

**Mesa, G. (2018). *An idea of environmental justice. Elements of conceptualization and foundation.* Bogotá: National University of Colombia.**

It defines a theory of environmental justice and formulate the central constituent elements of such a theory, as well as its foundation.

It presents a description of environmental conflict, some elements of the concept of environmental justice, the legal debate on environmental justice, possibilities of environmental justice and conclusions.

There are multiple ways in which damage to the environment can be reflected in nature and culture, therefore, one of the concepts of environmental justice has to do with the recognition of the existence of environmental injustices associated with the multiple expressions of the environmental conflict that power, capital and its holders intend to deny in various ways.

Environmental justice starts from the claim of movements, organizations, peoples and communities at a disadvantage against the material expressions of environmental injustice, which is the result of an unresolved environmental conflict that socializes environmental liabilities and keeps the benefits for the owners of National and transnational companies that defend ideas of neo-extractivism, polluter and unjust with the support of states in the north and global south.

The elements of environmental justice have multiple dimensions, ranging from the vindication of ideas of environmental dignity when third parties unjustifiably and illegitimately appropriate nature or one of its elements, making the burdens of damage and deterioration fall on the most poor and vulnerable people. For this appropriation they resort to the co-optation of the State, to produce knowledge in their own interest, as well as to various forms of force, including that of the States and para-states to extract and prey on nature in the least time and cost possible.

The implementation of environmental justice involves a new way of understanding and defending rights, from an integrity perspective that takes into account the claims of peoples, communities, traditional societies, peasants and marginalized urban populations. Thus, the idea of the environmental imperative incorporates a basic principle of organization of societies, where a society, a State and a constitution can only be considered environmental, yes and only if, they incorporate it in the fundamental norms.

Environmental justice is the materialization of a long-term common and collective process for the protection of the complexity and comprehensiveness of all dimensions, elements and components of the environment, since it allows us to contribute to solving environmental conflicts from the legal-political and ethical. It seeks to recover all injustices, so that all beings have dignity, both the environment in general, and all its components, whether ecosystems and their cultures, are not reduced to only natural resources or human capital.