



A Message to the Human Beings Attending COP28 From the Community of Living Beings of La Janda, Iberian Peninsula

Knowing that you humans are gathered for the 28th time to discuss climate change, we, the **Community of Living Beings of La Janda**¹, want to take this opportunity to communicate our deep sadness and our fear about what is happening in our region and all over the planet. We ask you to listen to us and to take our words into account when deciding what actions you will take to mitigate and adapt to the ecological and climatic 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 was an oasis of biodiversity from which life re-emerged to repopulate Europe as it was freed from the ice. But we are now feeling pressures that even then we did not experience. Several decades ago, the local economy started to depend on the intensive coastal tourism typical of Andalusia, with the overbuilding and the water problems that come with that model. Now human life seems to be stalking us everywhere and no area is free from your influence. Knowing of your summit in December, we held our own meeting - our **Council of All Beings** - here in La Janda, on 22nd October 2023. This communiqué is drafted from the minutes of our meeting.

During the meeting, our planet spoke through multiple voices, each a representative of one of her different aspects. **Spongy Layer of Organic Matter** spoke of how happy he feels when he is carried from place to place by wind and water. He warns you that the water cycle is broken but can be repaired if you tend it. He can help the soil absorb rainwater, feeding aquifers and springs, bringing life back to the planet. However, if you remove him from your land in the name of a clean-up – if you leave the soil without the protection of this organic matter as you grow your food using intensive methods, you are leaving the soil without the layer that it needs to flourish. He asks you to just let him be. **Living Soil** reminds you that, although he has no eyes, he has many other senses, through plentiful bacterial life, fungi and insects. He is really a macro-organism that unites plants and animals and he needs the support of humans to stay strong. **Inner Force of Magma** says that the Earth is always alive, and everything regenerates within her because she is in connection with the Universe. She is to be honoured, and you should remember that as human beings you are never separate from her. **Topsoil** says that he contains all life that was, and also all that will be. You can change him, for better or for worse. If you respect him, he can provide you with everything you need. **Fertile Layer** feels that her space is shrinking because of the actions of humans who imprison her under layers of cement, and because they poison her, dig her up and turn her into rubbish heaps. She asks humans to look at her and listen to her, because you need to contribute to sustaining the whole web of life on our wonderful planet. **Mother Earth** feels that you don't really need to use her so quite much. She likes to feel your footsteps as you walk over her, and she wants you to feel her solidity and sustenance under you. She offers the gift of simplicity, humility and a slower pace. She asks you to recognise these values in yourselves.

Water too spoke through its different forms. **Ocean** says she is suffering because she is hotter than ever. The future of life depends on her, but you are making her change too fast. You need to listen to her reactions, take care of the atmosphere and protect her from pollution so that she can regenerate and give you life. **Rain that Fertilises the Earth** lacked words and shared a series of gestures and sounds showing the falling of rain and the movement of water over the earth. He asks that you let him fall on the dry, cracked earth, and when rain falls on rooftops and asphalt, channel it so it can continue to nourish the land. Do not hold the rain back, but let it fall as a blessing; as it has fallen for millennia. **Torrent** sings in the voice of an underground stream of crystalline waters fed by run-off from the slopes of mountains and hillsides. She swells in the rainy years, flows through springs and collects lovingly in wells. She is grateful for the rains, storms and snows that nourish her in the different seasons, for the roots and trees that infiltrate her water, and for the leaf litter that cushions the earth and holds it. Just as she gives thanks, she invites you to express your gratitude, an act that she says is magical, because your gratitude cleanses any disturbance that may have entered the water.

¹ This community encompasses animals, plants, systems, relationships, minerals, atmospheric reactions and phenomena to which humans are not accustomed to attributing any agency. Ocean is a being, as is Torrent, Cork Oak Acorn and Sanderling.

From the world of plants, **Chickweed** talked about how she likes to clamber over the ground in damp and shady places but is worried that they are becoming scarce. Before, when she clambered a little way, she used to come across a sister plant, but now she notices that she has less room and less company. She doesn't understand the situation, and she doesn't like it. She offers you the beauty of a small flower in an unexpected place to lighten your hearts and to help you fall in love with life again. **Broom** talks of how happy she is to be reunited with her friends. She loves to communicate through her roots, creating a network, and wants humans to learn from her flexibility. She speaks to remind humans how to reconnect with their inner warmth. And she recommends this especially when you are on a mission and your heart beats strongly, because this inner warmth that never ends, is the path of the heart. **Underground Root System** talks of how he embraces Broom and her sisters. Together they create a web that weaves the planet and sustains the living beings that live on it. Without them this would be a desert. He says that to care for him is to care for yourselves. **Cork Oak Acorn** tells stories of his childhood, happy stories told by his mother and grandmother. But also the sad story of his father, who died because of the drought caused by humans, and of his paternal grandfather who was also cut down by humans. In our Council he mentioned that soon he will grow up and fall to the ground – he thinks that he probably won't survive, because of drought. Humans are not behaving well, and he prays for the return of the paradise that once existed. **Mastic Tree** reminds you of how her woody body and green branches welcome life, providing shade, protecting life from the wind and creating a microhabitat in each of her bodies. She is very slow growing and needs her time and space, and to be left to be, to do her important work.

Two birds attended in representation of the animal kingdom. **Bee-eater** reminded us that they are very cheerful beings, and that they love to fly over human beings trilling their song, cheering hearts with their presence. She is very worried because they eat insects, and they notice they have less and less food. She calls on humans to stop poisoning ecosystems and eliminating their food supply. She offers the example of a light and joyful life as an inspiration to humans to live a simpler life, which would benefit the non-human world. **Sanderling** says that, although you don't normally notice her on the beach, she is often there with her brothers and sisters. She feels invisible and would like you to listen to her heart, which beats much faster than yours. Sanderlings move rapidly along the line between the sand and the waters of the sea, leaving almost invisible marks. She invites you to look for her and to connect with her different rhythm and with the love she has in her heart. Her advice is for human beings to dance a little more and think a little less.

Lightning is happy because the rain and storms have finally arrived. She asks you not to be afraid of her, because her energy brings awareness and light to the times we are living in. From the mineral world, **Atlas Rock** points out that the situation is pretty bad. He has had times of feeling huge grief, and others not so much. He is afraid of being left alone in the world. He doesn't know what to do but offers to be a mirror to human beings, so that they can see and recognise their fear and pain. **Rock in River** wants you to learn from the way she is. She knows how to hold her place and enjoys her power to make the waters move around her; but she can only hold her position because she has the help of other rocks. If there is a change, she will roll, and will do her job by supporting other rocks. She reminds those humans who want to protect the Earth that they don't always have to be strong. There are other rocks that have strength and when the riverbed changes, you can allow yourselves to roll and rely on other rocks around you. **She asks the humans at the COP meeting to please stand firm in your purpose of protecting the earth, for all living beings.**

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 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:

Chickweed, Spongy Layer of Organic Matter, Living Soil, Inner Force of Magma, Rain that Fertilises the Earth, Broom, Underground Root System, Atlas Rock, Bee-eater, Lightning and Thunder Energy, Sanderling, Ocean, Rock in River, Topsoil, Fertile Layer, Torrent, Cork Oak Acorn, Mastic Tree and Mother Earth

at the Council of All Beings (a deep ecology event), held 21 October 2023 in La Janda, Cádiz, Spain

For more information contact info@almenara.online www.almenara.online

[Communiqué for Human Beings Attending COP28](#) © 2023 published by Almenara is licensed under [Attribution 4.0 International](#)

