

# Table of Contents

The Author	3
List of Abbreviations	13
General Introduction	17
Chapter 1. General Information	17
§1. GEOGRAPHY AND POPULATION	17
I. Geography	17
II. Population	19
§2. LEGAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE	20
§3. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	21
§4. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS	22
§5. MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS	22
I. Atmospheric Pollution	23
II. Water Pollution	23
III. Deforestation	24
IV. Natural Disasters	24
V. Other Problems	24
Chapter 2. Basic Principles of Environmental Law	26
§1. INTRODUCTION	26
§2. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS	26
§3. PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	27
Chapter 3. Historical Background	30
	5

## Table of Contents

Chapter 4. Role of Government Institutions in the Shaping and Administration of Environmental Law and Policy	33
§1. INTRODUCTION	33
§2. THE GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR COMPETENCES	34
I. National Level	34
II. Regional and Local Level	35
III. Departmental Level	36
IV. Local Level	37
Chapter 5. Sources of Environmental Law	39
Part I. Pollution Control	41
Chapter 1. General Law	41
§1. THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT	41
I. Political Constitution	41
II. Legislation	42
A. National Code of Renewable Natural Resources and Protection to the Environment (NCKNR)	42
B. Law 99 of 1993	42
§2. ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE	43
I. Background	43
II. Concept	43
III. Environmental License and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	43
IV. Environmental Studies	45
A. Declaration of Environmental Alternatives (Diagnóstico de Alternativas Ambientales – DDA)	45
B. Environmental Impact Assessment (Estudio de Impacto Ambiental – EIA)	46
V. Types of Environmental Licenses	46
VI. Content of the Environmental License	47
§3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN COMPANIES	47
I. Departments of Environmental Management	47
II. Environmental Fees and Taxes	48
III. Information Keeping	48
A. Information on the Use of Renewable Natural Resources	49
B. Official Environmental Registry	49
§4. ENFORCEMENT	49

## Table of Contents

I. Administrative Measures	49
II. Environmental Insurance	50
<b>Chapter 2. Air Pollution</b>	<b>52</b>
§1. INTRODUCTION	52
I. National Code of Renewable Natural Resources (NCRNR)	52
II. Decree 948 of 1995	52
A. Air Pollutants	52
B. Controlled Activities	53
C. Contamination Incidents	53
D. Conversion to Cleaner Technologies	53
E. Zoning of Polluted Areas	54
§2. PERMIT OF ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS	54
I. Definition	54
II. Activities Covered	54
III. Procedure	55
IV. Content of the Permit	55
§3. AIR QUALITY STANDARDS	56
§4. RELEASE OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS	57
I. Emission Limits	57
II. Information Reporting	57
III. Restrictions on Fuels	58
§5. CLIMATE CHANGE	59
I. The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol	59
II. Policy Instruments	59
A. Guidelines on the Policy of Climate Change 2002	59
B. CONPES 3242	60
III. Institutions	60
IV. Clean Development Mechanisms	61
V. Energy	61
<b>Chapter 3. Water Pollution</b>	<b>63</b>
§1. INTRODUCTION	63
I. Institutional Framework	63
II. Legal Framework	63
§2. WATER USE	64
I. Concessions	64
II. Water Use Fees	65

## Table of Contents

III. Water Information System	66
IV. Water Quality Standards	66
§3. WASTEWATER DISCHARGES	67
I. Water Protection	67
II. Wastewater Restrictions and Allowable Limits	68
A. Restrictions	68
B. Standards and Concentration Limits	68
III. Wastewater Permit	69
IV. Wastewater Discharge Fees	70
§4. MARINE WATER	70
Chapter 4. Waste	72
§1. INTRODUCTION	72
I. Background	72
II. Types of Waste in Colombia	72
§2. SOLID WASTE	72
I. Definition	72
II. Scope	72
III. Key Actors and Main Obligations	73
A. Municipalities and Special Districts	73
B. Public Sanitation Companies	74
C. Users	74
IV. Enforcement	75
§3. HAZARDOUS WASTE	75
I. General	75
A. Definition	75
B. Hazardous Waste Management	76
C. Obligations	76
II. Liability	77
A. Generators	77
B. Producers	78
C. Users	78
D. Contaminated Sites	78
III. Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste	78
IV. Products	79
A. Acid-Lead Batteries	79
B. Pharmaceutical Products	80
§4. OTHER SPECIAL WASTE	80
I. Radioactive Waste	80
II. Hospital Waste	81
III. Non-infectious Waste	81

## Table of Contents

IV. Pesticides	82
A. Scope	82
B. Obligations	82
C. Liability	83
V. Used Oils	83
Chapter 5. Soil Pollution	84
§1. INTRODUCTION	84
§2. EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK	84
I. Agricultural Soil	85
II. Non-agricultural Soil	85
III. Contaminated Land	86
§3. PROPOSED REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS	86
Chapter 6. Noise Pollution	88
§1. INTRODUCTION	88
§2. NOISE EMISSIONS	88
§3. NOISE RESTRICTIONS	89
Chapter 7. Radiation and Vibrations	91
§1. INTRODUCTION	91
§2. IONIZING RADIATION	
I. Sources of Ionizing Radiation	91
II. Occupational Health	93
§3. NON-IONIZING RADIATION	94
I. Sources of Ionizing Radiation	94
II. Occupational Health	95
§4. VIBRATIONS	95
Chapter 8. Noxious Substances	96
§1. INTRODUCTION	96
§2. OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES	96
§3. RESTRICTED CHEMICALS	97
	9

## Table of Contents

§4. PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS	97
§5. TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	98
Part II. Nature Conservation and Management	99
Chapter 1. Monuments and Landscapes	99
§1. MONUMENTS	99
§2. LANDSCAPES	101
Chapter 2. Parks and Reserves	103
§1. INTRODUCTION	103
§2. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL NATURE PARKS	103
I. Areas within the SPNNN	104
II. Reserve and Delimitation	105
III. Expropriation and Incentives	106
IV. Area Management and Uses	106
V. Users and Obligations	107
§3. NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PROTECTED AREAS	107
I. Background	107
II. Regulation	108
A. System Definition	108
B. SINAP Objective	109
C. Categories	109
D. Existing Protected Areas	110
E. Designation and Exclusion of SINAP Areas	110
F. Protected Areas Zoning and Authorized Activities	111
G. SINAP Coordination	111
Chapter 3. Wildlife Protection	112
§1. FLORA	112
§2. FAUNA	113
§3. CITES	114
§4. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY	115
Chapter 4. Agricultural Resources	116

## Table of Contents

Chapter 5. Forests	118
§1. INTRODUCTION	118
§2. POLICY	119
§3. MAIN REGULATION	121
Chapter 6. Fish Resources	124
§1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	124
§2. REGULATORY MEASURES	125
§3. PERMITTING	125
§4. FISHING ACTIVITIES	125
§5. AQUICULTURE	126
Chapter 7. Subsoil and Minerals	127
§1. HYDROCARBON SECTOR	127
§2. MINING SECTOR	129
Part III. Zoning and Land-Use Planning	131
§1. INTRODUCTION	131
§2. MAIN TERRITORIAL PLANNING LEGISLATION	132
§3. GOVERNMENT POWERS ON ZONING AND LAND-USE PLANNING	134
§4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ZONING AND LAND-USE PLANNING	135
I. National Code of Renewable Natural Resources	135
II. Law 388 of 1997	136
A. Urban Action	136
B. Conditions in Territorial Zoning Plans	137
Part IV. Liability Questions	139
§1. INTRODUCTION	139
§2. ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY	140
I. Administrative Liability of Citizens for Environmental Damage	140

## Table of Contents

A. Regulatory Structure	140
B. Elements of Administrative Liability System	141
1. Environmental Infraction	141
2. Causation	143
3. Conduct	143
C. Preventive Measures and Sanctions	145
II. Administrative Liability of the State for Environmental Damage	145
A. State Liability	145
B. State Liability for Environmental Matters	146
1. Damage Caused by the State	147
2. Damage Caused by Third Parties	147
3. Transboundary Pollution	148
§3. CIVIL LIABILITY	149
I. Civil Liability in Colombia	149
II. Civil Liability Applied to Environmental Matters	151
§4. CRIMINAL LIABILITY	152
I. Introduction	152
II. General Part	152
III. Special Part	154
Part V. Juridical Actions of Individuals	157
Chapter 1. Administrative Remedies	157
§1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS	157
§2. RECOURSES AGAINST ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS	159
Chapter 2. Judicial Remedies	161
§1. ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF COLLECTIVE RIGHTS	161
I. Popular Actions	161
II. Unconstitutionality Action	164
III. Action of Compliance	165
§2. ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS	166
I. Protection Action	166
II. Civil Liability Action	167
III. Group Actions	168
Selected Bibliography	171
Index	175