



Rights of Nature experts arrive in Chile to meet with Constitutional Assembly members

Led by **Alberto Acosta** - Ecuadorian economist, former president of the Constitutional Assembly (2007-2008) and candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador (2012-2013) - and **Natalia Greene** - Bachelor of Arts from Hampshire College in Massachusetts and promoter of the recognition of the Rights of Nature in the Constitution of Ecuador - a delegation of experts on the Rights of Nature will arrive in the country in the coming days. The main objective of this visit -which will take place between February 28th and March 8th- is to make public interventions and meet with the Constitutional Assembly members to propose the recognition of the Rights of Nature within the process of elaboration for the new Constitution.

The delegation will be made up of experts in law and the Rights of Nature, including some of those who wrote the corresponding articles in the Ecuadorian constitution, and those who have promoted other sub-national laws on the Rights of Nature in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, and Ecuador. Actions will be carried out with Chilean allies seeking the promotion of the rights of nature and their recognition in the new Chilean Constitution.

According to this delegation, the recognition of the Rights of Nature would be a considerable victory for the protection of Nature in Chile, overcoming the limitations of traditional environmental law in a country where this type of legislation has failed to stop the damage caused by lithium mining, corporate abuse, unsustainable salmon farming, and other extractivist activities. Beyond the impact that this recognition could have at the national level, it would also be a milestone for the Rights of Nature worldwide, as Chile would be the second country to adopt them in its Constitution, after Ecuador.

In order to promote the constitutional process in Chile, and especially to propose the recognition of the Rights of Nature within this process, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, in alliance with its Latin American hub, the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature, and the NGO FIMA, will carry out a support project as a civil society, which will consist of this in-person delegation.

DELEGATION OF RIGHTS OF NATURE EXPERTS VISITS CHILE TO SUPPORT THE INCORPORATION OF RON IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION



Representatives:

- Natalia Greene (Ecuador)
- Alberto Acosta (Ecuador)
- Esperanza Martínez (Ecuador)
- Pablo Solón (Bolivia)
- Enrique Viale (Argentina)
- Ramiro Ávila (Ecuador)
- Elizabeth Bravo (Ecuador)

Natalia Greene

Natalia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampshire College in Massachusetts, a Master's degree in Social Sciences from FLACSO-Ecuador, and a Master's degree in Climate Change from UASB-EC. She has promoted the recognition of the Rights of Nature in the Constitution of Ecuador and has worked on the environmental and indigenous aspects of the Yasuní-ITT Initiative to keep oil underground in the Amazon. She was president and is currently vice-president of the Ecuadorian Coordinator of Organizations for the Defense of Nature and the Environment (CEDENMA), member of the Executive Committee of GARN, coordinator of the GARN global team, and secretary of the International Tribunals for the Rights of Nature. She is also a consultant for the Sacred Headwaters Initiative and

promoter of the Frente al Ambiente collective in Ecuador. Network expert for the UN Harmony with Nature initiative since 2016.

Alberto Acosta

Alberto is an Ecuadorian economist, grandfather, and companion of many social movements and struggles. He is also a professor, judge of the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature, and former Minister of Energy and Mines (2007). He was president of the Constitutional Assembly (2007-2008) and candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador (2012-2013). He is also the author of several books.

Esperanza Martínez

Esperanza is a member and founder of Acción Ecológica, an Ecuadorian environmental organization, and co-founder of Oilwatch. President of the Oficina Pro Defensa de la Naturaleza y sus Derechos. Biologist from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, lawyer and Doctor Honoris Causa from the Universidad Rovira i Vigili. She was an Advisor to the Presidency of the Constitutional Assembly of Ecuador in 2008, and to the Ombudsman in 2018-2019. Author of numerous articles and books on Rights of Nature, impacts of oil activities in the tropics, and defender of the rights of nature. Guest professor at several universities in Ecuador and Latin America. She created the School of Community Experts and Researchers on the Rights of Nature.

Pablo Solon

Pablo is currently the Executive Director of the Solon Foundation. He is an activist, researcher, and policy analyst in the areas of water, climate, environment, trade, finance, and systemic alternatives. He was Bolivia's ambassador to the United Nations from 2009 to 2011. He is well known for defending the rights of nature and the struggle for climate justice in international climate negotiations when he was Bolivia's chief negotiator. He was also co-organizer of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Enrique Viale

Argentinian Environmental Lawyer graduated from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), where he completed postgraduate studies and specialized in Environmental Law. In 2004 he founded the Argentinian Association of Environmental Lawyers. He is a member of the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature and is a member of the Executive Committee

of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN). He is a litigator in numerous environmental damage and restoration cases and travels throughout the country and Latin America accompanying citizen and assembly struggles. He is the author of several books and articles specializing in Development, Politics, Law, and Environmental Justice. His latest book is "El Colapso Ecológico Ya Llegó" (Buenos Aires 2020), co-authored with Maristella Svampa. He is a promoter, since its origins, of the Ecosocial Pact of the South. He was a legislative advisor in the Senate of Argentina and is currently an environmental consultant and communicator in radio and graphic media.

Ramiro Avila Santamaria

Ramiro holds a Ph.D. in Legal Sociology from the University of the Basque Country (UPV). He holds a Master's degree in Legal Sociology from the International Institute of Legal Sociology of Oñati-UPV, and in Law from Columbia University in New York City; he is a lawyer and holds a degree in Legal Sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE). He is a professor and director of the Law Department of the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar-Sede Ecuador. He was a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador (2019-2022) during which time he ruled in several cases in favor of the rights of Nature. Author and editor, he has published, among others: Andean Neoconstitutionalism (Quito 2016), Criminal (In) Justice in Constitutional Democracy of Rights (Quito, 2013), Transformative Neoconstitutionalism (Quito 2011), and Rights and Guarantees. Ensayos críticos (Quito, 2010).

Elizabeth Bravo

Elizabeth is a founding member of the Ecuadorian environmental organization Acción Ecológica and coordinator of the Network for a Transgenic-Free Latin America. She is also a member of the Alliance for Biodiversity in Latin America and the Union of Scientists Committed to Society and Nature in Latin America (UCCSNAL), and a professor at the Salesian Polytechnic University.

D. in Microorganism Ecology from the University of Wales, UK, Elizabeth specializes in biodiversity and the impact of biotechnology on agriculture and food sovereignty. Among the books she has published are: "Igniting the Agrofuels Debate", "Corn: from Sacred Plant to Hunger Business", "In the Labyrinth of Vegetable Seeds", "From the Big Bang to the Anthropocene", "Political Ecology in the Middle of the World", among others.

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