Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador

Preamble¹

WE (feminine & masculine), the sovereign people of Ecuador

ACKNOWLEDGING our millenary roots, shaped by women and men of different nations,

CELEBRATING nature, Pacha Mama (Mother Earth in Quichua), which we are part of and which is vital for our existence,

INVOKING the name of God and recognizing our diverse forms of religiosity and spirituality,

APPEALING to the knowledge of all the cultures that enrich our society,

AS HEIRS of the social struggles of liberation against all forms of domination and colonialism,

AND with profound commitment to the present and future,

We decided to construct

A new form of national coexistence, in diversity and harmony with nature, in order to achieve good living (quality of life), sumak kawsay;

A society that respects, in all its dimensions, the dignity of individuals and communities;

A democratic country, committed to Latin American integration – Bolivar and Alfaro's dream --, peace and solidarity with all the nations on Earth….

Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador

Chapter: Rights for Nature (Excerpt)¹

Art. 1. Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.

Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognition of rights for nature before the public institutions.

Art. 2. Nature has the right to an integral restoration. This integral restoration is independent of the obligation on natural and juridical persons or the State to indemnify the people and the collectives that depend on the natural systems.

In the cases of severe or permanent environmental impact, including the ones caused by the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources, the State will establish the most efficient mechanisms for the restoration, and will adopt the adequate measures to eliminate or mitigate the harmful environmental consequences.

Art. 3. The State will motivate natural and juridical persons as well as collectives to protect nature; it will promote respect towards all the elements that form an ecosystem.

Art. 4. The State will apply precaution and restriction measures in all the activities that can lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of the ecosystems or the permanent alteration of the natural cycles.

The introduction of organisms and organic and inorganic material that can alter in a definitive way the national genetic patrimony is prohibited.

Art. 5. The persons, people, communities and nationalities will have the right to benefit from the environment and form natural wealth that will allow wellbeing.

The environmental services cannot be appropriated; its production, provision, use and exploitation, will be regulated by the State.