

ECUADOR: Rights-based Environmental Protections

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) <http://www.celdf.org> announced that Ecuador became the first nation in the world to shift to rights-based environmental protection. There was a time when people were considered property (slaves) and this idea is no longer generally accepted in the developed world. Yet, Ecuador is the first country to begin to codify in its Constitution the concept that nature is not just property, but has an inherent right to exist.