



# ***DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: For Economic Vitality And Environmental Sustainability***

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## **I. Preamble**

### Adult section:

The educators of the Caretakers for the Environment International have the commitment and honor to be the people that can inspire and awaken interest in our students, their love for the environment, as well as our collective dream to build a better world. The educators need to be facilitators of this fundamental process that is oriented in sustainable development, both locally and globally. Our youth should be the permanent caretakers. With their ideas, actions, shared experiences and what they have learned, they can make the difference.

### Student section:

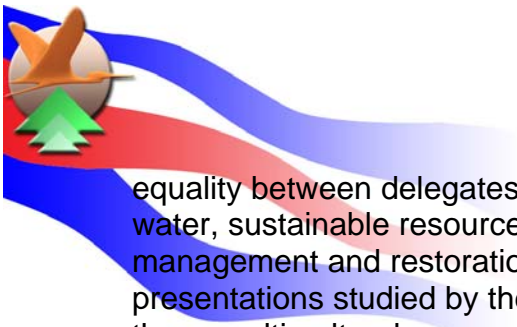
When we first arrived at this summit, everyone was a little shy and maybe even nervous. No one knew what to expect. Not only we have to overcome our fears but also we had to overcome the cultural barriers and be able to communicate when there were so many different languages spoken. But the thing we all shared that was able to connect us was hope. Together we were able to help our city or park but our world. We all shared the same passion. When all came together we were able to come up with our dreams, thoughts and ideas. It's now stated here in this. The worlds' *Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities*.

There are many things to which we all have the right, however there are also many responsibilities, which apply to everyone. Our rights and responsibilities must work together. We may have the right to a clean environment, however if we do not act on our responsibilities and take care of our waist in proper ways such as recycling we are than denying our self of the right being a reality. Our rights and responsibilities effect and are effected by the economy and the environment. If we do not take action on our responsibilities we may ruin the environment. We may also lower the economy by causing the need for money to go into simple things such as keeping water pure and disposing of waist. If we ruin our environment we cause many of our rights to be incapable of being a reality, our may be polluted, our water may be unhealthy. Therefore rights, responsibilities, economy, and environment must meet a harmonious balance, and we must all work towards this.

As soon as we divided in groups, we realized that the different problems we were facing were not only applied to us as individuals or towns. They were also applied to the whole world and to all communities. Each person has a crucial role for the economical, social and environmental stability.

Therefore, we have concluded that everyone has to accept their rights and responsibilities, since facing them, as part of a global work will allow mankind to achieve a global economic vitality and environmental sustainability. Since we all have common problems, we also have common solutions.

The production of the final declaration was created by many major factors and because of the religious, cultural and age barriers which where broken, realization of



equality between delegates was achieved. The four multi-cultural committee groups: water, sustainable resource recreation, renewable and non-renewable resource management and restoration and stewardship, were based on the initial ideas of the presentations studied by the delegates. Through the cooperation and equality gained by these multi-cultural groups has allowed each individual delegate, each a citizen of their own country, and each a citizen of the world, to understand that every society around the world is facing the same problems and each is working towards the same goals. With extra global support from societies around the world, the solution to an issue seems much closer in reach.

We want municipalities and governments to read this document and try to solve these problems and do laws and rights for the individual businesses and the municipalities. They can adopt this document. We want all people to think about the environment and the rights for it. We have established friendships all over the world. We have learned about the environment and the rights for it around the world. We have learned and achieved much throughout this summit and through this declaration we hope to go on to make this world a better place. Remember: different worlds, common problems, and common solutions. Together we can achieve all.

## **II. Rights and Responsibilities**

### **Section 1**

**Water:** Adequate water year round that protects in-stream species and is adequate for agriculture, manufacturing, and human consumption.

#### **a) Rights**

1. Individuals have the right to access clean water now and in the future.
2. Communities have the right to environmental education.
3. Communities have the right to clean and accessible water supplies.
4. Businesses have the right to use as much water as they need.
5. Businesses have the right to invest in environmental issues.
6. Governments have the right to make laws to protect water for human and non-human species and set consequences for those breaking the laws.

#### **b) Responsibilities**

1. Individuals have the responsibility to use water efficiently.
2. Individuals have the responsibility to avoid polluting water.
3. Communities have the responsibility to educate themselves about the environment.
4. Communities, including individuals, businesses and other stakeholders have the responsibility to report problems to local authorities.
5. Businesses have the responsibility to invest in better plans for their practice and the consumption of water.
6. Governments have the responsibility to hold individuals, communities, and businesses accountable for their actions.



## **c) Solutions**

### **Right #1**

Article: Individuals have the right to access clean water now and in the future.

Objective: To promote quality of life via clean and accessible water.

Method: Governments will commit to providing clean and accessible water for all its constituents and encourage education that promotes the conservation of water. Laws will be passed that promote water quality in municipalities and in natural bodies of water.

### **Right #2**

Article: Communities have the right to environmental education.

Objective: To foster an educated society for the benefit of the future.

Method: Environmental education will begin at early ages. Environmental education will have many faces, from media, schooling, Internet, newspapers, forums, etc.

### **Right #3**

Article: Communities have the right to clean and accessible water supplies.

Objective: To promote quality of life via clean and accessible water.

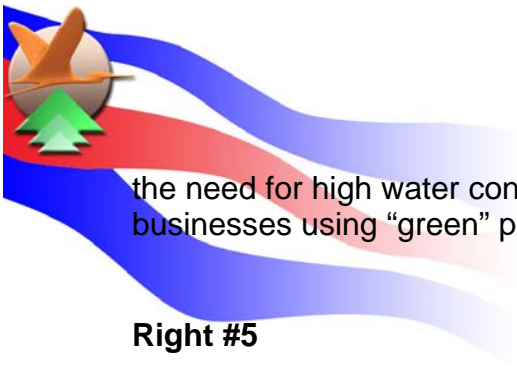
Method: Governments will commit to providing clean and accessible water for all its constituents and encourage education that promotes the conservation of water. Laws will be passed that promote water quality in municipalities and in natural bodies of water.

### **Right #4**

Article: Businesses have the right to use as much water as they need.

Objective: To insure economic vitality and the businesses need to be beneficial to the economy.

Method: Agencies will oversee the business need and use of water so that it is environmentally sustainable. Businesses will implement new technology, which lessens



the need for high water consumption. Government will provide incentives for businesses using “green” practices and for conserving water resources.

### **Right #5**

Article: Businesses have the right to invest in environmental issues.

Objective: To empower businesses to contribute positively to the environment.

Method: Government will provide incentives for businesses investing in environmental issues (e.g. tax breaks). Businesses will allocate a portion of employee time for environmental improvement. Forums for all community members will be held to help identify the environmental issues and concerns in communities.

### **Right #6**

Article: Governments have the right to make laws to protect water for human and non-human species and set consequences for those breaking the laws.

Objective: To insure that water is protected and available to all.

Method: Laws will be passed that protect water for human and non-human species and that set clear consequences for those that break the laws. Scientific research will be conducted to help us better understand the needs of the non-human species need for water. Higher consideration will be given to those species that are native to the area. Water protection laws will be made known in a variety of media to increase the level of awareness of the people.

### **Responsibility #1**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to use water efficiently.

Objective: To promote water conservation.

Method: Conservation education will be made available to all people in a variety of formats. Efforts will be done collaboratively starting with individuals, communities, businesses, and government.

### **Responsibility #2**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to avoid polluting water.



Objective: To promote healthy bodies of water.

Method: Government will pass laws which penalize violators who pollute water, including individuals, business, and others. Widespread education will make know proper ways of disposing waste and pollution so that it does not end up in bodies of water. Environmental education at early ages will be implemented to educate people about the impacts of pollution in the environment, and especially water.

### **Responsibility #3**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to educate themselves about the environment.

Objective: To insure that people are educated about environmental issues.

Method: Environmental education will begin at early ages. Environmental education will have many faces, from media, schooling, Internet, newspapers, forums, etc.

### **Responsibility #4**

Article: Communities, including individuals, businesses and other stakeholders have the responsibility to report problems to local authorities.

Objective: To identify problems so the problem can be alleviated.

Method: Communities will have an effective process by which to report problems to local authorities. These authorities will have a process in place to investigate the reported problem in a timely manner. Communities will be educated about this process via a variety of media.

### **Responsibility #5**

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to invest in better plans for their practice and the consumption of water.

Objective: To encourage environmental sustainability within the business sector.

Method: Government will provide incentives for businesses improving efficiency and waste reduction as they become more environmentally sustainable. Business will work to be more sustainable and less profitable in the short term in order to promote long term economic vitality and environmental sustainability. Business will invest in technology that reduces waste and improves energy efficiency.



## **Responsibility #6**

Article: Governments have the responsibility to hold individuals, communities, and businesses accountable for their actions.

Objective: To insure environmental health for future generations.

Method: Laws will be passed that protect water for human and non-human species and that set clear consequences for those that break the laws. Scientific research will be conducted to help us better understand the needs of the non-human species need for water. Higher consideration will be given to those species that are native to the area. Water protection laws will be made known in a variety of media to increase the level of awareness of the people.

## **Section 2**

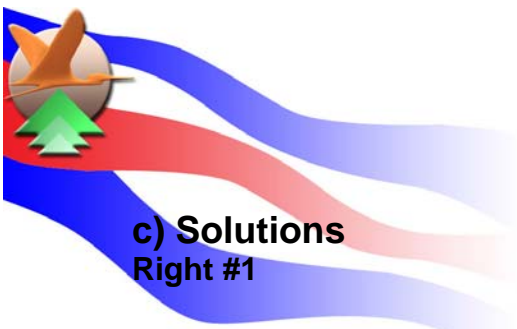
Sustainable Resource Recreation: Recreation must remain an economically viable business but also sustain, protect, and restore those natural elements vital to the industry.

### **a) Rights**

1. Individuals have the right to use healthy environmental resources freely and equally as it promotes an equal society with free access.
2. Individuals have the right to a clean and healthy environment and to protect the ecosystem and their health.
3. Communities have the right to access clean air, water, and land in turn promoting health.
4. Businesses have the right to be economically viable.
5. Businesses have the right to provide access to the public and community.
6. Governments have the right to choose the best way of using natural resources in a manner that is healthy for the community and the environment.

### **b) Responsibilities**

1. Individuals have the responsibility to plan ahead for the future and think about whether their actions will end in a positive or negative result for the environment.
2. Individuals have the responsibility to allow a healthy social environmental atmosphere for the future.
3. Communities have the responsibility to sustain if not improve their environment.
4. Businesses have the responsibility to have environmental and community friendly conduct.
5. Governments have the responsibility to respect the opinions of the community, provide resources to community members and businesses to maintain their surroundings as needed, and implement laws, regulations, and incentives that promote best management practices.



### **c) Solutions**

#### **Right #1**

Article: Individuals have the right to use healthy environmental resources freely and equally as it promotes an equal society with free access.

Objective: To promote recreational resource access and equity for all people.

Method: Laws and regulations will be passed by local governments that enable people, not disable them, so long as it promotes environmental sustainability and economic vitality.

#### **Right #2**

Article: Individuals have the right to a clean and healthy environment and to protect the ecosystem and their health.

Objective: To maintain health for people and ecosystems.

Method: Laws and regulations will be passed by local governments that protect and promote the health of recreational resources. Individuals will be held accountable when their actions are detrimental to the environment and punishments will be set according to the significance of the wrongdoing. Communities and recreational businesses will promote best use practices for all individuals and set guidelines for people to follow.

#### **Right #3**

Article: Communities have the right to access clean air, water, and land in turn promoting health.

Objective: To have access to a clean, safer, healthy place for everyone to enjoy and thrive, i.e., kids, adults, pets, native flora and fauna, etc.

Method: To educate the community about what they can do, and inform and educate individuals of their rights.

#### **Right #4**

Article: Businesses have the right to be economically viable.

Objective: To insure that businesses are economically viable and contributing positively to the economy.



Method: Laws and policies should be such that businesses are able to profit. Lines of communication must be open between all parties so that knowledge about harmony and conflict is identified within the built and/or natural environment. Incentives must be given to businesses who maintain best management practices and to those who need assistance in maintaining if not improving the environment.

## **Right #5**

Article: Businesses have the right to provide access to the public and community.

Objective: To insure a stable income and sustainable use on the recreational resource they profit from.

Method: Business must communicate with individuals, communities, and government that meet both short term and long term goals that are agreeable to all parties involved.

## **Right #6**

Article: Governments have the right to choose the best way of using natural resources in a manner that is healthy for the community and the environment.

Objective: To plan for the future while taking input from the public.

Method: Information will be made available in a variety of formats (TV, radio, newsprint, magazines, Internet, etc.) as well as gathered in public forums. People will vote when major decisions are being made regarding recreational resources in their communities.

## **Responsibility #1**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to plan ahead for the future and think about whether their actions will end in a positive or negative result for the environment.

Objective: To seek long-term environmental sustainability with recreational resources.

Method: Environmental education and awareness programs will be implemented at the local, regional, and national level. Forums must be held in order to insure that all points of view are heard in order to have outcomes that lead to the highest yield of environmental sustainability and economic vitality.

## **Responsibility #2**



Article: Individuals have the responsibility to allow a healthy social environmental atmosphere for the future.

Objective: To set guidelines for appropriate use of recreational resources that benefit people and the environment.

Method: Studies will be done which monitor use and impact on environments over long periods of time. Research will be done by individuals, communities, businesses, and governments that seek out best management practices. These practices will be shared in public forums and published in a variety of media.

### **Responsibility #3**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to sustain if not improve their environment.

Objective: To obtain and sustain a healthy, clean environment in which to recreate.

Method: Give businesses incentives to provide money for restoration and other sustainable activities. In some cases, money invested into projects such as these can be tax write-offs.

Encourage collaboration between the people and the governments in order to insure best management practices.

Encourage and provide community forums in which discussions are held about how resource recreation is managed.

### **Responsibility #4**

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to have environmental and community friendly conduct.

Objective: To use environmentally friendly methods and materials while creating conservation efforts to limit waste and resources businesses create and building stable partnerships between business and local communities.

Method: Businesses will use, whenever possible, recyclable materials and return to the environment what they have used as well as reduce use of energy and resources. Government grants will be available for the purchase environmentally friendly materials, when needed. Businesses need to share with the community the resources in the community as well as communicate their needs in order to maintain good relationships.

### **Responsibility #5**



Article: Governments have the responsibility to respect the opinions of the community, provide resources to community members and businesses to maintain their surroundings as needed, and implement laws, regulations, and incentives which promote best management practices.

Objective: To insure greater knowledge about the environmental issues in communities so that the best decision regarding recreational resources can be made.

Method: Set up an advisory panel of well-informed personalities. Local governments will be responsible for their own areas and the people who live there.

### **Section 3**

Renewable and Non-renewable Resource Management: We must connect waste reduction to renewable resources so that both have a compatible economic and environmental pace.

#### **a) Rights**

1. Individuals have the right to environmental education so that they are aware of the importance of recycling, reusing, and buying repaired/used products.
2. Individuals have the right to the fulfillment of needs (water, air, food, land work, etc.). They have the right to equal access to pure water, organic foods, health care, resources and the freedom to choose which resources to use.
3. Communities have the right to be informed about the environment and any topics that are related so they can participate in the activities around them and as a result can fight for their environment.
4. Communities have the right to access recycling facilities.
5. Businesses have the right to decide about the type of resources they use, how they use them, and their environmental plans, which ultimately gives them the right to sell, produce, and profit.
6. Governments have the right to manage their own resources without the interference of governments or selective groups. This grants them the right to use and access resources based on national needs.

#### **b) Responsibilities**

1. Individuals have the responsibility to use their environmental education to their advantage.
2. Individuals have the responsibility to not waste valuable resources by using their freedom to choose renewable resources.
3. Communities have the responsibility to be informed about the environment and participate in environmental activities.
4. Communities have the responsibility to decide, as well as choose, where to recycle.



5. Businesses have the responsibility to minimize pollution and waste of natural resources and to replace and neutralize everything they waste in order to maintain a balance between resources.
6. Governments have the responsibility to use and encourage the use of sustainable resources and to inform and provide its constituents the usage of sustainable resources.

## **c) Solutions**

### **Right #1**

Article: Individuals have the right to environmental education so that they are aware of the importance of recycling, reusing, and buying repaired/used products.

Objective: To insure resource conservation awareness.

Method: Inform people about the environment to make them see the impact they have on the environment: mandatory environmental education in schools and speakers about resource management in schools and in other public places.

### **Right #2**

Article: Individuals have the right to the fulfillment of needs (water, air, food, land work, etc.). They have the right to equal access to pure water, organic foods, health care, resources and the freedom to choose which resources to use.

Objective: To insure healthy living for all people.

Method: Government will pass laws that insure the fulfillment of basic needs and to make sure that there is an appropriate balance of resources so that some people do not have excessively more than others. Educate people on how to profit from their environmental learning.

### **Right #3**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to be informed about the environment and participate in environmental activities.

Objective: To insure awareness amongst community members about environmental activities.

Method: Inform people via entertaining campaigns and invest in environmental education.



#### **Right #4**

Article: Communities have the right to access recycling facilities.

Objective: To insure the ability for all people to recycle to maximize recycling practices.

Method: Distribute recycling containers around places to make easy access to them possible. Inform people about some activities that improve the environment via TV, radio, newspaper, flyers, etc. Educate people about where they can recycle and how to do it: organizing campaigns to show them the basic steps.

#### **Right #5**

Article: Businesses have the right to decide about the type of resources they use, how they use them, and their environmental plans, which ultimately gives them the right to sell, produce, and profit.

Objective: To insure business autonomy for maximum profit.

Method: Replacing used resources (e.g. Planting trees). Develop a plan backed by different laws to maintain resource balance. Support environmental projects. Research different resources and ways of using them more effectively and/or efficiently.

#### **Right #6**

Article: Governments have the right to manage their own resources without the interference of governments or selective groups. This grants them the right to use and access resources based on national needs.

Objective: To insure their right as an authority figure in society pertaining to resource management.

Method: To give the people the power of choice in voting for laws based on environmental subjects. To inform people about the management of the natural resources, coordinating summits, conferences, and meetings. Take care of the actions of the government in the natural environment, while designing a plan so the government can use all the sustainable resources, without causes irreparable damage to the environment. Take out the natural resources to provide all the needs of the people and take care of the natural environment using machines that do not pollute the environment, and increase the quality of products we need.



## **Responsibility #1**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to use their environmental education to their advantage.

Objective: To insure that informed and educated decisions are made regarding the environment.

Method: Education about the environment must begin at an early age. Information must be made available to all people in a variety of formats.

## **Responsibility #2**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to not waste valuable resources by using their freedom to choose renewable resources.

Objective: To insure the longevity of our non-renewable resources.

Method: Conservation education is widespread in society. Research is focused on alternative energy sources and more efficient renewable resources. Government will provide incentives that encourage people to conserve resources and fine or shut down those who have bad management practices.

## **Responsibility #3**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to be informed about the environment and participate in environmental activities.

Objective: To insure community knowledge about the environment and involvement in conservation activities.

Method: Individuals, communities, businesses, and government will individually or collaboratively coordinate activities that promote conservation in order to educate the people.

## **Responsibility #4**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to decide, as well as choose, where to recycle.

Objective: To provide many recycling facilities to the public to make recycling easy.



Method: Business and government will work collaboratively to provide a recycling infrastructure that meets the needs of all people. Governments will provide these services to remote areas, too.

### **Responsibility #5**

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to minimize pollution and waste of natural resources and to replace and neutralize everything they waste in order to maintain a balance between resources.

Objective: To minimize pollution and waste in the environment.

Method: Replacing used resources (e.g. Planting trees). Develop a plan backed by different laws to maintain resource balance. Support environmental projects. Research different resources and ways of using them more effectively and/or efficiently. Use technology that reduces pollution to zero or else contains the pollution for proper disposal.

### **Responsibility #6**

Article: Governments have the responsibility to use and encourage the use of sustainable resources and to inform and provide its constituents the usage of sustainable resources.

Objective: To insure conservation efforts at all levels of society.

Method: Research is focused on alternative energy sources and more efficient renewable resources. To inform people about the management of the natural resources, coordinating summits, conferences, and meetings. Take care of the actions of the government in the natural environment, while designing a plan so the government can use all the sustainable resources, without causes irreparable damage to the environment. Take out the natural resources to provide all the needs of the people and take care of the natural environment using machines that do not pollute the environment, and increase the quality of products we need.

## **Section 4**

Restoration and Stewardship: Restoration and stewardship are important aspects that help ensure community economics and environmental health and are ethics and practices that have long-lasting positive impacts on communities.

### **a) Rights**

1. Individuals have the right to preserve nature.



2. Individuals have the right to enjoy biodiversity.
3. Communities have the right to be educated in order to preserve nature.
4. Businesses have the right to use nature to make a profit.
5. Governments have the right to have rules and regulations for clear water, air, and land.

## **b) Responsibilities**

1. Individuals have the responsibility to not be harmful to the environment.
2. Individuals have the responsibility to replace or fix what they damage or destroy.
3. Communities have the responsibility to not overuse resources and care for them.
4. Businesses have the responsibility to not use more land or other resources than is necessary.
5. Governments have the responsibility to protect our environment.

## **c) Solutions**

### **Right #1**

Article: Individuals have the right to preserve nature.

Objective: To create awareness about the environment.

Method: Start programs and clubs in schools and advertising through the media.

### **Right #2**

Article: Individuals have the right to enjoy biodiversity.

Objective: To protect all species.

Method: Start and maintain programs and clubs to speed community awareness and volunteerism.

### **Right #3**

Article: Communities have the right to be educated in order to preserve nature.

Objective: To teach others about environmental issues and projects that are being done to help these issues and to identify ways people can help.

Method: Create greater public awareness via newspapers, posters, TV, radio, education, and other media in order to reach the greatest number of people.



#### **Right #4**

Article: Businesses have the right to use nature to make a profit.

Objective: To use resources wisely and for benefit to the economy.

Method: Education of businesses owners and managers that maximize economic vitality and environmental sustainability is necessary. Incentives should be given to businesses that have “green” practices and/or facilities.

#### **Right #5**

Article: Governments have the right to have rules and regulations for clear water, air, and land.

Objective: To set policies to protect the environment and our resources for future generations.

Method: Environmental awareness campaigns will be carried out in order to get good public and professional input on environmental issues. Government will research best practices and pass laws, which require business and agencies to implement these best practices. Government will invest in technology that is better for the environment.

#### **Responsibility #1**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to not be harmful to the environment.

Objective: Educate people about the importance of preserving nature.

Method: Implement practices that encourage reducing, reusing, and recycling.

#### **Responsibility #2**

Article: Individuals have the responsibility to replace or fix what they damage or destroy.

Objective: To maintain and/or improve the environment in which we live.

Method: Raise awareness in the community. Coordinate volunteer activities, which involve all parties. Use technology to our advantage and the advantage of the environment. Built partnerships within the community to be watchdogs for each other.



### **Responsibility #3**

Article: Communities have the responsibility to not overuse resources and care for them.

Objective: To protect our resources to maintain optimal ecosystem and resource health.

Method: Laws will be passed that encourage conservation of all resources and practices will be implemented to restore overused areas.

### **Responsibility #4**

Article: Businesses have the responsibility to not use more land or other resources than is necessary.

Objective: To protect plant and animal species from extinction and promote healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.

Method: Laws will be passed that regulate business use of resources and outside agencies will act as watchdogs for illegal resource use and/or damage. Public forums will be held to allow a means of communication between the public and business.

### **Responsibility #5**

Article: Governments have the responsibility to protect our environment.

Objective: To protect the environment from long-term damage.

Method: Policies will be passed that focus on conservation and preservation of the environment and limit the destruction of plant and wildlife habitat. Government will sponsor events that help improve the quality of the environment in communities. Government will offer incentives to those individuals, communities, and businesses that implement “green” best practices.