

Nations, Peoples, and Property

Environment and Development for the Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon

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When someone hears the term, “indigenous people” one tends to think of a Native American Indian, wandering the deserts of the Louisiana territory, influencing the development of the modern Western world, and offering the abundant knowledge that no one had about the wonders of nature. However, indigenous people are not only the Indians residing in North America. The term includes any group of people first attested in a particular territory.

After the report examines the trend in the mistreatment of the indigenous peoples from past, present, and future perspective concerning various groups, this report will focus exclusively on the indigenous peoples of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon. It will highlight the current situation in the Amazon as well an in-depth analysis of whether or not national development can be reconciled with indigenous rights. The paper will then move to discussing local, national, and international agendas that is certainly of utmost priority. The indigenous peoples’ rights must be protected and one way to do so is to raise awareness and to spread knowledge concerning the peoples, which is one of the principal aims of this paper.

As a result of past mistreatment and current conflict, the government and the indigenous peoples are not on good terms, both in Peru and Ecuador. The government is constantly trying to exploit resources in the Amazon, committing cultural genocide. In recent years, there have been an insurmountable amount of international pressure to conserve the Amazon and protect indigenous rights, but the hard truth is that economic growth is prioritized over them, and reconciliation seems unlikely.

The paper will conclude with reviewing the main reasons the indigenous must be preserved, citing reasons

other than moral values. This means cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights as well. Finally, it will pose possible solutions to how we must manage this problem in the future, and what changes in mentality are needed, both on local and international levels.