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Chapter 3: Ideal types of environmentalism

Summary: This chapter begins by defining taxonomy as a way of categorizing organisms. The chapter then connects that idea of categorization to how different environmentalism groups have been categorized. Not any one group will fit the criteria of a categorization, rather many groups are put into a category based upon shared ideas, goals, and recurring patterns. In the Global North, many different groups exist. Almost as many different groups as there are different types of people. In Ecuador four main groups exist. The ecoimperialists and the ecodependants are related due to the fact that the ecoimperialists provide the funding for the ecodependadnts. Therefore, they have shared interests because of their connection. These relationships were born in the Neoliberal Boom Era (1987-2000). Ecoresistant and ecoentrepreneur groups share similarities in that they both abstain from accepting foreign funding, generally. The fact that these groups do not accept the outside funding, it has given them the freedom to choose their agendas and be more independent. This aspect is what is a key point in defining and separating the ecodependants from the ecoresistant groups. These ecoentrepeneur groups were their strongest in the Neoliberal Bust Era (2000-2006) and some believe that they main gain for strength in the future.

Ecoimperialists: Ecoimperialists are a group that have “bases” outside of Ecuador or in the big cities such has Quito that bring in funding from the outside for efforts toward biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Sometimes these groups are seen as intruders who are inserting themselves in Ecuador to do whatever they want. Generally they are seen as a negative force. Although seen as negative, these groups did help introduce national parks into the country when the government was weak and provided much need ecological help. Some of these groups are changing their ways and working with Ecuadorian citizens and giving off a more positive message. Perhaps in the future they will be seen in a different light because they have indeed provided help.

Ecodependant: Ecodependants are groups that exist within the country and work closely with ecoimperialists because they are funded by them. They are able to maintain full time staff and have larger budgets but often are limited in what they can do because they are at the whim of those who are funding them. These groups were involved in some of the first debt-for-nature swaps and creating win-win conservation goals. Some issues involved with the ecodependants are that they often have unstable funding. Generally, they have contributed to the betterment and furthering of conservation.

Ecoresistors: Ecoresistors are groups that are more like activists rather than organized groups. These groups are more grassroots and work with communities to teach sustainability and educate the public. These groups are generally seen with a more positive outlook than the latter two. These groups work locally within a region and have the freedom to create any agenda they like. These groups battle with the debate over sustainability and development and with the fact that people also need to make an income and feed families.

Ecoentrepreneur: Ecoentrepreneur groups are groups that are funded locally form service fees. These groups typically use ways to make money that most other groups do not. These groups use PES or payment for ecosystem services systems to reach their agendas. These systems are implied when people will pay the group for a protected watershed etc. Essentially, monetary incentives are used in order to reach environmental goals. Overall these groups are seen in a positive light (lewis, 2016).

Reflection: Upon reading this chapter, I came away with the knowledge of how the four main types of environmental groups in Ecuador work, and how they are viewed by the people of Ecuador. Ultimately, they are all environmental groups working to better the wild places of Ecuador and promote conservation. So, in my opinion I believe that they all are good. I understand that there are some like the ecodependants and ecoimperialists that use outside funders money and therefore those funders are really the ones who have a say in what is done. And there are groups such as the ecoreistors and ecoentrepreneurs that do not receive as much funding but have more freedom in the ways of agendas and what projects are done. Each group has its pros and cons but, if all the efforts are to create a better future for our planet, then that group must be doing at least some good. To me, many of the negative aspects of these groups seemed to be outweighed by the positive impacts they have. In a way this can tie back to the fact that not all groups fit neatly into one single category just like not one single group will be the perfect one and they have to work with eachother. Hopefully they can all work together for a good cause. Creating a change in how society functions is crucial. Just recently in the news a study was done that predicts that human civilization will collapse by the year 2050 if we continue down the path we are on (Specktor, 2019). Even if this prediction is off by a hundred or two hundred years, that should be more than enough incentive to change our ways as a human civilization. Ecuador is at a place in it’s development where it can be the leader in this change for the future and hopefully these different groups of environmentalists can all work together to be a part in moving forward with a sustainable future.

# Works Cited

Specktor, B. (2019, june 4). *Human Civilization Will Crumble by 2050 If We Don't Stop Climate Change Now, New Paper Claims*. Retrieved from live science: https://www.livescience.com/65633-climate-change-dooms-humans-by-2050.html