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COUNTRYSIDE: HISTORIES, RESISTANCES, AND FUTURES

**COMMONING BEYOND EXTRACTIVISM: AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES,  
EVERYDAY LIFE, AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL FUTURES IN ECUADOR**

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This contribution focuses on extractivism in Ecuador through the lens of rural commoning practices rooted in agroecological production, alternative and solidarity economic strategies, and everyday forms of collective life that aim to organize pathways beyond extractivist development. These practices sustain livelihoods and socio-ecological relations that are increasingly threatened by state-led extractive policies aligned with global energy transitions and shifting geopolitical alliances, but also by the interventions of national and multinational corporations.

Drawing on empirical research on three cases study (Comunidad A'I Cofán de Sinangoe Cayambe - Coca, Chocó Andino - Pichincha, Calle de Intag – Cotacachi) based on surveys, interviews with different actors, and field observations carried out especially in 2024-2026 but rooted in a long-term

research experience in Ecuador, the study analyzes how commoning unfolds in rural and indigenous territories as both resistance and reproduction of life. Agroecological practices, communal management of land and water, non-extractive local economies, and forms of collective care emerge as central to sustaining territories and food sovereignty, while contesting the commodification of nature embedded in mining and oil extraction.

At the same time, the paper foregrounds the internal tensions and divisions that traverse local communities. Extractivist expansion not only generates external pressures, but also reconfigures local power relations, producing conflicts over land, employment, and development imaginaries. These fractures challenge the endurance of commoning practices and reveal the fragile, contested nature of collective governance.

Central to these struggles is the strategic mobilization of Ecuador's constitutional framework, particularly the Rights of Nature and food sovereignty, which communities apply to defend socio-ecological relations and to articulate alternative futures. The paper argues that commoning practices operate as both resistance to extractivism and as prefigurative spaces where socio-ecological futures are imagined, negotiated, and contested within everyday life.

Palavras-chave: commoning; agroecology; extractivism; everyday resistance; socio-ecological futures.