



Call for Papers on “The Right to Water and Paramo Protection” Oct 14/19-Apr 30/20

Guest Editors:

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Diálogos de Saberes invites all researchers and other interested parties to submit their unpublished papers —derived from completed or ongoing research— that take interdisciplinary approaches to and promote critical debate on the theme *The Right to Water and Paramo Protection*, to be published in Issue 52 (January-June 2020).

On July 28, 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/292, which recognizes the right to clean drinking water and sanitation as “a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.” However, we wonder if this resolution may constitute an appropriate legal mechanism to protect water, as it is still disputed whether or not these instruments are binding. What becomes apparent is governments’ unwillingness to sign an international agreement that guarantees the human right to water.

Nationally, this discussion has not been settled either. In December 2016, after the Senate unanimously passed bill No. 11, which sought to guarantee the fundamental right to water, the House of Representatives killed it due to lack of processing. Such bill privileged the ecological function of water and access to it for human use over farming, mining and agribusiness. Other bills brought forward in 2017 under numbers 14 and 21 met the same fate, being shelved that very year.

A new hope for the legal protection of water aroused in 2018 with the approval of Law 1930, which provides the comprehensive management of paramos. Its title already suggests its purpose: It aims to manage key ecosystems for water production in this region of the planet, since Colombia is the country with more paramo areas in the world.



Paramos have caused great tensions among rural populations (mainly peasant and indigenous communities), mining companies, the livestock industry, and of course, companies interested in water. Disputes revolve around the criteria for delimiting paramos, activities that can be carried out there, titling of properties located inside, populations' autonomy to manage rural or *vereda* aqueducts, etc. No wonder over a dozen lawsuits have been filed with the Constitutional Court against this law in its first year.

This phenomenon motivates us to reflect on two aspects that are closely related in Colombia: the right to water and paramos, thematic lines of this special issue. Therefore, we invite all people and groups interested in the subject to submit their papers—derived from ongoing or completed research— under any of the following categories:

- Review papers on the current state of the human right to water or paramos
- Tensions between the right to water and paramo protection
- The relationship between the right to water or paramos and nature as a rights-bearing subject
- Paramo protection perspectives in Colombia and issues such as the delimitation of these ecosystems and the economic activities that can be carried out there
- Prospects for the protection of the right to water in national and international case law and regulations
- Local, community or self-management initiatives for water protection and distribution

Contributions should meet the criteria listed in the guidelines for authors and other publishing standards established by the journal (available on the website: <https://revistas.unilibre.edu.co/index.php/dialogos/direcAutor>) and be submitted between October 14, 2019 and April 30, 2020 through the Open Journal Systems or to the following contact emails:

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Papers will be subject to external review by national or international peers with academic and research background on the subject, according to criteria such as originality, relevance, conceptual clarity and argumentative strength, respecting in all cases the double-blind system.