

Annual Performance Report (APR)

**Reference Number (FP019): Priming Financial and Land Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation
UNDP**

**Annual Reporting Period Covered in this Report:
(From 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2019)**

Sections in this report:

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SUBMITTED BY	
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<i>Please indicate if this report has been shared with the relevant NDA(s) for this Funded Activity (Yes/No)</i>	<i>Date of submission to NDA 1 March 2020</i>

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

This section provides general information on the funded activity.

1. Funded Activity Title:	<i>Priming Financial and Land Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation</i>
2. Funding Proposal Number:	<i>(FP019)</i>
3. Date of Board approval - Board Meeting Number:	10/14/2016 <i>B.14</i>
4. Accredited Entity:	<i>UNDP</i>
5. Focal Point of the Accredited Entity for this Project:	<i>Noelia Jover noelia.jover@undp.org Tel: +507 3024749</i>
6. Executing Entity(ies):	<i>Ministry of Environment.</i>
7. Implementation Period:	<i>From: 5/22/2017 To: 5/22/2022</i>
8. Current year of Implementation:	<i>year 3</i>
9. Date of Submission of the Report:	3/1/2020
10. Annual Reporting period covered in this report:	<i>From: 1/1/2019 To: 12/31/2019</i>
11. Total Project Budget ¹ :	84,008,647.00
12. Total amount of GCF Proceeds Approved:	41,172,739.00
13. Total amount of GCF Proceeds disbursed (cumulative) to the Accredited Entity:	<i>\$ 18.626.887,00</i>

SECTION 2: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 OVERALL (SUMMARY) PROJECT PROGRESS (*less than one (1) page*).

In terms of climate change mitigation, Ecuador has reported Emission Reductions for the period 2009-2014 of 4.8MtCO₂eq/y. The preliminary data for the period 2015-2018 shows that Ecuador is reducing its nationwide deforestation faster than in the previous period, and the corresponding volume of REDD+ results is therefore increasing, to reach approximately 9.3MtCO₂eq/y². Regarding the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) development process, Ecuador officially submitted its NDC to the UNFCCC on March 29, 2019. This [NDC](#) was approved by the Interinstitutional Committee of Climate Change led by the Ministry of Environment and then approved by the Presidency of Ecuador. This process was supported by the project through the following actions: : (i) *development of the technical proposal for the reference and mitigation scenario of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF)*; (ii) *the technical proposal for the adaptation component of the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors*; (iii) *a reference scenario for GHG emissions from the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors*; (iv) *criteria for prioritization of mitigation measures*; (v) *a mitigation scenario*; (v) *definition of co-benefits, and*; (vi) *conditioned and non-conditioned scenarios*.

The following project progress has been made in 2019:

¹ Total project budget including co-financing as reflected in the relevant Funded Activity Agreement.

² This value corresponds to the national emissions reductions from deforestation achieved for the 2017-2018 period based on FREL-1, therefore these are not specifically attributable to the implementation of the Project which is supporting the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan alongside many other domestic and international sources of finance.

- A new official guide was developed for Land Use Planning to encourage all provincial, cantonal and parish plans to incorporate climate change and sustainable production criteria into their planning. The project has provided technical support for the development of these guidelines and they are being used at a national level by all the GADs in Ecuador, especially in the prioritized GADs that work with the project in the Amazon Region. This is the first time that Ecuador has a tool for the territorial planning that includes climate change, conservation, sustainable production, gender and intercultural criteria incorporated into these guides, in order to build the new Land Use Development Plans in the Amazon Region.
- Farmer field schools are being developed with academia/research centres to support the transition to sustainable agriculture, employ best practices and ensure agreements to stop deforestation. The proposal for this initiative has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- 5,022 small farmers received more than a million trees, plants and seeds to increase the diversity and production in their farms.
- The Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) selected Ecuador as one of three countries to apply the new jurisdictional approach for palm oil plantations alongside Malaysia and Indonesia. The project has given technical support during the entire process through the Interinstitutional Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. A roadmap is under implementation to support the producers and stakeholders related to achieving and implementing the RSPO jurisdictional certification.
- The Interinstitutional Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil (CISPS acronym in Spanish) held 4 meetings during 2019 with the main milestone being the launch of the RSPO jurisdictional certification in Ecuador, with the participation of public and private sector, which took place in September 2019.
- 19 associations of cocoa and coffee producers and collection centres are improving their management and administration skills through technical assistance provided by the UNDP methodology "Growing with your Business".
- International renowned coffee company Lavazza from Italy, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, the Minister of Environment and UNDP signed an agreement in November 2019 to work together in the design and implementation of the Concept of Deforestation-Free Coffee; this concept needs to be validated by the ministries to help the country (and the project) to accelerate the work that has to be done to develop the value chain of Deforestation-Free Coffee. Furthermore, preliminary negotiations are under way with several companies such as UNOCACE, CHANKUAP and Pacari from Ecuador, and Silva Cacao from Belgium to increase commercialization opportunities for deforestation-free coffee and cocoa.
- 14 organizations have signed a declaration indicating their willingness to work towards sustainable and deforestation-free production. During the last months of 2019, the project has been working to explain the concepts related to the Deforestation-Free production. After this process of informing the beneficiary organisations, the project has achieved that some of them sign this declaration.
- 2,422 ha are under restoration process through the agreement signed in 2018 with *Mancomunidad del Bosque Seco*.
- 159,557 ha are under conservation process thanks to the agreements signed in 2017 with 10 communities from the Socio Bosque Program.
- 239,303 ha are conserved by three Water Funds (FORAGUA, FONAPA, FONAG) that have agreements with the project, to preserve the ecosystem services and natural vegetation through the implementation of REDD+ measures and actions.
- 23,861 ha are under sustainable forest management (SFM) through a new system developed by the Ministry of Environment in coordination with the project staff. These SFM areas are spread throughout the Amazon region.
- The second summary of information on environmental and social safeguards was approved by the Ministry of Environment and published at the national level. The report was presented to the UNFCCC in December 2019.

The component-specific accomplishments attributed to the GCF Funded Project during the reporting period of January 1 – December 31, 2019 are:

Output 1

New Land Use and Development Plans (PDOTs, for its acronym in Spanish) Guidelines for provinces, cantons and parishes were approved by the National Planning Secretariat. These Guidelines are linked officially to all Ecuadorian

GADs (decentralized autonomous governments, in Spanish), which must include climate change, conservation and sustainable production criteria into their PDOTs.

Regarding forest control, i) a certificate of origin (legal timber) has been designed through pilots with enterprises and was launched by the Environmental Authority; ii) a forest traceability strategy has been designed and implemented in order to achieve an integrated system; and iii) 40 public officials were trained in forest dendrology and anatomy (11 women).

Output 2

5,022 small-scale producers in six Amazon provinces are now receiving support from the project and the Ministry of Agriculture to transform their production methods into more sustainable agricultural practices and to stop expanding their crops into forested areas. This is estimated to cover at least 3 hectares per farm, therefore more than 15,000 hectares in total are currently implementing sustainable agricultural practices. In addition to the 5,022 small producers, 5,143 new beneficiaries of Agenda for Transforming Production in the Amazon (ATPA) were identified in 2019 and will participate in farmer field schools in 2020 to improve their management practices (out of the 5,143 new beneficiaries, 2,762 have an Integral Management Plan – PMIF with the support of ATPA).

In order to engage 1,005 palm growers (33,000 hectares), the sustainable palm oil jurisdictional certification pilot was launched in Ecuador on September 26, 2019. Data collection for palm oil land use in the northern provinces started in December 2019, carried out as part of the implementation of the Interinstitutional Committee for the Sustainable Palm Oil (CISPS) with the support of the Ministry of Environment (MAE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

2,368 producers from 19 organizations have strengthened their capacities in organizational, commercial and quality improvement issues through the “Growing with your Business” UNDP methodology.

A total of 14 cocoa and coffee agricultural associations have signed a declaration of willingness to promote sustainable production that is deforestation free.

Regarding tax incentives, the Program has carried out management actions to develop a roadmap with the Internal Revenue Service (SRI) that has been authorized by the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, taking into consideration the changes to the tax regulations that were made in late 2019; ii) The estimation of tax expenditure in the sectors prioritized by the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Livestock is an important study as it constitutes the basis for the implementation of tax incentives to support the transition to sustainable production systems. It also allows the 2018 baseline to be determined, which is required to define the goals of literals b and c identified in the project results framework, it corresponds to the number of tax incentives and the number of green credit lines.

The project is part of the National Sustainable Finance Board led by the Vice Presidency of the Republic along with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (core team) and a group of advisors such as: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), French Development Agency (AFD, for its acronym in French), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ, for its acronym in German), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Participation in this group enables the project to establish a network of contacts with actors committed to promoting sustainable finance at the national level, which ensures that the planning established for 2020 and subsequent years is focused on the accomplishment of national objectives:

- i) An ongoing study to define sources of international financing for green, climate or sustainable credit is being supported by the project. This information is of special interest to the members of the Board since these sources of international finance are related to the Country's Climate Change Strategy and the NDCs, and contribute to the country-level commitments under the Paris Agreement;
- ii) The project promoted the creation of a sub-work group within the Sustainable Finance Board, which in the last three months of 2019 achieved the following:

- Defined a work plan to strengthen BanEcuador in three aspects: Environmental and Social Risk Analysis System (SARAS, for its acronym in Spanish), green credit lines and MRV;
- Agreed that the financing granted by CAF to BanEcuador will focus on a segment of palm oil and cocoa producers who have benefited from the project;
- Identified the experiences/initiatives that are being developed by other actors to avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of resources and time;

iii) Coordination with BanEcuador and National Corporation of Popular and Solidarity Finance (CONAFIPS) in the development of a bankable project with international financing sources with preferential conditions, which will include that the funds' destinies will be focused on areas prioritized by the project and other items that are being defined by the institutions;

iv) The project engaged with the Superintendence of Banks of Ecuador and presented a SARAS Resolution proposal, which considers issues of exclusion lists, sensitive activities, portfolio categorization, as well as the guidelines for the green credit lines.

In order to complete all the necessary data for commercial negotiations of deforestation-free products with the public and private sector, studies assessing supply and demand of cocoa and coffee were initiated. Additionally, a catalogue of amazon coffee was developed considering different flavour and aroma profiles. A letter of agreement has been signed with MAG, MAE, UNDP and LAVAZZA of Italy, to strengthen Ecuador's coffee sector by piloting the country's first production and marketing of "deforestation-free" coffee contributing to the development of sustainable commodity supply chains.

A consultancy process to assess the functionality of 15 cocoa and coffee collection centres and a proposal to renovate and strengthen 10 collection centres in the Amazonia was started in the second half of 2019 along with technical studies for the building of a new collection centre for coffee in Morona Santiago province that was completed in December 2019. Also, 69 farmers and 59 technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture of the 6 Amazonian provinces have received training in methods to improve quality at harvest and in postharvest processing of coffee with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Moreover, 61 representatives of 26 agriculture associations of cocoa and coffee have received training regarding good agricultural practices and internal control systems for traceability processes. This process is being developed in alliance with Agrocalidad who is the owner of the scheme. Pilot certification projects for cocoa and coffee deforestation free products in APEOSAE (Zamora) and APROCEL (Sucumbíos) are underway. 158 tons of coffee and 222 tons of cocoa will be certified once the parameters are officially accepted by the 2 Ministries (MAE and MAG).

Output 3

i) 159,557 hectares of forest under conservation agreements have been maintained and monitored by the Socio Bosque Program with the support of the project since 2017; ii) 239,303 hectares of land are under protection through 5 municipal ordinances and 1 community agreement with three Water Funds (FORAGUA, FONAPA, FONAG); iii) 2,300 hectares in the dry forest region in Loja and El Oro provinces (southern Ecuador) have maintained their restoration agreements and 120 hectares are under natural regeneration; and iv) 23,861 hectares of land are under sustainable forest management.

Output 4

i) The Interim Gender and Intercultural Strategy of the project is being implemented; ii) capacity building processes are in place and a roadmap for safeguards has been approved by the Ministries and is under implementation in the context of REDD+ ; iii) The Safeguards Information System (SIS) and the REDD+ Measures and Actions Management System are 100% designed and pilot automation tests are underway; iv) UNDP-Ecuador and government representatives participated in several South-South exchanges to share experiences and transfer knowledge on REDD+ action planning, implementation and the GCF partnership; v) The National Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) is updated and ready to be submitted to the UNFCCC for technical analysis in January 2020; vi) The institutional guidelines for the operation of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) have been issued by the Ministry of Environment; vii) Several capacity

building processes are in progress aimed at beneficiaries and technical teams from the program and the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Livestock; and, viii) The second period of the REDD+ Work Group (Mesa de Trabajo REDD+ in Spanish) was systematized and evaluated with recommendations for its third term beginning in 2020.

The total amount received is \$18,626,887.00 and cumulative Budget execution is \$12,489,076.58 with commitments of \$496,338.23. With the support of UNDP and of the project, new and additional financial resources to support REDD+ efforts in the country have been leveraged through the approval of the Results Based Payments (RBP) Project in October 2019. This will be financed by the GCF and will complement actions to avoid the generation of carbon emissions.

South-South Cooperation Experiences and Exchange Events on the development of SIS with Mexico, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Costa Rica – to be hosted in Quito in January 2020: This will be the first international workshop designed to exchange experiences and knowledge regarding the design and implementation of Safeguards Information Systems in the region. The expected result of the event is a publication or systematization document that summarizes the knowledge shared during the event; and establishes an explicit commitment from the countries gathered in Quito to continue working together in order to share knowledge and support each other in the development of the SIS in the region.

2.2 Performance against the GCF Investment Criteria (summary) (max two (2) pages).

Provide a narrative report describing the progress on the funded activity's performance against the GCF investment criteria framework. The performance should be compared against the initial assessment provided in the Board-approved Funding Proposal (section E). The list of the investment criteria as per the current framework is provided below.

For each investment criteria outlined below, please include an assessment of status, changes, progress and impact of the project as well as any impact of project context on the project during this reporting period against the initial baseline scenario and planned activities as per the assessment presented in the approved Funding Proposal.

2.2.1 Impact Potential (max one (1) page).

In 2019, the following milestones to support the transition to deforestation-free production and sustainable development pathways were achieved:

- Official data for the period 2017-2018 shows that Ecuador is reducing its deforestation faster than in the previous period, and the corresponding volume of REDD+ results is therefore increasing to reach 9.3 MtCO₂eq/year for the 2017-2018 period. (Note: Data is provided at the national level and is not disaggregated by project or provinces).
- Continued maintenance and monitoring of 159,557 hectares of forest under conservation agreements with Socio Bosque Program (Ministry of Environment).
- 144 indigenous beneficiaries (66 women) from Socio Bosque Program (SBP) were trained in administrative and financial procedures to improve the planning and execution of their incentive payments from SBP.
- Continued maintenance and monitoring of 234,214 hectares under 5 municipal ordinances and 1 community agreement with three Water Funds (FORAGUA, FONAPA, FONAG) to preserve ecosystem services and natural vegetation.
- 239,303 hectares maintained as municipal hydrological protected areas for conservation of water sources through agreements established by the three water funds.
- Forest control: i) the project supported the development of Ministerial Resolution No. 096 to implement a certificate of origin (forest products with both legal and sustainable origin), complementary to the Social Pact Agreement (signed in 2018). This certificate was launched in November 2019 by the Ministry of Environment and is part of the plan for the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management. This plan is crucial to decrease deforestation rates and certify legal timber. ii) Re-structuring of the Forest Administrative System (SAF, for its acronym in Spanish) as the technological platform to register the origin and final destiny of forest products is underway. The platform is a key element for the traceability system (in process).

- Methodology guideline and training in forest dendrology and anatomy is underway with 40/140 public officers trained in 2019. This training is crucial for timber recognition for forest control.
- Agreement for bailment or use of Real Estate was signed between the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Environment. This document legally grants the Ministry of the Environment the use of the 1,222.59 m² in order to improve the facilities of the Mera Forest Control Center in the Pastaza province. This legal document was required to initiate the improvement and strengthening of the Forest Control Center.
- Specific provisions to reduce deforestation, mitigate and adapt to climate change and foster sustainable agricultural practices were developed and included in the Guidelines for Land Use Planning (PDOT). These Guidelines are now part of the national legislation and are mandatory for GAD Land Use Planning.
- The project worked with National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP, for its acronym in Spanish) to develop and implement a training process to build knowledge and capacity among project beneficiaries. In 2019, INIAP delivered more than 1 million plants, seeds and vegetal material to farmers to help diversify the farms supported by ATPA.
- On November 26th, 2019 the Minister of Agriculture launched the initiative “Premium and Sustainable” which recognizes and promotes deforestation-free products as part of a sustainable production strategy in Ecuador. This strategy will be used in the new agricultural policy reforms that are currently being discussed with the support of FAO. Around 300 people attended the Premium&Sustainable Event, which received significant media coverage and interest from the private sector. During this event, a letter of agreement was signed between MAG, MAE, UNDP and LAVAZZA of Italy to strengthen Ecuador’s coffee sector through specific actions relevant to supporting and promoting deforestation-free coffee value chain.
- In 2019, approximately 2,828 beneficiaries (62% men and 38% women) were trained to strengthen their capacities in topics such as: Territorial planning, conservation, restoration, climate change and land and water management, administrative and organizational capabilities, Sustainable Forest Management, Dendrology, Forest Anatomy, REDD+, Social and environmental safeguards, among others.
- One of the main approaches of the project is the mainstreaming of the gender approach in governance, environmental incentives and sustainable practices to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the program intervention areas under REDD+. From the preparation phase for REDD+, Ecuador considered it important to incorporate the gender approach. A relevant action was the Gender Diagnosis and the construction of the Gender Action Plan articulated to the REDD PA, which already included guidelines for the implementation of REDD actions with a gender perspective. Since GCF, this has been the main input for mainstreaming work.
- Cultural, social and economic realities of the Amazon have been an important factor in placing actions specific to the needs and interests of women and men in the intervention spaces. Among others the project main lines in which it is working are:
 - Integrate gender approach into territorial planning plans (PDOT), life plans of indigenous nationalities and public policies integrated into REDD +.
 - Promote effective inclusion of women in decision making. To achieve this objective, a series of training and awareness processes have been initiated with several actors: local governments, technical teams, communities and indigenous peoples in environmental management, management and conservation of forests and biodiversity, from a human rights perspective and gender.
 - Establishment of women's bureau in the economic activities of cocoa, coffee, and livestock as part of the design of training and technical assistance program tailored to the needs of women to strengthen the construction of regional commodity platforms.
 - Promote equal participation of rural women in the management and protection of watersheds and water sources, the sustainable use of non-timber forest products and in activities of sustainable agro-production, as well as actions focused on the economic empowerment of women.
 - At the local level, it is expected to be able to count on networks of Amazonian women, women in communities with capacities to carry out traceability and forest control actions and a community monitoring system on sustainable forest management as gender sensitive and transformative actions.
 - In relation to financing, it is proposed to establish productive credits that take into account gender and intercultural criteria that facilitate access to women and have gender criteria.

2.2.2 Paradigm shift potential (max one (1) page).

In 2019, the project worked to establish the enabling factors required to ensure long-term benefits beyond the program's lifespan. For example, the project worked with national and local partners to demonstrate that sustainable commodity supply chain initiatives, domestic policies and finance, and international financing for REDD+ can be effectively integrated into a coherent package of Policies and Measures (PAMs) for REDD+ integrated in the National REDD+ Action Plan³. For the project implementation, Ecuador conducted a prioritization process to implement the most relevant PAMs in areas most vulnerable to deforestation⁴. The Program, contributed to the development of the regulatory framework and policies to establish climate-resilient development pathways aligned with government objectives including MAG's "Premium and Sustainable" strategy, which contains actions to promote deforestation-free products as well as quality, traceability and improved productivity.

In addition to ongoing engagement and collaboration with national and strategic local partners, significant achievements that contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project include:

- Five new Municipal Hydrological Protected Areas (ordinances) for long-term watershed conservation were established. These new ordinances correspond to the GADs Saraguro, Loja, Paltas, Nangaritza, Zamora and Saraguro (203.590 has), they are validated but the final process of approval will be ready in 2020.
- Local communities and farmers received tax incentives to improve land use practices as a mechanism to conserve these areas.
- The regulatory framework was strengthened through the integration of specific provisions to reduce deforestation, mitigate and adapt to climate change and foster sustainable agricultural practices within the new Guidelines for Land Use Planning (PDOT). These Guidelines were used in 2019 to begin all land-use planning processes at the provincial, canton (*cantons*) and parish (*parishes*) levels. The guidelines are linked to all Ecuadorian GAD in order to develop PDOTs with climate change, conservation and sustainable production criteria. The guidelines were published in the Official National Register No. 87, on November 25th, 2019, and they are mandatory for all the Ecuadorian GADs.
- Agreements were implemented with 14 organizations of cocoa, coffee, palm oil and livestock producers to work towards traceability and certification. Each organization has subscribed to a declaration for deforestation free production that was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Bio-commerce is an alternative productive activity for communities to reduce and prevent forest deforestation and it is supported by the project. In 2019, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Technical University of Loja to promote non-timber forest products research, the generation of management plans for seven products, and building local capacities for implementing such plans. During 2019, research began and some socioeconomic studies were made to identify the community's willingness to produce or improve the production of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and to identify available species in the area related to the people/communities that manage these NTFP. Additionally, the capacities of indigenous bio-entrepreneurs from the Socio Bosque Program are being strengthened to improve their commercial skills and support NTFP value chains. These are pilot experiences that will be applied in other communities to encourage Socio Bosque's financial incentives to be used in bio-commerce.
- The concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is under development and the project is assisting technically the Ministry of Environment to adjust its normative policies and practices to include SFM. Additionally, good practices for timber management are being established to enforce silvicultural practices.
- The project supported the process to establish an updated FREL, the technical annex to the second Biennial Update Report (BUR), and the process to access results-based payments through the GCF Pilot Program based on the 2014 Ecuador's emission reduction results. This demonstrates that Ecuador is successfully reducing the rate of deforestation and accessing results-based payments under the REDD+ initiative. This also demonstrates to REDD+ countries and donors the effectiveness of the UNFCCC process and shows that countries can benefit financially from reducing their rate of deforestation. Also, the project has given technical support to the

³ http://reddecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/redd/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/MAE_2016_11_21_ART_LIBRO_REDD_17_nov%202016.pdf

⁴ Link: http://reddecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/redd/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/MAE_2016_11_21_ART_LIBRO_REDD_17_nov%202016.pdf

Ministry of Environment to develop the second national safeguards report that was approved by MAE and submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2019 as part of Ecuador's commitments.

- As a result of the project, Ecuador hosted two international events in 2019 to present the country's achievements related to sustainable and deforestation free commodities: 1) During the UN Climate Week in New York, the project supported the high level event "Tasting the Flavour of the Amazon" in which the Ministers of Environment, Agriculture & Livestock and Foreign Trade participated alongside the UNDP Ecuador Resident Representative; and, 2) the Premium and Sustainable International workshop, led by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock in Quito, Ecuador. In terms of livestock commodity, the project supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to participate and signed the adherence of Ecuador to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) in January 2019; and also, the participation of this Ministry in the 9th annual GASL Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) event in Manhattan, Kansas, in September 2019.
- In 2019 the South-South Exchange missions included: i) Participation in the Good Growth Conference in Perú, and ii) participation in the Latin America Sustainable Beef Vision Summit in Brazil. All the agreements related to these events are linked with sustainable production.

A Knowledge Management Strategy is under implementation to gather and share lessons learned from the program. Specific activities in place within the Knowledge Management Strategy in 2019 are:

- The promotion and support of innovation and capacity building established through agreements with academia: IKIAM (Training program in indigenous territorial governance), CATIE (Farmer field schools), UTPL (NTRP research and management plans for these products).
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing between the project technicians, the implementing partners and beneficiaries is ongoing. This includes sharing results of studies conducted under the program to make sure knowledge generated is applied, for example the CAP (knowledge, attitudes and practices) study on gender approach.
- Processes to ensure experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of REDD+ measures, which requires actions to be documented and shared using different methodologies.
- Exchange of experiences and knowledge among key actors, organizations and countries included: SIS exchange in Mexico; an exchange related to sustainable forest management was carried out between 40 forest technicians from MAE and MAG and the Verde Canande Enterprise - Verde Canande has an agreement with MAE due to its expertise in forest management in Ecuador; the Latin America Sustainable Beef Vision Summit.

2.2.3 Sustainable development potential (max one (1) page).

The project supports the achievement of numerous Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 15 Life on Land: The focus of the project is to mitigate climate change by reducing the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to increase CO₂ absorption capacity of forests through enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management practices. The preliminary figures generated by Ecuador regarding the reduction of emissions from deforestation for the period 2015-2018 indicate that the country is successfully mitigating climate change impacts from deforestation and doing so at a higher rate than the previous UNFCCC reporting period.

MAE's forest control capacities will be invigorated through the following strategies: improvement of its information systems and data collecting applications, inclusion of sustainable lumber practices in national regulations, improvement of infrastructure and equipment at timber checkpoints, production of statistical information on commerce of highly demand wood species, improvement of the lumber authorization process, training public officials on lumber control and authorization, and training communities and Water Funds on wildlife poaching and illegal forest activities.

In 2019, the Guidelines for the PDOT were developed and it was the first time that these instruments included criteria related to climate change, conservation and sustainable production. These guidelines will be used by all Ecuadorian GAD to ensure the sustainability of the project's actions.

High Value Conservation Areas and High Value Carbon Sequestration Areas were defined with the support of both ministries (MAE and MAG). In addition, hydrological conservation reserves were declared by the three Water Funds that work closely with the project. It is important to mention that the project has also defined natural corridors for restoration and agro silvopastures.

SDG1 No Poverty, SDG2 Zero Hunger, SDG8 Decent Work, SDG10 Reduced Inequalities: By supporting small farmers and their families to transition to more sustainable agricultural practices, the project has reduced the expansion of agricultural activities into forested areas, while also increasing farm productivity and family income. In order to promote financial sustainability, the program designed a strategy to support groups of farmers as strategic allies to collect their farms products assuring quality, volume and traceability. The project is supporting 19 groups of producers of cocoa and coffee through UNDP's methodology *Growing with your Business* which benefited 1,655 small farmers in 2019. In the future (2020 and beyond), the model will be supported through the refurbishment of the collection centres, implementation of farmer field schools, certification and traceability initiatives, and commercial alliances with public and private actors interested in supporting deforestation-free production.

The non-wood forest products produced and commercialized in a sustainable way contribute directly to improving the community's quality of life. Four Socio Bosque communities are working with the methodology "Beginning with your Business" to initiate efforts to increase community income in 2020 and beyond. In addition, research on useful and high demand non-wood species in the Ecuadorian Amazonia has been undertaken in order to prioritize governmental support to deforestation-free livelihoods. This study will be followed by further studies to establish the guidelines for sustainable utilization of three species of non-timber forest products (pilots). Public officials will be trained to replicate the pilot experiences with other species.

It is expected that farm-based income of project beneficiaries will increase by at least 10% between 2019-2021, helping to reduce poverty and improve food security for the project's beneficiaries, who are among the most vulnerable in the country.

SDG5 Gender Equality: In 2019, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) started and is currently under development, which includes a Social and Environmental Management Plan (ESMP) and a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that will be the guiding document to complement the actions and achievements of the Interim Gender Strategy until the end of the program. The ESIA and associated plans will be finalized in the second semester of 2020. As part of the activities related to the gender equality the project is implemented the *Antisuyu Warmikuna* School, a network of Amazonian women that has been established with capacities to carry out traceability and forest control actions and implement a community monitoring system on sustainable forest management that is gender sensitive and has strengthened leadership from women. The Antisuyu Warmikuna School is a project borned from the need to visualize, participate and generate decision-making spaces at the organizational level of Amazonian women within CONFENIAE. It started its activities on October 2019, with 100 young women and leaders from the 11 towns and nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, participating in training on human rights, women's rights, climate change and the transition to sustainable production.

SDG6 Clean Water and SDG7 Clean Energy: To strengthen water protection and water's long-term sustainability, the project continues working with three waters funds as strategic partners to implement integrated water resource management in priority watersheds. Together, the water funds ensure the safe and secure water supply (quantity and quality) while protecting habitats and ecological function in critically important watersheds.

SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production: To support and promote responsible consumption and production, the project has developed detailed analyses of the supply and demand of coffee and cocoa, both prioritized value chains. These analyses have provided essential baseline information for commercial partnerships between groups of producers and private companies. The project is supporting producers with negotiations with companies that are interested to help in the development of deforestation-free value chains like Lavazza.

Furthermore, the implementation of best practices in palm production, the organizational strengthening and the RSPO certification will help to increase public engagement in responsible consumption.

SDG16 Justice and Strong Institutions: The environment law “Código Orgánico Ambiental” ⁵(COA) includes a set of new legal responsibilities and rights for all citizens in order to achieve sustainable development and promote the conservation of biodiversity. The project works collaboratively with numerous national, regional and local institutions – including public, private, indigenous and academic partners - to build capacity for good governance, share knowledge and strengthen relationships and their own technical capacities.

SDG17 Partnership for Development: Partnerships are at the core of the project and are key to its success. The details of all partnerships are shown in section 2.2.6, although it is important to highlight:

In 2019, the Cooperation Framework Agreement between MAE, MAG and the Technical Secretariat of the Amazon Special Territorial Circumscription (STCTEA), was signed, as part of the project implementation context, which aims to provide technical support to the STCTEA to improve the integral management of multiple use landscapes and high value conservation forests as part of the sustainable development of the Ecuadorian Amazon. It will also promote financial and planning instruments for land management in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions caused by deforestation, as stated by the GCF funds.

As part of the Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement between MAE, MAG and CONFENIAE, signed in October 2018, the development of four indigenous Life Plans has started in 2019 with a fifth plan to start in 2020. All these planning instruments will be aligned with the PDOT.

During 2019, 14 partners were maintained for promoting conservation and restoration activities in the REDD+ areas, which are: Socio Bosque Indigenous Communities (10), water funds (3), and the Dry Forest “Bosque Seco” Municipality. These partners contribute to the conservation of 159,557.63 hectares of forest; to the protection of 239,303 hectares through 5 ordinances and 1 community agreement under a watershed management approach and to the restoration of 2,422 hectares, respectively. Additionally, one partner (UTPL) was identified because of its expertise in non-timber forest products; and one partner for the feasibility studies and construction of the forest control centers and coffee collection center (ESPOL TECH EP).

Private sector partnerships continue to be integral to support the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan. The partnership with Lavazza of Italy in 2019 is based on the following objectives:

- i) Create the world’s first national standard for deforestation-free coffee with the cooperation/support of Lavazza;
- ii) Improve the quality and productivity of Amazonian coffee to reach the quality and volumes required for exportation, with the assistance of Lavazza coffee experts;
- iii) Strengthen Ecuador’s position as an origin of sustainable and deforestation-free coffee through co-marketing efforts with Lavazza;
- iv) Facilitate market access for deforestation-free coffee from the project priority areas through commercial cooperation with Lavazza.

2.2.4 Needs of the recipient (max one (1) page).

Economic Need: Data for Ecuador shows that in 2019 economic growth was 0.5%. Furthermore, the data shows the target population in the Amazon Region has the highest poverty and extreme poverty rates in Ecuador⁶. In addition, poverty by income threshold in the Amazon region was 54.6% rural and 19.1% urban⁷. During 2019, the project implemented actions to address household poverty and economic challenges at the local scale. These social indicators will be addressed in the Social and Environment Impact study, which is under development.

⁵ Also known as Environmental Organic Code

http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/01/CODIGO_ORGANICO_AMBIENTE.pdf

⁶ Data provided by CEPAL – Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean

⁷ Data provided by INEC – National Institute of Statistics and Census.

New funds have been negotiated by the Government of Ecuador in 2019 to work on REDD+ actions:

- Ecuador and the governments of Germany and Norway agreed on a financial cooperation of 60 million Euros (Redd Early Movers Program – REM) for the result-based payment recognizing REDD+ efforts of 2015 - 2016.
- The project developed and presented a REDD+ results-based payment funding proposal for 2014 results to the GCF.
- To support the implementation of REDD+ within the the project project, the Pastaza province received \$400,000 USD to elaborate its REDD+ Action Plan from Norway through the GCFTF (Governance Climate Forest Task Force).
- Approximately \$92 million USD have been received by the Under Secretariat of Climate Change of MAE from international cooperation entities – which includes the GCF contributions to date. The GCF contributions have been invested since the second half of 2017 and throughout 2018 and 2019 for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in Ecuador.

These financial resources are much needed in Ecuador given the economic situation in the country coupled with the increasing international demand for fossil fuels, minerals, and agricultural commodities, which threaten the country's forests.

Water Funds (FONAG, FONAPA, FORAGUA) y Socio Bosque Program need strategies to finance conservation areas without public funds because of limited resources due to the national economic crisis. Thus, the project has hired an expert team in finance and sustainability that is designing mechanisms that could be applied in Ecuador. The three prioritized mechanisms that are being developed with detail are: carbon neutrality, ecosystem-based payments with a focus on water, and social and environmental responsibility within the private sector.

Social Need: Through the adoption of best practices and strengthened capacities, it is expected that family income will increase due to increased productivity and efficiency. In 2019, the project helped the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a new strategy to support farmers in the transition to sustainable production. This strategy is based on the implementation of farmer field schools that will establish a baseline of the producers that will be beneficiaries of this strategy. The results and lessons learned from the farmer field schools will be integrated into the Ministry of Agriculture's future policies. Additionally, the project is promoting bio-commerce. This type of productive activity constitutes an alternative for local communities to improve their incomes and quality of life.

Institutional Need: The Program has strengthened institutions and the implementation capacity of National implementing partners and local actors. In 2019, the project met with the newly elected authorities of the 12 prioritized Municipalities and the six Amazonian provinces to present the Project's work framework and activities planned for their jurisdictions. The project collected meeting minutes signed by the GADs indicating that they agree to receive technical assistance from the project to update their PDOTs according to the new Guidelines for Land Use and Development Planning

In addition, due to coordinated actions with MAE and MAG, a training program for land use planning was implemented in 2019. The training program was organized in four virtual modules, implemented from August to September 2019. 36 public workers were trained to develop land use plans that include climate change related information and to define land use zoning to minimize deforestation and forest degradation while promoting conservation and restoration actions.

The project continues supporting the GADs to develop land use plans that include climate change, conservation and restoration actions. It also supports data collection and analysis of six provincial PDOT and 12 cantonal PDOT.

In 2019, the project provided technical assistance to MAE to update the sustainable forest management regulation, in concordance with the Environment Organic Code. Additionally, an action plan called "Roadmap for fostering sustainable forest management" was developed and is under implementation. The roadmap will contribute directly to the project's goals.

The project supported another important action to strengthen MAE's personnel, which has been an urgent need for a number of years, by providing technical assistance for timber and non-timber recognition. Forest officials work to identify forest species that are mobilized, comparing them to the guides issued by the Authority and registered in the Forest Administration System – SAF. Hiring of 4 forest technicians to work with wood producers has also been a key contribution to enforce forestry monitoring and support transition towards sustainable management.

In 2019, the institutional capacity of MAG was strengthened through the transfer of specialized knowledge from the project's staff and through the development of policies and implementation of sustainable production practices in the Amazon region. Key subjects include the certification scheme, integral diagnosis of the organizations, understanding of the methodology "Growing with your Business" and coffee and cocoa quality improvement. Working in partnership with MAG, the project has developed a proposal for a deforestation-free traceability system framework and is supporting activities to build knowledge and understanding of deforestation-free markets.

2.2.5 Country Ownership (max one (1) page).

The project is implemented under National Implementation Modality supported by UNDP (NIM-supported), which is explicitly designed to ensure national stakeholders and systems are used to strengthen national ownership, accountability and capacity. The project is fully aligned with Ecuador's NDC, National Communication to the UNFCCC, REDD+ Action Plan and other domestic policies and strategies. MAE's capacity as an executing entity is strengthened in the areas of climate change, forest control and management towards the internalization and sustainability of the Project's actions. While implementing the project, both the Under Secretariat of Climate Change and the Under Secretariat of Natural Heritage identify and undertake improvements within the Ministry. In addition, there is permanent coordination with several national programs such as Socio Bosque Program and the National Restoration Program, among others. MAE's National Director for the project has delegated four focal points to work directly with the project's coordinators and these focal points have the responsibility to make decisions on specific topics in order to ensure effective project implementation. The project is giving support to MAE in different topics such as: climate change, forest control, sustainable forest management, among others, to achieve ownership and sustainability of the actions carried out by the program.

- The project has developed and implemented strategies to address cross-cutting themes of gender, safeguards, stakeholder engagement and knowledge management and as such, the project complies with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, including requirements related to stakeholder engagement and free, prior, and informed consent; as well as Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples. With the support of the project the inputs generated on the implementation of the cross-cutting themes at the project level is useful to inform how these aspects are addressed at the national level, considering other financing for REDD+, such as REM and the use of proceeds of RBP, thus complying with the operational elements of the REDD + Action Plan. During 2019, progress was made on a proposed REDD+ Governance National Model that will cover all related projects. In 2019, the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC guide for REDD+ was structured into a methodology matrix to organize the activities and deliverables of each FPIC phase. This tool was implemented in 7 indigenous communities in 2019. FPIC is vital to guarantee the collective and individual rights of local communities and the people involved in the program, ensuring the program has a higher likelihood of achieving sustainability.
- The Management Committee of the project includes the participation of MAE's Under Secretary of Climate Change and MAG'S Under Secretary of Livestock Production, who was delegated this year by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock instead of the Manager of ATPA. This is important in terms of sustainability as it ensures the Government of Ecuador is involved in the decision-making and governance processes and guarantees the ongoing participation and engagement of the national implementing partners – MAE and MAG. The Under Secretary of Natural Heritage from MAE has been invited to the Management Committees to make decisions between key actors of the program. In addition, the Board Committee is the highest level of governance in the program and includes the MAE and the MAG along with a UNDP-Representative. The participation of these senior level government officials ensures the ongoing and active engagement of the Government of Ecuador in the project.

- The program has supported MAG to develop the Premium and Sustainable strategy that has 5 priorities: rural women and young people empowerment, productivity quality and traceability, free deforestation, free from rural poverty, decent employment and fair salary.
- Civil society and other key actors are involved in participative processes through the REDD+ Working Group, established as a platform for meaningful and ongoing public engagement, facilitated and supported by the project. Support provided to the REDD+ Working Group in 2019 includes technical assistance to strengthen capacities of its members, communication activities, inclusion in the implementation of the project activities and financial support. In 2019, the REDD+ Working Group completed its second period (2016-2019) after 14 meetings. During 2019, the REDD+ working Group advised and contributed to the revision of criteria to operationalize the competitive funds grant as part of the the project strategy to support sustainable production. Also, the the project Program worked to create a clear identity/brand within the REDD+ Working Group expressed in a logo, a song and testimonial videos. Finally, the project systematized and analyzed the second term of the REDD+ Working Group through a participatory process. This analysis covers a three-year period from 2016 to 2019, with results and recommendations used to inform the third REDD+ Working Group, which will be established in 2020. The objective of the third REDD+ Working Group will be to improve the participation and engagement of civil representatives, which in turn will strengthen this national platform.
- In 2019, the implementation plan presented by the CONFENIAE under the national REDD+ Action Plan strategy was approved and registered, and financing of Results Based Payments will be channeled to indigenous organizations for its implementation under the 2014 RBP project, approved by the GCF Board in 2019. With ongoing support from the UNDP Country Office and Regional Hub in Panama, the project will lead the implementation of REDD+ actions in the Amazon region.
- UNDP, from global, regional and country office levels, has supported the REDD+ process in Ecuador, the project implementation, and general knowledge transfer in Ecuador. During 2019, UNDP also provided technical assistance to the government for the development of the NDC and the definition of guidelines for the national MRV system. The fulfillment of this project is part of the national goals under the Ecuador’s NDC for the LULUCF sector.

2.2.6 Efficiency and Effectiveness (max one (1) page).

Adaptive management approaches have been proposed to improve project efficiency, especially in relation to decision-making processes. The amount of time required to approve activities and expenditures has been reduced, thus helping to improve the project’s efficiency. The latter has been a combined effort between both MAG and MAE’s focal points, UNDP and the project. Also, at the end of 2019 UNDP developed their new SOPs to help all the programs and projects assisted by the agency be more effective in all internal processes.

To ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the project, it is important to have strategic partners who contribute with their own investment to the project. Co-financing for the project until December 2019 is as follows: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock \$1,735,474 USD and Ministry of Environment \$6,588,104 USD. Co-financing from FAO \$78,406 USD and from UNDP-Ecuador \$200,930 USD. The co-finance contributions in 2019 were primarily allocated towards:

- Salaries of technical and administrative staff;
- Development of activities regarding integrated management of multiple use landscapes and high conservation value forest;
- Technical monitoring for Socio Bosque agreements;
- Time invested for field missions and costs associated with transportation, and;
- Office and meeting space.

Several strategic alliances have strengthened project effectiveness, these alliances and/or agreements are related to the specific components of the project, including:

Component 1:

- Agreement between MAE – MAG – STCTEA to work the topics related to PDOTs, local organization and development in the Amazon region to articulate the strategies of all the institutions through the implementation of the project.

Component 2:

- The agreement between INIAP, MAG and MAE to provide 1 million plants and trees to increase production and restoration in the beneficiary farms; b) A new agreement was signed between MAG – MAE and European Committee for Training and Agriculture (CEFA) to upgrade of collection centers that would allow the development of certification systems (organic production, collective brands and certification of origin in the program’s intervention areas).
- Components 2 and 3: Internal agreement with UNDP country office to implement the methodologies of “Growing with your Business” and “Beginning with your Business” for associations of producers of cocoa, coffee, and livestock, and for communities with potential to develop bio-commerce with non- timber forest products.

Component 3:

- The maintenance of the agreement between the Mancomunidad de Bosque Seco (Dry Forest Municipal Council) and the Ministry of Environment, to keep restoring 2,422 hectares of dry forest in Loja and El Oro provinces, in the south of Ecuador.
- The agreements between the Ministry of Environment and the Water Funds (FONAG, FORAGUA and FONAPA) are working towards REDD+ actions to conserve watersheds. 5 municipal ordinances will continue during 2020 to protect 239,303 hectares.
- A new agreement was signed between MAG – MAE and Private Technical University of Loja (UTPL) to promote research about non-forest timber products, the development of management plans for three species, and to strengthen local capacities.
- Training was provided to Socio Bosque’s beneficiaries and technicians to improve planning skills in order to maximize the use of the financial investment for conservation purposes.
- Technology is being used to improve field work and information gathering done by the MAE’s technicians. Three apps are being designed to automatize the collection of information. This helps to monitor wood, restoration processes and socio-economic issues.
- Integral planning through the PDOTs ensures sustainability and effectiveness. In this sense, the project is promoting the inclusion of conservation, restoration, bio-commerce and sustainable forest management in provincial, municipal and parish plans. Short and mid-term projects that are promoted by the project are part of this planning as pilot experiences that will generate lessons learned and possible application elsewhere.
- Components 3 and 4: The current UN inter-agency agreement (UNDP-FAO) to develop a study on the physical and mechanical properties of wood in forests and the implementation of the Second National Forest Evaluation (gathering wood characteristics and volumes in order to know how many trees and what species the Amazon has) and to support the integration of the NFMS with other official information systems.

Component 4:

- The maintenance of the agreement with CONFENIAE (see section 4 of the results framework)).

Effectiveness in the Transition to sustainable agricultural systems.

- A proposal for the spatial monitoring system of deforestation-free farms was developed in 2019 and will be implemented in 2020. It is being analysed by MAG and MAE prior to approval.
- Two traceability pilots, one for coffee and one for cocoa are being developed in collaboration with the producers’ groups: APEOSAE in Zamora province and APROCEL in Sucumbíos. The results from these pilots will provide information to MAE and MAG to develop the mechanism to verify deforestation-free products.
- A proposal of technical criteria for deforestation-free and sustainable production is being developed and it is expected to be approved in the first quarter of 2020.

- A proposal for monitoring of sustainable production was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of the project. The proposal was used by ATPA to create a new version of their project documents to create a new version of the Farm Integrated Plans (PMI – Spanish acronym) and monitoring of farm practices for the transition from conventional agriculture towards sustainable agriculture.
- A proposal to connect patches of natural vegetation along river basins to create natural corridors and improve ecosystem services and soil conservation was presented to MAG.
- To support ATPA, the project initiated the development of an information platform and an app to upload data of each farm. This platform will allow data to be shared within the Ministry of Agriculture and could also be used to build the traceability and certification systems with the Ministry of Environment, the software platform and app will recover information of ATPA farms in a first phase. In the future, MAG may choose to add more modules to the platform (e.g. Climate smart livestock production, cocoa and coffee, among others).
- In 2019, the focus was on the creation of a national traceability system. The project will help MAG to promote public policies related to traceability in 2020.

REDD+ implementation

- The REDD+ results-based payment for 2014 was approved by the GCF Board in 2019 for \$18.5 million USD. The funds will be invested to continue the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan, specifically in the Amazon to continue the implementation of some of the project actions, but also in coastal areas and the Highlands, considering the prioritized areas for REDD+ implementation, defined in the REDD+ Action Plan. The funds will be instrumental to support rural development in Ecuador.

2.3 PROJECT OUTPUTS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS ⁸			
Project Output	Project Activity	Status ⁹	Implementation progress (%) ¹⁰
<p>Output 1: Investment in enabling policies to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions.</p>	<p>Act. 1.1: PDOT and Life Plans updated and implemented with climate change criteria and actions.</p>		<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone update:</p> <p>In 2019, in order to advance the process of developing and/or updating PDOTs and Life Plans with policies and actions to prevent deforestation, and promote climate change mitigation and sustainable production, the following steps have been taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with Ecuador’s National Planning Secretariat, the formulation of Guidelines to update land use planning for local governments at provincial, cantonal and parish level with environmental and sustainable production criteria was completed. In addition, Toolboxes for the inclusion of climate change and gender equality approaches in the PDOTs were developed. These instruments were published through Official Register No. 87 on November 25th, 2019, making them mandatory instruments for all GADs in the country. Six provincial and two national-level intersectoral workshops were held to review and adjust the Guidelines to update the PDOTs. Analysis of the current situation of the PDOTs and effective territorial planning was undertaken in 6 provinces and 12 cantons prioritized by the project. Technical reports on the degree of 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period.</p> <p>According to the provisions of the Organic Law (Ley Orgánica de Ordenamiento Territorial de Uso y Gestión del Suelo), in May 2020 all local governments in Ecuador must finalize and approve their PDOTs. Within this framework, the project will provide support for the development of 18 PDOTs in the Amazon region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance will be provided to update six PDOTs and six proposals for Rural Land Production and Protection Management tools, and articulation with the Life Plans of two communities from two different nationalities in the Northern Amazon region to ensure the inclusion of climate change, conservation and sustainable production criteria in their planning instruments (Provincial GADs of Sucumbíos and Orellana; Cantonal GADs Cascales, Loreto, Lago Agrio and Putumayo). Technical assistance will be provided to update four PDOT and three proposals for the use and management of rural land production and protection in articulation with current Life Plans in the Central Amazon region (Provincial GADs: Pastaza and Napo, 	

⁸ Outputs and Activities reported here should be aligned with the Activities in the Logic Framework and Implementation Timetable of the project.

⁹ Activity Not Yet Due; Activity Started - ahead of schedule; Activity started – progress on track; Activity started but progress delayed; Activity start is delayed.

¹⁰ Implementation progress on a cumulative basis as of the date of the report.

	<p>coherence/correlation between the PDOT’s diagnosis, proposal and management model was completed including the identification of information gaps and a consolidated database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint work with the STCTEA was completed to formulate a document on minimum criteria for the Life Plans of indigenous peoples and nationalities. A workshop was held in May 2019 to review the document. The document was approved by Resolution of the Amazon Planning Council. • Technical assistance was provided for the development of two Life Plans in Shuar Yamanunca and Kichwa San Francisco communities of Chicta in the northern Amazon region. A methodological proposal, work plan and diagnosis of the current situation in the two communities was completed. • Technical assistance was provided for the development of two Life Plans at Shuar Sevilla Don Bosco Association and Shuar Santiak Association in the southern Amazon region. A methodological proposal, work plan and diagnosis of the current situation in the two communities was completed. <p>CHALLENGE: The implementation of local public policy to reduce deforestation, mitigate and adapt to climate change and promote sustainable agriculture through different local planning instruments is always a challenge because these topics used to be address separately. With the project this dynamic is starting to change with the engagement of MAE and MAG, but it’s a change that will take time.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: The political decision of local authorities to implement climate change approaches in their planning instruments is crucial to generate positive impact on the field, also the inter-institutional engagement between key stakeholders is essential to achieve integrated planning.</p>	<p>Cantonal GADs: Pastaza, and Santa Clara). This will ensure inclusion of climate change, conservation and sustainable production criteria in their planning instruments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance will be provided to update seven PDOT and five proposals for the use and management of rural land production and protection in articulation with current life plans in the Southern Amazon region (Provincial GADs: Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe, Cantonal GADs: Huamboya, Palora, Tiwintza, El Pangui, Paquisha) This will ensure the inclusion of climate change, conservation and sustainable production criteria in their planning instruments. • Technical assistance will be provided for the development of a Life Plan for the Shuar Association El Pangui, including the methodological proposal, work plan and diagnosis of the current situation. • Five Life Plans for indigenous communities will be developed with the participation of CONFENIAE and the communities to include climate change, conservation and sustainable production considerations. This will be done following the FPIC process to be completed with the communities. • The project will provide support to GADs in order to develop ordinances to promote conservation and sustainable, deforestation-free production.
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	<p>Act. 1.2: Local capacity building for supervision of land-use planning and zoning.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>40%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone update:</p> <p>In 2019 the following progress was achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities of 384 staff from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, <i>Planifica Ecuador</i> and GAD (150 women and 234 men) were strengthened through specific workshops to develop the PDOTs. • Public officials (MAE, MAG, GAD) were trained in workshops of Land Planning and Local Information System (40 women and 79 men). • Leaders of indigenous communities: 34 (15 Shuar, 12 Kichwa, 3 Waorani, 3 Zapara, 1 Cofán) were also trained in life plan, land use zoning and land planning. • 45 Officials from MAG (15), MAE (19) and the project technicians (11) participated in a course that consisted of four virtual modules delivered under the framework of the Territorial Planning Training Program with a focus on climate change, conservation and sustainable production. <p>CHALLENGE: The governance structure in Ecuador requires to take into consideration that GADs are independent from the national government and as such have autonomy to take decisions independently. This requires additional effort and staff time to ensure meaningful engagement and ongoing relationship management with representatives of each GAD.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: It is essential that authorities are involved from the beginning of the process to ensure commitment to and ownership of the process. Also, it is important to engage with Secretaría Técnica Planifica Ecuador, Consejo de Gobiernos Provinciales (CONGOPE) and Asociación</p>	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity will be developed and strengthened of at least 300 (40% female y 40% male) local government staff members in territorial planning and the use of the new PDOTs guidelines. • Technical support and guidance will be provided to staff during the development of the PDOTs for the six Provincial GADs and 12 Cantonal GADs. • Strengthen the capacity of at least 200 technicians from GADs, MAE and MAG to develop plans that include conservation, climate change and sustainable production approaches. 	

	de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME) as part of the negotiations to develop the PDOTS.		
	Act. 1.3: Strengthening forest control.	Activity Started - progress on track	40%
	<p>Progress and Milestone update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of wood’s legal origin "<i>Punto Verde Forestal</i>" was designed, created by Ministerial Agreement No.096 and launched by MAE. This mechanism has already been applied in five big timber industries. • Image, logo and communication material designed for <i>Punto Verde Forestal</i>. • Re-structure of the Forest Administration System – SAF in process, that is the platform that registers wood national production and commercialization. This is the core of the traceability strategy to determine wood’s origin and final destiny. • The feasibility studies for the construction of the Mera’s forest control checkpoint and technical specifications for the repowering of 6 additional checkpoints were completed. • Agreement for bailment or use signed between the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Environment, to guarantee the use of 1,222.59 m2 for forest control purposes. • The construction of two new forest control posts (campers) began. • 40 forestry technicians trained in dendrology and forest anatomy to improve forest control knowledge and capacities. • Wood species were identified and prioritized according to their high commercial value and high vulnerability to develop a catalogue describing all their characteristics. 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of six existing forest control centers in the Amazon region. • Construction of Mera’s forest control center. • Launching of two new campers as mobile forest control centers through an event. • Update and restructure of The Forest Administration System (SAF) finished, including the timber traceability module and the NTFP. • SAF Pilot trials with MAE’s technicians and external users. • Traceability strategy approved by the Environmental Authority and being implemented in coordination with other donors. • 100 additional forest technicians trained in forest dendrology and anatomy (at least 40% women). • <i>Punto Verde Forestal</i> being implemented. • Field information and analysis of the remaining 20 forest clusters in Morona and Pastaza provinces (10 clusters in each province), to update the forest database (Second National Forest Evaluation – II ENF). • Multi-stakeholder roundtable established to generate recommendations for collaboration and to strengthen alliances between various public, private and community stakeholders to promote sustainable forest management (including timber and non-timber forest products of legal and sustainable origin). • Capacity buildings in eight communities with at least 40 forest 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field information and analysis of 20 forest clusters in Morona Santiago and Pastaza provinces (10 clusters in each province), to update forest database (Second National Forest Evaluation – II ENF). • II ENF Communication strategy designed and implemented. • 28 technicians trained in forest field collection and First Aid, for implementing the II ENF. • Design of the local community monitoring system in coordination with the Socio Bosque Program, and identification of the 8 communities where to implement if (as pilot experiences). <p>CHALLENGE:</p> <p>An adequate implementation of the new forestry strategy requires the combination of different elements. It includes human capacities and training, technology, equipment and infrastructure, updated information and normative.</p> <p>The traceability system requires empowered producers and industries being part of the value chain. For this, information must be shared, communication materials according to a strategy must be disseminated. If not, all the activities done until now would not be as effective as expected.</p> <p>The political changes in the Ministry of Environment during 2019 meant different perspectives about forest control enforcement. Continues lobbying and technical assistance are extremely necessary to give this topic the necessary relevance.</p> <p>The local community monitoring system will function satisfactorily and will be effective if it is directly articulated and connected to the national forest monitoring of the Ministry of Environment. These activities will be address through the UN to UN agreement between UNDP and FAO.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED:</p>	<p>recognized community leaders / role models (at least 40% women) trained as community-based forestry monitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and technology delivered to trained communities and local environment offices. • For the traceability system communication materials about this strategy must be developed and disseminated.
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	<p>The Ministry of Environment has been working with a forest control strategy for many years. Thus, changing some structural and human perspectives to improve and update has been difficult. Until now, new guidelines are not necessarily part of the institutional culture.</p> <p>Another thing relates to equipment and technology for forest control. Capacities to manipulate these equipment and technology is required; also, the maintenance and guarantees must be considered. In previous experiences in the Ministry of Environment, expensive drones were purchased but not used because of the risks of any damage.</p>		
	<p>Act. 1.4: Formal Inter-Institutional Coordination Structures within the framework of PDOT, Life Plans and land-use zoning.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>40%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update</p> <p>In order to establish formal inter-institutional coordination structures within the territorial planning processes, life plans and land use zoning, the following actions have been implemented in 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project technicians hired in six provinces (Sucumbíos, Orellana Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora-Chinchiipe) to implement and monitoring the activities that the project is developing in these provinces related to the PDOTs updating process and the technical support to the territorial platforms. • A management model for the intersectoral articulation platform in the Amazon Territorial Circumscription was designed aligned with the same model that is being implemented in 6 Amazon provinces. This is the official platform lead by STCTEA that must coordinate with the other territorial platforms in every province. 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inter-institutional platform will continue in six provinces (Sucumbíos, Orellana Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora-Chinchiipe) with the project's support, using the structure defined in 2019. These platforms will lead the process to develop the PDOTs of the prioritized GADs. • The project will provide technical and coordination support to the STCTEA to develop the intersectoral platform. • Support will be provided by the project to implement the roadmap defined under the Framework Convention for Inter-Agency Cooperation between the MAE, MAG, and the STCTEA. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure of the inter-institutional platform in the 6 provinces was defined with the project's support (Sucumbíos, Orellana Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora-Chinchipe). The Framework Convention for Interinstitutional Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Environment – MAE, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock – MAG, and the STCTEA. The project provided technical support to the STCTEA to improve the integrated management of multi-purpose landscapes with high conservation value in the Amazon region. The program also helped in the promotion of financial and land-use planning instruments to reduce emissions from deforestation. <p>CHALLENGE: Implementing the territorial articulation platforms has been a challenge for the Program as there is very little collaboration or coordination between GADs and other levels of government including other decentralized government entities. In some provinces more progress has been made, most of the time this situation depends on the political will of the authorities, it is important to focus on the long-term sustainability and viability of these platforms.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: Identifying common problems among GADs has contributed to generate synergies to solve problems collaboratively, within that framework it has been possible to improve coordination between GADs and subsequently improve the planning processes of territory.</p>		
<p>Output 2: <i>Implementation of financial and economic incentives towards the transition to sustainable production systems in non-forest areas</i></p>	<p><i>Act. 2.1: Provision of incentives for the sustainable production transition period.</i></p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>30%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestones Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the issue mentioned above, the project is supporting 19 groups of cocoa and coffee producers through the application 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period.</p> <p>Famer field schools will be implemented by research institutes in collaboration with local universities. The technicians of the Ministry of</p>	

	<p>UNDP’s methodology “Growing with your Business”, which has benefited 2,368 small farmers in 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 agricultural associations, which account for 1271 small farmers, have signed a declaration to promote sustainable production practices that are free from deforestation. <p>CHALLENGE: One of the most significant issues during the implementation of the ATPA management model was the time it takes to complete the diagnosis of the integrated farm plan average: 4 days per farm). This long process does not allow the project to reach the goal of 45,000 hectares and 15,000 farmers visited. Also, there is no robust and systematic electronic data about technical support or monitoring in the farms previously visited by ATPA. For that reason, the program team and the Ministry of Agriculture have designed a new strategy based on farmer field schools in which the farmer is going to have a technical assessment to transition towards sustainable production.</p> <p>One of the issues encountered is that the farms supported by ATPA are geographically dispersed. Therefore, a strategy to work more effectively was identified to define location of the beneficiaries based on the collection centers. Through those centers, the farmers will receive support for certification and traceability for deforestation-free products.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: The management model of ATPA needs to be improved in order to cover more producers and to be effective in the transition to sustainable production for the Amazon Region. Technical assistance is the most important tool that will help the farmer in the transition.</p> <p>The farmer field schools should be integrated into the MAG’s policies to guarantee the sustainability of the methodology and continue the transition to sustainable production. The program will foster the participation of local technicians and universities to strengthen national</p>	<p>Agriculture will be trained, and the modules will be integrated into the methodology of the MAG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the 5,022 farms engaged in 2018 and 2019, 5143 new small farmers will receive training to strengthen their capacities regarding crop management and sustainable production practices in 2020. Therefore, a comprehensive farm field school training program will be implemented in 2020 with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, CATIE Research University and IICA Institute. The main goal is to strengthen the capacities of small farmers, using a program tailored specifically to meet the needs of each group and to support the transformation towards sustainable agriculture. It is expected that 5000 small farmers will participate in the field school in 2020, the strategy of field schools will provide a small reinforcement training to the 5022 beneficiaries of the previous year 2018. • During the farmer field schools, the incentive packages (tools and plants) will be provided to complement the practical training. • The 1,665 farmers that are suppliers/members of the 11 producers' groups will be integrated in the strategy of farmer field schools (included in the 5000 farmers mentioned above) • Implementation actions will be prioritized to strengthen ATPA by coordinating activities between the project, other areas in MAG and the farmer field schools. • In 2020 and subsequent years, the producers will be supported through the refurbishing of collection centres, implementation of farmer field schools, certification and product traceability, and commercial alliances with public and private actors interested in supporting deforestation free production.
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	capacities and share lessons learned.		
	Act. 2.2: Promote the coordination and implementation of existing tax incentives that will allow for the transition to sustainable production systems.	Activity Started - progress on track	20%
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update</p> <p>Advances</p> <p>The Internal Revenue Service established a team with the Ministries of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and the project Program. Such group coordinated and carried out the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the sectors to which tax expense studies will be conducted. Which will be the environmental sector and the agricultural sector. • Develop a roadmap to implement training sessions on tax related issues to benefit the organizations and local producers located in the Amazon Region, and to implement the recommendations derived from the tax expense studies that will be conducted in 2020. <p>CHALLENGE: Limitations on the information and legal provisions involving data secrecy could hinder the development of studies required to determine the amount of resources involved in taxes at a national level. Therefore, the studies should be carried out at the International Industrial Unified Classification (CIUU Spanish acronym) level involving up to three or four digits.</p> <p>There are constant changes in national regulations related to the tax incentive proposal, thus the incentives must be leveraged against commitments made by the Country under the Paris Agreement and the strategic objectives of the Ecuadorian National Development Plan.</p>	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax exemption and expenses study will be conducted to determine the estimated amount for the sectors prioritized by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. This study will define the baseline and will develop a proposal of incentives and taxes that could be aligned with the REDD+ objectives. • Training sessions for producers, local organizations, MAE and MAG personnel on the incentives identified by the study previously mentioned. • Development of an APP for users / beneficiaries is planned in 2020 and 2021 to consult how the incentives can be accessed, the requisites needed, and other valuable information. 	

	<p>LESSONS LEARNED: The team led by the Internal Revenue Service must be comprised of personnel from different areas (audit, tax and legal studies). This multidisciplinary team will be able to successfully articulate the roadmap aligned with the existing regulations in the institution. The goal of this indicator is under review through the Midterm Evaluation Process because the results depend of other institutions as well.</p>		
	<p>Act. 2.3: Support the redesign of public credit lines to reorient them to sustainable production practices.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>20%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update:</p> <p>The Program is working with two strategic allies from the national Public Banking sector: a) BanEcuador, and b) CONAFIPS. The following actions were completed with these two institutions in 2019:</p> <p>BanEcuador: In coordination with the CAF as a Bank financier, a work plan was established to develop four credit lines corresponding to palm oil and cocoa crops. The consultancy to promote the access of public and private banks to sources of international climate, green or sustainable financing to grant green credits with preferential conditions in Ecuador is underway. The results from this consultancy will allow the development of financial products through soft loans (and better conditions) for the producers and organizations dedicated to produce sustainable cocoa and palm oil. It is important to highlight that BanEcuador is one of the four institutions selected by the Ecuadorian government to undergo a gap analysis in order to determine its potential to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund, the other institution are National Financial Corporation, ESPOL-TECH and Development Bank.</p> <p>National Corporation of Popular and Solidarity Finance – CONAFIPS: During 2019, the program began analyzing the need to work with CONAFIPS since this is a second-tier bank that offers productive and</p>	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <p>A new policy and a System of Administration of Environmental and Social Risks will be designed and implemented with BanEcuador.</p> <p>A system to monitor new credit lines (green and others) will be implemented in BanEcuador and linked with the systems of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.</p> <p>Several actions will be implemented to support the re-design of existing public credit lines and the creation of new green credit lines:</p> <p>The actions planned for 2020 are focused on initiating training processes for both: public banks and government technicians from the Ministries of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. During 2020, the project will develop financial products to promote, expand and maintain crops related to strategic commodities in the Amazon Region (coffee, cocoa and palm oil).</p> <p>The project will host a workshop, an exchange of private sector experience (banks and saving and credit cooperatives) and a webinar that will allow the key stakeholders of this sector to have basic knowledge about sustainable finances.</p>	

	<p>housing loans to organizations within Ecuador’s Popular and Solidarity Financial System – SEPS. In addition, CONAFIPS has a guarantee fund so producers who do not have collateral can join the formal financial system. As such, CONAFIPS will be included in the “Consultancy to promote the access of public banks, private banks, cooperatives and other institutions of the popular and solidarity economy to sources of international climate, green or sustainable financing to grant green credits with preferential conditions in Ecuador” promoted by the project.</p> <p>In this context, CONAFIPS defined three funding sources that could be accessed through an application process: World Bank-BM, Inter-American Development Bank-IDB and French Development Agency-AFD. To initiate this, it was agreed that CONAFIPS will contribute with its technical team to the formulation of the proposal while the project will provide advice in the form of external consultancies and support the local team in aspects such as: safeguards, gender, cultural pertinence and development of financial products. Additionally, the Program has focused on generating and incorporating dialogue spaces where important topics are discussed such as: taxonomy (definitions related to green finance, climate funding, etc.), green credit lines, SARAS. In this regard, a SARAS Resolution Proposal was developed, which considers a list of exclusions, sensitive activities, portfolio categorization, as well as the guidelines for the green credit lines.</p> <p>CHALLENGE: The generation of sustainable, strategic alliances with the different sectors represent a constant challenge due to the high turnover of public sector personnel. That is why each action must be linked to a National Policy that ensures its permanence regardless of the people that are working on the institutions. The support required by the green finance round table to share and promote the information and advances made by this platform to the public, the private financial system and the Popular and Solidarity Economy representatives and beneficiaries is quite difficult because there are no funds allocated to fund the roundtable activities and</p>	
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	<p>there is very little information systematized and translated into a format suitable to share with the public. “The project will plan to make a workshop, an exchange of private sector experience and a webinar about sustainable finance”.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: Green financing is at an incipient/early stage in the country. A training strategy is required to strengthen local teams within the public banks (BanEcuador and CONAFIPS). In the future, this will help to institutionalize this approach in the banking institutions, including the conceptualization of the approach and the implementation of SARAS to subsequently develop green credit lines. The goal of this indicator is under review through the Midterm Evaluation Process because the results depend of other institutions.</p>		
<p>Act. 2.4: Responsible public and private procurement for deforestation-free production.</p>		<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>50%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update</p> <p>UNDP’s methodology “Growing with your Business” – CCSN (Spanish acronym) to strengthen the commercial linkage of 19 cocoa and coffee producers’ groups in the Amazon, initiated in 2019 with a 50% of progress.</p> <p>Ongoing technical assistance provided to the 19 producers’ groups to increase their capacities in business administration and there are 19 letters signed with potential private clients. These groups are being trained in post-harvest practices to improve the quality of their production.</p> <p>A Letter of Intention was signed between the government of Ecuador and the Italian company Lavazza in November 2019 after a comprehensive due diligence process to promote the production and commercialization of deforestation free coffee.</p>	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <p>14 groups of livestock producers will be included in the second phase of the CCSN implementation plan.</p> <p>The project will promote the national position and definition of Premium & Sustainable agriculture and deforestation free products locally and internationally. A calendar of trade shows and international specialized forums will be developed as part of a commercialization plan in 2020.</p> <p>Two international alliances with private sector will be established to develop sustainable value chains for coffee and cacao (one is with Lavazza that will start on 2020).</p> <p>Two market studies for deforestation-free coffee and cocoa will be</p>	

	<p>Currently, three national alliances are being negotiated with Unocace, Chankuap and Pacari in the Amazon and Coast regions.</p> <p>76 coffee producers improved the quality of their products through participation in the most relevant fairs attended by national experts regarding <i>arabica</i> and <i>robusta</i> specialty coffee.</p> <p>The project is supporting activities to develop a bio-economy strategy with NTFP through a partnership with UTPL, MAE and MAG.</p> <p>In 2019, legal and competency consultations have been carried out to define if MAE should issue the resolution for the procurement of deforestation free products. The result was that MAE should issue the technical guidelines in order to enable SERCOP to issue the resolution. A meeting was held with MAE to coordinate actions about sustainable agriculture and deforestation free products. Unfortunately, there are no official delegates to work on these topics, so these delegations should be requested to the authorities, to give continuity to this activity.</p> <p>CHALLENGE: At present Ecuador does not have a national position or definition regarding sustainable agriculture and deforestation free products; without this, it is not possible to promote the procurement of deforestation free products as there is no measure to validate that a product is in fact, deforestation free. Nowadays, the project is developing a consultancy to get this definition with the support of both ministries MAE and MAG.</p> <p>Another challenge is that the baseline year and geographic extent of non-deforestation products has not yet been defined for the project commodities. This will be address through the consultancy mentioned above.</p>	<p>completed.</p> <p>Four local alliances to develop sustainable value chains will be established (coffee, livestock, palm, and cacao).</p>
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	<p>To reach private sector alliances it is necessary to work from the supply side; consumers are not only interested in deforestation-free products but also, they demand high quality, traceable and consistent volumes.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: the involvement of private sector in long term agreements is essential to support deforestation-free production. They are the main actors to promote this type of product and the development of sustainable value chains. Early adopters and private-sector innovators are often recognized as being environmental leaders and in some cases, a trusted source to educate consumers about environmental responsibility.</p> <p>At present, the producers in the amazon region do not have enough capacity (quality, volume, experience) to reach international markets. The program has recognized that it is important to promote commercial partnerships with national and international companies to increase economic opportunities and strengthen the value chain. Therefore, on November 26, 2019 the project held the Premium&Sustainable event where several international companies participated to learn about the country's sustainable commodities strategy.</p>		
<p>Act. 2.5: Certification and traceability of deforestation-free products.</p>		<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>37.5%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update:</p> <p>A technical and social-environmental pre-feasibility study for the construction of one coffee collection center in Morona Santiago was completed (including data on principal areas of production, hectares and average of production and principal necessities of the collection center).</p> <p>69 coffee farmers and 59 technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture received training regarding quality improvement at harvest and in</p>	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <p>A technical committee will review the studies of the Morona Santiago collection center to define future actions in this province.</p> <p>A study to diagnose the organizational, structural, electrical, environmental and industrial needs of 15 collection centers (cocoa and coffee) will be completed in four provinces. The 15 collection centers will be strengthened to enhance product quality and market volumes of</p>	

	<p>postharvest processing of coffee, with the support of MAG in six Amazon provinces.</p> <p>Local technicians and 41 farmers trained in Orellana province to improve capacities to produce cocoa and postharvest of coffee.</p> <p>A comprehensive capacity building plan is being implemented since January 2019 for coffee growers. The initial results of the capacity building plan and next steps were reviewed in June 2019 by the Morona Santiago Coffee Table in Quito. Originally, it was supposed to construct 2 collection centres, one for Morona Santiago and one for Pastaza. The results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastaza: In the province of Pastaza, coffee volumes are not yet enough to reach the equilibrium point needed to recover the required investment for the construction and operation of the collection center. In addition, from an organizational perspective, there is limited leadership capacity at the local level and little credibility about the actions of an association among the farmers. While there are processes of associativity/collaboration among farmers, these are weak and need strong support to coalesce more effectively. Due to the aforementioned factors, it was recommended during the meeting to improve coffee production conditions first for local development and to identify commercial linkages in the value chain. The construction of the collection center, therefore, is not an immediate priority. • Morona Santiago: The Morona Santiago province has 1413.75 ha of land under coffee production, which indicates that there is a productive and economic feasibility to reach the equilibrium point required for the construction and operation of the collection center. In 2019, the project and MAG supported the establishment of the Provincial Union of Agricultural Associations of Morona Santiago, which has 208 members from the productive organizations. 	<p>coffee and cocoa to service 2,191 legal producers and 5,350 commercial partners who are beneficiaries of the project.</p> <p>An analysis of the existing traceability systems to develop a roadmap for the effective traceability of cocoa, coffee, palm oil and cattle will be completed.</p> <p>Two pilot studies are using Android devices with GPS and the Qfield app to map the limits of the properties by coffee and cacao farmlands that are members of the APEOSAE and APROCEL associations to identify positive changes from adopting deforestation-free sustainable agricultural practices. The Global Forest Watch (free online platform) is used to monitor deforestation with high resolution imagery. Positive changes are identified by visually validating forest cover. And this technology will keep being used during 2020. This application is being used in two pilots that are being implemented in two organizations APEOSAE and APROCEL. With the results of the pilots, by the middle of 2020 MAG and MAE will have inputs to make decisions regarding the verification of free deforestation farms</p> <p>The BPA (<i>Buenas Prácticas Agrícolas</i> in Spanish) standard for coffee and cocoa currently prohibits the elimination/removal of primary or secondary forest to establish new crops. The project is working on a proposal to include the same prohibitions for the other commodities.</p> <p>The work within the Jurisdictional Approach Working Group (JAWG) of the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil – RSPO will be completed. The inputs of this committee will help Ecuador’s platform CISPS to make decisions regarding the jurisdictional approach and the certification of the small farmers. The JAWG was established with a mandate to support the development of a Jurisdictional Approach to RSPO certification in terms of technical development and stakeholder alignment. The goal of the JAWG is to ensure the development of a certification system document</p>
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	<p>The operation of the MS Provincial Coffee Table, which includes various actors, has been able to resolve the inconveniences and challenges identified by producers through dialogue and lines of action. One of the meeting resolutions was to recommend the construction of the collection center as it would directly benefit the Union, promoting the entry of new producers not part of the Union but who are business partners. For the implementation strategy, two types of infrastructure are required: the physical infrastructure required for the construction and commissioning of the collection center as well as systems to standardize product quality through traceability systems and management models for the operation of the collection center. New equipment, such as pulping and drying canopies, is also required by the members of the Union to improve their productive capacity. A site has been identified for the construction of the collection centre, which is approximately one hectare in size and will be donated by the Sinai Parish Board. The feasibility studies show that the site, where the coffee collection centre will be implemented, has the basic requirements for construction and operation.</p> <p>Two traceability pilots to produce deforestation-free cocoa and coffee were implemented with APEOSAE and APROCEL.</p> <p>The project provided technical support to develop national standards for deforestation-free production and traceability mechanisms for BPA. In November 26th, 2019 the Ministry of Agriculture launched the national initiative “Premium & Sustainable” which includes four central pillars of work: quality, productivity, traceability, and free deforestation to promote sustainable production in Ecuador.</p> <p>A technical proposal is being prepared to define deforestation-free sustainable products. The project will work on an implementation mechanism to promote the commercialization of these products.</p>	<p>that provides guidance on the application of the P&C at jurisdictional level, and which allows an audit of a jurisdiction-level entity against the RSPO P&C (Principles and Criteria).</p>
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	<p>The program with UNDP has started conversations with the European Forest Institute in order to establish a partnership focused on the development of the mechanism of verification for free deforestation products and the implementation of jurisdictional certification.</p> <p>CHALLENGES: the national strategy for the traceability and certification of deforestation free products is under revision of MAG technical focal points and authorities. Traceability and certification systems and deforestation free products is a new topic for Ecuador and worldwide, therefore, there is limited knowledge about how to implement these systems. However, the Ministry of Industry and Productivity (MIPRO) has developed a strategy for cocoa traceability and certification that could be used as a basis to establish a more robust approach.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: a national strategy for traceability must have a clear road map that includes phases, budgets and timelines. At present, there are different visions within the government, which need to be analyzed, discussed and negotiated to develop a mutually agreeable national strategy.</p> <p>The implementation of a national strategy to trace deforestation-free products and sustainable production is needed. These strategies must be implemented in phases, considering the national standards and all the steps required to support both Ministries (MAG and MAE).</p>		
<p>Output 3: Financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity.</p>	<p>Act. 3.1: Strengthen conservation, restoration and forest management processes through the National Socio Bosque Program.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>35%</p>
	<p><i>Progress and Milestone Update</i></p> <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of 159,557.63 hectares under strict conservation in the Amazonia, through ten contracts signed with communities within the 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance, management and monitoring of the 159,557.63 hectares of forest conserved under the Socio Bosque Program (10 	

	<p>Socio Bosque Program verified through socio-economic, legal and forest-based monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144 Socio Bosque indigenous leaders (66 women) trained in administrative and financial elements to improve their accountability towards the incentive. • Eight Socio Bosque Program communities began their technical assistance for their bio entrepreneurship - NTFP (tourism, handicrafts, oils and essences, chocolate bars) in order to strengthen their value chain and commercialization strategies. Now, the diagnosis is being validated. The methodology is call "Beginning with your Business - ICSN" from UNDP. • Six Socio Bosque technicians hired by the project started to work with an integral approach towards the project's goals. For example, these technicians are now supporting bioentrepreneurs, communitarian vigilance systems, local planning, productive activities. <p>Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of 2,422 hectares restored in the southern dry forest, including active replanting and fencing from stock as well as allowing for natural regeneration processes. • The systematization process of the restoration areas in the southern dry forest began, led by the <i>Mancomunidad del Bosque Seco</i>, the project's partner. • 100% of the cartography from the restored areas in the southern dry forest has been generated. • 25 beneficiaries received a non-financial incentive (drinking water for the cattle) to protect the restoration areas in the southern dry forest. • 49 monitoring clusters have been established in the restoration areas in the southern dry forest, and information has been generated. • 2 agreements signed between <i>Mancomunidad del Bosque Seco</i> and associations to strengthen local bioentrepreneurs. • Honey entrepreneurship strengthened with equipment and technical assistance. 	<p>communities with 4,000 local people will continue as beneficiaries of the Socio Bosque Program).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implementation of the second phase of the administrative and financial training to Socio Bosque's technicians and beneficiaries. • Approval and implementation of at least one financial mechanism to strengthen Socio Bosque's sustainability. <p>Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signature of 12,500 hectares to be restored by communities and local governments. <p>Sustainable forest management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 70,000 new hectares under sustainable forest management. • Design and implementation of a sustainable forest management communication strategy. • Approval and officialization of the sustainable forest management regulation. • Identification of silvicultural practices that could be applied in the Ecuadorian Amazonian region. • Socio Bosque beneficiaries strengthen the entrepreneurship capacities towards biocommerce, and eight bioentrepreneurs have their value chain analysis.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiations and definition of seven possible partners for new restoration agreements in prioritized areas: 3 communities and four local governments. In total: 12,500 hectares. • UNDP’s Administrative and financial tool applied to the seven possible partners with specific action plans to strengthen their capacities. <p>Sustainable forest management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23,861 hectares under sustainable forest management. • Sustainable forest management action plan built, approved and being implemented by the Environmental Authority with the project’s support. • 41 technicians (7 women) from MAE and MAG strengthened through an exchange with the enterprise <i>Verde Canande</i>, under the REDD+ agreement with the Environmental Authority. • Silvicultural practices and a sustainable forest model are being built using national experiences that are worth it to reply. • Technical assistance for the update of the regulation. <p>CHALLENGE:</p> <p>Bioentrepreneurs for conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management must generate enough income to reduce the forest’s pressure. Also, information must be generated for decision making. Local capacities must be enforced through technical assistance, training, governance and community’s empowerment.</p> <p>incentivizing effective restoration activities is difficult as it requires higher costs than those assigned to the project. Thus, many alliances must be established for sustainability.</p> <p>Additional partners must be identified as co/executors of the restoration agreements. These organizations must work closely with the communities</p>	
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	<p>and local governments and strengthen their technical and administrative capacities. These partners must comply with the donor, UNDP and MAE's requirements; it has not been easy to find them.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED:</p> <p>An integral approach applied to the project's intervention areas requires accessibility. If not, bio-enterprise is difficult to improve because of high costs for mobilization. Thus, other Socio Bosque communities were chosen strategically to strengthen their startups and initiate restoration processes.</p> <p>The country is adjusting the sustainable forest management normative/regulation. This process began on 2018 and there has not been an official and approved document. Consequently, sustainable forest management is not clearly defined in the country. However, the project in coordination with the Ministry of Environment is working to follow what has been established and agreed upon and building on other experiences. This situation has significantly delayed progress.</p> <p>Under the project, it is the first time that Ministry of Environment will sign restoration agreements with communities. Thus, the administrative mechanism was not previously defined by the MAE. Now, MAE, UNDP and the project are seeking the least risk mechanism. This complex situation has delayed agreements that should have already been signed, and also some inconvenience with the communities. In hindsight, the first thing that should have been done was to identify the mechanism to transfer the funds and execute the projects.</p>		
	<p>Act. 3.2: Strengthen mechanisms for integrated water resource management (IWRM) in the basins located within prioritized areas.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>500%</p>

	<p><i>Progress and Milestone Update</i></p>	<p><i>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of 239,303 hectares under conservation and restoration processes through the three Water Funds. • New 3.472 hectares of community conservation agreements in Papallacta Tourism Association in Napo province, with FONAG. • 47 new water conservation agreements supported by the Project. • 1.112 people with strengthened capacities in conservation, restoration, ecohydrology, climate change, river basin management and water related topics as well as technical tools like computer software for monitoring ecosystem services (Global Forest Watch) and hydrological modeling programs (427 men and 615 women). • Azogues, Gualaceo, Sigsig and El Pan Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) in Paute River Basin have their special zoning of their areas of water interest, which serve as a powerful tool for their PDOTs. • The restoration processes of FONAPA have an effectiveness performance index of 81,2%. • A new species of amphibian has been discovered during the patrols carried out by Cutin's environmental promoters. • FORAGUA received the first place of the award for the Green Champions of the GCF as the "Achievement of life for climate action" within the framework of COP25. • Three award-winning categories for FORAGUA: Ranking 43 in forest and flora category, ranking 41 in sustainable cities category and ranking 21 in water category in the Latin America Green Awards. • Quantification of the carbon stock in the FONAG-the project intervention zone. • Inter-institutional cooperation agreement between SENAGUA and GAD Sigsig for the conservation and protection of water sources in the Santa Bárbara micro basin and strengthening organizational capacities of the water boards. • Creation of inter-institutional cooperation between GAD Yantzaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first quarter of 2020, the approval of the ordinances of Canton Saraguro, Paltas, Nangaritza, Loja and Zamora with an approximate of 200,000 hectares will be sought to establish "ACMUS" Municipal Conservation Areas that include water sources throughout the canton. • Pilot project for the impact monitoring of conservation agreements implemented by ETAPA and carried out in the Yanuncay micro basin. • In the first half of the year a diagnosis of deforestation dynamics will be carried out in Oyacachi community to negotiate restoration areas. • Maintenance of 239,303 hectares under conservation and restoration processes in FONAG, FONAPA and FORAGUA.

	<p>and FORAGUA to execute the Implementation Plan (PdI) "Creation, expansion, management and monitoring of the municipal conservation and sustainable areas (ACMUS), for the reduction of vulnerability to Climate Change and Green House Gas emissions, due to deforestation and degradation "of the REDD+ Action Plan executed by FORAGUA.</p> <p>CHALLENGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The change of authorities in the GADs contributed to the delay of planned activities and the fulfillment of the fund's commitments. • Establish trust with communities to sign conservation agreements and restoration work. • Establish trust with new elected authorities to continue the work with the constituents of the funds. <p>LESSONS LEARNED: 2019 was a political and unstable year in the Municipal GADs, there was a change of technicians in the Environmental Management Units, so it is necessary to make approaches with each one to continue with the activities that the project executes.</p>		
<p>Output 4: Implementation of enabling instruments to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions</p>	<p>Act. 4.1: Support to the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other operational processes.</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>40%</p>
	<p>Progress and Milestone Update.</p> <p>Advances for Measures and Actions Management System and for the SIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "To-Be" business processes documentation for Measures and Actions Management System developed. • Technical and functional REDD+ systems architecture document developed. It includes the macro requirements and the frameworks and software to be used in the systems development. 	<p>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</p> <p>For Measures and Actions Management System and for the SIS the following products will be developed in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the business processes documentation for Measures and Actions Management System. • Functional requirements for Measures and Actions Management System and SIS developed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interconnection between REDD+ information systems with other national information systems defined. • The document of standards for software development of the Ministry of Environment was updated according to the architecture defined for the REDD+ Systems. • The Safeguards Information System architecture and concept to automate the system has been developed and approved by the Ministry of Environment. <p>Advances on the Social and Environmental Safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national policy, laws and regulations were analyzed in 2019 to ensure compliance with the UNDP SES requirements with specific emphasis on the 2016-2018 changes to Ecuador’s legal framework and policies. • The second Summary of Information (Sol) on how safeguards have been addressed and respected during REDD+ implementation for 2016-2018 period was reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Environment. The document was submitted to the UNCCC by MAE on December 2019. • The Grievance Redress Mechanism for the project program was approved by the Ministry of Environment. An email, a web form was enabled. It is planned to enable mailboxes in the 6 Amazonian provinces and a telephone line as programmed in the road map. • The National Guide for consultation for REDD+ measures and actions has been applied within the National Restoration Program, the Socio Bosque Program and the five Life Plans for indigenous communities. • The development of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Management Plan for the project Program has begun in October 2019. • 56 technicians of the MAG, MAE, GAD Pastaza and the consulting teams have been trained in presential modality in REDD+ Safeguards and Gender approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First release of the Measures and Actions Management System and SIS. <p>For Ecuador to fulfil all safeguard requirements under the UNFCCC, GCF and UNDP, the following products will be developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South-South Cooperation Experiences and Exchange Events on the development of SIS with Mexico, Chile, Paraguay, Colombia, Perú and Costa Rica (January 2020). • The SIS prototype will be developed in 2020. • The EIAS and EMP will be completed in 2020 which will include a gender plan, an indigenous engagement plan and a stakeholder engagement plan. • An online training strategy will be implemented to improve the understanding of Environmental and Social Safeguards in technical teams that belong to local governments, the Ministry of Environment, and the GCF projects. • The safeguards working team (within the Ministry of Environment) and a National Safeguards Technical Committee will be established in 2020. <p>Second FREL update and REDD+ technical annex:</p> <p>Submission of the second Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) on January 2020 incorporating updates regarding additional carbon reservoir factors, activity data and process of updating the methodologies according to the IPCC 2006 Good Practice Guidelines to maintain consistency with the National Greenhouse Gases Inventory.</p> <p>It is expected that an annex corresponding to the Forest Emissions Report due to forest degradation will be developed jointly in the preparation of the new FREL and will be submitted with the BUR.</p> <p>With the support of the project, Ecuador will carry out an uncertainty and accuracy analysis of the new FREL in line with internationally recognized</p>
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	<p>Second FREL update and REDD+ technical annex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work to develop the second Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) report considering national circumstances, finished in 2019. The submission of Ecuador's second FREL report is planned for January 2020. • Work initiated to develop the REDD+ Technical Annex to the second BUR. • Matrices of change of use and land coverage for the 1990; 2000; 2008 and 2014 periods prepared for the construction of the Forest Emissions Reference Level. <p>National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a Ministerial Agreement to issue the Institutional Guidelines for the operation of the NFMS prepared with MAE, as well as technical assistance in legal aspects. The document has been issued by Ministerial Decree. It is important to mention that, with the issuance of this ministerial agreement, the permanence of the SNMB is ensured as part of the institutionalism of the MAE. • SNMB management model developed through the application of workshops and technical meetings where technicians from the MAE of SUJA, PCBREDD, DNF and FAO the project participated. • Definition of interconnection mechanisms between the SNMB with other systems linked to REDD+ and other national systems. <p>Support of the project to the Interinstitutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC):</p> <p>The project provided support to MAE to define the National Governance Model for REDD+ where the CICC will play an important advisory role. The governance model allows for monitoring of the REDD+ Action Plan</p>	<p>good practices (GFOI and IPCC) and make this analysis publicly and transparently available through the SEPAL platform from FAO.</p> <p>The second REDD+ TA (technical annex) will use the same methodology and parameters developed for the FREL. This will be presented to the UNFCCC, once the FREL has gone through the Technical Review process and the evaluation report has been received by LULUCF sector experts at the end of October 2020 so that the presentation of the REDD+ TA will take place at the beginning of November of the same year, to go through the process of International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) in 2021. It is expected that the reporting years will correspond to the period 2015-2018.</p> <p>The project support for the CICC:</p> <p>The proposed National Model of Governance for REDD+ will be approved by authorities and formalized by a Ministerial Decree, after promoting national dialogues in order to define the best model, according to institutional needs.</p> <p>In 2020, the roadmap and work plan developed in 2019 will be implemented taking into consideration and linking the CICC actions with the National Adaptation Plan and Ecuador's NDC.</p> <p>Impact analysis of public policies:</p> <p>Impact of public policies aimed at reducing deforestation and degradation, as well as barriers to increasing forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and conservation in Ecuador, determined.</p> <p>REDD+ Working Group:</p>
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	<p>implementation at the national level through the different projects that execute REDD+ financing and results-based payments to ensure effectiveness of the interventions.</p> <p>The project program developed a roadmap with MAE to strengthen the CICC governance and activate the technical working groups of the CICC, including the LULUCF group. To implement this, a participatory assessment was developed and implemented, and a recommendations document was prepared. The CICC internal regulations were updated and a working plan developed for 2020, which was approved by the assembly of CICC in December 2019. These efforts have resulted in a more cohesive relationship between the technical members of the CICC.</p> <p>Impact analysis of public policies:</p> <p>Work initiated to determine the deforestation reduction impact of the key public policies that are supported by the project: Socio Bosque Program, ATPA and Water Funds. A detailed workplan and methodology for the impact assessment was developed.</p> <p>REDD+ Working Group:</p> <p>In 2019, the REDD+ Working Group completed its second period (2016-2019) after 14 meetings. During 2019, the REDD+ Working Group advised and contributed to the development of criteria to operationalize competitive funds granted as part of the project strategy to support sustainable production. Additionally, in 2019 the project program worked to create a strong identity within the REDD+ Working Group, which included the development of a Logo, a song and testimonial videos. Finally, the project systematized and analysed the second period of the REDD+ Working Group through a participatory process. The analysis, which comprises a period of 3 years, provides recommendations to strengthen the third REDD+ Working Group.</p>	<p>In 2020 the REDD+ Working Group will start its third period with the objective to improve the impact of the participation and engagement of civil representatives to strengthen this national platform. This includes an open call for applications in order to engage new members; organize a national level promotion and communication strategy; and organize the selection process based on the regulation established as part of the Ministerial Agreement issued in 2017 to create the REDD+ Working Group.</p> <p>The Working Group will meet 4 times during 2020 and the project will develop a training program for new members and will coordinate the replication of the topics addressed by the REDD+ Working group with its members.</p> <p>Cross-cutting strategies:</p> <p>Continue with the implementation of the Communication, Edu-communication and Capacity Building Strategies to support the strategic actions of the project's outputs.</p> <p>Approval of the updated Communication strategy of the program by the Management Committee on January 2020.</p>
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	<p>Cross-cutting strategies:</p> <p>The Communication, Edu-communication and capacity building strategies were implemented. These strategies are coherent with operational outputs 4 and 5 of the REDD+ Action Plan, but are primarily focused on the policies, actions and measures that will be implemented through the project.</p> <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project communication strategy was updated and presented to the new communication director of MAE. • Coverage of national workshops for the construction of Guidelines for PDOTs in Quito and Guayaquil, March 29 and April 2, respectively with the presence of 112 women and 152 men. • Participation of the authorities of MAE and MAG in the inaugural event of the Good Growth Conference, which took place on May 13, in Lima, Peru, making the coverage and accompaniment. This event was about the countries' commitments to sustainable and deforestation-free production topics. • Coverage and dissemination of the Regional Meeting of Coffee and Cocoa Producers of the Amazon. This meeting was the space to begin the process of forming regional platforms for sustainable coffee and cocoa. • RSPO certification brochure designed and printed for distribution in international events. • Key messages for World Water Day spread on the social networks of MAE. • Event with FONAG "Cicleada por el Agua", which took place on March 31: invitation video by Iván Vallejo, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, social media promotion, interview on Ecuador TV and presence at the event. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Natural Heritage Statistics on the SUIA-MAE website - English version. • Key messages diffused for the International Day of Forests in the social networks. • Coverage and dissemination of the Meeting of “Women against Climate Change”, held on April 10 and 11, in official social networks. <p>Published articles:</p> <p>- ADN Magazine - the project article. "Conserve forests and produce sustainably." https://v3ar.zone-secure.net/16233/991862/#page=17</p> <p>- EKOS Economía Magazine, page 52. “The project conserve and produce sustainably in a megadiverse country”. http://adnsostenible.ekosnegocios.com/publication/d0c497e7/mobile/</p> <p>Capacity Building and Edu communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edu-communication material developed on REDD+ in Ecuador, aimed at local actors, which includes a booklet on safeguards, REDD+, forests and climate change. This material was translated to Kichwa and Shuar on an interpretation process with the support of local communities. • Two virtual trainings, under the modality of webinars. 1) Webinar No. 6 National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+, and Forest Emission Reference Level (June 21, 2019); 2) Webinar No. 7 Financing of REDD+ (July 19, 2019). 123 people were trained in forests, REDD+ and climate change, as part of a mandatory course to work in the program. • Implementation of the Indigenous Territorial Governance Program that started in August 2019 through a launch event with the authorities from MAE, MAG, IKIAM and CONFENIAE. This training program is organized by the project, CONFENIAE, IKIAM and Forest 	
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	<p>Trends (NGO). 36 students from the Kichwa, Shuar and Waorani nationalities, from Pastaza, Napo and Sucumbíos provinces participated. It will last for 8 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal of a capacity building project profile developed through the establishment of field schools for coffee, cocoa and livestock producers and technical teams of MAG, MAE and the project. • There are two proposals by CATIE and UTPL for the development of courses in the field of continuous training, the topics of these courses are sustainable forest management, restoration, organizational strengthening, assertive communication, leadership, among others, identified by the technical staff of the project's components. <p>CHALLENGES: The constant change of authorities means that capacity building processes must be constantly repeated, to ensure that counterparts are trained on REDD+ issues and to ensure continued success.</p> <p>It is a challenge for the technical team to comply with the calendars for submitting technical documents to the UNFCCC but with effective coordination this can be solved.</p> <p>It is necessary to have a technical support team in programs and projects of MAE and MAG to ensure an adequate approach and respect for environmental and social safeguards.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: There are no national capacities in place in the country to conduct environmental and social impact assessment processes, it is necessary to promote training processes to ensure that in the future there are professional teams that have these skills.</p>		
	<p>Act. 4.2: Operationalization of the financial architecture of the REDD+ AP</p>	<p>Activity Started - progress on track</p>	<p>40%</p>

	<p><i>Progress and Milestone Update</i></p>	<p><i>Key milestones and deliverables expected in the next reporting period</i></p>
	<p>Advances in the activity to Operate and Automate the REDD+ Measures and Actions Management System:</p> <p>Definition of the architecture of the system and interconnection mechanisms between the REDD+ Measures and Actions Management System and other systems linked to REDD+ and other national systems.</p> <p>Advances in the activity to prepare annual reports on the implementation of REDD+ through the REDD+ measures and actions management system:</p> <p>Development of the Strategic Plan for Territorial Intervention for the Reduction of deforestation by 2030, provincial technical workshops were held to gather information on deforestation dynamics. Also, two training seminars were held for the technical staff of MAE, MAG and Water Funds on Modeling Change of Land Use and Coverage, and Dynamic Modeling of Change in Land Cover. The technical products to inform the national position on sustainable and deforestation-free production were developed.</p> <p>Within the framework of the consultancy in charge of Earth Innovation Institute to “determine the impact of public policies aimed at reducing deforestation and degradation, as well as the barriers to increasing forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and conservation in Ecuador”, the impact assessment of the Socio Bosque program, the Amazonian productive transformation Agenda - ATPA, and water funds was carried out and as a result there is a methodological proposal for evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan in Ecuador.</p> <p>Support the accreditation of a national entity for the GCF:</p>	<p>Operate and Automate the REDD+ Measures and Actions Management System:</p> <p>A prototype of the REDD+ measures and actions management system will be in operation and tests of its operation will be carried out.</p> <p>Prepare annual reports on the implementation of REDD+ through the REDD+ measures and actions management system:</p> <p>Annual report on the implementation of REDD+ actions and measures will be developed utilizing data from the prototype of the information management system for REDD+.</p> <p>Support the accreditation of a national entity for the GCF:</p> <p>The project will support the gap analysis report of the four entities that presented to MAE their interest of expression letters to be accredited to the GCF.</p> <p>The project will provide support for the accreditation of a national entity to the GCF through coordinated actions between MAE, including the development of a concept and proposal note to access GCF funding with the entity to be accredited.</p> <p>Coordination activities with the National Fund to create the financial mechanisms to channel REDD+ resources will be initiated in the second half of 2020. The mechanisms will be defined considering the lessons learned from the implementation of REDD+ funds from REM through FIAS and in a participatory way, considering the gender approach and establishing differentiated conditions to allow indigenous peoples and communities to access the funds.</p>

	<p>BanEcuador, National Financial Corporation, ESPOL-TECH and Development Bank presented to MAE their letters of interest to be accredited to the Green Climate Fund. An analysis was conducted in order to define criteria to choose the national entity that should be accredited to the GCF to access RBP. The program will support the gap analysis assessment for the entities to identify the most suitable for accreditation. A consultancy to assess the gaps that these entities have in relation to the requirements requested by the GCF is in the contracting process.</p> <p>The financial architecture of REDD+ should be based on the choice of the accredited entity to channel REDD+ results-based payments and is yet to be defined. MAE has requested to wait until FIAS has experience in the implementation of REM, to take a decision on the design of the financial architecture.</p> <p>Assistance in identifying opportunities for private investment for the implementation of the PA REDD+ and co-financing opportunities:</p> <p>.</p> <p>Conduct the prioritization process of REDD+ measures and actions from the CONFENIAE Implementation Plan applying the FPIC Guide, to define the actions that will be implemented with RBPs financing.</p> <p>Support to MAE and MAG in coordination with NDC Support Program, to develop the Plan for the Implementation of the NDC, LULUCF sector.</p> <p>CHALLENGES: Articulating the entities interested in accreditation to the GCF with the institution that is nominated by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>LESSONS LEARNED: Linking with other UNDP headquarters that are conducting processes of accreditation in the region, sharing experiences among countries. It would be useful to learn more about the experience</p>	<p>The project will continue to provide technical assistance and capacity building in implementing the financial strategy for the REDD+ Action Plan, including working to engage the financial sector in REDD+, continuing to work on fiscal incentives and REDD+ complementarities and exploring other financial options for REDD+ implementation.</p>
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	of other countries in the region related to the accreditation of a national entity for the GCF.	
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2.4 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK INDICATORS¹¹

2.4.1 PROGRESS UPDATE ON FUND-LEVEL IMPACT INDICATORS OF THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK

<i>Fund-level impact Core indicators¹²</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Current value¹³</i>	<i>Target (mid-term)</i>	<i>Target (final)</i>	<i>Remarks (including changes¹⁴, if any)</i>
M4.0 Reduced emissions from land use, reforestation, reduced deforestation, and through sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks: Emission reduction (tCO₂e) because of REDD+ AP	43.4 million tCO ₂ e emissions from deforestation per year during the period 2000-2008 Emission reductions from deforestation of 4.8MtCO ₂ during the period 2008-2014.	Nationwide Emission reduction of 9.3MtCO ₂ eq/y for the period 2017-2018 ¹⁵ Cumulative emission reductions of 18.6MtCO ₂ for the period 2017-2018	N/A	2,7M tCO ₂ e / year on average over the period 2017-2021 13.3 million tCO ₂ eq (cumulative) emissions reduced between 2017-2021	According to the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+, the exact amount of emission reductions that Ecuador will achieve by implementing its REDD+ AP nationwide during the life of the GCF project (2017-2022) will be known once the second and third BURs with the respective REDD+ Technical Annexes are presented to the UNFCCC in 2020 and 2023 respectively. These results will be compared with the second FREL period 2001-2014, which was submitted for Technical Review by UNFCCC experts in 2019. The information from the second FREL and the second and third BUR will be published in the Lima REDD+ Information Hub and on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform, in accordance with decision 9 / CP.19 of the UNFCCC. It is important to note that the Warsaw framework for REDD+ does not require or provide a methodology for attributing emission reductions to a measure, a specific action or to a donor. In addition, the attribution of national emission reductions to an individual measure, project or a single source of financing may be flawed due to the displacement risk associated with any subnational implementation of REDD+. Ecuador avoids this risk through the implementation of REDD+ at the national scale, rather than through isolated subnational projects. Nonetheless, given the GCF requirement that funded projects report on the emission reductions achieved, the Government of Ecuador, the PMU and UNDP have developed a specific methodology to estimate ex-ante the reductions in emissions (this was updated from the FP and shared with GCF in 2017). According to these estimates, the expected reduction of emissions generated by the GCF project compared to the Forest Reference Emission Level Deforestation 2000-2008 (FREL 1) is 2,671,989 tCO ₂ eq / year. It is important to note that this ex-ante estimate was based on the assumption that the project would contribute roughly 31% of the total emission reduction achieved on a national scale. The emission reductions reported by the project in the 2017 and 2018 APRs were estimated at a national level using the same methodology used to calculate FREL-1, therefore these are not specifically attributable to the implementation of the Project which is supporting the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan alongside many other domestic and international sources of finance. At a national level for the years 2017 and 2018, Ecuador has reduced its GHG emissions

¹¹ Per the approved methodology in and the Logic Framework in the Funding Proposal, please provide an update on the relevant indicators.

¹² As per the relevant indicators established in the Funding Proposal and the Performance Measurement Framework, including all indicators approved by the Board and relevant updates agreed with GCF, if applicable.

¹³ As of 31 December, of the relevant year.

¹⁴ Related to the approved indicators and targets in the Logic Framework.

¹⁵ This value corresponds to the national emissions reductions from deforestation achieved for the 2017-2018 period based on FREL-1, therefore these are not specifically attributable to the implementation of the Project which is supporting the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan alongside many other domestic and international sources of finance.

					<p>from deforestation by 9.3 MtCO₂ tons of CO₂ eq/year. This value could change with the FREL-2 technical review.</p> <p>FREL-1 was presented to UNFCCC experts in 2015 and underwent a successful technical review process. This methodology includes the spatially explicit representation of the six IPCC land cover classes at the national level through use of satellite imagery and the calculation of deforestation based on post-classification detection using land cover maps from 2017 and 2018 through confusion matrices. In addition, the methodology attributes the emission factor by forest type for the detected change using field information from the National Forest Inventory.</p> <p>Ecuador has now presented the second FREL-2 to the UNFCCC ¹⁶ on January 6, 2020. This is an important achievement supported by the GCF project following two years of effort. Estimates of previous emission reductions, as well as reported emissions, should now be reviewed using the data and updated methods presented in the FREL, as it presents substantial changes in the technical considerations and in the methods used. Although the emission factors of the second FREL are the same as the first FREL submitted in December 2014 and the activity data is a spatially explicit representation of deforestation using satellite images, the second FREL only represents changes due to deforestation from 2001 to 2008 and from 2009 to 2014 within a forest mask using 2000 as the base year. In addition, the changes in forest cover detected from deforestation from 2015 to 2018 are reported as REDD+/DEFORESTATION activity only in relation to changes occurring within said mask. Another substantial change is that with the new methodology, deforestation can be directly detected using the Random Forest algorithm classification samples of deforestation points between two time periods to show the reduction of emissions, including for the time periods of: 2001-2008; 2009-2014; 2015-2016 and 2017-2018.</p> <p>This new FREL-2 methodology must go through a review and technical process by UNFCCC specialists to verify the consistency, transparency and coherence of the procedures and assumptions made by Ecuador in developing its second FREL report through work sessions with Ministry of Environment specialists, which will begin in March 2020.</p> <p>Once the UNFCCC experts have reviewed and approved Ecuador's FREL-2 report, the methodology will be used as the basis to calculate previous and future CO₂-eq emissions reductions. This will allow Ecuador to maintain consistent information on REDD+ results and enable better monitoring and reporting on the impact of public policies implemented to reduce deforestation and other initiatives executed with external financing, such as the project. This greater transparency based on the reports of the UNFCCC will guarantee all current and future international financing sources, whether ex-ante investments or Results Based Payments (such as KfW and GCF), that data presented by Ecuador are up-to-date, transparent and respect key concerns relating to environmental integrity.</p>
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¹⁶ See the UNFCCC REDD+ website to access the proposed new FREL that will be reviewed in 2020: <https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=ecu>.

2.4.2 PROGRESS UPDATE ON PROJECT/PROGRAMME LEVEL INDICATORS OF THE LOGIC FRAMEWORK ¹⁷					
Project/Programme indicators (Mitigation/Adaptation)	Baseline	Current value ¹⁸	Target (mid-term)	Target (final)	Remarks (including changes ¹⁹ , if any)
M5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems					
5.1 Institutional and regulatory systems that improve incentives for low-emission planning and development and their effective implementation	PDOT include some environmental information but do not include actions for GHG emissions reduction. Life Plans include environmental information, but not actions for GHG emissions reduction.	0 PDOT with Climate Change criteria	18 PDOTs (12 municipals, 6 provincial)	At least 4 land-use planning instruments (PDOT, life plans) linked to land-use zoning and climate change mitigation objectives.	In Q1 2019 the election of new authorities was held and since Q2 2019 the project started to work with the new authorities to present the new Guidelines for PDOT and to support the GADs in the PDOTs updating process.
5.2 Number and level of effective coordination mechanisms	One institutionalized mechanism for a national dialogue on climate change: Inter-institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC).	1) Interinstitutional Committee on Climate Change – CICC. 2) REDD+ Working Group. 3) Interinstitutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil – CISPS.	-National Model of Governance for REDD+ established and linked to other mechanisms related to climate change and REDD+ implementation to promote REDD+ AP implementation and deforestation-free commodities.	At least 2 national mechanisms institutionalized and working (CICC and one related to deforestation-free commodities).	COP25 The National position for COP25 was validated by the CICC. REDD+ work group sessions were held four times in 2019 Proposal to establish the National Model of Governance for REDD+ where the CICC will play an important role to be formalized by a Ministerial Decree, once approved by the authorities.
M9.0 Improved management of land and forest					
9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO2 emission reductions.	SBP has 1.4 million ha under conservation.	159,557.63 hectares	159,557.63 hectares	140,000 additional hectares for conservation.	Conserved through signed agreements with 10 Socio Bosque communities.
9.1 Hectares of land or forests under	4.1 million ha for forest	23,861 hectares	40,000 hectares	140,000 additional	

¹⁷ As per the relevant indicators established in the Funding Proposal and the Performance Measurement Framework, including relevant updates agreed with GCF, if applicable.

¹⁸ As of 31 December, of the relevant calendar year.

¹⁹ Related to the approved indicators and targets in the Logic Framework.

<i>improved and effective management that contributes to CO2 emission reductions.</i>	<i>sustainable management.</i>			<i>hectares for sustainable forest management.</i>	Under sustainable forest management through MAE's sustainable forest management program.
9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO2 emission reductions.	SBP has 102,000 ha under restoration programmes.	2,446.74 hectares	10,000 hectares	At least 15,000 additional hectares for restoration programs	Through the agreement signed with Mancomunidad del Bosque Seco in Loja and El Oro provinces. According to the National Restoration program guidelines.
Output 1: Investment in enabling policies to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions.					
Number of strengthened land-use planning instruments and life plans that have included climate change mitigation policies and actions.	Provincial PDOT: 0 Cantonal PDOT: 0 Life Plans: 0	0	Provincial PDOT: 6 Cantonal PDOT: 12 Life Plans: 5		PDOTs must be updated with every change of government. The GADs started to update them since May 2019 (they have one year to finalize the process). The project is giving the technical support to the GADs in order to accomplish this goal.
Number of legal coordination instruments at a national and territorial level for REDD+.	There are legal coordination instruments at a national and territorial level, but not for REDD+.	*CISPS (Inter-institutional Committee for the Monitoring of Sustainable Palm) is a legal instrument to achieve the non-deforestation commodity goal, it was created by an Interministerial Agreement #030 (19/03/2018) signed by MAE and MAG. * REDD+ Work Group is a coordination instrument for the civil society participation that was created by a Ministerial Agreement #049 (27/06/2017) signed by MAE, and now it receives direct support from the project. *There are regional platforms for the commodities that need to be strengthen.		At least 5 legal coordination instruments at a national and territorial level for REDD+. At least 6 inter-institutional agreements institutionalized and working at a national and territorial level.	The process to update the PDOTs has begun and the guidelines for the PDOTs that include REDD+ and climate change provisions must be used by all the GADs in Ecuador, now it's mandatory to use these guidelines at a national level. The agreement between MAE, MAG and STCTEA for coordination the activities of the project in the Amazon region.
Output 2: Implementation of financial and economic incentives towards the transition to sustainable production systems in non- forest areas.					
Area (ha) transformed to sustainable production systems in deforested areas.	Grassland: • North ern Amazon: 20,890 ha.	15000 ha (3 hectares per 5022 farms assisted until 2019)	20,000 ha	At least 45,000 ha converted to sustainable production systems in the	There was a change of strategy, now the support to the transition period is going to be done with a farm field school training programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Amazon: 4,105 ha. South ern Amazon: 82,374 ha. South ern Dry Forests and Valleys: 4,273 ha. 			project's prioritized areas	
Number of products with deforestation-free certification and traceability.	Organic Coffee certificate.	1 (Palm oil)	2	At least 4 products will have deforestation-free certification.	The project started the analysis to define the concept of deforestation free production and sustainable production. These definitions will be included in the national existing certifications.
Existence of a national service for contracts (SERCOP) resolution that includes and prioritizes the procurement of deforestation-free products.	SERCOP resolution does not exist.	0	0 Resolution draft will be agreed by SERCOP and MAE.	Existence of a SERCOP resolution: "purchase volumes will be measured to know the impact of this measure".	In 2019, legal and competency consultations have been carried out to define if MAE should issue the resolution for the procurement of deforestation free products. The result was that MAE should issue the technical guidelines in order to enable SERCOP to issue the resolution. A meeting was held with MAE to coordinate actions about sustainable agriculture and deforestation free products.
Number of beneficiaries of beneficiaries transiting successfully to sustainable production systems in deforested areas.	0	5200	10,000 beneficiaries	60,000 direct beneficiaries have transitioned to sustainable production.	The beneficiaries of MAG will participate in the farm field school training programme.
Output 3: Financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity					
Number of hectares under conservation incentives in priority areas with high threat of deforestation and potential to generate social and environmental co-benefits.	SBP has 1.4 million ha under conservation.	159,557.63 hectares	159,557.63 hectares	140,000 additional hectares for conservation.	
Number of hectares under restoration incentives in priority areas with high threat of deforestation and potential to generate water regulation co-benefits.	4.1 million ha for sustainable forest management.	23,861 hectares	40,000 hectares	140,000 additional hectares for sustainable forest management.	

	SBP has 120,000 ha under restoration agreements.	2,446.74 hectares	10,000 hectares	At least 15,000 additional hectares for restoration programs.	
Output 4: Implementation of enabling instruments to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions					
Number of coordination mechanisms for managing instruments that include land-use planning and zoning guidelines in GAD and indigenous territories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNMF is operational but not yet institutionalized. • SIS conceptualized and methodologically designed. • FREL from deforestation constructed and presented to the UNFCCC for the technical evaluation. • A technical REDD+ Annex to the BUR is being developed. 	<p>*The NFMS management model was developed, and the automation of NFMS processes related to deforestation is underway. A Ministerial Decree was issued to institutionalize the NFMS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing on the gradual automation of SIS processes in coordination with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFMS is institutionalized and a second BUR with REDD+ annex is submitted to the UNFCCC in 2022 • SIS is operational, and a second summary of information is submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019 <p>Improved activity data for FREL.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNMF operational and institutionalized. • Information summary about corresponding safeguards presented to the Convention. • FREL and emission reduction results evaluated by the Convention and published in the Information Hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second Summary of information was submitted on December of 2019 to the UNFCCC, and it covers the period from January 2016 to December 2018. • The submission of a second Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) is planned for January of 2020. The report has been developed considering national circumstances. • The REM baseline is not considered a Reference Level but rather an interim “payment baseline” for the purposes of REM only. The REM baseline is a requirement for REM to make payments for 2015 - 2016 until Ecuador’s Second FREL is updated and submitted for technical assessment to the UNFCCC. In this context, Ecuador will be expected to present the second Technical Annex in the second semester of 2020.

		<p>MAE²⁰. The second summary of information was prepared and submitted on December of 2019 to the UNFCCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FREL report was developed and it will be presented to the UNFCCC in January of 2020, considering the methodological enhancement in coordination with MAE. • Considering the national circumstances, the REDD+ Technical Annex is being developed and will be presented with BUR in the second semester of 2020. 			
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2.5 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Describe implementation challenges faced during the last reporting period, including measures adopted and lessons learned. If any issues have arisen in the last twelve (12) months of implementation that may result in a change to the scope and/or timing of the project, please provide a description of those items and how they have impacted the implementation period and final targets.

<i>Challenge encountered</i>	<i>Type²¹</i>	<i>Measures adopted</i>	<i>Impact on the project implementation²²</i>	<i>Lessons learned and Other Remarks</i>
Data provided by ATPA is collected on paper in the field, which can present problems with accuracy, quality control and data sharing.	Implementation	<p>To support ATPA and improve data quality, an electronical platform will be implemented to manage data from the integrated farm management plan.</p> <p>A new strategy was defined with MAG, a farm field school training program will be implemented to support farmers and collect baseline and results data.</p> <p>There is a strategy developed by the program to monitor the forest into the farms, that include satellite technology.</p>	High	The management model of ATPA needs to be improved and farm field schools need to be implemented as a government policy.

²⁰The SIS Processes Manual can be downloaded at: <http://reddecuador.com/sistema-de-informacion-de-salvaguardas/>

²¹ Implementation; Legal; Financial; Environmental/Social; Political; Procurement; Other; AML/CFT; Sanctions; Prohibited Practices.

²² Minor/Solved; Moderate; High.

<p>The governance system of the project delays implementation.</p>	<p>Implementation</p>	<p>The Program Manager made a proposal to the Ministries requesting specific measures to accelerate implementation. As a result, the Ministries authorized the project the approval of procurement processes under \$60,000 USD during the last semester of 2019.</p> <p>At the end of 2019, UNDP Country office developed new Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for all the projects and programs in the country. This measure will be implemented during 2020.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Ministries must fulfil the agreements made in the directive committee in order to accelerate the implementation of the project.</p>
<p>Budget limitations for Output 4 to implement the cross-cutting actions related to capacity building, safeguards, knowledge management, communication, stakeholder engagement and gender.</p>	<p>Financial</p>	<p>In future disbursements each output of the project will allocate a portion of the output budget to support effective implementation of cross-cutting elements.</p> <p>This situation will be analysed through the Environmental and Social Impact Study of the program.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>It is highly recommended that for future REDD+ projects transversal outputs should have a reasonable budget allocated from the beginning to allow the effective implementation of the REDD+ approach, including safeguards and gender issues, across the entire project.</p>
<p>Difficulties compiling, organizing, and managing all the information developed by the project, thus causing challenges with data management and access to information for the development of progress reports required by national counterparts and donors.</p>	<p>Other</p>	<p>Output 4 has generated proposals to ensure the information generated is hosted in an orderly manner online or in an electronic format that is accessible to the team. It is expected that the online site will be updated in a regular manner and that it will allow information to be managed efficiently. Standardized formats for reports, memos, systematizations, etc. are being designed to ensure that the information generated has a similar format and scope.</p> <p>A website explaining the REDD+ readiness processes and related decisions and documents is being developed. All these measures are being adopted as part of the knowledge management processes.</p> <p>During the last quarter of 2019, the program developed a web tool to monitor the indicators and the AOP. This platform will be ready on February 2020.</p>	<p>Minor / Solved</p>	<p>As a lesson learned, it is recommended that all information generated from the beginning of the project be duly documented and maintained in a reasonable order. This will ensure efficient access to information to facilitate the generation of reports; record progress; and develop publications, systematizations and general evaluations of the project.</p>
<p>Within the project and among key stakeholders there are different levels of knowledge about the gender approach and its application as cross-cutting elements.</p>	<p>Environmental/Social</p>	<p>One of the measures adopted has been to initiate training and awareness-raising processes to enable all Project technicians and coordinators to be agents of</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>To highlight the importance of integrating the gender approach at all levels of the project, especially if the objective is to meet the goals of sustain-</p>

		<p>social transformation in their areas of implementation utilizing a sustained process over time.</p> <p>In implementation, staff are supported to articulate gender and social methodologies within technical work in the territories, both with the communities and with other implementing partners. This has been promoted and sustained with activities for capacity building and recommendations for strengthening of women's leadership.</p> <p>It has also been possible to influence budget planning for each output to allocate a portion of the budget to the improved integration of Gender approach to achieve the proposed goals.</p> <p>With the GEF-financed project a UNDP agreement to work with UN WOMEN has been implemented to support gender process throughout the project. These gender actions complement the actions of the GCF project through the gender expert and the gender action plan (to be developed within the ESIA)</p>		<p>able development, it is important to identify and challenge preconceptions about gender roles. The project provides space for dialogue and reflection within its staff and with all the actors involved.</p>
<p>Maintaining alignment between the political, technical and financial timings/cycles has been a continuous challenge during the execution of the project. Additionally, the frequent changes in the Ministry of Environmental and Ministry of Agriculture generated delays in some processes.</p>	Political	<p>Close coordination mechanisms with authorities and technical staff from MAE and MAG have been established to promote the continuity of the project's activities contributing to the achievement of results.</p>	High	<p>The project has outlined numerous strategies, guidelines and protocols to support and improve project management and implementation within the MAE.</p> <p>It is recognized that flexibility to adjust planned actions is essential to maintain collaborative working relationships. This gives the opportunity to enhance the expected results.</p>
<p>Sustainable forest management does not have a financial incentive.</p>	Implementation	<p>During 2019, the project and MAE coordinated a strategy to support communities for adopting sustainable TP and NFTP management plans and land use plans in order to integrate production, conservation, restoration and sustainable lumber in communal lands. These areas will add to the sustainable forest management indicator. This measure will be implemented in 2020.</p>	High	<p>Lesson Learned: It is important to coordinate with the Ministry of Environment from the very beginning of the project to establish definitions and expectations that the project must manage during its implementation. This will ensure that the concepts and priorities are clearly defined and agreed upon.</p>

<p>The incentive identified in the PRODOC of US\$272 per hectare for restoration activities is not enough to encourage active restoration processes. According to the Ministry of Environment parameters, a minimum of US\$800 per hectare is required for active restoration. It is also recognized that \$272/ha is low for passive restoration.</p>	<p>Financial</p>	<p>The restoration activities developed by the project promote inter-institutional collaboration and alliances with key partners (including NGO). In this way, many stakeholders are included in the processes and contribute in-kind with their expertise and financially through co-financing activities.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Collaboration between different stakeholders for restoration activities is possible. Existing alliances facilitate the implementation because confidence and trust are already established among them. Thus, it is recommended to engage with stakeholders that have an established relationship in the territory.</p>
<p>The feasibility studies for the construction of a coffee collection centre in Morona Santiago were carried out by the ESPOL University. The study estimated \$1,723,348.98 USD as the cost to build the collection centre. The project's budget for a new collection centre, on the other hand, is \$600,000 USD.</p>	<p>Financial and Implementation</p>	<p>The project is looking for new partners or a different strategy to accomplish this goal.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>It's always important to have a study before establishing a referential budget to implement a strategy.</p>

2.6 REPORT ON CHANGES DURING IMPLEMENTATION (include actual and expected changes)

Changes related to the reporting of the project: the FP 019 was one of the first FPs approved by the board of the GCF. It included 4 components + 13 sub-components/outputs + 34 activities/inputs. Soon after this approval, the GCF and UNDP agreed on having only 1 single component per project. Therefore, the planning and reporting structure of the FPO19 is being adjusted now to have only 1 component, 4 outputs and 13 activities. Below a more detailed explanation of this adjustment.

<p>This column corresponds to what was called "Components" in the FP and the FAA, and that we will now refer to as "outputs"</p>	<p>This column corresponds to what was called "sub-components" in the FP and "outputs" the FAA, and which corresponds from now on to "activity"</p>
<p>Output 1: Investment in enabling policies to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions</p>	<p>Act. 1.1: PDOTs and Life Plans updated and implemented with climate change criteria and actions</p>
	<p>Act. 1.2: Local capacity building for supervision of land-use planning and zoning</p>
	<p>Act. 1.3: Strengthening forest control</p>
	<p>Act. 1.4: Formal Inter-Institutional Coordination Structures within the framework of PDOTs, Life Plans and land-use zoning</p>
<p>Output 2: Implementation of financial and economic incentives towards the transition to sustainable production systems in non-forest areas</p>	<p>Act. 2.1: Provision of incentives for the sustainable production transition period</p>
	<p>Act. 2.2: Promote the coordination and implementation of existing tax incentives that will allow for the transition to sustainable production systems</p>
	<p>Act. 2.3: Support the redesign of public credit lines to reorient them to sustainable production practices²³</p>
	<p>Act. 2.4: Responsible public and private procurement for deforestation-free production</p>

²³ The goals of these indicators are under review through the Midterm Evaluation Process because the results depend of other institutions too.

	Act. 2.5: Certification and traceability of deforestation-free products
Output 3: Financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity	Act. 3.1: Strengthen conservation, restoration and forest management processes through the National Socio Bosque Program.
	Act. 3.2: Strengthen mechanisms for integrated water resource management (IWRM) in the basins located within prioritized areas
Output 4: Implementation of enabling instruments to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions	Act. 4.1: Support to the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other operational processes
	Act. 4.2: Operationalization of the financial architecture of the REDD+ AP

The content that will be changed in this APR is the information related to what was originally referred to as an “activity” in the FP and FAA, which in reality were “inputs”. The indicators, baselines, targets and means of verification of the log frame remain unchanged.

Changes at the political level: In the middle of 2019, the director of the project from the Ministry of Agriculture changed, some activities were cancelled, others paused until the new Director analyzed the actions and gave new guidelines.

Changes related to the strategy of intervention: In 2019 the project presented to MAG the farm field school strategy to improve the sustainability of the activities in the Unit 2. MAG, MAE and the project agreed to implement the farm field schools training programme to support farmers during their transition to sustainable production. Research centres and academia will carry out the training program and will monitor and evaluate the transition period with the support of the project.

All the actions related to ATPA are now being supervised by the Undersecretary of Livestock Production who is the national director of the project and focal point for the project in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

A revised intervention strategy was developed for Output 2 to focus efforts in areas identified as being of high vulnerability to deforestation and local conditions in the prioritized areas. In 2020, the need and relevance of building a new collection centre in Morona will be evaluated once the studies are completed.

Changes under Output 3 relate to the implementation of financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation.

Sustainable Forest Management

During 2019, the project and MAE coordinate a strategy to support communities for adopting sustainable TP and NFTP management plans and land use plans in order to integrate production, conservation, restoration and sustainable lumber in communal lands. These areas will add to the sustainable forest management indicator. This measure will be implemented in 2020.

Restoration

The project has identified three communities and two local GADs with potential areas for restoration. The next step will be identifying partner institutions with technical capacities to operate restoration activities.



SECTION 3: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

			GCF Financing Only	
			CUMULATIVE THROUGH TO THE END OF THIS RE- PORTING PERIOD	FOR THE CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD
			USD	USD
3.1.1	Opening Fund balance			
		Opening balance ¹		1,167,072.01
3.1.2	Funded Activity Inflows			
a		Funded Activity Proceeds from GCF to AE:		
i.		Grant Instrument	18,626,887.00	10,724,992.00
ii.		Loan Instrument		
iii.		Equity Instrument		
iv.		Guarantee Instrument		
b		Reflowed funds to the AE		
c	Investment & Other Income			
Total Inflows			18,626,887.00	10,724,992.00
3.1.3	Funded Activity Outflows			
a	Amount used for the Funded Ac- tivity	Grant expenditure	12,921,245.56	6,186,422.57
b		Loan disbursed or used ²		
c		Equity paid		
d		Guarantees exercised		
Sub-total Funded Activity Outflows			12,921,245.56	6,186,422.57
a	Reflowed Funds	Reflowed funds paid to GCF		
Sub-total Reflowed Funds			-	-
Total Outflows			12,921,245.56	6,186,422.57
3.1.4	Closing Balance			5,705,641.44
				5,705,641.44

1/ Opening balance should correspond to the closing balance of the prior reporting period

2/ Loan disbursed or used by the AE out of GCF Proceeds

SECTION 4: REPORT PROJECT SPECIFIC ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS & GENDER

4.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS AND GENDER ELEMENTS

(max 1 page)

Please provide information on the project or programme on the following: (1) key risks and impacts as identified; (2) compliance with applicable laws and regulations including FAA conditions and covenants; and (3) progress in the implementation of environmental and social management plans and programs including monitoring activities undertaken during the implementation of the funded activity.

(1) The information includes description on any changes in the key environmental and social risks and impacts as identified and arising from the implementation including any unanticipated risks and impacts (ex. from changes in laws and regulations) and, based on these if any change in the project's environmental and social risk category. In case of a change in the E&S risk category for the project, please provide an explanation.

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – ESIA - is the official process that will develop the Gender Action Plan and associated budget for the project. The national-level REDD+ Gender Action Plan was prepared in 2015, and this was submitted with the GCF FP for the project. At that time, project-level GAPS for GCF FPs were not yet required. It is important to note that when the GCF project was approved in 2017, a gender plan was not designed although an Environmental and Social Screening was completed within the FP development phase in 2017. The ESS screening identified the necessity for a project specific GAP to be developed within the ESIA.

(2) The information should include status of compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the country as well as the relevant conditions or covenants under the FAA. This can be captured in the table below:

Status of compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the conditions and covenants under FAA	
Applicable laws and regulations/conditions and covenants	Status of compliance
<p>FAA Clause 6.01 This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date upon which the Fund dispatches to the Accredited Entity a notice of its acceptance of the evidence specified below ("Effective Date"):</p> <p>(a) A duly authorized and executed copy of this Agreement by the Accredited Entity;</p> <p>(b) A certificate issued by the Accredited Entity's most senior legal officer, in a form and substance satisfactory to the Fund, certifying that this Agreement entered into by the Accredited Entity has been duly authorized or ratified by all necessary corporate actions, duly executed and delivered on behalf of the Accredited Entity, and is legally binding and enforceable upon the Accredited Entity in accordance with its terms;</p> <p>(c) An indicative disbursement schedule by the Accredited Entity indicating month and year for the disbursement of the GCF Proceeds by the Fund to the GCF Account for the implementation of the Funded Activity.</p>	<p>FAA clause 6.01 has been fulfilled as of 19 May 2017.</p>
<p>FAA Clause 8.01 The obligation of the Fund to disburse GCF Proceeds in connection with the Funded Activity under this Agreement shall be subject to the following conditions having been fulfilled to the satisfaction, in form and substance, of the Fund:</p> <p>(a) Conditions precedent to first disbursement:</p> <p>(i) Effectiveness of this Agreement; and</p> <p>(ii) Delivery to the Fund by the Accredited Entity of an executed copy of the Subsidiary Agreement, in the form of a Project Document, between the Accredited Entity and the Executing Entity; and;</p> <p>(b) Conditions precedent to the second disbursement:</p>	<p>FAA clause 8.01(a) and (d)(iii-v) for first disbursement has been submitted and fulfilled as of 23 June 2017.</p> <p>FAA clause 8.01 (b) and (d) for second disbursement has been submitted as of 28 December 2018. However, a request to modify the amount of the disbursement was made to the GCF on 28 January 2019, which consisted of reducing the second disbursement from US \$11,324,992 to US \$10,724,992. The subtraction of US \$600,000 corresponded to</p>

<p>(i) Completion and submission by the Accredited Entity, in a form and substance satisfactory to the Fund, of the detailed technical studies that are project-specific for Activity 1.3.3 (Infrastructure for integrated forest control centres) and Activity 2.5.6 (Infrastructure for cocoa collection centres), as described in Schedule 1, including a map for locations, technical specifications and budget breakdown by activity and by expenditure type.</p> <p>(c) Conditions precedent to fifth disbursement:</p> <p>(i) Submission by the Accredited Entity, in the form and substance satisfactory to the Fund, of a financial sustainability strategy of the GCF financing, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis by the Accredited Entity on the efficiency and effectiveness as well as financial sustainability of the incentive mechanisms for direct transfers of components 2 and 3, as described in Schedule 1, and any results thereof; and; 2. Evidence by the Accredited Entity of the securement, and/or achievement, of the sustainable financing sources for component 1, as described in Schedule 1, for the continuation of implementation of the activities under component 1. <p>(d) General conditions for all disbursements:</p> <p>(i) Other than in relation to the first disbursement, submission of evidence by the Accredited Entity to the Fund that at least seventy per cent (70%) of the funds previously disbursed have been spent for Eligible Expenditures;</p> <p>(ii) Other than in relation to the first disbursement, submission to the Fund by the Accredited Entity of APRs and financial information in accordance with the AMA;</p> <p>(iii) Delivery of a Request for Disbursement, in accordance with the template attached hereto (Schedule 6) by the Accredited Entity, signed by the person or persons authorized to do so, within thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date on which the disbursement is requested to be made, which date of disbursement shall not be later than the Closing Date;</p> <p>(iv) Delivery to the Fund by the Accredited Entity of evidence, satisfactory to the Fund, of the authority of the person or persons authorized to sign each Request for Disbursement and the authenticated specimen signature of each such person.</p> <p>(v) Delivery by the Accredited Entity of evidence, satisfactory to the Fund, indicating the status and amount of co-financing funds disbursed and applied to the Funded Activity implementation activities up to the date of the request for funds made by the Accredited Entity.</p>	<p>the construction of 2 collection centers. The request also included postponing the submission of the collection center technical studies for the third disbursement. The GCF approved both requests on 19 February 2019.</p> <p>Furthermore, FAA clause 8.01 (b) originally part of the second disbursement was submitted on 18 December 2019, to the GCF. The GCF approved the detailed technical studies that are project-specific for Activity 1.3.3 (Infrastructure for integrated forest control centers) and Activity 2.5.6 (Infrastructure for cocoa collection centers) on 10 January 2020. A clarifying note regarding the studies for the construction of a coffee collection center in the Amazon province of Morona Santiago was sent on 20 December 2019.</p> <p>FAA clause (d) (i-v) for the third disbursement was submitted on 18 January 2020. GCF comments on the disbursement request were received on 20 January 2020. These comments were addressed and resubmitted to the GCF on 27 January 2020.</p> <p>FAA clause (d) (i-v) for fourth disbursement will be submitted during the respective disbursement period.</p>
<p>FAA Clause 9.02</p> <p>In addition to Clause 18.02 of the AMA, the Accredited Entity covenants that as from the Effective Date of this Agreement it shall:</p> <p>(a) Upon request by the Fund, inform the Fund on the status of the co-financing funds that have been disbursed and applied to the implementation of the Project's activities;</p> <p>(b) Within six (6) months from the start of the Funded Activity's implementation, undertake and provide to the Fund an impact assessment report of the results of the Agenda for Transforming Production in the Amazon (ATPA), the Socio Bosque Programme and the three water funds (FONAG, FORAGUA and FONAPA) described in the Funding Proposal, in terms of achieving the REDD+ targets;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that, in addition to the requirements of the AMA, the APRs shall contain the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Evidence showing that GCF Proceeds for the implementation of output 1.1 as described in Schedule 1, have been disbursed by the Executing Entity for the implementation of activities directly related to REDD+ activities as defined in the National REDD+ Action Plan; and; ii. A detailed portfolio report of approved projects and programmes for the three water funds (FONAG, FORAGUA and FONAPA) described in the Funding Proposal. <p>(d) Undertake and/or put in place any adequate measures in order to ensure that the management of the environmental and social risks and impacts arising from the Funded Activity complies at all times with the recommendations, requirements and procedures set forth in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (as contained in annex VI</p>	<p>FAA Clause 9.02</p> <p>(a) Please refer to the financial information reporting parts of the APR for the information on the status of co-finance materialisation (disbursement/application).</p> <p>(b) An impact assessment report was submitted to the GCF Secretariat on November 22nd, 2017.</p> <p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In 2018, the guidelines for PDOTs were elaborated, and in 2019 were approved by the National Secretariat for Planning in Ecuador. Now, these guidelines must be used by all the GADs in the country to develop their PDOTs. This process has begun, and the project is providing technical support to ensure that the climate change, conservation, sustainable production, respect of social and environmental safeguards, promote

<p>of the Funding Proposal) and in the Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF) for the Project which were provided by the Accredited Entity to the Fund before the Approval Decision; and</p> <p>(e) Obtain, or ensure that the Executing Entity shall obtain, all land and rights in respect of land that are required to carry out the Funded Activity and shall promptly furnish to the GCF, upon its request, evidence that such land and rights in respect of the land are available for the purposes of the Funded Activity.</p>	<p>gender equity and interculturality criteria is included into the PDOTs. This is in line with the REDD+ Action Plan No actions within the PDOTs have been implemented during 2019. Therefore, evidence that the GCF proceeds will be used to finance only activities prioritized in these PDOTs will be provided in the upcoming APRs if applicable.</p> <p>ii. A detailed portfolio report has been provided as attachment of the APR 2019.</p> <p>(d) Adequate measures are being undertaken during the implementation of the project in accordance with the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure and the project ESMF. The ESIA and ESMP are under development since October 2019. In 2020, the ESMP will be implemented based on the findings of the ESIA.</p> <p>(e) MAE is in the process of obtaining letters of consent from landowners and will ensure that all land and rights in respect of land required for project implementation are obtained before commencing the construction of infrastructure in 2020.</p>
<p>FAA Clause 9.03 Pursuant to Clause 23.04 of the AMA, the Accredited Entity shall inform the Fund, in the final APR, which steps it intends to take in relation to the durable assets and/or equipment purchased with the GCF Proceeds to implement the Funded Activity.</p>	<p>FAA Clause 9.03 is noted and will be fulfilled during the final APR period.</p>
<p>Law or Regulation 1: Organic Code of the Environment (COA) R.O. 983 12-Apr.-2017 Related laws (national level):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Policy Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change, R.O. 636 de 17-Jul.-2009 • Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, R.O. 449 20-oct.-2008, last modification: 01-Aug.-2018 • National Plan for Good Living 2017-2021 • Unified Text of Secondary Legislation on the Environment, R.O. 2 31-Mar.-2003, last modification Nov. 2018 <p>Related laws (international level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Kyoto, R.O. 562, 07-Nov.-1994 • National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan. R.O. 41, 19-Jul.-2017 • REDD+ Action Plan - Forests for Good Living, 985, 29-Mar.-2017 • State Policy the National Climate Change Strategy. R.O 9, 17-Jun.-2013 	<p>The application of this law supports the application of principles of forest conservation and sustainable production, within the framework of implementation of the 4 components of the Project.</p> <p>Specific regulations on sustainable forest management of wood resources are included in the legal framework, promoting the bioeconomy as a sustainable production alternative for local communities.</p> <p>The COA establishes provisions that allow local mechanisms to adapt to and mitigate climate change, along with environmental guidelines from the Ministry of Environment for local governments.</p>
<p>Law or Regulation 2: Law for Planning of the Amazon Territorial Circumscription, R.O. 245, 21-May. -2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic code of Territorial Organization, COOTAD, R.O. 303, 19-Oct.-2010, last modification: 23-Oct.-2018 and related laws: • Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, R.O. 449 de 20-Oct.-2008, last modification: 01-Aug.-2018 	<p>This law contains basic provisions that establish the competencies of each level of government in the country: Provincial, municipal and parochial Autonomous Decentralized Governments. It includes environmental-level competencies that are related to local mechanisms of adaptation and mitigation to climate change. This law can be used to reconcile local competencies with those of the Central Government to optimize</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Law of Territorial Ordering and Soil Management, R.O. 790 05-Jul.-2016. Last modification: 23-Oct.-2018 • Organic Law of Rural Lands and Ancestral Territories, 711 de 14-mar. -2016, last modification: 21-Aug.-2018 • Integral Plan for the Ecuadorian Amazon, R.O. 759 12-Nov.-2016 • Protocol that regulates Rural Land award processes, 	<p>the protection of forests and sustainable production within the process of updating of the Land Management Plans (PDOT), with emphasis on the territory of the Amazonian provinces.</p>
<p>Law or Regulation 3: Organic Law of Citizen Participation, R.O. 175, 20-Apr.-2010, last modification: 11-May. -2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law for Planning of the Amazon Territorial Circumscription, R.O. 245 de 21-May. -2018 and related laws: • Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, R.O. 449 de 20-Oct.-2008, last modification: 01-Aug.-2018 • National Plan for Good Living 2017-2021 • Organic Law of the Comptroller General of State, 595 de 12-Jun.-2002, last modification: 07-Jul.-2017 • Regulation Integration of Council Planning and Development, Amazonia. R.O. 311 de 23-Aug.-2018 	<p>The participation of indigenous communities, peoples and nationalities in the Ecuadorian Amazon is important for territorial planning in their jurisdictions. Their needs should be reflected in their Life Plans and articulated within the PDOTs, and provincial and local priorities, seeking the implementation and sustainability of actions to their benefit.</p> <p>Mechanisms are identified in local legislation to require compliance with their responsibilities and citizen participation instruments are granted.</p>
<p>Law or Regulation 4: Organic Law of Water Resources Uses and Use of Water, R.O. 305 06-Aug.-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, R.O. 449 de 20-Oct.-2008, last modification: 01-Aug.-2018 • Organic Law of Territorial Ordering and Soil Management, R.O. 790 de 05-Jul.-2016 Last modification: 23-Oct.-2018 • Law for Planning of the Amazon Territorial Circumscription, R.O. 245 de 21-May. -2018 	<p>The application of this legal framework seeks to improve the coordination between local actors responsible for the management and governance of water resources. As such, priority will be given to water bodies that must be protected by local regulations in the framework of planning and territorial planning.</p>
<p>Law or Regulation 5: Organic Criminal Code, COIP R.O. 180 10 Feb 2010 - last modification: 14-Feb.-2018</p>	<p>National sanctioning mechanism for those who attempt to harm, smuggle or destroy wild fauna and flora and biodiversity.</p>

(3) Provide a report on the progress made in implementing environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) and frameworks (ESMFs) describing achievements, and specifying details outlined in the tables below.

The Safeguards team has developed a [Report Template](#) to be utilized by all implementing partners to capture data and analyse safeguard related activities. This document will be automated in the SIS in 2020 and training will be provided for all partners on the report format and requirements.

In 2019 the program implemented the following environmental and social safeguards:

- **Gender and Safeguards training strategy:** the program developed a training strategy that included two modalities: one online developed as a webinar; and the other as in person training sessions for different stakeholders. As a result, the program trained 167 people online and 147 people during the in-person training.
- **Amazon region gender baseline:** in alliance with UN Women, the project carried out a milestone research project in Ecuador to determine gender gaps in the Amazon Region. This study is important to the effectiveness of the project program and has had an impact within the decision making of the program but also at National level.
- **SIS Architecture:** the program developed a Safeguard Monitoring Instrument that has been used by the project's stakeholders to identify and report on safeguards. The SIS Architecture was designed in 2019 and the concept and technical requirements were completed. In 2020 the SIS prototype will be completed and tested.

- **Redress Mechanism:** The National Redress Mechanism was designed and approved by MAE in 2019 and it will be implemented in 2020. Training sessions with stakeholders and beneficiaries will be held in 2020 along with regular follow up and systematization of the information gathered.
- **Safeguards Information Summary reports:** The Second Safeguards Summary Report was completed in 2019. The process included research, systematization, public consultation and revision and submission to UNFCCC. An update of the safeguards PLR (Policies, Laws and Regulations) was completed in 2019 as part of the analysis required to contextualize the Second Safeguards Summary Report.
- **ESIA:** TORs for the ESIA were finalized and the consultancy began in October 2019; the process is being carried out by a consortium comprised of three organizations. The results of the consultancy are expected in 2020 and will give the Program specific measures and strategies to reduce risks and improve the implementation of actions in the priority areas of the program. A detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) with specific measures and strategies will be developed in 2020 as part of the ESIA consultancy.

Implementation of management plans and programmes

The management Plan will be completed as part of the EISA consultancy. As of today, the program has implemented the following activities:

(i) activities implemented during the reporting period, including monitoring	(ii) outputs during the reporting period	(iii) key environmental, social and gender issues, risks and impacts addressed during implementation	(iv) any pending key environmental, social and gender issues needing accredited entity's actions and GCF attention
FPIC process has been implemented across the project's activities, including three indigenous communities to carry on forest restoration projects with them; Socio Bosque communities were consulted about a modification done to a monitoring instrument; and local communities were consulted about life plans that were proposed to be complete in their territories.	FPIC guidelines and methodology matrix (designed) applied in the communities. Restoration Projects designed in a participatory way with local communities.	Indigenous people rights have been recognized and the consultation addressed as part of their right to decide if they continue or not with the restoration projects, life plans and Socio Bosque Program	The process is still undergoing consultation as the agreements are under review by the parts involved. Local NGOs that will give support to the indigenous communities must be selected and approved by the indigenous representatives and the community's representatives.
Civil Society Participation and follow up to the project through Mesa REDD+	Mesa REDD+ memory and minutes. Systematization document, first draft	Transparency and civil society oversight of the project.	The Mesa REDD will be re assemble in 2020 for its third period. There is a big challenge towards conforming a strong group conformed by organizations at a national level.
The project is implementing since 2020 a training leadership academy for women in the Amazonia with the support of CONFENIAE	Modules Training Methodology	Women right to participate in decision making spaces.	The school is the first step, the women who graduate from this academy have to play a role in each of their community and specially in the participation platforms that the project is promoting in order to effectively change decision making process within the project incidence level.
The project is implementing since 2020 a training program for local leaders in territorial planning in the Amazonia with the support of CONFENIAE	Modules Training Methodology	Participation and local capacities are being strengthen	Same as above, the school is the first step towards effective participation processes. The people that are being formed in the training program have to play an active role within the project's participatory platforms.

National Grievance Redress Mechanism designed	The national REDD+ grievance redress mechanism is designed.	Effective participation and transparency	The redress mechanism has been designed and now has to be implemented in coordination with the MAE. It's vital that the mechanism is part of the Ministry grievance redress protocols in 2020.
Report and monitoring system implemented at project level and at national level	II Ecuador's Safeguards Report Safeguards follow up instrument (form)	Transparency	The safeguards form has to be used as part of the SIS to be automatize.

Additionally, include a description of the actions undertaken towards increasing the relevant stakeholders' engagement in the project environmental, social and gender elements, and a list on the grievances received in the reporting period that will include at least the description of the grievance, the date the grievance was received, and the resolution of the grievance.

Information below in this sub-section should be provided for all projects regardless of the E&S risk category for the project.

Implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan

(i) activities implemented during the reporting period	(ii) dates and venues of engagement activities	(iii) information shared with stakeholders	(iv) outputs including issues addressed during the reporting period
<p>* REDD + Working Group: completion of the second period of the working group, and preparation of a document to systematize the experience during this period 2016 – 2019 through a participatory evaluation. Some communication products were developed which include valuable information of the members of the working group based on their own experiences. A methodological strategy for the re conformation of the REDD+ Working Group was finalized and approved by the Ministry of Environment through a technical committee.</p> <p>* Strengthening of the CICC (Interinstitutional Committee for Climate Change): the project gave the technical support for the participatory evaluation of this important space, and also a methodological support in the proposals developed by the working groups of the Committee. There is an action plan for the CICC that was built by the working groups and approved by all the members to be implemented in 2020.</p> <p>* Establishment of inter-insti-</p>	<p>* REDD+ Working Group: 4 meetings in 2019 (January, April, June and July). Closing event of the second period of the working group was held in July. Filming plan of audiovisual material of the members of the REDD+ working group, and interviews with all the members from the Highlands and Amazon regions.</p> <p>* CICC Committee: 2 meetings of the working groups of the CICC and one plenary of the Committee. In this last meeting the general work plan of these groups was presented and approved by the whole Committee. This work plan will be implemented in 2020.</p> <p>* Platforms: 6 articulation spaces established in every province of the Amazon region (6 provinces). At least 3 meetings were held during 2019 for each platform with institutional stakeholders in the provinces.</p>	<p>* REDD+ Working Group: (i) Proposal for Low Value Grants, (ii) CONFENIAE Implementation Plan for REDD+, (iii) systematization and documents related to the evaluation of the REDD+ working.</p> <p>* CICC Committee: Inputs for the construction of the new regulation of the CICC which was approved in the plenary of the Committee by all its members lead by the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>* Platforms: Guidelines for the development of the new provincial, cantonal and parochial PDOTs in the Amazon region to involve the stakeholders in this planning process of their territories.</p>	<p>* For all the spaces of stakeholder's engagement, it is necessary to work in two strategies. First, keeping the interests of the stakeholders and identifying their priorities in order to follow the most appropriate steps to keep in the right path. Second, paying more attention to the relationships that are being built during the whole process, these relationships must be strengthen into these spaces.</p> <p>* It is necessary to clearly define the roles and scope of the technical team of the project in these specific spaces, and the same for the stakeholders roles, these clarification allows the project to accomplish its objectives in a more efficient and sustainable way, doing the effort to keep the results of the project in a longer term.</p>

<p>tutional platforms: this activity is an important strategy of articulation at different level for local planning of the territories, which is led by the project to incorporate climate change and sustainable production approach into the PDOTs of the local governments in the Amazon Region.</p>			
<p><i>Implementation of the grievance redress mechanism</i></p>			
<p>(i) description of issues/complaints received during the reporting period</p>	<p>(ii) status of addressing issues/complaints</p>		
<p>The project received 3 significant complaints during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the restauration strategy being implemented by the project, one of the 3 communities involved presented a complaint about the implementation modality that includes a third party to assess the community in managing the funds for restauration. This was recommended but UNDP Country Office after the micro assessment results were delivered. Such results demonstrated that the 3 communities didn't have the in-house capacity to manage the funds. • The project received a letter from a local communitarian organization that expressed disagreement to work with CONFENIAE, which is one of the project partners and represent the 11 indigenous nationalities in the Amazon Region. 	<p>The status of the complaints is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending. The communities agreed to work with a third party although this party has not yet been selected. The restoration projects are already approved by the Ministry of Environment. One of the findings of this process has been how challenging is for Ecuadorian organizations to fulfil the whole requirements from UNDP micro assessment. • The project informed CONFENIAE about this complaint and suggested that CONFENIAE and this local communitarian organization discuss and solve the problem within their own internal process. 		

4.2 GENDER ACTION PLAN

The project seeks to link national efforts to reduce deforestation with the national priority agendas and policies of the economic sectors of the country. The project is working to address the causes of deforestation while promoting sustainable and integrated management of natural resources to reduce poverty and support sustainable development in the Amazon region. With a gender and intercultural approach, the Program seeks to generate opportunities for full and effective participation of women and men, youth, indigenous peoples and nationalities and rural communities in decision-making about their resources. As such, there is support for the integration of these approaches across the entire the project planning cycles and within all program components.

During the preparation phase for REDD+, a Gender Diagnosis was conducted to develop a Gender Action Plan articulated within the REDD National Plan. The GAP included guidelines for the implementation of REDD actions with a gender perspective.

Likewise, the UN to UN Agreement within UNDP and UN Women for the implementation of the project, and the actions defined in the GAP (Gender Action Plan) as identified in the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment for the project along with the RBP (Results Based Payments), which are currently under development, are aligned with the strategies of the project.

To address the fact that the project did not have a detailed gender action plan, measures identified in the gender plan for REDD+ were implemented as an interim measure. The process to develop the ESIA was planned to be implemented in 2018, however, the process was delayed due to additional requirements to include a study to determine results-based payments within the ESIA. The ESIA is currently underway and it is planned to have the GAP completed by October 2020.

A Gender Specialist was hired in November 2018 within the safeguards team. As described above, the project has worked on gender equality based on measures included in the REDD+ Gender Plan.

An Interim Gender Strategy was implemented during 2019 and is in place until the detailed project specific Gender Action Plan is developed within the ESIA. Training in gender equality is a requirement for all stakeholders and project personnel. The curriculum for the first training session on gender equality was implemented in 2019.

A consultancy process was carried out in the 6 Amazonian provinces with 2 objectives: i) assessing gender gaps considering all the stakeholders involved; ii) assessing the skills and capacities of the technical staff. In order to implement the interim gender strategy, a process to identify all the female cacao and coffee producers was completed. The leadership of these women will help the implementation of the gender sensitive approach and to strengthen capacity, which is essential for the sustainable production transition process.

Data and information for the implementation of the interim gender plan is being gathered with the help of technicians in the provinces and through efforts to strengthen capacity in marketing and business using the UNDP methodology "Growing with your Business" (CCSN in Spanish).

To date the incorporation of the gender approach has experienced some challenges largely due to the diverse cultural, social and economic realities of the Amazon. To deal with this, the program has determined specific actions to develop creative responses, which are aligned with the needs and interests of women and men from the region. The program has provided spaces for dialogue with different stakeholders to better incorporate gender considerations in the project's activities.

Key Advances include:

The program did not have a detailed gender baseline in its planning phase, which made it difficult to develop gender action plans. To address the latter, a consultancy was hired to identify gender gaps in the Amazon region in 2019. The findings from the consultancy were validated by the program and they will be used to measure the progress of indicators and targets. The findings from this study are fundamental to develop differentiated public policies based on the needs of the country. The findings also serve to develop medium to long term gender indicators that can guide the identification of opportunities for the full and effective participation of women and men, youth, indigenous peoples and nationalities and rural communities in decision-making processes about their resources (the document is not public yet, it will be delivered to Ecuador's Human Rights Undersecretary).

In relation to policies and plans, the gender approach will be integrated into territorial planning plans (PDOTs) during the elaboration process in Q1 2020, Life Plans of indigenous nationalities and REDD+ public policies as well as supporting policy reform processes for land tenure with a gender perspective. For this, gender and intercultural criteria were integrated in the Guidelines for the development of PDOTs and Life Plans. In addition, provincial technicians and consultants are working on the social, economic and environmental diagnosis for the PDOT.

The Program promotes the effective inclusion of women in decision making. To achieve this objective, a series of training and sensitization processes have been implemented with local governments, beneficiaries and technical teams throughout 2019. This process includes "training for trainers" and on-site support in the region to build capacities in relation to REDD+. A training and awareness module on Gender and Climate Change has been built and delivered via webinar and face-to-face sessions.

One of the priority actions is the training of the project's technical team on issues related to gender equality and the importance of mainstreaming the gender approach across all program actions. The project and UN Women have promoted a training strategy for all project actors tailored to their needs based on the results of the CAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) study on the gender approach. This training strategy will ensure that teams have the necessary technical tools and knowledge to support and enable social transformation that the program seeks to initiate.

In addition, the establishment of women's worktables for cocoa, coffee, palm oil and livestock as part of the design of training and technical assistance program was tailored to the needs of women to strengthen the establishment of regional commodity platforms. The Amazon Women Producers Bureau was a significant advance for 2019, with the first meeting held in May 2019 in the city of El Coca. The commitments with the Amazon Women Producers Bureau include the promotion and requirement for equal participation of women farmers in the management and protection of river basins and water sources, the sustainable use of non-timber forest products and activities of sustainable agro-production.

Women producers bureau was based on identification of needs and interests, part of application of a fast-diagnostic methodology in which the women themselves identified, discussed and resolved agreements and a short and medium term roadmap. This diagnosis was made within the framework of initial workshop with associations of coffee and cocoa producers and was led by the components 2 and 4 of the Project, with UN Women collaboration whom the project is working on formation and training process based on rights, climate change, sustainable production. The need for training was determined by women producers in this space and the modules are expected to be implemented on April 2020. This UN Women support is a complementary activity of the project because the whole agreement is being implemented with GEF funds, as part of one big program.

Is expected to support greater technical, political and economic empowerment of these women, favoring their participation in such platforms and other business spaces.

A focus on the economic empowerment of women was included in all modules of the School of Women Producers that was initiated in November 2019. The School of Women Producers will be taught simultaneously in North, Central and South Amazon with a specific focus on the exchange of knowledge, increasing the visibility of the differentiated knowledge of women in sustainable production and in climate change mitigation, along with the acquisition of skills and associative strengthening.

At a local level, through the Antisuyu Warmikuna School, a network of Amazonian women will be established with capacities to carry out traceability and forest control actions and implement a community monitoring system on sustainable forest management that is gender sensitive and has strengthened leadership from women. The Antisuyu Warmikuna School is a project born from the need to visualize, participate and generate decision-making spaces at the organizational level of Amazonian women within CONFENIAE. It is a project that took many months to materialize and was officially implemented on October 2019, with 100 young women and leaders from the 11 towns and nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, participating in training on human rights, women's rights, climate change and the transition to sustainable production.

As part of the work to increase visibility and obtain information disaggregated by sex, methodologies and formats were implemented as a basis for gender analysis processes for REDD+ activities in planning and execution.

Interim Gender Strategy

In 2019 the interim Gender Strategy implemented actions led by the project team to ensure the following:

- i. Capacity building and awareness in gender equality and interculturality.
- ii. Strengthen social capital in the project area of focus.

- iii. Strengthen capacities and leadership for local communities: Promotion of access to political capital and decision spaces (active participation regarding local PDOTs development)
- iv. Knowledge management and sharing of lessons learned regarding successful cases of women's empowerment and managing natural resources.
- v. Cross-sectional Analysis of Gender and Interculturality in the project (including continuous monitoring by the Gender Specialist to ensure actions implemented by the project incorporate the gender approach).

Activities conducted in 2019

Time-period	Activity	Updated status
Q1: January -March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring Visit – UNDP Regional Representative - Quarterly Reporting to UNDP 	<p>The monitoring visit was accomplished.</p> <p>The Q1 report was delivered.</p>
Q2: April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of the implementation of the interim gender strategy across all project aspects. - Quarterly Reporting. - Develop strategy with indicators to monitor social and environmental benefits of the project with implementing partners. 	<p>The gender strategy has been implemented during 2019.</p> <p>The Q2 report was delivered.</p> <p>A workshop related to livelihoods and indicators for social impacts was held on October 2019.</p>
Q3: July – September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly Reporting. - Monitoring Visit – UNDP Regional Representative. 	<p>The quarterly report was changed to be delivered as a semi-annual report on December 2019.</p> <p>The monitoring visit happened in Q4 2019.</p>
Q4: October - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly Reporting. - UNDP Quality Assurance reporting. - UNDP-Results Oriented Annual Report. - Monitoring of the implementation of the interim gender strategy across all project aspects. - Mid-Term Project Evaluation. 	<p>The quarterly report was changed to be delivered as a semi-annual report on December 2019.</p> <p>The monitoring visit happened in Q4 2019.</p> <p>The Quality Assurance is a biennial report that will be presented in 2020.</p> <p>The gender strategy has been implemented during 2019.</p> <p>The Mid-Term Project Evaluation started in Q4 2019 and will be delivered in Q1 2020.</p>

4.2.1 Progress on implementing the project-level gender action plan submitted with the funding proposal.

Objective	Actions	Indicator	Targets	Budget	Responsible Institutions	Report on Annual Progress
<i>NOTE: Project activities reported here relate to 2018 efforts to implement the REDD+ Gender Action Plan. The project specific Gender Action Plan that will be finalized in 2019 will provide additional objectives, actions and indicators etc. to include in the next reporting period.</i>						
RESULT 1. Incorporated technical staff in charge of	1.1. Incorporated at least one expert person in charge of	Expert in gender, environment, interculturality and climate change hired.	The project staff Indigenous communities, Youth.	\$28624,69	The project	100%

<p>gender, resources in the Budget to sustain the gender activities and executed the development proposal of capacities in gender in the scope of the REDD + PN.</p>	<p>gender issues, environment, interculturality and change.</p>					
	<p>1.2. Proposal for capacity building and gender training for management and technical staff of the REDD + PN and state entities (national and decentralized) or the private, community and cooperation sectors associated with implementation executed.</p>	<p>i) Tools for gender were strengthened to female leadership as well as political and technical capacities. ii) During 2019, 167 people were trained through webinars; 147 people in face-to-face training and 70 women from Amazonian indigenous people and nationalities (CONFENIAE) participate in modules I and II of the Antisuyu Warmikuna School, supported by the project in collaboration with UN Women through the Gender Strategy guidelines.</p>	<p>Indigenous communities, Youth Stakeholders</p>	<p>\$ 20000,00</p>	<p>The project</p>	<p>50%</p>

4.3 PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

ESIA/ESMP development

The ESIA and ESMP will be completed in 2020. The EISA and ESMP consultancy began in October 2019 and it will be ready in the second semester of 2020. It will include specific plans for both GCF projects (The project and Results Based Payments) including a gender plan, indigenous engagement plan, and a stakeholder engagement plan.

The project will ensure gender aspects are fully and explicitly integrated into the ESIA process at every step, including in the development of the TOR which states that explicit gender considerations should be integrated into the scope of the work and the requirements of the consultant(s) to be hired and all procurement processes. The gender expert from the UNDP Regional Office provided advice on the ToR, which was developed in collaboration with MAE and MAG.

The ESIA will include a programa specific gender action plan (GAP) and corresponding theory of change (TOC) to mitigate/avoid gender risks, define gender goals for the project and how they will be implemented, including across its other thematic work areas. The GAP and TOC will cover the entire lifespan of the project until the end of December 2022. The ESIA process will assess the need for additional gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated baseline data to provide a basis for comparison to monitor the implementation of the gender approach in the project.

The launch of the ESIA and ESMP procurement process was initiated in Q4 2019 and final products will be delivered in Q4 2020.

Activities to fulfil safeguard requirements

The following activities will be implemented in 2020, and communication products developed:

- **The SIS prototype** will be developed in 2020: In 2020 the SIS prototype will be operative to begin the testing phase. To achieve this, the program will develop functional requirements for the SIS which will guide the system development. The SIS Prototype will be tested based on a trial error method to improve the SIS and refine its functionality prior to full launch.
- **Safeguards self-learning strategy:** An online training strategy will be implemented to improve the understanding of Environmental and Social Safeguards among the technical teams of local governments, the Ministry of Environment, and both GCF projects. The safeguards online module will be developed and implemented in 2020.
- **The Safeguards Working Team** (within the Ministry of Environment) and a National Safeguards Technical Committee will be assembled in 2020: In October 2019 the proposal to create a safeguards team of representatives from the MAE and a National Safeguards Technical Committee was approved by the Undersecretary of Climate Change. In 2020, the program will coordinate actions with MAE to determine focal points in the ministry to be part of the Safeguards Working Team. The delegates selected by the different units in MAE will undergo a training and capacity building process in order to establish the team. Once this working group is established the National Safeguards Technical Committee will be established, including the MAE representatives along with representatives from different sectors from civil society such as higher education institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations, etc.
- **The Grievance and Redress Mechanism** will be operative in 2020: In 2019 the system was conceptualized and designed based on UNDP and World Bank guidelines and the inputs gathered during the 12th REDD+ Round Table Meeting in April 2019. In 2020, the system will be implemented. This includes training sessions with MAE, Water Funds, CONFENIAE, and other Stakeholders as well as beneficiaries in order to understand how the system works, the communication channels established as part of the system and why it is so important to use it.
- **FPIC:** The program implemented a FPIC strategy to make sure that communities and local beneficiaries understand and participate consciously within the programs implementing actions. The program carried out a consultation process with three indigenous communities interested in restoration initiatives and five communities interested in working on their Life Plans. Also, the project gave advice to the Socio Bosque Program to carry out a consultation process to develop an administrative procedure to report on the use of the funds.

4.4 PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON GENDER ELEMENTS

Planned activities:

- Gender Action Plan is being developed as part of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), GAP will include gender gaps (index of inequality, poverty, education, political participation and decision-making, participation in labor force, access to resources, health) and will include relevant information for the GAP diagnosis on gender approach in the Amazon region. It will also analyze the priorities, interests and differentiated needs between men and women; and define policies, measures and actions to promote gender equality. The Gender Action Plan will include a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework and the budget needed for the implementation of these actions in alignment with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- As part of the development of the process for incorporating the Gender Approach in Program, UN-WOMEN contribute knowledge and advice to support project staff to empower of women and ensure gender equality across the project.
- In 2019 training in gender equality for all Project staff and implementing partners was carried out as follows: March 22 - 2019, Online Training for MAE, MAG, Water Funds ; March 28 and 29, 2019, In class training to REDD+ Working Group members; April 10 and 11, 2019 in class training session for Women Organizations, Collectives and Stakeholders involved in Climate Change. Approximately 250 people attended these events. Training and capacity development efforts will continue in 2020.

As part of integration of the Gender Approach, the project defined a set of actions to be implemented in 2020:

Output 1: Policies and Institutions.

- Implementation of methodology for territorial planning in GCF intervention areas in association with UN Women, National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG):
 - o Gender team support agreement.
 - o Validated roadmap.
 - o Implemented schedule to support Consortium social diagnosis to upgrade PDOTs and Life Plans.
- Training processes for technical teams on gender and interculturality / virtual and face-to-face modalities.

Output 2: Transition to sustainable production systems.

- Information analysis on results of DIO methodology (coffee and cocoa associations) to determine needs in the incorporation of the gender and intercultural approach:
 - o Development of methodology for strategic planning in collection centers.
 - o Information gathering for guide development for organizational strengthening and leadership in associations.
 - o Development of a guide for organizational strengthening and leadership in associations.
 - o Coordination to incorporate criteria of feminist economy in productive spaces and economic empowerment.
- Schools of political leadership and sustainable production with Amazonian women.
- Meeting to exchange community experiences of all Water Funds. Strengthening the Governance Structure at the National Level - (Governance, financial sustainability, community monitoring, gender, prior consultation, participation).

Output 3: Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management.

- o Four meetings of women Guardapáramos and conservation.
- o Other complementarily actions implemented with the support of UN Women

Output 4: REDD+ and financing.

- Training process for gender inclusion on implementation activities to technical partners.
- Development of the Strategy to establish an Amazon Women's Policy Network.
 - o Three meetings of Amazonian political women
- Collection of information for the gender chart, climate change and REDD.
- Finalize the Gender Action Plan for the project with the support of the ESIA consultancy.

Additionally, with Safeguards as the focus, develop report card formats, collaborate in the design of the conditions for access to competitive funds with a gender and intercultural approach, and identify and document good practices related to safeguards and gender in sustainable forest management to transfer this knowledge to other areas and projects.

In addition, all communication and edu-communication content developed in 2020 will incorporate inclusive language and a gender approach.

SECTION 5: ANNEXES

Annex 1. Updated implementation timetable for the Funded Activity.

Annex 2. Accredited Entity compliance reports (self-assessment reports²⁴, report on actions pursuant to Clause 18.02, if applicable²⁵).

[Annual report 2019 FONAG](#)

[Annual report 2019 FONAPA](#)

[Annual report 2019 FORAGUA](#)

Annex 3. Acronyms and abbreviations.

APR	Annual Project Report
ATPA	Productive Transformation Agenda of the Amazon
BPA	Agricultural Good Practices
CAF	Andean Development Corporation
CC	Climate Change
CD	Board Committee of the project
CEFA	European Committee for Training and Agriculture
CFN	National Financial Corporation
CISPS	Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil
	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
UNFCCC	
CONFENIAE	Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon
CTEA	Amazon Special Territorial Circumscription
ST CTEA	Technical Secretariat of the Amazon Special Territorial Circumscription
ESPOL	Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

²⁴In accordance with the Monitoring and Accountability Framework, a self-assessment of its compliance, in accordance with Clause 13.01 of the Accreditation Master Agreement, with the Fiduciary Principles and Standards, ESS and Gender Policy.

²⁵ Only applicable to International Accredited Entities. In accordance with the Monitoring and Accountability Framework, a report on its actions carried out or planned to be carried out pursuant to Clause 18.02 of the Accreditation Master Agreement.

FREL	Forest Reference Emission Levels
GAD	Decentralized Autonomous Government
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GdE	Ecuador's Government
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEI	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation.
MAE	Ministry of Environment
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MANUD	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
MCE	Ministry of Foreign Trade
MFS	Sustainable Forest Management
MIPRO	Ministry of Industries and Productivity
MTR	Mid Term Review
MST	Sustainable Land Management
NIM	National Implementation Modality – PNUD
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSC	Civil Society Organizations
PA REDD+	REED+ Action Plan
PDOT	Land Use and Development Plans
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PIF	Project Identification Profile
PMIF	Farm Integral Management Plan
UNDP	United Nations for Development Program
AOP	Annual Operative Plan
PPR	Project progres Report
PRODOC	Project Document
Programa REDD+	Reduction of emissions for deforestation and land degradation.
PSB	Socio Bosque Program
MUL	Multiple Use Landscapes
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.
SAF	Forest administration System.
SDG	Sustainable Development Objectives
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Ex SENPLADES	Technical Secretariat Planifica Ecuador
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
SIN	National Information System
SIG	Geographic Information Systems
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SNMF	National Forest Monitoring System
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRI	Internal Rents Service
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UGP	Project Implementation Unit
UTPL	Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja



SECTION 6: ATTACHMENTS

[Annex 6.10 GCF proposed indicators framework](#)