



## INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS OF NATURE TRIBUNAL

### **The International Rights of Nature Tribunal resolves that the fires in Chiquitanía, Chaco and Amazonía were an Ecocide caused by State policy and agribusiness**

The International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature in the reading of the verdict in the case: Chiquitanía, Chaco and Amazonia v. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, declared that the 2019 fires were an “ecocide caused by the State policy and agribusiness”, and that this is a crime that takes place continuously, given the eminent danger that it will be repeated during 2020 and in subsequent years. It established the abrogation of the norms indicated as “incendiary” so that these events are not repeated.

“Based on these antecedents, the plaintiffs identify the administrative, legislative and judicial authorities as the perpetrators of the crime of ecocide, those who designed the policy, approved the legislative package and, once the fires occurred, favor conditions of impunity for the perpetrators. In addition, the authors are identified as the factual groups represented by large cattle ranchers, agro-industrial entrepreneurs, for which this Tribunal has formed a conviction in this regard. Therefore, it is concluded that the syndication as the perpetrators of the crime of ecocide against the Chiquitanía, Amazonía and Chaco ecoregion of Bolivia corresponds to the: Government of Evo Morales, Añez Government and the Governments of Santa Cruz and Beni; the Authority for the Supervision and the Control of Forests and Land (ABT), the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) and others such as the Legislative Assembly and those who conform the ruling and opposition parties; the Authorities of the Judicial Organ, Agro-Environmental Court and Prosecutor's Office; and the businessmen of the agro-industrial and livestock sector”, they dictate in the verdict.

The Tribunal establishes guarantees so that fires do not occur again, among them, the abrogation of the norms that promote the expansion of the agrarian border and with it the slashing and burning.

The decision was made known by the judges Nancy Yáñez, from Chile; Patricia Gualinga, from Ecuador; and Felicio Pontes, from Brazil, who conducted the virtual hearings on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, in which they received testimonies from indigenous organizations, civil society organizations, activists, firefighters, the Government of Santa Cruz and the Municipal Government of San Ignacio de Velasco. The Tribunal strongly recommends that the organizations, communities and groups that have presented evidence in this hearing, present this case of violation of the Rights of Nature before the Bolivian legal framework.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/cases/ecocide-in-the-amazon-chiquitania-case/>

To view the hearings, please refer to the following link:

<https://web.facebook.com/rightsofnaturetribunal/?ref=bookmarks>

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