

We welcome the judicial order for the reinstatement of the Director of Serfor

We demand that the institutionality of the forestry and wildlife sector be strengthened and that those who have been attacking it be investigated

The signatory civil society and Indigenous People's organizations welcome the judicial resolution that orders the immediate reinstatement of Luis Alberto Gonzáles-Zúñiga Guzmán as executive director of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (Serfor), who was suddenly removed from office in June 2020. The ruling concludes that the dismissal decision - signed by former President Martín Vizcarra and endorsed by former Minister Jorge Montenegro - was **illegal** and declared it **null and void**, while declaring the amparo filed by Gonzáles-Zúñiga to be substantiated.

In his ruling, Judge Iván Alfredo Cabrera determined that "it is evidenced that the Supreme Resolution No. 002-2020-MINAGRI in question that terminates the appointment of the plaintiff as executive director, was not issued in accordance with the law." He proceeded to "order the defendant (Presidential Office and Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation) to reinstate the plaintiff (Gonzales-Zúñiga) in the position of Executive Director of the National Forest and Wildlife Service – Serfor."

Beyond resolving the specific issue of the illegal removal of Gonzales-Zúñiga, this judicial resolution has great relevance with respect to the institutionality of the Peruvian forestry and wildlife sector, which was severely impacted when the government in office overstepped the reach of its power and bypassed the law and the Serfor board of directors with impunity to remove an official who was inconveniencing it. While Gonzales-Zúñiga's reinstatement order is a step in the right direction, it is not the only measure necessary. His removal showed, for example, that the current design of the Serfor board of directors is not adequate to guarantee and defend the independence and institutional strength necessary in the sector.

It should be remembered that, as the director of Serfor, Gonzales-Zúñiga had initiated processes to strengthen the frameworks of transparency, traceability, and the fight against illegal logging, affecting the interests of those who benefit from a situation of little control and corruption from both the public and private sectors. The physical and political attacks against Gonzales-Zúñiga and his team did not take long to set in. For this reason, in [March 2020](#), [June 2020](#), and [February 2021](#), dozens of Peruvian and international organizations spoke out first against the threats of Gonzales-Zúñiga's arbitrary removal, then when he was dismissed, and finally against the selection process for a new executive director prior to the judicial power's resolution of the amparo suit that now has been resolved in his favor.

Furthermore, the attacks to disrupt progress in the forestry and wildlife sector's institutional framework did not begin with this case; previously, there was an attempt to eliminate the open tender procedure to appoint the head of the Forest Resources and Wildlife Supervision Agency (Osinfor), in addition to the relocation of this agency (removing it from the PCM and moving it to the Ministry of the Environment), counter to its own technical opinion and the commitments adopted by Peru in the FTA with the United States. In both cases, the government had to back down, but so far no investigation has been carried out regarding the responsibility of the ministers and other officials involved in the violation of regulations that dealt heavy blows to institutionality and to several Osinfor officials.

We consider ending the impunity of those who attack the institutionality of the forestry and wildlife sector as an essential step in the construction of a solid forestry and wildlife institutional framework. Therefore, we request that the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, the Office of the Attorney General of the State, the Office of the National Prosecutor and the Congress of the Republic initiate the necessary investigation processes to identify administrative, civil, and criminal liabilities of the officials responsible for the illegalities committed against the country's forestry and wildlife institutions as soon as possible.

For the reasons stated here and in order to strengthen the institutional framework of the forestry and wildlife sector, we request the following:

1. Strengthen transparent processes for wood traceability.
2. In a clear and transparent manner, establish the grounds for removal for the Serfor executive director position and for the members of its board of directors.
3. Publish the minutes of the Serfor Board of Directors' meetings on the Serfor institutional web portal no later than the day after each meeting, starting by adding the minutes from prior meetings that have not been made public yet.

Finally, we offer our support to contribute to the establishment of these institutional adjustments and we reiterate our firm commitment to continue working together, from civil society, Indigenous organizations, and the public sector, in favor of a transparent, sustainable, and socially equitable forestry and wildlife sector.

1. Agencia de Investigación Ambiental – EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency)
2. Alto Chicama Soluciones Ambientales Eirl
3. Amazónicos por la Amazonía – AMPA
4. Amazon Watch
5. Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza – APECO
6. Asociación ProPurús
7. Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales
8. Center for International Environmental Law – CIEL
9. Centro de Estudiantes de Ingeniería Ambiental – UNMSM
10. Centro para el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico – CEDIA
11. Colegio de Ingenieros del Perú – Moyobamba
12. Comisión de derechos humanos de Pucallpa
13. Comisión Episcopal de Acción Social – CEAS
14. Comité de Defensa del Agua
15. Comité de Derechos Humanos de Pucallpa – CODEH Pucallpa
16. Consorcio Agroecológico Peruano – CAP
17. CooperAcción
18. Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
19. Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales – DAR
20. Educación Comunitaria
21. Equipo Pastoral Indígena Vicariato Apostólico Pucallpa
22. Federación de Comunidades Nativas de Ucayali y Afluentes – FECONAU
23. Federación Nacional de Comunidades KaKataibo – FENACOKA
24. Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Artesanas, Indígenas Nativas y Asalariadas del Perú – FENMUCARINAP
25. Foro Ecológico del Perú

26. Fundación EcuMénica para el Desarrollo y la Paz – FEDEPAZ
27. Grupo SEPAR
28. Instituto de Defensa Legal (IDL)
29. Instituto de Defensa Legal del Ambiente y el Desarrollo Sostenible – IDLADS Perú
30. Instituto Runa Pacha (IRUPA)
31. Iuris Ambiental
32. Kené, Instituto de Estudios Forestales y Ambientales
33. Misioneras de María Inmaculada
34. Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático – MOCICC
35. Movimiento Manuela Ramos
36. Oceana Perú
37. Organización Regional AIDSESEP Ucayali – ORAU
38. Organización Regional de Mujeres Indígenas de la Provincia de Atalaya – ORMIPA
39. Oxfam
40. Pastoral de la Tierra del Vicariato Apostólico de Yurimaguas
41. Paz y Esperanza
42. Proética, Capítulo Peruano de Transparency International
43. Red Ambiental Peruana – RAP
44. Red de Agricultura Ecológica – RAE PERÚ
45. Red Interquorum Ucayali
46. Red Nacional de Conservación Voluntaria y Comunal “Amazonía Que Late”
47. Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad – RedGE
48. Revista Rumbos
49. Santa Catalina de Sena – Zona Perú
50. Servicios en Comunicación Intercultural – SERVINDI
51. Sociedad Peruana de Ecodesarrollo – SPDE
52. Sociedad Zoológica de Fráncfort Perú
53. Vicariato Apostólico de Puerto Maldonado
54. Yubarta Islas