
Preface

Due to the influence of the Andes, which vastly modified climate and parental materials, a relatively small country like Ecuador has a wide variety of soil orders, hard to find in other countries of the world at this scale. In spite of its great diversity and importance, soil is perhaps the least known natural resource in Ecuador. Soil maps at different scales, and their respective proceedings, have been published over the years, but unfortunately, this information has been kept in the hands of few institutions and individuals and has not been available to general public. Currently, enough information is available to describe the fascinating and unique characteristics and distribution of Ecuadorian soils. With all of this in mind, the book *Soils of Ecuador* trays to organize, synthesize, and socialize the generated knowledge about Ecuadorian soils. The book is based on the soil maps developed during the 1970s and 1980s by the Regionalization National Program (PRONAREG) and ORSTOM (currently IRD). In 2002, these maps were digitalized and geo-referenced by The Center for Integrated Surveying of Natural Resources by Remote Sensing (CLIRSEN), currently Ecuadorian Spatial Institute (IEE), the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGAP), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). All this information was complemented by the information developed by the project called “Generation of Geo-information for the Development of the Ecuadorian Territory” financed by the Ecuadorian Government and conducted by IEE, MAGAP, and The National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES).

This book is organized to represent the following concepts : (1) landscapes, as natural integrated geographic systems conceived as complex zones resulting from structural arrangement of the relief related by proximity, and complexity, and characterized, to certain extent, by its morphogenetic and pedogenetic behavior; (2) regions, as an integration of landscapes defined by the following strict rules: (a) ample enough, (b) clearly defined original physical characteristic of any nature, and (c) physical and geographic conditions easily differentiated from the surroundings; and (3) Ecuadorian natural environments as the integration of the regions based on physical reality of the country and the perception of them by the Ecuadorian population.

The writing of the *Soils of Ecuador* book is the result of the joint effort made by experienced professional representing the Central University of Ecuador—College of Agriculture, the Ecuadorian Spatial Institute, and the Ecuadorian Associations of oil Palm Growers, in coordination with a group of young soil scientist who have developed important field surveying work all over the country. The result of this coordinated initiative is a detailed description of the soils from this small and widely diverse country in the center of the world.

Quito, Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador

José Espinosa
Julio Moreno
Gustavo Bernal

The Soils of Ecuador

Espinosa, J.; Moreno, J.; Bernal, G. (Eds.)

2018, VII, 164 p. 136 illus., 130 illus. in color.,

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-25317-6