



# National Programme Document - Ecuador

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME SIXTH POLICY  
BOARD MEETING

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21-22 March 2011  
Da Lat, Viet Nam



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# UNITED NATIONS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

## JOINT PROGRAM DOCUMENT

### 1. Cover Page

Country: Ecuador

Program Title: UN-REDD Ecuador Programme

Program Outcome: By 2013, Ecuador will have completed the readiness stage for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism at the national level with involvement of all relevant institutions and stakeholders, who have more skills and tools to exercise their right to a safe and healthy environment, environmental sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, integrated natural resource management, environmental management and the development of responses for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

UNDAF Outcome 5: By 2014, the relevant institutions and local stakeholders promote – and social stakeholders have more skills and tools to exercise their right to a safe and healthy environment, environmental sustainability, including biodiversity conservation, integrated natural resource management, environmental management (direct link to MDG 7).

Program duration:  
 Anticipated start/end dates:  
 Fund Management Option(s): *(Parallel, pooled, pass-through, combination)*  
 Managing or Administrative Agent: UNDP, MDTF Office

Total estimated budget: US\$4,000,000  
 Out of which:  
 1. Funded budget: US\$ 4,000,000  
 2. Unfunded budget:

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 UN-REDD MDTF: USD 500,000  
 Others: USD 4,000,000

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Social Organizations	Social Organizations
Name Institution Signature Date	Name Institution Signature Date
Name Institution Signature Date	Name Institution Signature Date
Name Institution Signature Date	Name Institution Signature Date

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### 3. Acronyms

CAF	<i>Corporación Andina de Fomento</i> (Andean Development Corporation)
CAN	<i>Comunidad Andina de Naciones</i> (Andean Community)
CI	Conservation International
COASNA	<i>Comité Asesor Nacional</i> (National Advisory Committee)
CODENPE	<i>Consejo de Desarrollo de las Nacionalidades y Pueblos Indígenas en el Ecuador</i> (Council for the Development of the Peoples and Nationalities of Ecuador)
COICA	<i>Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica</i> (Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin)
COMAFORS	<i>Corporación de Manejo Forestal Sustentable</i> (Sustainable Forest Management Corporation)
CONAICE	<i>Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Costa Ecuatoriana</i> (Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Coast)
CONAIE	Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador
CONFENIAE	<i>Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana</i> (Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DD	Degradation and Deforestation
ECUARUNARI	<i>Ecuador Runacunapak Rikcharimui</i> (Confederation of Peoples of Kichwua Nationality of Ecuador)
ENCC	<i>Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático</i> (National Climate Change Strategy)
ENF	<i>Evaluación Nacional Forestal</i> (National Forest Assessment)
ENREDD+	REDD+ National Strategy
ES	Environmental Services
ExB	Executive Board
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoE	Government of Ecuador
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
HACT	Harmonized Approach Cash Transfers
IBD	Inter-American Development Bank
INDA	<i>Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Agrario</i> (National Institute for Agrarian Development)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KfW	German Development Bank
MAE	<i>Ministerio del Ambiente del Ecuador</i> (Ministry of Environment of Ecuador)
MAGAP	<i>Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca</i> (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries)
MDTF	<i>Multi Donor Trust Fund</i>
MRV	Measurement Assessment Reporting and Verification
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations

NJP	National Joint Program
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
PAN	<i>Política Ambiental Nacional</i> (National Environmental Policy)
PFE	<i>Patrimonio Forestal del Estado</i> (State Forest Heritage)
PROFAFOR	<i>Programa FACE de Forestación</i>
R-PIN	<i>Readiness Plan Idea Note</i>
R-PP	<i>Readiness Preparation Proposal</i>
REDD	Mecanismo de Reducción de Emisiones por Deforestación y Degradación de Bosques
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
SCC	<i>Subsecretaría de Cambio Climático</i> (Undersecretary of Climate Change)
SCN	<i>Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales</i> (National Accounts System)
SENPLADES	<i>Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo</i> (National Secretary of Planning and Development)
SNAP	<i>Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas</i> (National System of Protected Areas)
SPN	<i>Subsecretaría de Patrimonio Natural</i> (Undersecretary of Natural Heritage)
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## Executive Summary

Ecuador has approximately 10 million hectares of diverse forest types covering approximately 55% of the country. For decades, Ecuador has experienced major changes to its forest cover, mostly due to changes in land use. According to 2000 data, an estimated 198,000 hectares of forest are lost every year, although more recent data from the Ministry of Environment estimates that the deforestation rate equals 61,764.50 hectares per year.

In order to reverse forest loss, the Government of Ecuador (GoE) has made reducing the deforestation rate a priority of the National Plan for Good Living (2009-2013). To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Environment is implementing a series of initiatives to reduce deforestation in the country as part of good governance of forest resources and to simultaneously contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing GHG emissions related to this activity.

Since 2008, the GoE has actively participated in international REDD+ negotiations and has, concurrently, carried out activities at the national level to pave the way for the implementation of this mechanism in the country. Ecuador has made impressive progress in its REDD+ preparation, with significant advancements detailed below:

Since September 2008, the Ministry of Environment has implemented the Socio Bosque Program, a policy of incentives for the conservation of native forests. This initiative seeks to complement the "command-control" policies historically applied to the country's forestry sector, in an attempt to reconcile forest conservation with development. To date, conservation agreements have been signed for 630,000 hectares. Furthermore, two relevant data collection projects began in 2009: the historical mapping of deforestation and the national forest assessment.

Ecuador is also working to develop the National REDD+ Strategy, which seeks to simultaneously contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the implementation of good forest management practices through national activities, projects, measures and policies to reduce deforestation and associated GHG emissions. With this strategy, efforts are being made to develop the legal, financial and institutional resources required to implement REDD+ in the country and ensure multiple benefits, inter-institutional coordination and the design of a program to promote civil society participation, among other goals.

To contribute to the implementation of the strategy, the National Joint Program (NJP) aims to support Ecuador in the preparation phase of the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. To that end, the NJP will support specific activities within the National REDD+ Strategy framework as part of the country's preparation phase. These activities are connected to the technical and financial cooperation programs with the German Government, which also seek to contribute to the preparation phase for REDD+ implementation.

Ecuador's NJP sets forth six outcomes: (1) The design and implementation of a National Forest Monitoring System; (2) National implementation of a REDD+ consultation process involving civil society, indigenous communities, peoples and nationalities, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples and communes<sup>1</sup>; (3) Development of policies and instruments for the implementation of REDD+; (4) Development of the operational framework for the implementation of REDD+; (5) Ensuring multiple environmental and social benefits, and; (6) Design and implementation of a benefit-sharing system.

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<sup>1</sup> Art. 56 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador

#### 4. **Situation Analysis**

##### General Background

1. Ecuador is located in the northwest of South America, bordered by Colombia to the North, Peru to the South and East, and the Pacific Ocean to the West. Its capital city is Quito, where the largest state agencies and the Central Government are based. Guayaquil is the country's most populous city, main seaport and a major economic center. The country is divided into 24 provinces, distributed throughout four natural regions: Amazonia (116,644 km<sup>2</sup>), Costa (59,920 km<sup>2</sup>), Sierra (70,672 km<sup>2</sup>), and the Insular Region (7998 km<sup>2</sup>). The country's total land area is 255,234 Km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>2</sup>
2. According to preliminary data from the 2010 Population and Housing Census compiled by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), the Ecuadorian population totals 14,306,876 inhabitants, with population growth ranging from 1.5% to 2% annually. About 50% of the population is concentrated in the Costa and Sierra regions, and 66% of the population lives in urban areas.<sup>3</sup>
3. As for the poverty situation in the country, unsatisfied basic needs indicator statistics show that 45.5% of the country's population was living in poverty in 2009. The Amazonia region has the highest level of poverty (59.2%), followed by the Costa region (52.2%) and the Sierra region (36%). An analysis of this indicator for rural and urban areas suggests that poverty rates are higher in rural areas (74.9%), as in the Amazonia region where 59% of the population does not meet their basic needs. Furthermore, 19.6% of the Ecuadorian population lives in extreme poverty due to unmet basic needs, with the Amazonia region presenting the second highest rate (20.6%).<sup>4</sup>
4. Ecuador is one of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries and is home to the greatest concentration of species (between 5% and 10% of the world's biodiversity).<sup>5</sup> Although it occupies less than 0.2% of the Earth's land surface, there are 46 different ecosystems within the Ecuadorian territory. Ecuador's geographical location is privileged and is a key determinant in the country's great biodiversity. Indeed, the country is home to 17.9% of bird species worldwide, 10% of vascular plants, 8% of mammals and 10% of amphibians. Ecuador is the most diverse country in the world when considering the ratio of biodiversity to land mass. For example, the country is home to 1.42% and 5.5% of the world's amphibian and bird species, respectively, per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>6</sup>
5. It is estimated that there are over 20,000 species of vascular plants and about 3,500 species of vertebrates, including marine fish, in Ecuador. Many of these species are endemic and considered endangered. In relation to forest ecosystems, there are approximately 10.7 million hectares of diverse forest types according to the 1990 land use and coverage map, including: tropical rainforest, dry forest and montane forest, among

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