareness

- 20.1 Everyone has the right to access comprehensive, understandable, and timely information regarding the state of the environment, potential environmental hazards, the composition and sourcing of products (including food, medicine, consumer goods), and the impacts of human activities.
- 20.2 Everyone has the right to education that fosters ecological literacy, critical thinking about sustainability, understanding of organic principles, and respect for all life.
- 20.3 This includes the right to know about and question technologies and practices that impact environmental and human health (e.g., GMOs, synthetic biology, geoengineering).

Article 21: The Right to Environmental Justice

- 21.1 All persons and communities have the right to fair treatment and meaningful involvement in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, income, gender, ability, or other status.
- 21.2 No group should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, commercial operations, or government policies.
- 21.3 This includes the right to protection from environmental discrimination and the right to equitable access to environmental benefits (e.g., green spaces, clean energy).

Article 22: The Right to Cultural Identity Tied to Nature

- 22.1 Indigenous peoples and local communities have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, and spiritual and material relationship with their lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.
- 22.2 This includes the right to practice sustainable livelihoods and resource management systems based on their traditional ecological knowledge.

Article 23: The Right to Access Nature

- 23.1 Everyone has the right to access and enjoy natural landscapes, wilderness areas, and urban green spaces for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, provided such access respects ecological integrity and the rights of others.

Part V: Rights and Imperatives for Sustainable Systems

Article 24: The Right to Regenerative Agriculture and Land Use

- 24.1 Food production systems have the right and obligation to transition towards regenerative, organic, and agroecological practices that build soil health, enhance biodiversity, conserve water, sequester carbon, minimize external inputs, and ensure fairness for farmers and workers.
- 24.2 Land use planning must prioritize the protection of fertile agricultural land, forests, and critical ecosystems over unsustainable development and sprawl. Deforestation and land degradation must be halted and reversed.

Article 25: The Right to Sustainable and Renewable Energy

- 25.1 All communities have the right to access clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy derived from renewable sources (solar, wind, geothermal, sustainable hydro, etc.).
- 25.2 A rapid, just transition away from fossil fuels and other polluting, high-risk energy systems (e.g., nuclear fission where waste is unresolved) is imperative.
- 25.3 Emphasis shall be placed on energy conservation, efficiency, decentralized systems, and community ownership.

Article 26: The Right to a Circular and Ecological Economy

- 26.1 Economic systems have the right and obligation to evolve beyond perpetual growth paradigms towards models based on ecological regeneration, social equity, genuine well-being, and respect for planetary boundaries (e.g., circular economy, steady-state economy, degrowth, doughnut economics).
- 26.2 Production and consumption patterns must be redesigned to eliminate waste, maximize resource efficiency, prioritize durability and repairability, and ensure products are non-toxic and safely reintegrated into biological or technical cycles.
- 26.3 Economic indicators must move beyond GDP to measure ecological health, social well-being, and equity. The value of ecosystem services must be recognized and integrated.

Article 27: The Right to Zero Waste and Pollution Prevention

- 27.1 All beings have the right to live free from the burden of persistent waste and pollution.
- 27.2 Societies have the right and obligation to implement systems aiming for zero waste through source reduction, reuse, repair, composting, and responsible recycling, phasing out land-filling and incineration of recoverable materials.
- 27.3 The production and use of toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative substances must be progressively eliminated (Pollution Prevention Principle).

Article 28: The Right to Sustainable Mobility and Planning

- 28.1 Communities have the right to transportation systems that are safe, accessible, affordable, efficient, and ecologically sound, prioritizing walking, cycling, public transit, and shared mobility powered by renewable energy.

- 28.2 Urban and rural planning must promote compact, mixed-use development, protect green spaces, enhance biodiversity (eco-cities, biophilic design), minimize resource consumption, and foster strong local communities and economies.

Article 29: The Right to Appropriate and Ethical Technology

- 29.1 Technological development and deployment must be guided by ecological wisdom, ethical considerations, the precautionary principle, and social equity.
- 29.2 Preference should be given to technologies that are life-affirming, decentralized, community-controlled, resource-efficient, non-polluting, and enhance ecological health and human well-being (e.g., green chemistry, biomimicry, appropriate technology).
- 29.3 Risks associated with potentially transformative technologies (e.g., advanced AI, synthetic biology, geoengineering) require broad public deliberation, stringent oversight, and adherence to organic principles.

Part VI: Rights Related to Genetic Integrity and Heritage

Article 30: The Right to Genetic Diversity and Integrity

- 30.1 The genetic diversity of cultivated plants, domesticated animals, and their wild relatives has the right to be conserved, protected, and enhanced in situ and ex situ.
- 30.2 Ecosystems and species have the right to maintain their natural genetic integrity free from contamination by genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that pose ecological or health risks.
- 30.3 Strict regulation, labeling, and liability frameworks are necessary for any deployment of GMOs, applying the precautionary principle.

Article 31: The Right to Seed Sovereignty

- 31.1 Farmers and communities have the right to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seeds and propagating material, and to maintain control over their genetic resources.
- 31.2 This includes the right to access diverse, locally adapted, open-pollinated, and non-GMO seeds.
- 31.3 Intellectual property regimes must not undermine seed sovereignty or commodify life forms in ways that restrict access and traditional practices. Open-source seed initiatives should be supported.

Part VII: Governance, Participation, Justice, and Knowledge

Article 32: The Right to Democratic Environmental Governance

- 32.1 All persons have the right to participate effectively and meaningfully in environmental decision-making processes that affect their lives, health, and environment.
- 32.2 This includes access to information (Art. 20), public participation in planning and policy-making, and access to justice.
- 32.3 Governance structures should be transparent, accountable, inclusive, and responsive to ecological realities and community needs. Decentralized and participatory models should be encouraged.

Article 33: The Right to Legal Standing for Nature

- 33.1 Natural entities and ecosystems shall have legal standing, allowing their rights (as defined in Part II) to be defended in courts and administrative proceedings by designated guardians, communities, or organizations acting on their behalf.
- 33.2 Legal and judicial systems must evolve to recognize and adjudicate the rights of nature effectively. Specialized environmental courts or tribunals may be necessary.

Article 34: The Right to Access to Justice and Remedy

- 34.1 Everyone, including communities and defenders of nature's rights, shall have access to effective judicial and administrative procedures for seeking redress, remedy, and restitution for environmental harm or the violation of rights outlined in this Declaration.
- 34.2 This includes access to independent courts, affordable legal aid, and mechanisms to hold polluters (including corporations and states) accountable.

Article 35: The Right to Recognize and Integrate Diverse Knowledge Systems

- 35.1 Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' traditional ecological knowledge, innovations, and practices are vital for sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation and must be respected, protected, and integrated into decision-making with their free, prior, and informed consent.
- 35.2 Scientific knowledge and citizen science play crucial roles but should engage respectfully with other ways of knowing. Knowledge sharing should be encouraged.

Part VIII: Responsibilities and Duties

Article 36: The Duty of Stewardship and Care

- 36.1 All human beings, individually and collectively, bear a fundamental responsibility to act as stewards of the Earth, caring for the biosphere and respecting the rights of all living beings and natural systems.

- 36.2 This includes a duty to minimize personal and collective ecological footprints, consume responsibly, and actively participate in protecting and restoring the environment.

Article 37: The Duty of States and Institutions

- 37.1 States have the primary duty to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights outlined in this Declaration through appropriate legislation, policies, enforcement, and allocation of resources.
- 37.2 Corporations and other institutions have the responsibility to operate within ecological limits, respect all rights herein, ensure transparency and accountability, prevent harm, and contribute positively to ecological and social well-being.

Article 38: The Duty of Prevention and Restoration

- 38.1 There is a collective duty to prevent environmental degradation, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate disruption through proactive measures, application of the precautionary principle, and systemic change.
- 38.2 There is a corresponding duty to actively engage in the restoration of damaged ecosystems and heal the human-nature relationship.

Article 39: The Duty of Accountability and Non-Harm

- 39.1 All actors (individuals, corporations, states) are accountable for the environmental consequences of their actions or inaction.
- 39.2 There is a duty to avoid activities that cause significant or irreversible harm (the "Do No Harm" principle applied ecologically). Recognition and prosecution of 'Ecocide' as an international crime is necessary.

Part IX: Peace, Security, and Ecological Harmony

Article 40: The Right to Ecological Peace and Security

- 40.1 All beings have the right to live in a world free from conflicts fueled by resource scarcity, environmental degradation, and climate change.
- 40.2 True security rests not on military power, but on ecological health, social justice, equitable resource distribution, and cooperative relationships within the human family and with the wider community of life.

Article 41: The Imperative of Ecological Disarmament

- 41.1 Societies must transition away from militarism and redirect vast military expenditures towards meeting basic human needs, ecological restoration, climate action, and fostering a culture of peace.
- 41.2 The production, testing, and use of weapons that cause widespread environmental destruction violate fundamental organic principles and rights.

Article 42: The Right to Peaceful Coexistence

- 42.1 Humanity must cultivate a relationship of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and reciprocity with the natural world, recognizing our role as members, not masters, of the Earth community.
- 42.2 This requires ending the metaphorical and literal "war against nature."

Part X: Implementation and Observance

Article 43: National and International Measures

- 43.1 States shall take legislative, administrative, educational, and other measures necessary to give full effect to the rights, principles, and duties recognized in this Declaration.
- 43.2 International cooperation is essential for addressing transboundary and global environmental challenges and ensuring the universal observance of these rights.

Article 44: Monitoring and Review

- 44.1 Mechanisms shall be established at local, national, regional, and global levels to monitor the implementation of this Declaration, report on progress and violations, and recommend corrective actions.

Article 45: Non-Regression

- 45.1 Nothing in this Declaration shall be interpreted as diminishing or extinguishing existing rights and protections for humans, animals, or the environment provided under national or international law. It aims to establish a higher universal standard.