



**Ambiente**



## **VIII Congreso Iberoamericano** *de Educación Ambiental* “Cultures and territories at peace with nature”

### **Final Declaration**

In the city of Santiago de Cali, Colombia, during three intense days of work, we met more than 3,000 people from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and Colombia. Through the presentation of 438 papers and the offering of 69 courses and workshops, we were able to engage in a valuable critical and reflective dialogue, as a result of which those of us who had the privilege of participating, both in person and remotely, would like to declare that:

- Environmental education must be closely linked to the biocultural diversity of the territories and articulated with the social movements that, from critical thinking, drive the transformation towards a just world that transits towards good living and peace.
- It is imperative to strengthen effective dialogue between public policies and territories as part of the new challenges of environmental governance in our nations. Therefore, environmental education must have a solid political and normative support that consolidates it as a dynamic of constant search and as a historical, inclusive and participatory process.

- Environmental education must recognize that science is not the only valid way to address environmental conflicts associated with biodiversity loss, water and soil degradation, the effects of climate change and, in general, the global crisis. It is necessary to overcome epistemic violence and vindicate the knowledge systems of native peoples, promoting the awakening of the sensitivities that run through the communities.
- We recognize the work of social leaders in the face of environmental challenges in the territories, for which we demand that national governments establish effective measures for their protection and valuation. Education and environmental justice are closely related.
- It is necessary to move towards an education that promotes a new environmental ethic that leaves behind economic rationality and its utilitarian approach to life, and that allows us to deconstruct and approach environmental conflicts from other logics.
- The environmental education to which we aspire, should generate epistemic-political strategies that accompany the defense of the territories of life and for the living, in the face of the deadly voracity of the market and capital.
- The environmental education to which we aspire should be decolonial and intercultural, forged in the forge of an ethic of sustainability that allows us to promote the freedom of the Peoples of Abya Yala, and that guarantees respect for the defense of all lives.
- In the contexts of civilizational crisis that we live in, environmental education built from Latin American environmental thought has been the key tool to enable dialogues with political ecology, collective health, ecofeminisms and the struggles of the peoples. The life and health of communities in sick territories is NOT possible.
- We commit ourselves to systematize the valuable contributions expressed in this Congress and to deliver them to the COP16 on Biodiversity, to national and local governments, to authorities and international organizations, as well as to all the diversities of men, women, youth and children who participated.

**Santiago de Cali, Colombia**  
October 18 2024