

Ecuador JECA Report

Prepared by Climate Focus for the &Green Fund

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1. Introduction

This document summarizes the findings of the initial Jurisdictional Eligibility Criteria Assessment (JECA) for Ecuador. We set out with a high-level summary in Section 2. The following section (Section 3) summarizes our findings on the relevant scope of what constitutes an &Green jurisdiction. We reviewed the national systems of Ecuador as well as the role and responsibilities of the provinces of Esmeraldas, Orellana and Sucumbíos. The last section (Section 4) summarizes the findings of Criteria 1 to 5 on Jurisdictional Eligibility at the national jurisdictional level.

2. High-level Summary

The JECA for Ecuador concludes that Ecuador qualifies as JECA jurisdiction. The country holds large and diverse tropical forests. Ecuador has successfully reduced deforestation over the last decade. Institutions and programs are ready to further scale their efforts. Ecuador scores lower when looking at stated goals to further reduce deforestation. However, we think the modest ambition of a gross deforestation reduction of 20% can be offset by the availability of programs to address drivers of deforestation. It is also not clear whether the absence of more ambitious quantitative goals relates to caution not to overpromise on goals that can only be achieved with international support.

JEC 1 - Scope: Ecuador is one of the world’s “mega diverse” countries and significant tropical forest coverage. The country’s remaining forests are of high ecological value with about half classified as primary forest.

JEC 2 - Ambition & Strategy: The country’s overall forest goals are moderately ambitious: Targets to further reduce deforestation in Ecuador are fairly weak. However, restoration and conservation goals included in the country’s nationally determined contribution are strong and ambitious.

Ecuador has several policies and programs in place that seek to curb deforestation and increase forest cover. Some of these programs, most notably the Socio Bosque program, have been successfully implemented over the last years and can further be scaled. Generally, the achievement of the national targets is considered feasible.

Deforestation: Ecuador’s only *measurable and time bound* goal for reduced gross deforestation is defined in the REDD+ Action Plan (section 5.2.2, page 103), which specifies a reduction target of 20% against the Forest Reference Level by 2025.

Restoration: Goals declared in the country’s NDC¹ submission to the UNFCCC include (a) the conservation of 2 million hectares of forest, (b) the restoration 500,000 hectares until 2017 and an

¹ <http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Ecuador/1/Ecuador%20INDC%2001-10-2015%20-%20english%20unofficial%20translation.pdf>



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additional 100,000 ha annually through 2025, and (c) the achievement of a deforestation rate of zero by an undefined date. The listed restoration and conservation goals are clearly ambitious and compensate for the lack of a measurable deforestation goal.

JEC 3 - Progress: The country is making progress towards meeting forest goals. Milestones related to restoration appear to be lagging but solid progress is being achieved in reducing deforestation and conserving forests. The country is expecting additional resources from the Global Climate Fund to scale up programs.

JEC 4 – Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV): The MRV System is functional but requires frequent data updates to remain meaningful. The country has developed an online information platform with ambitions to host all environmental and social data in a central location. The MRV system for deforestation is deemed functional, however, the most recent official data has not yet been published on the website.

JEC 5 – Social and Environmental Safeguards: In accordance with the Cancun Agreement, an appropriate framework and strategy is in place to mitigate social and environmental risk associated with the implementation Ecuador’s forest plans and programs. Safeguards reporting to the UNFCCC in line with Cancun Agreements has occurred. However, the report does not detail significant progress to date and the Safeguards Information System is yet to be fully established.

If progress on reduced deforestation, restoration and conservation goals, as well as MRV and Social and Environmental Safeguards Systems are considered jointly, approval of Ecuador as an eligible country for the Green fund is recommended.



3. Jurisdictional Scope

This section describes the governance, legislative and regulatory frameworks of the assessed jurisdictions as well as main decision-making structures at the national and provincial levels. Based on this analysis, we recommend the appropriate jurisdictional level for &Greens engagement in Ecuador.

3.1. Background: key economic data and maps

	Ecuador	Orellana	Sucumbíos	Esmeraldas
Size in Ha	28,356,100 Ha	2,167,500 hectares (Ha)	1,861,200 ha	1,595,400 ha
Population²	14,483.499	136,396	176,472	534,092
GDP³	USD 98,614 billion	N/A	N/A	N/A
Per Capita Income/year	USD 5.966 ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A
Credit Rating	Standard and Poor's: B-	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employment rate	September 2017 statistics: According to official data, of the economically active population, ⁵ 4.1% are unemployed. ⁶ Of those working, 40.4% are in formal full employment, 20.5% are underemployed. Another 24.7% are part-time employed, and 10.1% in unpaid employment. ⁷	2015 statistics ⁸ : Of the economically active population around 6% were unemployed; 25-35% were full-time employed, 62-73% were underemployed and the rest were part-time employed.	2015 statistics ⁹ : Of the economically active population around 6% were unemployed; 35-44% were full-time employed, 51-62% were underemployed and the rest were part-time employed.	2015 statistics ¹⁰ : -Of the economically active population around 7.8% were unemployed; 35-44% were full-time employed, 51- 61% were underemployed and the rest were part-time employed.
Main agricultural and forest products	Bananas, coffee, cocoa, rice, potatoes, cassava, plantains, sugarcane, corn. Timber and timber products.	African oil palm, cocoa, plantain, corn, potato, bananas, sugar cane. ¹¹ Timber and timber products.	African oil palm, cocoa, plantain, corn, potato, bananas, coffee. ^{12/13} Timber and timber products.	

² 2010 Census. <http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/censo-de-poblacion-y-vivienda/>

³ <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/SectorReal/Previsiones/IndCoyuntura/CifrasEconomicas/cie201711.pdf>

⁴ <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/SectorReal/Previsiones/IndCoyuntura/CifrasEconomicas/cie201711.pdf>

⁵ Economically active population= Persons above 15 years of age having worked at least 1 hour per week over the reference period or, if not working, are looking for work.

⁶ National Employment Survey Ecuador 2017. http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2017/Septiembre/092017_M.Laboral.pdf

⁷ According to Ecuador's national employment survey, the difference between underemployment and part-time employment is that those who are in the latter category do not want to work more hours a week, while the underemployed people do but cannot find jobs.

⁸ <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/SectorReal/Previsiones/IndCoyuntura/Empleo/imle201512.pdf>

⁹ <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/SectorReal/Previsiones/IndCoyuntura/Empleo/imle201512.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://contenido.bce.fin.ec/documentos/Estadisticas/SectorReal/Previsiones/IndCoyuntura/Empleo/imle201512.pdf>

¹¹ <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/phocadownloadpap/edicion-impres/2016/abril/abril-16-zona-2.pdf>

¹² <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/phocadownloadpap/edicion-impres/2016/abril/abril-16-zona-1.pdf>

¹³ <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/phocadownloadpap/edicion-impres/2016/abril/abril-16-zona-1.pdf>



	Ecuador	Orellana	Sucumbíos	Esmeraldas
Exports of agricultural commodities (in million USD FOB ¹⁴) ¹⁵	Average accumulated exports Jan-Oct 2017 -Banana and plantain: 2.734 -Cocoa and processed cocoa: 552 million -Coffee and processed coffee: 99 -Non-traditional fruits: 97	N/A	N/A	N/A
Value of oil exports ¹⁶	Average accumulated oil exports 2016 (million USD FOB): 5.594 million USD FOB	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross deforestation rate 2008-2014 ¹⁷	97.917 Ha/Year	5,751 ha/year	7,592 ha/year	12,006 ha/year (highest rate in the country)

For an overview over Ecuador and the provinces of Orellana, Esmeraldas, and Sucumbíos, their forests and protected areas see Figure 1.

Figure 1: Native Vegetation, Protected Areas, Ramsar Sites, and World Biosphere Reserves in Continental Ecuador ¹⁸



¹⁴ Free on Board = the seller has an obligation to deliver goods to a named place for transfer to a carrier.

¹⁵ <https://www.proecuador.gob.ec/exportadores/publicaciones/monitoreo-de-exportaciones/>

¹⁶ <https://www.proecuador.gob.ec/exportadores/publicaciones/monitoreo-de-exportaciones/>

¹⁷ Redd+ Action Plan. Pg 44-45.

¹⁸ http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/185860/MAE_2016_11_21+ART+LIBRO+REDD+17+nov+2016.pdf/e282f00c-37b2-4183-8349-54ecc9837bc8

The figure shows Ecuador’s mainland distribution of remnant native vegetation (in green). Converted or transformed areas (in gray). The internal black lines divide the three continental biogeographic regions: Pacific coastal plain, the Andes, and the Amazon. The dark red lines represent the provinces of Esmeraldas, Sucumbios and Orellana. The two biggest cities in the country, Quito and Guayaquil, are in red. Note that UNESCO’s World Biosphere Reserves areas are often greater than the ones defined by the national government. The WWF’s Global 200 ecoregions were not included in the map because their combined area expands for almost all the continental Ecuador’s territory. Source: Climate Focus



3.2. Territorial order

Ecuador is a national state with limited delegated powers to sub-national jurisdictions. There have been various efforts to decentralize government functions, which resulted in a complex system of partly overlapping territorial entities. These entities have delegated administrative powers, which give jurisdictions limited autonomy. While it allows for territorial planning, resource management generally remains a prerogative of the national government.

Initiated by President Correa in 2007, Ecuador went through a period of government reform that moved the country away from the previously promoted neo-liberal order and introduced a series of transformative changes. These changes include the drafting of a new Constitution¹⁹, which was adopted in 2008 and acts as supreme law of the Republic of Ecuador. The territorial order established by the Constitution divides the country into regions, provinces, cantons, and parishes (Art. 242). Provinces are governed by provincial councils and finance their activities through a mix of own resources and national allocations. Provincial and municipal authorities are directly elected by a secret popular vote. Adjacent provinces can jointly form an autonomous region, which elect by ballot its regional council and its regional governor (Art. 264). The decentralized governments of autonomous regions, metropolitan districts, provinces and cantons have law-making powers within the scope of their competences and territorial jurisdictions (Art. 240). The President of the Republic has to periodically convene the governors and mayors in the form of a territorial consultation cabinet (Art. 256). The periodicity of such meetings is not defined.

Autonomous regional governments and provinces have delegated powers and are authorized to draw up land-use development and management plans in line with national planning (Art. 262 and 263). A special regime administers the Amazon, which is governed by an integrated plan that ensures “*the conservation and protection of its ecosystems and the principle of *sumak kawsay* (the good way of living)*” (Art. 250). Through the concept of “*good living*” the Constitution emphasizes the need to live in harmony with nature. It also assigns direct rights to nature and its components, including the “*right of restoration*” (Art. 72).

The Constitution confirms a system of legal pluralism that recognizes indigenous and customary law, religion-based norms and international treaties next to codified law. The Constitution also reversed a trend of neoliberal market reforms and decentralization of resource management. It re-nationalized the country’s natural resources, giving the State back its central role in managing resources, including forests. The national government has developed the 3rd National Plan for Good Living (2013-2017)²⁰ and the National Development Strategy (2017-2021).²¹ In addition to the territorial order established by the Constitution, the Government has divided the country in nine administrative zones, 140 districts and 1134 circuits. The provinces of Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos are located in Zone 1, the province of Orellana in Zone 2.

¹⁹ http://www.asambleanacional.gov.ec/documentos/constitucion_de_bolsillo.pdf (spanish), and <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Ecuador/english08.html> (english)

²⁰ <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/12/Buen-Vivir-ingles-web-final-completo.pdf>

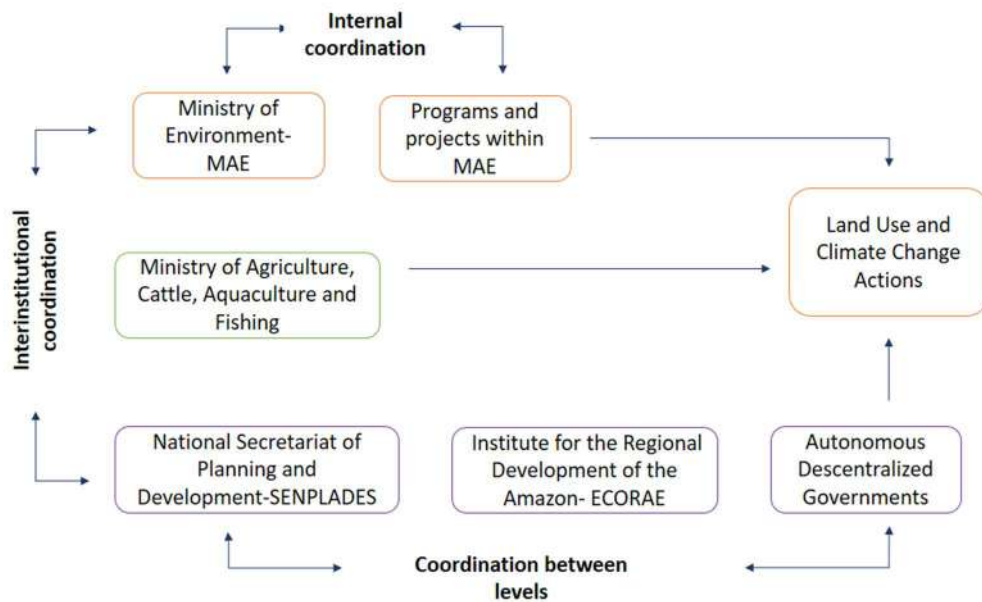
²¹ http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/10/PNBV-26-OCT-FINAL_OK.compressed1.pdf

3.3. Environmental governance

The national government has jurisdiction over national planning, protected areas, biodiversity, and forest resources (Art. 261). The national government assigns areas for protection and sustainable use (Art. 406), reduces deforestation and takes measures to mitigate climate change (Art. 414). The use of ecosystem services is also regulated by the national Government (Art. 74). Persons can benefit of nature, but cannot own or sell ecosystem services.

Fulfilling the constitutional mandate, the Ministry of Environment (Ministerio de Ambiente, MAE) is responsible of developing environmental policy in the country. This includes climate policy and non-commercial management of forest resources. MAE formulates the national climate policy -in accordance with the current National Development Plan- and implements it with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, MAG), the National Secretariat of Planning and Development, the Institute for the regional development of the Amazon, and the different autonomous decentralized governments (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Planning and Coordination of Land Use and Climate Change Actions in Ecuador



Source: Adapted from REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025. pg. 63 (needs to be updated)

The National Agrarian Authority (part of MAG) is responsible of clarifying land tenure, and implements the land-use and equal access policy in rural areas. It also relates the use of agricultural land. The Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (Comité Interinstitucional de Cambio Climático -CICC), composed of representatives of eight Ministries (Environment, Strategic Sectors, Economy, and Foreign Relations, Competition, Human Development, Human



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Resources, Human Mobility) as well as various State Secretariats,²² is the body that coordinates and harmonizes climate policies.

Ministry of Environment acts as chair of the CICC, which seeks to apply a coordinated cross-cutting approach to climate change issues. The technical secretariat of the CICC sits in the Subsecretariat of Climate Change of MAE and plays a key management role. (See Figure 3).

Figure 3: Climate Change Governance in Ecuador



Forest and REDD+ activities are managed by the MAE. The Law of Environmental Management (Ley de Gestión Ambiental²³) of Ecuador designates MAE as the national environmental authority, and defines its roles and responsibilities, including the design and implementation of plans, programs and projects in relation to forests. Acuerdo 033, issued by MAE, regulates REDD+ management in the country and establishes that it is only the national jurisdiction who can directly access the potential benefits resulting from REDD+ activities, and that sub-national levels and projects can only indirectly benefit from REDD+. MAE acts as National REDD+ Authority which is the government body with exclusive competence on REDD+ policy. It is in charge of REDD+ implementation, including the formulation and application of safeguards, national REDD+ accounting, REDD+ registry, as well as regulating all requirements and procedures of REDD+ projects.

MAE also manages other forest conservation and reforestation policies related to National Protected Areas. It also regulates and manages timber and non-timber forest products. The Socio Bosque program, Ecuador's largest reforestation program, is run by MAE. The management of commercial forest plantations and subsidy programs for afforestation and reforestation for commercial purposes are run by MAG.

²² Ministerios Coordinadores: Medio Ambiente (MAE), Sectores Estratégicos (MICSE), Política Económica (MCPE), Producción, Empleo y Competitividad (MCPEC), Desarrollo Social (MCDS), Conocimiento y Talento Humano (MCCTH); la Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo (SENPLADES), Secretaría de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENESCYT), del Agua (SENAGUA), Gestión de Riesgos (SNGR), y el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana.

²³ <http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/LEY-DE-GESTION-AMBIENTAL.pdf>



3.4. Data collection, reference levels and MRV

Ecuador has adopted a national forest emission reference level and operates a national forest monitoring system. Its measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) efforts also focus on the national level. Data collection, the construction of the forest emissions reference level, and the design and operation of the MRV system are responsibility of MAE. According to Ley 033, greenhouse gas accounting and registry also fall under the responsibility of MAE.

3.5. REDD+, land-use and climate policies

Plans and strategies formulated by the national government:

1) National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025

- a) Operational Period – 2012-2025
- b) Overall Description - Guiding strategy to reduce GHG emission in the country, and it defines the strategic direction and an institutional basis for creating climate change plans in specific sectors.
- c) Key Aspects - Addresses the need to implement good agricultural practices to increase productivity and mitigate climate change; focus action toward conservation and reestablishment of vegetative cover; guide sustainable forest management

2) REDD+ Action Plan: Forests for a 'Good Living' 2016-2025

- a) Operational Period – 2016-2025
- b) Overall Description – As part of the National Climate Change Strategy, the REDD+ AP formulates policies, measures, and actions that will contribute to reducing the net rate of deforestation by 2025.
- c) Key Aspects – Strategic components focus on institutional management and coordination, transition to sustainable production systems, sustainable forest management, and conservation and restoration; operational components of REDD+ activities management, forest monitoring and reference level, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement

3) National Climate Change Plan

- a) Operational Period – 2015-2018
- b) Overall Description – Coordinates at an institutional, sectoral, and territorial level the implementation of climate change policies.
- c) Key Aspects - Formulates specific goals for agriculture and other land uses, water, ecosystems, and energy; cross-cutting goals to strengthen risk management capacities; territorial goals for continental Ecuador and the Galapagos islands

4) National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan (PFNR)

- a) Operational Period – 2014-2017
- b) Overall Description – Establishes a total area of one million hectares of forestry plantations during a 20 year period.
- c) Key Aspects – Plan features projects in industrial and commercial plantations; plantations to restore, conserve, and protect natural resources; programs to support the PFNR on financing, training, and forestry research



5) National Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2030

- a) Operational Period – 2015-2030
- b) Overall Description – Sets out a comprehensive strategy to protect biodiversity.
- c) Key Aspects – Biodiversity and forest protection are linked under this strategy, in that protecting one should protect the other

Implementation measures and programs formulated at the national level:

1) Socio Bosque Program

- a) Operational Period – 2008-present
- b) Overall Description – Payments for ecosystem services given to farmers and indigenous communities for protecting native habitats.
- c) Key Aspects – National level program covering all provinces that includes technical assistance for program participants; conservation commitment of protected lands is 20 years

2) The Agenda for the Productive Transformation of the Amazon (Agenda de Transformación Productiva Amazónica –ATPA)

- a) Operational Period – 2013-2017
- b) Overall Description – Program seeks to reduce deforestation and increase sustainable forest management.
- c) Key Aspects – The programs seeks to improve cattle sustainability; improving productivity of cacao and coffee at the farm level; promotion of ecotourism; avoidance of expansion of agricultural frontier; seeks to reconvert at least 300,000 has of pastureland to more productive agriculture

3) Sustainable Cattle Program (Programa de Ganaderia Sostenible)

- a) Operational Period – currently active
- b) Overall description – Seeks to increase the income of small and medium sized ranchers though an increase in productivity.
- c) Key Aspects – Increases in productivity brought about through the introduction of best management practices in livestock and introduction of silvopastoral systems

4) Reactivation of Cocoa and Coffee Program

- a) Operational Period – 2016-2020
- b) Overall Description – Intends to promote an increase in productivity, income, and research while improving product quality.
- c) Key Aspects – Works directly with farmers in the coffee and cacao growing regions; introduction of high yield varieties, irrigation, agroforestry systems, plantation renewal and new establishments supported by technical assistance, lines of credit, and other financial instruments

5) Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation

- a) Operational Period – 2017-2021
- b) Overall Description – Program funded through the Global Climate Fund to co-finance the REDD+ AP by providing targeted investment to control agricultural expansion into forest areas.
- c) Key Aspects - Optimize existing financial, economic mechanisms to implement agricultural and livestock production practices that reduce deforestation; align land-use zoning plans



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with national climate change-related targets; strengthen restoration, conservation and sustainable production in vulnerable watersheds; redesign public credit lines to orient them towards sustainable agricultural production practices; promote tax incentives for REDD-supportive activities; and strengthen purchasing policies for deforestation-free commodities, their certification and traceability.

6) Program of Economic Incentives for Reforestation for commercial purposes

- a) Operational Period – 2013-present
- b) Overall Description – Seeks to increase vegetative cover and conserve forests.
- c) Key Aspects – Uses unproductive land to produce timber; expands the offer of timber products for export

7) Integrated Amazon Program for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production

- a) Operational Period – 2017-present
- b) Overall Description – Seeks to increase agricultural production
- c) Key Aspects – Increase environmental production in environmentally friendly manner; simultaneous poverty reduction goals

3.6. Summary and Recommendation: Scope

Despite various efforts to decentralize administrative powers,²⁴ the constitutional and legal system of Ecuador continues to bundle most authority within the national government. Regions and provinces enjoy delegated planning authority, but only within the limits of the relevant national strategies. The various overlapping administrative units of regions, provinces, and zones further dilute the power of each individual jurisdiction.

Ecuador's territorial system is reflected in the environmental, climate and forest governance of the country. The management of forests and forest ecosystems, including REDD+ and its administration, remains within the exclusive prerogative of the national government. The Ministry of Environment is in charge of implementing forest and climate policies and manages almost all relevant programs (such as Socio Bosque). Ecuador has also adopted a national forest emission reference level and operates its MRV system nationally.

Subnational jurisdictions have neither the authority nor the technical, operational, and financial capabilities to decide on and implement forest and agricultural investment programs. They dependent on the national government for policy implementation. The lack of subnational capacity and authority on REDD+ policy is evidenced in the absence of forest targets in subnational jurisdictions who are bound by forest and climate targets established at the national level.

In line with our analysis of Ecuador's territorial system, we have not found any indications that the provinces of Orellana, Sucumbíos or Esmeraldas have adopted land use measures that would indicate a certain autonomy and proactive approach towards tackling deforestation and forest degradation. In conclusion, we consider the national level as the appropriate jurisdictional level for &Green's engagement in Ecuador.

²⁴ In federalist systems, in contrast, it is the unifying states that agree to cede power to the federal level.

4. JEC Assessment: Criteria 1 to 5

4.1. Checklist JEC 1: Scope

Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
1.1	Amount of forest / peatlands	<p><i>Ecuador has significant tropical forest coverage.</i></p> <p>According to national data, Ecuador has approximately 12,753.387 ha of forest (in 2014) (see Figure 4). This represents about 51,2% of the Ecuadorian continental territory and includes about 157.000 ha of mangroves. About half of Ecuador's remaining forests is classified as primary forest, the most biodiverse and carbon-dense form of forest. In addition, Ecuador has 167,000 ha of planted forest. The great majority of primary forest is located in the Amazon Region (74%); about 16% are in the Ecuadorian coast region. Ecuador is also home to 1,460.502 ha of Paramos (in 2008), a high altitude tropical Andean ecoregion which includes peatlands.</p>	+	<p>FAO. Global Forest Resources Assessment (2015)</p> <p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025.²⁵</p> <p>Baseline of Ecuadorean Deforestation. Socio Bosque Program.²⁶</p> <p>Ecuador's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Deforestation.²⁷</p> <p>Natural Heritage Statistics. Data on Forests, Ecosystems, Species, Carbon, and Deforestation of Continental Ecuador.²⁸</p> <p>Trees and Shrubs of the Manglares of Ecuador.²⁹</p>

²⁵ Available at: http://sua.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/185860/MAE_2016_11_21+ART+LIBRO+REDD+17+nov+2016.pdf

²⁶ Available at: <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/files/Folleto%20mapa-parte1.pdf>

²⁷ Available at: http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf

²⁸ Available at: <http://sua.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/346525/ESTADISTICAS+DE+PATRIMONIO+FINAL.pdf>

²⁹ Available at: <http://www.flacsoandes.edu.ec/libros/digital/55818.pdf>



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
1.2	Quality of forest / peatlands	<p><i>Ecuador's forest is of high ecological value. About half of Ecuador's remaining forests is classified as primary forest.</i></p> <p>Ecuador has four major biogeographic regions: The Amazon, the Andes, the Pacific coastal plain, and the Galapagos Islands. The most converted region is the Pacific coastal plain, with remnant native vegetation below 28%. The most pristine region (around 90% preserved) is the Amazon region. Ecuador belongs to the 17 megadiverse countries that -according to IUCN- host more than 70% of the world's biodiversity. It hosts nine different types of forests (See Figure 4) and more than 60 forest ecosystems. In total continental Ecuador hosts 91 different ecosystems, 4.500 endemic species of plants and 1.618 bird species.</p> <p>Orellana and Sucumbíos provinces are located in the Amazon region (covering 87,9% and 81,6% of its territory respectively) and each host 17 ecosystems. The Yasuní national park in the Napo and Pastaze provinces in the Ecuadorian Amazon alone host 100.000 species of insects and 173 species of mammals. The province of Esmeraldas is the most pristine one of the Pacific coastal plain being home to 14 ecosystems that cover 53,5% of its territory. The Ecuadorian paramo ecoregion hosts 12 ecosystems, the Cajas National Park alone includes over 700 bodies of water.</p> <p>Ecuador's forests store about 1,518,905,138tons of carbon. Esmeraldas province stores 3,2% of them, Orellana about 18,87% and Sucumbíos 12,2%. The Amazon Lowland Evergreen Forest stores an average of 160,4 tons of carbon /ha. Mangroves store 86,6 tons of carbon /ha. There are 18 areas designated as Ramsar (wetland) Sites representing 290,815 ha in the country. Ecuador also hosts six UNESCO's World</p>	+	<p>Evaluation of Worldwide Forest Reserves 2015. Informe Ecuador. FAO³¹</p> <p>Ramsar Sites Information Service.³²</p> <p>Baseline for Ecuadorean Deforestation</p> <p>UNESCO biosphere reserves.³³</p> <p>Olson, D., & Dinerstein, E. (2002). The Global 200: Priority Ecoregions for Global Conservation.³⁴</p> <p>Results of the National Forest Evaluation³⁵</p>

³¹ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4808s.pdf>

³² Available at: https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Ecuador.pdf

³³ Available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>

³⁴ Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden, 89(2), 199-224. doi:10.2307/3298564

³⁵ Available at: <http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/185860/MAE+2014a.+Evaluacion+Nacional+Forestal+-+Resultados.pdf>



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		Biosphere Reserves, ³⁰ and four of WWF's Global 200 ecoregions: the Ecuadorian dry forests, Tumbes-Piura dry forests (ecoregion shared with northern Peru), Northern Andean páramo (ecoregion shared with Colombia) and Manabí mangroves eco-region along the pacific coast. The Ecuadorian National System of Protected Areas includes 51 natural reserves that cover approximately 20% of mainland Ecuador (see Figure 1).		Peatland carbon stocks and accumulation rates in the Ecuadorian Páramo ³⁶ Priority areas for biodiversity conservation in mainland Ecuador ³⁷

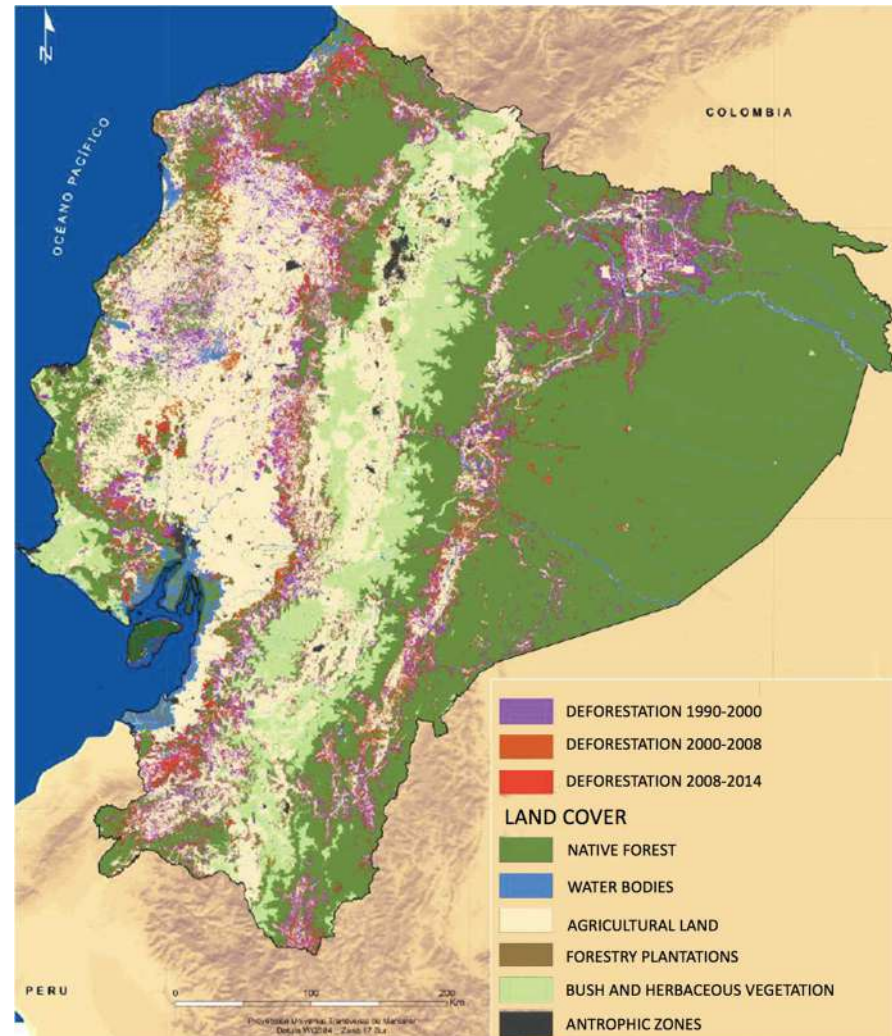
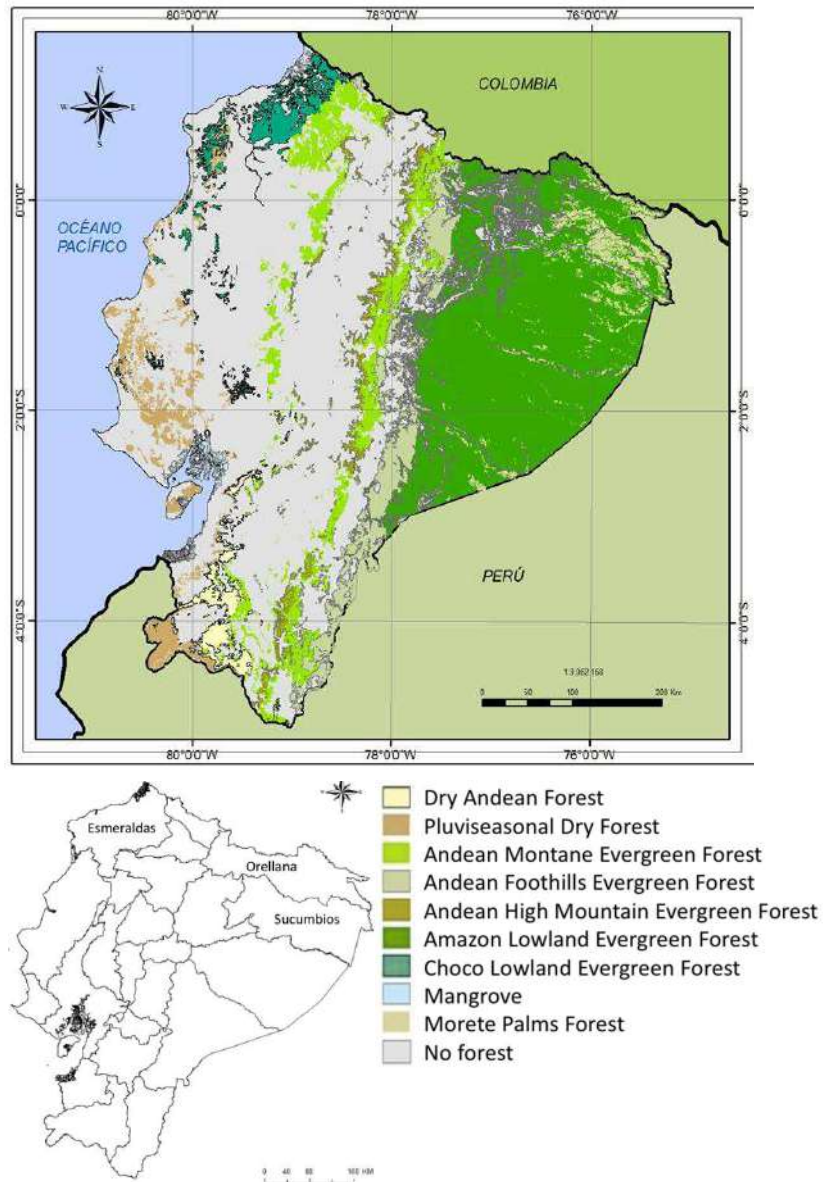
³⁰ Archipiélago de Colón (Galápagos), Yasuni, Sumaco, Podocarpus-El Condor, Macizo del Cajas and Bosque Seco (Part of Transboundary Bosques de Paz with Peru).

³⁶ Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11273-016-9482-2>

³⁷ Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23766808.2017.1295705>



Figure 4: Map of Continental Ecuadorian Forests, and Figure 5 : Deforestation in Continental Ecuador (1990-2014)



4.2. Checklist JEC 2: Ambition & Strategy

Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
2.1	Quantitative target against historic rates of deforestation	<p><i>Ecuador has a national climate and forest strategy in place and is committed to REDD+. According to its REDD+ Action Plan (section 5.2.2, page 103), Ecuador pledges to decrease gross deforestation by 20% against its historic Reference Level by 2025. The nationally determined contribution (NDC) defines a loose zero deforestation goal as well as hectare goals for restoration and protection of forests. Despite the land sector being one of the largest source of GHG emissions, Ecuador does not include a concrete emission reduction target for the land sector in its NDC. In summary, a quantitative target against historic deforestation exists in the REDD+ Action Plan but could be increased (see JEC 2.2) and further anchored in the NDC including a target date for zero deforestation.</i></p> <p>The land sector contributes 43% of the country's GHG emissions. However, the Ecuador's NDC only formulates a quantitative emission reduction target for the energy sector. The NDC identified the following land sector related goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a deforestation rate of zero however without defining gross or net deforestation and without defining a target date. Restore 500,000 hectares until 2017 and restore an additional 100,000 ha annually through 2025 (through the National Forestry Restoration Program). Protect a total of 2 million hectares of forest in farms and indigenous lands through the Socio Bosque Program. <p><i>The NDC emphasizes the need for international financial support to reach these goals.</i></p>	+ -	<p>Ecuador NDC⁴¹</p> <p>The National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017</p> <p>The National Plan for Good Living 2017-2021⁴²</p> <p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025⁴³</p> <p>Ecuador's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Deforestation⁴⁴</p>

⁴¹ <http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Ecuador/1/Ecuador%20INDC%2001-10-2015%20-%20english%20unofficial%20translation.pdf>

⁴² The National Plan of Good Living 2017-2021 https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/plan/files/Ecuador%20Plan%20Nacional%20para%20el%20Buen%20Vivir%202017-2021_0.pdf

⁴³ REDD+ Action Plan: Forests for a 'Good Living' http://sua.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/185860/MAE_2016_11_21+ART+LIBRO+REDD+17+nov+2016.pdf/e282f00c-37b2-4183-8349-54ecc9837bc8

⁴⁴ http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<p>Ecuador’s REDD+ Action Plan defines a goal to reduce deforestation at the national level. The main goal is to reduce gross deforestation by 20% against the historic Forest Reference Level by 2025, through the implementation of policies, and REDD+ measures and actions.</p> <p>The national Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) has been established as the simple historic average deforestation from 2000-08. Activity data used for the construction of Ecuador’s FREL was extracted from an historical time series of land-use maps developed by MAE for the years 1990, 2000 and 2008. To estimate historical emissions, Ecuador multiplies gross deforestation per forest type with specific emission factors.³⁸ Emission factors for FREL consist of the carbon stock associated with the forest type.</p> <p>Ecuador’s FREL has been established consistent with the Warsaw Framework on REDD+³⁹ and has been subject to review by qualified experts⁴⁰. It can therefore be considered technically robust. The government considers that national efforts associated with the 2008 Constitution and National Development Plan have contributed to reducing deforestation rates. Activity data of the 1990-2000 period which showed higher deforestation rates was excluded as it no longer reflects current national circumstances, which can be deemed conservative. Therefore, choosing a 2000-2008 reference period appears reasonable. The area covered in the FREL consists of 100% of Ecuador’s continental territory covering forest and non-forest areas.</p>		

³⁸ It should be noted that the forest type stratification for the activity data and emission factors is consistent with the stratification used in the national greenhouse gas inventory.

³⁹ following approach 3 as described in the IPCC’s Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF

⁴⁰ Accuracy of activity data (deforestation) was subject to an independent assessment by Forest Carbon International in 2013



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
2.2	Ambition	<p><i>Ecuador’s goal of reducing deforestation by 20% by 2025 against average historic deforestation between 2000-2008 (108,650 ha/year) is moderately ambitious. The country has shown over the last years that it is able to reduce deforestation and has pledged to continue to do so. It has programs in place that make this goal feasible. However, according to 2016 deforestation figures generated by the University of Maryland⁴⁵ and cited by MAE⁴⁶, the declared goal of 20% reduction had already been achieved by 2016. While progress in reducing deforestation is applaudable, recent deforestation statistics call into question the level of ambition in a 20% reduction goals. Ambition could be increased over time by (a) periodically adjusting the reference level using more recent reference periods (downward adjustment) and/or (b) increasing the reduction target above 20%.</i></p> <p><i>The goals related to conservation and restoration of forests can be deemed ambitious.</i></p> <p>The annual gross deforestation had already been reduced to 97,918 ha between 2009-2014 according to official MAE generated figures reported to the UNFCCC, and 61,112 ha in 2016 according to University of Maryland generated figures (unofficial)⁴⁷, which means that the target has already been surpassed. This suggests that the target defined in the REDD+ Action Plan could have been more aggressive.</p> <p>On a positive note, the downward trend demonstrated an ability of the country to reduce deforestation significantly and implies a certain level of success in related policies. Further, the goal would require a continued effort to maintain an already low deforestation rate through 2025 which will be associated with increased marginal cost.</p> <p>We therefore rate the goal as moderately ambitious.</p>	+ -	<p>Ecuador’s Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Deforestation⁴⁸</p> <p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025</p>

⁴⁵ Data through 2016 based on methodologies developed by Hansen et al. 2013. High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change available at: https://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest/download_v1.4.html

⁴⁶ <http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/indicadores.jsf>

⁴⁷ Data through 2016 based on methodologies developed by Hansen et al. 2013. High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change available at: https://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest/download_v1.4.html

⁴⁸ http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
2.3	Equaling or exceeding national targets	Since subnational jurisdictions do not have targets different from those established at the national level, this assessment applies only at the national level. Based on the country's established goals in the REDD+ Action Plan, Ecuador seems to be performing as expected, and is on track to comply with the goals.	N/A	N/A
2.4	Feasible Strategy	<p><i>Ecuador has several policies and programs in place that seek to curb deforestation and increase forest cover. Some of these programs, most notably the Socio Bosque program, have been successfully implemented over the last years and can further be scaled. Generally, the achievement of the national target is considered feasible.</i></p> <p>Major policies and strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025 2. REDD+ Action Plan: Forests for a 'Good Living' 2016-2025 3. National Climate Change Plan 4. National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan (PFNR) 5. National Biodiversity Strategy <p>Major programs resulting from the above strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socio Bosque Program 2. The Agenda for the Productive Transformation of the Amazon (Agenda de Transformación Productiva Amazónica –ATPA) 3. Sustainable Cattle Program (Programa de Ganadería Sostenible) 4. Reactivation of Coffee and Cocoa Program 5. Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation 6. Program of Economic Incentives for Reforestation for commercial purposes 7. Integrated Amazon Program for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production 	+	National Climate Change Strategy 2012-2025 ⁴⁹ , National Climate Change Plan 2015-2018 ⁵⁰ , SocioBosque Program ⁵¹ , Agenda de Transformación Productiva Amazónica –ATPA, The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025, Accord Nº 10. National Plan of Afforestation and Reforestation, National Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2030, Programa de Ganadería Sostenible, Reactivation of Cocoa and Coffee Program, Program of Economic Incentives for

⁴⁹ National Climate Change Strategy. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ecu140074.pdf>

⁵⁰ <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/EQU/PLAN%20NACIONAL%20DE%20CAMBIO%20CLIM%C3%81TICO.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/>



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<p>The government offers financial and non-financial incentives for agriculture and forestry activities, such as tax breaks, easing of permit acquisitions, administrative services, and technical assistance, facilitating potential private sector investment. The REDD+ Action Plan tries to harmonize intersectoral interests so these incentives are used optimally. One of these incentive programs, managed by MAG, and initiated in 2013, is the Programa de Incentivos Económicos para Reforestación con fines Comerciales whose objective is to increase vegetation cover and conserve forests by using unproductive land to produce timber while reducing imports and expanding the offer of timber products for export. This is done by reimbursing partial costs of the establishment and maintenance of forestry plantations. This Program uses an official map that shows the areas for potential plantations to define where its incentives should go to.</p>		<p>Reforestation for commercial purposes, Integrated Amazon Program for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production, Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation⁵²</p>

4.3 Checklist JEC 3: Progress

Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
3.1	<p>Timely progress towards milestones of the strategy...</p>	<p><i>Ecuador publishes regular reports on programs which suggest that the country is making progress towards meeting the objectives under several policies and programs. The number of hectares covered under programs related to conservation, restoration, reforestation, and reduced deforestation has significantly increased. Milestones related to restoration appear to be lagging but solid progress is being achieved in reducing deforestation and conserving forests. The country is expecting additional resources from the Global Climate Fund to scale up programs.</i></p> <p>1. The REDD+ Action Plan: Forests for a 'Good Living' 2016-2025</p>	+	<p>Ecuador's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Deforestation⁵⁹</p> <p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025</p>

⁵² http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574760/Funding_proposal_-_FP019_-_UNDP_-_Ecuador.pdf/e586b720-abc1-41e2-ac9d-dc6047ce77c7?version=1.15UI

⁵⁹ http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of December 2016, the Socio Bosque Program covers over 1.4 million hectares⁵³ spanning seven different ecosystem types.⁵⁴ The program includes the National Forestry Restoration Program which has achieved restoration of 102,000 hectares by 2016.⁵⁵ <p>2. The National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan (PNFR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2014 to 2016, the area covered by forests increased by 4%, or approximately 90,000 hectares. If the government can continue on this trajectory, they stand to achieve the one million hectares goal over a 20-year period.⁵⁶ <p>3. The National Biodiversity Strategy⁵⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements under this initiative include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of an analytical and methodological framework for financial planning for biodiversity ○ Well positioned need for integration and synergy of various strategic and financial management instruments of the environmental sector ○ Approved proposal for the application of sustainable water tariffs within the framework of sustainable watershed management ○ Official establishment by the national government via Executive Decree on the structuring of the Sustainable Environmental Investment Fund (FIAS) <p>4. The Agenda for the Productive Transformation of the Amazon (Agenda de Transformación Productiva Amazónica –ATPA)</p>		<p>First Biennial Update Report submitted to UNFCCC (BUR1)⁶⁰</p> <p>FP019: Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation⁶¹</p> <p>Estrategía nacional de biodiversidad 2015-2030⁶²</p>

⁵³ <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/node/44>

⁵⁴ <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/node/330>

⁵⁵ http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574760/Funding_proposal_-_FP019_-_UNDP_-_Ecuador.pdf/e586b720-abc1-41e2-ac9d-dc6047ce77c7?version=1.1

⁵⁶ <http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/indicators.jsf>

⁵⁷ <http://maetransparente.ambiente.gob.ec/documentacion/WebAPs/Estrategia%20Nacional%20de%20Biodiversidad%202015-2030%20-%20CALIDAD%20WEB.pdf>

⁶⁰ http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_parties/biennial_update_reports/application/pdf/ecubur1.pdf

⁶¹ http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574760/Funding_proposal_-_FP019_-_UNDP_-_Ecuador.pdf/e586b720-abc1-41e2-ac9d-dc6047ce77c7?version=1.1

⁶² <http://maetransparente.ambiente.gob.ec/documentacion/WebAPs/Estrategia%20Nacional%20de%20Biodiversidad%202015-2030%20-%20CALIDAD%20WEB.pdf>



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the agenda's inception, annual average deforestation from 2000-2008 stood at around 77,748 ha. After its inception in 2013, the average annual deforestation rate from 2014-2016 fell to around 54,304 ha.⁵⁸ <p>5. Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GCF project will directly input USD 41.17 million to support implementation of the REDD+ AP while co-finance leveraged by the GCF project will reach USD 42.84 million. Other complementary sources of financing stand at USD 74.6 million representing a total financing support of USD 158.77 million. 		
3.2	... measurably on a trajectory towards the targets for reduced deforestation	<p><i>As discussed in JEC 2.2. Ecuador has made significant progress in reducing deforestation. If 2016 figures by the University of Maryland⁶³ are accurate, the country reduced deforestation by 43.7% against its FREL (or 21.4% against deforestation between 2000-2008 as reported by the University of Maryland). The 2-million-hectare goal related to conservation of forests through the Socio Bosque Program appears to be in reach with 1.4 million hectares having been registered. Restoration goals may require additional attention considering that only 102,000 ha have been reported through 2016 (compared to 500,000 hectares pledged by 2017 and an additional 100,000 hectares annually thereafter).</i></p> <p>Ecuador reported progress against the deforestation target in its First Biennial Update Report submitted to the UNFCCC. According to the Update, Ecuador managed to reduce average annual gross deforestation between 2009-2014 to 97,918 ha, representing a 9.9% reduction. According to unofficial data, a 43.7% reduction against the FREL (or 21.4% against <i>deforestation between 2000-2008 as reported by the University of Maryland</i>) had been achieved by 2016.</p>	+	<p>Ecuador's Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Deforestation⁶⁴</p> <p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025</p> <p>First Biennial Update Report submitted to UNFCCC (BUR1)⁶⁵</p> <p>SUIA Environmental Information System⁶⁶</p>

⁵⁸ <http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/indicadors.jsf>

⁶³ Data through 2016 based on methodologies developed by Hansen et al. 2013. High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change available at: https://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest/download_v1.4.html

⁶⁴ http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf

⁶⁵ http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_parties/biennial_update_reports/application/pdf/ecubur1.pdf

⁶⁶ <http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/indicadors.jsf>



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		Progress is verifiable through UNFCCC reporting and additional data reported online by MAE on a biennial basis.		
3.3	Verifiable improvement of the enabling environment	<p><i>In 2017, Ecuador approved the Basic Law of the Environment, a policy instrument that seeks to integrate national development with environmental protection and sustainable development goals at multiple levels of government. The Ministry of the Environment has simultaneously developed guidance materials such as the Territorial Planning and Climate Change Manual to provide relevant authorities with the tools to integrate environmental risk management into planning decisions. Enhanced staff capacities generated through the implementation of forest related programs and tools are described in JEC 2 and JEC 3 suggest that the enabling environment for reducing deforestation and increasing forest cover have substantially improved over the past years.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Law of the Environment (Código Orgánico del Ambiente, COA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The COA addresses issues such as climate change, protected areas, wildlife, forest heritage, environmental quality, waste management, environmental incentives, coastal marine zone management, mangroves, access to genetic resources, biosecurity, and biocommerce. ○ The COA was approved in April 2017 and will become effective in April 2018. Until that time, the MAE will be hosting workshops and meetings throughout the country with various sectors of society (as well as receiving submissions online) to gather information for the final version of the COA. ○ In the realm of environmental finance, the COA codified the right of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments in the creation of environmental funds that contribute to the sound environmental management of resources and areas in their governing areas. 	+	<p>Organic Code of the Environment (Código Orgánico del Ambiente, COA)⁷⁰</p> <p>Territorial Planning and Climate Change Manual⁷¹</p> <p>OECD Governance Indicators Ecuador⁷²</p> <p>World Bank Governance Indicators</p>

⁷⁰ <http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/codigo-organico-del-ambiente-coa/>

⁷¹ http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/07/Manual_8-OTyCC.pdf

⁷² <http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/Ecuador-regulatory-policy-ireg-2016.pdf> <http://www.oecd.org/gov/lac-ecuador.pdf>



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Indicators⁶⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecuador’s governance indicators have strengthened from 2000-2015 in the areas control of corruption and political stability. The regulatory quality has slightly deteriorated over the same time period. Political stability has gone down slightly with the new government. Corruption has also increased in 2014, but decreased again in 2015. • Forest Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecuador does not have a significant commercial forestry industry is not prevalent in Ecuador. Certification is also not widespread in Ecuador, only 55,544 ha were FSC certified in 2016.⁶⁸ • Mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Illegal mining and environmental destruction and human rights abuses remain a problem in Ecuador.⁶⁹ 		

4.4 Checklist JEC 4: MRV

Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
4.1	Transparent system operational	<p><i>The country’s MRV system is considered operational and transparent to serve deforestation monitoring.</i></p> <p>Ecuador’s forest monitoring system, managed by MAE, uses wall-to-wall images to detect deforestation every 2 years with full land-use mapping every 4 years. This system uses the Historical Maps of Deforestation (MHD), the National Forest Evaluation (ENF) and the Vegetation Map of Ecuador (MVE), however, coupled with persistent cloudy conditions in some areas, it has important limitations for the accurate estimation of annual emissions reductions from deforestation. The existing institutional arrangements are sufficient to periodically monitor</p>	+	<p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025</p> <p>First Biennial Update Report submitted to UNFCCC (BUR1)⁷³</p>

⁶⁷ Trends and comparisons: <http://www.theglobaleconomy.com/compare-countries/>

⁶⁸ Facts_and_Figures_2016-06-06.pdf

⁶⁹ <https://www.globalwitness.org/fr/blog/ecuadorian-indigenous-leader-killed-days-planned-protest-cop20/>

⁷³ http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_parties/biennial_update_reports/application/pdf/ecubur1.pdf



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<p>emissions from deforestation, but there is room for improvement in order to facilitate an annual calculation of emission reductions.</p> <p>This system is aligned with the requirements of forest monitoring systems of the UNFCCC and has generated Land use maps for 1990, 2000, 2008 and 2014 and Deforestation maps for 1990-2000, 2000-2008 and 2008-2014. Operation and transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online platform for environmental indicators is operational at the following web address: http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/welcome.jsf Indicators such as Area Covered by Forestry and Vegetation Protection and Area of Forest Harvesting have data on an annual basis from 2008-2016. Additionally, the Area of Forest Harvesting indicator is further disaggregated to the sub-national level. • The First Biennial Update Report submitted to UNFCCC also mentions the Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques (SNMB), the results of which are made public at the following web address: http://mapainteractivo.ambiente.gob.ec/portal/. 		<p>SUIA Environmental Information System⁷⁴</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Progress towards implementation of the MRV system</p>	<p><i>Implementation of the system is considered complete. The country has ambitions to use the system as one-stop-shop for all environmental and social data which may require further enhancements but forest related monitoring is deemed functional.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MAE of Ecuador has built an online web portal where interested parties can visualize the mapping of forest cover and land use on an annual basis at the national and subnational level. • Within the GCF project proposal, data sources for Means of Verification (MoV) are proposed for multiple impact areas to gauge effectiveness in how project activities will support successful realization of the REDD+ AP. Certain data sources useful for MoV purposes have already been developed that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BUR and FREL submitted to UNFCCC ○ Results published under the SocioBosque Program and the ATPA ○ Integrated Farm Management Plans reported in the MAGAP ○ Forest National Monitoring System reports 	<p>+</p>	<p>FP019: Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation⁷⁵</p>

⁷⁴ <http://snia.ambiente.gob.ec:8090/indicadoresambientales/pages/indicators.jsf>

⁷⁵ http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574760/Funding_proposal_-_FP019_-_UNDP_-_Ecuador.pdf/e586b720-abc1-41e2-ac9d-dc6047ce77c7?version=1.1



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For on-going monitoring and evaluation and the creation of data sources that do not yet exist, the GCF project proposal describes the following monitoring and evaluation plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The M&E Plan will be conducted in accordance with UNDP and GCF procedures by the project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP CO). The Logical Framework Matrix provides impact and outcome indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification. The M&E plan includes: an inception report, project implementation reviews, a mid-term review and final evaluation, etc. The following sections outline the principal components of this plan. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project's Inception Meeting following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities. 		

4.5 Checklist JEC 5: Safeguards: social and environmental

Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
5.1	Safeguards against social and environmental risks associated with the strategy in place	<p><i>In accordance with the Cancun Agreement, an appropriate framework and strategy is in place to mitigate social and environmental risk associated with the implementation Ecuador's forest plans and programs. Successful implementation will be dependent on whether suitable, efficient institutional structures are developed and executed.</i></p> <p>A REDD+ safeguards framework has been established and adopted in Ecuador in accordance with the Cancun Agreements, as per the REDD+ Action Plan (see section 8.3), and is aligned with the country's legal framework (Constitution, National Development Plan), and recognizes the role of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and other priority groups,⁷⁶ including a guideline issued on how to proceed with consultations for the implementation of REDD+ activities in indigenous territories and collectively owned land (see Annex 1 of REDD+ Action Plan).</p>	+	<p>The REDD+ Action Plan 2016-2025</p> <p>1st Summary of Information in addressing and respecting safeguards for REDD+ in Ecuador⁸¹ (Feb 2017)</p> <p>Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning</p>

⁷⁶ REDD+ Action Plan Pg 170 to 176 and 216-221

⁸¹ Ministerio del Ambiente de Ecuador. 2017. Primer Resumen de Información del Abordaje y Respeto de Salvaguardas para REDD+ en Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. http://redd.unfccc.int/files/ecuador_first_sis_summary.pdf



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Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		<p>Ecuador directs its own process to respond to its interpretation of all 7 safeguards requirements established by the UNFCCC in a way that aligns with its policies, legal instruments, and existing governance arrangements.</p> <p>The <i>Alcance Nacional de Salvaguardas</i> (see Annex 2) lays out the fundamentals of the safeguards system being established in the country, which is constructed through a stepwise approach (Decision 17/CP. 21, paragraph 7). This <i>Alcance</i> provides a plan on what needs to be done in order to support implementation of REDD+ actions in a manner consistent with Cancun Agreements, and addresses indicators for each of the 7 safeguards, including potential risks and co-benefits associated to REDD+. It also establishes how the country will report on how it addresses and respects safeguards while implementing REDD+ activities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment is in the final design phase of its national Safeguards Information System (SIS) that aims to manage and publish information on how safeguards are addressed. The conceptual basis for the design of the SIS is the <i>Alcance Nacional de Salvaguardas</i> (see above). Reporting of measures, actions, and their follow-up is to be based on information systems already in place in the country, and data coming from institutions implementing REDD+ activities, hence the SIS is not a new system but rather a process flow to collect and process information and generate reports. The systems already in place in the country which the SIS uses for its purposes are the Sistema Unico de Información Ambiental (SUIA)⁷⁷ managed by MAE, the Sistema Nacional de Información (SNI)⁷⁸ managed by the Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES), the Sistema Nacional del Agro (SINAGAP)⁷⁹ managed by MAG, the Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques (SNMB) managed by MAE as well, and the Portal de Estadísticas from the Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC).⁸⁰</p> <p>The institutional arrangement meant to ensure implementation of relevant policies, laws and regulations, is not entirely clear however. Even though MAE is the leading entity for REDD+ matters, Ecuador envisions an inter-institutional management of safeguards between entities that</p>		<p>Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation (GCF proposal – see footnote 83)</p>

⁷⁷ <http://suiia.ambiente.gob.ec/en/?jsessionid=dhTJzvpLddfzLbI5XS8NzTPK>

⁷⁸ <http://sni.gob.ec/inicio>

⁷⁹ sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec

⁸⁰ <http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/institucional/home/>



Item	Criteria	Analysis	Check	References
		do not have a history of swift cooperation, through the use of territorial arrangement planning instruments. The plans laid out include a key role for decentralized autonomous governments. Even though these governments have delegated planning authority, in practice they are heavily limited by entities implementing national strategies, and do not have the technical, operational, and financial capabilities.		
5.2	Progress	<p><i>The country has made progress on safeguard system design but has yet to finalize key aspects for implementation.</i></p> <p>Ecuador has published its first report to the UNFCCC on how it will address and respect safeguards. This report demonstrates initial progress towards implementing the Cancun Agreements. It was published in February 2017, covers the period January 2013 to December 2015 (the country’s preparation phase for REDD+), and is limited to the REDD+ activity of “reducing deforestation”. It provides information on each safeguard, however it does not seem to add new information but only provides a recapitulation of the process undertaken in the design of the REDD+ Action Plan. Ecuador is clear that there are some shortfalls in implementation and reports on further progress needed to advance on making the safeguards system more robust.</p> <p>The country continues to work on the review and institutionalization method of its REDD+ safeguards policy, hence the report presents the studies and data used to design the REDD+ Action Plan, but does not provide detailed information on the contents or the implementation plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, the consolidation of information from 5 distinct systems and 4 different government institutions into the single SIS may be challenging and remains pending. Currently, the implementation of the system is on hold as Ecuador is waiting for funds from the GCF funded project⁸² to flow in so they are able to finalize design, create the appropriate coordination arrangements between government agencies for the adequate flow of information, and begin implementation; the SIS is not institutionalized yet. The 1st Summary of Information in addressing and respecting safeguards for REDD+ in Ecuador,⁸³ provides evidence that the SIS implementation is still in its design phase.</p>	+-	

⁸² http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/574760/Funding_proposal_-_FP019_-_UNDP_-_Ecuador.pdf/e586b720-abc1-41e2-ac9d-dc6047ce77c7?version=1.1

⁸³ Ministerio del Ambiente de Ecuador. 2017. Primer Resumen de Información del Abordaje y Respeto de Salvaguardas para REDD+ en Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. http://redd.unfccc.int/files/ecuador_first_sis_summary.pdf

