



BOTSCHAFT VON ECUADOR



The main biodiversity discourses in Latin America

GIZ – Ecologic Workshop
Berlin, July 2014

Jorge Jurado
Ambassador of Ecuador in Germany

Conservation vs. Development ?

- The predominant discourse about biodiversity in LA is concerning its conservation.
- There are a exacerbation of fundamentalist positions permanently confronting the development needs of the people.
- There is a denial to recognize the need of development using the simple formula of condemning the so called neoextractive policies.

ecuador
liebt das Leben

Biodiversity and power

- The main strategic projects, oil, mining, water, gas, infrastructure are being criticised and denied.
- The fundamentalist position around conservation of the biodiversity have been pushed up to a matter of state policy and is permanently misused for political struggle.
- Biodiversity is nowadays the field where different power positions are fighting each other.

ecuador
liebt das Leben

Contradictions

- The first contradiction between a natural or intrinsic approach to biodiversity in the „South“ and in the industrialized countries is the economic, mostly neoliberal trend, in order to define goods as commodities or as substantial part of the financial language: „ecosystem services or habitat banking“. Putting prices to non valuable goods.
- In the south, there is no a general or common discourse about biodiversity. There are different ways of perceiving it, for example, the perception in the urbanized areas is different from the perception in rural areas. People understand biodiversity in different manners.

Complexity

- Do not forget that more than 65% of the people are living in urban areas.
- The narrative about biodiversity is growing to a complex system of definitions dependent on interests, political and ideological discourses and economic perspectives.
- People working on development issues should be aware about looking just the perspective of the human groups living directly in contact with biodiverse areas.

ecuador
liebt das Leben

The local level approach ?

- Why should the concrete actions to protect biodiversity take place only at local level? The local level approach hinder the understanding of the national policies.
- National grounded strategies are as important as local activities. Look at the ecuadorian policies: Buen vivir, the rights of nature, water as human right, the failed Yasuni Initiative; Avoiding the netto emissions; plan socio bosque.

ecuador
liebt das Leben