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Greener

Ecuador:

- First region to see a legal win for the rights of nature
- Debris was dumped into the Vilcabamba River but the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature sued the company and the river won in court

New Zealand

- The Whanganui River was given legal personhood giving dual guardianship to the New Zealand government but also to the Māori people. This has given power to the indigenous to do what's best for the river without outside economical interests.

I took the time to research what has been done in Colombia and this is what I've found:

## **What is being done?**

### Deforestation

- The Ministry of Environment revealed that when comparing the first half of 2020 with the first half of 2021, there was a reduction in deforestation of about 22,000 hectares

### Restoration of deforested areas

- By November 2021, 91.5 million trees have been planted on national territory

## **Government goals, what else can be done?**

### Deforestation

- Enforce the prohibition of illegal deforestation
- Place controls on the amount of land used for livestock
- Make infrastructure plans for roads and transportation routes that do not harm the ecosystem especially in the amazon

### Restoration of deforested areas

- Recover 600,000 hectares from the Amazon that have been deforested

### Protecting environmental, social and indigenous leaders

- In 2021, 168 of these leaders were assassinated
- The government seeks to protect these leaders
- There is an ongoing project for land restitution which has been successful in minimizing these assassinations

### Pollution

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030
- 100% of the taxes are planned to go towards fighting climate change

### Ocean protection

- Colombia wants to protect 30% of it's oceans by 2022

### Politics

- Colombia has succeeded in involving numerous environmental proposals in every presidential campaign and implementing them during the president's period

## **Which environmental non-profits are helping in Colombia?**

### Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development)

- Part of the government
- They seek to be the public entity in charge of defining the National Environmental Policy
- They promote the recovery, conservation, protection, ordering, management, use and exploitation of renewable natural resources
- They ensure the sustainable development

### La Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (The National Association of Entrepreneurs of Colombia):

- Their purpose is to disseminate and promote the political, economic and social principles of a healthy system of free enterprise.

### Fundacion Natura

- Dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity generation social, economical and environmental benefits for human sustainable development
- Conserving protected areas such as the Parque Nacional de Utría and the Reserva Biológica Carpanta

## **Specific organization:**

### **What are they doing?**

Fundación Natura Colombia

- They have been working over 38 years to transform society's relationship with nature in order to promote sustainable living
- Conservation and restoration of biodiversity project
  - Work with the forests from Cordoba, the fauna from the Amazon, the forests in Huila, conserving water, preserving the Quebrada Campos and with humedales

### Specific project:

#### **Strengthening of the Wildlife Management Community in the Amazon**

Leader: Nancy Vargas

#### Members:

Made up of a community composed of students, academics, professionals, local people, indigenous people and other groups

#### Objectives:

- Planning the management of sylvester fauna
- Strengthen the sustainable management and conservation of wildlife, habitats and local governance in the Amazon.
- Cooperation and collaboration between public politics and the environment
- support the development of the International Congress on Wildlife Management in the Amazon
- Promote the participation of local actors, mainly indigenous communities, and develop a community sustainability strategy.



**How can other countries take inspiration from them?**

- I think that other countries can take inspiration from this organization since it is very important to take into account the role that human populations play in environmental conservation. Damaging the environment can hurt vulnerable populations so it is important to take into account how they may be affected. But, it can also go the other way. Many times government organizations have economic interests mixed with protecting the environment, and therefore they may not be the best groups to protect the ecosystems at all times. Just like it was done in New Zealand with the Māori people, this organization is coming to agreements with the indigenous people which have more interests and are better at truly preserving the environment and in this case the Amazon's fauna.

