

Concept Note

Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014

Ecuador | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

19 June 2018



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Concept Note

REDD-plus results based payments

Version 1.0

Accredited entities are expected to develop a concept note, in close consultation with the relevant national designated authority and REDD-plus entity/focal point, in response to the request for proposals for the Pilot Programme for REDD-plus results based payments (Decision B.18/07). The concept note should follow the terms of reference of the approved Board decision and will be assessed per Stage 1 of the scorecard also included in the same Board decision.

Programme Title:	<u>Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014</u>
Country:	<u>Ecuador</u>
Results period:	2014
National Designated Authority:	<u>Ministry of Environment of Ecuador</u>
REDD-plus entity/focal point	<u>Ministry of Environment of Ecuador</u>
Accredited Entity:	<u>United Nations Development Programme</u>
Date of first submission/ version number:	<u>[2018-06-19] [V.1]</u>
Date of current submission/ version number	<u>[2018-06-19] [V.1]</u>



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A. Eligibility criteria

A.1. Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus requirements

National REDD-plus Strategy or Action Plan

Link to document (s): <http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/web/suia/redd> as posted on UNFCCC web platform <http://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=ecu> and Lima Info hub <http://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html> (or provide attached and indicate in the comments below where the information is made publically available)

Comments (max 500 words):

Ecuador's National REDD+ Action Plan (AP) was developed during the readiness phase, it was officially issued through the [Ministerial Decree No. 116](#) and it covers the national continental territory. The Action Plan builds on the policies and measures (PAMs) that the government has been implementing since 2008 to reduce deforestation, and lists those PAMs that have been prioritized by Ecuador to address the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and to tackle the barriers to sustainable management of forests, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks¹ in line with UNFCCC decisions with regard to REDD+ national strategies and action plans. The Action Plan also describes the legal context and the institutional arrangements for implementation.

In terms of content, the plan includes actions within and outside the forest, command and control measures as well as incentives for the creation of sustainable agricultural commodity supply chain covering both the supply-and demand-side. The implementation of these actions involves both public and private sectors, as well as a broad range of institutions, from national sectorial and local government entities, NGOs, and local stakeholders, including indigenous people and local communities.

The plan is structured around four strategic components (SC):

- SC1 - Policies and institutional management for REDD+;
- SC 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems;
- SC 3 - Sustainable forest management; and
- SC 4 - Conservation and restoration.

The strategic components are complemented by five operational components which enable the overall implementation of REDD+ in Ecuador:

- OC1 - REDD+ Policies & measures management;
- OC2 - Monitoring and reference level;
- OC3 - Safeguards for REDD+;
- OC4 - Capacity building and knowledge management; and
- OC5 - Stakeholder engagement and communication.

National Forest Monitoring System

Link to document / information on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform or in the technical annex to the Biennial Update Report (BUR): <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/ecubur1.pdf>; page. 189 - 194 (or provide attached and indicate in the comments below where the information is made publically available)

Comments (max 500 words):

The NFMS description has been included in the REDD+ technical annex, section 5, as called for in the annex of UNFCCC decision 14/CP.19.

Ecuador initiated the development of its National Forest Monitoring System in 2013 and it was formalized by means of the Ministerial Decree No. 116. To date, the Ministry of Environment is working to institutionalize the system. The NFMS incorporates measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification (M-MRV) processes at a national scale, according to national circumstances and capabilities, in line with UNFCCC REDD+ decisions.

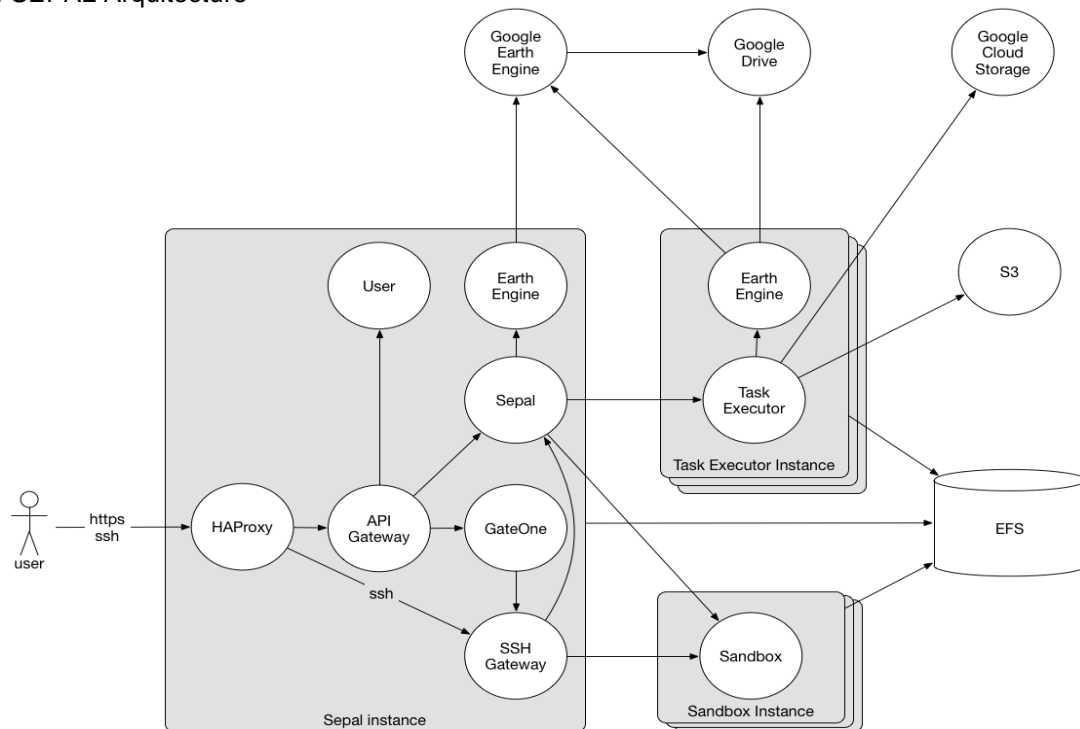
¹ The national REDD+ AP of Ecuador includes measures and actions associated to all 5 REDD+ activities; however, the country presented a FREL for the deforestation activity and is currently working on incorporating the other activities.

The NFMS is linked to the strategic and operative components of the Ecuador's REDD+ Action Plan; it is key for reporting on how Ecuador addresses and respects social and environmental safeguards. Furthermore, the information generated by the system provides inputs for the design and implementation of policies regarding land-use, land management, forest governance, and natural resource management.

The robust and transparent NFMS developed by the country allows it to determine the state of forests through indicators of land-use and forest-cover change. The system's main function is to generate periodic information about national policies and measures implemented in the country, including verifiable data used for estimations and international reports of the land-use, land-use change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector GHG emissions. The NFMS links with other existing information systems, including the GHG Inventory System; the REDD+ Policies and Measures Management System, the Safeguards Information System; the National Planning Entity's Information System, and the Ministry of Agriculture's Information System, among others. Also, the NFMS establishes technical criteria that guide community monitoring activities. Thus, at the local level, information is gathered and contributes to national monitoring reports.

The NFMS includes a geometrical, a biophysical and socio-environmental evaluation, and a landscape objects management component. The methodologies and data generated (e.g. land-use and forest-cover maps) allow for the identification of emission displacement at a national level; this information will be strengthened by the implementation of an early warning system, currently being developed. Indeed the MAE is working on improvements to the NFMS. These improvements are centered around the implementation of four processing chains through the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) with the financial support of the German Development Bank (KfW). These are: (1) pre-processing, (2) land use change and land cover, (3) degradation, and (4) early warning of deforestation. The logical and comprehensive design of the 4 processing chains is illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1. SEPAL Architecture



Source: <https://github.com/openforis/sepai>

SEPAL Platform link: <https://sepai.io/>

The pre-processing chain generates the inputs for the detection of deforestation and active fires in the early warning chain and for the detection of degradation chain.

FREL/FRL that is applied to the results period for which payments are requested has been submitted to the UNFCCC and Technical Assessment finalized.

Links to FREL/FRL: http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf
(or provide attached and indicate in the comments below where the information is made publically available)

Link to Technical Assessment report: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/tar/ecu.pdf>

Comments (max 500 words):

The relevant information has already been included in the FREL submission.

A safeguards information system (SIS) to inform how the safeguards are addressed and respected

Link to document/information: <http://reddecuador.com/sistema-de-informacion-de-salvaguardas> (or provide attached and indicate in the comments below where the information is made publically available)

Comments (max 500 words):

Ecuador initiated the design of its Safeguards Information System (SIS) for REDD+ during the readiness phase in 2012, and it was formalized by means of the Ministerial Decree No. 116. The system is managed by the Ministry of Environment and integrated in the National Environmental Information System (SUIA by the Spanish Acronym).

The SIS reports on the seven Cancun Safeguards according to the priority topics determined in the National Interpretation of Safeguards (annex 2, REDD+ AP). The information is presented with a national scope, combining social and environmental data from the implementation of national policies and actions, together with reporting on the application of safeguards provided by different implementation partners, including local stakeholders.

The operation of the system is guided by three processes, which are: (1) presentation/gathering of information, (2) compilation of information in the SIS, and (3) generation of safeguards reports. These processes include the definition of criteria to ensure the availability of information relevant for safeguards reports, and establish institutional arrangements to access information. The information gathered is compiled in a database. This database facilitates the identification of actions to strengthen the application of safeguards, and serves as the basis for safeguards reports. In turn, these reports are used to inform national decision-making and to fulfil international commitments. The SIS Processes Manual can be downloaded at: <http://reddecuador.com/sistema-de-informacion-de-salvaguardas/>

The development of the SIS during the readiness phase enabled the preparation of the first Summary of Information on how safeguards were addressed and respected during the 2013 – 2015 period. In that period, the operation of the system was fully manual; however, the country is working on the gradual automation of SIS processes, according to national capabilities and circumstances, which will result in more efficient and transparent management of information.

A summary of information on how all the Cancun REDD-plus safeguards were addressed and respected during the period for which payments are being requested

Link to document: http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/web/suia/salvaguardas_redd as posted on UNFCCC web platform <http://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=ecu> and Lima Info hub <http://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html>

(or provide attached)

Comments (max 500 words):

The relevant information is included in the summary information on safeguard. It is worth mentioning that the scope of the summary is national and the period covered is from January 2013 to December 2015. The summary provides information on the seven REDD+ safeguards, based on the National Interpretation of the Safeguards'scope, and it takes into account the applicable UNFCCC decisions.

A.2. BUR Technical Annex

REDD-plus results for which payment is being requested reported in the technical annex to the BUR

Link to BUR: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/ecubur1.pdf>

Technical Analysis been completed Yes No

If yes, link to Technical Analysis report: ___ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tatr/ecu.pdf>
If no, expected date of completion: DD/MM/YY

A.3. Scale

National Subnational

If subnational, provide a definition below:

n/a

A.4. Support from REDD-plus national entity/focal point to the UNFCCC

Has written consent for participation in the RFP provided by the REDD-plus national entity/focal point to the UNFCCC where a national entity/focal point has been nominated by a country been provided?

Yes No

B. Is funding from the project preparation facility required to develop this concept note into a full funding proposal?

Yes No

C. Supporting documents

Written consent for participation in the RFP provided by the REDD-plus national entity/focal point to the UNFCCC where a national entity/focal point has been nominated by a country;

Additional supporting documentation: *(Please list here the attached documents as annexes)*

- Annex 1: [Policy brief REDD+ Action Plan Ecuador](#)
- Annex 2: Final report certifying that Ecuador has completed the ICA process under the UNFCCC http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_parties/ica/technical_analysis_of_burs/application/pdf/fsv_record_ecu_final.pdf
- Annex 3: NIR can be found at: <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-convention/biennial-update-reports-0>