



Communiqué to the Human Beings Attending COP26

Knowing that you are gathered for the 26th time to discuss climate change, we, the **Community of Living Beings of La Janda**, want to communicate our deep sadness and our fear about everything that is happening in our region, and all over the planet. We ask that you listen to us and take our words into account when deciding what actions you will take to mitigate the ecological and climate emergency.

The area that is our home and that we share with you is a mostly rural area in the south of Spain, near the Strait of Gibraltar. During the last glaciation (in the early Neolithic period) the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula became an oasis of biodiversity from which life could re-emerge to repopulate Europe as it was freed from the ice. But we are feeling pressures that even then we did not notice. Several decades ago the local economy began to depend on the intensive coastal tourism typical of Andalusia, with the construction boom and water problems that comes with that model. Now human life seems to be stalking us everywhere and no area is free from its influences. Knowing of your appointment in November, we held our own meeting - our **Council of All Beings** - here in La Janda, on October 16, 2021. This communiqué is drafted from the minutes of our meeting.

A lot of food is produced from our soils. But your way of farming is damaging us. **Caterpillar** wants you to know of his disappointment at how the use of poisons is killing pollinators along with pests, and how this creates problems later when they try to find balance between them. **River** warns that she is not a rubbish dump, even though that is how you use her, and that these agricultural poisons end up in her waterway, turning her body, which should be pure and full of life, into toxicity. **Stick Insect** asks you to observe nature and to stop trying to eliminate everything that bothers you. It would be better to work in harmony with the processes of nature.

And it's not just poisons. **Bald Mountain** says he feels useless because your way of farming leaves him exposed and unable to fulfil his function of collecting water. It hurts him that you leave his slopes naked and subject to erosion. **Pine** and his brother and sister trees warn that when you eliminate them, the fertility of the land is depleted. **Water** says she is sad because her springs are drying up; by removing the trees you cut off the water cycle and make it impossible for her to sink into the earth to replenish her aquifers. Your actions turn her into a damaging force, bringing run-off and floods. **Root** wants you to know how your practices compact the soil and **Fungus** warns that when you leave no vegetation he can't do his work and this also affects the quality of the soil.

Diversity trembles with fear these days, because with each species you remove, her network becomes more fragile. She wants you to reconnect with the web that connects all living things. **Wolf** warns you that clear cutting of forests affects many species, leaving them without food, and **Owl** reminds you that predators are indicators of the health of the ecosystem and that there are fewer and fewer of them left.

There are many dangers ahead that affect us too. Your destructive activity has effects beyond human life. **Oil** feels the abuse that she suffers, and even worries about her own power when you unleash it carelessly - she doesn't like how you fight over her, and she doesn't want to participate in the destruction of the sea, the land and the climate. She would prefer to volunteer for uses that care for the land. **Cliff Rock** also wants to remind you that the great forces of the earth are beyond

morality, beyond love, beyond fear, beyond the human, and reminds you that you are tiny, and that life can come to an end, with this being your responsibility in the case of climate change, but it can also happen beyond anyone's responsibility. Humility is a necessary ingredient in your development.

Bee is saddened by how her families are dying and warns of the risk of mass extinction of humans and other animals and plants on earth. But she also offers advice from her wisdom. She asks you to learn to live together in community, mobilising communication and connection. Human beings get lost in rushing and doing - she asks you to put energy into just being. If you pay attention, the knowledge and wisdom about your place in the web of life will return. Simple beings like **Ant** add that you must stop complicating everything and learn to connect, to feel part of nature, with all the relief and support that this can bring you.

Wind, Water and **Sun** offer their help. **Wind** promises to always bring change, **Water** offers to heal and cleanse if you allow her springs to flow again, and **Sun** wants you to understand and take your place on earth again. There is hope, as our sister **Bald Ibis** demonstrates. She has come back from local extinction caused by human-induced habitat loss, and is now raising her families here again. She just needed a little help. We know that when you act, we natural beings and forces can return and re-establish ourselves. Consciousness is growing but it is too slow a process - you need to achieve this faster.

Sap is always ready to offer her spark of life to help you when you decide to take action, and **Wild Olive, Holm Oak** and **Mastic Tree** remind you how the earth can regenerate if you work with them. But **River** is hurt by the feeling she has of giving everything and receiving nothing in return - she demands respect from the human world too. **Tree** comments that you humans move too quickly and seek immediate change. You have to be more patient, learn the value of slow but steady work. Learn to love trees as well as care for them.

Please listen to us. This is a time of great danger. We are the Community of Living Beings of La Janda and we seek protection because we hope to be one of the many oases from which life can spring back again when Human Beings begin to understand their true place and the earth begins to recover.

Signed by:

Stick Insect, Root, Bald Ibis, Ant, Wild Olive, River, Sap, Wolf, Owl, Cliff Rock, Mastic Tree, Bee, Wind, Oil, Holm Oak, Caterpillar, Sun, Water, Fungus, Waterfowl, Stone Pine, Decomposition, Bald Mountain, Thistle, Unity in Diversity, Tree, Earth's Crust

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