

Water Pollution in Colombia

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Colombia occupies 0,7% of the earth's surface; nevertheless, it is home to 10% of the world's biodiversity. The armed conflict that is developed in that State between the regular Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Colombian liberation (the FARC-Fuerzas armadas revolucionarias de Colombia) is arousing clear environmental deterioration in the region of the Andino massif, situated in the territory of the Putumayo, in the southeast of the country. That area is part of the Colombian Amazonian region, and it is considered a biosphere reserve which is furrowed by a very important fluvial network that belongs to the Amazon and Caribbean basin, which supplies 70% of the water consumed in the country. The region of the Putumayo is the centre of coca production (60%) in Colombia and in this area, essentially, occupied by the forces of the FARC which have obtained, in that area, the monopoly of the control of the drug trafficking. In the process of obtaining the cocaine paste- in which elaboration petroleum derivatives are used- the generated waste is spilled in the rivers, polluting their waters. In order to fight against cultivation of this substance, and in this way to limit an important financing means for the activities of the FARC, the Colombian government, through Colombia Plan, comes to fumigate the cocaine cultures with glifosato plus other compounds which strengthen it, being this a severe agent of water pollution. These facts show that both parts in the conflict are agents of contamination. The water is an essential element for the survival of the civil population and in this way is under the protection of the victims of the armed conflict. This is still an unsolved problem, where the aspects of governability (capacity of the society to establish the changes towards the peace and the sustainable human development) and of gobernanza (operational capacity to build the mechanisms and practices which maintains the processes towards the proposed results, in this case the cleaning of the water courses) must be started up by government, leaders, social civil leaders and the market.