



## **STATEMENT OF TREE RIGHTS**

**proclaimed at the April 5th 2019 Congress at the French National Assembly**

### **Article 1**

The tree is a fixed living being which, in comparable proportions, occupies two distinct environments, the atmosphere and the soil. In the soil roots develop, which capture water and minerals. In the atmosphere grows the crown, which captures carbon dioxide and solar energy. Because of this situation, the tree plays a fundamental role in the ecological balance of the planet.

### **Article 2**

The tree, living being sensitive to changes in its environment, must be respected as such, can not be reduced to a single object. He is entitled to the airspace and underground space he needs to achieve his full growth and reach his adult size. In these conditions the tree is entitled to respect for its physical integrity, aerial (branches, trunk, foliage) and underground (root network). The alteration of these organs seriously weakens it, as does the use of pesticides and other toxic substances.

### **Article 3**

The tree is a living organism whose average longevity far exceeds that of the human being. He must be respected throughout his life, with the right to develop and reproduce freely, from birth to natural death, whether he is a tree of the cities or the countryside. The tree must be considered as a subject of law, including the rules governing human property.

### **Article 4**

Some trees, considered remarkable by men for their age, appearance or history, deserve additional attention. By becoming a common bio-cultural heritage, they gain access to a higher status that commits humans to protect them as "natural monuments". They can be registered in a landscape heritage preservation zone, thus benefiting from enhanced protection and enhancement for aesthetic, historical or cultural reasons.

### **Article 5**

To meet the needs of men, some trees are planted and exploited, necessarily escaping the criteria mentioned above. The way in which forest or rural trees are harvested, however, must take into account the life cycle of trees, natural renewal capacities, ecological balances and biodiversity.

**The aim of this text is to change the way people look and behave, to make them aware of the crucial role of trees in everyday life and for the future, by paving the way for a rapid change in legislation at national level.**