



Since 1990

## **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANSE NOIRE'S SITES**

- Natural Legal Entity Project in progress -

*For Guy Bédia, with all our gratitude and recognition for an honest Martiniquais who gave us the promise to defend, protect and transmit this place by becoming the owner since 1990.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Charlotte Gressier, born in Martinique and eldest of the Gressier Family then in charge of the creation of a Museum on the History of Martinique on her native island, was contacted in 2020 by the teams of Mr. Stéphane Bern as part of the preparation of his TV program "The Favorite Village of the French", in order to provide them with a document describing the exceptional assets of the City of Les Anses d'Arlet: she then wrote willingly with the members of her Family a document highlighting the history of Les Anses d'Arlet city. This same year 2020, Les Anses d'Arlet became the 2nd Favorite Village of the French.

This anecdote illustrates one of the many discreet actions - ignored by the public, sometimes monopolized in the total disrespect of Intellectual Property - carried out by the Gressier Family and which have contributed to protecting and enhancing Les Anses d'Arlet, and more largely to promote the assets of Martinique since 1982.

In this logic, the Gressier Family created the ASPAN, a non-profit organization for the Protection of the Sites of Anse Noire.



*Since 1990*

**ASPAN, association Law 1901 carried by the Gressier family, protector of the sites of Anse Noire since 1990, would like to thank the President of the Executive Council of the Local Authority of Martinique, Mr. Serge Letchimy, for his signature of the analyzes on 21 April 2023 of its Deputy General Management - Territorial Development and Cohesion, in response to the ecological emergencies of the entire Anse Noire district reported by the Gressier Family.**

**ASPAN is now responsible for the collaborative creation of a Natural Legal Entity for Anse Noire and its multiple sites, threatened by major natural and human risks of the 21st century, in order :**

- **To prevent human activities from leading to the extinction of species (e.g. manikous (local opossum), kayalis (green heron), pelicans, crabs, insects, endemic bats) and the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles (need for gauges tourist traffic)**
- **To put in place a repression of abusive and polluting – environmental practices, in order to fight against:**
  - . **environmental pollution of the shores (waste, sargassum, etc.)**
  - . **shoreline noise pollution**
  - . **faecal pollution of the beach due to the lack of public toilets, the proximity of a hotel activity,**
  - . **faecal pollution of water due to the behavior of boaters, tourists and other visitors, as well as the proximity of the treatment plant and various and varied drains**
  - . **destruction of the seabed by boaters and tourist overcrowding (corals, seagrass beds)**



*Since 1990*

- . failure to respect breeding, nesting and egg-laying sites (especially turtles)
- . any act of biopiracy defined as any operation of institutional bioprospecting and wild picking by pedestrian tourists, without prior authorization from the Arlesian Families, residents living near and bordering, flouting the traditions and knowledge of the Arlesian Families, by defying private signage and violating the Rights sites described in this Statement.
- To set up the re-balancing reintroduction of flora and fauna species of the shores and the seabed at risk, in partnership with the competent institutions.
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*Since 1990*

Considering that human beings are part of an indivisible living community of interdependent beings bound together by a common destiny to ensure the balance of our world;

- Recognizing Anse Noire and its sites as a source of life and teaching for Humanity and therefore the need to recognize and defend the rights of its sites and of all the living beings, fauna and flora, which compose it and that there are constantly changing laws that recognize and defend these rights: indeed, the cove of Anse Noire was classified as a Protected Natural Area and then a Reinforced Protected Natural Area, which now means that all prospecting or mining operations for commercial and industrial purposes are now considered acts of predation and destruction of the sites of Anse Noire, reprehensible under French law.
- Recognizing the urgent need for decisive collective action to transform the structures, systems and behavioral practices that are driving human-induced climate change and posing other threats to sites of 'Anse Noire;
- Thanking the Technical Sheet of the analyzes of the services of the Local Authority of Martinique (in an official letter dated April 21, 2023 and signed by the President of its Executive Council, Mr. Serge Letchimy), it is stipulated that the environmental issues identified and reported by the Gressier Family in its daily life "do not fall within the competence of the Local Authority of Martinique", but its services advise us to contact organizations for environmental issues and the passage of hikers, organizations already solicited by the Family Gressier on several occasions and for several years, without a satisfactory response, obliging her, in view of the urgency of the situation of a site threatened with extinction, to act and protect this site which she has always considered a sanctuary.



*Since 1990*

- Proclaim the present Declaration of the Rights of Anse Noire so that each person and each institution assumes the responsibility to promote, through teaching, education and the awakening of consciences, respect for the rights recognized in the Declaration.

### **Article 1: Anse Noire**

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- 1) Anse Noire is made up of living beings
- 2) Anse Noire is a unique, indivisible and self-regulating community of beings intimately linked to each other, which nourishes, contains and renews all beings.
- 3) Each being, fauna and flora, is defined by its relationships as a constituent element of Anse Noire.
- 4) The intrinsic rights of Anse Noire are inalienable since they flow from the same source as existence itself.
- 5) Anse Noire and all beings possess all the intrinsic rights recognized in this Declaration, without any distinction between biological and non-biological beings or any distinction based on species, origin, usefulness for human beings or any other feature.



*Since 1990*

6) Just as human beings enjoy human rights, all other beings in Anse Noire have rights unique to their species or type and tailored to the role and function they exercise within the communities in which they live. exist.

7) The rights of each being are limited by those of other beings, and any conflict between their respective rights must be resolved in a way that preserves the integrity, balance and health of Anse Noire.

## **Article 2: The Inherent Rights of Anse Noire**

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1) Anse Noire and all the beings that compose it have the following intrinsic rights:

- the right to live and exist;
- the right to respect;
- the right to the regeneration of their biocapacity and the continuity of their life cycles and processes, without disturbances of human origin;
- the right to maintain their identity and integrity as distinct, self-regulating and intimately linked beings;
- the right to water as a source of life;
- the right to clean air;
- the right to full health;
- the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste;
- the right not to be genetically modified or transformed in a way that harms their integrity or vital and healthy functioning;



*Since 1990*

- the right not to be violated by biopiracy practices against fauna and flora
- the right to be defended by Arlesian Martinican families, owners with proven civic engagement and ideal ambassadors of the sites - because, living on site, they have legitimately advanced observation posts of everyday life, in particular drifts human and industrial activities carried out against the site; legitimacy of the Gressier family, owner by notarial deed registered in Fort-de-France since 1990, and of its obligations as such, of defense, protection and transmission; mission entrusted by Mr. Guy Bédiate, an honest Martiniquais, to which the Gressier Family expresses gratitude and recognition
- the right to full and prompt reparation in the event of violation of the rights recognized in this Declaration resulting from human activities.

2) Each being has the right to occupy a place and to play its role within Anse Noire so that it functions harmoniously.

3) All beings of Anse Noire have the right to well-being and not to be victims of torture or cruel treatment inflicted by human beings (biopiracy and wild harvesting, destruction of the mangrove leading to the disappearance of self-sustaining endemic species). regulated).

### **Article 3: Obligations of human beings towards Anse Noire**

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1) Every human being must respect Anse Noire and live in harmony with it: the Gressier Family, undergoing the same daily constraints as Anse Noire, has been responsible since 1990



*Since 1990*

for its protection and now for the project to create its Natural Entity Legal, in the face of any attempt at predation

2) Human beings, the State and all the public and private partner institutions validated within the framework of this project have the duty:

- a) to act in accordance with the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
- b) recognize and promote the full and effective application of the rights and obligations set forth in this Declaration;
- c) to promote and participate in the learning, analysis and interpretation of the means of living in harmony with Anse Noire as well as in the communication about them, in accordance with this Declaration;
- d) to ensure that the pursuit of human well-being contributes to the well-being of Anse Noire, now and in the future;
- e) to establish and apply effective standards and laws for the defense, protection and preservation of the rights of Anse Noire, laws which must be innovative and evolutionary, that is to say reflecting the new challenges and emergencies of the 21st century – with the





*Since 1990*

ambition for the Gressier Family to be part of the pioneering projects for the creation of the Natural Legal Entity of Anse Noire.

f) to respect, protect and preserve the vital ecological cycles, processes and balances of Anse Noire and, where necessary, restore their integrity;

g) to guarantee the reparation of damages resulting from human violations of the intrinsic rights recognized in this Declaration and that those responsible are held responsible for restoring the integrity and health of Anse Noire (restoration of the seabed and marine coastline threatened, restoration of primary forest and endemic plant species)

h) to create a Natural Legal Entity for Anse Noire on the initiative of the Gressier Family, protectors of the site since 1990, because they live on site in order to optimize the protection of the site with the implementation of precautionary and restriction measures in order to :

- To prevent human activities from leading to the extinction of species (e.g. manikous, kayalis, pelicans, crabs, insects, bats) and the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles (need for gauges tourist traffic)

- To put in place a repression of abusive and polluting – environmental practices, in order to fight against:

- . environmental pollution of the shores (waste, sargassum, etc.)

- . shoreline noise pollution

- . faecal pollution of the beach due to the lack of public toilets, the proximity of a hotel activity,



*Since 1990*

. faecal pollution of water due to the behavior of boaters, tourists and other visitors, as well as the proximity of the treatment plant and various and varied drains

. destruction of the seabed by boaters and tourist overcrowding (corals, seagrass beds)

. failure to respect breeding, nesting and egg-laying sites (especially turtles)

. any act of biopiracy defined as any operation of institutional bioprospecting and wild picking by pedestrian tourists, without prior authorization from the Arlesian Families, residents living near and bordering, flouting the traditions and knowledge of the Arlesian Families, by defying private signage and violating the Rights sites described in this Statement.

- To set up the re-balancing reintroduction of flora and fauna species of the shores and the seabed at risk, in partnership with the competent institutions.

- ...

i) to promote and encourage respectful practices of Anse Noire beyond the single site of Anse Noire and Martinique

l) to promote innovative ecological models that are in harmony with Anse Noire and in accordance with the rights recognized in this Declaration.

#### **Article 4: Definitions**

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The term “being” includes ecosystems, natural communities, species and all other natural entities that are part of Anse Noire.

Nothing in this Declaration limits the recognition of other intrinsic rights of all beings or of particular beings, after validation and official agreement of the Gressier Family.

**For the genetic Fauna and Flora of the sites of Anse Noire**

**For the ancestral knowledge and practices of Arlesian families**

**For the original ‘Amerindian’ Martinique and in tribute to the name of the ‘Amerindian’ Chief Arlet.**

**Charlotte GRESSIER,**

President, Association for the Protection of Anse Noire’s Sites (APSAN)

22th May 2023, at Anse Noire, Les Anses d’Arlet