



Universidad del Azuay

Faculty of Legal Sciences

School of International Studies

**Analysis of the rol of non-governmental organizations in the protection of the
environment**

Case study: World Wide Fund in the Galápagos Islands

**Thesis Project prior to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies with
a minor in Foreign Trade**

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Cuenca, Ecuador

2018

Dedication

To my parents, Pablo and Lucia and my brother Pablo who have been at every stage of my life supporting me and who have always believed in me. To my grandmothers, Luz América and Rebeca, incredibly strong women who inspire me every day.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank God who is in everything and in everyone.

I want to thank the “Universidad del Azuay” which has given me a space to train both professionally and personally. A special thanks to my thesis director, Dr. Ana María Bustos, who, with her patience and dedication has been able to guide and support me in this work. Finally, I want to thank my parents because since my childhood they have taught me to fight for my dreams, this is one of them.

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Abstract

Environmental problems have transversal and global characteristics that affect all of humanity and require urgent and continuous treatment. States, through instruments and international organizations, have not been effective in protecting the environment. In this context, non-governmental organizations, as the most prominent group in civil society, have become important actors in the protection of the environment at the international level. One of the most emblematic regions of the world for its biodiversity, the Galapagos Islands, has also become vulnerable to the environmental problems we face today. In this way, several non-governmental organizations have seen the need to work in this important region, one of which is World Wide Fund. This research has sought to make an analysis of non-governmental organizations and the relevant aspects of environmental protection at an international level to determine what has been the role of non-governmental organizations in the protection of the environment and its impact, focusing on the study case World Wide Fund in the Galapagos Islands.

INTRODUCTION

According to (UNESCO, 1989), Environment is "Everything that surrounds the human being and that includes: natural elements, both physical and biological; artificial elements (techno structures); social elements and interactions with each other". Thanks to these elements, human beings have been able to develop and build the world in which we live today. However, the mismanagement of natural resources has led to the emergence of numerous environmental problems that gradually destroy our Planet. The Living Planet report carried out by (WWF, 2016) highlights that "Between 1970 and 2012, the richness of populations of vertebrate animal species declined by 58%", he also states that "in 2012, the biocapacity of 1.6 Earths was needed to supply the natural resources and provide the services that humanity consumed that year ". In this way, the unsustainable development model that humans have adopted becomes the main factor that contributes to the destruction of the environment. In addition, the few measures that have been taken by the States to deal with these environmental problems have not been effective. For this reason, non-governmental organizations, in representation of civil society, have been involved in the search for solutions worldwide.

This research seeks to determine the role of nongovernmental organizations in the protection of the environment and its impact on a specific case in an emblematic region of Ecuador. The Galapagos Islands are considered the capital of biodiversity in the world, there are currently around 7000 species of native and endemic animals and plants. These factors have attracted the attention of scientists, tourists and people from all over the world, which has made them one of the preferred destinations nationally and internationally. However, the constant flow of people to the islands, the mismanagement of resources and the precarious attention of the State, have caused it to become a vulnerable area to environmental destruction. In 1961, the non-governmental organization World Wide Fund arrived to Galápagos with the aim of protecting the environment through conservation. Since then, there have been numerous contributions that this and other organizations have made to the Islands. However, they have also made mistakes that have called into question their effectiveness at the time of action.

To carry out this analysis, it has been taken as a first point the environmental protection at the international level through international instruments and international organizations. Until 1972, the environment was not included in the international agenda, in that year, the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment, becomes the first intergovernmental environmental effort. Since then, there have been numerous international instruments that have sought to propose solutions for environmental problems. On the other hand, international organizations, mainly intergovernmental organizations, have tried to become instruments of cooperation between States and members of civil society. Although international organizations and international instruments have not completely failed, their efforts have not been sufficient. In this way, ineffectiveness in the protection of the environment has generated discomfort in several sectors of civil society.

Having determined that international organizations and instruments have not been effective in protecting the environment, it becomes necessary to study, as a second point, the role of non-governmental organizations worldwide through their achievements and contributions in this area. The environment is one of the issues that most concerns NGOs, therefore, since the mid-twentieth century there have appeared many non-governmental organizations that, through different lines of action, have sought to be part of the solution. Two of these organizations, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, have stood out for their particular activities and have had a worldwide impact. Their contribution and achievements are a reflection of the role that NGOs have played in protection of the environment.

The description of the non-governmental organization World Wide Fund is the third point taken into account to determine the role of NGOs in environmental protection worldwide. With five million members, this is currently the largest and most influential international non-governmental organization focused on the environment. Since 1961, WWF has been strongly involved in finding solutions for environmental problems through different activities. In Ecuador, WWF is present since 2014, it should be noted that this organization does not act as such in our country because it is a program of WWF United

States. As in the rest of the world, WWF-Ecuador has played an important role in the protection of the environment, mainly in Galapagos.

Finally, it has been analyzed the role of the non-governmental organization World Wide Fund in the Galapagos Islands. As already mentioned, these Islands are crucial for the life of Planet Earth. Its environmental peculiarities have made it the capital of the world's biodiversity, which is why several non-governmental organizations have sought to protect them through conservation. Since its arrival in the Galapagos Islands in 1961, WWF has contributed in many ways to protecting the environment. Over the years, its role has evolved because the current reality is different from that of 60 years ago.

CHAPTER 1: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD

Environmental problems have transversal and global features which require continuous treatment with the cooperation of all the respective participant nations. Environmental deterioration and depletion of natural resources concern not only the country or region where this happens. This concern for environmental awareness goes beyond national boundaries. Taking into account that environmental damage can affect various fields such as the economy, health, education or well-being and wellness of the whole population, we need to emphasize this problem spreads and it also harms bordering states, exceeding the national law margin. From this perspective, over the last few years, Environment has been positioned as one of the most urgent issues to be treated in the international community.

International Environmental Law is, according to (Kiss & Shelton, 2007):

"The newest International Law's¹ branch, which includes those international juridical norms whose purpose, is to protect the environment and to assure the protection of biosphere from further deterioration that could endanger its present or future functioning."

Therefore, the end of this branch of the Law is the most successful way to create a legal framework for environmental protection and everything related to it. This is an international instrument that has certain features to be always considered by everyone involved. This universal branch contains general principles that help to make appropriate decisions. Such principles are universally applicable and they possess a general nature:

1. Principle of Preventive Action.

¹ According to (Narváez, 2004), "International Law was produced from the relationship of the law between two or more states resulting from the plurality of states and the establishment of reciprocal rights and obligations."

Through this principle we seek for the obligation to prevent any damage to the environment by controlling the actions that harm it. The importance of this principle lies in the interrelation of environmental factors, which means, any damage caused to any single element can also deteriorate other elements. We must emphasize that the prevention principle should not be confused with the precaution principle; and not even contaminate territories outside each national jurisdiction (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1972). Additionally, this principle has served as guide for future conferences, thus establishing guidelines and norms that, nowadays, rule the various environmental protection instruments (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

2. Precaution Principle.

Principle 15 of Rio's Declaration states: "When there is risk of serious or irreversible damage, the lack of absolute scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone adoption of cost-effective measures in order to prevent environmental degradation (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992). In this sense, this principle focuses mainly on our environment's vulnerability in the face of ignorance that science has about some threats. Although causing low damages in any natural environment do not generate immediate consequences, evidently, there will be worse damages sooner or later at some point. From this perspective, the precaution principle means an advance regarding environmental care.

3. Principle of Common and Differentiated Responsibility.

The principle of common and differentiated responsibility lies in the fact that over years, humans have used natural resources to develop themselves. Nevertheless, the utilization of such resources has not been similar among the distinct countries, since some have exploited excessively, thinking only in their own benefit and damaging our environment irreversibly. In virtue of this, Rio's Declaration on Environment and Development states in its seventh principle: "Developed countries recognize their responsibility in the

international search for sustainable development, considering pressures their societies exert on global environment and technology with the financial resources every nation disposes" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992).

4. Cooperation Principle.

After World War Two, international cooperation became a necessity for maintaining peace, security and safety. Through the United Nations Organization, different countries have made an effort to take responsible actions in order to maintain or to improve life quality by providing help through projects with other organizations.

In environmental matters, the international cooperation principle is crucial for natural resources preservation. Thereby, (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010) foreground that these problems can only be solved by means of the combined effort of National States, directly or through international institutions created for this purpose. This principle is present in almost all the International Environmental Law's instruments because the interaction of each one of the states is vital, otherwise no effort will be valid. Thus, this principle is enshrined in the two main universal conferences about our Environment: Stockholm's Declaration and Rio's Declaration.

5. Principle of Fine to All Polluters.

The main objective of this principle is the distribution of costs of environmental contamination, which means, polluter nations must afford every cost, which must be included in the measures of environmental pollution prevention and control. In addition, this principle pursues a rational use of our scarce natural resources and prevention of international trade distortion. According to this, (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010) mention that this principle's nature is economic since it supports an efficient use of resources as well as distribution of costs, leaving in the background the pollution responsibility. This is a principle of sovereignty of States on their own natural resources

and it is also a principle of prohibition of causing environmental damage beyond national jurisdictions.

The 21st Principle of the 1972 Stockholm's Declaration states:

"In conformity with the United Nations' Charter and international law missions, States have sovereign right to exploit their own resources in application of their own environmental policy and the obligation of guaranteeing that activities to be performed within their jurisdiction or under their control do not prejudice other States' environment or harm areas located beyond any national jurisdiction" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1972).

This Principle emerges from the Nations' sovereignty on the utilization of their own natural resources for development and self-determination of all people from all breeds. Besides, this right is accompanied by a second element or purpose, which is to avoid harming extraterritorial areas of any State. Notwithstanding, there are certain questions to this principle, one of the biggest of them is whether the State should respond for polluting activities by private entities, industrial mainly. Although international law establishes that Nations are not responsible for such activities, it is obligatory that every country controls any polluting activity within their sovereign boundaries. Another questioning to be solved is to define limits at which each State can exploit and make use of its natural resources. We know is true that each nation must determine its own style of growing and development; so this is where the limits and boundaries should be established by the application of public policies (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

6. Sustainable Development Principle.

We ought to conceive sustainable development as an ample concept that lacks a comprehensive definition due to its abstract nature. The 1987 Brundtland's Report specified the concept of the true importance of sustainable development worldwide, defining it as: "a development that responds to the necessities of the present times without

compromising the ability of future generations to respond to their own needs" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1987). Nevertheless, sustainable development begins to take real importance because of 4th Rio's Declaration Principle, which states: "in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must be an integral and vital part of the development process and it will never be considered separately" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992). In addition, we must take into account this principle has an essential element: to integrate environmental considerations to every social and economic policy of each country.

1.1 International Instruments for Environmental and Biodiversity Protection.

"With the exception of the Security Council's decisions, and perhaps, some recommendations made by the United Nations' General Assembly, the international value that most resembles legislation is agreement between nations" (Narváez, 2004). Agreements between nations include conventions, treaties, protocols and any other juridical covenant; which constitute the main foundation for the environment-threatening activities to be prevented and controlled. However, international environmental instruments are questioned because of their validity and applicability in each State. In first place, we must distinguish treaties and conventions from declarations, letters, principles or similar. The first ones, once subscribed, must be ratified by States and only then, they enter into force while the second ones have a goodwill nature since they do not need to be ratified. Since they are only a goodwill expression, these instruments are reduced to a simple expression of desire, but not real environmental commitment; thus, they are also called *soft rules* because they are not binding obviously. On the other hand, *soft regulations* can be architects of paths and bridges towards future agreements, treaties or conventions because they exert pressure on governments.

In conformity with (Pérez, 2000), we can classify environmental treaties in the following categories:

- Marine Environment Protection Instruments.

- Instruments for prevention of air pollution and atmosphere degradation.
- Instruments for preservation of habitat, species and biological diversity.
- Instruments to prevent pollution of rivers and lakes.
- Instruments for environmental protection on radiological emergencies originated from peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Instruments for control of international traffic of toxic and chemical products, and other hazardous waste, including nuclear waste.
- Instruments that contemplate problems of interference with environment and its degradation caused by military activities and other related activities.
- Instruments linked to human health protection in all workplaces.
- Instruments contemplating general environmental problems.

Before 19th century, only a few Nations had made vague efforts in order to control some forms of pollution. Just in this 19th century international community began to show environment concern, especially since loss of natural resources would represent a very significant economic shortfall in the future. In this sense, in 1902, in Paris, Europe States issued the Convention for Protection of Agricultural Useful Birds. Although it was adopted by only twelve European Nations, this was the first multilateral convention attending an environmental issue. Notwithstanding, during these years there were no environmental protection instruments, in 1913 Europe created an international juridical body of environmental protection denominated as "Consultative Committee for International Protection of Nature", which was not successful because of World War I. As well, since 1930, two regional juridical instruments emerged, and they established the background for current environmental protection. The legal organisms were: Convention on Preservation of Fauna and Flora in its Natural State set in London in 1933; and the Western Hemisphere Convention for Protection of Nature and Wildlife established in Washington in 1940.

Nevertheless, before 1972's Stockholm Conference, several environmental protection instruments already existed, it was in 1968 when the United Nations' General Assembly convoked, through resolution 2398 (XXIII), to the World Conference on Human

Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. As a reason of this (Kiss & Shelton, 2007) mention: "the current ecological era began in the late sixties, after post-World War II reconstruction led to an unprecedented global economic development". Stockholm's Conference on Human Environment is the great leap that started incorporation of our whole Earth's natural environment on the international agenda.

The international instruments for protection of environment and biodiversity also include normative documents resultant from conferences, summits or meetings over the years. These normative documents can be soft law, which means they do not have any binding force, therefore, it is not obligatory to fulfill them; such juridical documents consist of treaties, agreements, international resolutions, among others, too. These juridical documents help to regulate Nations' behavior in the wake of environmental protection. Nonetheless, such normative documents' validity has been questioned frequently, so we must clarify how they are based.

There are two theories supporting International Law norms' validity: voluntarist or subjective theory and objectivist theory. Voluntarist theory highlights that will of each part is the main foundation that validates every international norm; this theory includes three schools, from which the most relevant is common will's on international custom. This school has argued that when a State enters international community it has to fulfill a series of customary and obligatory norms in force; such custom is validated with sovereign fulfillment of all the norms. We should emphasize that States have an interest that coincides that may be uncommon but complementary, and all States must help to coordinate this. Notwithstanding, voluntarist theory has a weak point and it is the fact that it is based on the will only, something that is subjective, highly disruptive and unreal to be fulfilled. For these reasons we created a more tangible and real theory in order to validate every norm without basing on the will only; which is the objectivist theory. Objectivist theory has schools that offer concepts about it. The most remarkable is the naturalist school. This school is based on the natural law, which sustains that international norms' foundation is the very nature of humans themselves. It also foregrounds that

mankind needs basic and vital universal and constant values which are mentioned in all norms of International Law. Such values validate every norm.

Today there are hundreds of international normative documents in the environmental sphere, many of them are soft law only and they have not generated true impact on environmental protection. On the other hand, there are also other legally binding documents produced by States' efforts in order to reach a linking consensus. Despite the existence of all these documents, Nations have not fulfilled their commitments, and because of this environmental protection remains only as an intention, and not as a real obligation.

1.1.1 Stockholm's Conference on Human Environment, 1972.

From June 5th to June 16th, 1972, in Stockholm-Sweden, around 6000 people gathered, including delegations from 113 states, 700 observers sent by 400 non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations' representatives and 1500 journalists. This meeting demonstrated the great concern of international community in order to preserve our environment at that moment of history (Kiss & Shelton, 2007).

Before the celebration of this Conference, some countries in development-process did not accept the international cooperation idea for environmental protection because they thought this was a problem of rich countries only; while poverty and misery were much more urgent problems. The voice of those who always needed international cooperation had not been heard yet, and, finally, when rich countries decided to join, the cooperation process initiated. "Countries in development-process continued to express their fear to rich nations on conditioning foreign economic assistance in environmental protection or on deviating funds which were previously destined for development to stop environmental deterioration" (Kiss & Shelton, 2007).

According to (Narváez, 2004), Stockholm's Conference left some important results:

1. 26 guiding principles of the Declaration of United Nations' Conference on Human Environment.
2. Human Environment Action Plan, with three components: environment evaluation program, environment ordination and auxiliary measures.
3. Recommendations
4. The United Nations' Environment Program (UNEP).
5. The Voluntary Environmental Fund, created in 1973.

Stockholm's Conference contains three important juridical documents:

a) Stockholm's Declaration

It starts with a preamble describing economic and scientific bases on our environment. This declaration emphasizes humans are the most valuable beings. It also establishes human environment has two essential elements: natural and artificial; and both together provide integral human wellness, vital for enjoying our fundamental human rights. Otherwise, this juridical document highlights that countries in development-process possess environmental problems originated in underdevelopment. Thereby, industrialized countries must equate the whole situation. Finally, this document mentions that local and national administrations, within their jurisdictions, must be always in charge of applying environmental protection measures supported by international cooperation (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010). This Declaration established 26 principles. Ecological section begins in the 2nd principle and ends in the 7th principle, and it refers to natural resources - earth, water, flora, air and fauna - that must be preserved for both present and future generations. Likewise, this document manifests the necessity of preserving non-renewable resources, prohibition of toxic substances' dumping and release of heat in quantities that cause irreparable damage to ecosystems; marine resources' protection and marine pollution prevention. Principles 13th to 15th highlight the vitality of planning for a coordinated, integrated and rational development. The last group of Principles talks about the growth of International Environmental Law. In this way, Principle 21st establishes:

"In conformity with United Nations' Charter and with international law principles, States have sovereign right to exploit their own resources in application of their own environmental policy, and the obligation to assure that activities to be executed within their jurisdiction or under their control do not harm our environment of any Nation or beyond any national jurisdiction". (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1972).

Moreover, this Declaration emphasizes in the total cooperation and participation of all countries, since this is a problem that affects everyone; but sovereignty and interests of all Nations must always be taken into account.

Finally, it is highlighted the strenuous States' mission in order to guarantee international organizations really fulfill their objectives; therefore, Principle 25th mentions: "States shall assure that international organizations perform a coordinated, effective and dynamic labor in conservation and improvement of our environment". (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1972)

b) Action Plan

This action plan is a document consisting in 109 recommendations and six focus areas:

- Planning and administration of human agreements on environmental quality.
- Environmental aspects of natural resources management.
- Identification and control of pollutants and ample international transcendence annoyances.
- Educational, informational, social and cultural aspects of environmental issues.
- Development and environment.
- International organizations' implications in proposing action mechanisms.

Besides, this action plan has three specific parts in the document which come from the recommendations:

- Environment Evaluation: This category executes an evaluation, review, research, monitoring and exchange of information in order to ascertain the precise current environmental situation.
- Environmental Ordination: This category facilitates global planning by considering secondary effects generated by human activities.

Auxiliary Measures: This category implements measures needed for supporting other categories through education, training and public information; institutional arrangements and financial assistance.

c) Recommendations

The recommendations contain both institutional and financial arrangements adopted by the Conference. The objective of this was to force United Nations' General Assembly to establish four institutional arrangements: an Environment Secretariat, an Intergovernmental Management Council for Environmental Programs, a Directorate and an Environment Fund.

1972's Stockholm's Conference on Human Environment is the first truly significant instrument of international community in environmental matters. We had to wait until 1972 to appreciate that environment finally became part of international agenda; thus demonstrating that cooperation on such an important issue was possible. This is the first Conference that brought together more than 100 countries from all around the world, so we can say this was the moment when all possible efforts in order to preserve our environment got initiated. Nevertheless, the beginning of this process was not easy because we should remember that this proposal was welcomed because the most influential countries wanted it, ignoring development-process countries' demands on their most urgent needs such as poverty and hunger. This approach set up the foundations for what in the future would be known as sustainable development; by taking into account both environmental and poverty problems. This Conference made possible the creation of good few important elements: United Nations' Conference Declaration on Human Environment and the United Nations' Environmental Program (UNEP). The most

significant one is the first Declaration about Human Natural Environment, because it urges nations to take measures for responsible use of our natural resources, as well as for conserving and for improving our environment. While the United Nations' Environmental Program (UNEP) is the first international organization in charge of our environment, this organization plays a crucial role in environmental matters since it is the first international organization that has an exclusive environmental mandate. Additionally, this organization has established the bases for new actions such global and regional tractates management and their respective negotiations, by seeking the preservation of our environment.

1.1.2 Convention on International Commerce of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Convention about International Commerce of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was created in 1963 in a resolution of the General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - which is now known as the World Conservation Union – by means of convoking for an international convention to regulate exportation, transit and importation of endangered wildlife species. The Convention's text was agreed in Washington D.C. in March 1973 by 80 countries and it entered into force in 1975.

CITES is composed of 25 articles and 4 appendices, importations of species are included in three appendices and they were submitted to obligatory licenses with permissions and certificates. Its main objective is to assure international cooperation of all participant nations in order to prevent international trade of wild animals and plants, by stopping extinction even more (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1973). The three CITES' appendices contain around 30,000 species of flora and fauna, from which 25,000 are plants. All species that are threatened with extinction that may be affected by trade are included in Appendix I. Appendix II includes species that could be endangered in the future due to trade and other species not affected by commerce, but submitted to control regulations. Appendix III includes all the species that any of the Parties declare to be

submitted to regulation in their jurisdiction boundaries (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

Articles III, IV and V regulate commerce of specimens included in Appendices I, II and III, respectively. The other articles establish other postulates such as permits and certificates, exemptions, measures for the participant nations to be taken, administrative and scientific authorities; international measures, etc.

In accordance to (Reeve, 2004) "The main mechanism for monitoring CITES and the central pillar of the CITES' business control system is the permitting and certification scheme". Through this mechanism the Convention controls trade activities that endanger species, by fulfilling the following certain general requirements:

- Restriction of issuing authorities to national CITES' Management Authorities designated by the Parties.
- A separate permit or certificate for each species shipment.
- A maximum validity of six months for exportation and re-exportation permissions and twelve months for importation permits.
- Recommendation of use of security paper for commerce exceptional value wildlife specimens.

The main international institutions established in CITES are the Participants' Conference, Secretariat, Executive Committee, and three subsidiary or technical committees: for animals, plants and nomenclature committees. Only Parties' Conference and Secretariat were foreseen by the Convention, the others were established after the tractate.

1.1.3 World Charter for Nature

Since 1972's Stockholm Conference, International Environmental Law was gaining strength and better positioning on the international agenda. In 1982, the ONU's General Assembly emitted the World Nature Charter; which is not binding; and it contains general

principles about environmental protection and conservation, Earth's genetic viability, all species' population, vital habitats' safeguarding and protection against any activity harmful for our environment. For (Sánchez, 2015): "The World Nature Charter was folded in favor of a fully content environmental protection with deeply ecological scopes that will always struggle to preserve any life form".

Besides this document includes a section denominated as "Functions", which makes reference to planning and implementation of activities that benefit from our natural resources. This section proposes General Principles about development and its planning. These principles should be based on environmental conservation. It also contains an implementation or application section with eleven dispositions to be adopted by the Charter of countries' domestic laws. Other objectives of this section include: to diffuse everything known until now in environmental matters, to secure financial resources and citizen participation in decision taking regarding the environment.

1.1.4 United Nations Convention on Sea Laws

The United Nations Convention on Sea Laws was adopted in 1982 and it is considered as one of the most comprehensive instruments that international law has provided. This Convention constitutes a structure for establishment of global regulations on marine environment protection. This Marine Law also takes into account some special aspects such as sovereignty, jurisdiction, utilization, rights and obligations of Nations in relation to every ocean. Our Marine Law contains 320 articles and nine annexes which define maritime zones' boundaries and establish norms to demarcate maritime limits.

This Convention entered into force in 1994. It counts on 158 signatories and it is the fructifying result of negotiations at the Third Conference on Sea Laws in 1973. In accordance to the United Nations Organization this convention is considered as the framework and basis of any future instrument with the intention of defining rights and commitments on oceans. Our Convention has generated the following important results:

- The almost universal acceptance of the twelve miles' boundary for the territorial sea.
- Coastal States' jurisdiction over resources of an exclusive economic zone with no more than 200 nautical miles wide.
- The right of transiting through straits used for international navigation.
- Archipelagic States' sovereignty (composed by islands) on a sea area delimited by lines traced between extreme points of the islands.
- Coastal States' sovereign rights on their continental shelf.
- Responsibility of all Nations in managing and conserving their biological resources.
- Obligation of States in solving, peacefully, controversies related with application or interpretation of the Convention.

Additionally, the Convention established three Juridical Bodies:

- a) International Oceanbed Authority: This is an entity in which States organize and control activities concerning sea natural resources outside national jurisdictions.
- b) International Tribunal for Sea Laws: This is an independent Judicial Body that resolves conflicts derived from interpretation and application of this Convention. This tribunal is composed by 21 independent members and it is open to Convention's Nations, and, in other cases, for other entities.
- c) Commission of Continental Shelf's Limits: This entity is in charge of realizing recommendations to countries that claim continental platforms exceeding 200 miles.

1.1.5 Brundtland Report

In 1984, the World Commission on Environment and Development emerged for the first time, established as an independent organism in order to create a new global agenda for the best. The Commission's objectives were: to examine critical environmental and development aspects, to propose solutions, to stimulate international cooperation in

pursuit of change, to involve all organizations and individuals in these activities. In 1987 this Commission published the report called "Our Common Future" or "Brundtland Report", which raises the possibility of growing economically by means of sustainability policies.

The Brundtland Report provided a sustainable development concept:

"The sustainable development concept implicates limits, not abusive limits, but limitations imposed by the current state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by our biosphere's capacity in absorbing our activities' effects. Notwithstanding, we can manage and we can improve technology and social organization resulting in a new economic growth era". (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1987).

In the same way, this Commission elaborated recommendations with respect to certain specific issues, focusing on six priority areas:

- a) Governments, regional organizations, juridical organisms and international agencies must collaborate in order to reach sustainable development economically and ecologically.
- b) We need to consolidate the PNUMA as the main source of information and environmental evaluation, by recognizing its role as agent and defender of change and international cooperation as well.
- c) Our International Community must identify, evaluate and report risks of irreversible environmental damage of global scale.
- d) It is crucial for us to expand rights, roles and participation of non-governmental organizations and other organizations in development planning.
- e) Governments should open spaces to talk about environmental protection with the aim of preserving resources for present and future generations.
- f) We need to invest in pollution control and we better provide financial assistance.

For (Kiss & Shelton, 2007), the Brundtland Report led to the convening of a second Conference on environment known as "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or Earth's Summit".

1.1.6 Rio de Janeiro Earth's Summit

After Brundtland Report, we became aware we needed to convoke a United Nations Conference about Environment and Development, which was accepted by the United Nations' General Assembly in 1989. This Conference was necessary due to the apparition of new problems to be solved by considering sustainable development, welfare people's wellness and global economic development. In this sense, Earth's Summit in Rio de Janeiro constitutes the second most significant assembly on environmental and development issues, because of its important results. Respectively (Estrada, 1993) mentions:

"We cannot say that the behavior of peoples or governments in their practices of production and consumption of goods and nature preservation will change radically and immediately, despite the mobilization without precedents that it meant. No Diplomatic Conference could have that effect. We can never express this International meeting was a regrettable failure that only served to make statements without a binding content, formulated in order to keep everything the same as before "(Cabrera, 2001).

United Nations' Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3rd to June 14th, 1992, with the participation of 180 Nations, 100 Heads of State and intergovernmental organizations. In parallel, we also celebrated Global Forum 92 with participation of hundreds of non-governmental organizations. This Conference focused on today's society accelerated development impact on our environment. Five documents emerged from this reunion: two legally binding conventions: Framework Convention on Climatic Change and Convention on Biological Diversity. Our Conference also adopted three non-binding documents: Rio's Declaration

on Environment and Development, Declaration of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Forest Types and Agenda 21 (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

Soft-law documents:

a) Rio's Declaration

Rio's Declaration is a soft-law document considered as an update of 1972 Stockholm Declaration on Human Environment. It represents a commitment between all nations in order to protect our environment and to achieve economic development. In addition, it is composed of 27 principles that serve as basis for future incorporation of standards on "sustainable development". (Cabrera, 2001) explains: "Rio's Declaration, with a marked anthropocentric tone, establishes that human beings constitute the center of environmental concerns, which repeats, in essence, Stockholm Declaration's provisions."

The first Principle emphasizes humanity is the center of concerns related to sustainable development. Principle 2 revisits Principle 21 from 1972 Stockholm's Declaration adding: "States have sovereign right to take advantage of their own resources according to their own environmental and development policies" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992). Principles 3 and 4 are the most important of the Declaration; the third Principle refers to the fact that development practices must respond to development and environmental needs of present and future generations; and fourth principle determines that environment is always attached to development. Principle 7 refers to International Environmental Law's principle: common but differentiated responsibility:

"In view that our countries have contributed differently to global environmental degradation, Nations have common but differentiated responsibilities. The most developed countries recognize their responsibility in international search for sustainable development". (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992)

The remaining Declaration's Principles are about issues previously established in Stockholm's Declaration. Thereby, Principle 10 highlights citizen participation on environmental protection. Importance of creating effective environmental legislation is contained in Principles 11th and 13th; while Principle 15th is about precautionary provisions. Principles 20th, 21st and 22nd are novelty as they foreground those young and indigenous women must participate in the sustainable development process. Finally, Principles 26th and 27th mention that environmental controversies must be solved by adequate United Nations juridical bodies (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

Even though Rio's Declaration is not a legally binding instrument, its principles have been crucial in order to impulse environmental changes. As we previously mentioned, these principles were already established in Stockholm's Declaration; nevertheless, according to (Cabrera, 2001) "Rio's Declaration covers much more general aspects and at the same time strives to address topics related to environmental principles such as polluter pays', 'precaution', 'common but differentiated responsibilities', and others ". A very important principle refers to citizen participation and establishes: "The best way to deal with environmental issues is with participation of all interested citizens, at appropriate level" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992). In this way we notice civil society participation has become increasingly necessary for defining policies in the environmental and development sphere, with the motivation of these principles which urge nations to open more spaces for citizenship participation. The principles do not bind our Nations, but they do push them to commit themselves in order to improve their environmental policies and actions; and in order to be more aware of any environmental problem.

b) Agenda 21

This is the second soft-law document adopted at Rio's Conference and it consists of an action program with 40 chapters and 115 specific topics. The Agenda contains four main sections:

- Socio-economic dimensions: It contains chapters on sustainable development in developing countries, war against poverty, demography, health and consumption patterns, etc.
- Resources Conservation and Management: This section includes topics related to atmosphere protection, deforestation, agriculture and sustainable rural development, biological diversity preservation, chemical products and others.
- Strengthening non-governmental organizations' functions and other social groups: It refers to the role of some groups mainly; as well as measures in favor of women, youth and children, scientific community, local authorities, and others.
- Execution measures: These are specific regulations on resources and financing, technology transfer, cooperation, education, information for decision taking, etc.

(Kiss & Shelton, 2007) describes: "Agenda 21 pays particular attention to national legislation since it makes frequent reference to national laws, measures, plans, programs and standards". Additionally, this Agenda proposed the creation of a Sustainable Development Commission and incorporation of coordination mechanisms between United Nations and other agencies in order to improve decision-taking processes for environmental protection. If we want this program to have a real impact worldwide, we should consider the importance of municipalities or local administrations of provinces and cities.

"Local Agenda 21 is an universal program, designed to make effective sustainable local development through planning and management of municipal territory, which could be defined as the tool that establishes formalization procedure for a concerted and solidary commitment in order to reach sustainable development of diverse agents interacting on the Municipality "(Coria, 2007).

Local Agenda 21 corroborated the importance of finding solutions to global problems in a local manner, by identifying each city problems and by cooperating in order to achieve this program's objectives, but adjusting to their needs. In this sense, Agenda 21 began to

be implemented worldwide in different ways for cities to have sustainable development models. Certain regional organizations based some of their statements on this Agenda.

(Coria, 2007) states: "Local Agenda 21's mandate is being implemented under different local names through international assistance programs such as: UNCHS' Sustainable Cities Program, UNDP's Capacity 21 Program or GTZ's Environmental Management Program" (Coria, 2007). In Europe Agenda 21 was implemented in the first instance by means of the "Aalborg Charter" within the framework of the "European Campaign for Sustainable Cities". This is a document that commits local entities to implement their own Agenda 21. Furthermore there are other programs like 'Network of Cities without car' and multiple projects for accomplishing urban sustainability, although there is another document called 'Sustainable Urban Development Action Framework in European Union' (Ayuntamiento de Santander, sin fecha). Otherwise, in Latin America, 'Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Action Plan for Sustainable Development of the Americas' emerged in 1996, which proposed several initiatives for improving human development and our environment based on Agenda 21. One of these initiatives is, for example, initiative 11th, which states:

"When it is appropriate, we should establish research programs that consider integral systems, including analytical approach to ecosystems, watersheds and integrated agricultural production. We ought to generate information about economic and productive aspects of sustainable agriculture practices". (Cumbre de las Américas, 1996).

Agenda 21 was an innovative proposal that urged states to adopt new measures that balance development and environment, but its impact was not as positive as expected, because, until 1996, Nations did not develop well quantitatively (Coria, 2007). In 1997, there was a Special Session of the General Assembly for reviewing and evaluating implementation of Agenda 21. They also performed a diagnosis of situation of countries that committed to this program, concluding that situations concerning to environment and development was not much better than in 1992. Around 6,416 Local Agendas 21 were

identified in 113 countries, most had been implemented in Europe with 82.48% of initiatives, while in Latin America they were only 2.24% (Coria, 2007). Before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the UN General-Secretary at that time, Kofi Annan, published an evaluation report of economic, social and environmental trends from 1992 to 1997 (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 2002). As in 1997; the 2002 report was not satisfactory, the General Secretary Kofi Annan highlighted in his report that in general human development and degradation the environment did not present an encouraging scene.

"The few resources, lack of political will, a fragmented and uncoordinated approach, and continuous wasteful production and consumption models, have frustrated efficient efforts in order to implement sustainable development or balanced development between economic and social people's necessities, and terrestrial resources' capacity, ecosystems for solving present and future needs" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 2002)

While Agenda 21 is not a binding document so Nations do not have an obligation to fulfill its recommendations, but it has been a guide for countries in order to balance their cities' development and use of natural resources without threatening our environment. After knowing some information about impact and evolution of Agenda 21, there are some loose elements inviting us to question ourselves if we are really committed to a sustainable development model that is friendly to our environment. Latin America, for example, is a paradox in the application of sustainable development since; on one hand, industrial human extra-activism has devastated ecologically crucial zones as well as people's quality life; notwithstanding, on the other hand indigenous populations have always been an example of respect for life in all its forms. With respect to this parameter, (Palacín, 2012) mentions:

"We have made little or none progress in the fulfillment of Agenda 21. On the contrary, the emissions of greenhouse gas have grown exponentially. The focal point of Agenda 21 is the change in consumption patterns, but countries

responsible for largest emissions are radically opposed to it. Then, eyes of the world turn to indigenous peoples, who knew and know how to live in harmony and balance with Mother Earth for thousands of millions years. "

So this is where we must ask ourselves: who is really applying sustainable development? And at the same time contemplate models of development that have always existed in our local communities. Perhaps a new path can be drawn by stopping imitation of consumer development models that degrade our environment and begin to apply models of our local populations. Likewise, all countries but mainly industrialized countries should recognize that sustainable development cannot be accomplished if we do not change our consumption and behavior patterns.

- c) Declaration of principles for global consensus on management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

This not binding document is the first concession on forests in the history of international environmental law. Its preamble explains:

"When we talk about forest protection we are going to deal with an ample gamma of problems and opportunities in environmental and development context, including right to sustainable socio-economic development" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992).

The Principles of this document apply to all kinds of forests, whether artificial or natural and all the climatic zones. It also contains 15 principles regulating Nations' sovereign right to take advantage of their own resources, as well as participation of all those interested in planning and execution of forest policy in their own countries. We also need to count on an international legal framework on international cooperation for environmental protection. Moreover, we have the facilitation of development-process countries to technology and financial resources for managing thier forestry resources.

"The concept of sustainable forest management has influenced many new initiatives, it has stimulated to review forest policies and practices and it has been widely accepted by forest organizations at all levels throughout the world". (Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, 2005). As this is the first agreement on forests, I can determine that international community took a small step towards forests' protection and conservation. Though, in accordance to (Ruis, 2000) "There is no international tractate covering every environmental, social and economic aspect of forest ecosystems; and political tendencies do not focus to preparation of such pact in the foreseeable future". Now, this document is no more than a simple declaration because of lack of political will to be linked to what would have been an agreement with legal force. Like the two other documents of Rio's Summit, this document does not do more than laying foundations or principles of forestal protection. But the fact these days we solely have not legally binding soft-law documents on the vital environmental subject makes us worry terribly.

Legally-Binding Documents:

d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

Climate change has been one of the main concerns of international community, that is why in 1988 and in 1989 United Nations' General Assembly made a general call to all humanity in order to prepare a framework for the Convention on climatical change; which was definitively adopted in 1992 (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

The Convention has identified five principles on which international community should base itself for fulfilling every objective: common but differentiated responsibility, specific necessities and special circumstances of development-process countries, precautionary provisions principle; right to sustainable development and duty to promote it; and promotion of an open international system.

The countries participating in the Convention also acquire the following commitments:

- Obligation of establishing national programs in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- To emit periodic reports of national inventories of emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases.
- To strengthen institutional and financial capacities.
- To indicate what measures are being implemented.
- To cooperate in development affairs.
- To apply and to diffuse rational environmental technologies supporting climatic change.

Additionally, this Convention established that countries must limit emission of greenhouse gases in order to return to climatical conditions of our base year, 1990. In like manner, most developed countries should financially and technologically assist development-process countries in such way everyone fulfills the acquired commitments. This Convention has a supreme juridical entity known as “Conference of the Parties”, which must regularly examine application of Convention and of any legal instrument adopted. It also counts on a Subsidiary Entity on Scientific and Technological Advice that provides the Conference of Parties with information on scientific aspects of the Convention and a Subsidiary Entity of Execution that assists the Conference of the Parties in evaluating the fulfillment of this Convention. (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010) Today, there are 197 countries belonging to this Convention, notwithstanding, it is worth wondering how effective measures of countries have been. In this regard, (Vogler, 2017) mentions:

"The 1992 United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change foresaw reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and their elimination through ecological sumps, with the hope of staring with nations' commitment to return their toxic emissions to 1990's levels in 2000. In an U.S.A. election year this goal was impossible to achieve and participant states had to be satisfied with a non-binding declaration. Though, there is a binding commitment for the Participant countries

to elaborate national inventories of ecological wells, fountains, sources and sumps".

Farther, we should punctuate this Convention differs from others because it alludes to common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities and capacities as well; by considering that most-developed countries emit the greatest emissions of dangerous greenhouse gases (Pérez, 2000). In this mode, we can verify the importance of political commitment, from most-developed nations mainly, because they have caused most damage and they need to take responsibility. Nevertheless, is this how it really happens? The main commitment that most-developed countries acquired was to mitigate climatic change by limiting their emission of greenhouse gases and by improving their ecological sumps and deposits for such gases. Concerning to this (Pérez, 2000) notes: "there is an ambiguous wording of these provisions suggesting that industrialized countries agreed to do something about their CO₂ emissions, but a careful reading, leaves the question of precisely what they agreed and when". This Convention was not exactly a success due to certain inconsistencies and for this reason in Kyoto's Protocol in 1997 there was an attempt in order to correct every error. Once again it was not successful because this Protocol does not have the approval of one of the most important industrialized countries, United States of America, since this agreement was signed but not ratified. We should note this country is responsible for a quarter of the emission of greenhouse gases, notwithstanding, by means of the ratification of the Protocol by Russian Federation, it was finally able to enter into force in 2005.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change has been meeting annually since its entry into force in 1994 by means of what is known as COP or Conference of Parties on Climate Change. Each year countries have proposed to improve and to reach agreements; and, in a certain way the main ecological intention has been conceived. Nonetheless, we must mention that POPs have been more a failure than a success. Over the years these global meetings have occasioned disappointments to NGOs and to civil society in general. One of the biggest examples is COP15, Copenhagen 2009, where Kyoto Protocol's failure was noticed. At that, most-developed countries, which are

the main greenhouse gases producers, have strong economic interests that will not be sacrificed for our planet. In this sense, what (Rodríguez, 2011) mentions is completely true:

"United Nations' Diplomacy does not please the term "Failure". This entity prefers to claim success when there are none. And we ought to remember that more than twenty years ago, people began to dream of a global collective action that would forcefully avoid that average increase of Earth's temperature would exceed danger threshold; which, according to science, is at two degrees centigrade. But, the only certain thing is that it is no longer possible to realize this dream and humankind will inevitably have to face serious consequences of an increase in temperature, which could reach three or four degrees centigrade throughout the century."

e) Biological Diversity Convention:

"Because the rate of destruction of biological diversity has increased in recent decades, we have been increasingly recognizing that international community must take concerted and concrete actions in order to conserve and to preserve species and ecosystems" (Shine & de Klemm, 1993)

The Biological Diversity Convention turned into the ending of arduous negotiations initiated decades ago. It is based on the Convention on International Commerce of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of 1973. This instrument was signed at the Conference of the United Nations for Environment and Development in 1992 and entered into force on December 29th, 1993 (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010). The 1st. Article of the Convention establishes the following objectives:

"Biological diversity conservation; sustainable utilization of its components; fair and equitable sharing and participation of the benefits derived from exploitation of genetic resources; with the help of an adequate access to those resources and an appropriate

transfer of relevant technologies, always considering all rights to these resources and technologies, through an appropriate financing" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1992)

In conformity with the Convention's definition, biological diversity or bio-diversity comprehends the parameters below:

1. Genetic diversity: There is variation of genes inside every species.
2. Species Diversity: Includes variety of species inside a region.
3. Ecosystems Diversity: Dynamic complex of plant communities, animals and microorganisms and their non-living environment, which interact as a functional unit.

The Convention also imposes obligations such as: in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures. On-site measures refer to creation of a protected areas system for biological diversity conservation. We should manage biological resources effectively, with an adequate development of the places near these areas; including rehabilitation of what is degraded so endangered species recover completely. Ex-situ measures refer to obligation of conserving species outside their natural habitats. In this sense, there are binding regulations that States have to fulfill, such as: integrating examination of conservation and sustainable utilization of biological resources in national decision-taking processes. Adoption of economic measures that boost biological diversity conservation, to create programs for scientific training, education and public awareness about bio-diversity conservation. (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010)

There are several basic points contemplated in the Convention like the recognition of national governments competence in determining accesses to natural and genetic resources. Right to access technology, as well as to transfer it to development-process countries is also recognized here. Development-process nations are obliged to provide financial resources in such way other countries can fulfill the Convention. Finally, the Convention convokes a Conference of Participant States after a year it enters into force

for future Conferences. We established a Secretariat with executive functions; we created a scientific, technical and technological advisory entity for providing scientific and technical evaluations of the biological diversity situation for the Conference (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

The Convention must be fulfilled by all the Participant countries, for this purpose there are certain mandatory activities that will help in this process:

- Policies: We must prepare and adapt global policies for biodiversity conservation, as we should integrate them into local policies, offering incentives, without neglecting international cooperation.
- Conservation: It is necessary to identify, to monitor and to register biodiversity components; and, to conserve and to use it sustainably as well. We should create protected areas and the environmental impact should be evaluated.
- Genetic resources and related technology: Access to research and technology that uses genetic resources must be available.
- Marketing and use: An important point is the intellectual property of products and mechanisms as well as the guarantee of rights and royalties for the use and commercialization of these products.
- Education and information: It is necessary to educate and train people on these issues; you must also exchange information to make better use of it.

The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes for the first time in international law the importance of biological diversity and its impact on development. It establishes three objectives that are: the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from access to genetic resources so that everyone can benefit from the elements of biodiversity. Although this Convention has been a diplomatic success due to its binding nature, the current results demonstrate the contrary. (Benítez, 2010) mentions: "After all these years, unfortunately we are far from an adequate implementation of the Convention at the global, national and local levels, especially in the developing countries, which paradoxically are the richest in

biodiversity". It is difficult to understand how after 24 years of having acquired responsibilities, biodiversity is still lost at an alarming rate. (Bravo, 2002), for example, states that: "if we take the case of three Andean countries, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, we can see how they have given oil tenders in protected natural areas, threatening their biodiversity."

Apart from the fact that we all contribute to the loss of biodiversity due to our unfriendly way of life with the environment, the lack of political will in the international context is one of the main reasons why this Agreement is a failure. In this regard (Bravo, 2002) mentions that "Given this scenario, the year 2010 was named as the International Year of Biodiversity with the slogan 'Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is our life', promoting a large number of activities and celebrations on the whole planet". But it is worth asking ourselves: What is the use of proposing new strategies, programs and activities from time to time if none is fulfilled? The (IUCN, 2007) for example gives us data in 2007 that "According to the information of the IUCN Red List, 4,089 species from South America are threatened; it represents almost 40% of species, considering that the total of species evaluated by IUCN in South America amounts to 10,784 ". Although important steps have been taken worldwide showing the commitment and intention to do something to stop the loss of biodiversity, more than this is needed. The existence of this Agreement could be truly successful if measures were taken and even more if these measures were carried out in order to protect the environment and not to satisfy the economic and power interests of certain groups.

1.2 International Organizations for Environmental and Biodiversity Protection

According to the (Enciclopedia Jurídica, sin fecha), international organization is "any group or association that extends beyond the borders of a State and that adopts a permanent structure". Due to its broad concept, there are several types of international organizations, but those of an intergovernmental nature are the most relevant for this research. States usually create international institutions through the adoption of treaties that give rise to organizations and establish what will be the purposes and purposes that

will govern the same ensuring permanent cooperation to solve problems of international interest (Kiss & Shelton, 2007). In the environmental sphere, international organizations allow politicians, scientists and society in general to cooperate in the protection of environmental conservation, either by implementing norms or supervising that they are met.

Solving a problem that involves the whole world, in the literal sense of the word, can not be tackled by one or two countries in isolation and for this reason the need for international cooperation is born. Nowadays, the actors of the international community cooperate through the different types of international organizations that include any organization that operates in the international arena whether they are non-governmental organizations, corporations, transnational corporations or intergovernmental organizations. The most important are the intergovernmental ones, since they are composed of states and constitute the maximum expression of the will for international cooperation. In this regard, (Barnett and Finnemore, 2004) detail that: "An international organization is defined as an organization that has representatives of three or more states that support a permanent secretariat to carry out ongoing tasks related to a common purpose" (Park, 2017). It should be noted that in this section the topic of international non-governmental organizations will not be discussed since they will be analyzed later.

Intergovernmental international organizations are created mainly through treaties that must be signed and ratified by the states. In addition, they can also be created through processes such as emanation, for this "members of a pre-existing international organization, such as the United Nations, can approve the creation of an organization to undertake a more detailed work in a particular area" (Park, 2017), as is the case of the United Nations Environment Program. In recent years the international organizations have increased their presence worldwide so much so that the (Union de Asociaciones Internacionales, 2015) notes that "By 2015 there were already 7,757 international organizations, a dramatic increase since 1909 where only 37 had been functioning" (Park, 2017). In this way we can see that over the years the importance of international organizations has increased so that they are part of our daily life and are important

decision-making tools worldwide. To understand the purpose and role of international organizations have provided some approaches through the different theories of international relations, in this case will emphasize the three that I consider most important: liberalism, realism and constructivism.

As for liberalism, (Mitrany, 1943, Claude, 1964) mention that "The liberal theoretical approaches were used for the first time to articulate the purpose of international organizations as a means to ensure prosperity and individual freedom" (Park, 2017). In this sense we can say that liberalism sees in international organizations a mechanism to finally achieve peace through cooperation and mutual interests. One of the biggest questions to this theory is that it does not take into account the fear of the threat of deception that countries feel from their counterparts, so that it cannot cooperate fully. On the other hand, in the 80s arises neoliberalism that has a somewhat different perspective of classical liberalism. (Fearon, sin fecha) "Neoliberal theory is focused on the problems of whether it is possible and how states can cooperate to obtain a mutual advantage despite the absence of a supranational government (anarchy)" (Park, 2017). From this perspective, neoliberal theory is committed to the success of international organizations if it is achieved that they do not abandon cooperation and thus all benefit. Perhaps, liberalism and neoliberalism have a too optimistic expectation of international organizations because they do not take into account the power plays in the international arena to which the realists have strongly attacked.

"The realists argued that international organizations were simply new provisions that states could use to achieve their material and security interests" (Park, 2017). Realism, contrary to liberalism, shows a pessimistic and crude view of this type of organization and the power exercised by the states. In the same way realism infers that states tend to create chaos to gain power, then they do not see organizations as mechanisms to achieve peace but are created to satisfy their interests. (Gruber, 2000) "In terms of balance of power, hegemonies could create international organizations, but also weak states could do to balance with these hegemonies" (Park, 2017). It should be stressed that cooperation from a realistic point of view is not impossible. (Mearsheimer, 1995)

for example, states that "although realism visualizes a world that is fundamentally competitive, cooperation between states occurs. However, sometimes this is difficult to achieve and even more to maintain. "Although realism is a pessimistic theory that practically destroys the illusion of a more just and equitable world, it opens the possibility of cooperation but not in the way we would like. This theory is strongly influential in international relations because it is clear that so far no great achievements have been made in terms of international cooperation, such is the case of the United States when it withdrew from the Paris Agreement on the environmental issue of climate change and already in a matter of international organizations, withdraw from UNESCO.

Social constructivism has provided a new approach for understanding international organizations, this, in addition to trying to understand the influence of international organizations, also seeks to understand how and why they operate in the way they do and not otherwise (Park, 2017). Unlike liberalism and realism that deal with the why and how international organizations were created, constructivism focuses on how these organizations establish international agendas and provide a framework for solving global problems, as well as helping to understand how New international actors are formed and their impact. (Chwieroth, 2008) for its part, states that: "Social constructivists have shown not only how international organizations can change how we see and understand the world, but also how their decisions are influenced by the culture of an international organization" (Park , 2017). However, there is also a critique of this theory, often both liberalism and constructivism claim that realism focuses only on issues of power but (Barnett & Duvall, 2005) highlight that "the constructivists have rarely dealt with the regulatory structures as defined or infused by power, or have emphasized how the constitutive effects are also expressions of power ".

It is not easy to understand everything that an international organization means due to its diversity and complex structure. In the case of intergovernmental organizations, the mere fact that they are made up of more than two states already raises questions about their true role and the power they exercise. However, (Park, 2017) mentions that "states

continue to establish international organizations for a variety of reasons throughout the range of human endeavors. International organizations are a specific form of multilateralism. “In this case, the object of study is the environment and we have several international and regional organizations that deal with environmental problems. They have created programs, activities, campaigns to improve the current situation of our planet although some of them have been the target of criticism and questioning. In this context, the following will present some of the most relevant environmental organizations and organizations for the protection of the environment in the international arena.

1.2.1 United Nations Environment Program.

As a result of the Stockholm Conference in 1972, the United Nations Program for the Environment (UNEP) emerged, becoming the most important international organization in charge of the environment. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and is responsible for establishing the global environmental agenda, promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serving as an authorized advocate of the global environment (United Nations, sin fecha). UNEP has also been a key actor in the negotiation of environmental treaties, such as: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Layer of Ozone, among others (Cárdenas, Cadena, & Uribe, 2010).

Its work focuses on three aspects:

- To evaluate global, regional and national environmental conditions and tendencies.
- To develop international and national environmental instruments.
- To strengthen institutions for intelligent environment management.

Additionally, there are seven thematic areas on which this organization works: Climatological change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, efficiency of resources and the environment under review.

The United Nations Environment Program operates through an Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Framework that seeks to improve business practices within it. With this Framework, countries have a reference in terms of minimum sustainability standards for the environment, thus allowing UNEP to anticipate and manage future environmental, economic and social problems. To achieve these objectives, the Framework is based on two General Principles: the precautionary principle and the human rights approach, as well as, in nine protection standards: conservation of biodiversity, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, security of dams, involuntary resettlement, indigenous population, working and working conditions, protection of tangible cultural heritage, gender equality and economic sustainability.

The United Nations Environment Program is, as its name implies, a program and not a traditional United Nations' organization, although it is considered an organization. Since its inception, it has been the target of questions because it has not been as effective as expected. UNEP has an important mission of coordination between the multilateral environmental agreements and for this in 1999 it established a Division for Environmental Conventions. However (Andresen & Rosendal, 2009) mention that "the secretariats of multilateral agreements seem to pay more attention to their conferences of the parties (COP) than to UNEP, and although they recognize the need for coordination through UNEP, the expectations about it are not very big". This is because there are too many bureaucratic formalities and it is much easier to respond to the Conferences of the Parties rather than to such a bureaucratic body. In this sense, the problem of bureaucracy lies in the fact that efficiency is reduced because processes become long and problems are not solved in time.

Another reason why UNEP is not so efficient is because of the existence of other international organizations that deal with the same issues. For example, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature is an important organization that works with several actors of civil society and the international community. It has been strongly involved in the coordination of treaties, and without being an organization of The United Nations is

somehow more efficient than UNEP. However, (Andresen & Rosendal, 2009) point out that "neither the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, nor the UNEP consider their relationship as competitive". However, there is another organization that does not have an optimal relationship with UNEP which is the United Nations Development Program. In this regard (Andresen & Rosendal, 2009) highlight that "UNDP is much bigger, the sustainability approach reinforces its position, and the fact that it is represented in almost all countries implies that UNEP is far from being a unique coordinator in relation to multilateral environmental agreements".

There are also three other relevant aspects that reduce the efficiency of the United Nations Environment Program: its financial structure, the location of its headquarters and its formal status. "UNEP's annual budget of \$ 215 million (including all contributions: Environment Fund, framed contributions and trust funds) is really minuscule compared to the UNDP 3.2 billion and the EPA's \$ 7.6 billion" (Ivanova, 2009). Without a strong financial structure, it is difficult for UNEP to fulfill its responsibilities, and even more to consider new ways to efficiently solve environmental problems. On the other hand, the location of its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, represents in a certain way a problem because unlike other organizations, whose headquarters are in developed countries, this is the only one, with the exception of UN Habitat, which is located in a developing country. This occurs because it is isolated from others and cannot act effectively with their counterparts to make decisions quickly. In this regard, (Ivanova, 2009) mentions that "the most important consequence of the location of UNEP is the inability to attract and retain top-notch personnel with the expertise and experience in policy matters necessary for the organization to be the principal authority in the environmental field". Finally, the formal status of UNEP, to be a program and not a specialized agency, takes away the authority and independence to make decisions. In fact, several countries have proposed that it is no longer a program but clearly an organization, (Ivanova, 2009) states that "the initiative by the governments of Germany and France to create a United Nations Environmental Organization could provide the impetus to restructure the system". However, even creating this organization, it is not known with certainty if it will be more effective than now. In this sense, realism is the most accurate theory in terms of the role

of this type of organization because as can be seen, there is cooperation only as a symbol but not as a true instrument for environmental protection. Furthermore, the efficiency of UNEP has shown how little environmental intergovernmental organizations influence the protection of the environment and the little or no confidence that we can have in them.

1.2.2 International Union for Conservation of Nature

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is a Union of Members composed of sovereign States, government agencies and civil society organizations. This organization is a hybrid between governmental and non-governmental organization because it was created by civil society but is composed of states. IUCN makes available to public, private and non-governmental entities the knowledge and tools that make possible, in an integral manner, human progress, economic development and nature conservation (Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, sin fecha).

Since its creation in 1948, IUCN has been evaluating the state of conservation of nature and natural resources, and providing necessary measures to protect them. Their knowledge on the subject and the tools provided by this organization enable human progress, economic development and the conservation of nature. It has the support of more than 10,000 experts divided into six committees dedicated to the survival of species, protected areas, environmental, social and economic policies, environmental law and other issues. This is how IUCN works as a neutral forum in which NGOs, scientists, companies, governments and any other organization can work together to solve environmental problems. In addition, this is the only environmental organization with official observer status in the United Nations so it is responsible for taking the voice of all other organizations to a higher level. IUCN supports the various conservation projects around the world which are based on the scientific and traditional knowledge of each locality in order to stop and reverse the loss of habitats, restore ecosystems and improve human well-being (Union International for the Conservation of Nature, sin fecha).

The organizations that join IUCN are part of a process where multiple proposals are debated and voted on. When an agreement is reached, resolutions that strongly influence the global environmental agenda are adopted. The IUCN World Conservation Congress is held every four years. These congresses have become important for key international environmental instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention.

1.2.3 Global Environment Fund.

It is an international organization that was proposed by the World Bank and was established before the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 with the aim of addressing the most urgent environmental problems on the planet. Since then this organization has awarded around \$ 17 billion in grants and has funded more than 4,000 projects in 170 countries with \$ 88 billion dollars. Currently, the GEF is composed of 183 countries, international institutions and civil society organizations.

The Global Environment Facility works with 18 agencies including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs. In addition, this organization has a network of civil society organizations and works with the private sector around the world, as well as receives ongoing contributions from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel (Global Environment Facility, sin fecha). The GEF is also a financial mechanism for five environmental conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (COP).), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Global Environment Facility, sin fecha).

The Global Environment Facility in its first 25 years managed to create more than 3300 protected areas, helped with the conservation of about 352 million hectares of productive

and marine landscapes as well as 790 climate change mitigation projects, representing 2,700 million of tons of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the association managed 34 trans-boundary river banks in 73 countries, improved cooperation for the governance of marine ecosystems, managed the elimination of solid toxic organic pollutants and collaborated on projects to adapt to climate change to reduce the vulnerability of more than 15 million of people in 130 countries (Global Environment Facility, sin fecha).

This organization has also been strongly criticized because its creation was proposed by the World Bank. In this regard, (Dreher, Ramada, & Sarasola, 2009) mention that "according to some NGOs, the World Bank barely dealt with environmental issues in their own programs and therefore, should not lead an environmental agency". The fact that an organization of this type is managed by the World Bank is questionable, taking into account what realism poses about power, since it could be used as a tool to satisfy the power interests of certain groups.

1.2.4 European Environmental Agency.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is a body of the European Union. Its job is to offer solid and independent information about the environment. It is the main source of information for those responsible for the development, approval, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies, and also for the general public (Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente, sin fecha).

This entity is governed by a Board of Directors and a Bureau composed of representatives of the 33 member states, the European Commission and the European Parliament. It has two main objectives that are to facilitate decision-making on the environment for all member countries of the European Union and to coordinate the European information and observation network on the environment. To achieve these objectives, the Agency is responsible for developing this network through joint work with national agencies and the ministries of environment of each country. The main institutions receiving

information from the EEA are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and the member countries as well as academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, the business community, among others (Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente, sin fecha).

Despite being an organism of the European Union, the European Environment Agency is aware of the need for international cooperation, which is why it works with other institutions not belonging to the European Union. In this way, the EEA is committed to four aspects at the international level: international cooperation and the Eionet network (Red europea de información y de observación sobre el medio ambiente), relations with the neighboring countries of the European Union, relations with international organizations, organs of the United Nations and international agreements and finally relations with non-European countries and regions (Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente, sin fecha).

The impact of the European Environment Agency has been positive worldwide but especially in Europe. This is one of the agencies of the European Union that has been fully dedicated to protecting and improving the environment in this region. "Thanks to the information provided by the EEA, the EU and the member countries of the Agency can make informed decisions to improve the environment, integrate environmental issues into economic policies and advance sustainability". (Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, sin fecha). In addition, thanks to the fact that the countries of the European Union have been able to receive the information provided by this agency, the results in some environmental aspects have improved. For example, the (Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente, sin fecha) has stressed that "according to a new study, between 2012 and 2013, greenhouse gas emissions fell by almost 2% in the European Union (EU), so that the reduction target for 2020 has almost been achieved ". Being an organism of the European Union, this agency is fulfilling its mission, but it is necessary to set more specific objectives regarding other environmental aspects, as well as a stronger commitment of certain European countries.

1.2.5 Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law

The Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law was created by the heads of state at the Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development in 1996 in Bolivia, as a hemispheric network of officials and experts in environmental law in coordination with the Organization of American States to exchange knowledge and experiences in environmental law. IFAD is also a focal point for cooperative efforts to develop and strengthen environmental laws, policies and institutions, promote compliance and facilitate training and capacity-building in environmental legislation, compliance and enforcement (Organización de Estados Americanos, sin fecha).

This Forum focuses mainly on six environmental aspects:

- Water policy: It solves problems regarding water quality, right to water, sanitation, water use and management, among others.
- Trade, investments and the environment: It deals with conflicts related to environmental protection and conservation in the context of increased investments in the region, focusing on legal frameworks for the environment.
- Environmental responsibility: Focuses on clean and fair environmental responsibility standards.
- Economic and regulatory instruments for environmental management: It focuses on the effective and complementary use of economic and regulatory instruments with environmental legal frameworks.
- Clean production: It develops legal frameworks for better industrial production through environmental management standards, tax incentives and other administrative and economic tools.
- Strengthening judicial institutions and jurisprudence: It supports modern, efficient and capable judicial institutions, also promotes the development of jurisprudence.

Since its creation, this forum has not had a strong impact on the decisions of the countries that are part of the OAS, however, it has fulfilled a role as an information center. Through its platform you can see the state in environmental matters of these countries, such as the respective environmental legislation, environmental provisions in trade agreements, water management, among others. However, this role as an information center has not been fully met because the information is somewhat outdated and data from some countries are missing. This leaves in evidence the precarious international institutionality in environmental matters that exists in the OAS countries, and the few incentives to improve their environmental situation.

1.2.6 Inter-American Bio-diversity Information Network

The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network promotes technical collaboration and coordination among the countries of the Americas to collect, share and use information on biodiversity that is relevant to the decision-making processes on natural resource conservation and development (Organización de Estados Americanos, sin fecha).

Its main objectives are:

- To build an infrastructure for the exchange of information on biodiversity.
- To strengthen the technical capacity to exchange information between the countries of the Americas without limits of political and institutional boundaries.
- To improve the capacity to store, use and distribute biodiversity information that is scientifically reliable and up-to-date.
- To produce or adapt tools for environmental decision making that favor the sustainable development of the region

Since its creation, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network has carried out many projects for which it has received voluntary donations from member countries and other organizations focusing on issues such as: protected areas, ecosystems, invasive species, pollinators, species and specimens (Organización de Estados Americanos, sin fecha).

Conclusion

The concern for environmental problems grows more and more every day when we realize environmental deterioration and depletion of natural resources do not stop and affect us all indiscriminately in a negative way. In response to this worry, the international community has incorporated the environmental issue into its agenda in order to propose solutions and strategies for protection and conservation of our planet in its natural state. For this objective, several instruments have been used such as; agreements, treaties, protocols and declarations, which, besides providing normative frameworks, reflect the Nations' international cooperation will. Additionally, international organizations have also been an important part in protection of environment and biodiversity, by providing structures for the implementation of activities and programs as well as financing them. However, cooperation of States, through international instruments and organizations, has not been enough to protect our environment effectively.

International instruments of protection of the environment and especially of biodiversity, object of study of this work, have managed to have an impact in the international arena, although its inefficiency has provoked severe questions towards them. It has been possible to observe the existence of soft law and legally binding documents that emerged since the 1970s through conferences and meetings that brought together a large part of the countries of the world. They have managed to raise awareness and call for political will to be adopted in the internal regulations of each country. However, the panorama after almost five decades is not encouraging since these instruments have not achieved their objectives and the environmental deterioration is increasingly evident.

International organizations, meanwhile, are structures that have crossed borders, calling on nations and actors of the international community in general to embark on a path to find solutions. Intergovernmental international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Program, the European Environment Agency or the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law and others of a mixed nature such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, have played an important role in the promotion of measures for the protection and conservation of nature, through activities, programs, campaigns,

monitoring or the provision of information to the entire society. However, these organizations have also been questioned, mainly those of an intergovernmental nature since they have not been effective in achieving their goals.

CHAPTER 2: ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

"Non-governmental organizations have moved from the margins to the center of international relations" (Joachim, 2017). Nowadays, it is not possible to talk about the international community without thinking about non-governmental organizations. At the local level, these organizations are part of the daily life of society and are manifested mainly in situations of emergency or of prevailing needs not addressed by the State. Since they are part of civil society, non-governmental organizations have covered a large part of the current issues proposed in the international political agenda, fulfilling a counterbalancing role for the States or any organization formed by them.

In the environmental sphere, non-governmental organizations are fundamental for the protection and conservation of the environment since they contribute in different ways from a civil society perspective. Currently, there are hundreds of non-governmental organizations dedicated to environmental issues both locally and internationally that have a strong impact on society through campaigns and pressure on governments and relevant international organizations. In order to determine the role that NGOs have in the protection of the environment, it is necessary to know the contribution that they have made through their achievements at the international level.

(Timmer, 2009) highlights that among the multiple contributions of non-governmental organizations we find "the generation of powerful coalitions and networks dedicated to specific issues, to give voice to marginalized and unheard communities, to present information and expert knowledge to global processes by lobbying and persuading governments, corporations and intergovernmental organizations, to discuss issues of interest to them". In this way, environmental non-governmental organizations such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth are committed not only to the environment but also to all the other elements that are affected by these problems, including the human being. To contribute to environmental protection, nongovernmental organizations must act quickly and seek ways to generate an impact on local and international communities. In

this regard (Gemmill & Bamidele, 2002) mention that "while government agencies and intergovernmental organizations often lack analytical capacity or are hampered by bureaucratic constraints and other obligations, NGOs can focus on a dynamic research agenda and move forward quickly in order to address new problems".

2.1 Brief Description of Non-Governmental Organizations

(Charnovitz, 1997), states:

"Globalization has considerably weakened traditional governance processes. The increase in global economic integration has reduced the power of national governments while giving other economic and political actors access to the world stage. The 1990s witnessed a dramatic increase in the participation of nongovernmental organizations in global governance "(Gemmill & Bamidele, 2002).

Civil society is nowadays one of the most important actors in the public sphere, either locally or internationally. The (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, sin fecha) determines that:

"Civil Society Agents promote awareness of rights, help communities express their concerns, define strategies, influence policies and laws, and exert pressure to hold them accountable. They receive and channel the opinions of the communities so that the decision-making process regarding public policies is better founded. And they also provide services to vulnerable populations and at risk on multiple fronts".

Within civil society, several agents can be highlighted, such as human rights defenders, coalitions and networks, community groups, trade unions and professional associations, social movements, non-governmental organizations, among others. All these agents focus on various problems that have not been effectively solved by governments as: poverty,

corruption, humanitarian crises, human rights, the environment, human trafficking, discrimination, etc.

It is necessary to point out that at present, non-governmental organizations are the most powerful grouping within civil society at an international level. (Joachim, 2017) states that: "non-governmental organizations have contributed to the reformulation of the agendas, changes in rules and procedures, and the emergence of new standards through their commitment to international governmental organizations". However, the so-called non-governmental organizations must differentiate themselves from other actors since, although they have certain characteristics that make them unique, these organizations often have relations with States, international governmental organizations, transnational corporations and social movements, which make them very close the difference line. In addition, there are contrary opinions on the relevance and legitimacy of non-governmental organizations, thus generating an important debate in the international arena.

2.1.1 What are non-governmental organizations?

From a historical point of view, there is no concrete date for the appearance of non-governmental organizations since they have been part of a social process that probably could have existed since the 17th century. (Lissner, 1997) states that: "the first international non-governmental organization is the Canadian society, Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame, founded in Montreal in 1653" (Serrano, 1999), while other authors affirm that these organizations began to appear in the nineteenth century. This lack of consensus on the date of appearance of non-governmental organizations is probably due to the fact that the characteristics of these organizations have changed with the passage of time and similarly there have been other similar organizations that today belong to other groups of civil society.

(Serrano, 1999) distinguishes two trends with their respective stages that clarify the historical appearance of non-governmental organizations:

The first trend originates in the Middle Ages and occurs in three periods: the first that reaches the nineteenth century formed mainly of religious organizations such as the orders of the Franciscans, Jesuits and Dominicans, the second originates in the nineteenth century and is formed by individuals who sought to face the social injustices generated by the Industrial Revolution. Finally there is a third period that began in the late nineteenth century extending itself to the present and constituted by international organizations that address global issues.

The second trend begins in the nineteenth century and goes until 1914, it also occurs in three stages: the first is manifested with European scientific congresses, bringing together doctors from several countries, the second stage is characterized by the creation of important international organizations and finally the last stage that is distinguished by the predominance of free associations after 1895.

Although non-governmental organizations have probably appeared some centuries ago, their development is typical of the 20th century. Thus, (Charnowitz, 2006) argues that "the term non-governmental organization was used for the first time by Dwight W. Morrow, an American politician and diplomat. In his book on international cooperation published in 1919, Morrow distinguished these organizations from others composed of sovereign states" (Joachim, 2017). In addition, it should be taken into account that in article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, the expression non-governmental organization is used for the first time in the international field, stating that:

"The Economic and Social Council may make appropriate arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations dealing with matters within the competence of the Council. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, if necessary, with national organizations, after consultation with the respective Member of the United Nations" (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1945).

As for the date of appearance of non-governmental organizations, it has not been possible to determine exactly what they are. According to (Joachim, 2017), "a non-governmental organization is an umbrella term applied to a wide range of organizations that differ in size, focus, motives and functions". These organizations have such varied and far-reaching characteristics that a single concrete definition cannot be given. However, there is a characteristic without which it could not be called a non-governmental organization and it is the fact that they should not belong to governmental spheres. That is why already at the international level (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, 1950) in the resolution 288 B (X) of February 27, 1950, mentions that "any international organization not created through intergovernmental agreements, will be considered as non-Governmental Organization".

Also, the (Organización de las Naciones Unidas, sin fecha) defines non-governmental organizations as:

"Any non-profit group of citizen volunteers, who are organized locally, nationally or internationally. With tasks directed by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of humanitarian services and functions, bring citizens' problems to governments, oversee policies and encourage community participation. They provide analysis and experience, serve as early warning mechanisms and help in the monitoring and implementation of international agreements. Some are organized on specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health".

With these concepts we can then highlight some features that are useful when defining non-governmental organizations:

- a) Its end is not lucrative.
- b) It is composed mainly of voluntary citizens who do not receive remuneration.
- c) Cooperate with other types of organizations to achieve their objectives
- d) They have the capacity to summon large groups of people with a similar ideology and also influence public opinion.
- e) They contribute in the identification of the needs of the different communities in the world.

- f) In general, they reinforce values such as solidarity, volunteering, protection of rights, etc.

In addition to these characteristics, it is also necessary to distinguish between some types of non-governmental organizations. In the first place, the highest classification is between national and international organizations, the national organizations clearly focus on local or domestic problems in a single country, while the international organizations have an international scope, oriented to problems of a global nature although they have their headquarters in a certain country. However, in this sense (Joachim, 2017) differentiates between international non-governmental organizations and transnational non-governmental organizations, alluding to the fact that a national NGO is increasingly mobilized at an international level while international NGOs are involved in the local problems of the countries, therefore the term transnational non-governmental organization would be the most successful since it contains both classifications. On the other hand, there are other classifications or types of NGOs for example, some organizations focus on a single issue, while others address problems in a general way without focusing only on one. "While some so-called delivery organizations provide only services, such as humanitarian aid or development assistance or advocacy, NGOs are committed to raising awareness through campaigns; also some do both things" (Joachim, 2017).

2.1.2 Relationship of non-governmental organizations with other international actors

Non-governmental organizations have characteristics of their own, however, they can be confused with other actors of civil society and in the international arena with actors of the international community in general. Today there are many organizations that do not associate with the States, but this does not mean that they can be called non-governmental organizations. It is important to note that the boundary between a non-governmental organization and another similar organization is a thin line that often causes confusion. However, the relationship between an NGO and other actors in society is vital to achieve its objectives.

2.1.2.1 Non-governmental organizations and States

"In theory, transnational non-governmental organizations are independent of the states. This applies both to their funding sources, mainly private contributions, as in the case of Amnesty International, and its members" (Joachim, 2017). Non-governmental organizations have a clear and common goal, to represent civil society, that is, to be the voice of those who cannot speak or have not been heard especially by the states. In this way, it can be said that NGOs play a role as a counterweight to the state, demanding that the needs that must be resolved urgently be met. On the other hand, the actions of the NGOs must go hand in hand with the states since they do not have financing and they do not have international legal personality, however, they are created under the laws of the countries where they reside.

Over the years, non-governmental organizations have been gaining ground in national and international politics thanks to their constant pressure that has made states recognize them as important actors in society. According to (Serrano, 1999), "it is clear that NGOs received greater support because of their ability to support development activities in areas and groups that governments and intergovernmental organizations could not reach, particularly the most disadvantaged communities at the national level". But this is where it should be noted that NGOs cannot replace states or fulfill a role that is intrinsic to them, although they can collaborate preventing more problems or helping in emergency situations depending on the type of NGO. Sometimes relationships are good and through cooperation many problems are solved, but also these two actors could come into conflict if the state does not meet what an organization asks for. In this sense (Serrano, 1999) states that: "if the central government does not firmly control, it is possible that regional and local administrations have more capacity and willingness to work with NGOs, especially when their intervention are successful and they have the support of people". Also (Joachim, 2017) stresses that: "it is increasingly common for states to trust NGOs for the implementation of policies or to delegate tasks that they can no longer pay or do not wish to perform".

This is due to the characteristics of NGOs, for example, their closeness to people who are in need of help and who do not trust the state but an organization of this type. In addition, NGOs have a capacity to respond quickly to emergencies, which causes greater credibility in them. In this regard (Joachim, 2017) points out that: "cooperating with NGOs can improve the perception of the legitimacy of states or intergovernmental organizations, which is why an increasing number consult and maintain relations with them".

Although the relationship between non-governmental organizations and states is necessary, it is at the same time very dangerous. Previously it was mentioned that a thin line separates NGOs from other actors, if this line disappears, especially with the states, the non-governmental organization would become another instrument of the state. (Potter, 1995) stresses that: "Currently there are certain cases in which governments have created their own NGOs to attract international funds" (Serrano, 1999), which means that not all NGOs are clearly non-governmental, some are only disguised to help in the achievement of political or even commercial objectives. The relationship between states and non-governmental organizations cannot be generalized since there is a great diversity of organizations and their relationships vary, and the reality changes between countries, although the fact that there are certain world-known organizations with more power and influence than others.

2.1.2.2 Non-governmental organizations and international intergovernmental organizations

"Although they do not admit their links with governments, international NGOs show their ties to various intergovernmental institutions, ties that are often interpreted as guaranteeing the competence and impartiality of NGOs" (Teil, 2009). The current relationship between nongovernmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations is an important element of international cooperation, however is highly questionable because since these are intergovernmental organizations, they impose their power and political will. However, it is necessary to mention that, as with the states, non-governmental organizations cooperate and are the voice of civil society, for this reason

they carry the problems and needs at the request of one way or another to create policies or link to the states in compliance with them. In this regard (Serrano, 1999) notes that "the relationships maintained by NGOs with intergovernmental organizations are diverse and depend on each intergovernmental organization, the evidence of this interaction is abundant at all levels: policy formulation, research, information, education and representation and operational activities".

(Claduch, 1991), suggests that "the relationship between NGOs and IGOs is developed through two fundamental channels: through the granting of consultative status and plans or concerted actions between both categories of actors". In the case of consultative status, the most relevant example is the Organization of the United Nations, which is exercised through the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations with consultative status before ECOSOC, also known as CONGO. In this regard, as mentioned above, article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations empowers the Economic and Social Council to make arrangements and consult with non-governmental organizations that deal with matters within the competence of the Council. However, not all NGOs can be consulted, for this reason ECOSOC has divided NGOs into three groups depending on their competences. In the category "A" are the NGOs that are of fundamental interest to the Council, they can attend the sessions, present communications, request the inclusion of topics and make verbal statements. In category "B" there are NGOs that have an interest in some specific field, they can submit written communications and make verbal statements. In the last category we find NGOs that are registered in the General Secretary's registry that only have the faculty to submit written communications at the request of the General Secretary. The consultative status is not found only in ECOSOC, there are also other specialized agencies of the United Nations that recognize this faculty as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and also other intergovernmental organizations such as the European Union. The second channel mentioned by (Claduch, 1991), is composed of plans or concerted actions between NGOs and OIG. Through these plans, both organizations reach their objectives, benefiting each other.

"The formula of the concerted plans where it has developed most institutionally has been within the framework of the European Communities, in fact, aid to the Third World is one of the most outstanding chapters of the Community's external action, and often, its development and execution has been instrumentalized through NGOs" (Claduch, 1991).

2.1.2.3 Non-governmental organizations and other actors

Just as non-governmental organizations relate to states and intergovernmental organizations, they also relate to other actors, mainly from civil society. It should be noted that there are many agents of civil society, which is why a brief analysis of the relationship of NGOs with the most important actors will be made.

First of all, we have the transnational corporations, from which it is easy to differentiate non-governmental organizations especially by their features. As previously mentioned, NGOs are not for profit and the funds they receive are directed to their works or activities. However, the close relationship of non-governmental organizations with transnational corporations is questionable. In this sense, (Joachim, 2017) emphasizes that "the commitment with the companies also takes more and more the form of cooperation, together with the representatives of the transnational corporations and the states, NGOs participate in the so-called dialogues of multiple interested parties that seek to establish rules for more sustainable production ". This cooperation can also mean certain complicity because of the good image that non-governmental organizations enjoy. In this way, transnational corporations could take advantage to change the perception that society has about them. (Huisman, 2014) for example mentions that, "due to its multiple partnerships with corporations such as Monsanto, Coca Cola and GAP, the environmental NGO World Wide Fund has been criticized for being too close to these companies and helping them to 'whitewash' their image" (Joachim, 2017). Another area of questioning is the origin of the financing of the NGOs and the benefit that this generates to the transnationals. (Teil, 2009) for example, highlights that:

"Certain NGOs do not really defend the ideals they proclaim, but rather serve as an alibi to the trans-nationals that subsidize them. This alibi occurs worldwide mainly to reduce or eliminate fines from the trans-nationals and to be able to continue acting outside the law and of course play a political role without society noticing".

Another important relationship occurs between non-governmental organizations and transnational social movements. These two civil society actors have a major difference and that is that NGOs have a more developed structure, which is why (Jacobson, 1984) mentions that "transnational non-governmental organizations exhibit a formal structure: they have regularly scheduled meetings, specific procedures for decision making, and permanent staff "(Joachim, 2017). In this way it can be said that transnational social movements are informal coalitions that are concerned with issues of global impact. However, it should be noted that the relationship between NGOs and social movements is narrow because non-governmental organizations often evolve from being social movements to NGOs.

2.1.3 The role of non-governmental organizations

Over the years, non-governmental organizations have increased their presence and participation both nationally and internationally, which has increased their importance in making decisions of global interest. Although most non-governmental organizations have in common the fact that they do not belong to governmental spheres, their role varies depending on the type of NGO. (Joachim, 2017) states that "The achievements of NGOs seem to exceed expectations and are sometimes difficult to track because the organizations involved often work together with other actors and depend on persuasion rather than on material power". From this point of view, non-governmental organizations exercise an invisible type of power acting in places where states or other intergovernmental organizations have not done so.

(Serrano, 1999) distinguishes five types of roles normally fulfilled by non-governmental organizations: providing innovations, providing services, acting as advocates, guaranteeing values and forming a mediating structure. NGOs are innovative because they respond quickly to emergencies, since they are not subject to rigid protocols and often look for new ways to help. Regarding the provision of services, we cannot speak of nongovernmental organizations without thinking that they are at the service of the people. In order to fulfill this, it is necessary that they obtain financing and thus be able to serve and achieve their objectives. In the same way, acting as advocates is one of the main roles of these organizations, although some defend specific groups and protect their interests in a very restricted manner, but in general NGOs seek to influence politics so that the groups defended have greater participation and become more involved in decision making. In terms of values, this type of organization calls society to become involved through voluntary work, active participation, protection of the interests of minorities, solidarity with the weakest groups, and, in general, being the voice of who cannot express themselves or are not heard. Finally, a role that stands out (Serrano, 1999) is "to serve as a mediating structure between civil society and public institutions that are the ones who must respond to the problems and needs of people".

On the other hand, as mentioned above, non-governmental organizations have a space in some intergovernmental organizations where they can play an active role, but mainly in lobbying and political advocacy. In this regard, (Joachim, 2017) mentions that "intergovernmental organizations provide a space called 'opportunity structure' where NGOs can have a suitable environment to intervene". The greatest example of this is the United Nations Organization, where consultative status is provided to some NGOs, as mentioned above. However, (Joachim, 2017) makes a criticism of the consultative status and indicates that in general, "it is considered that the participation of NGOs is greater in the phase of establishing the agenda where the problems are identified, but it decreases in the decision-making phase where governments try to close the doors". For example, in the General Assembly it is common to have the presence of non-governmental organizations but in the Security Council its participation is very limited taking into account that it is in the Security Council where important decisions are made. In addition,

although nongovernmental organizations have a space in other important organizations, this does not guarantee their influence and is reduced to a work of only lobbying.

The role of non-governmental organizations when lobbying refers to activities to persuade or influence important decision-makers, mainly legislators and members of government. In addition to lobbying, there are political advocacy activities that closely resemble the first because they also seek to influence important entities, although political advocacy focuses more on public opinion, communities, companies, etc. While it is true, these actions do not ensure that what is said in words will be fulfilled, but it must be taken into account that to a certain extent it does influence especially when those who make decisions are pressured. As an example of these activities we have in the case of political advocacy: awareness campaigns, informative workshops, involvement of the media, demonstrations, in the case of lobbying they are: presenting documents of their position on certain topics to intergovernmental or governmental organizations, oral presentations about their position on a certain topic, research to back up their positions, sign petitions, etc.

Despite the facts that lobbying and advocacy are the strengths of non-governmental organizations, there are also other points that can be further developed and in this way contribute to global governance. In this sense the author (Calame, 2004) affirms that "the growing participation of coalitions of non-governmental organizations in international negotiations can make a very positive contribution to the emergence of a global community and the establishment of a more legitimate global governance, more effective and more democratic, but this presupposes a certain number of evolutions and changes".

Contributing to a legitimate, democratic and effective global governance is the role in which non-governmental organizations should focus at present. However, it is not an easy role to assume, taking into account the current world order and the little or no will that the powers and in general the states have to improve the current situation in terms of democracy and legitimacy. "We must accept that in the 21st century, governance is not

reduced to the narrow model of good governance promoted by international financial institutions, nor to public action itself" (Calame, 2004).

This is why governance needs to be redefined and this is where non-governmental organizations can contribute enormously with information and with their expertise with society. However, legitimacy must be treated with caution, even more so when speaking of non-governmental organizations.

(Calame, 2004) states that "the fact that an NGO has millions of taxpayers does not mean that it can speak on behalf of the people and, therefore, have a legal popular representation equivalent to an election". In this sense, non-governmental organizations can only contribute to the construction of democracy by exerting pressure on decision-makers and are legitimate because they have been elected.

There are many roles currently played by non-governmental organizations, as has been seen before, depending on the type of NGO, its financing, location, members, etc. Currently, these organizations have been gaining presence and importance in organizations that play a transcendental role for society. This importance is due to the constant pressure and involvement of civilians who, even before of belonging to an NGO, were active citizens who in one way or another sought change. When forming part of a non-governmental organization, citizens are governed by structures that are not very complex but that provide a framework for this type of coalitions to influence decision-making. Being already organized, non-governmental organizations identify, propose and ask for solutions for problems that need immediate attention. In the same way these organizations present alternative proposals that are taken into account in platforms such as intergovernmental organizations. In this regard (Rise, 2002) states that: "The transnational non-governmental organizations contribute to the formulation of new rules based on their specialized expertise or the provision of collective goods" (Joachim, 2017).

2.1.4 Non-Governmental Organizations Legitimacy

In recent years, non-governmental organizations have been gaining an important place in the international arena. The role played by these organizations has allowed them to be taken more and more into account and for some members of civil society to place their trust in order to be represented in a certain way. However, certain questions about the legitimacy of non-governmental organizations have now emerged. (Lister, 2003) mentions that "this concern has not been limited to the academic literature, but has been given a voice in an avalanche of critical articles in the press that suggest that NGOs are more noise than substance". In this way, it is important to understand why the questioning of the legitimacy of non-governmental organizations and the different perspectives on it.

The term *legitimacy* is nowadays used in several contexts, especially the political ones, but its definition can vary and is not limited. (Edwards, 1999) suggests that legitimacy is "having the right to be and do something in society, a sense that an organization is legal, adequate, admissible and justified to do what it does and say what it says and to continue enjoying the support of an identifiable electoral district" (Lister, 2003). On the other hand, (Vedder, et al., 2007) indicate that "in the context of non-governmental organizations, legitimacy is a completely normative notion, associated mainly with public moral justification, legality and representativeness". Another important definition is given by (Pearce, 1997) and says that "legitimacy is related to the right to represent and the consent to be represented, and is also directly linked to the efficiency of the organization" (Lister, 2003). As we can see, there are several concepts that can be given to legitimacy and the context in which they occur must always be taken into account. But even more important than defining legitimacy is to understand why this questioning has arisen for non-governmental organizations and whether they are legitimate or not.

The legitimacy of non-governmental organizations has generated a debate in different areas of society especially at the international level by several actors. Thus, some non-governmental organizations have defended the fact that this debate exists. (Vedder, et al., 2007) for example, mention that some non-governmental organizations agree that it is

important that the NGOs themselves take into account questions of legitimacy since if these private sector standards are expected, there is no reason by which they are not applied to the sector of non-governmental organizations either. However, other NGOs see this questioning as merely political. Many of the NGO representatives express the opinion that the debate about legitimacy is politically or strategically motivated and is used by NGO critics (corporations, political parties, other NGOs) to attack the agendas of NGOs. On the other hand, from a more scientific and academic point of view, institutional theory has provided an interesting view on the problem of legitimacy with non-governmental organizations. Thus (Lister, 2003) states that "a key element of institutional theory is the emphasis on the social construction of the legitimating environment of an organization". Likewise, the institutional theory identifies three types of legitimacy: regulatory, cognitive and normative:

(Kostova and Zaheer, 1999) "Regulatory legitimacy depends on compliance with regulatory institutions, rules and laws that exist to ensure stability and order. Normative legitimacy requires congruence between the values pursued by organizations and broader social values. Cognitive legitimacy is related to conformity with cognitive structures established in society, which is often described as having a status that is already taken for granted "(Lister, 2003).

In accordance to the regulatory point of view, we can notice that legitimacy can depend on person's environment making the criticism. Since there are different actors in society, whether are donors, private supporters, allied NGOs or any other; they will approve organization's legitimacy if it responds to their interests. The other two types of legitimacy, normative and cognitive, answer to coherence between theory and practice, although in the same way its legitimacy will be validated if it is in conformity with the interests of the person who makes the criticism. "Normative and cognitive legitimacy is based on the congruence between ideals and mental models of interested states and the agency" (Lister, 2003).

Even though institutional theory provides us a broad understanding of non-governmental organizations' legitimacy, we must remember that such theory does not consider political power issues. Regarding to this (Lister, 2003) states: "a weakness of approach of institutional theory is that it does not provide useful concepts in order to explore which persons or institutions define cognitive models that dominate environments of an organization". In this way we can appreciate that legitimacy is complex and, for this reason, it is difficult to determine whether or not non-governmental organizations are legitimate. In any case, institutional theory gives us a broad approach that contemplates symbols such as environment and partners or allies, although it does not determine who defines these symbols.

Finally, one of the biggest problems of non-governmental organizations' legitimacy is who they truly represent. Although at first glance it may seem this question would be solved by determining the specific group to whom each organization is dedicated, this is not so simple. In this sense (Vedder, et al., 2007) indicates: "some NGOs claim to represent final beneficiaries of their actions while others represent all people who want a fairer world". According to this, we can see there is no consensus to determine if NGOs represent entire civil society or only its beneficiaries. Furthermore, even if the person they represent is determined, we must emphasize that non-governmental organizations have not been democratically elected, which prevents them from speaking on behalf of anyone. Nevertheless, we should consider that this type of organization usually dedicates itself to listening and serving minorities without a voice or access to an instance where they can be visible. "Representation implies that what an organization seeks to represent or to put on its agenda is perceived in society as a social problem, an unfair, inadequate situation or a cause worth fighting for" (Vedder, et al., 2007).

Non-governmental organizations legitimacy is a complex issue. It would be wrong to determine whether or not these organizations are legitimate because we would only be speaking from a limited perspective. As we have mentioned before, there are several definitions of *legitimate* and there are also many points of view on this subject. However, I consider it relevant to return to a point touched by the institutional theory that is

environment of such organizations since they will be judged as legitimate or illegitimate depending on who makes the criticisms. In this sense we must not forget the fact that when an organization satisfies a certain sector's interests, it will be judged favorably. In the same manner, I find it significant to point out that although non-governmental organizations have not been democratically elected to represent any coalition, it is their duty to exert pressure so that the most vulnerable society sectors are visible and, thus, fulfill their role of representation and transcendental symbolic manifestation in our civil society.

2.2 Non-governmental organizations focused on the environment

Non-governmental organizations that focus on the protection of the environment fulfill different roles in the international arena. "Born in Anglo-Saxon countries, international environmental non-governmental organizations have been pioneers in the media and actions aimed at international public opinion" (Chartier, 2005). The study of international NGOs has highlighted the emergence of new political identities and new forms of representation of society in environmental issues. On the issue of biodiversity, for example, international non-governmental organizations have mobilized sectors that provide diagnoses about the reality of the world, propose solutions and warn about the dangers of environmental problems. In addition, NGOs that operate in the environmental sphere have a particularity that differentiates them from the others and is the fact that "they have a capacity for academic expertise coming directly or indirectly from scientific laboratories and original transnational networks"(Chartier, 2005). The lack of attention by the States and the international community has become one of the main reasons for the existence of environmental NGOs. As it was mentioned in the previous chapter, it was not until 1972 when the States decided to integrate the environment into the international agenda, something that several groups aside from governments had been requesting for years. With the inclusion of the environment as a priority issue in the international arena, environmental NGOs were promoted and became what they are today.

The first environmental associations are of Anglo-Saxon origin. Until the beginning of the Second World War, their actions focused on museums or research laboratories on animals. This marked a remarkable conservationist culture in the environmental NGO sector and strongly influenced international programs. After the Second World War, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized these scientific and academic networks that were scattered and became an important group for the promotion of international environmental measures (Chartier, 2005). In the early 1960s, other, more controversial organizations appeared and focused on two objectives: Western media and public opinion. By 1970, NGOs looked for other ways to influence, such as the massification of media information mechanisms and the propagation of youth protests. In these years, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, for example, got a lot of support from a generation that moved in a context of rebellion against the consumerist excesses of industrial societies. In this way, organizations such as those already mentioned, presented a record of cruel and destructive activities to demonstrate what humans were doing to the environment. At the end of the 1980s, NGOs were seen as modern representatives of civil society. By that time, the scientific works sustained the arguments of transnational actors. This happened because some academic writers approached the militancy developed by NGOs in a new geopolitical context due to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dislocation of communism. When this happened, NGOs also became institutionalized and somehow they lost their protest character by taking over international public policies in a very commercial way (Chartier, 2005). In 1990, multiple NGOs were created and their budgets, employees and headquarters grew quickly, as well as their participation in international forums. Since the end of the 1990s, globalization has allowed non-governmental organizations to have more participation in global environmental policies through a faster and more efficient exchange of information and knowledge.

Non-governmental organizations dedicated to the environment have different ways of acting to achieve their objectives. These organizations can be both local and international and can focus on one or more topics in the environmental sphere. However, it is necessary to emphasize that the differences in size, orientation, goals, ideology, resources and types of activities make it difficult to determine a single role for this type of organization. In

this regard, (Coronel, García, Gaxiola, Mendoza, & Patiño, 2008) highlight that environmental NGOs expanded based with two main features:

"First, as international associations with members from at least three countries counting even with physical headquarters. Second, they focused on aspects of protection, restoration and improvement of nature. This, for the most part, with the help of volunteers and through conferences, courses, training and direct interventions in the affected areas".

Non-governmental organizations that work on the environmental issue can work at a national or international level and act through different approaches such as: protection, education, development, research, financing, technical assistance, and political advocacy. It should be noted that these approaches are transversal, because even if a certain organization decides to dedicate itself to a specific activity, it will always be linked to other approaches or factors. Nor should we ignore the fact that environmental issues also include social, economic and educational aspects, which is why to be an environmental NGO implies working in many fields of society.

Protection

In the first place, there is an approach that is the most general and known in the environmental aspect. Non-governmental organizations have understood that nature provides us with the resources for our subsistence and that both, nature and humans, must interact in the least harmful way possible. In this way, environmental protection becomes the most general activity carried out by NGOs, covering other branches such as conservation, restoration, prevention and control of environmental deterioration.

Development

There are non-governmental organizations that are dedicated to the implementation of projects in specific areas of environmental and social priority. Its main objective is to achieve sustainable development defined as a "model of global economic growth that meets the current needs of humanity without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Ambiente Ecológico, sin fecha). In this way, these

NGOs work in specific areas, as countries, cities or communities in order to implement development projects that benefit both, them and the environment.

Education

On the other hand, we have nongovernmental organizations that are dedicated to environmental education. This, as an activity "promoted by some international organizations with the participation of ecologists and specialists, in order to mentalize the new generations so they can modify favorably the conditions of life in human societies" (Ambiente Ecológico, sin fecha). NGOs that dedicate themselves to environmental education seek to generate, through didactic methods, awareness in society about the environment and its importance in the lives of people. Environmental education should not be understood as an activity directed only to children, but to society in general. To achieve this, some projects are also carried out with countries, cities and local communities.

Investigation

There are organizations that focus on research and work with many sectors of society to obtain relevant information. Without research, it would not be possible to know the state and evolution of the environment. In order to take action on certain issues, some non-governmental organizations have dedicated to research, contributing, in this way, with crucial information on environmental issues.

Technical assistance

Hand in hand with research, technical assistance is an important activity carried out by non-governmental organizations. Thanks to their extensive knowledge on the subject, NGOs are often consulted to make decisions and implement projects to protect the environment.

Financing

There are several organizations that act as mediators between donors and beneficiaries. Non-governmental organizations often help finance environmental protection projects since the economic aspect is important to carry them out.

Advocacy

Finally, political advocacy is a term used to encompass "any action aimed at influencing actions, behaviors, positions and decisions, in the public and private sector, with the aim of achieving social transformation" (Collado, 2015). Within advocacy there are activities that environmental NGOs perform as activism through campaigns, protests, demonstrations, etc. There is also lobbying, in which the objective is to influence the representatives of government and governmental agencies to propose changes in rules and policies.

Currently, there are hundreds of associations, foundations, groups and environmental non-governmental organizations both international and national. However, some of these have managed to transcend borders worldwide and endure over time. This is the case of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, both created in the seventies, are currently two of the most important environmental non-governmental organizations in the world. Greenpeace is probably the best-known environmental NGO on our planet. Since its creation, this organization has undertaken numerous activities and campaigns with the aim of protecting the environment and raising awareness of the misuse of natural resources. This organization that has contributed in different ways in the environmental issue, has not been free of criticism mainly for the origin of its financing and its use. Likewise, Friends of the Earth, has become an important organization of international renown. Through programs, projects and numerous activities, this organization has managed to reach several countries in order to stop the environmental deterioration caused by human beings. As well as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth has not been exempt from criticism. Through the description of these two important organizations, the aim is to demonstrate the role that environmental NGOs fulfill both locally and internationally.

2.2.1 Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an environmental non-governmental organization formed by Greenpeace International, which is the main entity of the organization, and national and regional offices in 55 countries worldwide. Its headquarters are located in Amsterdam and it is in charge of coordinating the other national offices. It currently has 3.2 million members

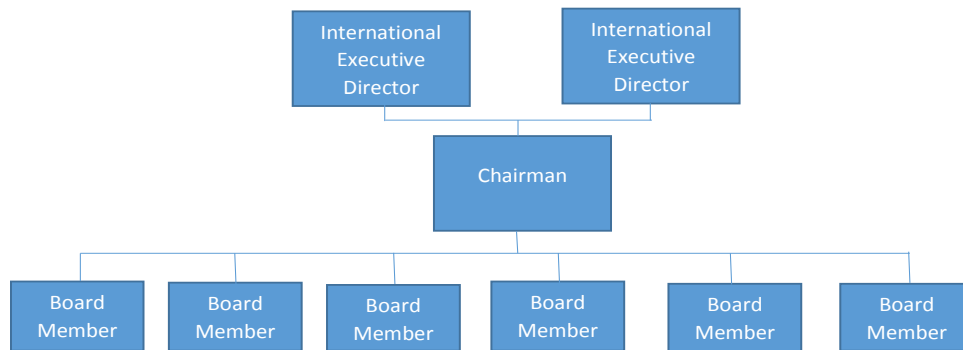
worldwide. Its work focuses mainly on: stopping climate change, protecting biodiversity in all its forms, preventing pollution and the abuse of oceans, lands, air and fresh water and promoting peace, global disarmament and non-violence. (Greenpeace, sin fecha).

Greenpeace was born in 1971, the year in which a group of Canadian activists created the organization "Do not Make a Wave Committee" which sought to prevent the United States from conducting nuclear tests on the tectonically unstable island of Amchitka in Alaska. Its founders were among others: Dorothy and Irving Stowe, Marie and Jim Bohlen, Ben and Dorothy Metcalfe, Bob and Zoe Hunter and Paul Cote. In the first instance, a boat sailed with some of the activists, eventually it was intercepted before reaching its destination and the nuclear test could not be stopped. However, in the following days, this action caused protests that stopped the second nuclear test. In 1978 the offices of Europe, the United States and the Pacific, gathered their resources and created Greenpeace International. Today this organization is one of the most important in the environmental sphere worldwide (Greenpeace, sin fecha).

Organic structure

Greenpeace's structure is established in the Articles of the Association, which determine the statutory objective of Greenpeace International. The body that coordinates the global policy, the strategy and the entity that operates the ships is called "Stichting Greenpeace Council" and is made up of around 250 people. The Board of Directors of Greenpeace International consists of 7 members and its function is to approve the budget and the audited accounts of the organization as well as appoint and supervise the Executive Director of Greenpeace International.

Figure 1 International Board of Directors of Greenpeace



Source: (Greenpeace, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

As for the administration, Greenpeace International seeks to support national and regional offices, as well as ensuring their alignment through the development of processes and the provision of mechanisms. Currently the International Executive Directorate is shared by two holders who are responsible for the management of the organization. In addition, there is a strategy and management team consisting of: the International Executive Director, the International Operations Director, the International Bond Director, the International Development Director, the International Program Director, the International Director of People and Culture, the International Director of Technology and the Director of Global Participation (Greenpeace, sin fecha).

In the legal field, national and regional organizations are licensed by Greenpeace International to use this name within their territories. All entities that operate according to the legal framework of their respective countries are included in the annual budget of Greenpeace and are subject to annual reviews of financial audits in accordance with local regulations.

Financing

Financially, Greenpeace has a structure designed to work in conjunction with all the global offices. This organization is funded, in large part, by national/regional offices through its incremental annual contribution which ensures that significant funds can be

redirected from higher income offices to support offices that are located in developing regions.

The operational budget of Greenpeace International consists of elements such as: global campaign work, donations to new priority and developing offices, international support for fundraising, organizational and administrative costs, and others. In addition (Greenpeace, sin fecha), ensures that: "We are politically and economically independent. We do not accept money from governments, political parties or companies. Individual donations, along with regular dues from our partners, are the sole source of our funds". Also, Greenpeace's accounts are subject to an annual audit by independent public accountants. However, it should be noted that Greenpeace is financed mainly by donations from around the world and grants from private foundations. To achieve this, the organization must accurately describe its activities and needs so that the donor feels confident that the money will reach its destination. In this way, Greenpeace makes a public report on its economic, environmental and social performance every year.

Activities

Since its creation, Greenpeace, in the midst of criticism, has worked tirelessly for the environment. This non-governmental organization works through non-violent campaigns to expose environmental problems and propose solutions. Greenpeace covers virtually all environmental issues, but focuses more precisely on: climate change, forests, oceans, food, environmental detoxification, nuclear problems, peace and disarmament. According to the organization, its values are: personal responsibility and nonviolence, independence and promotion of solutions (Greenpeace, sin fecha).

To achieve an impact and recognition at the international level, Greenpeace works investigating, denouncing and confronting environmental crimes. The organization also organizes lobbying, since decision-makers must be persuaded to reconsider their positions in favor of the environment. This NGO carries interesting activities through volunteers on their four boats, which sail to areas to witness environmental destruction. In this respect, it must be highlighted what (Timmer, 2009) states: "Greenpeace is more famous for its direct, media-friendly action tactics, in which activists testify to

environmental crimes, expose environmental criminals and participate in high profile non-violent conflicts". What has given Greenpeace a strong impetus to become what it is today, is its constant on-site campaigns, testifying, showing the world that climate change and all environmental problems are not a myth.

Greenpeace fulfills many goals and activities, of which the following are the most important:

- Carry out an energy revolution to expose the main threat our planet faces: climate change.
- Protect the oceans by challenging destructive and excessive fishing, and create a global network of marine reserves.
- Defend the forests of the world, which are the habitat of thousands of animals, plants and people.
- Fight peacefully for disarmament and peace.
- Create a future free of toxins by proposing safe alternatives to chemical substances, mainly in products.
- Carry out campaigns for a sustainable agriculture promoting practices of social cultivation.

The successes and contributions of Greenpeace have been numerous, however, the organization is strongly criticized by certain groups about their activities. One of the most controversial critics was made by Patrick Moore, a Canadian activist and former president of Greenpeace Canada. It should be noted that, although controversial, their assertions are interesting in the sense that sometimes non-governmental organizations are passionate and leave aside the scientific part. (Moore, 2008) stated that:

"In the beginning, many of the causes we defend, such as opposition to nuclear testing and the protection of whales, derive from our scientific knowledge of nuclear physics and marine biology. But after six years, as one of the five directors of Greenpeace International, I observed that none of my fellow directors had formal education in science, were political activists or environmental

entrepreneurs. In short, the tendency to abandon scientific objectivity in favor of political agendas forced me to leave Greenpeace in 1986".

Nowadays Greenpeace is one of the largest, most important and most recognized organizations in the world. Since its creation, the organization went from being a group of young people protesting for a specific problem: the nuclear tests in Alaska, to being an organization with 3.2 million partners worldwide that fight against the global environmental destruction. Its presence in many parts of the planet has caused Greenpeace to be seen as a reliable NGO committed to its mission. Greenpeace has managed to position itself as the best known environmental organization in the world. Each activity that bears its name is both acclaimed and criticized by multiple groups. As it has been possible to verify, this NGO has carried out several activities to influence mainly the decision-makers, obtaining several achievements that will be described later. However, we must not leave aside the controversies in which this organization has been involved. In this respect, the origin of its financing, should be watched with attention. Although Greenpeace affirms the opposite, there are powerful groups that take advantage of the status of the organization by providing funds to influence at their convenience. In addition, it must be taken into account that Greenpeace sometimes carries out baseless protests to satisfy certain political agendas as (Moore, 2008) states. Even in the midst of criticism, Greenpeace has managed to fulfill an important role in the international arena, through its peaceful protests. This NGO has called to the conscience of millions of people around the world getting involved and giving testimony.

Contribution of Greenpeace

Since its creation in 1971, Greenpeace has enormously contributed to environmental protection and conservation worldwide. This organization publicly exposes everything that has been achieved through constant protests and pressure to those who make decisions. Greenpeace is one of the largest and most known non-governmental organizations dedicated to the environment throughout the world, which is why its activities have had repercussions in almost every corner of the planet. Many of their contributions have been achieved thanks to the joint work with other civil society organizations and groups dedicated to this topic. In order to determine the role of this

environmental NGO, its contributions and achievements will be listed chronologically. Some of them will be described in more detail due to their relevance.

Table 1 Contribution and achievements of Greenpeace at an international level

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1971-1972	Creation of Greenpeace: Some Canadian militants went to Alaska to prevent the United States' nuclear tests in Amchitka. The first test could not be prevented because its passage was not allowed. However, all this caused outrage in the United States and Canada where the massive protests caused the United States to cease this activity.
1974	Greenpeace gets France to end its atmospheric nuclear tests thanks to the pressure from people who were outraged when David McTaggart and Neil Ingram, activists of Greenpeace, were beaten in their fight to stop these activities.
1975	Greenpeace launches its campaign to protect the whales: Two activists left in their boat with cameras and portrayed what a Soviet whaling ship was doing. These photos went around the world causing rejection. As a consequence, in 1982 the International Whaling Commission approved a moratorium against Whale hunting
1976	Greenpeace starts a campaign to protect the seals: This activity was seen all over the world because they spread images of dead seals that were lying everywhere in Newfoundland. In addition to this, the activists blocked the advance of a vessel with their own bodies to stop this cruel activity.
1982	The European Commission prohibits the importation of baby seal skin. Greenpeace starts its campaign on acid rain: For this, the activists showed the world how the factories and power plants of the United States emit carbon dioxide and provoke acid rain.
1988	Some activists began a 6-month tour in the lakes and rivers of the United States to verify the pollutant discharges and the responsible corporations. In this way they called attention to pollution in the sea.

1992	Greenpeace calls for measures to ensure that the Summit will be more than just an attempt: For this, days before the Summit, one of the organization's ships blocked the port facilities of Rio de Aracruz, a Brazilian production company of pulp that has destroyed vast areas of forest.
1993	Greenpeace managed to ban the dumping of radioactive and industrial waste worldwide.
1995	Greenpeace got Shell's oil platform not to sink but recycle.
1998	Greenpeace collaborated with ecologists in Ecuador to reforest the mangroves and forests destroyed by illegal logging due to shrimp farms. In 2000 the Ecuadorian government banned this activity.
2000	Adoption of the Biosafety Protocol in Montreal: This is an achievement for the organization as it is a response to its fight against genetically modified organisms.
2003	Historic protest against the war in Iraq. Also in this year, the Deni indigenous community obtains the demarcation of their lands in the Amazon jungle.
2006	Canada is committed to protecting the Great Bear Forest. In the same year a conservation area is created in the Amazon of Brazil.
2007	End of bottom trawl fishing in the South Pacific.
2008	Six volunteers from Greenpeace UK are acquitted of criminal damage for defending the weather.
2009	Greenpeace gets Alcampo, Sabeco and Simply not to sell more endangered species.
2011	Greenpeace get Mattel to commit to ordering its suppliers to avoid the wood fiber that comes from rainforests and tiger habitat. They also committed to using recycled paper.
2012	Two major clothing brands, Levi's and ZARA, committed to produce their products without contamination.
2013	In Europe the prohibition of 4 toxic substances for bees was achieved. Furthermore, an important milestone is given as a symbol of Greenpeace

	resistance when the crew of one of their boats was imprisoned in Russia when protesting for the protection of the Arctic. They were finally released after three months and thanks to millions of collected signatures.
2014	Greenpeace got Lego to break relations with Shell after 50 years since this company had plans to drill the Arctic. As a result the following year Shell confirms that it will not drill the Arctic.
2015	Repsol abandoned the prospects in the Canary Islands. The Santander Bank stopped financing the destruction of forests in Indonesia. The OSPAR ² Commission made decisions on Arctic protection. In December of this year, the international community gets an important victory by signing the Paris Agreement showing interest in the commitment to protect the environment.
2017	One of the most important technology companies in the world, Apple, is committed to being friendly to the environment. Europe states that fipronil, a toxic pesticide for bees, can no longer be used.

Source: (Greenpeace, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Since 1971, Greenpeace has been built day by day with the collaboration of volunteers from all over the world who have taken a special interest in the environment. Nowadays it is impossible not to think about this NGO when it comes to the struggle of civil society on this particular issue. Throughout all these years, Greenpeace has strongly influenced the international community, not only through lobbying, but through its persistent effort to convey to the world how human beings are affecting the planet. As it was noted, since its inception, Greenpeace has had multiple achievements that they could not have accomplished on their own, but only with the support of its volunteers and other organizations that also seek to save our planet. Greenpeace's particular way of acting is probably the key to its success and international recognition. In some cases the activists of this organization have prevented the advancement of ships with their own bodies or

² Mechanism by which governments and the European Union cooperate to protect the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic (OSPAR COMMISSION, sin fecha).

have even been imprisoned. Some of these struggles have not been scientifically based, as mentioned previously, however, all these activities of peaceful struggle have allowed Greenpeace to position itself as the most important environmental NGO worldwide, generating a strong impact on society. In this regard (Timmer, 2009) states that: "Greenpeace has focused its attention on obtaining technical and moral legitimacy through the realization of professional protests instead of the political legitimacy associated with participatory and democratic structures".

Criticism of the organization

Although Greenpeace exposes its structures and functioning as a sign of transparency on its website, we must not forget that this organization is one of the largest and most influential at the international level, therefore it is not free from criticism and questioning. Of all the elements previously exposed, financing is the one that has generated the most doubts to certain sectors. In this regard, (Public Interest Watch, 2006) published a report detailing the alleged tax violations committed by Greenpeace USA and, among other things, it emphasizes that:

"Greenpeace's organizational structure is made up of multiple corporate entities that engage in flagrant self-service laundering funds through the Greenpeace tax-exempt corporation. These funds are then transferred to other Greenpeace corporations that use them for non-exempt and often illegal purposes".

Another of the concerns raised by this report is the misuse of charity funds. For example, to be exempt from taxes, Greenpeace Fund, Inc. must use this charitable income only for charitable purposes but cannot legally spend this income in lobbying or advocacy (Public Interest Watch, 2006). Through these facts, certain inconsistencies that occur mainly in the United States can be seen. Even though it is true that this organization is audited and controlled, it must be remembered that it can also take advantage of its status as a reliable ecological organization to perform acts outside the law.

It should be noted that Greenpeace has also been strongly questioned by the origin of its funds. Although sometimes it is said that these are only speculations, certain groups claim that Greenpeace does not comply with that of not receiving quotas coming from

governments, political parties or companies. In this regard, the Rockefeller case is one of the best known for financing Greenpeace. "It is estimated that the foundation linked to Standard Oil and Exxon Mobil Corporation would have financed from 2000 to 2008 with US \$ 1.5 million, while the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, linked to General Motors, donated US \$ 199,000 between 2002 and 2008" (Gestión, 2014). Since Greenpeace is one of the largest and most influential organizations at the international level, it is necessary to be critical of it and pay attention to these facts that in one way or another provide us with a broader view of this type of organization.

2.2.2 Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth is an environmental non-governmental organization present in 75 countries. Its headquarters are located in Amsterdam, Holland, and is responsible for providing support to all the campaigns around the world. Friends of the Earth focuses on environmental issues that include social, political and human rights aspects. In addition, its campaigns focus on several aspects such as desertification, water, mining, economic justice, forests and biodiversity, among others (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha).

Friends of the Earth was founded in 1971 by four organizations from France, Sweden, England and the United States. This organization grew little by little thanks to the annual meetings of environmentalists from several countries who wanted to campaign on important issues such as nuclear energy and whaling. In 1981 the organization was already larger, therefore an international secretariat, that rotated from country to country, was established. By 1986 the organization had 31 members fully involved in the protection of the environment, as well as in development issues. In 1994 the organization proposed to establish an agenda to promote campaigns, projects, forums and others. There are currently 75 member groups of this organization that seek to protect the environment and create sustainable societies (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha).

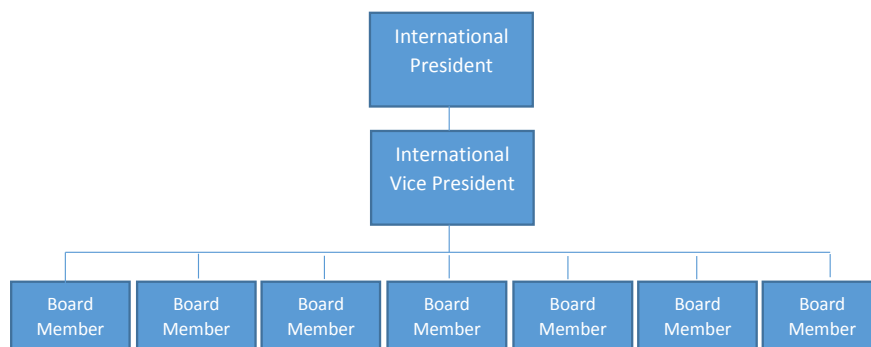
Organic structure

Friends of the Earth is a non-governmental organization less centralized than others. It is composed of autonomous organizations in the 75 countries where they are established. This organization calls itself democratic because every two years there is a general

meeting which lasts one week in order to decide on policies and activities. This meeting is called the Biennial General Meeting, here the Executive Committee is elected and the positions of International Programs Coordinators are also formed.

The Executive Committee is composed of a President elected at the Biennial General Meeting, a representative of the organization responsible for preparing the next Meeting, and representatives of some member groups from various regions. Through this body, Friends of the Earth seeks to ensure that it exercises a good government, also it is responsible for overseeing the International Secretariat in Amsterdam.

Figure 2 International Executive Committee of Friends of the Earth



Source: (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Friends of the Earth has launched four international programs: environmental justice and energy, forests and biodiversity, food sovereignty and economic justice, and resistance to neoliberalism. Each of these programs is headed by two coordinators who receive support from a steering group made up of representatives from different regions and a program team. The coordinators are received by members of the organization that are located in different places around the world. With this, Friends of the Earth seeks to guarantee that the local reality is verified in order to sustain the struggle that the organization is pursuing.

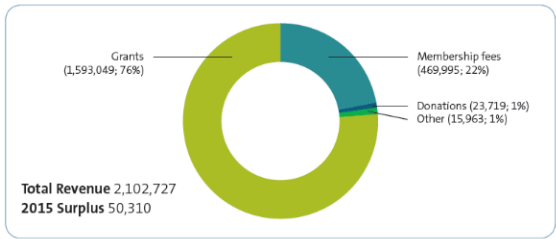
The Secretariat of Friends of the Earth aims to strengthen and support all the activists of the organization in the world, as well as its international campaigns that seek to protect

the environment and promote a more sustainable lifestyle. This organism supports the activities through the collection of funds, workshops, information dissemination, campaign coordination, publications, among others.

Financing

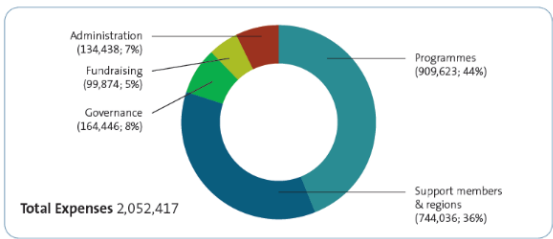
Friends of the Earth is mostly financed by donations, however, its income is also made up of membership fees, contributions to the fund of human rights defenders, reserves from previous years, and others. Among its expenses consist of two reports; administration, governance, programs, fundraising, etc. Annually, Friends of the Earth makes two reports, the first one about the finances and the other one about the activities developed throughout the year. In these reports that are open to the public, the organization explains details in regards to their income and expenses, as well as their respective audits.

Figure 4 2015 income



Source: (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha)

Figure 3 2015 Expenses



Source: (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha)

Activities

Since its creation, Friends of the Earth has carried out campaigns and has proposed solutions on the most urgent environmental problems which are also important in the social aspect. This NGO aims to cover all possible environmental issues, but it specially focuses on: defense of human rights of activists, forests and biodiversity, food sovereignty, economic justice and resistance to neoliberalism, environmental justice and energy; all this reinforced through a school of sustainability. The issue of human rights is crucial when talking about the environment because of the close relationship between these two elements. Today there are hundreds of cases of human rights violations against

environmental activists who defend mainly territories and collective rights. These activists are leaders who resist invasion by powerful groups. Friends of the Earth works in this aspect responding quickly in situations of violence through the struggle and pressure to those who commit the violations. This NGO also made a request for a legally binding international treaty on transnational corporations and human rights.

As for forests and biodiversity, it should be noted that they are closely related issues and should be addressed urgently. The organization mentions that half of the world's forests have disappeared for reasons such as: the increase in meat exports, the cultivation of soybeans and palm oil, and others. Friends of the Earth works with local communities that are directly affected by these activities. It also seeks to protect the rights of indigenous communities whose environment is being destroyed without any control. Another issue on which this NGO focuses is food sovereignty, based on the fact that organic peasant agriculture is a solution to the loss of biodiversity. Friends of the Earth condemns acts that are destroying this type of agriculture as the entry of industrialized food that causes problems like the destruction of the environment, the parking of land or malnutrition.

Economic justice and resistance to neoliberalism are also part of the Friends of the Earth agenda. This organization emphasizes that the economic system should improve the lives of people and the environment. However, the current reality is dominated by neoliberalism that puts economic interests ahead of people and the environment. The organization is working with social movements including feminists and indigenous groups to find solutions that benefit us all. Another of the areas that Friends of the Earth covers is environmental justice and energy with the aim of changing the current situation that causes climate change and threatens life. This organization states that the drivers of this reality that affects the planet, are the unsustainable economic models of development that are based on fossil fuels and destructive energies. Nowadays, Friends of the Earth carries out campaigns worldwide to change this type of energy for others that are sustainable and friendly to the environment. (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha).

Contribution of Friends of the Earth

Since 1971, the year in which Friends of the Earth was founded, this non-governmental organization has been carrying out campaigns to protect the environment. It also has been fighting to improve both the environmental situation and that of human beings. Throughout all these years Friends of the Earth has accomplished several achievements that have strongly impacted the international community. Their constant struggle and perseverance have allowed Friends of the Earth to position themselves as an international non-governmental organization that has reached different corners of the planet. The contribution of this NGO is tangible because during its years of existence its achievements have had an impact on both the environment and the lives of people who have benefited from these actions. Year by year the organization has promoted multiple campaigns that are now part of the history of their victories. Some of them will be mentioned below and others will be detailed due to their impact at an international level.

In the first meetings of Friends of the Earth in the seventies, it was concluded that the need to oppose nuclear power worldwide was imperative. In the following years, proposals for alternative energies were made. The accidents of Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1986 reinforced the need to oppose this type of energy. Thus, the number of members of this NGO to grow.

Table 2 Contribution and achievements of Friends of the Earth at an international level

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1971	The organization undertook its first campaign by sending thousands of empty containers to the London barracks to promote reuse. These campaigns were carried out with the support of material such as posters and brochures to inform people about what they were doing to the environment.
1982	Since its creation in the 70s, the organization has carried out campaigns to protect the whales. In this particular issue, the organization obtained an important achievement when in 1982 the International Whaling Commission on commercial whaling approved the moratorium on their fishing.

1987	As for nuclear energy, dozens of protesters blocked a drill rig whose objective was to investigate the Fulbeck aerodrome for the shallow burial of the nuclear waste. As a consequence it was later abandoned.
1993	Friends of the Earth undertook an important campaign against the extraction of mahogany from tropical forests. In the United Kingdom, a demonstration outside Harrods stores was held to expose the damage caused by this activity. Thanks to this campaign, hardwood imports from Brazil to the United Kingdom fell by 40%.
1994	Friends of the Earth campaigned against the activities that cause acid rain. To achieve this, the organization used a poster that won the design award of the BBC and caused hundreds of people to join their campaign.
2002	Friends of the Earth worked with South African communities in order to settle outside the headquarters of the Earth Summit in Johannesburg. The objective was to call the attention of the media and ask that agreements be reached and not only remain in intentions on the part of the leaders.
2003	In order to oppose the genetically modified organisms in food and agriculture, massive protests were held and governments were pressured to stop allowing food that contains GMOs.
2011	Activists from Costa Rica and around the world managed to close the gold mine in that country. This campaign was carried out for 17 years, time in which legal proceedings, demonstrations, marches and hunger strikes began.
2013	In Guatemala, Rubén Herrera, environmental activist, was freed. This community organizer and environmental activist committed to the social welfare of his community was imprisoned without the relevant evidence.
2014	Vadim Shebanov, a member of Friends of the Earth Ukraine, was arrested in a peaceful protest calling for the repeal of the antidemocratic legislative amendments approved at that time. At first, he was released under house arrest but after hundreds of petitions, he was finally released.
2015	In this year, an important victory was obtained as some members of Friends of the Earth Netherlands and some Nigerians got a verdict from The Hague

	to sue Shell in the Netherlands for causing oil spills in Nigeria. With this decision victims of environmental pollution and human rights violations can go to the Netherlands to obtain legal redress.
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Source: (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

The campaigns that Friends of the Earth has carried out are of all kinds within the environmental sphere. I consider relevant to highlight one in particular that involves Ecuador and that has had a great impact on a global level. There is an element called the ecological debt that refers to the accumulated debt of the industrialized countries with the developing countries for the looting of resources, environmental damage and occupation of their space to deposit waste from these countries. This debt, besides being important for the environment, entails another factor, its close relationship with the payment of the external debt of the developing countries. The external debt is considered illegitimate because it impoverishes countries with little capacity to pay and also grows due to the payment of compound interest and unilaterally elevated interest rates. However, it is necessary to remember the ecological debt that developed countries have with other countries, as in the case of climate change. For example, the CO₂ emissions of the industrialized countries greatly exceed those of the other countries. In addition, Friends of the Earth emphasizes another important factor, the excessive extraction of natural resources belonging to developing countries. In Ecuador, 70 percent of the mangrove forests were cut to make way for shrimp farming, this greatly affected the fishermen and aggravated the situation of the floods due to the El Niño phenomenon. Taking into account these elements, Friends of the Earth decided to conduct a campaign led by Friends of the Earth Ecuador, which argues that the developed countries must stop and compensate the nuclear and chemical weapons tests, as well as the dumping of toxic waste in other countries. In addition, countries that have ecological debt have also appropriated traditional knowledge, medicinal plants and microbes that contribute at least 30 billion dollars a year to the pharmaceutical industry in these countries. As can be seen, the debt is huge and almost unpayable, therefore, Friends of the Earth argues that the payment of this debt involves more than just money, it is required the restoration of systems and

resources. To demonstrate this, the example of the Esmeraldas area in Ecuador has been used, since the victims of a fire caused by a refinery in one of the debtor countries caused the destruction of hundreds of houses. The residents of that sector have asked for a non-cash rebate, that is, instead of money, new houses and a clean river for the fishermen to return to their jobs (Friends of the Earth, sin fecha).

Since 1971, Friends of the Earth has been one of the most important environmental non-governmental organizations worldwide. Over the years, this organization has contributed in many ways; not only to protect the environment but also to improve the quality of life of people affected by environmental problems. This is evident, this NGO has played a crucial role in the international arena by constantly pressuring decision-makers and undertaking struggles that have lasted for years but have paid off. Although the members of this organization began with the issue of nuclear energy, they soon realized the transversality of environmental problems because one topic cannot be isolated from another. Friends of the Earth is currently conducting campaigns on environmental issues, but it does not ignore the social problems that are strongly linked to each other. In addition, the urgent need to change the current economic model is not left out because it favors only the interests of certain groups without taking into account the damage caused to the environment and society. While it is true, many of these campaigns have valid arguments, however, the lack of scientific support is the target of criticism from certain groups. Like other environmental organizations, Friends of the Earth has sometimes fallen into the error of campaigning without scientific support and even lying about certain things, diminishing credibility in their actions. Finally, it is necessary to highlight the important role that this organization has played in building an international NGO that does not overlook any problem and is always proposing solutions and promoting them. In this regard (Timmer, 2009) states that "Friends of the Earth has focused on building a global grassroots movement organized in a decentralized, participatory and democratic way in order to live the change they wish to see, working together in solidarity through institutionalized tactics".

Criticism of the organization

Currently Friends of the Earth has around 2 million members worldwide and is one of the most well-known environmental protection organizations in the world. Like other organizations, Friends of the Earth has been present at the most important environmental events in the world and has consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. However, this NGO has not been exempt from criticism and questioning by certain groups who are not happy with the actions of this type of organization. The lack of scientific support is one of the aspects that has generated most doubts in the international arena. Last year, Friends of the Earth published a promotional flyer considered misleading. The organization stated that fracking can cause cancer, contaminate water supplies, increase asthma rates and cause housing prices to fall, it was censored by ASA (Authority of Standards of Publicity of the United Kingdom) when determining that these affirmations did not have a scientific sustenance (Clutz, 2017). Like other environmental organizations, Friends of the Earth, which has often been able to demonstrate the veracity of its campaigns, has also fallen into the passion to defend causes without valid arguments that support its actions.

"Friends of the Earth member groups adopt a broad approach to tactical innovation, by analyzing their problems, adopting a wide range of tactics, looking for the root causes of environmental and social problems, promoting solutions and alternatives, working across multiple channels from local to global scales" (Timmer, 2009). Friends of the Earth is an organization whose performance has been effective because it has worked with the support of volunteers worldwide to be closer to the different realities concerning the environment. Since its creation, this NGO has fought for the protection of the environment and also for the rights of those who are affected by all these problems. However, it should be mentioned that being such a large organization whose headquarters are in a developed country, makes difficult to know in detail all the realities and the contexts in which environmental problems develop. Moreover we should not forget the lack of scientific support which is an error in which this type of organizations frequently fall. In general, this organization has accomplished several achievements, thanks to its persistent struggle and pressure on governments, politicians and decision-making groups.

Conclusion

The ineffectiveness of international instruments and organizations has provoked dissatisfaction in civil society. For this reason, the various international actors have looked for ways to contribute significantly with proposals to find solutions to environmental problems. One of these actors, non-governmental organizations, is today the most impressive group within civil society at an international level. They vary, among other things, in size, scope, forms of financing and mandate; but they have in common the fact of not belonging to any governmental sphere. In the environmental aspect, these organizations have contributed to the protection of the environment through some activities. To understand the role of non-governmental organizations in the field of study of this research, two of the most important environmental NGOs worldwide were briefly described and analyzed: Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

Although NGOs do not belong to any governmental aspect, the close relationship between these organizations and others of a governmental and intergovernmental nature provokes questions about their authenticity when they are denominated as such. Even though this relationship is necessary from a cooperation point of view to achieve common objectives, non-governmental organizations have a duty to be a counterweight to the state; otherwise they would become instruments of it. Likewise, there is a debate about the legitimacy of non-governmental organizations mainly due to the fact that it is not known exactly who they represent; and even if they knew, they have not been democratically elected to do so. However, in the field of NGOs, it must be taken into account that they are dedicated to listening and serving minorities that have no voice; thus representing the most vulnerable groups in society. There are many roles that non-governmental organizations play in society; this depends on their funding, location, members, etc. Through their actions, NGOs identify, propose and ask for solutions to problems that need immediate attention, thus making vulnerable groups whose needs had not previously been taken into account, visible.

In the environmental aspect, non-governmental organizations have become important actors in protecting the environment in the international arena. NGOs that are oriented to this issue fulfill the role of contributing in the protection of the environment through:

research, development, advocacy, financing, technical assistance and education. It should be noted that some NGOs focus on a single issue, however, most focus on several of these aspects which are cross-cutting. The contribution of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth has been important to understand the role of NGOs in the protection of the environment. These are two of the largest environmental NGOs known worldwide whose contribution through the different approaches already mentioned, has generated an important impact both in society and in the international community. This does not mean that they are free of critics; since they are large international organizations that have millions of partners around the world, including corporations and powerful groups, their transparency is doubtful.

CHAPTER 3: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION “WORLD WIDE FUND”

World Wide Fund is an environmental non-governmental organization founded in 1961. This NGO seeks to protect the world's species and natural sites which is why it is present in more than 100 countries and has around five million members worldwide. World Wide Fund is considered the leading environmental conservation organization, it focuses on six key areas of work: forests, marine, freshwater, wildlife, food and climate. In addition, this organization seeks to protect the lives of all animals but mainly the wild ones because they influence the survival of other species and the protection of certain vulnerable areas, among the most important we have: giant pandas, tigers, elephants, whales, polar bears and gorillas. Being present in more than 100 countries, World Wide Fund works in the most vulnerable areas of the world, however, this organization focuses on places that require urgent attention such as the Amazon, the Arctic, the Eastern Himalayas, the Galapagos, and others (World Wide Fund, sin fecha).

3.1 Description of World Wide Fund Globally

The beginnings of World Wide Fund go back to the sixties when conservation was not yet a topic taken into account by the international community. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and The Conservation Foundation were the only organizations responsible for conservation, but the lack of funds hindered their efforts. In 1960 the British biologist, Sir Julian Huxley, UNESCO's first Director-General who also helped found IUCN, traveled to East Africa and realized that animal habitat was being destroyed and hunting would soon take down the wildlife of that region. Huxley wrote articles for the newspaper “The Observer” in order to warn this situation, this news came to the businessman Victor Stolan who proposed the creation of a fund on behalf of animals in danger. Huxley contacted the ornithologist Max Nicholson, General Director of Britain Nature Conservancy, who brought together a group of scientists and experts in the field. In 1961, 16 of the most important conservationists in the world signed the Morges Manifesto through which they decided to create the international organization World Wide Fund with the aim of raising funds and working with conservation groups

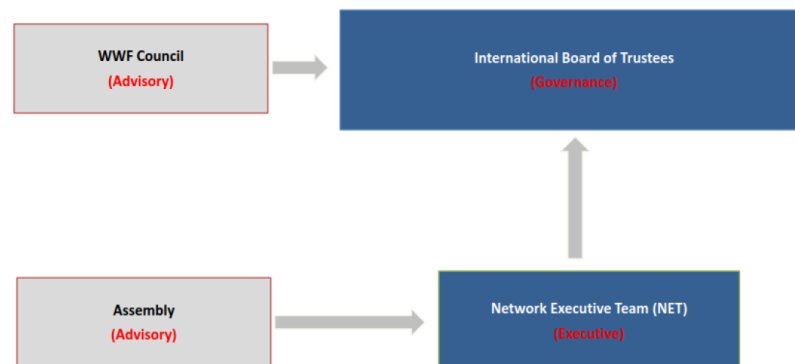
providing financial support. In its first ten years, WWF managed to raise more than \$ 5.6 million mainly from individuals who were impacted by the environmental situation exposed by the organization (World Wide Fund, sin fecha).

3.1.1 Organic structure

World Wide Fund has a broad organic structure which provides a level of local ownership, national identity, market penetration, respect and influence in society. This organization has both international and national structures in each country where it is present. Currently, its network consists of 33 national WWF organizations that have their own boards and operate according to national regulatory frameworks. In addition, there are 18 WWF organizations operating under the auspices of their respective offices (WWF International, 2017).

As an important international non-governmental organization, WWF has a structure for decision-making. This structure has four main bodies: the International Board of Trustees, the Network Executive Team, the WWF Council, and the Assembly.

Figure 5 Organizational Structure of WWF International



Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

International Board of Trustees:

It has 13 members including the International President. It is composed of no less than 6 and no more than 9 members of the board of directors of national organizations, no less

than 3 and no more than 6 external representatives and an independent president. In this way, the International Board takes into account the recommendations of the Network Executive Team on crucial issues to establish strategies and priorities to be carried out. In addition, this structure respects the National Boards around the world (WWF International, 2017).

Network Executive Team:

It consists of 10 members who are; the general director, the four main contributors to the network, three members nominated for each region: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean, and two members elected by the Assembly. These members serve as a connection to the offices of all regions. This structure makes decisions, and is responsible for other activities such as: making recommendations to the International Board, reporting to the Board on the performance of the network in driving the impact of conservation, growth, network development, brand and telecommunications. The Executive Team of the Network bases its decisions on consultations with the Assembly (WWF International, 2017).

WWF Council:

It consists of all the presidents of the boards of national organizations and associated organizations and the vice president emeritus. This council is responsible for nominating the members of the International Board and serving as consultants for the International Council. The members of the WWF Council must have the skills and expertise to influence the agendas of the WWF national organizations (WWF International, 2017).

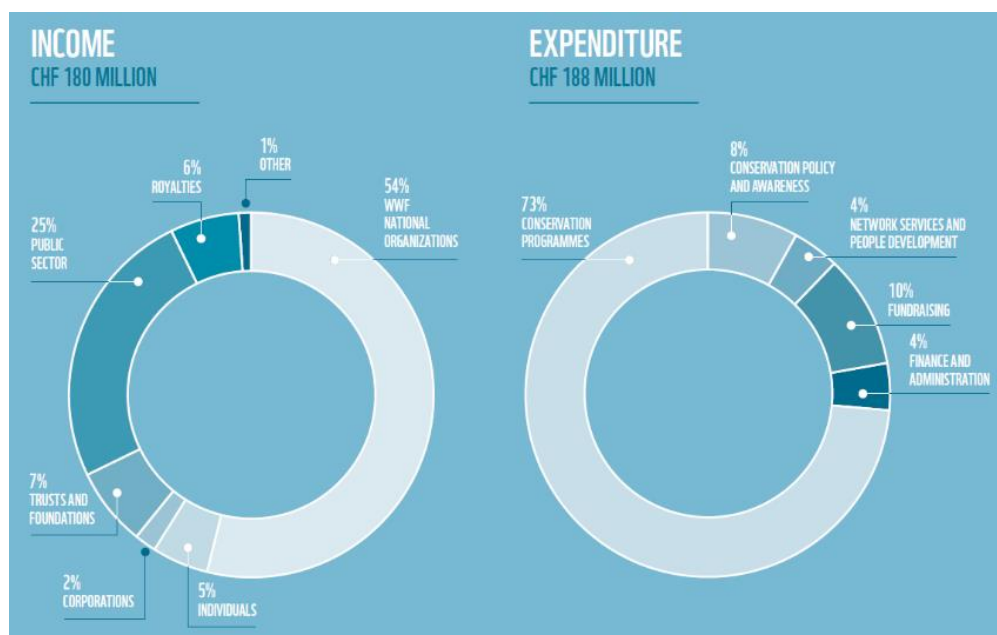
Assembly

It is made up of the leaders of the network. The Assembly contributes with the development of WWF strategies, policies and initiatives. In addition, it focuses mainly on the execution of activities to meet the conservation goals and strategies of the network. The Assembly also elects two members of the Network Executive Team (WWF International, 2017).

This international structure seeks to give a voice to all the branches belonging to WWF, without forgetting the autonomy of each national organization. Since the beginning of 2018, the International President of WWF is Pavan Sukhdev, an expert in environmental issues and sustainability. Also, since 2014, the Director General of WWF is Marco Lambertini, specialist in conservation and environment issues (WWF International, 2017).

3.1.2 Financing

Figure 6 Incomes and Expenses of WWF International



Source: (WWF International, 2017)

World Wide Fund International gets its income mainly from WWF national organizations that are located in several countries. The public sector constitutes the second largest contribution for WWF International. In addition, the organization receives financing from trusts and foundations, corporations, individual donations, royalties and others. In 2017 WWF International had an income of \$188 million dollars; national organizations contributed the most, with a total of 54% (WWF International, 2017).

In terms of expenditures, World Wide Fund International invests the money raised mainly in conservation programs, fundraising campaigns, conservation, awareness policy, finance, administration, network services and staff development. In 2017 WWF invested \$196 million dollars of which 73% was invested in conservation programs (WWF International, 2017).

World Wide Fund receives donations from groups classified into 4 different categories: the Honorary Circle, Conservation Leaders, Conservation Champions and Conservation Partners. Within the Honorary Circle are for example: the Hoffmann family, the MAVA Foundation, the Ocean Foundation, among others. The Conservation Leaders include the Hoffman-La Roche AG group, the Philantropia Foundation and UEFA. Within the Conservation Champions we have the "Fondation de bienfaisance du Group Pictet", the Montagu Foundation, the Climate Reality Project, etc. Finally among the Members of the Conservation are donors such as Lennart Blecher, Ursula Streit and Thierry Pierson. (WWF International, 2017).

WWF national organizations that are around the world have independence, however they must respond to a certain structure for financial management. The national board of each organization must supervise the budget process, approve the final budget and ensure that the financial statements are prepared according to the requirements of the audit. WWF is audited annually both internally and externally as a guarantee of its transparency (WWF International, 2017).

3.1.3 Activities

"The mission of WWF is to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature" (World Wide Fund, sin fecha). To achieve this mission WWF focuses on two main areas, biodiversity and the ecological footprint. In addition, the organization works in six specific areas: forests, oceans, wildlife, food, climate and energy, and water. They do this through three key elements: markets, finance and governance. Operating in more than 100 countries, WWF has seen the need for a network of professionals from multiple areas working with each other and cooperating with partners around the world. Given the breadth of the work, WWF cannot work alone, for this reason it has associated with different groups in society.

To achieve its objectives, WWF developed a strategic plan as a global conservation framework, which focuses on two main points: saving biodiversity and reducing the ecological footprint of humanity, as well as determining the threats and their causes.

Saving biodiversity

WWF focuses on two elements to conserve biodiversity: conserve the most outstanding places on Earth and conserve the species that are particularly important for their habitat or for people.

- Priority places:

The conservation of life on Earth is achieved by conserving the main habitats and ecosystems that are rich in biodiversity. WWF has identified 35 priority locations on the entire planet Earth whether terrestrial, freshwater, marine, ecoregions or others.

Figure 7 Priority conservation places worldwide according to WWF



Source:(WWF International, 2017)

- Priority species

WWF has also identified the priority species that need urgent attention to ensure their conservation. These species are important both for their ecosystems and for the population. There are 36 priority species that are divided into: emblematic species such as: African elephant, African rhinos, Asian elephant, giant panda, sea turtles, polar bear, and species impacted by the ecological footprint such as: corals, European and Pacific salmon, tuna, Tibetan antelope, among others.

Reducing the ecological footprint of humanity

"The ecological footprint is a way to monitor our impact on natural habitats and ecosystems. Through this, we can measure how much water and land is needed to provide the resources that people use and to absorb the waste produced" (WWF International, 2008). In the last 50 years, humanity has changed ecosystems faster than in any other period of time. These changes have generated the massive loss of ecosystems that are vital for obtaining resources for humanity. In this way, we are already using almost 30% more natural resources than the Earth can replenish and releasing more CO₂ than the ecosystem can reabsorb. For this WWF has focused on six main ecological footprint points that need to be addressed: carbon, cropland, grazing land, fisheries, forests and water (WWF International, 2008).

Threats and causes

WWF has identified priority places and species and has also measured the ecological footprint of humans on planet Earth. As you can see, the current environmental situation is not the best. Nowadays more and more places and species are threatened by the actions of humanity. However, we have not realized that we are also threatened because soon we will not have the necessary resources to live. WWF has developed an exhaustive conservation work around the world to put an end to the threats. For this, it has been necessary to identify those who are causing this reality (WWF International, 2008). This NGO has come to determine five main causes:

- Public financial sector: Funds for environmental and development issues that are under government control influence where and how resources are used in environmental matters.

- Private financial sector: Funds for environmental and development issues that are under private control influence development, industry, business, technology transfer and can have a negative environmental impact.
- Commercial practices: Without appropriate environmental standards, businesses and industries are prone to contribute to the loss of biodiversity.
- Laws and regulations: National and international regulations have a direct influence on the success of conservation.
- Consumer choices, beliefs and attitudes towards nature: The choice that people take between one product and another can make a difference in the environment.

In addition to the strategic plan for global conservation, WWF focuses on six specific areas important for conservation. These areas face numerous problems caused mainly by humans, which is why WWF has set objectives and has carried out programs and activities for its conservation:

Table 3 WWF work areas worldwide

Area	Importance	Problems/Threats	Objectives	Activities/Programs
Forests	<p>They are the lungs of the planet.</p> <p>Home of people and wildlife.</p> <p>Home of animals and plants.</p> <p>They block carbon and release oxygen.</p> <p>They produce rain and filter fresh water.</p> <p>They provide subsistence, firewood and medicines.</p>	<p>Effects of deforestation:</p> <p>Reduction of biodiversity.</p> <p>Interrupted water cycles.</p> <p>Greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Erosion of the soil.</p> <p>Climate change.</p>	<p>Increase protected areas and include more forests through the improvement of management.</p> <p>Restore degraded forest landscapes.</p> <p>Reduce deforestation.</p>	<p>Fight to create national parks and protected areas.</p> <p>Advice on responsible harvest and trade of wood products.</p> <p>Initiative "Global Forest and Trade Network".</p> <p>Initiative "New Generations Plantations".</p> <p>Initiative "Environmental Index of the Paper Company".</p> <p>Initiative "Check your paper".</p>
Oceans	<p>The life of the Earth depends on the oceans.</p> <p>They house the life of animals.</p> <p>They are vital for human health.</p> <p>They provide food and livelihoods</p>	<p>The ocean is hotter and acidic.</p> <p>Unsustainable fishing.</p> <p>Inadequate protection</p> <p>Tourism and development.</p> <p>Boats.</p> <p>Gas and oil.</p> <p>Contamination.</p>	<p>Increase ecologically coherent networks of marine protected areas.</p> <p>Effectively implement the Paris climate agreement and maintain the global temperature rise to a maximum of 1.5 degrees.</p>	<p>Advocate for the integrated management of the oceans.</p> <p>Support small-scale fisheries and sustainable aquaculture.</p> <p>Promote sustainable marine tourism.</p> <p>Initiative "Med Marine".</p> <p>Global Marine Program.</p>

		Climate change. Accidental fishing.		
Wildlife	Essential for human societies. Cultural and religious symbols. They guarantee environmental goods and services. Vital to the subsistence and well-being of rural communities.	Wildlife traffic. Conflict between humans and wildlife.	Protect, manage and restore essential habitats. Reduce threats such as: unsustainable wildlife trade, poaching. Empower the communities.	Help achieve the global moratorium on whaling. "TRAFFIC" program. "Wildlife crime" initiative. "Common Ground" report.
Food	It connects people, it gives prosperity and well-being to the planet. Fountain of life.	Irresponsible fishing practices. Unsustainable and inefficient supply chains.	Improve the efficiency and productivity of food and land use. Improve fishing practices. Sustainable supply chains. Governance and financing of food. Food safety.	Support to best production practices and credible sustainability standards for: soybean, palm oil, etc. Partnership with governments to regulate the food industry. Promotion of production policies and sustainable consumption. "The 2050 Criteria" report.

Climate and Energy	Climate change is a threat to life on Earth.	<p>Extreme change of climate.</p> <p>Health problems.</p> <p>The oceans heat up and acidify.</p> <p>The glacial melt, sea level rise.</p> <p>Ecosystems in danger.</p>	By 2030 get a fair and just transition that limits the heating to 1.5 degrees.	<p>Promote low carbon societies.</p> <p>Work to change the use of energy.</p> <p>Work with companies through different programs.</p> <p>Periodic reports on climate change.</p> <p>Initiative "Global Climate and Energy".</p>
Fresh Water	Fountain of life	<p>Loss of habitats.</p> <p>Changes in the flow of water.</p> <p>Contamination.</p> <p>Overexploitation of freshwater species.</p> <p>Invasive species</p> <p>Climate change.</p>	<p>Water administration.</p> <p>Ensure water for people and the environment.</p> <p>Conserve freshwater habitats.</p> <p>Promote good water governance.</p>	<p>Water management work in 15 priority river basins around the world.</p> <p>Fresh Water Program.</p> <p>Practical guide for the strategic management of water.</p> <p>Work with the Ramsar Convention.</p>

Source: (WWF International, 2008)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Finally WWF focuses on three key factors of environmental problems: finance, markets and governance.

Finance

Nowadays financial flows shape all activities of the public and private sector, this generates a direct impact on the planet because of the use of its resources for some activities. This sector does not have an adequate strategy to manage the financial and commercial risks caused by environmental and social problems. For this reason, WWF has been interested in the movement of money from the public and private sectors with the aim of promoting a substantial increase in financial flows towards sustainable development in the six focal points mentioned above. The redirection of financial flows seeks to ensure that money is invested in sectors that protect the planet, thus moving away from financial systems that foster short-term benefits. For years, WWF has worked with the financial sector and bilateral and multilateral development entities to ensure that the environment is integrated into development plans and financial mechanisms are adopted to guarantee the conservation of biodiversity (World Wide Fund, sin fecha). In this way, WWF has focused its efforts on four activities:

- To change regulations and financial market frameworks to ensure environmental, social and governance integration by changing the entire system.
- To change investors and lenders to sustainable investments/loans.
- The development and application of standards and safeguards (voluntary and mandatory) for the allocation of public and private financing that contributes to sustainable development.
- To mobilize financial resources at the national, international, public and private levels towards the global agenda of sustainable development.

Markets

To achieve the objectives of conservation and protection of the environment, WWF is aware of the need to work with various sectors of society. The supply chains of markets or businesses depend on natural resources. WWF works directly with this sector through round tables and industry platforms to reduce their ecological footprint and help them

better manage natural resources. Also, the organization advocates policies and regulations that promote sustainability and protect the rights of people (World Wide Fund, sin fecha).

When working with companies, WWF seeks:

- To promote better production and a responsible supply of raw materials.
- To encourage a shift from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy.
- To participate jointly in public policies.
- To support the equitable exchange of natural resources.
- To redirect financial flows to support the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems.
- To raise awareness about the need to consume more wisely.
- To protect some of the most ecologically important places in the world.

Governance

To ensure a natural resource base, effective governance at the local, national and international levels is required. WWF has been associated with partners from all over the world with the aim of developing local and national development plans that guarantee the sustainable use of natural resources and human welfare for current and future generations. WWF is also involved in international instruments that promote sustainable management, adequate protection and the equitable use of natural resources (World Wide Fund, sin fecha). In this way, WWF seeks:

- To provide advice and technical information on relevant issues.
- To demonstrate concrete actions that governments can take.
- To advocate for stronger laws and regulations.
- To help governments meet their international commitments.
- To develop the capacity of civil society to contribute to the governance of natural resources.

To achieve all its objectives and work efficiently, WWF has the support of people dedicated to expert programs. These people contribute with extensive knowledge and

skills to develop and implement solutions for conservation and life around the world (World Wide Fund, sin fecha). Some of its activities are:

- To work with governments, local communities and park managers to establish and manage protected areas.
- To research.
- To establish and support certification and other sustainable product schemes.
- The publication of impartial data.
- To press the decision makers

3.1.4 Partners

World Wide Fund seeks to stop the degradation of the environment and build a sustainable future for people and nature. To achieve these objectives, the organization has seen the need to work with those who have a greater impact on society and nature. For this reason, WWF partners with several groups of society including: NGOs, financial institutions, research institutes, indigenous peoples, local communities, consumers. However, its main partners are corporations, international governance, indigenous groups, local communities and the public sector.

Corporations/Companies

First, WWF has sought to work with groups that have a greater capacity to reduce threats in terms of: deforestation, conservation, overfishing, water scarcity and climate change. Corporations are the main drivers of the global economy and have the responsibility in their hands to ensure that their businesses do not end up with natural resources.

To work with corporations, WWF distinguishes three types of partnerships with businesses: driving sustainable business practices, communicating and raising awareness, philanthropic partnerships. The first, to promote sustainable business practices, seeks to generate a change in practices throughout the operations and the value chain of a company to reduce the environmental impacts caused by some companies. The second, to communicate and raise awareness, aims to raise awareness among companies about key environmental issues. This type of association highlights the beauty of certain places to sensitize people to buy certified products that do not harm these ecosystems. Finally, the

philanthropic associations focus on specific programs with companies to finance conservation projects. This type of association is crucial to raise awareness and promote the best sustainability performance of corporations (WWF International, 2017).

World Wide Fund International has two types of corporate partners, those with an annual budget of more than 25,000 euros and those with an annual budget less than that amount. In 2017 WWF had 21 partners with an annual budget of more than 25,000 euros, among which we have:

Table 4 WWF International partners

Company	Type of industry	Type of partnership with WWF	Conservationist approach of the association	Objetives/Activities
Fromageries Bel	Food	Sustainable business practices.	Food Forests Water	Reduction of the environmental impact of dairy production. Risk assessment of the dairy cows diet ingredients.
H&M	Clothing	Sustainable business practices	Water Climate and Energy	Water management used by H&M. Development of climate strategy. Collection of H&M to raise funds for conservation.
IKEA	Articles for home and textiles	Sustainable business practices	Forests Water	The organization works so that IKEA obtains 100% of its wood and cotton

				from more sustainable sources by 2020.
Royal Caribbean Cruises	Hotels and recreational services	Sustainable business practices. Communications and awareness. Philanthropic.	Oceans Climate and energy Food	Ensure the good state of the oceans. Reduce the environmental footprint of the company. Create awareness among the 5 million passengers about ocean preservation.
The Coca-Cola Company	Drinks	Sustainable business practices. Philanthropic.	Water Climate and Energy Food.	Conserve and protect the freshwater resources of the world. Improve the performance of the supply chain taking into account natural resources.
Tommy Hilfiger	Clothing	Sustainable business practices.	Water	Response to the risky use of water. Implementation of collective action projects in key river basin.

Toyota	Vehicles	Sustainable business practices. Communications and awareness. Philanthropic.	Biodiversity Weather Forests	Forests conservation of biodiversity in Asian tropical forests. Increase the sustainability of natural resources such as: wood, paper, palm oil, natural rubber.
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Source: (WWF International, 2017)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Disney Nature, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Veracel, New Forest Company, Portucel Soporcel are some of the corporations with an annual budget of less than 25,000 euros.

Governance/International instruments

The second most important partners of WWF are the international instruments of protection to the environment such as: conventions, commissions, agreements and treaties, international standards, and others. These instruments have objectives that are compatible with the actions of WWF, however they have flaws and many things to improve. In the case of the conventions, their biggest problem is the non-ratification by the number of countries required for them to take effect. What WWF seeks when relating to these instruments is:

- To provide advice and technical information on relevant issues.
- To demonstrate concrete actions that governments can take.
- To advocate for stronger international laws and regulations.

- To help governments implement their commitments under the convention / commission.

It is important to note that WWF has been involved in both creating and participating in some conventions, commissions and other forums, among which we find:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- International Whaling Commission.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Kyoto Protocol.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Regional fisheries management organizations.
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).
- International Maritime Organization (IMO).

In the case of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), one of the most important international conventions on environmental matters, WWF has played an important role as a critic and a proponent of alternatives and solutions in this area. In October 2010, the Parties to this agreement approved the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020, to which WWF fully supported and approved. However, the organization has always questioned the pace of delivery and compliance with these strategies. At the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD in December 2016, additional efforts were required to move forward with the fulfillment of these commitments. On this occasion WWF called on Parties at COP-13 to:

1. Integrate the conservation of biodiversity in all sectors and ministerial portfolios in a meaningful way. Biodiversity should be linked to sustainable development plans, the delivery of SDGs, economic and financial policy, budgets, procurement and accounting and reporting processes;
2. Increase the political relevance of the CBD, in particular, by linking it better with other conventions and international forums (UNFCCC, SDG, G20) and involving other ministries in the implementation of the Aichi Targets;

3. Improve reporting mechanisms, with transparent data, common standards and adequate indicators that should also serve the review mechanism of the SDGs and the UNFCCC. A solid review is key to being responsible in delivering the Aichi Targets and must be an integral part of any future strategic plan 2021-2030;
4. Send and report on the duplication of the financial commitment for 2015, of which data are still missing;
5. Improve the governance of protected areas and other effective conservation measures to ensure that biodiversity serves people, livelihoods and prosperity effectively through sustainable development.

Local communities/Indigenous peoples

In addition to international companies and instruments, WWF has also seen the need to partner with local communities and indigenous peoples. The fact that there are people living in and around the places considered priority by WWF, makes them vital partners for the development of the work of the organization. In this sense WWF with these groups wants to:

- Involve them in the planning, establishment and management of protected areas.
- Ensure that they share the benefits derived from protected areas.
- Support local communities in the sustainable management of their natural resources.
- Help improve livelihoods and alleviate poverty.
- Help with health and other social services.

WWF recognizes the importance of the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples. It should be noted that in 1996, WWF became the first major conservation organization to formally recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. In this way, WWF focuses not only on natural resources but also on everything that the environment implies, including the native populations of these places. In this sense, WWF takes into account the relevance of the ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples, something that can benefit in the conservation of nature and the sustainable use of natural resources worldwide. In 1996, World Wide Fund developed the Declaration of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and

Conservation with the objective of "helping to rectify what has historically been an erosion of the rights of indigenous peoples and to establish safeguards to ensure that conservation actions do not contribute to the erosion of those rights" (World Wide Fund International, 2008).

Public sector

Finally, one of WWF's most important partners is the public sector. This organization makes available its knowledge and experience by partnering with public sector institutions with the aim of achieving a sustainable world. Within this sector we find: national governments, regional bodies responsible for the integration of the environment in national and regional development priorities, international financial institutions, among others. In this way, WWF highlights the need for public sector institutions to commit themselves in the long term and on a large scale to achieve environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development (World Wide Fund, sin fecha). Among the institutions of the public sector with which WWF works, we find:

- African Development Bank.
- Asian Development Bank.
- Development Bank of Latin America.
- European Union.
- Inter-American Development Bank.
- United Nations Development Program.
- United Nations Environment Program.
- World Bank.

Also, WWF works bilaterally with the agencies in charge of the different environmental, social and economic issues in several countries.

3.1.5 The contribution of World Wide Fund

Since its creation in 1961, World Wide Fund has become one of the largest environmental protection organizations in the world. During this time, this NGO has been evolving and increasing its efforts to preserve biodiversity and achieve sustainable development

worldwide. As we have seen before, there are many activities that WWF has carried out, however it is necessary to highlight some of its most relevant achievements over the years.

Sixties

In the first decade of existence of WWF, it was possible to raise more \$ 5.6 million dollars. This money was used to subsidize 356 conservation projects. Many of the animals and habitats that were saved thanks to these projects became symbols of conservation throughout the world.

Table 5 Contribution and achievements of WWF in the sixties

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1962	Research station established in the Galapagos Islands: The Research Station of the Charles Darwin Foundation is a leading scientific institution. It has played an important role in raising awareness among the local population and the Ecuadorian government of preserving the unique species of Galápagos.
1963	Opening of the "Premier" school for park management: Thanks to a WWF grant, the African Wildlife Management College in Tanzania was established. It has trained 4,000 park rangers and wildlife managers in more than 50 African countries and abroad.
1965	Range extension of the southern white rhinoceros: WWF supported the "East African Wildlife Society" in the introduction of this subspecies.
1966	Survey of wildlife in South America: This was the first survey conducted by WWF and was developed in South America. Through this activity you get important information for conservation.
1969	Land purchased in the marshes of the Guadalquivir delta in Spain: WWF and the Spanish government bought this land that later became the Coto Doñana National Park, one of the first wetland reserves in the world. This place is a refuge for other threatened species in the world.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Seventies

WWF remained focused on the preservation of species and habitats throughout this decade, however its focus changed. The organization began to push for broader conservation efforts for entire biomes instead of just supporting individual projects. In this way, WWF began to relate more with governments and to determine the threats of environmental deterioration and their causes.

Table 6 Contribution and achievements of WWF in the seventies

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1971	Intergovernmental Treaty on Wetlands: WWF and other organizations have succeeded in getting 18 governments to sign the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. WWF continues to support this convention and pressing for governments to include new Ramsar sites.
1972	Large-scale tiger conservation: "Operation Tiger" was the first global campaign to save a species in its range. The first result was the Tiger Project of India, where the tiger population grew by 30%. However, poaching remains a threat. WWF aims to double the tiger population by 2022 and launched the Year of the Tiger campaign in 2010.
1975	Beginning of the conservation of the tropical forest: WWF launches the first campaign of conservation based on a complete biome denominated "Campaign of the Tropical Jungle". It contributed to the recognition of biodiversity and the ecological values of tropical forests and the threats they face.
1976	Regulation of trade in endangered species: In this year the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) founded the TRAFFIC program with the objective of monitoring wildlife trade. Since the creation of this program, WWF has allowed it to become a global network with offices in six continents.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

Eighties

By that time, WWF had a strong global presence with conservation projects worldwide. In this way, WWF saw the need to promote more strongly the ideas of its founders on the basis that conservation is in the interest of people and should not conflict with development.

Table 7 Contributions and achievements of WWF in the eighties

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1980	First global strategy for sustainable development: IUCN, WWF and UNEP, supported by the UN Secretary General, published the "World Conservation Strategy". This document integrates conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and also explains conservation objectives in terms of the benefits for people.
1982	Moratorium on commercial whaling: WWF has been working for a moratorium on commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission since 1965. Some of the subsequent successes are: the declaration of the International Whaling Commission of a whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean in 1994, a resolution of 2003 that extended the powers of this commission to address all threats to cetacean populations in fishing nets and climate change.
1986	Integration of conservation with development: WWF collaborated in the establishment of the Cameroon's Korup National Park which included the local population in the planning process for sustainable land use and rural development in local communities. WWF collaborates with the development of participatory management process, provides training in park management and alternative livelihoods for these communities.
1989	New mechanism to finance conservation: WWF was the pioneer organization in the concept of debt for nature. It establishes that a part of the debt of a country is purchased in exchange for the country allocating an amount

	equivalent in local currency to conservation. WWF has helped negotiate this type of exchanges worldwide. These funds have been used to establish new protected areas and promote the sustainable use of the country's natural resources.
1989	National giant panda conservation plan: This plan developed by WWF and the Ministry of Forestry of China formed the basis of the connected landscape of the panda. This is underway in 62 natural reserves that cover 60% of the current and potential habitat linked by ecological corridors that bring together many populations of pandas. WWF supports community development projects to promote the use and sustainable management of forests.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

Nineties

In this decade, the link between the environment, human activities and human welfare was more accepted than in other decades. These themes were incorporated into the WWF Mission Statement in 1990. WWF also developed a global conservation strategy that focused its efforts on the world's most important ecoregions.

Table 8 Contribution and achievements of WWF in the nineties

Year	Achievement/Contribution
1992	Treaty to stop the loss of biodiversity: WWF was a crucial actor in the establishment of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2002 WWF helped secure a commitment by the CBD to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. In 2004, it was a member of an NGO consortium that pushed to implement a work program in certain protected areas. At the CBD Conference of the Parties in 2010, WWF contributed to the adoption of a 10-year biodiversity plan.
1993	Community management of natural resources: WWF and USAID launched the LIFE project to enable Namibian rural communities to actively manage

	their natural resources. WWF has also supported managing resources for communities in many other countries.
1993	Certification of sustainable products: WWF was a key player in the launch of the "Forest Stewardship Council", a certification scheme for forest products harvested according to environmental, social and economic criteria. WWF has supported that more than 130 million hectares of forests and 8.5% of forest products in international trade have this certification. WWF and Unilever launched a similar certification scheme called "Marine Stewardship Council" for seafood.
1997	Start of global efforts to curb carbon emissions: WWF helped design and was a very important actor in the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. WWF has secured important commitments from the private sector to reduce carbon emissions such as Lafarge.
1998	First Living Planet Report: It is one of the most important scientific analysis of the world on biodiversity and the ecological footprint. These reports contribute to the awareness of the continuing threats to biological diversity and the ecological limits of the Earth.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Two thousands

This decade represented an important change for WWF because its ambition was broadened by seeking changes that achieve lasting conservation, sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles.

Table 9 Contribution and achievements of WWF in the two thousands.

Year	Achievement/Contribution
2002	Large-scale initiative to save the Amazon: WWF worked with the government of Brazil and other partners to launch an initiative and preserve 12% of the Brazilian Amazon. The largest in situ conservation effort in the world,

	"Protected Area of the Amazon Region", has created more than 30 million hectares of protected areas, improved management in 62 existing protected areas and established a \$ 29 million conservation fund. WWF also launched the Living Amazon initiative in 2007 to conserve the entire Amazon basin.
2003	Showing the economic value of nature: Through reports WWF has shown the value of ecosystems for human societies. This research has made an important contribution to convince governments and local communities of the value of nature. WWF also promoted the development of payments for ecosystem services where people receive compensation for the maintenance of different habitats.
2008	Certified and sustainable palm oil enters the market: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil was held to develop standards and a certification scheme for sustainable palm oil. WWF has worked for this resource that is part of its efforts to transform 15 key global commodity markets towards sustainability.
2010	The largest environmental activism event in the world: Earth Hour is an initiative in which people, buildings, monuments and cities turn off their lights for an hour to show their support for action on climate change. In 2010, 1 out of every 6 people worldwide participated in this activity. In this way they seek to exert pressure and show the support of thousands of people worldwide.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

3.1.6 Criticism of World Wide Fund

Since WWF is an international non-governmental organization that has more than fifty years working in the environmental field with various partners including governments and corporations, it is necessary to question how "nongovernmental", "conservationist" and "non-profit" this organization is. Like any reputable organization, WWF has not escaped the questioning of some people and groups that have often wondered why WWF has decided to partner with corporations whose environmental reputation is not the best. However, the biggest criticism that WWF has faced is the publication of the documentary

and book "The silence of the pandas" or "Pandaleaks" of the German investigative journalist Wilfried Huissman. In this book he criticizes among other things the relationship of this NGO with companies of large-scale destruction of the environment. Although World Wide Fund has defended itself from these criticisms and questions, the doubt of its authenticity in acting has already been sown in society.

Since its inception, WWF has shown the world what is happening to the planet and through campaigns has managed to collect funds from multiple sectors of society. The shocking data of the loss of biodiversity in the world have called the consciousness of people causing the need to do something. In this sense WWF is committed to working in the most vulnerable areas and has shown that through projects the degradation of the environment can be stopped. In this way WWF has become the leading NGO in conservation, its numerous projects have catapulted it to be the most important organization that protects and conserves the environment, however some of its actions prove the opposite.

Starting from its creation, the first president of the NGO, Prince Bernardo de Lippe-Biesterfeld, appointed John H. Loudon, general director in 1962 of the petrochemical Royal Dutch Shell, as the main sponsor of the organization. By then Shell was generating large revenues with patents on pesticides based on colored hydrocarbons which were very dangerous for wild animals. Amid criticism of this corporation, Prince Bernardo provided a document to the Board of Trustees of WWF requesting them to refrain from criticizing these substances. They kept silent and continued to receive money from this corporation until years later when these pesticides were banned worldwide. In 1976, in the midst of scandals such as the Lockheed Company that bribed officials, including the aforementioned Prince, his presidency at WWF became untenable and John H. Loudon had to assume the presidency. In addition to these controversial facts in the field of the WWF administration, the 1001 Club founded in 1971 by Prince Bernardo. The prince recruited the most powerful businessmen of the entire world whose identities are still unknown but over the years it has become known that members have been people such as: Henry Ford, Prince Aga Khan, Secretary of Defense of the United States Robert McNamara, leaders of the Apartheid regime like Mobutu Sese Seko and the Argentine

military dictator José Martínez de Hoz. According to the research of (Huismann, 2012), this Club pays salaries to maintain the secretariat of WWF International, and its members are influential people in world power and policy making.

In the aspect of association with diverse companies worldwide, WWF has been strongly criticized, since this puts in doubt its work for conservation. One of the most controversial cases is that of the company Wilmar in Borneo. World Wide Fund works in the part of Borneo belonging to Indonesia, home of the orangutans that today are in danger of extinction. Twenty years ago the logging companies came to this place and left only 30% of the original forest of Kalimantan, however thanks to the climatic characteristics, it was possible to recover part of this forest. Today, the State of Indonesia has granted a concession to oil companies and promotes the expansion of the palm oil industry as a strategy to have more wealth and power. The Wilmar Company received a concession for almost 300,000 hectares and now has the legal right to cut down the entire forest. Orangutans, birds and other animals die burned along with their homes in the forests. However, WWF has a sustainability consultation contract with this corporation, the NGO says that palm oil can be sustainable, but it certainly is not. WWF has cleaned up the company's image but has not prevented its activities that destroy the environment (Huismann, 2012). Facing this controversial information, WWF responded that it was used to advertise Huismann's future documentary. In addition, the organization states that it has been demonstrated that there are substantial programs to protect orangutans and their habitat.

Likewise, WWF has been strongly questioned for its supposed association with the company Monsanto. In 1996, Argentina was the first country in South America to revoke the ban on genetically modified crops and allowed more than half of the country's agricultural land to be transformed into a soybean wasteland. Today, Argentina is the largest supplier of soybeans worldwide. In this country WWF and Monsanto are considered as two arms in the same body because Monsanto has managed to establish its crop production model and WWF has worked to make this model socially accepted. Beyond damaging nature, the problem is the health of the human beings that inhabit these lands. Monsanto has caused some towns to become ghost towns due to the extensive

soybean crops and, due to the chemicals used, it has caused malformations, skin problems and general health problems. The peasants who live in these lands can no longer live on their crops because it is dangerous and Monsanto has occupied their land. However, the former president of WWF Argentina Dr. Hector Laurence said in an interview that the farmers of the places where it is planted Soybeans do not have a good standard of living and they must be trained for jobs with new technologies (Huisman, 2012). WWF responded that there is no agreement with Monsanto although it affirms that soy can be certified as responsible if it meets certain standards.

There are many criticisms that WWF has received from society. Through the investigation carried out by Wilfried Huisman, a hidden face of this non-governmental organization came to light. Starting with its administration, which since its inception and with few exceptions has been in the hands of European royalty, WWF has become an elite organization supported by the most renowned magnates in history. On the other hand, the association of WWF with various corporations such as Coca Cola, McDonalds, Shell, Wilmar, British Petroleum, etc., has given much to talk about all over the world. While it is true, WWF says that the associations with these companies have the purpose of persuading them to change their production models but it cannot be denied that the organization has received large sums of money and sometimes has done nothing but clean the name of those corporations. In addition, the real criticism comes from indigenous and peasant populations that in the first instance trusted WWF because of its status as an environmental NGO. However, these vulnerable groups, directly affected by the actions of the corporations, are losing their homes which also share with the animals. In fact, they no longer see a future given the massive destruction of these territories. World Wide Fund is a non-governmental organization that has years of experience, millions of partners and thousands of successful environmental protection and conservation projects around the world. Nevertheless criticism not only diminishes the credibility of the organization but also affirms its interest in benefiting the groups of power rather than vulnerable groups. However, we cannot deny the enormous contribution of the organization to the conservation of habitats worldwide. This controversial organization, has managed to influence governments and corporations to improve the implementation of policies and productive processes, although not in all cases.

3.2 Description of World Wide Fund in Ecuador

One of the first World Wide Fund conservation projects occurred in 1962 in Galapagos, Ecuador. With the money raised in its first campaigns, the organization contributed with the financing for the construction of the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz. Since then, WWF has been involved in biodiversity conservation projects in this Ecuadorian region as well as the sustainable development of its community. In 2014, WWF established a national office in Ecuador to strengthen its conservation efforts and work in different vulnerable areas of this country. Currently, WWF Ecuador focuses on three thematic areas: conservation (ecotourism, forests and water, oceans and coasts), sustainable cities and human ecological footprint, and fisheries. It also develops its activities in four regions of the country: the coastal marine region and Galápagos, the Chocó, the Andes, and the Amazon (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

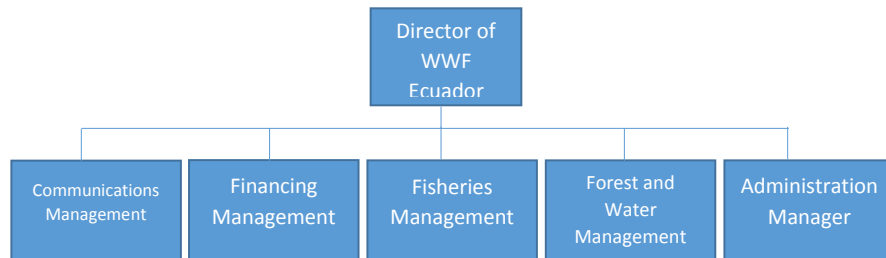
3.2.1 Organic structure and financing

In Ecuador, WWF is not a national or local organization, it is a branch of WWF United States and it works as a program. WWF Ecuador has an organizational structure that is responsible for receiving financing and implementing projects in different areas of the country. Currently the director in charge of the WWF in Ecuador is the Biologist Hugo Arnal, and there are also managements for communication, financing, forests and water, administration and finance, and fisheries.

Regarding financing, WWF Ecuador receives donations from different parts of the world but generally the money comes through WWF United States. In other cases, financing comes directly from countries such as Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, and it is done through agreements, since reports must subsequently be sent to WWF national offices in those countries or to donors directly. In Ecuador there are no donations, financing comes directly from abroad. However, there is currently an agreement with “Pacari” Company whose objective is to sell the product with the WWF logo in order to help local cocoa production communities and to provide a \$10,000 financing to WWF Ecuador. In recent years, the annual financing of WWF Ecuador is estimated at \$3,000,000 annually which is mainly used in projects and programs of the organization and in administrative

expenses. It is important to emphasize that all agreements and financing of this type of organizations from abroad are registered in the chancellery of Ecuador for a better control.

Figure 8 Organizational Structure of WWF Ecuador



Source: (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

3.2.2 Activities

The activities carried out by WWF-Ecuador, are divided into three main themes: conservation, sustainable cities and human ecological footprint and fisheries.

Conservation

The conservation work carried out by this organization in Ecuador covers the topics of ecotourism, forests and water and oceans and coasts:

- Ecotourism: The government of Ecuador included 19% of its territory in the System of Protected Areas of Ecuador; later it recognized sustainable tourism or ecotourism as a substantial element within its national policies. Likewise, they invested in the promotion of the tourism sector, resulting in an increase in the number of visitors in the country. WWF supports the Government of Ecuador in the areas of: tourism and public use of protected areas, reduction of impacts generated by this activity, implementation of appropriate environmental practices, monitoring of tourism to mitigate or reduce its impact and provide information to improve management in this sector (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).
- Forests and water: Ecuador has 65 native forest ecosystems that in total cover more than 127,000 square kilometers. The Amazonian region which covers

116,284 square kilometers begins in the Andean-Amazonian forests and advances towards the Amazonian plain formed by various types of forests such as: whitewater and blackwater flooded forests, palm forests, etc. WWF works in this sector with the objective of conserving aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. In this way the organization assures the life of the species and their environmental services that contribute by regulating the climate (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

- Oceans and Coasts: Ecuador has a large maritime territory (1.2 million km²). This territory is divided into: the continental zone and Galapagos. The continental zone is located at the confluence of the Humboldt Current and the Pacific Coast of Central America, both constitute two Great Marine Ecosystems. Galapagos has very dynamic oceanographic conditions and is constantly threatened by El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). Due to these climatic conditions, the levels of production of biodiversity and marine and coastal fishing are high. Galapagos is classified as "eco-region 200" therefore it must be conserved to save the world's biodiversity. By 2025 WWF aims to conserve and protect marine and coastal biodiversity both in the continental zone and the Galapagos in order to contribute to the welfare of society through "effectively managed ecosystems, ecologically representative, resilient and economically sustainable, protected by national authorities and international legal frameworks" (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

Sustainable cities and ecological footprint

Currently WWF-Ecuador focuses its efforts on reducing threats to species, their habitats and ecosystems by supporting the management of marine and terrestrial areas to reduce the gap between the conservation of natural spaces and sustainable development. In this way WWF seeks to collaborate in the design and implementation of responsible fishing practices and the reduction of ecological footprint through the tourism sector and the implementation of a comprehensive sustainable waste management system. Building local capacities is also crucial to maintain long-term sustainability.

Although WWF works in several regions of Ecuador, it has worked harder in Galapagos where the organization has been present since 1962. The increase in the human ecological footprint constantly threatens this biodiverse region, this is reflected in a greater demand

for energy and water, waste production, increase in wastewater generation, etc. (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha). WWF-Ecuador together with other groups has focused on a conservation model based on community and sustainable development, among some of its achievements we find:

- The development of the first integral municipal waste management system and recycling system in Galapagos.
- The design and renovation of facilities for handling primary fuel on the islands.
- The consolidation of an oil recycling project on Santa Cruz Island and the establishment of a similar collection system on San Cristobal Island.
- The implementation of a broad-based recycling campaign and technical support for the development of environmental policies, standards and guidelines.

WWF-Ecuador seeks to support the country in the implementation of its "National Climate Change Strategy" taking into account the need for mitigation and adaptation plans for impacts as well as the non-dependence on the use of fossil fuels (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

Fisheries

The fishing sector is one of the most important commercial sectors in Ecuador. It provides food and sustenance to many people. The most significant fishery for export is tuna, which is the main product after oil and other raw materials, followed by whitefish and shrimp ointment. Worldwide, Ecuador has excelled in the tuna industry. "In the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Ecuador has the largest purse seine and main catch fleet and the largest processing capacity" (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha). Currently the tuna stocks have reached their maximum performance due to the overcapacity of the fishing fleet and the impact that this can generate.

In Ecuador, artisanal fishing also stands out. Dorado is the main export product of whitefish whose main market is the United States. Ecuador is nowadays one of the main producers of this type of fish in the region. Likewise, the shrimp trawl fishery is a fishery on which artisanal fishermen and women who process the product on land depend.

Similarly, fishing for lobsters and sea cucumbers in the Galapagos is important for artisanal fishermen in the region (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

"WWF is the only environmental NGO that directly promotes sustainable fisheries in Ecuador, helping to prepare and implement specific action plans for each fishery" (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha). Likewise, the organization promotes the fishing of MSC certification, the management that takes into account rights of territorial use and quotas and the support for the implementation of projects to improve fishing.

In addition to the three approaches in which WWF-Ecuador operates, the organization has also identified priority attention species due to the constant threats they face.

Table 10 Species of priority attention of WWF Ecuador

Region	Species	Threats	Activities
Amazon	Jaguar	Destruction and fragmentation of their habitat; Decrease in their prey; Hunting and illegal trafficking.	Promotion of feline conservation strategies in greater danger through multinational action plans, participation of government entities, partners and financial support.
	River Dolphins (Pink Dolphin and Gray Dolphin)	Contamination of rivers, lagoons and forests; Oil spills, formation waters, chemicals, fuels and lubricants; Incidental catches in fishing nets.	Action Plan for Aquatic Mammals.
		Overfishing; Industrial fleets with	The organization works through the Pacific Oriental Program, so that the

Pacific Coast	Tuna	purse seines and longline lines;	<p>member countries of the IATTC³ maintain and expand their commitment to responsible management of resources;</p> <p>Focus on:</p> <p>Application of adequate fishing policies;</p> <p>Adoption of more robust management measures in relation to the uncertainties of stock assessments that include rights-based management (MDB) options;</p> <p>WWF works so that the IATTC does not allow any increase in the number of small vessels.</p>
	Sea Turtles (Green turtle, hawksbill turtle, leatherback turtle, olive ridley turtle)	<p>Predation by introduced species;</p> <p>Incidental fishing;</p> <p>Destruction of their nesting areas;</p> <p>Collection of eggs;</p>	<p>Marking of the turtles with satellite equipment to understand their movement patterns;</p> <p>Campaigns to users, crew and boats to raise awareness about the care of this species;</p> <p>Conservation Programs.</p>

³ Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Galápagos	Sharks	<p>Incidental capture; Capture of sharks to use their fins; Slow reproduction.</p>	<p>Support for the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Ecuador (PAT-EC); Works with the IATTC supporting the recommendations of scientists to implement appropriate conservation measures; Advocate for states to protect vulnerable species; Promotion of improvements in the monitoring and delivery of reports on the capture of this species to the IATTC.</p>
	Spiny Lobster.	<p>Overfishing; Environmental changes that generate modifications in the ecosystem.</p>	<p>WWF Galapagos Program works for the recovery of the red and green lobster fishery through advice and financing; Support in updating the fishing registry to identify active fishermen; Monitoring support in dock and underwater; Contribution with technical inputs for the design of</p>

			monitoring and calculation of quotas.
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Source: (WWF Ecuador, sin fecha).

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

Conclusion

The non-governmental organization World Wide Fund is one of the most important environmental organizations in the world. Its presence in more than 100 countries and its almost five million partners around the world have allowed it to work in key areas for environmental conservation. With a complex organic structure and funding mainly from donors, this organization has undertaken activities with the objective of saving biodiversity and reducing the ecological footprint of humanity. Since its creation, the organization has contributed with many activities in environmental conservation, working through different lines of action that involve the financial sector, markets and governance. Furthermore, it has partnered with corporations, local communities and the public sector. However, it has also been the target of criticism by certain groups and individuals, mainly because of their way of acting and the controversial members of the organization. At the local level, WWF Ecuador has stood out as one of the most important organizations that has contributed to the environmental aspects of the country, especially in the Galapagos Islands.

Since its creation in 1961, World Wide Fund has undertaken conservation activities in several countries around the world with the aim of protecting the environment. Over the years the activities of the organization have made a great contribution to the environment worldwide. Due to environmental campaigns, financing, environmental education, research, support to indigenous communities and working with corporations, financial entities and the public sector, WWF has shown that it plays an important role in the protection of the environment. In Ecuador, WWF has focused on three aspects:

conservation, fisheries, and sustainable cities and human ecological footprint. As in other countries, joint work with various sectors of society has allowed WWF Ecuador to succeed in its projects.

Despite its numerous contributions, this non-governmental organization has sometimes been overshadowed by actions that have undermined its credibility. In the first place, the fact that some members of their administrations have not been coherent with their concern for civil society when dealing with controversial world leaders, has caused society to question its legitimacy in acting. Second, by partnering with companies globally questioned in ecological terms for their destructive activities, WWF has generated a sense of rejection in some local and indigenous communities that constantly state that the true objective of this NGO is to whitewash the image of these corporations. In addition, the fact of being such a large and complex organization has caused WWF to move away on numerous occasions from its status as a non-governmental organization. However, throughout its more than fifty years of existence, this NGO has played an important role in the protection of the environment.

CHAPTER 4: WWF IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Ecuador is currently one of the most biodiverse countries in the world thanks to certain characteristics such as its geographical location, geology, climate, temperature, and biological and evolutionary factors. (Burneo, 2009) also points out that: "The seventeen countries of greatest diversity occupy less than 10% of the planet's surface, but they house seven out of ten recognized species, Ecuador is part of this list" (Ecuador País de las Orquideas, sin fecha). Ecuador is also a country with unique characteristics throughout the world since "about 20% of the world's bird species are here. A single national park like Podocarpus has more birds than all of Europe" (Ecuador en Cifras, sin fecha). In addition, geographically, Ecuador is divided into four regions that are rich in natural resources: Pacific Coast, the Amazon, the Galapagos and the Andes.

One of the most important regions not only in Ecuador but worldwide is the Insular Region or Galapagos. "This archipelago is considered the capital of biodiversity and conservation and is made up of two protected areas: the Galapagos National Park and the Galapagos Marine Reserve" (Parque Nacional Galápagos, sin fecha). Currently, Galapagos has more than 7,000 species of native and endemic plants and animals. Tourists and scientists from all over the world are attracted mainly by their unique landscapes and animals such as: giant tortoises, blue and red footed boobies, albatrosses, cormorants, marine and terrestrial iguanas, sea lions and hammerhead sharks, among others.

As to how they came to discover these important islands, it is known that the first human contact with this region was made by the Bishop Fray Tomás de Berlanga in 1535. After this event, the islands began to be visited by several groups like pirates, whalers and fishermen. However, between 1832 and 1959 the period of colonization occurred, thus annexing the Galápagos archipelago to the Republic of Ecuador in 1832 (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014).

It should be noted that Galápagos acquired greater relevance when in 1835 the English scientist, Charles Darwin, visited the islands, obtaining significant information to support his most important work "The origin of the species" which generated great interest in the international scientific community. In this regard, (Quiroga, 2009) mentions that:

"One of the most important aspects of the trip that Darwin made to the Galapagos, and the reason why hundreds of scientists have visited the archipelago, is that it allows them to observe the subtle but important differences between the continental animals and the Galápagos and thus understand the transformation processes of the species "(Jiménez, 2014).

Galapagos is the habitat of unique species that attract the attention of tourists and scientists from around the world. Before humans reach this region, wildlife developed and evolved without any contact with external agents forming unique ecosystems. When the human being colonized the islands, several habitats disappeared and with the passage of time, the increase of the population in the area generated greater demand for resources transforming ecosystems. In this way, the conservation of the Galapagos Islands has become a priority issue both locally and internationally, which is why several organizations around the world have sought to work for the conservation of this archipelago.

In 1959 the Galápagos Islands were declared a National Park. Its administration was also founded and became the main government agency in charge of environmental and social projects in the region. During that year the Charles Darwin Foundation was created, which focused on scientific research and conservation. In 1964 the Charles Darwin Scientific Station was also created. In this regard (Salcedo, 2008) states that: "the establishment of the Charles Darwin Research Station approximately 46 years ago on Santa Cruz Island, inaugurates research activities aimed at the conservation of the existing biodiversity in the Islands". However, the conservation and protection of resources in the Galapagos takes momentum when, in 1978, UNESCO declared the Galapagos Islands as the first Natural Patrimony of Humanity. This increased the interest in protecting endemic species and natural resources worldwide.

After the creation of the Charles Darwin Foundation, many non-governmental organizations have been interested in working in the Galapagos Islands. According to the NGO directory of the (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, sin fecha), there are currently 70 non-governmental organizations working in the area in Galapagos. One of these NGOs is World Wide Fund, which focuses mainly on the

conservation of the Islands. Although WWF arrives in Galapagos in 1961, its real work began in 2003 by implementing its own projects in collaboration with other organizations and the public sector.

4.1 Environmental Protection in Ecuador

Ecuador is a crucial country in terms of environment and biodiversity, for this reason it is very important to protect and conserve its natural resources through environmental norms and policies. Over the years, Ecuador has been incorporating certain regulations that seek to promote the conservation and care of the environment, however it should be noted that this did not begin until the end of the 70s. Since then and thanks to the Stockholm Conference which invited the international community to look after the environment, Ecuador improved its environmental legal regulations. Today, Ecuador has even recognized nature as subject of rights, thus breaking with the traditional anthropocentric scheme. In addition, in April 2018, the Organic Code of the Environment (OR-S 983: Apr 12, 2017) came into force, which aims to guarantee: i) the right of people to a healthy and balanced environment; and, ii) the rights of Nature.

4.1.1 Historical evolution of environmental protection in Ecuador

In Ecuador, in addition to the environmental legal regulations, environmental policies have been issued to encourage and promote the conservation and care of the environment in general. There is also focus on management and sustainable use of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable. As a result, the evolution that has existed with environmental policies in Ecuador is the following:

"Environmental legislation in Ecuador was enacted in a deficit form until the 70s, later with the signing of International Agreements or adherence to others of a conservationist nature, it began its environmental legislative development" (Narváez, 2004). The first legal body ratified by Ecuador was the International Statute for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources OR 399, of January 21, 1972. After this, other instruments were ratified, thanks to which the new Ecuadorian legislative order was prompted. Thanks to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, Ecuador began to become aware of the importance of preserving the environment. At the end of the 1980s the interest in the environment increased making way for public

debates. However, it was not until the 1990s that the legislation was specifically implemented in 1998 with the constitutional reform (Narváez, 2004).

Throughout the years, Ecuador has been incorporating environmental legislation into different areas. According to (Narváez, 2004), "environmental legislative trends have gone from the health conception of the seventies to the preservation of the eighties and the conception linked to the legislation that regulates productive and extractive activities which promotes sustainable development".

In the order of what is called national environmental legislation we find in 1981 the Forestry and Conservation Law of Natural Areas and Wildlife, being likewise modified on September 10, 2004 through its publication in the supplement of OR 418, validity that lasted until April 2018 being repealed by the Organic Environmental Code. In forestry, this Law is supported by various legal norms issued through executive decrees and ministerial agreements, referring to: protective forests and vegetation, afforestation and reforestation activities, adjudication of lands of the State's forestry heritage, the socio-forest project, the mangrove partner project, among others.

The Law of the Fund for the Amazon Regional Development and strengthening of its sectional organizations that was published in OR 30, of September 21, 1992 and is coded with a new version in OR 222 of December 1, 2003; this law is supported by its regulation that was issued in June 2008.

The Law that protects Biodiversity in Ecuador emerged in September 1996 and its latest codification is published in the supplement of the Official Register 418, of September 10, 2004. It should be noted that in April 2018 when the Organic Code came into force of the Environment (OR-S 983: Apr 12, 2017), this law was repealed.

The Law of Environmental Management was constituted as the main environmental regulation of Ecuador on July 30, 1999, as the law 99-37 published in the Official Register 245. With the passage of time the National Congress codified the Law of Environmental Management and then published it in the supplement of the Official Register 418 of September 10, 2004, when the Organic Environmental Code came into force it was also repealed. This normative body contains six titles that generally deal with the following

aspects: scope and principles of environmental management, institutional regime of environmental management, instruments of environmental management, financing, information and environmental monitoring and protection of environmental rights.

Within the Ecuadorian environmental legislation we also find the legal regulations for the protection and conservation of coastal and bio-aquatic resources, aquaculture, sustainable use of mangroves, marine pollution and international regulations for this type of resources. Thus, in March 2003, the Under-secretariat of Coastal Environmental Management was created to regulate and control these resources.

4.1.2 Environmental protection since the Constitution of 2008

In 2008, Ecuador took an important step in environmental protection because in the Constitution it recognized nature as subject of rights, thus breaking the anthropocentric vision of the environment. Therefore, the current Political Charter which establishes rights and determines the subjects, in the second paragraph of Article 10 states that: "Nature will be subject to those rights recognized by the Constitution" (Asamblea Constituyente de la República del Ecuador, 2008). This is consistent with Article 71 that expresses the right of nature and states that: "Nature or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and made, has the right to be fully respected as well as the maintenance and regeneration of their life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes" (Asamblea Constituyente de la República del Ecuador, 2008). There is also agreement with numeral 6 of Article 83 of the Constitution where the respect for the rights of nature is a duty and responsibility of all Ecuadorians.

Likewise, article 395 of the Constitution recognizes four environmental principles among them: "The State shall guarantee a sustainable development model, environmentally balanced and respectful of cultural diversity, which conserves biodiversity and the natural regeneration capacity of ecosystems, and ensure the satisfaction of the needs of present and future generations" (Asamblea Constituyente de la República del Ecuador, 2008).

Finally, "The Plenary of the National Assembly, in response to a pressing need, dictates the Organic Code of the Environment, published in the Supplement to the Official Register No. 983, of April 12, 2017, with the unique final provision which came into

effect after twelve months, that is, in April 2018 "(Galarza, 2017). This is the most recent advance in environmental matters in Ecuador, which seeks to guarantee the right of people to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment while regulating the rights, duties and environmental guarantees contained in the Constitution and other instruments.

4.1.3 Environmental protection and conservation in the Galapagos Islands

A wide legal norm has been dictated for the Galápagos Archipelago which is the first protected National Park that Ecuador has, besides being our Insular Province. In the first place, the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador in article 258 establishes that "The province of Galapagos will have a special regime government; its planning and development will be organized according to a strict adherence to the principles of conservation of the State's natural heritage and good living in accordance with what the law determines" (Asamblea Constituyente de la República del Ecuador, 2008).

Nowadays, the Organic Code of the Environment is the most important norm in environmental matters at the national level. It addresses all environmental issues including the coastal marine zone in which the Insular Region or Galápagos is included. Article 262 of this Code specifies that: "The Insular Region or Galapagos is governed by its special rules for the conservation, sustainable management and protection of marine wildlife, as well as for marine protected areas" (Asamblea Constituyente de la República del Ecuador, 2017).

In June 2015, the National Assembly issued the Organic Law of the Special Regime of the Province of Galapagos, published in the Supplement of the OR 520 and its General Regulations of Application published in the OR 989 of April 21, 2017, repealing the Special Regime Law for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Province of Galapagos and its respective Regulations.

The Galapagos National Park and the Galápagos Marine Reserve are part of the State Natural Areas Heritage. These two protected areas must be managed correctly and that is why in 2014 the Ministry of the Environment approved the "Plan for the Management of Protected Areas of the Galapagos for Good Living" published in the OR 153 of July 22,

2014. This Plan of Management is particularly special since its preparation had the support of civil society with the objective of committing everyone to achieve the conservation objectives in the Galapagos Islands.

Likewise, a series of regulations, executive decrees, resolutions and ministerial agreements have been issued dealing with: tourism in protected natural areas, permits for foreign ships, biosecurity and introduced species control, protection and conservation in general, artisanal fishing and control of motor vehicles and machinery.

4.2 Brief description of the Galapagos Islands

4.2.1 Location and Governance

The archipelago of Galápagos is located in the Pacific Ocean at the height of the equatorial line and is isolated from the American continent. It consists of 13 large islands which have an area superior than 10 km², 5 medium islands and 216 islets. 99.7% of the insular area is made up of the islands: Isabela, Santa Cruz, Fernandina, Santiago and San Cristóbal (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014). In this region there are large marine and terrestrial ecosystems among which we find:

- Aquifers;
- Wetland ecosystems;
- Ecosystems of transition zone;
- Ecosystems of arid zone;
- Wetlands;
- Coastal zone ecosystems;
- Ecosystems of the subtidal zone;
- Pelagic zone ecosystems.

Galapagos is one of the 24 provinces of Ecuador and was declared as such, on February 18, 1973. It is divided into three cantons that are the islands: San Cristóbal, Santa Cruz and Isabela and five rural parishes (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014).

Figure 9 Political Division of the Province of Galapagos.

Cantón	Islas Principales	Capital Cantonal	Superficie (Km ²)	Superficie (%)	Parroquias Rurales
San Cristóbal	San Cristóbal, Española, Genovesa, Santa Fe, Floreana	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno	848,5	12,8	El Progreso Santa María
Isabela	Isabela, Darwin, Wolf, Fernandina	Puerto Villamil	5.367,5	80,9	Tomás de Berlanga
Santa Cruz	Marchena, Pinta, Pinzón, Santiago, Seymour, Baltra	Puerto Ayora	415,5	6,3	Bellavista, Santa Rosa

Source: (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014)

This province depends on the Central Government and entities of sectional regime or special regime, its powers are defined in the Constitution and in the Organic Law of Special Regime for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Galapagos and other regulatory bodies. Regarding the management of the conservation and development of the province, there are several national, regional and international private non-governmental entities that collaborate on this issue (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014).

4.2.2 International instruments ratified by Ecuador applicable in the Galapagos Islands
Throughout the years, Ecuador has ratified several international instruments related to the environment, many of them are applied directly or indirectly in the Galapagos Islands. The (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014), states that these instruments once ratified and published in the Official Registry become part of the legal system of the country, so compliance is mandatory. Table 11 outlines the main international instruments related to conservation in Galapagos:

Table 11 International instruments ratified by Ecuador applicable in Galapagos.

Denominación
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992.
Convention for the Protection of the World, Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris Convention), 1972.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973.
Man and Biosphere Program (MaB Program) 1971.

Convention on wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitats (Ramsar Convention), 1971.
Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, 1989.
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, 1994.
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982.
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, 1983.
Canberra Agreement on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, 2001.
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973.
Protocol relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1978.
Common Regime on Access to Genetic Resources-Decision No.391 of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement, year 1996.
Adoption of the referential model for requesting access to genetic resources - Resolution No. 414 of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, 1996.
Adoption of the referential model of contract of access to genetic resources - Resolution No. 415 of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, 1996.

Source: (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2014)

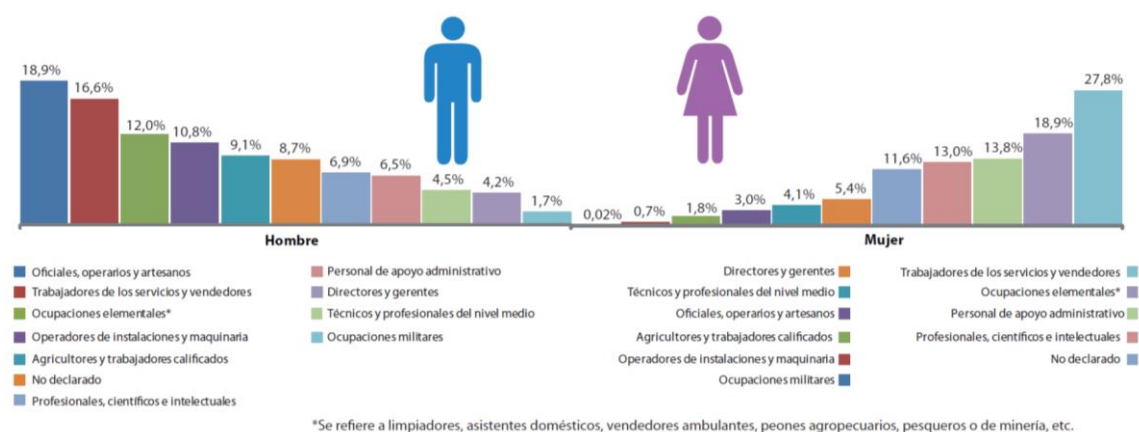
Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

4.2.3 Population and productive activities.

In the last census made in Ecuador in 2010, it was determined that Galápagos have a population of 25,124 of which 122,103 are women and 13,021 are men. This makes it the province with the smallest population in the country. Of the 25,124 people residing in this province, 2,078 make up an itinerant population of foreigners and nationals (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos, 2010).

In the Galapagos Islands the population is dedicated to different productive activities that are divided into two main groups, the first are: service workers, elementary and official occupations, workers or craftsmen (mainly those who are dedicated to the tourism industry as cruise crew, captains, sailors, helmsmen cooks, waiters, tour guides, etc). In the second group of occupations we have those who perform administrative work and scientific professions (Salvador, 2015).

Figure 10 Types of work of the population in Galapagos.



Source: (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos, 2010).

4.2.4 Conservation in the Galapagos Islands

Nowadays the conservation of the Galapagos Islands is of great importance and interest both locally and internationally. However, it was not always so due to the excessive use of natural resources, the introduction of species alien to the ecosystems of the region and the lack of control which caused changes and losses that affected the Islands.

During the process of colonization, changes in the Galapagos ecosystems became more and more noticeable, mainly due to introduced species that diminished the native species. In addition, fishing resources were threatened by the presence of fishing fleets entering the area. All this drew the attention of European and American scientists for the precarious situation of the Islands. In this regard (Quiroga, 2009) mentions that:

"UNESCO sent Robert Bowman and Eibl-Eibesfeldt in 1956 to make a report on the situation of the islands. [...] Following this report, European, American and

Ecuadorian scientists asked the Ecuadorian government for the creation of the Galapagos National Park (GNP), which would be advised by a scientific station. In 1959 the government determined that 97% of the archipelago is a protected area" (Salvador, 2015).

The establishment of the Galapagos National Park in 1959 and the Charles Darwin Research Station in 1964 prompted scientists from around the world to conduct research and influence the creation of policies and strategies for the conservation of the Galapagos. (Salvador, 2015) highlights that: "Once established the agencies that would be responsible for the administration of the protected area, the administration of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station, the activities related to conservation became more relevant in the archipelago". In this way, international environmental and conservation organizations entered the Islands to cooperate in their development, focusing above all on their conservation.

These organizations, mostly of a non-governmental nature, worked in the Islands with a development model that promoted cooperation between the State and organization which made their work indispensable and happened what (Salvador, 2015) mentions: "the generation of dependence on institutions and foreign aid, in addition to contributing to the change of cultural patterns". From the moment NGOs established themselves in the Galapagos Islands, their work prioritized conservation, leaving aside social factors. In this way, the population had to forge its development based on models that were not sustainable misusing natural resources. In this regard (Salvador, 2015), states that there was a paradox in the Galápagos, because without the help of the conservation sector, the population of the island developed productive activities that did not take into account the ecological sector or the natural constraints.

The Ministry of the Environment points out that currently Galápagos still has a good degree of conservation in comparison with other archipelagos of the world. However, in 2007 UNESCO included the Galapagos Islands in the list of heritage in danger, later, in 2010 it was removed from this list. Despite the fact that multiple organizations and the public sector have been strongly involved in the protection, and therefore in the

environmental conservation of the Galapagos, the Islands remain vulnerable, especially due to the introduction of species and the mismanagement of resources.

4.3 The role of the World Wide Fund in the Galapagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands are especially important for WWF. One of the first projects worldwide that this organization carried out in 1961, was to grant financing for the construction of the Charles Darwin Research Station. From 1961 to 2003, WWF did not have a national office in Ecuador, however, the organization contributed mainly with funding for the implementation of conservation projects of other organizations such as the Charles Darwin Foundation. It has also contributed with reports on the state of the Galapagos Islands, in collaboration with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, influencing the creation of policies and regulations for this region. In 2003 WWF Galapagos became a formal program and in 2014 the national office of WWF Ecuador was created. However, it should be noted that WWF Ecuador is not an NGO with local autonomy since it depends on WWF United States, therefore, it is still a program.

4.3.1 World Wide Fund activities in the Galapagos Islands

In 1961, WWF financially contributed to the creation of the Charles Darwin Research Station with the aim of promoting conservation through scientific research in this important region. After this contribution, WWF supported the implementation of programs and projects directed by other organizations, but it should be emphasized that their contribution was mainly financial. WWF obtained resources from international donors interested in the conservation of the Galapagos Islands and provided these resources to those who had projects in place. The second largest contribution made by the organization in the Galapagos occurred in 1998, when the government of Ecuador promulgated the Special Law of Galapagos as a legal framework to protect the Islands and created the Galapagos Marine Reserve, WWF contributed with technical advice. In 2014, the National Assembly approved the "Management Plan for Protected Areas of the Galapagos for Good Living", on this occasion WWF significantly contributed with information and technical advice for the preparation of this important plan.

Given the importance of the Galapagos Islands worldwide, in 2003 WWF established in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, an office as the Galápagos Eco-Regional Program. Since then, WWF has been working on four main programs or lines of action for conservation: Sustainable Cities and Human Footprint, Ecotourism, Oceans and Coasts, and Fisheries.

Sustainable Cities and Human Footprint

WWF is currently focused on reducing threats to species and their habitats, as well as to ecosystems. For this purpose it seeks to support a properly planned management so that marine and terrestrial protected areas are included. Reducing the gap between human development and natural conservation is crucial to achieving an ecological balance.

Table 12 Projects of Sustainable Cities and Human Footprint.

Project	Problem to solve	Concrete activities
Analysis of water, soil and air quality in Isabela Island.	The impact of the human footprint threatens ecosystems due to pollution, untreated wastewater, heavy metals, spilled oils and pesticides.	Studies to identify potential sources of pollution and monitor their impact on water, air and soil. Results contribute to the creation of an environmental management plan.
Wastewater treatment plant applying the constructed methodology of wetlands.	Low quality of basic services. Pollution above normal levels in watersheds due to untreated wastewater.	Study of environmental monitoring indicators in collaboration with the Municipality of Isabela. Technical support for the design and study of the environmental

		impact of the installation of the plant.
Integrated management of solid waste in the Galapagos.	The waste generated in the Galapagos used to be burned in open landfills without any environmental protection being a threat to conservation.	Technical assistance, donation of equipment, education campaigns on best recycling practices and waste reduction. Campaign "Reciclaman". In 2014, WWF produced a manual on "Integrated Waste Management in Insular Regions based on the experience acquired in Santa Cruz Island".
Restriction of plastic bags.	They threaten wildlife. Approximately 4 million plastic bags and 1.2 million containers of polyethylene foam are consumed annually in the Galapagos, contaminating the environment.	Technical support in the drafting of a resolution, in February 2015 the Governing Council of Galapagos approved a provincial ordinance that prohibited certain types of plastics. Environmental education campaigns, distribution of reusable covers.

Source: (WWF Ecuador, 2016)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán

Outstanding achievements of the Sustainable Cities and Human Footprint program:

- Development of the first integral municipal waste management and recycling system in the Galapagos.
- Design and renovation of primary fuel handling facilities in the Islands.
- Consolidation of an oil recycling project on Santa Cruz Island and the establishment of a similar system on San Cristobal Island.
- Implementation of a broad-based recycling campaign and technical support for the development of environmental policies, standards and guidelines.
- Domestic waste separated into organic and non-recyclable.
- Waste collection from the sidewalks of all inhabited areas.
- More than 40% of household waste recycled or converted into compost.
- In 2015, plastic bags were banned; in 2018, straws, polyethylene containers and non-returnable bottles were banned.

Ecotourism

Currently 19% of the Ecuadorian territory is included in the System of Protected Areas of Ecuador, this has made the Ecuadorian government recognize ecotourism within its national policies and invest in the promotion of this sector. Through the National Ecotourism Program, WWF Ecuador provides support to the public and private sector for the implementation of strategies with the objective of improving tourism management and mitigating the impact on ecosystems (WWF Ecuador, 2016).

With this program, the organization aims to achieve responsible tourism that promotes the sustainable use of resources. WWF seeks to reduce over consumption and waste, thus involving local people which can also benefit from this sector. This program works through three main areas:

- Tourism and public use of protected areas.
- Best Practices Strategy and the international TourCert certification.
- Monitoring of tourism aimed at reducing or mitigating the impact, as well as contributing with technical information to improve the management measures of the Ecuadorian government.

Table 13 Ecotourism Projects.

Project	Problem to solve	Concrete activities
<p>New Ecotourism Opportunities for Galápagos</p>	<p>In the last decade, the increase in tourists has generated greater pressure in protected areas.</p>	<p>Work in selected sites in these protected areas to develop projects that promote interaction between the local community and biodiversity.</p> <p>Work in Isla Isabela to apply the plan and management of: Tintorerías Bay, Wetlands and Volcán Chico.</p> <p>On Santa Cruz Island the NGO works with the Galapagos National Park and the local community including the local surf club to improve the management of sites such as Salinas.</p>
<p>Experimental fishing.</p>	<p>High pressure in marine ecosystems harms conservation.</p>	<p>WWF Ecuador, the Galapagos National Park and the Ministry of Tourism develop this project by supporting local fishermen in operations and financial profitability.</p>

Explore Galapagos.	Tourism that does not provide information on conservation management of protected areas.	Performs activities that promote a balanced and respectful coexistence between communities and protected areas. Guided tours in protected areas providing information on conservation and management.
Best Ecotourism Practices and the international TourCert certification.	Production of plastic waste, lack of wastewater treatment, pollution in water sources, dependence on fossil fuels.	Association with the public and private sector in the design of new sustainable tourism strategies. Launch of the "Best Ecotourism Practices" campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, the National Park and the Municipalities.
Tourism Monitoring System in Galapagos.	Understanding of tourism dynamics in protected areas.	In 2011, WWF supported the Ministry of Tourism in launching the Tourism Monitoring System in Galapagos. This project visualizes in real time what happens in Galapagos regarding the impact of tourism activities. Statistics of tourism

		dynamics, reports of observations of guides, statistics.
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Source: (WWF Ecuador, 2016)

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

Outstanding achievements of the Ecotourism program:

- Experimental fishing is ensuring equitable distribution of benefits through the creation of local businesses, diversification of tourism products and new opportunities to share fishing traditions with visitors.
- Through the multiple activities, Explora Galápagos has reinforced the importance of conservation by recruiting participants to become permanent custodians of protected areas.
- WWF played a key role during a three-year process to improve the model that includes, local governance, the design of new ecotourism activities and the monitoring of the impact on the tourism sector.

Oceans and Coasts

The Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean is the home of a vast biodiversity and endemism where many species that are the basis of tourism and fisheries production concentrates. Many of these species, such as whales, sea lions, sharks, turtles, depend on the integrity of this ecosystem. Ecuador is located in the southern zone of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, its marine territory is divided into the mainland and the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos Islands are located where the main ocean currents converge; the oceanographic conditions are also very dynamic allowing high levels of biodiversity in this area.

WWF aims for the year 2025 to conserve and protect marine biodiversity in Ecuador, mainly in key conservation sites including the Galapagos Islands. It wants also to ensure the well-being of local communities.

Table 14 Oceans and Coasts Projects.

Project	Problem to solve	Concrete activities
New zoning in the protected areas of the Galapagos.	Before 2016, the protected areas, the Marine Reserve and the National Park were independently managed with different objectives and plans that weakened their effective management.	WWF Ecuador support the National Park in an extensive process of multiple phases of planning and social commitment to design and implement a new zoning strategy.
Solutions to conserve marine mega-fauna in the continental marine-coastal areas of Ecuador.	Every year between June and October about 2400 giant stingrays visit Ecuador.	In 2015, a group of experts from the public sector and several NGOs, including WWF, met to discuss the status of marine conservation in Ecuador.
Evaluation of the risk of human activities in the Galapagos ecosystems.	The use of marine and coastal resources for human development threatens the ecosystems and habitats of important species.	INVEST Program, in collaboration with the Capital Natural Project, using the Habitat Risk Assessment model that identifies the risks of human activities in these ecosystems.

Source: (WWF Ecuador, 2016).

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

Outstanding achievements of the Oceans and Coasts program:

- The project "Solutions to conserve marine mega-fauna in the continental marine-coastal areas of Ecuador" contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species.
- The results of the project "Assessment of the risk of human activities in the Galapagos ecosystems" have been fundamental for the decision making of the Galapagos National Park.

Fisheries

The Galapagos Marine Reserve is one of the largest protected areas in the world, therefore, patrolling and monitoring becomes expensive. Its vast biodiversity is attractive for illegal fishing, which together with overfishing and illegal industrial fishing threaten the islands' marine ecosystem. On the other hand, artisanal fishing is the livelihood of the population of the local communities that dedicate themselves to this work. WWF aims to address the main causes that threaten the region by supporting the Galapagos National Park in the management of the control and surveillance system of the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

Table 15 Fisheries Projects.

Project.	Problem to solve.	Concrete activities.
Monitoring and adaptive management of spiny lobster.	The insufficiency of the management measures to achieve the sustainability of the spiny lobster fishery.	Implementation of the project "Securing a Sustainable Future for Galapagos" with the objective of providing technical and scientific assistance to the Galapagos National Park and artisanal fishermen. Publication of the research "Improving the Spiny

		Lobster Fishery in the Galapagos Marine Reserve".
Fishing calendar.	Fishing in large volumes and great waste or overfishing. Dangerous working conditions.	Work with fishing communities to adopt sustainable practices. Warn the Galapagos National Park Administration and the Participatory Management Council of the Galapagos Marine Reserve on technical issues related to fisheries management. Since 2007, WWF has awarded scholarships to outstanding students in the Galapagos area to study issues related to environmental management, tourism and business administration.

Source: (World Wide Fund, sin fecha).

Elaborated by: Paola Farfán.

Outstanding achievements of the fisheries program:

- Promotion of the transition to live lobsters instead of queues and piloting of lobster tanks to supply local restaurants.

- Development of several projects, among them the project "Experimental Use of Traps in the RMG" with the objective of evaluating the selectivity and efficiency of the capture of experimental lobsters.
- Improvement of working conditions in artisanal fisheries.
- Greater control of illegal fishing.

4.3.2 Analysis of the role of World Wide Fund in the protection of the environment in the Galapagos Islands

After its creation in 1961, World Wide Fund undertakes one of its first conservation efforts in one of the most emblematic places in the world, the Galapagos Islands. These islands, located in the Pacific Ocean, 972km from the coast of Ecuador, are considered the biodiversity capital of the world and have generated great interest in society for decades. However, it is not until 1973, when they were declared as an Ecuadorian province, that the State truly cared about its conservation. In this way, in the sixties, some non-governmental organizations saw in the Galapagos an opportunity to strengthen their work of environmental protection and conservation. WWF arrives in the Islands in 1961 and makes its first major financial contribution to create the Charles Darwin Research Station whose objective is to provide scientific information for the conservation of the Islands. Until 2003, WWF contributed mainly with financing for the implementation of projects, technical advice and scientific reports in collaboration with other organizations. Since 2003, when WWF opened an office in the Galapagos, this NGO has been implementing its own projects and also collaborating with projects of other organizations and the State. The presence of NGOs in the Islands has had both negative and positive impacts, WWF being one of these organizations has also been criticized and praised for its actions. During the more than 50 years that the organization has been present in the Galapagos, the reality has been changing, as well as its role in the protection of the environment. Currently it can be said that its role is to contribute financially and technically in the implementation of projects in collaboration with the State and other organizations. In order to analyze the role of World Wide Fund in the Galapagos Islands, the perceptions of three crucial sectors questioned through interviews were taken into account: Yolanda Kakabadse and Carla Román as former officials of the organization,

Sol Espinosa as representative of the public sector and Daniel Orellana as a representative of civil society.

World Wide Fund is an organization that was born in Switzerland in 1961 with the aim of protecting the environment. By that time the environment just began to be of interest to the international community mainly in Europe, and there were few organizations interested in the subject, one of which was WWF. Being born in a continent rich in both financial and human resources, has allowed this organization to have a greater influence in the places where it has worked. Galápagos is an especially important place in the history of this NGO because that is where one of its first conservation works began. The financial contribution to the creation of the Charles Darwin Research Station constitutes the first macro contribution of this NGO. From 1961 to 2003 WWF mainly provided financial resources to other organizations to implement environmental projects. In this way, the organization has been strongly linked to the development of programs that have improved the environmental situation of the Galapagos. Currently, WWF no longer only provides resources, but also develops projects in conjunction with other organizations and the State. However, from a civil society perspective (Orellana, 2018) who worked for two years at the Charles Darwin Foundation, considers that WWF's work has been mainly to channel funds. That is to say, to receive funds from foreign donors and deliver them to whoever needs them. At first glance, this is a noble action that boosts conservation on the islands because money is essential for the development of projects. However, there is a downside to being a channel of funds. For (Orellana, 2018), NGO's financing models are perverse because they have the risk of becoming businesses, and he states that: "WWF is not a grassroots NGO, it is an international corporation dedicated to the conservation business that does not responds to local realities". While it is true, the financial contribution that WWF has provided has been important to carry out projects that have transpired in the Islands, but this has caused the organization to move away from its status as an NGO. (Orellana, 2018), considers that "this model that NGOs use is absolutely untenable because they only respond to the needs of the laundering of consciences of corporations that donate millions of dollars". Therefore it is necessary to question how clean and legitimate is the money with which projects are being developed for "noble" causes such as conservation in Galapagos.

In addition to financing, WWF has contributed technically in the implementation of projects in conjunction with the State and other organizations. Although until 2003 its main contribution was financial, it also stood out during those years for its support in the presentation of reports and collaboration in projects that were directed by other organizations. Since it is an important and internationally renowned NGO, its relationship with civil society has allowed it to know more closely the reality of the environmental situation worldwide. For (Román, 2018), former official of WWF Galápagos, "NGOs are useful because they help in the human talent part as they have a quality staff, as well as in the financial part because they are always helping to solve the lack of resources of the institutions". However, the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the population has not always been the best. For years, the Galapagos community has questioned the fact that these organizations have focused on the conservation and welfare of the species, but not on the development of their population. In this sense, (Salcedo, 2008) emphasizes that the external perspective through which NGOs have acted has marked the priorities when implementing projects that are not based on local interests. As it was mentioned before, WWF is an organization that was born in Europe, therefore, the western vision of conservation in the Galapagos Islands has led to the establishment of a model alien to local reality. For (Salcedo, 2008), the fact that it has not been a locally constructed process, which has inspired the conservation of the archipelago's natural resources, has possibly been the root of the difficulties of these organizations to insert themselves into local dynamics. In addition often those who work in these types of organizations, come from European countries and do not fully understand the local culture. (Román, 2018), for example, mentions that NGOs usually have foreign staff, mainly volunteers, therefore, for the people of Galapagos it is not so easy to access to work in these organizations. There is no doubt that WWF has contributed substantially from a technical point of view, by providing scientific information, developing joint projects and collaborating with the State and other organizations with the aim of conserving this Natural Heritage of Humanity. However, their biased vision of reality has generated a certain type of rejection by the local community distorting their role in the protection of the environment.

Currently, the role of WWF is mainly to contribute financially and technically in the implementation of projects in collaboration with the State and other organizations. However, it was not always the case because the role of this organization has evolved over the years. In 1961, when WWF arrived in the Galapagos, the Ecuadorian State was already regulating the Islands through the Galapagos National Park. Nevertheless its presence was not strong enough and it acted on recommendations from international organizations. Thus, the Charles Darwin Foundation that is present in Galapagos since 1959, exercised great power in the Islands for years since the State lacked a strong institutional framework to create and implement norms. (Orellana, 2018) mentions that "during those years the really strong institution was the Charles Darwin Foundation and the National Park gravitated around the Foundation because it said what had to be done, what had to be investigated, what had to be prohibited, what had to be allowed, etc". In this way we can see the little influence of the State in the control and management of the Islands at that time. The presence of non-governmental organizations allowed the development of conservation activities that otherwise the State would not have done. This meant to a certain point, the replacement of the State by the NGOs present in the Galapagos, mainly the Charles Darwin Foundation and World Wide Fund. Since 1973, when Galapagos was declared as a province, the role began to be reversed and finally the Ecuadorian State displaces a series of state dependencies to this province. For (Orellana, 2018) the State finally assumed its role which was the management of the Islands and NGOs were displaced because they should never be a substitute for the State. This has caused non-governmental organizations to focus on their objectives and act more effectively. However, soon another problem developed in the Galapagos, the huge proliferation of NGOs. Since Galápagos is a brand, the institutions that finance projects generate a strong flow of resources that NGOs try to capture. In this sense (Orellana, 2018) emphasizes that "many of the NGOs have been losing their role, their reason for being, they have become institutions that capture and channel financing rather than institutions that play a specific role". Currently, non-governmental organizations cannot work in the Islands without the approval of the State. For this reason they have lost their role as critical actors of the public sector, sometimes becoming instruments and no longer representing civil society. On the other hand, NGOs have focused on issues such as

research, environmental education, development, etc. (Espinosa, 2018), in charge of international relations of the Galapagos National Park, states that nowadays "the role of the State is conservation; definitely. However, the role of NGOs is essential to speed up the implementation of public actions and decision-making". Similarly (Kakabadse, 2018) former world president of WWF has stated that:

"WWF is almost 60 years old and those 60 years have allowed it not only to build important agendas but also to adapt to the realities of the current world and it does it very well. Before when it was created, it only worked in conservation, but now it works in markets, in finance, in governance because time has changed and we can see that these spaces are very important for the construction of a conservation agenda ".

Conclusion

WWF arrived in the Galapagos Islands in 1961 and since then it has fulfilled a series of activities that have contributed to the protection of the environment focusing mainly on conservation. Currently, the organization fulfills the role of contributing mainly financially and technically in the implementation of projects in collaboration with the State and other organizations. Additionally it performs tasks of: education, research, development and advocacy. It should be noted that in the period between 1961 and 2003, the year in which the WWF Galapagos office was created, it contributed mainly with financing to implement projects of other organizations. Similarly, when the State did not have a strong presence in the Galapagos, this and other NGOs even replaced it with the objective of conserving the Islands. During the period in which the organization has been present in this region, the local community has been benefited but also harmed by its actions. On the technical side, WWF has developed many projects in collaboration with other organizations and the State whose results have greatly favored the Islands. However, the conservationist vision of those who have carried out these projects, has led to the neglect of the needs of the Galapagos population. In the financial field, WWF is probably the organization that has contributed the most in Galapagos, beginning with the financing of the Charles Darwin Research Station and currently collaborating with other

groups in society. However, this financing has sometimes been questioned because of its provenance and because it does not respond to the local needs. The role that WWF has fulfilled in the Galapagos Islands has been fundamental in its protection and conservation. Over the years, its role has evolved and on many occasions the organization has moved away from its status as a non-governmental organization. Nevertheless, this does not allow us to deny the great contribution that the organization has made through financing and technical advice in this important region of the world.

CONCLUSIONS

The transversality of environmental problems has sown in society the need to act urgently before it is too late. Environmental deterioration has the characteristic of spreading throughout the planet regardless of where the damage was caused. This makes it an international problem that can only be resolved through cooperation. While it is true, States are the main agents in charge of solving environmental problems, however, their efforts have been insufficient, generating dissatisfaction in civil society. In this context, non-governmental organizations have stood out as important actors in the international arena contributing in many ways to the protection of the environment. These organizations are present in almost every corner of the planet, many of them, in addition to working globally, have chosen key places to act. For this research, the case study of World Wide Fund in the Galapagos Islands was analyzed in order to determine the role of non-governmental organizations in the protection of the environment and its impact, reaching the following conclusions:

First, the protection of the environment is the responsibility of the States, which is why it is necessary to cooperate through international instruments and organizations. However, their efforts have not been sufficient since with the passage of time it has been possible to demonstrate the little that has been achieved in environmental matters. On the one hand, international instruments such as conventions, treaties, protocols, declarations, have served as normative frameworks for environmental protection in different countries. Nevertheless, their non-compliance, mainly by the States that have caused the most destruction, has shown that the environment is not one of their priorities. On the other hand, international organizations have served as structures for States to cooperate in the search for solutions to environmental problems, however, they have not been effective either. In this context, non-governmental organizations have assumed the duty to promote environmental protection and to demand that States comply with their commitment to protect the environment in order to ensure the well-being of both current and future generations.

Second, non-governmental organizations have had a strong impact on the protection of the environment. Before this issue was incorporated into the international agenda with the Stockholm Conference in 1972, NGOs were already acting to protect the environment through different activities that attracted attention worldwide. After this, non-governmental organizations became more visible when they contributed by exerting pressure so that the States cooperate in the search of solutions to the environmental problems. In this context, international instruments and subsequently international organizations responsible for the environment, emerged. Despite the States' intention to cooperate on environmental issues, their efforts have been ineffective, something that non-governmental organizations have constantly analyzed and criticized. In addition to questioning States, NGOs have simultaneously developed activities to protect the environment worldwide, especially in the areas most vulnerable to environmental degradation. Among its most important contributions we can find: research, development, political advocacy, financing, technical assistance and education.

Third, World Wide Fund has played an important role in protecting the environment in the Galapagos Islands. Since its discovery, the Enchanted Islands have attracted the attention of both scientists and tourists seeking to investigate and learn more about their secrets. However, the constant flow of people and the precarious attention of the State for decades, has made the Islands vulnerable to environmental degradation. In this way, some non-governmental organizations have considered working in this Ecuadorian region with the objective of conserving them and protecting them from what the human being normally causes, destruction. In 1961, WWF arrived in the Galapagos, a time when the state was just beginning to exercise authority in the area. Over the years, the role of WWF has evolved. For some decades, this and other NGOs replaced the State in a certain way since its presence in the Islands was very weak. Currently, this organization fulfills the role of contributing mainly financially and technically in the implementation of projects in collaboration with the State and other organizations, additionally it performs education, research, development and advocacy.

Finally, it is important to highlight that non-governmental organizations have also been the object of questions that have arisen over the years. They still need to be studied in

depth, including their presence as representatives of civil society. Environmental issues are especially important towards building a society that takes into account not only the decisions at the political level but also the voice of the other social actors.

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