

# REDD Readiness in Ecuador

## National REDD+ Programme

The [National REDD+ Programme](#) (PNREDD+) is part of the National Climate Change Mitigation Plan, which is itself part of the National Climate Change Strategy, currently under validation of the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC), the high-level body aimed at coordinating and facilitating the integrated implementation of national policies relevant to climate change as well as promoting and requesting the preparation of research studies, technical and legal inputs in the areas of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.. The PNREDD+ is also structured to be in line with the Forest Governance Model and its components are drawn from those of the latter.

The PNREDD+ is the framework for the development and implementation of REDD+ activities in Ecuador and thus, aims at contributing to the goal of reducing deforestation established in the National Development Plan. The program will be a supporting tool to the implementation of policies, measures, projects and activities to reduce deforestation in the country and its associated GHG emissions. The elements of this programme have been identified and some activities or projects are currently being implemented.

## Institutional Arrangements

To ensure consistency in REDD+ policies and measures, coordination among different government institutions implementing policies related to land use change, both national and local level, is needed. To ensure coordination of REDD+ related policies, a REDD+ Working Group has been formed within CICC with two objectives: 1) Inter-institutional coordination and inter-sectoral planning for the definition of policies that have an effect on REDD+ implementation at national level and on land use in particular 2) Receive technical inputs from other sectors of the economy in the definition of policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and their associated GHG emissions. The specific activities and institutions that will shape the REDD+ Working Group are currently being defined.



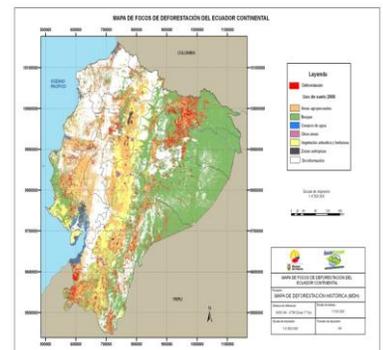
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## Reference levels and monitoring system

- **Historical Map of Deforestation**

This project began in 2009 and one of its objectives is to determine, through a multi-temporal analysis, (1990- 2000-2008), the rate of deforestation in continental Ecuador. Preliminary results were obtained on January 2011. The project will use other methods to solve cloudiness problems (about 30% of the territory).

The Undersecretary of Climate Change Secretariat is also currently developing a "Reference scenario for emissions from deforestation" that is fed by information generated by the two projects mentioned above. It is expected to count with a methodological protocol for the scenario as such this year (2011), and conduct a pilot project in the Amazon region.

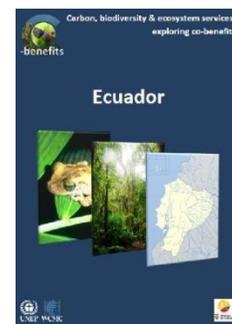


- **National Forest Assessment**

The project initially began in July 2009 by defining the methodologies that would be used during the field phase and their validation. The pilot phase began with validated methodologies (with technical assistance from FAO and other experts) in two strata, the Amazon evergreen forests and dry forests. The pilot study, conducted in 150 plots over two strata, to determine the carbon stored in different forest strata, defined at national level for Ecuador. This year methodologies have been reviewed, as they need slight adjustment depending on the strata to be analyzed. Data collection for two new strata will be starting.

## Mapping multiple benefits

The Ministry of Environment and UNEP-WCMC began in March 2010 a joint work program to identify potential "multiple benefits" that REDD+ implementation can generate in Ecuador. The initiative generated a [report](#) presenting the results of spatial analysis and statistics in the country. To that end, information on carbon content was crossed with environmental variables such as endemic species, protected areas, state heritage forest areas, among others, and social variables such as poverty levels and population density. The results of this initiative contribute to the planning, zoning and design of REDD+ related policies which will generate a greater impact on REDD+ implementation in the future.



## REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards

Since 2009, the Ministry of Environment has started to work with CCBA and CARE to develop and implement the "[REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards](#)" (REDD+ SES) initiative.

During the first phase (March 2009-June 2010), the Ministry participated in building up a set of principles, criteria and indicators for the REDD+ SES. Consultations workshops with CSO and IPs were also organized in Ecuador to receive comments.

The second phase of the initiative (July 2010-December 2011) consists in the design, implementation and evaluation of the REDD+ SES in Ecuador. A process for national interpretation of the Standards has been completed through consultations. The [final version of the national interpretation](#) that was approved by the National Standards Committee set up to follow up the process in Ecuador. The pilot implementation of the standards to a representative sample of the Socio Bosque Programme will be starting soon. The results of the implementation will be compiled in a report.

In parallel, the Ministry of Environment is currently working on the complementarity of the REDD+SES with tools developed by the UN-REDD Programme including the Social & Environmental Principles and Criteria and the Participatory Governance Assessment.



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## Stakeholder Engagement

The Ministry of Environment has developed a "Plan of communication and civil society engagement in REDD +", which counts with four components:

- *Dissemination of information*: provide official information on REDD+
- *Consultation*: process whereby, in relevant cases, determines whether the key players agree to participate in the implementation mechanism
- *Effective engagement*: defining the mechanisms by which the key stakeholders are involved in the design and implementation of the PNREDD+
- *Capacity building*: cross-cutting component for the plan implementation, which seeks to build local capacity to implement the PNREDD+

Up to date, Ecuador has progressed in the following areas:

- Launch of a [book](#) compiling information on climate change and the REDD+ process in Ecuador. The information will be disseminated through workshops with key stakeholders.
- Proposal to create a "REDD+ Advisory Board", a formal platform for dialogue, engagement, participation, deliberation and monitoring of key stakeholders
- Update of stakeholders mapping that was first released in 2010.
- Involvement of stakeholders to revise the JPD and the REDD+SES national interpretation