



DECLARATION

The *WILD Cities Declaration* galvanizes a campaign to regenerate and celebrate wild nature in and around urban areas to improve quality of life for all. It integrates ecological, economic, social and cultural concerns while focusing on wild nature as the foundation upon which all else is sustained. Its aspirational vision and guiding principles advance on-the-ground work and create more support for effective policies to protect, restore and regenerate wild nature in urban areas around the world.

Signatories to the *WILD Cities Declaration* are recognized as *WILD Cities Champions* who join the collaborative, nonpartisan campaign. The diverse campaign unites intergenerational, interdisciplinary and international urban residents, *practitioners* and planners, reaffirming their existing efforts to create wilder cities and declaring a commitment to collective action. The imperative for WILD Cities originated at WILD10 (10th World Wilderness Congress, Spain, 2013) and has evolved into the current campaign.

CHALLENGES OF AN URBANIZING WORLD

Today, over half of the world's population lives in cities and our connections to nature are eroding. By 2040, 80% of the global population will live in cities and the demands on wild nature will intensify. We need to create enduring connections between people and the rest of nature by restoring or creating wildness where the majority of people live, and enhancing both the physical reality and living spirit of nature in our lives. As we make cities more diverse, equitable and healthier places to live, we will also engage more people to care for and protect wild lands, seas and wildlife for the good of all.

WILD CITIES CHAMPIONS

WILD Cities Champions act to protect, restore and regenerate wild nature in forests, wetlands, grasslands, freshwater and marine areas, reclaimed industrial sites, vacant lots, parks and refuges. *Champions* also work to integrate wild nature in farms, ranches, cultural sites, historic sites, corporate and academic campuses, arboretums, manicured landscapes, cultivated and botanical gardens, athletic fields, schoolyards and backyards. With their own work amplified by the collaborative campaign, *Champions* advance policies that increase permeability, resilience and livability.

VISION

We imagine a planet of interdependent WILD Cities integrated with the larger web of nature that supports all life. These cities flourish with green, with trees, parks and trails where people gather, unwind, play, exercise, and move along with wildlife. These WILD Cities include people connected to each other in support of wild nature. *WILD Cities Champions* recognize that ensuring equal access to nature is a matter of social and environmental justice. *Champions* working together to make our cities wilder increases hope, happiness and prosperity for all.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

This *WILD Cities Declaration* aligns its collaborative of *Champions* to:

- I. Build widespread support for the protection, restoration and regeneration of urban wild nature.
- II. Ensure access to nature and recreational opportunities for all as an act of environmental and social justice.
- III. Increase ecological connectivity throughout urban areas and between cities in an ecoregion.
- IV. Further and share replicable, nature-based solutions, models, policies and practices.
- V. Catalyze and coordinate partnerships to complete nature restoration and regeneration projects.
- VI. Value and promote wild nature's ability to preserve and enhance community and individual health, social and cultural bonds and unique neighborhood characteristics.
- VII. Create and preserve natural boundaries and habitat corridors for wildlife migration.
- VIII. Increase economic opportunities uplifted by natural assets.
- IX. Further an inspiring integration of wild nature, arts, recreation and culture in urban areas.
- X. Celebrate and increase urban areas' tremendous biological and cultural diversities.

The WILD Cities Project Team and Founding Champions, having each contributed toward the composition of this document, invite all to declare their commitment to this global campaign.

Sign the *WILD Cities Declaration* and join the campaign as a *WILD Cities Champion*!

What makes cities wild?

You do. We do.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Organization/Entity:

City, State/Province, Country:

Email:

Date:

Please email signed *Declarations* to info@wildcities.org. Thank you!