

The Future of the Human-Nature Interface

A new Regenerative Economic Zone (REZ) in Ecuador

Whereas the world is experiencing the fastest technological rate of change ever recorded in human history.

Whereas the continuous fragmentation of ecological systems is challenging both biodiversity and overall health of the biosphere and the future of human civilizations.

Whereas the economy is the most fundamental of human systems, and incentives within our current economic system are mainly geared towards growth and consumption.

Whereas our current economic system does not assign a value to natural capital assets and human health (killing a whale, for example, is incentivized, while keeping it alive is not).

And, whereas our current economic system lacks foundational assumptions to be the right vehicle to carry us through an evermore complex 21st century:

We, the undersigned, believe that redesigning "economy" is both the greatest challenge of our time as well as key to solving most of today's challenges.

We, therefore, declare that:

1. A new regenerative economic system must emerge – one that balances the human-nature interface in a way that helps ecosystems regenerate and humans thrive.
2. This new system must be decentralized and bioregionally based, while set in a global context.
3. This new system must incentivize choice making that aligns with both biospheric and human health

We also believe that the country in which such a new regenerative economic system is encouraged to emerge will be both forerunner and winner of the next economic wave on the planet. Forty years ago the UAE created a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Dubai to attract innovation and investment in order to win the capitalistic wave of the past four decades. In similar fashion, a new **Regenerative Economic Zone (REZ)** will attract new technologies, capital and innovators from around the world, and become foundational for the emergence of a new decentralized global economic system.

Such a REZ will:

1. Be a region within a nation.
2. Have unrestricted ability to innovate, using multiple tenders (including mutual credit systems and blockchain based smart contracts and tokens) to exchange goods and services.

3. Create an influx of innovators into the host country, bringing in capital that will both benefit the REZ and the Nation hosting the REZ.
4. Work with residents to ensure a tangible increase in the quality of life of the local population, through regenerative practices and economic strategy that invigorate the local economy.
5. Create residency pathways for innovators and capital investors to become permanent residents of the Nation hosting the REZ.
6. Support leading-edge environmental stewardship including bioregional watershed restoration, reforestation and regenerative agriculture.

For the following reasons, we, the undersigned, believe that Ecuador is one of the best choices to implement such a REZ:

1. Ecuador's constitution already leads the world in this direction by including the rights of Nature, thereby creating a foundational principle for an REZ.
2. Ecuador is host to the most biodiverse portion of the Amazon Rainforest that is one of the most important ecosystems for planetary health.
3. The Ecuadorian constitution recognizes aboriginal rights. Globally such rights are increasingly viewed as essential for reconciliation and to receive support from the international community.
4. The Ecuadorian constitution also recognizes food sovereignty and the value of aboriginal and integrative health systems.
5. Ecuador is currently experiencing economic and social challenges that could be greatly aided with an influx of capital and a new vision – that of being a leading nation hosting a pilot project (a REZ) that is building a new regenerative economy.
6. Ecuador has a newly elected innovative president who could champion such a vision.

We the undersigned commit to bringing in capital investment, elevating Ecuador internationally as a location for innovation, and attracting the leading thinkers and institutions to consider Ecuador as a viable location for economic innovation if this REZ were to be created.

Attached is the initial map of the proposed REZ.

We look forward to meeting with you at your convenience to discuss this further.