

**Constitution Committee Motion #12**  
**Proposed Amendment to Create New Article XVII – Rights of Nature**

Upon receiving feedback from ITKN members that the ITKN Constitution should include language making environmental protection a priority, which commenters suggested was consistent with ITKN traditional ways, the Constitution Committee conducted extensive research into Tribal, State, and Foreign Nation constitutions that include such language. Drawing on these examples, the Constitution Committee drafted a proposed new Article XVII that would make it a policy priority to preserve ITKN lands, waters, air quality, animal and plant life, and other important resources.

**Committee Recommendation**

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- After Line 16: **Add** the following new provision:

**ARTICLE XVII – Rights of Nature**

For the benefit of present and future generations, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska shall conserve and protect Hina Maya (Mother Earth), the natural beauty and all natural resources on tribal lands, including land, water, air, minerals, soil, animals, plants, and energy sources. Ecosystems, natural communities, and species within tribal lands possess inherent, fundamental, and inalienable rights to naturally exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve, and to restoration, recovery, and preservation. The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and its governing bodies have an obligation to protect, maintain, and regulate the use of natural resources.