

Geography

Location: Western South America, bordering the Pacific Ocean at the Equator, between Colombia and Peru

Map references: South America

Area:

total area: 283,560 sq km

land area: 276,840 sq km

comparative area: slightly smaller than Nevada

note: includes Galapagos Islands

Land boundaries: total 2,010 km, Colombia 590 km, Peru 1,420 km

Coastline: 2,237 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: claims continental shelf between mainland and Galapagos Islands

territorial sea: 200 nm

International disputes: three sections of the boundary with Peru are in dispute

Climate: tropical along coast becoming cooler inland

Terrain: coastal plain (costa), inter-Andean central highlands (sierra), and flat to rolling eastern jungle (oriente)

Natural resources: petroleum, fish, timber

Land use:

arable land: 6%

permanent crops: 3%

meadows and pastures: 17%

forest and woodland: 51%

other: 23%

Irrigated land: 5,500 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; water pollution

natural hazards: frequent earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity; periodic droughts

international agreements: party to - Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Wetlands; signed, but not ratified - Tropical Timber 94

Note: Cotopaxi in Andes is highest active volcano in world