

Webinar Series  
2.0



# LISTEN AS THE EARTH SPEAKS

## A WEBINAR SERIES BY THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

This webinar series aims to create a unique space for Indigenous Peoples around the world to share their stories and important work to protect Mother Earth in their regions, communities, nations and tribes, in order to generate awareness and respect the profound interconnection between Indigenous Wisdom and the Rights of Nature.



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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR  
THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

# CHAPTER 1

## WATER IS LIFE

“Many people don’t think water is alive or has a spirit. My people believe this to be true. Our water deserves to be treated as human with human rights. We need to acknowledge our waters with personhood so we can protect our waters.” - Autumn Peltier



**TOM GOLDTOOTH**  
Dine’ and Dakota

**\*27 AUG 2019**  
Webinar in English



**METHOD GUNDIDZA**  
Zimbabwe



**DENNIS TABARO  
NATUKANDA**  
Uganda



**SIMON MITAMBO**  
Kenya

**\*24 SEP 2019**  
Webinar in English



**DAFE IRIKEFE**  
Nigeria

**\*29 OCT 2019**  
Webinar in English





# TOM GOLDTOOTH

Dine' and Dakota, (USA)



ENGLISH

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 2019 - GMT 16:00**

## BIOGRAPHY:

Tom BK Goldtooth, Executive Director of the Bemidji based Indigenous Environmental Network, is an internationally renowned change maker within the Native American community for over 36 years and leader within the fields of environmental, climate and economic justice, and Co-founder of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. He works with many Indigenous Peoples and social movements around the world. Tom co-produced award-winning documentary Drumbeat for Mother Earth, which addresses the effects of bio-accumulative chemicals on Indigenous Peoples.

## TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Water is life — essential for the very survival of the Earth Community as a whole. We need to listen to our Mother Earth and reconnect with her in order to change our modern way of life that is dangerously out of balance with the Earth. Overarching laws and governance strategies, driven by blind adherence to myths such as “prosperity through unending economic growth,” treat the Earth and her systems as property to be owned and manipulated, rather than as intimate partners with which we have co-evolved across the eons. Tom will speak about the importance of protecting the water and the role that Indigenous Peoples have for implementing and protecting the Rights of Nature, by referring to examples of times when the intelligence and consciousness of water has not been respected.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2019 - GMT 16:00**



## **METHOD GUNDIDZA**

Zimbabwe (South Africa)

“There is Method in his madness” is the catchphrase for this lively Zimbabwean who gave up an accounting career to dedicate himself to his calling, his passion for reviving African indigenous wisdom and Earth-centred practices. He leads the work of EarthLore Foundation and accompanies local communities in Zimbabwe and South Africa, restoring their near-forgotten seed diversity and customary laws.

## **TOPIC DESCRIPTION:**

Like all good stories, it flows like a river. And by that, there is a need to go “back to the roots” to vision the desired future. The movement of Reviving Culture & Nature is growing in Africa for Earth Jurisprudence practitioners, something that this webinar will discuss, by focusing on the progress in Uganda for the Rights of Nature, and also referring to the steps needed to protect the sacred river of Tharaka, Kenya.



## **DENNIS TABARO NATUKANDA**

Uganda

With a background in finance, education and agroecology, Dennis has worked for years with traditional communities around Lake Albert. He recently co-founded the African Institute for Culture and Ecology (AFRICE), to accompany communities of Lake Edward and the Kalangala Islands to revive their indigenous knowledge and their role as traditional custodians of land and water sacred natural sites

## **SIMON MITAMBO**

Kenya



Born and raised beside Mutonga River in Tharaka district, eastern Kenya, Simon has been a key figure in the award-winning African Biodiversity Network for more than a decade. In 2013 he co-founded the Society for Alternative Learning and Transformation (SALT) to accompany Tharaka communities on reviving traditional knowledge and Earth-centred ways of life.





# DAFE IRIKEFE

Nigeria



ENGLISH

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2019 - GMT 16:00**

## BIOGRAPHY:

V. Irikefe Dafe is an environmental expert and certified member of United Nation's Harmony with Nature programme, the Nigeria Environmental Society (MNES), the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA-UK 2005), and a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management (FCIPD). He is currently the Executive Director of the Foundation for Conservation of Nigerian Rivers and the Founder and President of the River Ethiope Trust Foundation. For three decades, Mr. Dafe has worked to protect the River Ethiope and the rights of communities who rely upon the river for food, water, and their livelihoods. He is currently collaborating with Earth Law Center (USA) and other organizations to establish legal rights for the River Ethiope in order to permanently protect the river and the rights of community members.

## TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Free flowing, living rivers are an essential, life-giving feature of our natural and human environment. They fulfill a multitude of ecological, economic, spiritual and aesthetic needs and wants. Rivers connect us with the past, to nature and unite us to one another. Rivers provide more than half of our clean drinking water, sustaining life itself. Rivers are home to wildlife, providing places for fish, birds, insects, and mammals to grow, flourish and thrive.

Despite their critical importance to the people of all nations and Nature, rivers have been deforested, dammed, diverted, drained, mined, dredged and polluted. Consequently, River Ethiope Trust Foundation (RETFON) was created in 1992 to stand for River Ethiope and all rivers in the world, give them voice, restore their vitalities and keep them healthy for both present and future generations. At the end of the webinar, participants would have understood the values of rivers and what constitute water pollution, types, causes, effects and solutions, and the struggle to give legal rights to waters and the place of indigenous knowledge in rights of nature movement, using River Ethiope in Delta State Nigeria as case study.

# LISTEN AS THE EARTH SPEAKS

## PATRICIA GUALINGA

Sarayaku, Ecuador

**JUEVES 30 DE ABRIL DEL 2020 - GMT 16:00**

### DESCRIPCIÓN DEL TEMA:

Según WWF, el 20% de la selva amazónica ha desaparecido en 50 años y el fenómeno se está acelerando, lo que está teniendo un impacto terriblemente negativo para los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonia y sus tierras ancestrales que luchan por proteger. En este contexto, Patricia compartirá la sabiduría de su pueblo, el Pueblo Originario Kichwa de Sarayaku, sobre la importancia de proteger la Amazonía, y hablará sobre su activismo para proteger a su comunidad y su hogar, la selva. El elemento clave en su webinar se centrará en el papel del compromiso de las mujeres para la protección de la Madre Tierra.

### BIOGRAFÍA:

Patricia Gualinga es defensora de los derechos de Pueblos Indígenas y de la Madre Tierra, y ex líder de asuntos exteriores del pueblo originario Kichwa de Sarayaku, una comunidad ubicada en la Amazonía ecuatoriana. El liderazgo de Patricia ha contribuido a la lucha del pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku por la protección de la Selva Viviente en sus territorios ancestrales. Patricia Gualinga presentó un caso histórico ante el Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (SIDH) que finalizó en 2012. El pueblo originario kichwa de Sarayaku ahora enfrenta otras amenazas, como la extracción de petróleo por parte de compañías chinas en su territorio, y el largo conflicto sobre la explotación de la cuenca sagrada de Bobonanza. Patricia es conocida a nivel nacional e internacional debido a su trabajo continuo en la defensa de los derechos de Pueblos Indígenas y el llamado que hizo para ampliar el llamado a mantener los combustibles fósiles bajo tierra en la Amazonía.

  
**ESPAÑOL**