

## Next Gen Assembly 2025 Concept Note

### *How Can Fashion Value The Rights of Nature?*

#### Introduction

Nature is the life force that provides us with the air, water, soil and all other life forms that, together, make up the elements in the garments we're all clothed in.

The relationship between fashion and nature is dependent on how these elements are valued in emotional, cultural, political, social and economic, as well as aesthetic and technical, ways.

The evidence is clear. If we continue to teeter around the edges of humans' impact on the Earth's limits, we move further into a zone of uncertainty about Earth's ability to sustain life.

*How can fashion become part of the solution, rather than part of the problem?*

We want to see nature flourishing. We believe the fashion system needs transforming, not adjusting. Reducing the impact of any individual fashion product is outweighed by the cumulative impact of the ever-increasing volume of clothes being produced and consumed. Fixing or making the existing fashion system more efficient is never going to be enough.

We need to collectively focus our efforts on rethinking and reimagining fashion, putting nature's needs first so that we can operate within Earth's safe zone<sup>1</sup>.

*How can fashion value the rights of nature?*

#### Key themes

- Mitigation Hierarchy
- Interspecies Justice
- Nature-Centred Design Thinking
- Fashion's Role in Protecting, Restoring and Regenerating Biodiversity

*"Education is the foundation for transforming the fashion industry, and nature is the essential force that sustains all living systems, including our own. Now is the moment to leverage education to foster a vibrant and sustainable fashion landscape that honours and protects the rights of nature. By empowering a new generation of visionary thinkers to engage with this crucial issue, we can inspire fresh perspectives that redefine the fashion industry's bond with the natural world."*

Federica Marchionni, CEO, Global Fashion Agenda

*"Fashion shapes and mirrors cultural and social imaginaries. Nature shapes and mirrors life, its systems hold beauty and dynamism beyond any human construct. This call is to explore new imaginaries that cherish life, its awe and wonder as adornment representing our most precious love."*

Professor Dilys Williams FRSA, Director of Centre for Sustainable Fashion and Professor of Fashion Design for Sustainability

---

<sup>1</sup> J.Rockström et al, [Safe and just Earth system boundaries](#), 2023.