



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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Background: Ecuador, located on the northwestern coast of South America, comprises continental territory and the Galapagos Islands. It has four distinct geographical regions (coast, highlands, Amazon, and Galapagos), each with a unique climate and environment. Despite its small size, Ecuador also contains some of the world's greatest biodiversity. Tourism, mostly in and around national parks generates approximately \$2.3 billion dollar each year. This biodiversity is threatened, however, by social, economic, political, and external pressures, the Colombian conflict among them. Furthermore, Ecuador's deforestation rate is the second highest in South America and the highest of any Amazonian country, losing approximately 200,000 hectares of forest annually. Its over-fishing rate remains alarming and affects the Galapagos Marine Reserve, the world's second largest protected marine area.

The USAID program in Ecuador addresses five strategic areas: biodiversity conservation; democracy and governance; economic opportunities; and development of Ecuador's northern and southern borders. USAID supports the conservation of biologically important regions within Ecuador's protected area systems. USAID has vigorously pursued Global Development Alliances (GDA)¹ and has six such alliances in the areas of democracy, environment, and economic growth.

Furthermore, USAID manages the Collaborative Research Support Program, which provides assistance to increase farmers' capacity to produce, utilize, and market agricultural commodities through cost effective and environmentally sustainable methods, as well as the Living Program, which provides assistance through the Wildlife Conservation Society to protect the biodiversity of the Greater Yasuni-Napo Moist Forest Landscape Conservation Area.

¹ USAID's public private alliance initiative is called the Global Development Alliance (GDA)— a commitment to change the way we implement our assistance mandate. GDA is USAID's response to the new reality of development assistance that recognizes that flows between the developed world and the developing world have changed. These changes in flows reflect the emergence of the private, for-profit sector; and the non-governmental, or so-called third, sector, as significant participants in the development process itself. The Global Development Alliance serves as a catalyst to mobilize ideas, efforts, and resources of the public sector, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in support of shared objectives. For more information, see: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda/.

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Ecuador include*:

- Awa, Cofan, Huaorani, Shuar, and Achuar indigenous peoples
- Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE)
- Chemonics International Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Ecuadorian government agencies, including the Ministry of Environment

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

Sector Specific Climate Change Activities

USAID's support of improved resources management and conservation has helped Ecuador achieve sustainable development and higher environmental standards. Through the preservation of natural resources such as carbon storing forests, USAID has assisted Ecuador in addressing climate change while simultaneously protecting vulnerable ecosystems. In recent years, USAID's environmental program in Ecuador continued to consolidate targeted efforts aimed at reducing resource-based conflicts and supporting the sustainable use and conservation of Ecuador's globally significant and economically important biological resources.

Addressing Climate Change through Natural Resources Management and Conservation of Carbon Stocks. In the context of habitat conservation, USAID supports activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forestry activities that help maintain and enhance carbon stocks and sinks. Under three programs - the Southern Border Integration Project, CAIMAN and the Parks in Peril activity - international and local non-governmental organizations are developing and supporting implementation of sustainable community-based and private forest management models.

Under the Southern Border Integration Program, significant achievements have been realized in forest management and land use practices. Improved logging practices (such as cable logging in steep areas and low impact harvesting) have decreased damage to surrounding forested areas and increased the quality of timber harvested. Through better processing practices, there has been less waste and more value added to the final products. Reforestation is achieved through nurseries of native tree species in the Amazon region, and all approved timber management plans follow the best practices in silviculture and harvest. To date, 278,720 hectares of tropical evergreen forest have been placed under sustainable management and agro-forestry practices. Additionally, the project is working with 26 small municipalities in El Oro, Loja and Morona Santiago provinces improving solid waste management practices.

As a public-private partnership leveraging GDA funding, the Ecomadera Forest Management project has been successful in the harvest, processing and marketing of lesser known species of trees, as well as development of a nursery for reforestation purposes. Improved agro-forestry practices have resulted in higher levels of production. Lessons learned have been shared across USAID programs to duplicate the management model in this project.

In recent years, the CAIMAN program increased the number of hectares of indigenous territories with improved management from 184,512 to 225,336 and gained greater control over 410,412 hectares. Six indigenous Kichua

communities located in the Yasuni National Park were assisted to negotiate a co-management agreement with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador to protect 96,000 hectares of pristine tropical rainforest in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world.

The indigenous Cofan Guards program continued implementing a territorial patrolling program covering 323,700 hectares of Cofan territory, helping to reduce the incidence of poaching, illegal logging, fishing with dynamite, and invasions. As a result, the program was able to delimit/demarcate 105 kilometers of territorial boundaries in the protected areas of Cuyabeno and Cofan-Bermejo, two highly threatened and biodiverse segments of the Amazon Basin. The Indigenous Awa Federation (FCAE) developed a management plan for the main block of the Awa territory covering over 99,900 hectares that represents the last remaining patch of the Ecuadorian Chocó, an ecosystem with numerous unique species. In addition, approvals were given for land titles to 100,000 hectares in the buffer zones of indigenous territories.

During 2004-2005, the Parks in Peril (PiP) Program in the Antisana Reserve, one of the protected areas of the Tropical Andes, provided key support to community park guards to control hunting, forest fires and illegal fishing on 23,300 hectares of highland grassland, reducing fires by 35%. Outside protected areas, 225 families are applying sustainable productive systems on 22,000 hectares, reducing pressures on forest areas of Cayambe-Coca and Antisana Reserves. As a result of PiP interventions, over 800,000 hectares of temperate evergreen forest are being managed sustainably.

Capacity Building. Over the past few years, capacity building efforts have focused on strengthening the capacity of indigenous organizations including Federación de Centros Awa del Ecuador (FCAE), Federación de Indígenas Cofanes del Ecuador (FEINCE), Asociación de Mujeres Huaorani del Ecuador (AMWAE), Los Laureles, Pequeños Productores Orgánicos de Santiago de Méndez, and 15 de Mayo de Santa Ana associations; Arac Nua and Kurinua women's groups; Federación Interprovincial de Centros Shuar (FICSH), Federación Independiente del Pueblo Shuar del Ecuador (FIPSE), Federación Independiente de la Nacionalidad Achuar Ecuatoriana (FINAE); and small farmers of Tuntiak, Panía, Tundaimi and San Pablo communities to develop and implement natural resource management plans, resolving land tenure conflicts. As a result, small farmers have been trained in agroforestry, forest management and low impact harvesting.

For more information on Ecuador, visit
USAID's Website at:

<http://www.usaid.ec/portal/>