



**GREEN
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Meeting of the Board
6 – 8 July 2019
Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea
Provisional agenda item 20

GCF/B.23/02/Add.04

14 June 2019

Consideration of funding proposals - Addendum IV

Funding proposal package for FP110

Summary

This addendum contains the following seven parts:

- a) A funding proposal titled “Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014”;
- b) No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s);
- c) Environmental and social report(s) disclosure;
- d) Secretariat’s assessment;
- e) Independent Technical Advisory Panel’s assessment;
- f) Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel’s assessment; and
- g) Gender documentation.

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Funding Proposal

REDD-plus results based payments

Version 1.0

Accredited entities are expected to develop a funding proposal in close consultation with the relevant national designated authority and REDD-plus entity/focal point, in response to the request for proposals for the Pilot Program for REDD-plus results-based payments (Decision B.18/07). The funding proposal should follow the terms of reference of that Board decision and will be assessed per Stage 2 (sections 2 – 5) of the scorecard annexed to the same Board decision.

Program Title:	<u>Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014</u>
Country:	Ecuador
Results period in this proposal:	2014
National Designated Authority:	Stephanie Ávalos Calderón Sub-Secretary of Climate Change Ministry of Environment stephanie.avalos@ambiente.gob.ec + 593 2 3987600 ext. 1303 Ministry of Environment of Ecuador Calle Madrid 1159 y Andalucia, Quito, 170109, Ecuador
REDD-plus entity/focal point	Cristina Garcia Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator, Ministry of Environment janneth.garcia@ambiente.gob.ec + 593 2 3987600 ext. 1313 Ministry of Environment of Ecuador Calle Madrid 1159 y Andalucia, Quito, 170109, Ecuador
Accredited Entity:	United Nations Development Programme,
Date of first submission/ version number:	<u>2018-08-27 [V.1]</u>
Date of current submission/ version number	<u>2019-05-21 [V.4]</u>



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Please submit the completed form to fundingproposal@gcfund.org
Please use the following naming convention in the subject line and file name:
“**[Country] REDD-plus RBP FP-[Accredited entity]-yyyymmdd**”

A. Proposed and projected REDD-plus results

Please provide the following information:

<p>Total volume of REDD-plus results achieved in the results period as reported in the country's BUR technical annex (tCO₂eq):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the total volume of achieved results during the results period (31 December 2013 to 31 December 2018) that includes the results offered to the pilot programme.</i></p> <p>The total volume of REDD-plus results achieved by Ecuador in between 2009 and 2014 as reported in the 2016 BUR Technical Annex is 28,990,071 tCO₂e.</p> <p><i>Table 1: total volume of REDD-plus results achieved between 2009 and 2014</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>REDD+ results (tCO₂e/ year)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>28,990,071</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of these reported results, only results for the year 2014 (4,831,679 tCO₂e) are eligible for the GCF REDD-plus results-based payments pilot programme.</p>	Year	REDD+ results (tCO ₂ e/ year)	2009	4,831,679	2010	4,831,679	2011	4,831,679	2012	4,831,679	2013	4,831,679	2014	4,831,679	Total	28,990,071
Year	REDD+ results (tCO ₂ e/ year)																
2009	4,831,679																
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2013	4,831,679																
2014	4,831,679																
Total	28,990,071																
<p>A= Achieved volume of REDD-plus results offered to the pilot programme in this proposal (tCO₂eq):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the volume of achieved results starting at the earliest 31 December 2013 that will be considered for the pilot programme.</i></p> <p>The total volume of achieved REDD+ results submitted in this proposal by Ecuador to the GCF for payments is 4,831,679 tCO₂e.</p> <p><i>Table 2: Achieved volume of REDD-plus results offered to the pilot programme</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>REDD+ results (tCO₂e/ year) offered to the pilot programme in this proposal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	REDD+ results (tCO ₂ e/ year) offered to the pilot programme in this proposal	2014	4,831,679												
Year	REDD+ results (tCO ₂ e/ year) offered to the pilot programme in this proposal																
2014	4,831,679																
<p>B= Expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved in the following years of the eligibility period (tCO₂eq):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the results that are expected to be achieved in each of the subsequent years of the eligibility period (until 31 December 2018) that may be offered to the GCF for payments. Explain how the indicative volume of results is a significant volume for each subsequent year for the remainder of the eligibility period</i></p> <p>The 2014 results are estimated against the first technically assessed Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL-1, modified version submitted in 2015) covering the period 2000-2008.</p> <p>Ecuador expects to send a second, revised (FREL-2), representing the reference period 2001-2014, to the UNFCCC at the end of 2019¹, with technical assessment anticipated for 2020 by an assessment team of LULUCF experts selected from the UNFCCC roster of experts. Results for the period 2015-2018 will be estimated against this FREL-2, with the intention to report those results in a REDD-plus Technical Annex to the 2021 Biennial Update Report (BUR). That BUR is to be submitted in conjunction with the Fourth National Communication,</p>																

¹ The mentioned dates are planned but are subject to modification, depending on the progress in the implementation of the methodological improvements for the construction of the Reference Level.

	<p>in January 2021². It is expected that the REDD-plus technical annex results will then undergo the technical analysis by LULUCF experts as part of the UNFCCC International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process, during 2021.</p> <p>The table below presents an indication of the results that Ecuador expects to achieve between 2015 and 2018.</p> <p><i>Table 3: Expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved in the following years of the eligibility period</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO₂e) to be achieved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>5,236,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>5,236,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>5,236,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>5,236,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>20,946,040</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The estimates presented in the table above are based on the UNFCCC technically assessed FREL-1. These are the best estimates that can be provided at this stage, given that the FREL-2 to be submitted in 2019 has not yet been developed. The actual REDD-plus results achieved for 2015-2018 will be estimated and reported in Ecuador's next REDD-plus Technical Annex submitted as part of the 2021 BUR.</p> <p>The estimates for 2015 and 2016 are based on the same mapping methodology used in the FREL-1, using Landsat and Sentinel-2 images to cover the whole of the national territory and measure the average annual deforestation over these two years. For 2017 and 2018, no data is available yet and the estimates are therefore a projection based on 2016, the last year for which measurements are available (updated information will be available at the end of 2019).</p> <p>The volume of results expected to be achieved for each of the subsequent years of the eligibility period is higher than the volume achieved in 2014 and therefore represents a significant volume.</p>	Year	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be achieved	2015	5,236,510	2016	5,236,510	2017	5,236,510	2018	5,236,510	Total	20,946,040
Year	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be achieved												
2015	5,236,510												
2016	5,236,510												
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2018	5,236,510												
Total	20,946,040												
<p>A+B =Total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme (tCO₂e):</p>	<p><i>Indicate the total volume, including the results achieved and offered to the pilot and the expected results to be achieved. The total expected volume could result from the submission of more than one funding proposal.</i></p> <p>Between 2014 and 2018, Ecuador is expected to achieve a total emission reduction from deforestation of about 25,777,719 tCO₂e. The indicative volume offered to the GCF for the total period will be 15,697,719 tCO₂e. The volumes presented below are based on the FREL-1 and are projected for the years 2017 and 2018.</p> <p><i>Table 4: Total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO₂e) to be achieved</th> <th>Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO₂e) to be offered to the GCF</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>4,831,679</td> <td>4,831,679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>5,236,510</td> <td>2,716,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>5,236,510</td> <td>2,716,510</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be achieved	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be offered to the GCF	2014	4,831,679	4,831,679	2015	5,236,510	2,716,510	2016	5,236,510	2,716,510
Year	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be achieved	Expected volume of REDD+ result (tCO ₂ e) to be offered to the GCF											
2014	4,831,679	4,831,679											
2015	5,236,510	2,716,510											
2016	5,236,510	2,716,510											

² The mentioned dates are planned but are subject to modification, depending on the progress in the implementation of the methodological improvements for the construction of the Reference Level.

2017	5,236,510	2,716,510
2018	5,236,510	2,716,510
Total (2014-2018)	25,777,719	15,697,719

The total REDD-plus results achieved by Ecuador in 2014 will be offered to the GCF.

For results achieved 2015-2018, a portion will be paid for or cancelled/retired as a result of the implementation of the REDD Early Movers (REM) programme in Ecuador³. The remaining volume of results, not paid by the REM, will be offered to the GCF.

The REM Programme in Ecuador will be implemented over a period of 5 years (2015-2019). As a result of the REM Programme approximately 12,600,000 million tCO₂ are expected to be paid for or cancelled/retired⁴. The overall volume that will be paid and cancelled/retired by Ecuador as a result of the REM agreement is therefore conservatively estimated a 2,520,000 tCO₂ eq per year (see Section B.2.2 for a detailed explanation).

Table 5: Expected volume of REDD-plus result to be paid by REM and by GCF

Year	Expected volume of REDD-plus results (tCO ₂ e) to be achieved	Expected volume of REDD-plus results (tCO ₂ e) to be paid or cancelled/retired as a result of the REM Agreement	Expected volume of REDD-plus results (tCO ₂ e) available for payment from the GCF
2015	5,236,510	2,520,000	2,716,510
2016	5,236,510	2,520,000	2,716,510
2017	5,236,510	2,520,000	2,716,510
2018	5,236,510	2,520,000	2,716,510
2019	5,236,510	2,520,000	2,716,510
Total 2015 - 2019	26,182,550	12,600,000	13,582,550

B. Carbon elements

B.1. Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL)

Please provide link to the FREL/FRL submission:
https://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf

Please provide link to the UNFCCC Technical Assessment Report:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/tar/ecu.pdf>

B.1.1. UNFCCC Technical Assessment and Analysis process

(i) Consistency of the FREL/FRL: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the consistency of the FREL/FRL with the GHG Inventory, including the definition of forest used. If the report identifies inconsistencies, explain these*

³ In June 2018, Ecuador [signed an agreement with Norway and Germany's REDD Early Movers Program](#)

⁴ The mentioned dates are planned but are subject to modification, depending on the progress in the implementation of the methodological improvements for the construction of the Reference Level.

inconsistencies between the GHG inventory and FREL/FRL, and describe how they will be resolved in the next GHG inventory or FREL/FRL.

Paragraph 8 of Decision 12 / CP.17 provides that the FREL and/or FRL will maintain consistency with greenhouse gas emissions related to anthropogenic forests by sources and removals by sinks in the national inventory of greenhouse gases.

As indicated in the Report on the technical assessment of the proposed FREL of Ecuador submitted in 2014), or the TAR (see para. 35), the Assessment Team (AT) did not have sufficient information to assess the consistency of the data used in the construction of the FREL with those used in the GHG inventory, that had been provided in its second National Communication. This was because the activity data had undergone significant improvements and the methods applied for the FREL-1 construction were updated from the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines to the IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidance for Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). The AT acknowledged this explanation and highlighted that consistency should be ensured in the next GHG inventory to be submitted with the first BUR.

Since the completion of the technical assessment of the FREL-1, consistency between the FREL and the GHG inventories that were subsequently reported has been ensured by Ecuador. All data and methods used in the construction of FREL-1, including activity data, emission factors, geographical limits, GHG reported, etc., were taken into account for the estimation and reporting of the subsequent GHG inventories, as Ecuador had assured the AT that this would take place (para. 23 of the TAR). This applies to the GHG inventories in both the first BUR as well as in the Third National Communication. In doing so, the methodological guidance provided in the IPCC GPG 2003 on LULUCF was followed, in line with Ecuador's approach to compiling and reporting the national GHG inventory.

Ecuador's first BUR was submitted on 21 September 2016 and is available here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/180635>. In this document, a summary of the 2010 GHG inventory was reported. The first BUR went through the technical analysis as part of the ICA process. As included in the *Technical report on the technical analysis of the technical annex (TATR)*, the LULUCF experts concluded that the activity data and emission factors used for the estimation of the 2010 GHG inventory and the technical annex were consistent over time and with the assessed FREL-1, based on the exchanges and additional information provided during the technical analysis. The complete report is available here: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tatr/ecu.pdf>

Since the publication of the TAR of the FREL, Ecuador's Third National Communication was submitted on the 5th of September 2017 and can be accessed here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/77568>. The Third National Communication reported the 2010 and 2012 GHG inventories and the update of the 1994, 2000 and 2006 GHG inventories. There is full consistency across the Third National Communication, BUR-1 and the REDD-plus FREL,

(ii.b) If a country is considered HFLD: *Please provide the basis/justification for this classification.*

Ecuador is not considered as a HFLD country.

(ii.c) FREL/FRL adjustments for a HFLD country: *If adjustments made, please provide information that the adjustment does not exceed 0.1% of the carbon stock over the eligibility period in the relevant area and/or exceed 10% of the FREL/FRL to reflect quantified, documented changes in circumstances during the reference period that likely underestimate future rates of deforestation or forest degradation during the eligibility period*

Given that Ecuador is not an HFLD country, this is not applicable. No adjustments have been made.

(iii) FREL/FRL in accordance with 12/CP.17: *Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the quantified estimate of the FREL/FRL. Include whether the FREL/FRL was constructed in accordance with the guidelines in Decision 12/CP.17; specifically on the modalities for FREL/FRL and whether the raised issues were material or not material to the quantified estimate of the FEEL/FRL.*

The TAR concluded that Ecuador's FREL was mostly in accordance with decision 12/CP.17. (paragraph 33 of the Report on the technical assessment of the propose forest reference emission level of Ecuador submitted in 2014).

Overall, the AT concluded that the information used to construct the FREL was complete and transparent, the most significant pools and GHGs were included, and the estimations of gross deforestation for the FREL construction were commended for reflecting an improvement, compared to estimates provided in both the 2nd National Communication and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 reporting. The AT also commended Ecuador for its strong commitment to continuous improvement of its FREL estimates.

The main technical issues raised by the TAR related to consistency with the GHG inventory and the emission factors applied for young forests.

An explanation of how the issue of consistency with the GHG inventory was addressed is provided in section B.1.1.(i).

In the case of emission factors for young forests, this issue was subsequently addressed during the technical analysis of the BUR REDD-plus Technical Annex where Ecuador explained that the national forest inventory reported information by each type of forest, including young and mature forests, and assumed an average emission factor for each stratum, in order to avoid extremes in carbon density values. The LULUCF experts noted that, because Ecuador has used a consistent methodology for estimating emissions in the establishment of the FREL and the results for the period 2009–2014, the net effect of any overestimation or underestimation of emissions will be partially cancelled out (para. 15 of the TATR).

(iv) FREL/FRL transparency: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the transparency of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues that were not material to the transparency of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The AT identified areas that could facilitate better transparency, as described in the TAR. The TAR noted that in the estimation of gross emissions from deforestation, young forests were included with mature forest, applying the same EF. The AT found that the limited information on this may not be completely transparent. In response, Ecuador explained that the national forest inventory reported information for each type of forest, including young and mature forests (as mentioned above in section iii of this proposal). This observation was addressed in the technical analysis of the BUR. The issue is still, however, considered an area of future improvement as part of the FREL-2 update. For construction of the FREL-2, Ecuador is already improving its detection of activity data, where young and mature forests are now differentiated.

In addition, Ecuador has incorporated improvements in the design of its latest National Forest Inventory, in order to obtain sufficient information on its young and mature forests. A sampling design with a systematic distribution in all forest types was considered based on the volume variation coefficients obtained in the first forest inventory. This systematic distribution includes a larger number of sampling units than the previous inventory, distributed in both mature forests and in young forests. Additionally, it includes adjustments in the classification variables to determine the origin and condition of the forests. It also includes satellite monitoring of the sampling units (unpublished internal document, MAE 2018). This National Forestry Inventory cycle will be completed in 2022.

(v) FREL/FRL completeness: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the understanding of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues that were not material to the completeness of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions. Include information that allows for the reconstruction of the FREL/FRL.

The assessment team noted that the data and information used by Ecuador in constructing its FREL were transparent and complete, and are in overall accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17

The information required for the reconstruction of the FREL was included in Section 3 of the FREL "Information on the FREL". In addition, in process of technical analysis of the Technical Annex the following link was shared with the LULUCF experts with the information for the reconstruction of the FREL and its results. See <http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/en/anexos-nivel-referencia>

(vi) FREL/FRL consistency: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the consistency of the methodology used over the

time series used for the construction of the FREL/FRL, and whether significant issues were raised in the report and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues that were not material to the consistency of the FREL/FRL raised in TA Report that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The activity data for the construction of FREL were extracted from a time series of land cover and land use maps developed by the MAE for the years 2000 and 2008 covering the entire continental territory and the detection of changes is obtained from comparing two independent maps (paragraph 3, 15 of the Report on the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level of Ecuador submitted in 2014). This methodology is in accordance with the IPCC GPG for LULUCF approach 3.

As a future improvement the AT suggested to detect deforestation by making a direct classification of the changes, by comparing multitemporal mosaics. Currently, the Ministry of Environment with the support of KFW is undertaking efforts to strengthen the country's National Forest Monitoring System with the implementation of SEPAL (Data Access System for Land Observation, Processing and Analysis for Monitoring the land surface) platform developed by the FAO.

In the SEPAL platform, the following processes are planned: (1) pre-processing, (2) land-use change and land cover, (3) degradation, (4) early warning of deforestation, and (5) Accuracy Assessment. These processes incorporate programming algorithms that allow the automatic detection of changes in the coverage and use of the land, which represents an improvement to the current method of detection.

(vii) FREL/FRL accuracy: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the accuracy of the FREL/FRL and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. This should include information on whether the data and methodologies used neither over- nor under-estimate emissions and/or removals during the reference period. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues raised in TA Report that were not material to the accuracy of the FREL/FRL and that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

According to Ecuador's FREL and as summarized in the TAR, an independent accuracy assessment of the 2000 and 2008 land-use maps was carried out after collapsing all non-forest categories into one single category termed "non-forest". The overall accuracy was then estimated at 95.5 percent for the 2000 map and 94.0 per cent for the 2008 map. However, the AT considered that in the context of REDD-plus, the accuracy of the land-use changes is more important than the land use itself. The AT noted that an explicit assessment of the accuracy of land-use change is an area for future technical improvement.

In the FREL (para. 18c) Ecuador proposed as a methodological improvement the assessment of the accuracy of land cover and land use changes (deforestation and regeneration) applying the methodology of Pontus Olofsson (University of Maryland, 2013). This improvement was already included by Ecuador in the Technical Annex of the BUR-1 on page 193 of Annex 1, "Analysis of uncertainty and accuracy of the generated maps, automation of processes and the incorporation of new methodologies in the Technical Annex of the BUR".
(See section B.1.2. xv)

(viii) Sources of emissions: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to whether all activities listed in paragraph 70 of UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 ('REDD-plus activities') that are a significant source of emissions were included. If they were not, justify whether activities that are significant sources of emissions were not included due to lack of data and/or whether the omission overestimates emissions or underestimates removals. Provide also a plan to include all data on all REDD-plus activities that are significant sources of emissions in future FREL/FRL submissions.

The FREL presented by Ecuador according to its national capacities and circumstances includes emissions from deforestation. The AT noted that, due to a lack of any information on emissions from forest degradation, it was not possible at the time of the assessment to assess whether this activity is significant in terms of emissions. At the same time, the AT also commended Ecuador for initiating work on the definition of forest degradation and acknowledged Ecuador's intention to include forest degradation in the construction of future FRELs when new, adequate data and better information become available.

The AT considered the collection of data on forest degradation as an important area for future technical improvement and provided examples in the TAR of the types analysis could provide preliminary information on the current trends and facilitate understanding of the relationship between deforestation and degradation. For

this reason, the Ministry of the Environment is implementing the SEPAL platform with the support of FAO and KfW. Through this platform, the development of a processing chain for forest degradation is being initiated over a pilot area. The results obtained will be analyzed to assess the feasibility to include degradation as a new REDD-plus activity in the FREL-2 to be submitted in 2019. In addition, progress has been made on the technical definition of forest degradation. This included carrying out technical workshops with national and international experts to discuss and define the criteria to measure forest degradation and agree on the methodology to be applied in future estimates.

Ecuador is also implementing the pilot phase of the second National Forest Inventory in the Amazon Lowland Evergreen Forest with the support of KfW. This is the first phase of the Second National Forest Inventory which will be finalized in 2022⁵. Based on the information collected, processed and analyzed, the country will have enhanced data and information on changes in forest carbon stocks. Specifically, Ecuador is planning to install permanent monitoring plots, allowing adjustments to the emission factors corresponding to the mature and young forest in the 9 forest strata as well as estimation of enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

(ix) Significant pools: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the inclusion of the most significant pools. If applicable, justify whether significant pools were not included due to lack of data and/or the omission does not overestimate emissions or underestimate removals. In addition, provide a plan to include all significant pools in future FREL/FRL submissions.

The AT noted that Ecuador included the most significant pools in its FREL. The pools included in the FREL are: aboveground biomass of trees and non-trees, belowground biomass of trees and non-trees, dead wood and litter. Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) was not included. Ecuador explained during the TA that SOC was excluded due that the SOC reservoir did not have information and that country-specific data were under development at the time of the TA. The AT considered the exclusion adequately justified by Ecuador. Nonetheless, SOC is currently under analysis to be included in Ecuador's FREL-2.

(x) Emissions from gases: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Assessment Report in relation to the inclusion of all gases that are significant sources of emissions. If not all of the gases were included, justify whether gases that are significant sources of emissions were not included due to lack of data and/or whether the omission overestimates emissions or underestimates removals. Provide also a plan to include all significant pools in future FREL/FRL submissions.

The AT considers that the exclusion of non-CO₂ gases is adequately justified (paragraph 36 of the TAR).

To maintain consistency with the scope of the reports in the national GHG inventory and the more accurate data collection to be collected, the FREL and the REDD-plus Technical Annex only include CO₂ emissions. In order not to omit significant gases, the potential contribution to annual GHG emissions from non-CO₂ gases was calculated assuming that all deforestation is associated with fire (as a result of felling and burning), and applying IPCC's GPG for LULUCF (2003). This information was presented in the FREL-1 submitted to the UNFCCC (Box 1, page 31) and is included below.

⁵ The mentioned dates are planned but are subject to modification..

Box 1. Estimates of non- CO₂ emissions of greenhouse gases

The emission of the non-CO₂ gases Methane (CH₄) and Nitrous oxide (N₂O) has been calculated assuming that all deforestation processes in Ecuador are accompanied by slash-and-burn. The emissions were estimated by applying the equation described in the IPCC Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF (p. 3.49, 2003).

Estimation of GHGs directly released in fires : $L_{fire} = A \times B \times C \times D \times 10^{-6}$

Where:

L_{fire}: quantity of GHG released due to fire, tones of GHG

A: area burnt, ha

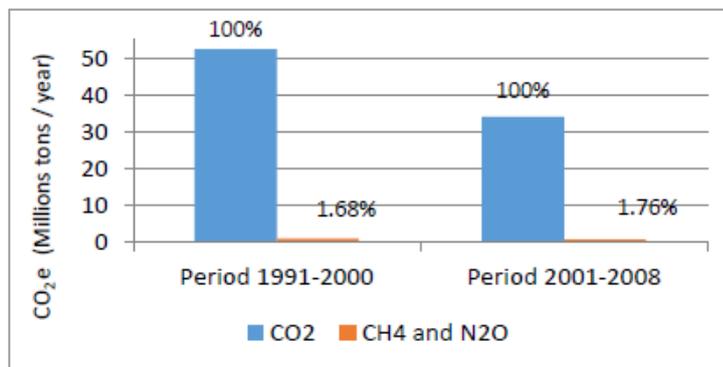
B: mass of available fuel, kg d.m.ha⁻¹

C: combustion efficiency, dimensionless

D: emission factor, g (kg d.m.)⁻¹

The values applied for combustion efficiency and emission factors were obtained from the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories since they are the most updated available ones. For the conversion of CH₄ and N₂O to CO₂-e, the global warming potential values of 21 and 310 were used.

Figure 8. Comparison of CO₂ and non CO₂ emissions per year for each period



As shown in Figure 8, the emissions of non CO₂ gases from biomass burning is less than 5% of the CO₂ emissions from deforestation.

(xi) IPCC guidance for FREL/FRL: Please indicate if the whether the construction of the FREL/FRL (data, methodologies and estimates) was guided by 2003 GPGs or 2006 GLs.

The construction of the FREL was guided by the 2003 GPGs for LULUCF.

(xii) Issues related to applying IPCC guidance: Please mention any significant issues related to the application of IPCC GLs/GPGs as raised in the TA report. Include any significant issues that are material to the alignment with the methodologies of the IPCC GLs/GPGs that were raised in the TA report and whether significant issues were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan to address and overcome issues raised in TA Report that were not material to the application of IPCC guidance and that couldn't be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

No issues were raised in terms of the application of the IPCC guidelines or GPGs.

B.1.2. Additional criteria related to FREL/FRL

(xiii) Reference period for the FREL/FRL: *Please indicate the reference period (number of years) applied for the construction of the FREL/FRL.*

The reference period used in the construction of the FREL is 2000 to 2008, a total of 8 years (par. 12 of the TAR).

(xiv) If previous reference level submitted: *Please indicate whether a previous reference level applying to the same area was submitted. If so, describe the difference between the emissions and removals used for the previous one and the current one. Describe any adjustments made to the current FREL/FRL compared to the previous one, if applicable.*

The FREL used is Ecuador's first FREL submitted to the UNFCCC and technically assessed through the UNFCCC process. It was submitted in 2014, and modified in 2015, during the course of the UNFCCC technical assessment.

(xv) Uncertainties: *Please indicate whether the country has provided information on aggregated uncertainties of the emissions or removals estimate, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances, and if so, indicate the percentage of aggregate uncertainties and provide information on assumptions and sources. If applicable, indicate the process implemented to minimize systematic and random errors.*

Uncertainty of activity data

The FREL-1 of Ecuador included the accuracy assessment of the maps (73% for the 2000 land-use map and 76% for the 2008), implemented separately for each of the land-use maps. The methods used and results obtained are detailed in [this report](#).

In the TAR, the AT noted an explicit assessment of accuracy of land-use change as an area for future technical improvement pursuant to a step-wise approach in accordance with decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 10. With the objectives of continuous improvement and enhancing transparency, the MAE performed the analysis of accuracy of the changes for the period 2000-2008 to present in this proposal. The change classes analyzed were: stable forest, non-forest stable, deforestation and regeneration. The approach applied is consistent with that already taken for the results period and reported in the BUR technical annex (See B.2.2(vii) of this proposal).

Using the recommendations of the [Good Practices for Estimating Area and Assessing Accuracy of Land Change](#) (Olofsson et al., 2014), the accuracy of the changes was evaluated. The Olofsson et al. methodology employs stratified random sampling, in addition to calculating areas of change with error adjustments (presented in the adjusted areas column, in the second table below), total accuracy calculations, user and producer accuracy, through matrices of confusion. These areas adjusted for errors are presented in the adjusted area column 2000-2008 in the second table below presenting the results of the accuracy analysis.

Table 6: Results of accuracy analysis of 2000 – 2008

Total Accuracy	93,56%	
Classes	User Accuracy	Producer Accuracy
Stable Forest	0,96	0,96
Unstable Forest	0,95	0,92
Deforestation	0,57	0,82
Regeneration	0,29	0,50

Source: Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (2000-2008)

Table 7: Results of accuracy analysis land-use change classes (2000-2008)

Classes	Map Area 2000-2008 (ha)	Adjusted area 2000-2008 (ha)	Standard error (95% confidence interval)
Stable Forest	12,791,025	12,855,321	±340,868
Unstable Forest	10,990,364	11,297,213	±364,058
Deforestation	869,328	601,206	±140,680
Regeneration	247,342	144,320	±94,621

Source: Ministry of Environment of Ecuador

The methodology and the results of land use change accuracy assessment were presented in this [report](#) (MAE, 2013).

The result of the accuracy assessment is the estimation of the area for each of the change classes assessed (stable forest, non-forest stable, deforestation and regeneration), which are each defined by a reference classification sample. In the deforestation class, the estimated adjusted area is 601,206 ha with a standard error of ± 140,680 ha, while the cover and land use area is 869,328 ha. To calculate the uncertainty, the assumption is that the area adjusted through the accuracy assessment process is the real value, so the uncertainty of the estimate of area deforested over 2000 - 2008 is calculated using the following formula:

$$U_i = \frac{\text{Map Area} - \text{Adjusted area}}{\text{Adjusted area}} * 100$$

As a result, the estimated uncertainty for deforested area over the period 2000-2008 is 44.6%.

Ecuador is implementing improvements in the uncertainty estimation of the activity data with the SEPAL platform, and it is expected that this information will be presented in the FREL-2.

Uncertainty of emission factors

Emission factors refer to the data on carbon stocks associated with the forest type, which were obtained from the results of the National Forest Inventory of Ecuador (which is part of the ENF).

The estimation of the total carbon in the ENF provides estimation errors of each sink and its propagation in the overall calculation (by stratum), with rigorous and standard statistical methods. Reducing the different components of the error in the ENF included a series of particular considerations, such as the correct identification of the strata and their sizes, the sampling technique, the type and size of sampling plots, the correct identification of species in the forest inventory, the use of standardized protocols and units of measurement, and, finally, the identification of errors in the resulting databases. As a result of this process, the uncertainty of each carbon pool per native forest stratum was estimated. To obtain the overall uncertainty of the emission factor, the weighted average was estimated using the carbon content by pool and the forest stratum as the weight. The following table presents the results of the uncertainty of emission factors, as reported in Table 6 of FREL-1. The total C stocks in the inventoried forest strata have an average uncertainty value of 10.25%:

Table 8: average uncertainty values in the total C stocks in the inventoried forest strata

Stratum	Uncertainty (%)				
	C in Above ground biomass	C in Roots	C in Understory	C in Lying Wood	C in Litter
Dry Andean Forest	18.04	18.04	57.59	67.20	14.33
Pluviseasonal Dry Forest	14.99	15.00	27.11	79.09	9.86
Andean Montane Evergreen Forest	9.87	10.17	32.23	23.86	9.12
Andean Foothills Evergreen Forest	10.61	10.60	27.58	84.96	11.53

Andean High Mountain Evergreen Forest	24.36	26.18	34.32	45.20	11.80
Amazon Lowland Evergreen Forest	6.06	6.09	19.61	34.94	7.36
Choco Lowland Evergreen Forest	8.97	8.99	22.43	24.13	6.89
Mangrove	17.92	17.92	24.74	55.04	N/A
Morete Palms Forest	20.79	21.07	44.26	67.52	36.24

Source: Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, 2015

The errors of the pools and forest type are combined applying method 1, equation 5.2.2 in line with IPCC good practice guidance (IPCC 2003, Chp5). Combining errors first by pool and then by forest type resulted in a national value corresponding to 4.7%. This 4.7% value is lower than the 10.25% mentioned above because it is based on error propagation.

Aggregate Uncertainties

The accuracy of the use / cover maps that were used to obtain the information on deforestation was reported in the FREL of Ecuador and is summarized in section B.1.1 (vii) above. However, in the TAR, the AT raises that, in the context of REDD+, it is more important to estimate the accuracy of change than that of land use itself.

Considering the findings of the AT related to uncertainty, Ecuador made relevant improvements and estimated the uncertainty of the change of use related to deforestation of the period 2000-2008 which is 44.6%. In addition, as mentioned before, an overall uncertainty of 4.7% was estimated for the emission factor.

To calculate aggregate uncertainties, estimating the uncertainty of the emission factor and activity data, the Tier 1 error propagation method was used, in line with the IPCC 2003 GPG for LULUCF (Equation 5.2.1).

As a result of the application of this method, an aggregate uncertainty estimate of 44.8% was obtained.

Table 9: estimate of aggregate uncertainty

Uncertainty of the activity data	Uncertainty of the emission factor	Aggregate uncertainty
44.6%	4.7%	44.8%

(xvi) Please indicate whether different FREL/FRLs have been used for different funding sources or other purposes, and if so, list and describe them.

In 2018, the Ministry of the Environment presented a baseline to the REM Program for receiving results-based payments for the 2015-2016 period. This REM Baseline uses the same methodology as Ecuador's First FREL submitted to the UNFCCC (activity data, emission factors, etc.), but it differs in regard to the following characteristics: 1) a reference period of 2001-2014 (instead of 2000-2008); 2) accounting for gross deforestation based only the map identifying forests in 2000 (base year / "Forest Cover Benchmark Map"), ensuring that once an area is deforested it will be excluded from accounting later. The table below provides more detail.

Table 10: Comparison between UNFCCC FREL and REM baseline

Elements	Ecuador's FREL for REDD-plus under the UNFCCC (FREL-1)	REM baseline
Scale	National	National
Reference Period	2000 – 2008	2001-2014
Forest Definition	Ministerial Agreement 116	Ministerial Agreement 116
REDD+ activity	Reducing emissions from deforestation	Reducing emissions from deforestation
Activity data	Land cover and use maps 2000, 2008	Land cover and use maps 2000, 2008 y 2014
	Average annual deforestation rate for entire reference period	Average annual deforestation rate, based on the 2000 forest/non-forest benchmark map
	All forest loss identified during the monitoring period is considered as gross deforestation	All forest to non-forest changes after 2000 are considered as gross deforestation
Emission factor	Estimated average carbon stocks in 9 forest types	Estimated average carbon stocks in 9 forest types
Pools	aboveground biomass of trees and non-trees, belowground biomass of trees and non-trees, dead wood and litter	aboveground biomass of trees and non-trees, belowground biomass of trees and non-trees, dead wood and litter
Gases	CO2	CO2
Results estimate for 2014	For year 2014: 4,831,679 tCO ₂ e	Not applicable for REM, the agreement does not cover 2014

The REM baseline is not considered a Reference Level but rather an interim "payment baseline" for the purposes of REM only. It will not be used as a basis to receive payments for 2014's REDD-plus results. 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.

Ecuador's FREL-2, to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of 2019, will use improved methodologies and information to address the key areas of improvement identified by the experts. The FREL-2 will be the basis for

<p>Ecuador to estimate REDD-plus results and receive REDD-plus results-based payments moving forward including from REM and the GCF.</p> <p>Although it will use the same reference period, 2001-2014, the FREL-2 will be different from the REM baseline. FREL-2 will use a methodology to determine the loss of forest cover and will use a new emission factor for the evergreen lowland forest of the Amazon. This is part of the improvements proposed by the experts and will allow reporting information with less uncertainty. It can be expected that the application of this new methodology to determine activity data as well as the application of a new emission factor for the types of forest will have an impact in terms of reducing uncertainty.</p>
<p>B.2. REDD-plus Results reporting</p>
<p>Please provide link to the BUR technical annex containing REDD+ results: <u> </u> http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/reporting_on_climate_change/items/8722.php</p> <p>Please provide link to the UNFCCC Technical Analysis Report: <u> </u> http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tatr/ecu.pdf</p>
<p>B.2.1. UNFCCC Technical Analysis</p>
<p>(i) Consistency of results with FREL/FRL: <i>Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the consistency of the reported results in the technical annex to the BUR with the FREL/FRL (including the inclusion of same pools, activities and gases).</i></p> <p>The LULUCF experts noted in the Technical Analysis Report that Ecuador has been consistent in using the same methodologies and definitions for developing the FREL and for estimating the results of the implementation of activities to reduce emissions from deforestation during the period 2009 – 2014. (par 13 and 14, page 5 of the TATR)</p>
<p>(ii) Transparency of the data: <i>Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the transparency of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether information has been provided to provide an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on results reporting has been addressed). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the transparency of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.</i></p> <p>In the TATR, the LULUCF experts noted that the estimation of the results was undertaken using a transparent and consistent approach. The experts specifically commended Ecuador for its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), which is capable of providing transparent estimates of emissions from deforestation.</p> <p>The technical analysis concluded that the data and information provided in the technical annex are transparent, to the extent possible. The LULUCF experts note that all relevant data and information, including those which were not provided in the technical annex, were made available on the Ministry of Environment website to improve transparency (see para. 20).</p> <p>The report details how Ecuador, in response to the suggestions received from the LULUCF experts during the technical analysis, uploaded requested information on the Ministry of Environment’s website, System of Environmental Information http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/en/anexos-nivel-referencia, in order to improve transparency and facilitate access to the information. This includes the annexes for the reconstruction of the FREL and the REDD-plus Technical Annex. The same link provides access to the tool that was used to calculate the emissions in the different periods and in the types of forests, activity data and emission factors.</p>
<p>(iii) Completeness of the data: <i>Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the completeness of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether information has been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the results). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the completeness of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.</i></p>

As mentioned in section B2 (ii) Ecuador made available all the information in the Ministry of Environment System of Environmental Information website in order to improve transparency and facilitate access to the information. Considering all of the information provided during the TA week, the LULUCF experts were able to reconstruct the results provided by Ecuador for the period 2009 - 2014 and the LULUCF experts commended Ecuador in the TATR for providing transparent and complete information during the technical analysis.

(iv) Consistency of the data: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the consistency of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. data and methodologies were applied consistently over the results time series). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the consistency of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

No issues were raised in the technical analysis report regarding consistency of data and methodologies applied over the results time series. The LULUCF experts noted that the estimation of the results was undertaken using a transparent and consistent approach.

(v) Accuracy of the data: Please provide any additional information that supplements the information contained in the Technical Analysis Report in relation to the accuracy of the data and information provided in the technical annex (i.e. whether it neither over- nor under-estimates emissions and/or removals). Include information on significant issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report and whether these were raised and resolved. If applicable, provide a plan on how to address and overcome issues raised in the Technical Analysis Report, that were not material to the accuracy of the data on results and that could not be resolved due to time and data restrictions.

The LULUCF experts concluded that the results reported in the BUR technical annex were accurate to the extent possible, based on the assumptions used.

In relation to the provision of more information on carbon stocks at the different successional stages as an area for future improvement, Ecuador is making improvements to the detection of changes and initiated the second cycle of the national forest inventory that includes a larger sample of forests to obtain estimates of young forests and mature forests. However, in the absence of such improvements, the LULUCF experts nonetheless recognize that “because Ecuador has used a consistent methodology for estimating emissions in the establishment of the FREL and the results for the period 2009–2014, the net effect of any overestimation or underestimation of emissions will be partially cancelled out.”

Uncertainties for the emission factors were reported for the nine types of natural forest, for each pool, by type of natural forest. These uncertainties were in the range of 6–20 per cent, with 6 percent corresponding to the Amazon Lowland Evergreen Forest, which is the most significant in terms of area covered. However, those uncertainties and the uncertainties for the deforestation maps were not used in assessing the uncertainties of the emission estimates. Thus, the effect of the uncertainties on the accuracy of the results of the implementation of the activity on reducing emissions from deforestation could not be assessed, according to the LULUCF experts. Nevertheless, the LULUCF experts conclude that the results are accurate, to the extent possible, and note that the estimation of the uncertainty of the emissions from deforestation is an area for technical improvement in the future.

In relation to accuracy of activity data Ecuador included the uncertainty estimates for land-use changes during the overall period 2008–2014 in table 6 of the technical annex. The LULUCF experts recognized as an improvement and commended Ecuador for the effort.

Ecuador, based on national capacities, will keep making efforts to improve the accuracy of activity data and emission factors based on the application of new methods and the use of information from the second cycle of the national forest assessment.

(vi) Indicate the number of years that took place between the last year of the FREL/FRL period, and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments:

There are 6 years between the last year of the FREL period (2008) and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments (2014).

B.2.2. Additional criteria related to the achieved results

(vii) **Uncertainties:** *Explain whether the country has provided information on aggregate uncertainties of the results, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances. Include the percentage of aggregate uncertainties and provide information on assumptions and sources. If applicable, indicate the process implemented to minimize systematic and random errors.*

Uncertainty of activity data

With the objectives of continuous improvement and ensuring transparency of information, the MAE performed the accuracy analysis of the land-use changes for the 2009-2014 period, as part of the BUR REDD+ Technical Annex. The classes of change analyzed were: stable forest, non-forest stable, deforestation and regeneration.

Using the recommendations of the Olofsson et al., 2014 methodology, as referenced in B.1.2(xv) of this proposal, the accuracy of the land-use changes was evaluated. This methodology employs stratified random sampling, in addition to calculating areas of change with error adjustments (presented in the adjusted areas column, in the second table below), total accuracy calculations, and user and producer accuracy, through matrices of confusion. The results of the accuracy analysis are presented in the table 14 below.

Table 11: Results of Accuracy Analysis of 2009 – 2014

Total Accuracy	96,94%	
Classes	User Accuracy	Producer Accuracy
Stable forest	0,99	0,98
Non stable forest	0,99	0,97
Deforestation	0,59	0,82
Regeneration	0,25	0,81

Source: Ecuador's First BUR

Table 12: Results of accuracy analysis of 2009-2014 and areas adjusted for errors

Classes	Map Area 2009-2014 (ha)	Adjusted area (ha)	Standard error (95% confidence interval)
Stable Forest	12,450,861	12,577,596	±189,027
Unstable Forest	11,557,167	11,806,354	±193,031
Deforestation	587,506	420,854	±109,408
Regeneration	302,525	93,257	±33,154

Source: Ministry of Environment of Ecuador

The methodology and the results of land use change accuracy assessment were presented in the report "Evaluación de la precisión del cambio de los mapas de cobertura y uso del suelo del Ecuador continental periodos 2000-2008 y 2009-2014" (MAE, 2013).

The result of the accuracy assessment is the estimation of the area for each of the change classes assessed (stable forest, non-forest stable, deforestation and regeneration), which is defined by the reference classification sample. In the deforestation class, the estimated area is 420,854 ha with a standard error of ±109,408 ha, while the cover and land use area is 587,506 ha. To calculate the percentage of uncertainty, the assumption is that the adjusted area of the accuracy assessment process is the real value, so the uncertainty of deforestation is calculated using the following formula:

$$U_i = \frac{\text{Map Area} - \text{Adjusted area}}{\text{Adjusted area}} * 100$$

As a result, the uncertainty of the estimate of area deforested over the period 2009-2014 is 39.6%.

Ecuador is implementing improvements in the uncertainty estimation of the activity data, with the SEPAL platform, and it is expected that this information will be presented in the FREL-2.

Uncertainty of emission factors

As described in the section B.1.2. (xv), the errors associated with the pools and forest type are combined applying method 1, equation 5.2.2 in line with IPCC 2003. Combining errors first by pool and then by forest type to obtain the national value corresponding to 4.7%.

Aggregate Uncertainties

In the REDD-plus Technical Annex presented in the first BUR, Ecuador reported the results of the accuracy analysis on land cover and-land use change for the results period 2009-2014. In addition, the uncertainty associated with the different carbon pools of the nine strata of native forest was reported. However, the technical report mentioned the estimation of emissions uncertainty as an opportunity for improvement in the future.

Considering the results of the TA, Ecuador made improvements in this regard and estimated the aggregate uncertainty of the 2009-2014 results period, based on an uncertainty of 39.6% for activity data and 4.7% for the emission factor.

To calculate aggregate uncertainties, the Tier 1 error propagation method was used, in line with the IPCC 2003 GPG for LULUCF, Equation 5.2.1.

As a result of the application of this method, an aggregate uncertainty estimate of 39.9% was obtained for the results period 2009 - 2014.

Table 13: estimated aggregate uncertainty

Uncertainty of the activity data	Uncertainty of the emission factor	Aggregate uncertainty
39.6%	4.7%	39.9%

(viii) Preventing double payments:

- *Provide information on payments that have been, or are expected to be received from other sources of funding for results recognized by the country for the same area for the same period, for which the country is applying for payments from the GCF.*

No payments have been, or are expected to be received from other sources of funding for results recognized by the Ecuador at a national level for the year 2014. Therefore, there is no risk of double payment associated with the current proposal.

For full transparency regarding the entire eligibility period of this pilot programme (2014-2018), Ecuador is providing information on the agreement reached with the REDD Early Movers (REM) programme for the period 2015-2019.⁶

REM provides performance-based payments for verified emission reductions from deforestation prevention, thereby managing REDD-plus in line with the decisions agreed to in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

REM will provide payments for emission reductions from deforestation achieved on a national scale in Ecuador over the period 2015-2019. Therefore REDD-plus results-based payments from REM **will not be made for 2014**. While not directly relevant for the current funding proposal, it is expected that both REM and GCF will

⁶ <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/Topics/Climate/REDD/>

make payments for the Ecuador's national REDD-plus results over the period 2015-2018. (See section A+B Total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme (tCO₂eq).

- *Include relevant information regarding the payments paid or expected to be paid, including the year(s), results volume in tCO₂e, quantities for which payments were received/are expected to be received, and entity/entities paying for the results as well as any type of agreement involved.*

The table below present the expected volume of REDD-plus results (tCO₂e) to be paid or cancelled/retired as a result of the REM Agreement from 2015 until 2019.

Table 14: Expected volume of REDD-plus results (tCO₂e) to be paid or cancelled/retired as a result of the REM Agreement

Year	tCO ₂ e
2015	2,520,000
2016	2,520,000
2017	2,520,000
2018	2,520,000
2019	2,520,000
Total 2015 – 2019	12,600,000

In the context of the REM agreement, for every ER paid, a volume of ERs will be retired by Ecuador and will no longer be available for payment from other sources including GCF.

- *Provide sufficient assurances that the results that have been paid, or are expected to be paid for by other sources (or are under any type of analogous agreement) been excluded from the volume offered to the GCF.*

REDD-plus results-based payment from REM **will not be made for 2014**. Therefore, results paid for by REM are not relevant for determining the volume offered to GCF in the current proposal.

Ecuador's second results-based payment proposal to GCF will be based on Ecuador's FREL-2. The national accounting of ERs including REM will be harmonized based on the UNFCCC FREL-2 and the results reported in the 2021 BUR Technical Annex. The volume which will have been paid for by REM and the associated volume of ERs retired/deactivated will be deducted from the volume of results reported in the 2021 BUR Technical Annex to determine the remaining available volume which will be offered to GCF.

- *Provide a description of measures to ensure that the results paid by the GCF will not be transferred, offered for future payment or otherwise used (for example for offsets) and information on how the results proposed for payment by the GCF will be treated or used.*

For details on a tool specifically designed to track emission reductions and avoiding double payments, see section ix below on tracking emission reductions.

- *Provide information on how different financing contributed to the achieved results.*

It is very challenging to attribute REDD-plus results to specific policies (see Section D of this proposal). As in all countries, deforestation in Ecuador is driven by a complex set of underlying and direct economic, social and environmental drivers. Notwithstanding, Ecuador's REDD-plus results can be attributed to a combination of the effects of profound policy reforms at a national level, starting with a change in the Constitution of 2008, followed by 2 national development plans (2009—2013 and 2013-2017, *Plan Nacional de Buen Vivir* in Spanish). These reforms generated fundamental changes in the country's development process, specifically diminishing dependence of exploiting natural resources (including forests) as the basis for economic growth. While Ecuador's REDD+ results for 2014 cannot be attributed to one single policy, [the Socio Bosque Program](#) was a new and targeted program explicitly directed to reduce deforestation. This was complemented by other sectoral initiatives and programs that resulted in reducing deforestation from 2009 to 2014.

Ecuador's National Development Plan included a goal of diminishing deforestation by 50%. In order to advance actions to fulfill this goal, the Socio Bosque Program was declared in 2008 as a priority government project with the objective to provide incentives to indigenous and *campesino* communities to conserve forests and *paramos*. In December 2013, through a Ministerial Agreement (No 131) the incentive program of Socio Bosque Program

was officially established as part of the Policy for Governance of Natural Heritage. The Socio Bosque Program was and is implemented following applicable Ecuadorian policy and regulatory provisions, including fiduciary controls, transparency provisions, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and regular performance reports.

The main source of finance to operate Socio Bosque has been Ecuador's public funds. Since the launch of the Programme in 2008, the Government of Ecuador has invested public funding to operate the Programme from the budget line "public investment", which is generally used for building infrastructure. Between September 2008 and December 2015 Socio Bosque signed 2,775 conservation/restoration agreements, targeting over 187,000 people at the local level, with a budget of US \$ 55 million. The German Government has also made financial contributions to the Socio-Bosque Programme.

(ix) Tracking emissions reductions: *Indicate whether the achieved results are included in a registry or similar system that tracks emissions reductions and corresponding payments, and ensures that there is no past or future double payment or use of such results, including information to identify the area where the results were achieved, the entity eligible to receive payment, year(s) generated, source(s) of payments received, and identifying code, where possible. Provide the link or information where to find the registry or similar system*

A National Registry of Emission Reduction Accounting for REDD-plus has been created to ensure transparency of emissions reductions achieved and results-based payment received, in order to avoid double payments. The registry is the central tool for accounting REDD+ ERs in Ecuador. It was established in May 2018 and will serve to register and deactivate/retire ERs paid for by diverse sources. A didactic summary of carbon accounting is included on the Ecuador REDD-plus website: <http://reddecuador.com/contabilidad-de-reduccion-de-emisiones/>

The methodology applied for registration in the registry of Emission Reduction for Payments by Results is described below. (see Annex XVIII for a view of the excel based tool).

Data on the Available Emission Reduction (tCO₂ eq) column for the period 2009-2014 have been published and correspond to the following equation.

$$ER_{ECUT} = NREF-D_{UNFCCC_t} - E_{UNFCCC_t}$$

Where

ER_{ECUT} : Emission reductions available for national-level results-based payments following UNFCCC processes in year t, expressed in tCO₂ eq.

$NREF-D_{UNFCCC_t}$: National Forest Reference Emission Level for Deforestation, technically assessed through UNFCCC process, estimated in year t, expressed in tCO₂ eq.

E_{UNFCCC_t} : Gross emissions from deforestation reported to the UNFCCC at national level, estimated in year t, expressed in tCO₂ eq.

t = year of the period of application of these rules.

By applying this equation, we can determine the volume of results available for any given year.

Each of these tonnes is then assigned a serial number (e.g. EC-RERemu-Year-0001). The serial numbers function as follows:

- Each serial number characterizes the status for each tonne of carbon per year for registration. The Status may be "available" (REDisp), "Remunerated" (RERemu) or "Deactivated/retired" (REDesc). There are therefore three types of serial numbers for the register; for example:
 - i) EC-RERemu-Year-000X
 - ii) EC-REDesc-Year-000X
 - iii) EC-REDisp-Year-0000X
- *Month / Year* in the serial number is the date of ER registration recognized by payment for results. This date will correspond to the month and year in which the payment of the total or partial volume of ER is registered.
- *EC* corresponds to the first initials of the country that has generated the reduction of emissions.

- **Year:** Corresponds to the year in which the emission reduction was generated.

At the end of the serial number there is a *last numerical digit*. Each tonne of carbon reduced per year has a digit where the minimum is 1 and the maximum is the amount of ER obtained during the specific year. For example, in 2014 4,831,518 tCO₂ were reduced, the available ERs therefore have the following registration: EC-REDisp-2014-0001 up to EC-REDisp-2014-4831518. This numeric digit is unique for each tonne.

If a tonne has been registered as remunerated or deactivated, it may not be recorded in the future as an available tonne. It is important to consider that a tonne characterized as available may be characterized or recorded in the future as remunerated or deactivated/retired following agreements with entities providing payments. This will be done with the aim of providing full transparency and avoid double payments.

The accounting to determine if a tonne is available, is based on the UNFCCC technically assessed FRELS. REM will be reconciled with FREL-2 to avoid double payment. The volume which will have been paid for by REM as well as the associated volume of ERs retired/deactivated will be deducted from the volume of results reported in the 2021 BUR Technical Annex to determine the remaining available volume. If there remains available volume following this reconciliation it will be offered to GCF. All accounting for GCF ERs will be based on UNFCCC revised FRELS.

In the specific case of the current proposal “Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014”, 4,831,518 tCO₂ reduced in 2014 are offered to GCF for payment. These are currently recorded in the registry as “available”. Following its scorecard assessment, the GCF will determine a “GCF volume of ERs”. Once the proposal is approved by the Board, these tonnes will not be recorded in the future as “available” anymore.

In addition, Ecuador will include this information on remunerated and deactivated ERs in the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub when it has received payments from any source.

C. Non-carbon elements

Please provide link to the summary on information on safeguards: Link to document: http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/web/suia/salvaguadas_redd as posted on UNFCCC web platform <http://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=ecu> and Lima Info hub <http://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html>

C.1. Cancun safeguards

C.1.1. Compliance with Cancun safeguards. Please provide any additional information that supplements the information included in the “summary of information on safeguards” that allows understanding how each of the safeguards below was addressed and respected in the full period during which results were generated in a way that ensures transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness:

- (i) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.

The Proyecto Socio Bosque (PSB) is the primary initiative operating during the period for which results-based payments are sought that ensures the consistency and complementarity of REDD+ actions in Ecuador with the national forest programs and relevant international conventions and agreements. (See <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/>). Therefore responses in C1.1 will focus on providing additional information related to PSB, from the perspective of implementation and what happened in practice to demonstrate the ‘respecting’ of the Cancun safeguards. This complements information already provided in the SOI, which focused more on ‘addressing’ the Cancun safeguards. Adopted by Ministerial resolution, the project has a Unified Operations Manual (2012) that details its objectives, activities and implementation modalities (<http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/files/images/articulos/archivos/am130.pdf>). Notably, it is the 5th manual adopted by the MAE, with each revision further responding to changes in the applicable law, new information arising from the development of the final REDD+ Action Plan (2016), and stakeholder comments –each improving the project’s implementation and consistency with the Cancun Safeguards.

PSB aimed to conserve more than 3.600.000 hectares of native forests, páramos (high, treeless plateau), and native vegetation while also reducing poverty. This is done through outreach to holders of registered land titles that decide voluntarily to enter into *convenios* (agreements) with the MAE to place all or part of their lands and resources into a conservation area in exchange for bi- or tri-annual incentive payments that correspond to a specific Investment Plan developed by the title holders (individuals or communities). The PSB’s primary target were communities of indigenous peoples and Afro-Ecuadorians.

The PSB was established and continues to be implemented consistent with the national Constitution, and various policies, REDD+ guidelines, national laws and Ecuador's duties and obligations under international law related to forest management, biodiversity, conservation, public participation, non-discrimination, and human rights (particularly of indigenous peoples and minorities), among others. The above-referenced SOI names a number of these policies, laws and regulations (*PLRs*) that as applied, contributed to complementing or improving consistency with the Cancun Safeguards (i.e. Convention on Biological Diversity, the Climate Change Convention, ILO 169, the Organic Code on Territorial organization, autonomy and decentralization, UN-REDD Guidelines on FPIC, the National Strategy for the Sustainable Forestry Development, and the National Incentive Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of National Patrimony). In application, for instance, the property rights of indigenous peoples as recognized under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*UNDRIP*) and the Constitution of Ecuador (including their right to own, administer and conserve their resources, to maintain their own governance institutions, define their own development priorities, and freely provide their consent or not as a basis for the process and terms of the PSB *convenios* and the autonomy of the communities to place their lands within these incentivized conservation areas and draft their own investment plans.

As required by UNFCCC REDD+ decisions, a system has been developed for providing information on how the activities of the PSB and other policies and measures are implemented to complement and ensure consistency with the Cancun safeguards and consequently, the national forest programs and relevant international conventions and agreements (the Safeguards Information System (*SIS*)). The REDD+ *SIS* facilitates sharing, compiling, analyzing and reporting of project information among relevant government institutions, project bodies, and stakeholders about the safeguards, including consistency with applicable *PLRs*. The *SIS*, while constantly evolving and advancing, has been designed to date, along with a matrix of principles, criteria and preliminary set of indicators for monitoring and assessing safeguard compliance. The processes have been established and going forward, the *SIS* will be fully automated. Links to the *SIS* design and related *SIS* documents can be found at: <http://reddecuador.com/sistema-de-informacion-de-salvaguardas/>.

Additional information on complementation and consistency with *PLRs* can be found in the Environmental and Social Assessment (*ESA*) of the PSB found in the Annex VI to this FP.

- (ii) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.

The Sistema de Evaluación, Monitoreo y Postulación (*SEMOP*) (Evaluation, Monitoring and Application System) was used to inform the work of the PSB staff and partners. The Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques (National System for Forest Monitoring) was developed in the context of REDD+ readiness as required by UNFCCC REDD+ decisions. With respect to the latter, the MAE, with the support of KfW is undertaking efforts to strengthen the system with the implementation of the SEPAL platform (Data Access System for Land Observation, Processing and Analysis for Monitoring the land surface) developed by the FAO. This will improve detection of deforestation and improve response measures to mitigate and avoid future harms. Both systems are connected to the *SIS*, improving the capacities of national and local governance entities and systems to manage the nation's forests and coordinate actions along multiple institutions from the top down and the bottom up. This integration process will be further reinforced through the GEF/GCF ProAmazonia programme (component 4).

Transparency is achieved in several ways within the REDD+ programming, including the sharing of conservation results, forest monitoring reports, and the accountability regarding the distribution of incentives and uses of the incentive payments among the parties to the PSB agreements. This information is also available on the PSB website, which is updated every 6 months, except for the specific agreements. Also, at present, documents related to each of the specific programme related to the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan can be found on their respective webpages. MAE is in the process of consolidating all the REDD+ related- material under one website that will be user friendly. This will make access to information simpler and eventually facilitate the sharing of information relevant to the REDD+ Action Plan and its respective activities across institutions (i.e. so that one unified system allows the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment to see and share in real time the same maps, threat forecasts, conservation and conversion results, land ownership, concession information and more).

Financial efficiency, accountability and transparency of the national government has also been strengthened. The PSB provides a clear, transparent, and objective formula for prioritizing areas to be eligible for conservation based on poverty and environmental factors. These formulas and the incentive payment structure are further designed to maximize the surface area to be conserved while sharing opportunities equitably and minimizing

transaction costs. Parties to the contracts must provide a regular accounting of how incentives were used (a standard template is provided for ease), and the government must also publicly describe how the project's funds have been disbursed and the extent to which its objectives have been reached. The success of the programme has attracted additional external resources aimed at sustaining the 20-year contracts and mitigate risks of reversals.

The PSB also strengthens governance structures at the local level. For instance, socios (those landowners entering into the conservation/incentive agreements with the MAE) are overwhelming from native communities (indigenous peoples) and to a lesser extent, Afro-Ecuadorian communities. The PSB assists such collectives to clarify their land tenure security, report and resolve incursions of trespassers and external threats to the forests and biodiversity within their territories, and to consolidate their territory management systems over time (contracts have a 20-year term) aimed at conservation and sustainable use of resources). The communities also participate in monitoring and the design of conservation management plans. The project provides financial and/or technical assistance, capacity, and training to these community (often traditional) governing structures and their land teams to support their forest monitoring and reporting. Indigenous governance structures are also strengthened by requiring that they take decisions per their own mechanisms (assemblies, councils of elders, etc.) regarding the submission of their collective lands into the areas of conservation, as well as the use of the of incentive payments –each of which contributes to the development of local governance recognition, capacity and accountability (consistent with applicable laws providing for consultation and FPIC, the recognition of the juridical personality of such communities, rights to self-governance and control over their natural resources). Coordination between local and national institutions to improve forest management is also maintained through communications with coordinators from each zone and the sharing of monitoring reports.

Each of the contracts also have a dispute resolution mechanism and there is a separate complaint mechanism via the MAE and Direcciones Provinciales. Forest governance is strengthened as these private actors and relevant government officials, including within MAE's Dirección Nacional Forestal, work together to resolve conflicts that arise (often as between landowners, trespassers and landowners, and within the nation's land registration offices). Together they work to provide solutions to threats to the forest such as illegal logging and unauthorized agricultural activities.

Additional information on transparency and national forest governance structures can be found in the ESA of the PSB found in the Annex VI.

- (iii) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Considering the overlaps of community lands with forests, and the desire to reduce poverty, the PSB, consistent with the REDD+ Action Plan, looks to reduce poverty and conserve forests where they are –in this case, with significant overlaps with indigenous peoples' and local community lands. Consequently, over 90% of the agreements are with communities and over 87% of the lands under conservation belong to said communities. Beneficiaries of the PSB have included the indigenous peoples of the kichwas, shuar, Saparos, Shiwiar, Sionas, Chachis, Cofanes, Huaorani and Achuar. Additionally, the local communities of Afro-Ecuadorians have entered into numerous *convenios* via the PSB.

The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are expressly recognized in operative documents around PSB, including Resolution No. 281, "*Norma Técnica para el Control y Seguimiento de Planes de Inversión de Socios Colectivos del Proyecto Socio Bosque*" (Technical Standard for the Control and Monitoring of Investment Plans of Collective Partners of the Socio Bosque Project). This resolution establishes that the MAE must observe and guarantee the rights of indigenous communities, peoples and nationalities as reflected in Article 57 of the Constitution.

Fulfilling State duties and obligations regarding the rights of these communities and peoples (per its Constitution, UNDRIP, ILO 169, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and other international agreements), the incentive payments provided these populations with much need resources and technical assistance to advance their autonomously designed development strategies that provide for their improved well-being, especially in matters of health, education, transport, women's initiatives, sustainable livelihoods around agricultural and tourism endeavors, and improved consolidation and management of their resources and territory. Furthermore, the requirements and processes for these communities to participate in

the PSB respect indigenous land titles, indigenous decision-making processes, rights to FPIC, traditional governing structures, indigenous knowledge around conservation and the importance of cultural heritage. For instance, the vetting of applications requires a due diligence process to demonstrate clarity in the land title and ownership information thereby ensuring against the violation of the land rights of participants as well as those that might have otherwise had overlapping claims. Furthermore, required channels of communication throughout the agreement period facilitates long-term government compliance with its duty to ensure the undisturbed use and enjoyment of ancestral lands by these communities. *Socios* (parties) to the contracts report and address third party illegal interference and harms to their lands. The agreements are structured to ensure continued ownership, possession and use of the lands and resources for non-commercial and subsistence means, and continuation of traditional practices (i.e. use of medicinal plants, sacred site access).

The programme is voluntary, not an imposed conservation construct, and one that respects and prioritizes autonomous decision-making of the communities. Partnering indigenous peoples are limited in their use of the natural resources subject to the contracts. In other circumstances, this limitation might constitute a violation of their right to property. The prior informed consent secured beforehand, and the voluntary nature of the programme addresses this matter. Also, indigenous peoples' rights to a remedy and access to justice are furthered by a system for advancing complaints and controversies via the Ministry, as well as a provincial directorates. An online form for presenting "*denuncias*" (complaints) was also made available. The MAE Transparente Online system for filing complaints can be accessed at <http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/mae-transparente>. As discussed above, a grievance mechanism specific to the National REDD+ Action plan has additionally been drafted and almost finalized for the new activities proposed for the use of proceeds.

Women, representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and Afro-Ecuadorians also have participated in numerous capacity and information sessions, received culturally appropriate oral and written information about the PSB to ensure informed decision-making and awareness of the opportunities around the PSB. Consultations with these representatives –especially during the pilot phases of the project, resulted in various changes to the PSB Operations Manuals and other operative documents (i.e. early concerns that the programme would divide communities and discriminate against those that do not yet have formal recognition of their territories led to a revision providing a pathway to participation for indigenous peoples with untiled lands.)

Representatives of indigenous communities are also represented in the National REDD+ Roundtable (Mesa REDD+), and technical working groups. Technical working groups were created to support REDD+ Readiness Process which is not limited to the PSB. Some members of the Mesa REDD+ are also PSB beneficiaries. However, this is not by design, indeed members of the Mesa REDD+ were selected through an open public process.

In terms of indigenous and local community women, while collective titles are not typically held by a single man or woman (making such disaggregated data moot), analysis shows that approximately 20% of the received incentive benefits were directed to women's issues (a percentage the REDD+ RBP programme hopes to increase with the newly proposed activities). Furthermore, evaluations have indicated that decision-making around incentives (benefit sharing) arrangements still require more inclusivity of women. In light of these findings, UNDP commissioned and completed several studies on gender to increase the role of women in REDD+ programming going forward. (For more on this, see section E below as well as the results of the ESA, ESMF in Annex VI and the Gender Assessment and Action Plan found in the Annex XIII).

In addition, during the PSB programming and efforts to develop the REDD+ Action Plan, with stakeholder consultation and input a National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD + Actions in Lands or Collective Territories was adopted respecting indigenous peoples' land rights, governing institutions and FPIC (described more fully below in C.1.1).

Further information on the respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the activities eligible for results-based payments can be found in the ESA of the PSB found in the Annex VI.

- (iv) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of 1/CP.16.

On this matter, please refer to the relevant comments in section (iii) above, and to section C.1.1 (below) for a full response to the program's consistency with this safeguard. See also the SOI at section 3.4 describing the involvement of all stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples and local communities. Overall, between 2012

and 2018, 14 meetings of the *Mesa de Trabajo* REDD+ took place. There were focused on topics such as grievance mechanisms, safeguards, consultation and consent mechanisms, benefit distributions and participatory monitoring and verification; 21 workshops carried out with stakeholders, and 45 training/capacity sessions with indigenous and local communities with the disaggregated data for female and male participation. A complete summary of all these consultations can be found in Annex XIII.

Additionally, it should be highlighted that *in 2014 alone*, the period for which the results-based payments are sought, there were 10 meetings of the *Mesa de Trabajo* REDD+. The *Mesa* is composed of one representative from academia; two from the private sector; two from national NGOs; one organization representing women; one representing young people; and, finally, three organizations representing indigenous groups. The members are chosen through an open public process, in which organizations of different sectors can apply to become members, this selection process is renewed periodically, every two years. The *Mesa* addressed and will continue to consider issues related to potential risks of REDD + implementation and the need for effective implementation of social and environmental safeguards. In one of these meetings, the methodological document for the design of the SIS and the Matrix of principles, criteria and indicators of safeguards were reviewed. In another, the drafting of the project grievance mechanism was deliberated. Also, during 2014 alone, the country had several information briefing sessions (including with indigenous communities) – allowing for the socialization of information on (i) past events and their results, (ii) the gathering comments and contributions, (iii) promoting or enriching the knowledge of various actors on climate change and REDD +, (iv) making information on REDD + standards and institutions transparent, and (v) strengthening capacities.

Furthermore, as noted above, stakeholders are not only the direct partners in the PSB with substantial responsibilities for achieving the rights-based conservation and poverty reduction goals of the project, but they are also direct beneficiaries of the project (through the incentive programme and the project's strengthening of tenure security, respect for property rights, resource protection, and local community and indigenous peoples' governance structures and decision-making). These same populations –consistent with other National REDD+ initiatives – have also played a role in influencing the design and implementation modalities of the project. As indicated above, the project's Operations Manual is in its fifth iteration (four others were adopted previously by Ministerial resolution). Through regular consultation with stakeholders (especially the earliest consultations in October of 2008 (Quito) and Lago Agrio (2009), and then stakeholder collaborations within the pilot phases of the programme (in Morona Santiago and Esmeraldas), the manual underwent a number of changes to address stakeholder concerns including those around land conflicts, transparency in community decision-making, discrimination between communities with titles and those still waiting for government recognitions of their lands, and fears that the payment structures only incentivized participation of large land owners.

The project also financed numerous outreach programs where Socio Bosque teams and project “promotores” (promoters) went into the communities with presentations and user-friendly pamphlets (many in simple Q&A formats) and carried out education and capacity building sessions to share relevant information about the project's scope, potential benefits, and the manner in which the project protected their internationally and nationally human rights to their lands, a healthy environment, use and conservation of their resources and territories, and self-governance. These sessions contributed to informed decision-making of the communities and landowners. (Examples of some of these outreach documents can be found at <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/node/595>. The website includes various other manuals, formulas, templates and instructional documents to ensure stakeholder effective and informed participation in the project and fulfillment of their responsibilities as conservation partners).

Stakeholders were also provided technical and financial resources to ensure that they had access to the program. Socio Bosque assisted stakeholders in gathering required application materials (i.e. official titles, juridical personality certifications, bank information), developing and implementing their community investment plans and monitoring programs. Project staff and competent government officials have also accompanied communities to resolve disputes and land registration irregularities and comply with their required land monitoring obligations. The participatory monitoring has both empowered these populations, made them invaluable partners in the project's implementation, and left invaluable capacity within the communities in question.

A recent external academic review of PSB showed that there was wide stakeholder participation in the decisions of collectives to put their lands into the project (typically via community assemblies and participation in Socio Bosque briefing sessions). A lesson learned from this review, based on beneficiary interviews, showed that despite the project's various training and briefing sessions, awareness and participation around the project's respect for their rights, distribution of benefits, required monitoring and other *convenio* implementation, it was a challenge to sustain community awareness and engagement after the *convenio* was concluded. This

showed the need in the future for sustained engagements and assistance to communities to disseminate information. Additional efforts are also being made to increase the distribution of benefits to women and ensure increased engagement of women in the project after the conclusion of *convenios* (as well as more *convenios* with women where individual landowners were in question). In some cases, cultural practices make this inclusion a challenge. Considering this experience, REDD+ has engaged several studies that have made recommendations to increase inclusion going forward in the use of proceeds phase –especially where some of the activities will be building upon the work done with PSB socios that signed agreements with the Government. (See section E below)

Additional information on this safeguard is also provided in the ESA found in the Annex VI.

- (v) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.

The stated objectives of the PSB are aligned with this safeguard. The PSB is a project that directly provides an incentive to mestizo, Afro-Ecuadorian, and indigenous communities to voluntarily commit themselves to the conservation and protection of the nation's native forests, *páramos* and other native vegetation coverage. The incentive (a regular transfer of funds provided, according to a formula based on area conserved), is specifically conditioned on the conservation and protection of these ecosystems. Those that sign the agreements are expressly required to limit their uses within the areas covered by the agreement to avoid deforestation, conversion and damage to biological diversity. For instance, as described by the Operations Manual (*Acuerdo Ministerial N° 130 Manual Operativo*, 14 September 2012), felling trees, changing the use of the land, introducing foreign species of flora, and limiting the capacity of the area to serve as a biodiversity refuge are forbidden.

Furthermore, the definitions used by the PSB are fully consistent with this safeguard. The operations manual of the PSB states that *native forest* (Bosque Nativo) is considered to be any plant formation composed of native species, and resulting from a natural process of ecological succession. In addition, that plant formation must provide two or more of the three environmental services detailed below: biodiversity refuge, hydrological regulation, and carbon storage. The following are excluded from the definition of native forest:

- Forest plantations destined to the commercialization of wood.
- Plantations with exotic species.
- Secondary forests that have started their process of natural regeneration after 1990 or, that evidence extraction of wood.

Additionally, in response to stakeholder comments, community lands found within State Natural Areas of Patrimony (*Áreas dentro del Patrimonio de Áreas Naturales del Estado*, or PANE) can now be subject to PSB contracts, ensuring additional conservation and participation of local title holders in the preservation of these protected areas. Partners to the agreements are required to comply with and not engage in activities counter to the area's management plans. These same parties must take positive actions, for instance, to prevent fires, and permit the access of the MAE to carry out investigations, assessments and monitoring.

In terms of social benefits, in addition to the ones mentioned above, the selection of priority geographic areas targeted by the PSB is done by a weighted formula which includes the factor, "level of poverty of the population". In light of socio-economic data on various mestizo, Afro Ecuadorian and indigenous communities, the project therefore favors providing benefits to underserved populations. Analysis has shown that the incentive payments have contributed not only to the conservation and sustainable resource management of these communities, but also projects related to education, housing, health, ecotourism, other sustainable agricultural activities to improve the livelihoods of the people, as well as initiatives to preserve and revitalize cultural practices and activities such handicrafts, dance, and use of ancestral medicines.

Further information is described in the ESA of the PSB found in the Annex VI.

- (vi) Actions to address the risks of reversals.

In the context of REDD+ preparations, analyses of deforestation in the country not only generated estimates of deforestation rates, deforestation maps, and information on drivers of deforestation, but also identified potential causes of reversals of positive impacts, in order to inform mitigation measures going forward. Among others, the mitigation measures included those aimed at:

- i) improving institutional capacities to implement and enforce REDD+ measures and related policies, laws and regulations to support each of the four REDD+ pillars;
- ii) designing REDD + measures and actions, based on incentives and the sustainability of policies; and
- iii) developing and implementing actions with the collaboration of diverse actors and in response to local circumstances and interests, as well as national priorities.

In many ways, the PSB has provided a REDD+ model in practice, for sustainability and avoidance of reversals. For instance, government institutions involved in the identification, selection, vetting, and monitoring of conservation areas have secured increased capacity, resources, and information to manage forests alone and in coordination with each other (including the regional/provincial directorates of MAE, the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as relevant land registration and survey offices, and conflict specialists). As noted above, local governing institutions have actively participated to their benefit (and with technical and financial assistance) —in measures to maintain, monitor and report on forest and vegetation cover, sustainable use, and unauthorized interferences with conservation initiatives. The project’s emphasis on linking conservation with indigenous land tenure has precedent for cost effectiveness and sustainability over time. (see *The Economic Costs and Benefits of Securing Community Forest Tenure: Evidence from Brazil and Guatemala*, (WRI, 2015)).

Additionally, the twenty (20) year terms for the conservation agreements, the regular bi-annual and tri-annual incentive payments based on regular community-level reporting (at least every two years), combined with government monitoring and auditing, capacity building, respect and strengthening of community institutions and decision-making —all create an environment of accountability, a viable, lengthy period of sustainability, and regular motivation to continue producing positive results.

In this proposal, Ecuador is seeking results-based payments for the 4,831,679 tCO₂e emission reductions achieved on a national scale, in 2014. Recent measurements show no evidence of reversals of these emissions reductions in the following years for which data are available (2015-2016). To the contrary, the average annual deforestation rate (ha/yr) fell further over the period 2015-2016 leading to an increase in average annual emissions reductions (tCO₂eq/yr). Table 3 below shows how emission reductions from deforestation in Ecuador have increased over time.

Table 15: Emission Reductions from deforestation in Ecuador

Ecuador’s First Reference Level	Reference Period	2000-2008
	Average annual deforestation rate (ha/yr)	108,650
	Emissions (tCO ₂ eq/yr)	43,418,126
Emission Reductions Reported in the First BUR (2016) based on Ecuador first FREL	Results Period	2009-2014
	Average annual deforestation rate (ha/yr)	97,918
	Emissions (tCO ₂ eq/yr)	38,586,447
Emission reduction achieved based on Ecuador’s First FREL (internal reports)	Average annual emissions reductions (tCO ₂ eq/yr)	4,831,679
	Results Period	2015-2016
	Average annual deforestation rate (ha/yr)	94,353
Emissions (tCO ₂ eq/yr)		38,183,260
	Average annual emissions reductions (tCO ₂ eq/yr)	5,234,866

All of this information suggests that actions to address the risk of reversals have so far been effective in Ecuador.

Additional information on measures taken by PBS to avoid reversals were examined in the ESA of the PSB found in the Annex VI.

- (vii) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

Beyond the information provided in the SOI on actions to reduce displacement of emissions undertaken in Ecuador, it is important to recognize that Ecuador is implementing its National REDD+ Action Plan.

Having a national FREL and national forest monitoring system allows Ecuador to monitor possible displacement of emissions from deforestation within the national forest area and to focus on ensuring that REDD+ results can be measured, reported and verified at the national scale, in line with UNFCCC requirements outlined in the Warsaw Framework and related COP decisions. While potential displacement of deforestation emissions to degradation emissions has not yet been considered, MAE is currently implementing the SEPAL platform which will generate results to assess inclusion of degradation as a new REDD+ activity and technical workshops have been held to advance discussions and define criteria to measure forest degradation and agree on the methodology to be applied to future estimates (see also B.1.1viii of this proposal).

The REDD+ Action Plan is a multifaceted initiative to achieve results at the national scale. Emission reductions result from a series of interrelationships of different enabling policies (e.g. inter-institutional coordination) and direct investments made in the field (e.g. subsidies to farmer). Given that there is an integrated package of policies and measures in the REDD+ Action Plan to address the drivers of deforestation on a national scale, the risk of displacement is reduced. For example, existing incentives programs like the Socio Bosque Project (PSB) or the Agenda for the Productive Transformation of the Amazon (ATPA) could - if these were the only programs - displace emissions outside of the areas covered by the programs, thereby counteracting the positive GHG mitigation effects. However, the REDD+ Action Plan also promotes policies and a legal framework to create positive incentives to stop deforestation or the drivers of deforestation. This includes forest control measures to stop illegal activities as well as support for the development and enforcement of land-use planning across the landscape. In fact, understanding the risks of displacement and the existence of threats to other land-use categories outside of forest is another major objective of the National Action Plan. Through a series of Ministerial resolutions, the PSB expanded its conservation goals to cover not only at-risk forests, but also the countries' native vegetation cover, such as mangroves and páramos (*Acuerdo Ministerial N° 130 Manual Operativo*, 14 September 2012; *Acuerdo Ministerial N° 198 Manual Operativo*, 9 July 2014).

Further information on measures taken during the PSB development and implementation to avoid displacement can be found in the ESA of the PSB found in the Annex VI.

C.1.2. Stakeholder involvement.

Please describe and provide evidence that the Cancun safeguards information was made transparently available to stakeholders.

Within the safeguard D action framework, for the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of 1/CP.16. , Ecuador developed and promoted three types of spaces for dialogue, these were the National REDD-plus roundtable at the national level, the Technical Working Groups and the local spaces for dialogue.

The creation and operations of the National REDD-plus Roundtable included civil society as well as indigenous peoples and public actors which together are representative of the Ecuadorian society. In complement to this, actions and mechanisms to strengthen capacities to socialize information and to train in issues related to climate change, forests and REDD-plus.

The National REDD-plus Roundtable was the national space for citizen participation that facilitated the dialogue, involvement, participation and monitoring of the different processes by the actors, in the framework of the preparation for the implementation of the REDD-plus approach. This REDD-plus Working Group was made up of representatives of civil society (academic, private sector, national NGOs and women's and youth organizations) and representatives of indigenous communities, peoples and nationalities, Afro-Ecuadorian people, Montubio people and communes; it was governed by principles of public deliberation, responsibility, co-responsibility, information and transparency, interculturality and equality.

During 2014 there were 10 meetings of the REDD-plus Working Table, which addressed issues related to potential risks of REDD-plus implementation and needs for effective implementation of social and environmental safeguards. Each of these meetings counted on average with the participation of 11 organizations. It should be noted that one of the meetings was attended by additional actors from the regular members of the Bureau, who sought to receive feedback regarding the methodological document for the design of the Safeguards Information System and the Matrix of principles, criteria and indicators of safeguards.

In addition, various Working Groups were structured as technical participation spaces made up of members of the REDD-plus Working Table and other experts and stakeholders. These spaces were intended to feed back

the proposals associated with specific REDD-plus issues. Six groups were formed: registration, consultation, dispute resolution, safeguards, distribution of benefits, MRV. In the year 2014, 7 meetings of the aforementioned working groups were held.

During 2014, the country had several information dissemination mechanisms, which allowed the socialization of information on (i) events and their results, (ii) gathering comments and contributions, (iii) promoting or enriching the knowledge of various actors on climate change and REDD-plus, (iv) to make information on REDD-plus standards and institutions transparent, and (v) to strengthen capacities.

Information on the areas of work and progress in the country was shared through four types of dissemination mechanisms: 1) information presented on the web pages of the MAE, the UN-REDD Joint National Program (PNC) and UN-REDD global; 2) preparation of informative notes of events and monthly bulletins that were distributed through the web pages or via email; 3) promotion of events and dissemination of information through social media networks (facebook, twitter and youtube) and 4) workshops for dissemination, information gathering and training.

The target audience for these mechanisms included national institutions or organizations linked to REDD-plus, international organizations and actors from countries related to the implementation of REDD-plus, communities, peoples and nationalities, associations and local representatives.

These dissemination mechanisms allowed for the sharing of information and also enabled the establishment of interactive spaces for receiving comments, suggestions and contributions, as well as clarifying doubts or questions.

In addition, the country developed a process to define how consultation for REDD-plus in collective lands and territories would take place; it considered the national normative framework on rights and international standards associated with effective and meaningful participation, good faith consultations, and where applicable, free, prior and informed consent. This process promotes the recognition and respect of different forms of coexistence, social organization, exercise of authority and proper forms of governance and dispute resolution.

In this sense, recognizing the critical role of communities, peoples and nationalities, and in general, of forest-dependent collectives for long-term sustainability and REDD-plus effectiveness, and in line with the Constitution and international agreements ratified by Ecuador, the MAE led the preparation of the National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD-plus Actions in Lands or Collective Territories. This was supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Civil Society, represented through the REDD-plus Working Group, among other actors, who contributed to the participatory development of the Guide. This work began in 2012, and during 2014 four workshops were held, one national and the rest subnational (provinces of Esmeraldas, Pastaza and Sucumbíos) for the development of the guide. These events were attended by members of local communities and indigenous peoples, WEM provincial departments, Decentralized Autonomous Governments and members of the REDD-plus Working Table. As a result of the aforementioned workshops, there is a National Consultation Guide for the Implementation of REDD-plus Actions in Lands or Collective Territories, which contains the guidelines that should be considered for the implementation of REDD-plus measures and actions in territories of communities, peoples and nationalities; and which is based on constitutional and international standards and on the obligation of the State to guarantee the collective rights recognized in such instruments.

C.2. Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits

C.2.1. General description:

Provide a description on how the proceeds will be reinvested in activities consistent with the country's NDC, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low carbon development plans and policies. The description should also include how the proceeds will be used in a manner that contributes to the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities, including non-carbon benefits.

Ecuador is currently working on its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with the aim of submitting to the UNFCCC in the first quarter of 2019.

Ecuador's National REDD-plus Action Plan (AP) (<http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/web/suia/redd>) was developed during the readiness phase, it was officially issued through the [Ministerial Decree No. 116](#) and it covers the national continental territory. The Action Plan builds on the Policies and Measures (PAMs) that the government

has been implementing since 2008 to reduce deforestation and lists those PAMs that have been prioritized by Ecuador to address the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and to tackle the barriers to sustainable management of forests, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks⁷ in line with UNFCCC decisions with regard to REDD-plus national strategies and action plans. The Action Plan also describes the legal context and the institutional arrangements for implementation.

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

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

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

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

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

Ecuador will use the proceeds from results-based payments to invest in activities that support the implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan alongside other sources of domestic and international finance, namely: the ProAmazonia Programme⁸ funded by the GEF (12.5M USD) and GCF (41.2M USD) and implemented with support from UNDP, the KfW REM Programme funded by Norway and Germany (approx. 50M USD), and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) to be implemented with support from the World Bank in the future (approx. 24M USD although this finance is not secured).

These various sources of finance are being closely coordinated by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador to ensure complementarity. The table below outlines the proposed outputs to be delivered with the use of proceeds and their relation to the National REDD-plus Action Plan as well as with the existing support provided by the GCF. It is also estimated that approximately 26.4 M USD from the REM programme will be used to support the outputs proposed in this RBP project. The FIP is expected to start implementation in 2020. It is expected that FIP investments will focus on the coastal forested regions of Ecuador, namely Manabi and Esmeraldas. Over the course of 2019 future FIP investments will be planned with the aim of complementing other sources.

Table 16: Support provided by ProAmazonia and GCF RBP to the national REDD+ Action Plan

National REDD+ Action Plan Components	ProAmazonia outputs and activities	REDD-plus RBP Project Outputs and Activities
National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Component 1 – SC1 - Policies and institutional	C.1 Investment in enabling policies to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions.	Output 1 Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus Activity 1.1. Implementing land use plans at the local level

⁷ The national REDD+ AP of Ecuador includes measures and actions associated to all 5 REDD+ activities; however, the country presented a FREL for the deforestation activity...and is currently working on incorporating the other activities.

⁸ ProAmazonia combines the GCF Project, “Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation” and the GEF project “Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Value Conservation Forests” into an integrated programme to support the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan and National biodiversity Strategy in the Amazon.

<p>management for REDD-plus</p>	<p>1.1 PDOTs and Life Plans updated and implemented with climate change criteria and actions.</p> <p>1.2 Local capacity building for supervision of land-use planning and zoning.</p> <p>1.3. Strengthening forest control</p> <p>1.4 Formal Inter-institutional coordination structures within the framework of land-use plans, life plans and land-use zoning.</p>	<p>Activity 1.2. Improving the management of land rights within Protective Forests and National Protected Areas.</p>
<p>National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Component 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems</p>	<p>C.2 Implementation of financial and economic incentives towards the transition to sustainable production systems in non- forest areas.</p> <p>2.1 Direct payment incentives for the sustainable production transition period.</p> <p>2.2 Promote the articulation and implementation of existing tax incentives that will allow for the transition to sustainable production systems.</p> <p>2.3 Support the re design of public credit lines to reorient them to sustainable production practices.</p> <p>2.4 Public and private responsible procurement for deforestation-free production</p> <p>2.5 Certification and traceability of deforestation-free products.</p>	<p>Output 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems;</p> <p>Activity 2.1. Establishing a private-public partnership for marketing deforestation-free commodities from the Amazon</p>
<p>National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Components 3 and 4</p> <p>SC 3 - Sustainable forest management; and</p> <p>SC 4 - Conservation and restoration.</p>	<p>C.3 Financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity</p> <p>3.1 Strengthen conservation, restoration and forest management processes driven through the National Incentives Project Socio Bosque</p> <p>3.2 Strengthen mechanisms for an integrated water resource management (IWRM) in the basins located within prioritized areas.</p>	<p>Output 3. Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration.</p> <p>Activity 3.1. Supporting the business case for forests: supporting SMEs</p> <p>Activity 3.2. R&D on industrial uses of NTFP and other deforestation-free products</p> <p>Activity 3.3. Increasing forest restoration efforts in the south west region of Ecuador</p>

<p>National REDD+ Action Plan Operational components :</p> <p>OC1 - REDD-plus Policies & measures management;</p> <p>OC2 - Monitoring and reference level; OC3 - Safeguards for REDD-plus;</p> <p>OC4 - Capacity building and knowledge management;</p> <p>OC5 - Stakeholder engagement and communication.</p>	<p>C.4 Implementation of REDD+ systems (on information of safeguards and on forest monitoring) and REDD+ national fund</p> <p>4.1 Support in the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other operational processes.</p> <p>4.2 Operationalization of the financial architecture of REDD+ AP</p>	<p>Output 4. Operational Management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan</p> <p>Activity 4.1. Strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Environment to manage the implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan</p> <p>Activity 4.2. Improving the National Forest Monitoring System capacity to monitor forest degradation</p> <p>Activity 4.3. Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds</p> <p>Activity 4.4. Strengthening REDD-plus Implementation in Indigenous Territories</p>
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Output 1 Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus (National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Component 1)

Activity 1.1. Implementing land use plans at the local level

Under the Strategic Component 1 of the REDD-plus Action Plan, which objective is to articulate inter-sectoral and governmental policies and mainstream climate change and REDD-plus in public policies and in the main instruments of territorial planning at the level of GAD and communities, peoples and nationalities, under the action plan measure of “Land use and zoning of the agricultural and forestry frontier”, the local governments have begun the process of updating their local land use plans (PDOTs) to include climate change criteria and actions.

Through this output the Project will support the implementation of REDD-plus actions identified in each Land Use Plan (LUP) by local governments or Planes de Vida by Indigenous Peoples, or REDD+ Implementation Plans by other institutions. A mechanism of direct funding will be used to transfer resources to local governments, NGOs, Institutes or other entities, that will help to execute REDD-plus actions, through the implementation of those land use plans. A first transfer will be done based on a plan and based on results of compliance of land use plans, a second transfer will be granted. This mechanism will allow Local Governments to be incentivized to implement REDD-plus actions and monitor their progress. A correct implementation of these activities will increase conservation of natural resources, protect watersheds, increase resilience and incentivize the use of sustainable production and consumption practices.

Activity 1.2. Improving the management of land rights within Protective Forests (*bosques protectores*) and the National Protected Areas.

The Organic Law Rural Lands and Ancestral Territories established that the Ministry of Environment within a period of two years after the subscription of this law, the National Environmental Authority must regularize the right of ownership or pre-existing agrarian possession after the declaration of the protected area, in favor of the current owners or regular possessors.

Protective Forests and National Protected Areas in Ecuador have management plans, which include land use plans of the conservation area. These plans include the implementation of productive activities under a sustainable land use focus. To guarantee the correct implementation of these land use plans, through this output the project will support the development of a baseline and information system of the monitoring of land use zoning within the Protective Forests, including land rights. If certain areas are identified as not having clear land titles the project will support the regularization of those areas in order to guarantee the correct implementation of management plans by the legal enforcement of land use zoning. Considering that main driver of deforestation is

the expansion of the agricultural frontier, these actions will help to maintain the forest areas while promoting a sustainable land use management and production of deforestation free commodities and preserving ecosystem services in Protective Forests.

Output 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems (National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Component 2)

Activity 2.1. Establishing a private-public partnership for marketing deforestation-free commodities from the Amazon

To continue the support of the transition to sustainable agricultural production systems, the project will engage with the private sector for the creation of private-public partnership that produce and sell deforestation-free commodities produced in the Amazon Region. Through this output, different value chains will be supported, and a management model will be developed to guarantee an increase in investments from both sectors and have greater rates of return, benefitting local producers directly while eliminating middlemen in the chain. The focus of these partnerships is transformation of the production systems by allowing producers to focus not only of the production of raw materials, but also help them develop industries to have finished goods that can be sold in national and international markets.

Output 3. Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration. (National REDD-plus Action Plan Strategic Components 3 and 4)

Activity 3.1. Supporting the business case for forests: supporting SMEs

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are key to promoting the economic development of rural communities who live and depend directly of forests. Supporting businesses that can be created from a sustainable integral production is a strategy that can help boost employment rates and revenues in local communities. Based on the results of the research and development done for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) (activity 3.2), the project will work in productive value chains through the creation of business clusters. These clusters will allow the participation of different stakeholders that can work in the different stages of the value chain, including the production and extraction of raw materials from the forests, processing, and the creation of finished goods. This will allow that these SMEs create added value products that come from NTFP, with access to national and international markets. These business case will be focused on the regions of Sierra and Costa.

Activity 3.2. R&D on industrial uses of NTFP and other deforestation-free products

Support will be provided to national research centers and universities for research projects related to bioeconomy with a focus on identifying innovative uses of NTFP so that local communities can move from raw materials-based economies to finished goods and value-added products economies.

Activity 3.3. Increasing forest restoration efforts in the southwest region of Ecuador.

The project will develop a study and a base line to establish the levels of soil degradation in the south western region of the country, all these with the purpose to support the implementation of soil rehabilitation in zones with processes of desertification; also maintenance actions will be implemented in areas under restoration. The south western region of Ecuador has been selected because is one of the areas with the greatest forest coverage lost during the past years; in the period of 2014-2016 the gross deforestation rate was established in 2,411 ha per year, consequently, 1.34% of natural vegetation is lost annually. Through the project, agreements will be signed with key stakeholders (mancomunidades, water funds, parrochial governments, ect) in the prioritized areas to implement soil rehabilitation activities. Additionally, the project will support ongoing restoration activities by helping the maintenance of areas under restoration activities through previously signed agreements in 2014-2015. These initiatives will contribute to biodiversity conservation, water resource management, restore soil degradation, as well as increase the value of ecosystem services.

The project will also work with universities and research centers to study carbon sequestration in early restoration areas. This research will contribute to the effectiveness of restoration activities and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Output 4. Operational Management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan (National REDD+ Action Plan Operational components: OC1 - REDD+ Policies & measures management; OC2 - Monitoring and reference level; OC3 - Safeguards for REDD+; OC4 - Capacity building and knowledge management; OC5 - Stakeholder engagement and communication.

Activity 4.1. Strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Environment to manage the implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan

The Ministry of Environment currently faces the challenge of managing the implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan, a multifaceted initiative to achieve results at the national scale. Ecuador will use many sources of financing, including its own budget to achieve this. The Ministry currently faces the challenge of coordinating multiple partners supporting multiple activities with complex interrelationships of different enabling policies (e.g. inter-institutional coordination) and direct investments made in the field (e.g. subsidies to farmer). This activity will support the training and deployment of technical support personnel on the ground as well as support the operational capacities of the MAE.

Activity 4.2. Improving the National Forest Monitoring System capacity to monitor forest degradation

Ecuador has achieved great progress on the monitoring system for deforestation. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of degradation. At the moment, the country is developing a framework for the identification of a baseline through the support of KFW with a consultancy called: "Development and implementation of the degradation detection chain in one pilot area in the Ecuadorian Amazon using SEPAL". The project will complement this work and support the elaboration of a national degradation map. To achieve this, degradation activities using remote sensors will be integrated to the national forest inventory system. Additionally, local monitoring and validation will be carried out in a pilot area. Capacity building to strengthen the National Forest Monitoring System will be delivered to increase capacities of MAE officials on degradation methodologies, tools and systems. This output will allow the country to increase the scope of its Monitoring System to report deforestation and degradation, taking into account all the information already developed by FAO, which will be the responsible party for the implementation.

Activity 4.3. Implementation of Stakeholder Consultation Plan and the Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds

Implementation of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds the project will ensure that the use of proceeds meets the GCF's ESS standards. It will also contribute to the national SIS with information generation from the implementation of the ESMP. The project will also be called upon to produce reports for a Summary of Information, that will be included in Ecuador's Fourth National Communication submitted to the UNFCCC (See section E.1.2 for more details).

Activity 4.4: Strengthening REDD+ Implementation in Indigenous Territories

The REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador considers the [Amazon Indigenous REDD+ \(RIA\)](#) and [Cuencas Sagradas](#) initiatives. These REDD+ Implementation Plan was led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Amazon (CONFENIAE) with the support of the World Wildlife Fund, the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), and the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador.

This implementation plan wants to contribute to the compliance of the REDD+ Action Plan, through the sustainable management of the indigenous territories in the amazon while respecting their world view through the development and execution of sustainable projects with each nationality for a management of their landscapes and forests.

This implementation plan has four components:

- a) Land Use Planning: the amazon peoples and nationalities plan and manage their territories and foster development for their population within their "Life Plans".
- b) Deforestation Free Production: the amazon peoples and nationalities implement deforestation free production techniques and increase NTFP production supporting bioeconomy.
- c) Conservation, restauration and ancestral knowledge: the amazon peoples and nationalities implement restoration actions and legalize their territories under conservation schemes guaranteeing the protection of their ancestral knowledge, sacred places and spirituality.
- d) Strengthening their human capital and organizational capacities: the amazon peoples and nationalities strengthen their human capital and organizational capacities for the sustainable management of their territories with their world view and ancestral knowledge.

Through the application of the National Consultation Guide for the implementation of REDD-plus Actions and Measures in collective territories, areas and actions that will be implemented of this plan will be prioritized and implementation arrangements will be defined in response to their development priorities and needs.

Output 5: Project Management (See section G for details)

C.2.2. Expected outputs and outcomes:

Please provide the following information:

Table 17: Outputs of the GCF RBP project

Component(s)	Outputs	Outcomes
Implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan of Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Output 1 Policies and institutional management for REDD+ - Output 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems; - Output 3. Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration. - Output 4. Operational Management of the National REDD-plan Action Plan - Output 5. Project Management 	<p>M5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems</p> <p>5.1 Institutional and regulatory systems that improve incentives for low-emission planning and development and their effective implementation</p> <p>5.2 Number of effective coordination mechanisms</p> <p>M9.0 Improved management of land and forest</p> <p>9.1 Hectares of land or forests under improved and effective management that contributes to CO2 emission reductions</p>

C.2.3. Timeframe of implementation (for monitoring and reporting purposes):

Please provide the following information:

Table 18: Timeframe of implementation by output

Outputs	Expected year to be achieved
Output 1 Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus	Year 6
Output 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems;	Year 6
Output 3. Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration.	Year 6
Output 4. Operational Management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan	Year 6
Output 5. Project Management	Year 6

If needed, provide any additional comments/explanations:

These activities will be implemented over a 6 years period.

C.2.4. Budget estimate (for monitoring and reporting purposes):

Following the procedures of the Terms of Reference for the REDD+ pilot programme for Results-Based payments, the iTAP recommended that the Board consider the following:

- (a) Total score achieved **36/48**
- (b) GCF volume of ERs: **3,623,759 tCO₂e/tCO₂ eq**; and
- (c) Additional 2.5 per cent for use of proceeds and non-carbon elements
- (d) Proposed REDD-plus results-based payments (USD 5/tCO₂e): **USD 18,571,766**

Based on this, the budget for the proposal was finalized as described below.

Table 19: Budget by output

Output	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF proceeds Amount	Co-financing (if any)*	
			Amount	Source
Output 1 Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus	3,959,860	3,959,860	0	0
Output 2 - Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems;	1,070,279	1,070,279	0	0
Output 3. Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration.	5,878,673	5,878,673	0	0
Output 4. Operational Management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan	6,261,901	6,261,901	0	0
Output 5. Project Management	1,401,052	1,401,052	0	0
Indicative total cost and currency (USD)	18,571,766	18,571,766**	0	0

* The implementation of the National REDD+ Action plan is being supported by many domestic and international sources of finance. These are not however new and additional resources specifically linked to this funding proposal. Indeed, these resources have already been committed.

As agreed by the Recipient of the REDD+ RBP Proceeds, an additional line item is included in the project management output of the Funding Proposal budget (as detailed in Table 24: Detailed breakdown for the Project Management Costs) for an amount equivalent to 3% of the proceeds, to be utilized by UNDP for the provision of supervision services to the project. Table 20. below provides a detailed budget for the project at the activity level.

Table 20. Detailed Budget at the activity level

Output	Activity		GCF amount (USD)
Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus	1.1	Implementing land use plans at the local level	1,892,753.67
	1.2	Improving the management of land rights within Protective Forests and the National Protected Areas	2,067,106.64
Transition to sustainable agricultural production systems	2.1	Establishing a private-public mechanism for marketing deforestation-free commodities from the Amazon	1,070,279.39
Sustainable forest management; Conservation and restoration	3.1	Supporting the business case for forests: supporting SMEs	971,315.07
	3.2	R&D on industrial uses of NTFP and other deforestation-free products	600,128.00
	3.3	Increasing forest restoration efforts in the southwest region of Ecuador	4,307,230.35
Operational Management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan	4.1	Strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Environment to manage the implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan	1,560,395.67
	4.2	Improving the National Forest Monitoring System capacity to monitor forest degradation	612,038.52
	4.3	Implementation of Stakeholder Consultation Plan and the Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds	1,589,466.67
	4.4	Strengthening REDD-plus Implementation in Indigenous Territories	2,500,000.00

Project Management	5.1	Project Management	1,401,052.03
Total Budget			18,571,766

As per the Terms of reference for the pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments (section 4.5), the GCF will transfer funds through the accredited entity to the recipient defined in the funding proposal in a single disbursement after approval by the Board. The interest income from the proceeds will be reinvested in the activities of Outputs 1,2, 3 and 4. Table 21 below present the planned disbursements that UNDP will make towards the implementation of programme activities.

Table 21. Disbursement Schedule for the Implementation of Programme Activities

Description	GCF Project Funds
For Year 1 Activities	1,464,671
For Year 2 Activities	4,219,731
For Year 3 Activities	3,548,075
For Year 4 Activities	3,352,360
For Year 5 Activities	3,159,819
For Year 6 Activities	2,827,110
Total	18,571,766

C.2.5. Implementation arrangements:

The Government of Ecuador has requested UNDP's assistance for the design and implementation of this Project based on UNDP's comparative advantage, which include vast experience in supporting the Government in project implementation, its in-country presence, its large portfolio of biodiversity, climate change and REDD+ projects nationally and globally, its success in mobilizing resources, and its role as GCF Accredited Entity (AE).

The project will be implemented following UNDP's national implementation modality, according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Ecuador⁹, and the Country Programme¹⁰. It will be implemented over a period of 6 years, starting when GCF funds are disbursed to UNDP Ecuador. The implementation modality may be adjusted during implementation if and when needed, upon approval by MAE and UNDP.

The **Implementing Partner** for the project is the Ministry of Environment (MAE). The Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of GCF resources. MAE will also be responsible at the highest level for ensuring that project implementation follows the national policies and standards. The Implementing Partner is responsible for:

- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan,
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of every quarter; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

In addition, the implementing partner may enter into agreements with other organizations or entities, known as "Responsible Parties", which may carry out project activities and produce project outputs on behalf of the Implementing Partner. Responsible Parties are accountable directly to the Implementing Partner. Given the

⁹http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/operations/legal_framework/jcr_content/centerparsys/download_1/file.res/pnud_ec_Acuerdo_basico_ene2005.pdf

¹⁰http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/operations/legal_framework/jcr_content/centerparsys/download_2/file.res/pnud_ec_CPD%202015-2018.pdf

nature of this project, appropriate responsible parties will be selected and indicated, as per UNDP rules and regulations.

The implementation of this project will be closely coordinated with the Amazon Programme for the Conservation of Forests and Sustainable Production PROAmazonia, which combines the GCF approved Project, “Priming Financial and Land-Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation” and the GEF project “Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Value Conservation Forests” into an integrated programme to support the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan and National Biodiversity Strategy. In May 2017, an interinstitutional agreement was signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to create PROAmazonia and to establish the coordination and implementation mechanisms. Senplades in another key institutions for the implementation of Proamazonia and the national governance mechanism for REDD in Ecuador.

Based in the experience and with the support of PROAmazonia, the Government is currently building a **national governance mechanism for REDD+** to be the umbrella for all the REDD+ funds and activities (such as GCF, REM, FIP, others) in the country under the framework of the REDD+ Action Plan. This national governance mechanism is being built considering the arrangements set for PROAmazonia, the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in project governance and the recommendations of the ESMF, and will include a Board chaired by MAE, a Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committees.

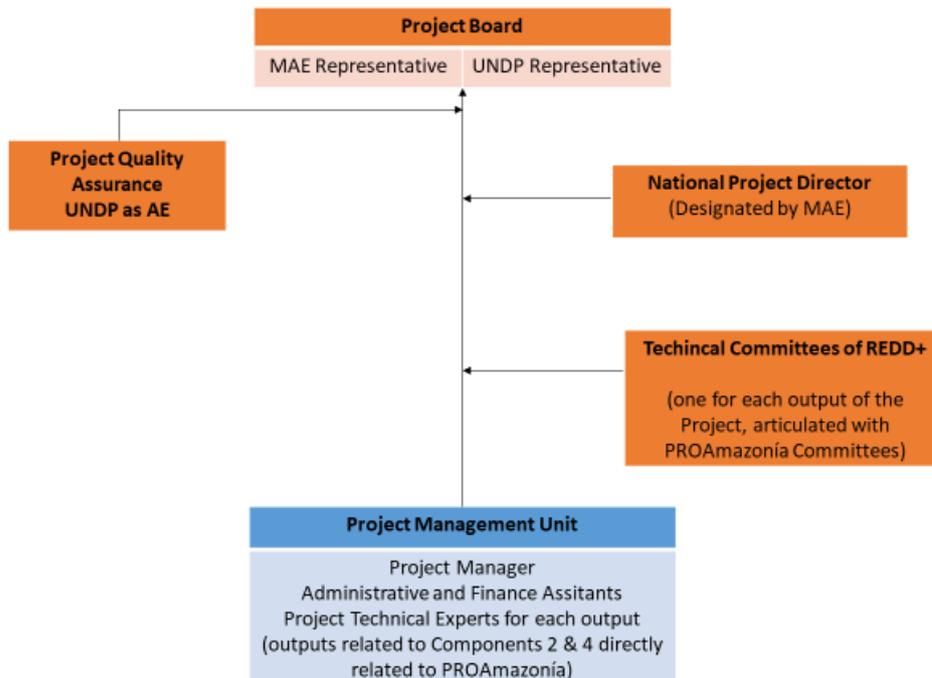
The implementation of this project will therefore follow the national mechanism which are being created, and the arrangements set for PROAmazonia. Three levels of management will be set:

Decision making, which includes: a) Project Board in charge of strategic decision making; b) Monitoring and Quality Assurance Unit of UNDP that will supervise the activities in its role of Accredited Entity to the Fund. In line with UNDP Internal Control Framework (ICF) there will be a clear division between UNDP’s oversight function as GCF AE and its role as Responsible Party to support implementation; and, c) National Project Director that will ensure coherence of the interventions, the achievement of expected results, the management of risks, and the progress of the planning and procurement processes.

Technical advisory, which includes Multi-stakeholder Technical Advisory Committees, which will provide technical support to the Project Board, Management Committee, and the Project Management Unit to facilitate informed decision making.

Project Management and Implementation, which includes the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Project Manager, the Support Unit for administrative and financial issues and technical team. Multi-stakeholder Working groups will be created depending on the technical components of the project. The PMU of ProAmazonia will be strengthened to be able to implemented the RBP project.

The project organization structure is as follows:



Project Board (PB):

Project Board (PB) is responsible for making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendations for approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project level grievances. Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Programme Manager.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the project manager and/or the management committee;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required;
- Review the project progress, and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report; make recommendations for the workplan;
- Provide ad hoc direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful and effective multi-stakeholder engagement throughout the entire project; and
- Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

The PB will provide overall managerial guidance for project execution. It will: (i) Analyze and discuss the development of the Project activities and recommend changes as required based on project monitoring and evaluation processes and products and in line with UNDP policies; (ii) Discuss and approve the Annual Work Plans ensuring that required resources are committed; (iii) Discuss and approve the Progress Reports and Final Report of the Project; (iv) Analyze Project achievements and assure these are used for performance improvement, accountability and learning; and (v) Settle controversies arbitrating on any conflicts within the project or negotiating a solution to any problems with external bodies.

The PB will be composed of UNDP and the Ministry of Environment (MAE). This PB will participate among with other entities and stakeholder representatives in the national governance structure which is being set up for REDD

in Ecuador by the MAE in order to make sure that REDD+ Action Plan finances and interventions are coordinated. MAE will represent the project ownership, chairing the PB and organizing its meetings at least twice a year or upon request of either of the Parties. MAE will appoint a National Project Director (NPD) who will be a senior staff member and will be responsible at the highest level for providing guidance on the management and technical feasibility of the project and ensuring its implementation leads to the achievement of project's results. The Project Board's role in project management will be complemented by inputs and recommendations from the Technical Committees (see below). In addition, the PB will approve the appointment and responsibilities of a Project Manager who will be responsible for the daily project execution.

The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:

- 1) Executive: The Executive is an individual who represents ownership of the project who will chair the Project Board. This role can be held by a representative from the Government Cooperating Agency or UNDP. The Executive is MAE.

The Executive is ultimately responsible for the project, supported by the Senior Beneficiary and Senior Supplier. The Executive's role is to ensure that the project is focused throughout its life cycle on achieving its objectives and delivering outputs that will contribute to higher level outcomes. The executive has to ensure that the project gives value for money, ensuring cost-conscious approach to the project, balancing the demands of beneficiary and supplier.

Specific Responsibilities: (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

- Ensure that there is a coherent project organisation structure and logical set of plans;
- Set tolerances in the AWP and other plans as required for the Project Manager;
- Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level;
- Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible;
- Brief relevant stakeholders about project progress;
- Organise and chair Project Board meetings.

- 2) Senior Supplier: The Senior Supplier is an individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project (designing, developing, facilitating, procuring, implementing). The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. The Senior Supplier role must have the authority to commit or acquire supplier resources required. If necessary, more than one person may be required for this role. Typically, the implementing partner, UNDP and/or donor(s) would be represented under this role. The Senior Supplier is UNDP.

Specific Responsibilities (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

- Make sure that progress towards the outputs remains consistent from the supplier perspective;
- Promote and maintain focus on the expected project output(s) from the point of view of supplier management;
- Ensure that the supplier resources required for the project are made available;
- Contribute supplier opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes;
- Arbitrate on, and ensure resolution of, any supplier priority or resource conflicts.

The PB will be established upon project inception and the responsibilities assigned above may further be supplemented as deemed appropriate in the final governance structure. In its first meeting the Project Board will prepare and adopt detailed terms of reference for its functioning.

Project Assurance

UNDP provides a three – tier oversight and quality assurance role involving UNDP staff in Country Offices and at regional and headquarters levels. The quality assurance role supports the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. Project Assurance must be independent of the Project Management function; the Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. The project assurance role is covered by the accredited entity fee provided by the GCF. As a Accredited Entity to the GCF, UNDP is required to deliver GCF-specific oversight and quality assurance services including: (i) Day-to-day oversight supervision, (ii) Oversight of project completion, (iii) Oversight of project reporting.

Project National Director (PND):

The Project National Director (PND) will be a senior staff member of the MAE and will be responsible at the highest level for providing guidance on the management and technical feasibility of the project and ensuring its implementation leads to the achievement of project's results. The PND will be responsible for orienting and advising the Project Manager on Government policy and priorities. The PND will be supported by the Technical Committees and, will review coherence of the intervention, including results, risks, planning and procurement processes. The PND will sign and approve procurement of services and goods corresponding to the project and will delegate to the Project Manager the approval and signature of procurement and hiring requests and payments. The Combined Delivery Report (CDR) will be approved on a quarterly basis and signed by the PND.

Project Technical Committees:

Technical Committees will be arranged when there is a need of technical inputs and coordination with the project's components and other REDD+ initiatives. The aim is to provide technical support to the Project Board, Project National Director, Project Technical Experts and Project Manager for decision making. The Technical Committees will be chaired by MAE (authority level), and will include focal points from sectorial authorities, SCOs, academia, indigenous, local community, and women groups, private sector, etc. At this moment the REDD+ national governance mechanism is being under construction and will have its own technical committees for cross-cutting and transversal themes to ensure that the different projects are connected and articulated in order to avoid duplication of efforts. However, this does not mean that each project will not have its own technical committees for its own topics and invite technical members of other projects such as ProAmazonia. The Committees will play an active role in the procurement of services and goods (based on annual plans approved by the Project Board) providing direction and technical guidance to the Project Manager.

The Committees will meet every quarter to review progress and obstacles and to advise on strategic and critical Project issues. Matters of institutional concern (i.e., going beyond the Project's scope and contents) will be addressed at the appropriate levels of dialogue between UNDP and the Government of Ecuador. The Project Technical Experts will serve as Secretariats of the Committees. The NPD will instruct the Project Technical Experts to provide detailed project information to the Committees as needed, to convene meetings and to prepare AC minutes. Extraordinary meetings can be held if deemed necessary by one of the Committee members. If appropriate, the Committees can invite external consultants to assist in the monitoring process.

The Project Management Unit (PMU)

The Project Management Unit (PMU), under supervision of UNDP and MAE, will run the project on a day-to-day basis within the constraints laid down by the Project Board. The PMU will be coordinated by a **Project Manager**. The Project Manager function will end when the final project terminal evaluation report and other documentation required by the GCF and UNDP has been completed and submitted to UNDP. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project within the Annual Work Plan approved by the Project Board and reviewed by UNDP. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The annual work plan is prepared by the Project Manager and reviewed and approved by Project Board. However, the UNDP-Global Environmental Finance Unit, as part of its quality assurance role, provides the final approval. The Project Manager is also responsible for managing and monitoring the project risks initially identified, and for submitting new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required, and for updating the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log according to the NIM Guidelines.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- Provide direction and guidance to project team(s)/ responsible party (ies), and supervise project staff;
- Liaise with the Project Board to assure the overall direction and integrity of the project;
- Be the main project contact person for external communications;
- Identify and obtain any support and advice required for the management, planning and control of the project;
- Responsible for project administration;
- Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the project results framework and the approved annual workplan;
- Mobilize personnel, goods and services, training and micro-capital grants to initiative activities, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work;
- Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring schedule plan/timetable, and update the plan as required;

- Manage requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP, through advance of funds, direct payments or reimbursement using the fund authorization and certificate of expenditures;
- Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- Be responsible for preparing and submitting financial reports to UNDP on a quarterly basis;
- Provide for completion, implementation and revision, as necessary, of the ESMF (the ESMP and corresponding management plans).
- Manage and monitor the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log;
- Capture lessons learned during project implementation;
- Prepare the annual workplan for the following year; and update the Atlas Project Management module if external access is made available.
- Prepare the Annual Project Report and submit the final report to the Project Board;
- Prepare progress reports as requested by MAE, UNDP and/or the Donor, and ensure conditions defined by GCF for disbursements are met;
- Based on the Annual Project Report and the Project Board review, prepare the AWP for the following year.
- Ensure the interim evaluation process is undertaken as per the UNDP guidance, and submit the final interim evaluation report to the Project Board.
- Identify follow-on actions and submit them for consideration to the Project Board;
- Ensure the terminal evaluation process is undertaken as per the UNDP guidance, and submit the final TE report to the Project Board;
- Ensure implementation of actions under his/her responsibility are articulated with other REDD+ projects such as ProAmazonia. For components 2 and 4 of this project the experts will be under the direction of components 2 and 4 of ProAmazonia. Therefore, coordination between the Project Manager, ProAmazonia’s Manager and the coordinators of components 2 and 4 is needed for the successful implementation of these activities.

The Administrative-Financial Assistants will report to the Project Manager and provide support in management and administration of the project, as well as provide logistical support to technical components of the project and its team.

The PMU will also count with **Project Technical Experts** for specific project components who will support the Project Manager with the implementation of the project, providing technical expertise, reviewing and preparing TORs, and reviewing the outputs of consultants and other sub-contractors. For the case of components 2 and 4 its technical team will be under the supervision of components 2 and 4 of ProAmazonia. However, the Project Manager will oversee the entire execution of activities to ensure that the project objectives are fulfilled.

The Project Technical Experts will:

- Ensure the logistical, administrative and financial effectiveness of the project in each technical area.
- Prepare project reports, work plans, budgets and related documentation;
- Prepare drafts of TORs, technical specifications and other documents;
- Participate in the selection of consultants and suppliers and their supervision;
- Oversee the implementation of project activities in a timely and efficient manner;
- Provide substantive guidelines to organize seminars, workshops and field trips linked to project activities.
- Follow-up agreements under his/her responsibility.

The Project Technical Experts and the Project Manager will be based at the MAE and will strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the Ministry’s staff that work in the implementation of the REDD+ AP. The MAE will provide the space and facilities for the Project staff with the exception of the technical team of components 2 and 4 who will be based at ProAmazonia’s offices.

Upon request of the MAE, UNDP will also provide technical backstopping during the implementation of the project. The costs corresponding to this technical support towards project execution will be recovered following UNDP’s policy.

The Project Technical Experts will produce in a timely fashion inputs for annual work plans and budgets of their components, to be consolidated by the Project Manager and then presented for approval by the Project Board, and annual progress reports for submission to the Board. The reports will provide details about the progress made, any shortcomings and the necessary adjustments made to achieve project outcomes.

Responsible Parties

For an entity to be engaged as a responsible party, a capacity assessment must be performed. Parties concerned with project formulation and design, including MAE, UNDP, and responsible parties must review needed capacities. They first determine which tasks apply to the project. For each applicable task, the parties define any additional measures to ensure that tasks can be performed. The measures must be documented for follow-up action. This may be done, for example, through an action plan, an annex to the project document or through minutes of a design meeting or workshop.

Additionally, UNDP assures that its partners are screened against UN Sanctions and Eligibility through a UN Security Council online system that contains a wide data base of possible violators. In addition, UNDP has access to the United Nations Global Marketplace in order to verify if any supplier has been involved in terrorism and corruption. Moreover, UNDP has a policy on Due Diligence and Partnerships with Private Sectors in which a Risk Assessment Tool is applied before any agreement is made. This tool includes the following exclusionary criteria:

- Controversial weapons or their components;
- Armaments and/or weapons or their components, including military supplies;
- Replica weapons;
- Tobacco or tobacco products;
- Violations of UN sanctions, UN ineligibility lists or UNDP vendor sanctions list;
- Pornography;
- Substances subject to international bans or phase-outs, and wildlife or products regulated under the CITES;
- Gambling (excluding lotteries with charitable objectives);
- Violation of human rights or complicity in human rights violations;
- Forced or compulsory labor;
- Child labor.

Finally, responsible parties may be assessed a micro-assessment under the HACT framework and following UNDP HACT policies, to determine the level of risk and capacities to manage the funds of the project.

Property of Equipment and Goods

Goods and equipment purchased as part of this project will initially belong to the UNDP Country Office. During the implementation phase, transfer to national beneficiaries will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP procedures and policies, subject to prior agreement with MAE. The goods and equipment will be transferred with a *delivery-reception minute*.

Audit:

Financial reporting and auditing standards for the programme will follow international financial reporting and auditing standards. According to UNDP's general corporate audit regulations, internal and external audits will be carried out and these costs will be covered by the project. The audit will be performed in accordance to UNDP Financial Rules and Regulations and applicable audit policies on National Implementation Modalities (NIM) implemented project on UNDP and GCF projects. The audit will be conducted by a specialized and certified audit firm. UNDP will be responsible for making audit arrangements for the project in communication with MAE. UNDP and MAE will provide audit management responses and the Project Manager and project support team will address audit recommendations, as applicable.

Learning and knowledge-sharing:

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information-sharing networks and forums in coordination with the REDD+ AP Strategy. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse and share lessons-learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will also be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects/programmes of a similar focus.

Communications and Visibility Requirements:

The project will comply with UNDP's, MAE and GCF Branding Guidelines. Amongst other requirements, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP and the logos of donors to UNDP projects are used. In order to

accord proper acknowledgement to the GCF for providing funding, a GCF logo will appear on all relevant project publications, including, among others, project hardware and equipment purchased with GCF funds. Any citation on publications stemming from the project will also accord proper acknowledgment to the GCF.

C.2.6. Non-carbon benefits:

Provide information on the non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of REDD+ activities, explaining their nature, scale and importance for the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities and providing evidence to this regard.

The non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of REDD-plus activities concern water regulation, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, gender empowerment and the promotion of human rights. The main non carbon benefits are presented below, and more details can be found in the document: [Ecuador. Carbono, biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos: explorando los beneficios multiples.](#)

Water regulation: In Ecuador, deforestation has a negative effect on electricity generation due to its impact on water flow regulation. It also impacts rainfall, resulting in a reduction in the amount of water available for hydropower plants and in results in less power generation¹¹. Changes in temporal river loads change hydroelectric generation patterns¹², especially in 'run-of-river' plants. In the area of influence is characterized by a high deforestation threat and the presence of important hydroelectric projects. They are: i) Cayambe Coca Ecological Reserve; ii) Cofan-Bermejo Ecological Reserve; iii) Sumano-Napo-Galeras National Park; iv) Poducarpus National Park; v) Sangay National Park; vi) Llanganates National Park; vii) Colongso Chalupas Biological Reserve; viii) Antisana Ecological Reserva; ix) El Quimi Biological Reserve; x) El Condor Biological Reserve; xi) El Zarza Wildlife Reserve; and xii) Biological Reserve Cerro Plateado. Thus, the actions taken in the zones of protected area to reduce deforestation and emissions due to land-use change will also serve to maintain and generate ecosystem services related to water flow regulation, providing a direct benefit to hydroelectric plants. In economic terms, this benefit represents an average of USD \$ 4.04 million for 2014.

Biodiversity: Ecuador's forests are among the world's biodiversity hotspots. The actions to reduce deforestation in the buffer zones of protected areas (PA) will improve biodiversity conservation by reducing encroachment and reducing fragmentation of forest habitat in critical connectivity areas. These PA buffer zones represent a surface of about 723,867 ha currently at risk of deforestation. In economic terms, this benefit represents an average of USD \$ 25.62 million for 2014.(see annex XII for details)

Poverty alleviation: The Economically Active Population (EAP) in Ecuador is composed of 7.19 million people, of whom 4.87 million live in urban areas and 2.32 million in rural areas¹³. There are 925,774 unemployed people (569,983 in urban areas and 355.791 in rural areas). About 25% of the EAP are employed in the agriculture, hunting and forestry sector: this sector is a central element of the national economy, both for its contribution to GDP and for employment generation. (see annex XII for details).

Gender empowerment: Ecuador has a favorable regulatory framework for the inclusion and equal participation of men and women. This has led to one of the highest female workforce participation rates (55%) in Latin America¹⁴. This provides a strong baseline to which the project will contribute through the application of these regulations in its activities, in compliance with Ecuadorean public policies, relevant international treaties, and UNDP's (AE) gender policies and guidelines.

Human Rights: The benefits relating to human rights, including the right of participation in decision making, the collective rights on ancestral lands, the right to self-selection and the right to free, prior and informed consultation, are detailed in section F.3. Environmental, Social Assessment, including Gender Considerations.

D. Investment Framework

Describe in this section how the proposed REDD-plus results-based programme aligns with each of the criteria of the Investment Framework for the activities that lead to the achieved results for the full period over which the results being submitted in this proposal were achieved.

¹¹ Kumar, et al. 2011. *Hydropower- Special Report of Renewable Energy.* http://srren.ipcc-wg3.de/report/IPCC_SRREN_Ch05.pdf

¹² Hamlet et.al 2010. *Effects of projected climate change on energy supply and demand in the Pacific Northwest and Washington State.* http://www.hydro.washington.edu/pub/hamleaf/promotion/hamlet_CC_2010.pdf

¹³ INEC, December 2014

¹⁴ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

D.1. Impact potential

Describe the potential of the programme to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and results areas.

All the policies and measures of the National REDD-plus AP have been identified through studies and consultations during the readiness phase for their potential to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as the barriers to forests carbon stock enhancement, conservation and sustainable forest management. The implementation of these policies has already led to emission reductions of 28 990 071 tCO₂ over the period 2009-2014 and 4 831 679 tCO₂e in 2014. The ultimate objective of the REDD-plus AP of Ecuador is to support the national objective of achieving zero net deforestation. The FREL currently corresponds to 43,418,126 tCO₂eq/year which indicated that the emission reductions that would be generated by achieving the objectives of the Action Plan are very significant. As such it is clear that the project offers great potential to contribute to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and results areas.

It is important to note that attribution of reduced emissions from deforestation to a single policy or measure is flawed for multiple reasons. From a conceptual standpoint, there is not always a direct and linear relationship between a specific project component and emissions reductions. Rather, emission reductions result from a series of interrelationships of different enabling policies (e.g. inter-institutional coordination) and direct investments made in the field (e.g. subsidies to farmer). Furthermore, individual policies and measures can pose a risk of displacement. For example, even if scaled up, the Socio Bosque Program, without enforcement of land use zoning across the landscape could simply displace emissions outside of the areas covered by the program cancelling off the mitigation effects. From a technical standpoint it is extremely challenging to estimate displacement of emissions as recognized by the FCPF methodological framework¹⁵. Furthermore, it is very challenging to achieve full consistency between GHG estimation approaches at national level versus project scale because sampling design and intensity usually differ at national versus project scale. For example, an emission factor based on national scale, may be applied at the local level but will not necessarily be representative at that scale given that the statistical design to gather that data was designed to ensure significance at the national scale.

Ecuador deals with these conceptual and technical issues by implementing REDD-plus on a national scale. Having a national FREL and national forest monitoring systems allows to account for all possible displacements within the national territory and avoids consistency issues across scale by focusing on ensuring that REDD-plus results can be measured, reported and verified at the national scale in line with UNFCCC requirements outlined in the Warsaw Framework.

The REDD-plus Action Plan is a multifaceted initiative to achieve results at the national scale. Ecuador will use many sources of financing, including its own budget. With multiple partners supporting multiple activities and due to the challenges mentioned above, it is not possible to directly attribute emission reductions to any single investment or to a specific actions/component. Rather, each funding source will have made a contribution alongside with many others. This reality is acknowledged by international REDD-plus experts¹⁶ and it is also consistent with the current GCF PMF which notes that indicator: *"4.1 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂eq) reduced or avoided (including increased removals) as a result of Fund-funded projects/programmes—should be Informed by CIF FIP Indicator 1, pending Fund work on the performance framework for REDD+, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Methodological Framework (Dec. 2013), UN REDD and emerging United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) guidance on REDD+."*

As per the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus, the exact amount of emission reductions that Ecuador will achieve by implementing its REDD+ AP at the national scale, during the implementation of these proceeds (2019-2025), will be known once the BURs with the REDD+ technical annex are submitted to the UNFCCC, in 2022, 2024, 2026. These results will be compared with FREL-2. This information will be published on the Lima REDD-plus Information Hub on the REDD-plus Web Platform, in accordance with UNFCCC decision 9/CP.19.

The UNFCCC Warsaw framework for REDD-plus does not require, nor provide a methodology for, attribution of emission reductions to a specific measure or action or donor. Furthermore, attribution of national emission reductions to a single measure, a single project or a single funding source can be flawed because of the risk of

¹⁵ The FCPF in its methodological framework states that "ER Programs should seek to minimize and mitigate displacement outside the Accounting Area to the extent possible via design of the ER Program. However, due to **accounting and attribution challenges and following UNFCCC guidance on REDD+**, potential Displacement should not have to be accounted for or deducted from the ERs credited to ER Programs".

¹⁶ See the final report of the Working Group on Scaling Up Performance-Based Transfers for Reduced Tropical Deforestation- working group suggestion p.18 <http://www.cgdev.org/publication/ft/look-forests-how-performance-payments-can-slow-climate-change?callout=1-2>)

displacement associated with any sub-national implementation of REDD-plus. Ecuador avoids this risk by implementing REDD-plus at the national scale, instead of through isolated sub-national projects.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential

Describe the degree to which the REDD-plus activity catalysed impact beyond a one-off programme investment.

The successful implementation of its National REDD-plus AP and the early achievement of measurable and reportable results generated a paradigm shift by building confidence in UNFCCC processes by demonstrating the link between Ecuador's completion of the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in terms of tCO₂e can indeed be rewarded by REDD-plus results-based payments.

The implementation of REDD+ Activities in Ecuador contributed to developing an approach that could be replicated in many other countries currently engaged in REDD-plus around the world. Indeed, to build confidence that UNFCCC REDD-plus results can make a significant contribution to climate mitigation efforts it is necessary for (1) developing countries to gain confidence that they can meet the requirements of the UNFCCC process in order to rapidly obtain and receive RBPs, and (2) for the international community to gain confidence in the quality of results coming through the UNFCCC process through REDD-plus implementation (including the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus).

At a country and territorial level, Ecuador's early implementation of its National REDD-plus AP has already and directly contributed to a paradigm shift of reducing deforestation and dependency of natural resources' exploitation, as established in the National Development Plan. Further implementation of the AP will secure staying in the path towards a decarbonized economy, while enhancing community and biodiversity co-benefits.

D.3. Sustainable development potential

Describe the wider benefits and priorities, including environmental, social and economic.

The implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan contributed and will continue to contribute to create an enabling environment to sustainable development by achieving systemic change at the local, national and hopefully international levels, and by including social, economic and environmental co-benefits into the proposed paradigm shift, such as protection of forests, of biodiversity, of the rights and indigenous peoples and local communities, including their ancestral and cultural heritage sites, of watersheds, etc. All the policies and measures prioritized in the REDD-plus AP have and will directly contribute to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from LULUCF in the context of promoting sustainable development.

The REDD-plus AP places emphasis on the synergies between environmental services and the production and energy matrix, particularly as a strategic consideration in guiding the implementation of funds. Conservation of the Amazon rainforest and its related ecosystem services (CO₂, water, biodiversity and scenic beauty) is vital for the long-term sustainability of the transformation of energy matrix (reliable water for hydropower plants) and the production matrix (gains in livestock, agriculture, cocoa agroforestry systems and added value to products, etc.). In this regard, both conservation and restoration not only maintain and enhance carbon stocks, but also strengthen the potential of the principal environmental co-benefits, given that there is a high correlation between carbon services, biodiversity and water regulation in Ecuador¹⁷.

See section C.2.6 on non-carbon benefits for a description of the nature, scale and importance of the project's wider benefits.

D.4. Needs of the recipient

Describe the vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population.

Economic growth in Ecuador has directly reduced poverty and inequality levels and has increased the size of the middle class. Between 2006 and 2014, poverty measured by income decreased from 37.6% to 22.5%, whilst extreme poverty was reduced from 16.9% to 7.7%. However, the economy remains over-reliant on the oil sector, demonstrated very visibly by the recent sharp decline in oil prices and the appreciation of the US dollar. Reducing this dependency has formed part of the national strategies implemented by the central State. Moreover, the target

¹⁷The National Forest Evaluation estimated that the areas with high carbon stocks have a direct relation with biodiversity and water regulation.

population in the Amazon Region has the highest poverty and extreme poverty rates in Ecuador (47.7% and 21.8% respectively in 2014).

REDD+ implementation through to 2025 will have an approximate cost of USD\$ 950 million. The allocation of GCF resources to the REDD-plus AP through the present RBP project will reinforce the implementation of the REDD-plus AP in Ecuador.

D.5. Country ownership

Describe the beneficiary country ownership of, and capacity to implement a funded project or programme (policies, climate strategies and institutions).

The project is fully aligned with Ecuador's REDD-plus Action Plan and a suite of domestic policies and strategies.

The MAE is the national environment authority in charge of designing environmental policies and coordinating strategies, projects and projects for the conservation of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources. It proposes and defines the rules to ensure adequate environmental quality, with development based on conservation and an appropriate use of biodiversity and resources that belong to the country. MAE houses the UNFCCC Focal Point and the GCF NDA.

In 2009, Ecuador established the Under-Secretariat of Climate Change under the MAE National Authority for REDD-plus, which is in charge of leading mitigation and adaptation actions in the country. Its roles and responsibilities include: 1) to lead and coordinate the Policies, Strategies and Regulations concerning climate change; and 2) to coordinate State policy on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

MAE is managing a USD 63 million portfolio with an execution rate of 72% through to September 2015 (See Annex XIII). The GCF project will build on MAE's experience in sustainable forest management and sustainable land use programmes that currently amount to USD 49 million. MAE's experience includes the development of the REDD+ AP; the development of the FREL endorsed by the UNFCCC; strengthening of the protected areas system in prioritized zones with the corresponding participation of regional and local stakeholders in charge of biodiversity conservation; reduction of land degradation and increasing climate change adaptation capacity and GHG emissions reduction; and governance of issues related to deforestation and the use of land in the Amazon region.

In addition to its national portfolio, MAE is currently executing a number of international projects related to the GCF project that collectively amount to USD \$257 million.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness

Describe the economic and, if appropriate, financial soundness of the programme.

An economic evaluation was performed based on the estimation of the project's economic benefits and costs. Flows and operational results are projected over a 10-year timeframe (i.e. up to 2028). This 10-year timeframe is deemed relevant for the project, which seeks a significant and long-lasting change in current land-use patterns as part of low-emission development planning for the long-term. The economic operational flow results are brought to present value with a discount rate of 6%, which is the discount rate commonly applied to analyse social investment projects in Ecuador. The results of the economic evaluation with the project show that the project is economically profitable, given that the ENPV is USD 354.38 indicating that the project is desirable for society. Further details can be found in the Economic Evaluation annex XII.

E. Compliance with GCF policies

Describe how the REDD-plus results-based programme that generated the results submitted in this proposal or will be supported with the proceeds earned by them aligns with GCF policies for the activities that led to the achieved results and for the use of proceeds.

E.1. Environmental and social safeguards

E.1.1. For the period of the achieved results

Summarize the main findings of the environmental and social assessment (ESA) report describing the extent to which the measures undertaken to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, in the context of the REDD-plus proposal, were consistent with the requirements of the applicable GCF ESS standards. This supplements information about the country's own assessment as to how the Cancun safeguards were addressed and respected in the REDD-plus activities.

The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) report describes the extent to which the measures undertaken to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, in the context of the REDD-plus proposal, were consistent with the requirements of the applicable GCF ESS standards. The ESA found general consistency with the GCF ESS standards (see annex VI for the full report).

E.1.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information describing how environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified, screened, assessed and managed in a manner consistent with the GCF's ESS standards, including the determination of the relevant environmental and social risk category of the proposed activities and the appropriate environmental and social assessment tools and management plans.

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) were reviewed by the GCF accreditation panel and deemed sufficient to accredit UNDP to submit 'low' and 'moderate' risks projects. The overall social and environmental risk category for this project is Moderate.

The ESMF provides an assessment of the social and environmental risks as well as their associated mitigation measures based on the Social and Environmental Screening Process (SESP) and on the consultative process realized to date, including the August 13 2018 meeting of the Mesa de Trabajo REDD+.

This consultative process and guidance from UNDP's SES provided the basis for a draft Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (see Annex VI). As a Moderate Risk Project, further impact assessment and management measures will be needed in order to manage risks effectively throughout project implementation. The first steps during project inception will be to conduct an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). This will be carried out by experts and will involve research, consultations, field work, stakeholder engagement and management planning. In this way the ESMP will be further clarified and finalized. The ESIA will cover the activities planned by the project. Benefits and risks pertaining to biodiversity conservation and lands and resource management such as selection of tree species for restoration, land use planning, rights over resources, benefit sharing and social and governance aspects will be assessed. Impact assessment will be carried out for nursery establishment/management, plantations and upgrading of facilities (in conjunction with the private sector partners). An indicative outline of the intended content of the report can be found in the Annex. It will be modified accordingly before being attached to the expert's terms of reference.

The preliminary findings and conclusions of the annexed ESMP will be reviewed again based on the findings of the ESIA and as appropriate, modifications will be made to the ESMP and its associated management plans. At present, the preliminary findings of the ESMP concludes that the following management plans will be needed: A Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Biodiversity Action Plan, a Gender Action Plan, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan. A preliminary Gender Assessment and Action Plan is already attached in the Annex. Indicative outlines for the other plans are attached in the Annex. The ESMP also reviewed the newly drafted project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) developed with stakeholders in the context of UN REDD Programme. Based on these consultations, UNDP guidance on GRMs, and the widely accepted eight "effectiveness criteria" for non-judicial GRMs¹⁸, the GRM will be modified accordingly and strengthened through the PROAmazonía programme funded by GEF and GCF and also through this RBP project, and will complement the national grievance redress mechanisms already in place at the local and national level.

The ESMP implementation will be overseen by UNDP. Consistent with UNDP SESP requirements, no activities that may cause adverse social and environmental impacts will proceed until the ESIA has been completed and per the revised ESMP, adoption of appropriate mitigation and management measures are completed. Additionally, as evidenced by the ESMP, budget disbursements are scheduled to incentivize and ensure timely completion of all social and environmental risk measures –including the prompt completion of the ESIA, the review and modification (as needed) of the ESMP and associated management plans, and the adoption and readiness of all recommended mitigation measures.

The ESMP implementation will be overseen by UNDP. The project team will include an environmental and social safeguards expert, responsible for monitoring and implementation of the ESMP and the Gender Action Plan, as well as ensure that a working mechanism for receiving and handling complaints is in place. This team will be dedicated to the formulation and follow-up of these frameworks (including their post-ESIA re-evaluation) and to the bi-yearly evaluation these actions with oversight from the Project Board. Roles will be designated across stakeholder groups such as indigenous communities and organizations, and Decentralized Autonomous

¹⁸ See Principle 31 of the guiding principles found at, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Guiding_Principles_on_Business_and_Human_Rights

Governments (GADs) at the Provincial and Municipal level. Through *Activity 4.3. Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds* the project will contribute to the national SIS with information generation from the implementation of the ESMP. The project will also be called upon to produce reports for a Summary of Information, that will be included in Ecuador's Fourth National Communication submitted to the UNFCCC.

E.1.3. Consultations with stakeholders

Provide adequate and sufficient information on the consultations undertaken with all the relevant stakeholders, describing who are the identified stakeholders, what the issues and concerns raised and how these are responded to and considered in the proposed activities. Information on the stakeholder engagement plan or framework will also need to be provided, describing how the activities will continue to engage the stakeholders, further consultations, communication and outreach, and process for grievance redress.

In order to promote and ensure the full and effective participation and support of stakeholders during the REDD-plus readiness process and later on during the implementation of the REDD-plus AP, the Government, through the REDD-plus National Authority, have been implementing a series of complementary actions since 2012.

The National REDD-plus AP is the result of extensive consultations that started in 2012 when MAE created a REDD-plus Working Group in recognition of the importance of the participation of key national and local stakeholders. Led by MAE, the REDD-plus Working Group is composed of one representative from academia; two from the private sector; two from national NGOs; one organisation representing women; one representing young people; and, finally, three organisations representing indigenous groups. Additionally, five working groups involving officials and experts were formed for specific topics and provide advice to the REDD-plus Working Group. The degree of participation was high and the REDD-plus Work Table provided input, advice and suggestions which set the technical, legal and political basis for the National REDD-plus AP.

Trainings and consultations on REDD-plus were carried out in priority areas to ensure that a variety of stakeholders were aware of the objectives of the National REDD-plus AP and could contribute to its design and future implementation. A total of 2,878 people were trained, of whom 976 were women. Many more were consulted in over 40 workshops carried out all around the country. The consultations led to the development of the priority PAMs that will be implemented under the GCF project, as well as their spatial prioritisation (see maps in Annex IX). Participants included public officials (Regional Autonomous Governments, provincial AME and MAGAP officials) and civil society (national and international NGOs, universities, and community organisations), as well as representatives of indigenous peoples (Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Saparas, SHIWIAR, Cofan, Siona, etc.). A detailed summary of all consultations carried out in the process of developing the National Action Plan is provided in Annex XIII. Additionally, a meeting of the REDD-plus working group was convened on July 6, 2015 to validate that the GCF project is indeed aligned with the priorities outlined in the REDD+ AP and for which the extensive consultations have taken place. The minute of this meeting are annexed to the funding proposal. Also, on August 13, 2018 the Mesa de Trabajo REDD+ met and further discussed the use of proceeds as proposed herein.

During various meetings described above, and stakeholder engagements carried out during the PSB project and as related to the other REDD+ project proposed for GCF funding, *Priming Financial and Land-use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation* project proposal submitted to the Green Climate Fund for funding, a number of comments and concerns were raised that are applicable to the five inputs proposed for the use of proceeds, and are being taken into account over time in Socio Bosque and REDD+ preparation. Some of these included the following:

- Lack of capacity (both from government and marginalized communities sides) might limit opportunities for marginalized groups to access the benefits of the project, contribute to its design and implementation, and fulfill their responsibilities toward project obligations.
- Imbalances of power might result in the minimalization of the views of marginalized communities and vulnerable populations in land use planning discussions and decisions.
- Land use planning and conservation initiatives might result in adverse impacts to areas of cultural heritage, limit community rights of access and use to their ancestral lands and resources and affect their development priorities.
- Like the PSB strategy, areas where land conflicts exist would be avoided when possible, and consequently, areas of high risks to biodiversity and ecosystem destruction would not be truly addressed by the project.
- Women would be adversely unequal participation in design, implementation and access to opportunities and benefits.

- Leakages can result and an increase in adverse impacts to biodiversity and at risks forests not included within the project's conservation efforts.
- The subsurface extractive industry remains a threat to conservation efforts.
- Project sustainability would be threatened if landowners did not see increased benefits to their conservation efforts that otherwise require them to abandon certain economic initiatives.
- The flow of information from the center to the peripheries still needed improvement.

During the readiness phase of the REDD+ Action Plan and its related programming, assessments, studies and recommendations had already been advanced to address many of the above concerns, and several mitigation measures have already been proposed and/or put into practice. Some of these are listed below. Additional work consistent with the ESA, SESP and ESMP and corresponding management action plans will add to, and help to operationalize, the following:

- Increased participation of non-UNDP and MAE stakeholders in decision-making bodies and technical committees is being provided for.
- Participatory research and planning toward the establishment of a viable deforestation free commodity supply chain will provide new sustainable livelihood options running parallel to conservation commitments and limitations on resource use.
- Plans to provide technical and financial resources to local governments (including indigenous governments) are adequately budgeted to ensure their capacity to define their own priorities (consistent with their self-determination rights and Life Plans (*PDOTs*)) and to have them reflected in local and regional land use planning initiatives along with municipal and national priorities.
- Plans to provide training to relevant MAE and REDD+ staff on human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, women, minorities and vulnerable populations within Ecuador.
- A Gender Action Plan is in place with measures to increase female participation, protections, and opportunities (see below).
- Avoided deforestation activities are being complemented with restoration efforts and areas of conservation are being expanded beyond those covered by the PSB *convenios*.
- Improvements to the SIS and the National Forest Monitoring System, along with introduction of transparent traceability information and online systems to integrate data and knowledge across governance institutions making information more accessible and actionable, and monitoring and verification more participatory.
- Through multi-stakeholder engagements, increase attention is placed on the delicate and interdependent balance between the protection of natural and cultural patrimony.
- Well-publicized grievance mechanisms (including the programme mechanism and UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism and Social and Environmental Compliance Unit) and early warning response plans will help to address unauthorized uses of resources in areas of conservation and other potential adverse harms.
- Actions that may affect the rights, lands, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities will require their FPIC (per a newly adopted guideline).

Following from the last bullet above, recognizing the critical role of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples for long-term sustainability and REDD + effectiveness, the MAE led a participative process to draft the *National Consultation Guideline for the Implementation of REDD+ in Collective Lands and Territories* (annexed to the National REDD+ AP). With guidance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*OHCHR*) and the UN-REDD National Programme in Ecuador, this work was carried out in line with the Constitution, the international human rights standards, the UN REDD Guideline on FPIC, the GCF policies, and the Cancun safeguards requiring respect for national and international laws on human rights. The process to develop the guide began in 2012, and during 2014 five workshops were held --two national and the rest subnational (provinces of Esmeraldas, Pastaza and Sucumbíos). These events were attended by members of local communities and indigenous peoples, provincial departments, Decentralized Autonomous Governments and members of the multi-stakeholder body, the REDD + *Mesa de Trabajo*.

This guideline specifically requires that to implement REDD + actions in lands or territories of indigenous peoples and other groups that depend on forest resources, it is an imperative to consult with and secure the

consent of the affected peoples and communities. This guideline also expressly details and requires the sharing of relevant project information with communities to ensure informed decision-making and knowledge necessary to be aware of opportunities for participation and benefit sharing.

As noted above, a project grievance mechanism has also been developed with stakeholders and consistent with the recommendations of the ESMP, will be strengthened and finalized accordingly.

E.2. Risk assessment

E.2.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide adequate and sufficient information that allows for an assessment of the historical performance of the activities undertaken and their track record against the risk tolerance levels specified in the Risk Appetite Statement and the criteria outlined in the Risk Guidelines for Funding Proposals.

Please note that you should consider only the applicable and relevant parts of the two above documents to the feedback you provide.

By implementing effectively REDD-plus policies and measures Ecuador achieved **4 831 679 tCO₂e** verified emission reductions in the year 2014 (REDD+ results), therefore it clearly contributes to the GCF's mitigation objectives. Ecuador's REDD-plus results are also aligned with mitigation objectives of the national climate change plan.

As in all countries, deforestation in Ecuador is explained by a complex set of underlying and direct economic, social and environmental drivers. Notwithstanding, Ecuador's REDD-plus results can be attributed to a combination of the effects of profound policy reforms at a national level, starting by a change in the Constitution of 2008, followed by 2 national development plans (2009—2013 and 2013-2017, *Plan Nacional de Buen Vivir* in Spanish). These reforms generated a change in the country's development process that included diminishing dependence of exploiting natural resources (including forests) as the basis for economic growth. While Ecuador's REDD-plus results for 2014 cannot be attributed to one single policy, [the Socio Bosque Program](#) was a new and targeted program explicitly directed to reduce deforestation. This was complemented by other sectoral initiatives and programs that resulted in reducing deforestation from 2009 to 2014.

Ecuador's National Development Plan included a goal of diminishing deforestation by 50%. In order to advance actions to fulfill this goal, Socio Bosque Program was declared in 2008 as a priority government project with the objective to provide incentives to indigenous and *campesino* communities to conserve forests and *paramos*. In December 2013, through a Ministerial Agreement (No 131) the incentive program of Socio Bosque Program was officially established as part of the Policy for Governance of Natural Heritage. The Socio Bosque Program was and is implemented following applicable Ecuadorian policy and regulatory provisions, including fiduciary controls, transparency provisions, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and regular performance reports.

MAE's past capability to execute the Socio Bosque Program was demonstrated and supported by documented success in terms of achieving the programs objectives and outcomes, achieving significant reduction of deforestation in the country, and benefiting over 187,000 members of communities between September 2008 till December 2015, signing up to 2,775 agreements.

Socio Bosque applies a monitoring and evaluation process which was implemented in the period of the achieved results. This process included legal monitoring, local monitoring by spot checks on site and GIS monitoring (satellite images) to monitoring the compliance of the agreement and social, environmental, and gender parameters. Guidelines for monitoring can be found in following [link](#). Additionally, Socio Bosque Program has an internal monitoring system (*Sistema de Evaluación Monitoreo y Postulación- SEMOP*), in which periodic monitoring and follow up is given to all agreements and beneficiaries. This system was implemented in the period of results but is not of public access. Live information about conservation areas of Socio Bosque is available in the [interactive map](#).

In terms of technical and institutional capabilities, Socio Bosque had a dedicated team (111 people), was assigned a specific budget from the national government which was complemented by international support.

There were some execution risks associated with implementation of the Socio Bosque Program, including criticism for focusing in isolated areas and not including some of the hotspots for deforestation. These risks were successfully managed by developing a broader plan (Ecuador's REDD-plus Action Plan) that complements Socio Bosque, and enhancing coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture programs in particular the Transformation of the Amazon Productive Agenda. Another risk identified was the financial sustainability of Socio Bosque Program. This risk has now been managed by implementing an equity fund to support the payment of incentives for the

period of signed agreements which is 20 years. Moreover, private-public partnerships have been agreed to fund some of the activities of Socio Bosque Program. One of this partnership includes an agreement with General Motors.

E.2.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information that details how the plan for the use of proceeds does not violate the risk tolerance levels specified in the Risk Appetite Statement and allows for performance monitoring and evaluation against the criteria outlined in the Risk Guidelines for Funding Proposals.

Please note that you should consider only the applicable and relevant parts of the two above documents to the feedback you provide.

Use of proceeds of this project will be directed to contribute and enhance the implementation of Ecuador National REDD-plus Action Plan, in particular strengthening implementation of REDD-plus in indigenous territories, implement land-use plans and management plans at a local level, fostering private-public partnerships, and providing further support to the Socio-Bosque Program. Overall, Ecuador's National REDD-plus Action Plan has a clearly defined mitigation focus as it aims to reduce at least 20% of gross emissions from the forest and land-use sector by 2025, using the 2000-2008 forest reference emissions level as a benchmark. Hence, its implementation is clearly aligned with the GCF's mitigation objectives. Issues related to engagement on prohibited practices are described in Section E4.

The project will be implemented by UNDP as accredited entity and the MAE as the executing entity, and it has the full policy and regulatory support from the Government of Ecuador. Ecuador's National REDD-plus Action Plan is led by the Ministry of Environment and supported by other government institutions in particular the Ministry of Agriculture which is in charge of implementing sustainable production systems in converted areas around natural forests, as well as by non-government stakeholders.

UNDP as accredited agency has demonstrated technical and institutional capability to implement the proposed project. UNDP Ecuador has a large project portfolio that has executed more than \$ US 44 million between 2014 to 2018. The country office has specialized technical personnel on climate change and forests including two national program officers and monitoring specialists.

MAE's current capability to execute the REDD-plus AP is demonstrated by a strong organizational structure, conformed by three under secretariats and three general coordinations with offices in each of the 24 Ecuadorian provinces. The under secretariat of natural heritage leads policies related to forest control, national protected areas, biodiversity, ecosystems, biosecurity, access to genetic resources and sustainable forest management and has a team of 70 people in the central offices. The under secretariat of climate change leads all mitigation and adaptation policies at national and subnational level and has a team of 55 people in their offices. Both under secretariats are in charge of the implementation of REDD-plus AP and the under secretariat of climate change executes the function of the national REDD-plus authority.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, UNDP applies UNDG's guidance for monitoring and evaluation outlined in the [RBM Handbook](#), which is oriented to results-based management (See detailed description of M &E provision in section E6). It also applies [UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards](#) to strengthen social and environmental outcomes; avoid impacts to people and the environment; minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible; strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and to ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people. Annual audits are carried out for all UNDP projects under eligibility criteria and are published in two UNDP platforms: CARDS and IATI.

The REDD-plus AP was developed following a participatory process including extensive consultations that started in 2012 when MAE created a REDD-plus Working Group in recognition of the importance of the participation of key national and local stakeholders. This REDD-plus Working Group which is composed of 29 representatives of following sectors: academia; private sector; NGOs; women's organizations; young peoples' organizations; and representatives of indigenous groups will follow up on this project implementation and the use of proceeds. This will guarantee an oversight mechanism in place from different stakeholders involved in REDD-plus implementation.

Country-execution risks can be summarized as follows: Political risks are minimal, as Ecuador had presidential elections in 2017, and the next elections will be in 2021. The government is continuing the implementation of the national policies launched by the previous administration related to this project. While declining oil prices since 2014 have had negative consequences on the national economy and government budget the government is

promoting public-private partnerships to foster economic growth. There is local support of the project as different stakeholders are engaged in REDD-plus AP implementation through their active participation in local platforms that manage sustainable commodities productions and land-use planning. The risk assessment register below summarizes the other main execution and country-specific risks identified, and mitigation measures:

Table 22: Risk¹⁹ matrix

1	Risk Category	Execution Risk
	Probability/Impact/Priority	SL/ H/H
	Description	The project depends on actions of multiple stakeholders, ranging from different national line ministries, local governments and agricultural producers and indigenous communities. Sub-optimal coordination, duplication and overlap of responsibilities between and within the different levels may undermine implementation.
	Mitigation	Inter-institutional agreements for coordination between participating institutions will be established, as well as setting-up dialogue and decision-making mechanisms, and engaging key stakeholders at all levels. Coordination platforms set up for the GCF project being implemented since 2017 will be used in this project supporting the continuity of engagement processes and avoiding the creation of new platforms and coordination schemes.
2	Risk Category	Execution risk
	Probability/Impact/Priority	L/ SD/H
	Description	High staff turnover (authorities and technical personnel) of implementing partners and key institutions delay project implementation.
	Mitigation	The participating institutions will sign inter-institutional agreements for coordination and implementation of project interventions. The project will promote adequate coordination at all levels amongst all institutions and stakeholders, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and decision-making channels. In case of significant changes that may affect project implementation the Project Board and the Project Coordinator will promote high level and/or technical meetings and prepare information materials to inform and raise awareness on the value of the project for REDD+ and sustainable development. Moreover, the project is designed to strengthen capacities within the Ministry of Environment guaranteeing a strong technical team that can be responsible of following through the activities of the project despite changes in political positions at the Ministry. Finally the project will develop an operations and governance manual that will define specific processes for the implementation of the project, including responsibilities, deadlines, revisions of products, etc.
3	Risk Category	Country Specific Risk
	Probability/Impact/Priority	SL/ SD/M
	Description	The success of some of the project activities depends on the demand of deforestation free products and NTFP, prices of these commodities can vary affecting the economic benefits and impact on direct beneficiaries.
	Mitigation	Market studies will be developed before engaging in business strategies for the different commodities and capacities will be strengthened to insert these products in national and international markets.
4	Risk Category	Execution Risk

¹⁹ Social and environmental risks, and their specific mitigation measures, are detailed in the Environmental and Social Management Framework, annexed to the present Funding Proposal

Probability/Impact/Priority	SL/ SD/M	
Description	The implementation of restoration activities might not be fully successful as plants in their growing stage are very vulnerable to effects of climate change and other external factors and the estimated coverage might not be completely reached.	
Mitigation	The project will provide close technical assistance and monitoring to the communities that signed reforestation agreements in order to monitor the survival rate of the plants and their adaptation to different ecosystems. Additionally, an expert on reforestation will be hired as part of the team.	

E.3. Gender considerations

E.3.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide adequate and sufficient information in the assessment describing the extent to which the measures undertaken complied with the GCF gender policy.

Ecuador has incorporated in its internal legislation the principle of equality and non-discrimination as contemplated in various instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international treaties in this area. In 2014, it also had various laws and legislation governing its work in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. For example, Ecuador's Constitution provides for the formulating and executing of policies to achieve equality for women and men through a specialized mechanism that will provide technical assistance for the gender approach's mandatory enforcement in the public sector. Thus, the national councils for equality are responsible for ensuring the full effectiveness and exercise of the rights enshrined in the Constitution and international human rights instruments, including the right of gender equality, with competence in the formulation, mainstreaming, observance, monitoring and evaluation of public policy concerning gender issues, among other things. These councils coordinate with the overseeing and implementing authorities and with rights protection agencies at all government levels. In addition, with the issuing of the 2013-2017 National Women's Agenda (since amended), the different State offices, authorities, agencies and entities should ensure due diligence in complying with the constitutional mandate for equality; this instrument is binding for mainstreaming in the government of the principle of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender.

Ecuador is committed to avoiding climate change-exacerbated gender inequality; promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women; reducing gender disparities and inequalities in climate funding and overall access to and control over resources and development benefits; encouraging and facilitating gender-responsiveness in its design and implementation; and more generally, mainstreaming the gender focus into the REDD+ activities described in this funding proposal. Thus, it will ensure the FP proposed activities will not discriminate against women or girls or reinforce gender-based discrimination and/or inequalities as well as take affirmative steps, consistent with applicable law and the Gender Action Plan, to ensure both women and men are able to participate meaningfully and equitably, have equitable access to training, capacity building, technical assistance and resources, and receive comparable social and economic benefits and opportunities.

Considering the experiences with the PSB and in the context of the preparation of the National REDD+ AP Plan, and a growing recognition that more affirmative and special measures could be taken to mainstream the gender focus in REDD+ programming, a new forward-looking desk-based Gender Assessment was completed in anticipation of this FP (see Annex). The Assessment examined the proposed activities in the context of the GCF's policy on Gender, Principle 2 of UNDP's SES (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) and Ecuador's national gender strategy. The Assessment also considered the findings and recommendations of several studies commissioned by the REDD+ programme earlier (including three studies in 2015, and a gender report in 2017 financed by GIZ titled "Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations"). Based on the Gender Assessment findings, a *preliminary* Gender Action Plan was developed. It is annexed hereto. Upon completion of the participatory ESIA referred to above, further ground truthing with affected stakeholders will take place and the Gender Action Plan will be modified and supplemented as necessary.

In the meantime, as evident by the *preliminary* Gender Action Plan, viable measures are to be adopted to ensure that the activities associated with the use of proceeds will be implemented so as to regularly identify and assess the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of women, men, girls and boys. The programme will incorporate corresponding measures within the various action plans on biodiversity, indigenous peoples, stakeholder engagement, and cultural heritage to ensure: 1) any possible adverse gender impacts are avoided;

2) and that women, men and youth can equitably participate in, inform and benefit from the activities being proposed. As indicated by the ESFM, an adequate budget will ensure that the gender-related activities identified (see below) have adequate financing and accountability mechanisms to ensure their implementation. Please reference the attached *preliminary* Gender Action Plan to see the anticipated measures and activities to be undertaken in order to ensure the activities associated with the use of proceeds 1) fully integrate a gender perspective, 2) promote women's empowerment; and 3) are consistent with the GCF Gender Policy, Cancun Safeguards and UNDP's SES.

The following are just a few of the anticipated measures and activities arising from the recommendations of the prior studies and the new Gender Assessment and Action Plan. Each will contribute to programme consistency with the GCF Gender Policy and Cancun Safeguards:

- Develop with stakeholders, disseminate, and implement a gender policy within the MAE applicable to the REDD+ programme.
- Take affirmative measures to solicit and incorporate the perspectives of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the proposed activities.
- Modify the Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ *Mesa de Trabajo* to ensure gender equity.
- Create a specialized team composed of male and female experts focusing on the theme of gender and mainstreaming the focus on gender throughout the design and implementation of the (5) proposed activities.
- Elaborate an internal and external communication strategy that socializes the gender focus in REDD+ programming.
- Carry out training and capacity building among MAE and REDD+ staff, stakeholders and partner on matters of gender equality, the contributions of women to climate change resilience, and the specific harms faced by women in the context of ecosystem destruction and conversion.
- Require and develop capacities to collect and report on accurate disaggregated data around all REDD+ activities with respect to male and female participation, benefit sharing, positive and negative impacts, then share it across government institutions, and make such data publicly accessible.
- While strengthening the SIS, review, build upon and incorporate the gender indicators recommended in the 2017 GIZ report (pp. 32, 38-42) into all monitoring and reporting activities.

Moreover, it should be mentioned that the gender approach was considered in the conceptualizing of the safeguards REDD-plus national approach within the national approach and context for REDD-plus implementation.

E.3.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide adequate and sufficient information on how the AE will undertake activity-level gender assessments and action plans once the details of the activities become known.

UNDP is committed to reducing gender inequalities in access to and control over resources and within the benefits of development. Thus, it will ensure this project will not discriminate against women or girls or reinforce gender-based discrimination and/or inequalities as well as ensure both women and men are able to participate meaningfully and equitably, have equitable access to resources, and receive comparable social and economic benefits.

To help facilitate these outcomes and ensure the integration of a gender perspective within the project components, UNDP will ensure inclusive and participatory activity-level gender assessments and action plans are undertaken. These assessments and action plans will comply with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, including Principle 2 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and will be developed and validated in consultation with affected stakeholders, including equitably women and men (and youth, when applicable).

In this work, UNDP will identify and assess the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of women, men, girls and boys within the activity sites. It will then incorporate corresponding measures within the action plans to ensure 1) any possible adverse gender impacts are avoided; 2) and that women, men and youth can equitably participate in, inform and benefit from the activities being proposed. Gender budget and indicators will be also assigned within the action plans to ensure the gender activities identified have accountability mechanisms in place to ensure their implementation. This analysis and planning will be undertaken and then validated equitably with affected women, men and youth stakeholders before implementation of the activities commence.

E.4. Interim policy on prohibited practices

E.4.1. For the period of the achieved results

Provide appropriate and sufficient information to demonstrate that no Prohibited Practices occurred during the implementation of the activities that lead to the REDD-plus results, such as: undisclosed Prohibited Practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which occurred during the implementation of results-based actions; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved.

The Comprehensive Criminal Organic Code was adopted on the 28th of January 2014 and defines and sanctions crimes of money laundering, omission of control of money laundering, terrorism, financing of terrorism, organized crime and other crimes that generate economic resources that can be subject to money laundering. In addition, the Monetary and Financial Organic Code defines among the functions of the Monetary and Financial Policy and Regulation Board, to establish, within the framework of its powers, any measure that helps to prevent and discourage fraudulent practices, including money laundering and financing of crimes such as terrorism; being this Board responsible for the formulation of public policies and the regulation and supervision of monetary, credit, exchange, financial, insurance and securities, that allow to maintain the integrity of the economic system.

On the other hand, the Organic Law of Prevention, detection and eradication of the crime of money laundering and the financing of crimes, is intended to prevent, detect and eradicate money laundering and the financing of crime, in its different modalities. It is applicable to all economic activities that may be used for money laundering and the financing of other crimes.

The Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE) is the technical entity responsible for the collection of information, reporting, execution of national policies and strategies for the prevention and eradication of money laundering and the financing of crime.

The institutions of the financial and insurance system, as well as other entities provided for in the Law, have the obligation to inform through the delivery of the reports provided for in the law, in accordance with the regulations in each case. In addition, they must report on transactions and economic transactions, whose value is equal to or greater than that provided in said law.

E.4.2. For the use of proceeds

Provide appropriate and sufficient information including on control measures that assures that the proceeds will be used in a manner compliant with the Interim Policy on Prohibited Practices, such as: undisclosed Prohibited Practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism; improper subsequent use of GCF proceeds in the Prohibited Practices; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved, etc.

As per article 9.03 par. (a), of the Accreditation Master Agreement between UNDP and GCF, UNDP will apply its own fiduciary principles and standards relating to any 'know your customer' checks, anti-corruption, AML/CFT, fraud, financial sanctions and embargoes in order to comply with the Policy on Prohibited Practices.

E.5. Indigenous peoples

Provide adequate and sufficient information on how the activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds, will meet the requirements of the GCF environmental and social safeguards standards and policies relevant to indigenous peoples and guided by the prevailing relevant national laws and/or obligations of the countries directly applicable to the activities under relevant international treaties and agreements.

The application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards ensure that the project will protect and foster full respect for human rights of Indigenous Peoples under international and national law. These standards are also fully aligned with the GCF environmental and social safeguards standards and policies relevant to indigenous peoples.

Within the UN-REDD Programme, Ecuador supports, in particular, indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, and has been instrumental in supporting countries to develop national safeguard systems and grievance mechanisms, and developing and applying the principle of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) to REDD-plus, via the National Consultation Guideline for the Implementation of REDD+ in Collective Lands and Territories. As noted above, this guideline requires their prior consultation and consent before implementing REDD plus activities in their lands. This is an important safeguard for the rights of these communities and demonstrates the commitment of the Government to these populations.

In particular, building on the success of the PSB in terms of building partners with indigenous peoples and local communities and collectives, the proposed activity 4.4 and its sub-activities are aimed at enhancing and contributing to the implementation of State duties and obligations under international law with respect to indigenous peoples and the full realization of UNDRIP's provisions –especially those related to indigenous governance, property rights, self-determined development, and rights to a healthy environment, traditional livelihoods, and their own institutions and practices. For activity 4.4, the preliminary priorities have been identified by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Amazon (CONFENIAE) and the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA). In implementation, the programme will ensure decisions about specific activities, initiatives and their design and implementation will be taken by the designated representative institutions of the affected peoples and where applicable, through the guidelines on consultation and consent.

With respect to all proposed outputs and their associated activities involving indigenous peoples and local communities, the programme intends to follow the PSB and overall National REDD plus model and where ever possible seek their involvement as beneficiaries and as contributors to the design and implementation of initiatives going forward. They will be sought-after partners in initiatives to build local governance capacities; to further develop and implement *rights-based*, sustainable land use planning, design and participate in monitoring operations and systems; and establish opportunities to improve their livelihoods and protect their environment by engaging them in the private-public partnership for marketing deforestation-free commodities from the Amazon.

The ESMP will particularly guide the above efforts and ensure that sufficient indicators of progress related to indigenous peoples are incorporated into the monitoring systems and SIS.

E.6. Monitoring and evaluation

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements that will take place for providing annual monitoring reports based on the information provided for the use of proceeds in sections C.2.3 and C.2.4.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with the UNDP POPP and the UNDP Evaluation Policy. The M&E Plan will be conducted in accordance with UNDP and GCF procedures by the project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP CO). Section C.2 provides outcome indicators for project implementation. The UNDP project document will also include additional information such as corresponding means of verification. The M&E plan includes: an inception report, annual APR reports to GCF, project implementation reviews, a interim evaluation and final evaluation.

The following sections outline the principal components of this plan. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project's Inception Meeting following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

Project start

1. A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start, involving those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, the UNDP Country Office and, where appropriate/feasible, UNDP regional technical policy and technical advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership of the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan. The Inception Workshop will address a number of key issues including:

- To assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project.
- To detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP Country Office (CO) and Regional staff vis à vis the project team.
- Discussion on the roles, functions and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

- Based on the project results framework, finalization of the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
- Provision of a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The M&E work plan and budget will be agreed and scheduled.
- Discussion of financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Planning and scheduling of project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures will be clarified and meetings planned. The first project Board meeting will be held within the first 12 months following the inception workshop.
- An Inception Workshop Report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Annual Project Report

This key report is prepared by the Project Technical Advisors, consolidated by the Project Manager and approved by the Project Board to monitor progress made since project start and, in particular, for the previous reporting period.

The format and content of the annual report will be adjusted based on the simplified reporting regime which will be established for RBP by the GCF.

Near real time Monitoring through the use of a geographically explicit cloud-based M&E system associated with and site visits as needed.

Using traditional post-facto, paper-based, descriptive M&E and reporting methods it is very challenging to consolidate the large quantity of geographically explicit information, verify it, analyze progress towards policy milestones or compliance with land-use commitments and report on it in an accurate, transparent and interactive manner.

New tools and technologies exist that respond to this problem and drastically change the paradigm in land use monitoring, allowing for user-friendly, effective and efficient monitoring and adaptive management, even in a context as challenging as the Ecuadorian Amazon. Once operational, the marginal cost of using these tools is close to zero. This allow for a quick uptake by a large number of projects, financial institutions and even governments at very low cost. As such, the use of these tools greatly benefit impact investments and related monitoring and reporting. Lastly, by increasing transparency, these tools have the potential to significantly enhance the effectiveness of implementation of projects, especially if the various actors involved (beneficiaries, government, banks) know that their actions will be monitored this way in real time (as opposed to post-facto, paper-based, descriptive monitoring).

UNDP will use an open source turn key M&E solution (the selection of the tool is taking place on August 2018) to do the following:

- ➔ collect, transfer, consolidate, backup and analyze spatial and non-spatial data to facilitate the tracking of progress and impacts of projects;
- ➔ Transparently track and demonstrate progress against beneficiary performance milestones;
- ➔ Enable data sharing between stakeholders (e.g. for data collection and verification)
- ➔ Monitor compliance towards land-use commitments made by stakeholders, collectively or individually (private sector, political & administrative authorities, local communities);

In addition and as needed, the UNDP Country Office will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CO and UNDP Regional Office and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members. In addition, MAE will conduct visits to project sites periodically and field visit reports will be prepared.

Mid-term of project cycle

The project will undergo an independent interim evaluation at the mid-point of project implementation. The interim evaluation will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The final interim evaluation report will be available in English.

End of Project

An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the closure of the project, undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GCF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the interim evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits.

The Final Evaluation will also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response. The final report will be cleared by the UNDP CO and the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor, and will be approved by the Project Board. The UNDP CO will include the planned project terminal evaluation in the UNDP CO evaluation plan, and will upload the final terminal evaluation report in English and the management response to the public UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre and the MAE Evaluation Office of Projects and Projects.

During the final three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

The UNDP CO will support the Project Manager as needed, including through annual supervision missions. The UNDP CO is responsible for complying with UNDP project-level M&E requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP. Additional M&E and implementation quality assurance and troubleshooting support will be provided by the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor as needed. The project target groups and stakeholders, including the National Designed Authority, will be involved as much as possible in project-level M&E. The UNDP CO will retain all M&E records for this project for up to seven years after project financial closure in order to support ex-post evaluations.

The National Forest Monitoring System (SNMF)²⁰ is an important part of the Directorate of Natural Heritage Monitoring (DMPN) structure, as it is a robust and transparent system that provides information for the design and implementation of land-use management policies, forest governance and natural resource management. In the context of REDD-plus activities, the SNMF will allow the monitoring and reporting of such activities, incorporating monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) processes. Its main function is to have periodic information on results achieved through national measures and actions, linked to conservation, sustainable forest management and restoration, for strengthening forest governance, as well as provided measurable, reportable and verifiable data for international estimations and reports on forest emissions and absorptions.

F. Legal arrangements

E.6.1. Legal title to REDD-plus results

- *Provide an analysis with respect to legal title to REDD-plus results in the country. This should include an analysis of entitlement to claim for the results to be paid for by the GCF.*

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador on its article 74 has significant implications for the implementation of REDD-plus, considering that the capture and storage of carbon is part of the environmental service of climate regulation. In Ecuador, according to the constitutional provision, the environmental services are not object of appropriation, in that sense it is not possible to establish an ownership relationship between an entity or person and an environmental service. This limitation, to a certain extent, contributes to guarantee the collective right of people to benefit from the environment and the natural wealth to allow them the Good Living.

Thus, Ecuador opted for a national implementation approach that includes policies and measures to address the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation at the local and national levels, prioritizing the implementation of measures and actions geographically and under the guidelines of the UNFCCC. Therefore, the REDD-plus AP is the operative instrument that provides guidelines for the implementation of policies and measures in the national territory that directly address the drivers of deforestation, considering local needs and their development priorities.

The Ministerial Decree No. 116 issued on September 2016, establishes that the REDD-plus National Authority is the Ministry of Environment, the ministerial decree also gives the power to the REDD-plus National Authority to obtain different financing for REDD-plus Action Plan implementation, including results based payments.

²⁰ <http://www.pnc-onureddecuador.org/pnc-onuredd/resultado-1-sistema-nacional-de-informacion-y-monitoreo-forestal.html>

In the exercise of its power, the Ministry of the Environment has prioritized the investment of REDD-plus resources with a multi-criteria approach that considers the areas with the greatest potential for reducing emissions, as well as the contribution to poverty reduction, maintenance of water resources, ancestral cultures and biodiversity. It also considered the territorial vision of the National Development Plan and the National Territorial Strategy. The local allocation of resources for the implementation of REDD-plus policies and measures and concrete actions in the territory will be carried out through the financial mechanisms that are defined by the National REDD-plus Authority.

Under the national REDD-plus approach defined by the country, investors or donors will not be able to appropriate the emission reductions resulting from the implementation of REDD-plus measures or actions financed with their contributions, since these are part of the national accounts. On the other hand, emission reductions achieved by the implementation of REDD-plus measures and actions cannot be negotiated in carbon markets because they are part of the climate regulation environmental service, which, according to the constitutional provision is not susceptible to appropriation.

- *Covenant that no other party has a competing claim to the results proposed to the GCF in accordance with national policy, legal or regulatory frameworks.*

The Environment Organic Code in its article 23, establishes that the National Environmental Authority is the Ministry of Environment, according to the same legal instrument, the exercise of environmental competencies includes the powers of: stewardship, planning, regulation, control and management related to the natural heritage, biodiversity, environmental quality, climate change, marine and coastal marine area, and other related areas in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

In addition, the Ministerial Decree No. 116^[1] issued on September 2016, establishes that the REDD-plus National Authority is the Ministry of Environment, the ministerial decree also gives the power to the REDD-plus National Authority to obtain different financing for REDD-plus Action Plan implementation, including results based payments.

In that sense, only the national REDD-plus authority, the Ministry of Environment, has the power to request results-based payments.

G. Accredited entity fee and project management costs

Provide a list of the activities that are expected to be conducted using the AE fees and project management cost with corresponding costs as follows:

Accredited entity fee: the table below provides information on the activities to be conducted and the budget.

Table 23: detailed breakdown for the use of the fees

Accredited Entity Fee Request Budget						
Accredited entity: UNDP	GCF Total Financing:	18,571,766	Total Proj. Financing (incl. GCF):		18,571,766	
Project: REDD+ Results Based Payments for 2014-2015	GCF RBP :	18,571,766	Total RBP:		18,571,766	
Country: Ecuador						
Duration (years): 6 years						
Year:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Currency:	USD					
1. Project/Program Implementation and Supervision						
1.1 Use of Proceeds Reporting and Oversight Overseeing the preparation of the required reports for submission to the GCF Secretariat	206	6,407	8,328	8,780	8,780	4,245
	206	6,407	8,328	8,780	8,780	4,245

longer eligible for RBPs under the GCF or in any other arrangement, and (C) the Host Country will retire the GCF Volume of ERs and will not transfer or otherwise use them (e.g. offsetting);						
Total	120,909	119,110	121,031	121,483	121,483	138,856
GRAND TOTAL						742,871
Fee Percentage						4.00%

The agreed fee will be disbursed to the Accredited Entity in addition to the REDD+ RBP. The Accredited Entity's fee will be disbursed in six (6) equal annual disbursements. The first instalment of the fee will be:
c.2.

Description	GCF Accredited Entity fee
For Year 1 activities	123,811.88
For Year 2 activities	123,811.88
For Year 3 activities	123,811.88
For Year 4 activities	123,811.88
For Year 5 activities	123,811.88
For Year 6 activities	123,811.88
Total	742,871

Table 24: Detailed breakdown for the Project Management Costs

List of activities	Costs (USD)	Explanation/justification
Administrative Finance assistant	100,128	48 months Administrative Assistant
Logistics assistant	71,440	60 months Logistics Assistant
Procurement associate	217,163	42 months procurement Assistant
Audits	55,169	4 Annual audits
Direct Costs UNDP	400,000	UNDP direct project costs relates to direct project services provided by UNDP for processes and transactions to implement the project. This referential cost has been calculated based on the Universal Price List that provides specific costs for every specific transaction.
UNDP provision of supervision services to the project	557,153	
TOTAL	1,401,052	

H. Annexes

Following naming conventions used in all UNDP funding proposals to the GCF the following annexes are provided:

- Non-objection Letter
- Environmental and social assessment (ESA)

....

No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s)

MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE



Oficio Nro. MAE-MAE-2018-1618-O

Quito, D.M., 04 de septiembre de 2018

Asunto: Funding proposal from the GCF by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding "Ecuador REDD+ results-based payments for results period 2014".

Mister
Javier Manzanares
GREEN CLIMATE FUND
En su Despacho

Dear Mr. Manzanares,

In reference to the project "Ecuador REDD+ results-based payments for results period 2014" as included in the funding proposal submitted by United Nations Development Programme to us on 28th of August, 2018.

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the Ministry of the Environment, the National Designated Authority of Ecuador.

Pursuant to GCF decision B.08/10, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the project "Ecuador REDD+ results-based payments for results period 2014" as included in the funding proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

1. The government of Ecuador has no-objection to the project as included in the funding proposal;
2. The project as included in the funding proposal is in line with Ecuador's national priorities, strategies and plans;
3. In accordance with the GCF's environmental and social safeguards, the project as included in the funding proposal is in conformity with relevant national laws and regulations.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the project as included in the funding proposal has been duly followed and that our no-objection applies to all projects or activities to be implemented within the scope of the project.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Sincerely,

Documento firmado electrónicamente

Lcdo. Manuel Humberto Cholango Tipanluisa
MINISTRO DEL AMBIENTE

Copia:
Señorita Licenciada
Stephanie Carin Ávalos Calderón
Subsecretaria de Cambio Climático, Subrogante

Señora Licenciada
Maria Victoria Chiriboga Nielsen
Subsecretaria de Cambio Climático

MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE



Oficio Nro. MAE-MAE-2018-1618-O
Quito, D.M., 04 de septiembre de 2018

rp/jg/vm/sá



Firmado electrónicamente por:
MANUEL HUMBERTO
CHOLANGO
TIPANLUIA

Dirección: Calle Madrid 1159 y Andalucía • **Código Postal:** 170525 / Quito • Ecuador . **Teléfono:** 593-2 398-7600

Environmental and social safeguards report form pursuant to para. 17 of the IDP

Basic project or programme information	
Project or programme title	Ecuador REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for results period 2014
Existence of subproject(s) to be identified after GCF Board approval	No
Sector (public or private)	Public
Accredited entity	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) category	Category B
Location – specific location(s) of project or target country or location(s) of programme	Ecuador
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (if applicable)	
Date of disclosure on accredited entity's website	Thursday, September 13, 2018
Language(s) of disclosure	English and Spanish
Explanation on language	Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. The documents were provided in English and Spanish, so both national and international readers can easily understand the content.
Link to disclosure	http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/Library/medio-ambiente-y-energia-/pagos-por-resultados--apoyo-a-la-implementacion-del-plan-de-acci.html
Other link(s)	http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/pagos-por-resultados-apoyo-a-la-implementacion-del-plan-de-accion-redd/
Remarks	An ESIA consistent with the requirements for a category B project is contained in the “Environmental and Social Management Framework”. Both website interfaces are in Spanish given that these are official national websites in Ecuador. Links to English versions of the documents can easily be identified on the right side of the UNDP website or by reading the specific icons on the Ministry of Environment’s website.
Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (if applicable)	
Date of disclosure on accredited entity's website	Thursday, September 13, 2018
Language(s) of disclosure	English and Spanish
Explanation on language	Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. The documents were provided in English and Spanish, so both national and international readers can easily understand the content.

Link to disclosure	http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/Library/medio-ambiente-y-energia-/pagos-por-resultados--apoyo-a-la- implementacion-del-plan-de-acci.html
Other link(s)	<a href="http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/pagos-por-resultados-apoyo-a-la-
implementacion-del-plan-de-accion-redd/">http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/pagos-por-resultados-apoyo-a-la- implementacion-del-plan-de-accion-redd/
Remarks	An ESMP consistent with the requirements for a category B project is contained in the Environmental and Social Management Framework. Both website interfaces are in Spanish given that these are official national websites in Ecuador. Links to English versions of the documents can easily be identified on the right side of the UNDP website or by reading the specific icons on the Ministry of Environment's website.
Environmental and Social Management (ESMS) (if applicable)	
Date of disclosure on accredited entity's website	N/A
Language(s) of disclosure	[]
Explanation on language	[]
Link to disclosure	[]
Other link(s)	[]
Remarks	[]
Any other relevant ESS reports, e.g. Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), IPP Framework (if applicable)	
Date of disclosure on accredited entity's website	Thursday, September 13, 2018
Language(s) of disclosure	English and Spanish
Explanation on language	Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. The documents were provided in English and Spanish, so both national and international readers can easily understand the content.
Link to disclosure	<a href="http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/Library/medio-ambiente-y-energia-/pagos-por-resultados--apoyo-a-la-
implementacion-del-plan-de-acci.html">http://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/Library/medio-ambiente-y-energia-/pagos-por-resultados--apoyo-a-la- implementacion-del-plan-de-acci.html
Other link(s)	<a href="http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/pagos-por-resultados-apoyo-a-la-
implementacion-del-plan-de-accion-redd/">http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/pagos-por-resultados-apoyo-a-la- implementacion-del-plan-de-accion-redd/
Remarks	Description of other documents disclosed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), 2. Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA). The ESA provides the assessment by the Accredited Entity on the extent to which the REDD+ actions and the relevant policies, laws and regulations for which the results-based payments are requested were consistent with the applicable ESS standards.
Disclosure in locations convenient to affected peoples (stakeholders)	
Date	Thursday, September 13, 2018
Place	Ministry of Environment website
Date of Board meeting in which the FP is intended to be considered	
Date of accredited entity's Board meeting	N/A*

Date of GCF's Board meeting	Saturday, July 6, 2019
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Note: This form was prepared by the accredited entity stated above.

*Subsequent to the disclosure of this form to the Board and active observers on 5 June 2019, the following minor change has been made: the "Date of accredited entity's Board meeting" was changed from "Tuesday, May 21, 2019" to "N/A."

Secretariat's assessment of FP110

Proposal name:	Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014
Accredited entity:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Country/(ies):	Ecuador
Project/programme size:	Small

I. Overall assessment of the Secretariat

1.1 Project background

1. The project presents Ecuador's REDD-plus results for 2014, calculating a volume of around 4.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) in emissions reductions (ER) derived from protecting against deforestation, which have subsequently been reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and which have undergone technical assessment and been published in the UNFCCC REDD-plus information hub.¹ These results are presented to GCF for results-based payments (RBP) as part of the REDD-plus RBP pilot programme and are fully compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in the terms of reference (TOR) for the pilot programme (decision B.18/07). The presented results, which comply with UNFCCC standards and the GCF TOR, have been analysed based on the scorecard and presented in annex 1.

2. Ecuador will use the proceeds from RBP to invest in additional activities that support the implementation of their national REDD-plus action plan. The RBP project will focus on the following outputs, which form part of the action plan:

- (a) Output 1: policies and institutional management for REDD-plus;
- (b) Output 2: transition to sustainable agricultural production systems;
- (c) Output 3: sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration;
- (d) Output 4: operational management of the national REDD-plus action plan; and
- (e) Output 5: project management.

1.2 Scorecard results

3. As per decision B.18/07, the proposal was assessed using the scorecard for REDD-plus RBP. This assessment was conducted by the Secretariat with support of Land use, land-Use change and forestry (LULUCF) experts and the preliminary results were discussed with the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP). The final score was discussed and agreed with the iTAP.

¹ Available at <<https://redd.unfccc.int/>>.

Table 1: Scorecard results (see annex 1 for details)

Scorecard section		Results
Carbon elements		Score: 36 All criteria “pass”
Non-carbon elements	Cancun Safeguards	All criteria “pass”
	Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits	Score: 2
GCF investment framework ^a		All criteria “high”
GCF policies		All criteria “pass”

^a Although scale is not applicable for small-size proposals (decision B.10/17), it is provided for informative purposes only, considering the innovative feature of REDD-plus results-based payments proposals in GCF.

1.3 Proposed payments

4. Following the procedure defined in the TOR, the following equation was applied to estimate the volume of results to be translated into payments:

$$\text{Volume of ERs offered (x) } \frac{\text{Total score achieved}}{\text{Maximum score}} = \text{GCF volume of ERs}$$

5. The resulting GCF volume of results and the proposed amount for payments are provided in table 2 below:

Table 2: Resulting GCF volume of results and the proposed amount for payments

Values	Results
Volume of ERs offered: 4,831,679 tCO ₂ eq	GCF volume of ERs: 3,623,759.25 tCO ₂ eq
Total score achieved: 36	Additional 2.5% of payments for non-carbon benefits
Maximum score: 48	
Valuation of results: USD 5/tCO ₂ eq	Proposed results-based payments:
Non-carbon benefits score: 2	USD 18,571,766

Abbreviations: tCO₂eq = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent; ER = emission reductions

1.4 Strengths and points of caution

6. The funding proposal is presented to the Board for consideration with the following remarks:

Strengths	Points of caution
The use of proceeds will be reinvested to deepen the implementation of the ambitious national REDD-plus action plan.	A previous GCF project was approved in Ecuador to implement the REDD-plus strategy. The accredited entity (AE) will need

	to closely monitor the implementation of both projects, assuring complementarity and avoiding any possible overlap between them.
The project provides a good case for complementarity and coherence by blending GCF investments with other ongoing initiatives to help Ecuador implement its REDD+ action plan such as GEF, REM and FIP.	As per the TOR, GCF will make the payments in a single disbursement. The implementation of the use of proceeds will mostly be supervised directly by the AE. Nonetheless, annual reporting will be provided to GCF.

7. The Board may wish to consider approving this funding proposal with the terms and conditions listed in the respective term sheet and addendum XIII, titled “List of proposed conditions and recommendations”.

II. Assessment performance against investment criteria

2.1 Impact potential

Scale: High

8. Ecuador implemented a number of policies and measures in the period 2009–2014 that led to emission reductions of 29 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂eq) from 2009 to 2014. The total volume of emission reductions achieved by Ecuador in this period, including those proposed in the REDD-plus RBP pilot programme, are included in the technical annex to the biennial update report submitted to the UNFCCC. These results were technically assessed in accordance with the Conference of the Parties decisions on REDD-plus. The achievement of these past results contributed directly to GCF objectives and targets in the forest and land use result area and furthermore, through the use of proceeds, will lead to a continued reduction of emissions from deforestation.

9. Given that the forest reference emission level (FREL) is national, the risk of displacements is reduced. Through the implementation of the National REDD-plus action plan, the risk of displacements is further reduced. This is additionally strengthened through the land use zoning activities of the project.

10. The country continues to build an ambitious and powerful approach to REDD-plus based on these activities. These policies and measures, together with the national REDD-plus action plan, are highly ambitious, necessary and transformative in nature. The use of proceeds offers the opportunity to support Ecuador to continue transforming the forest sector and achieve more REDD-plus results in the future.

2.2 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: High

11. The initiation of the REDD-plus national action plan helped Ecuador streamline and coordinate REDD-plus efforts through an ambitious and strategic approach. This helped the country reduce emissions from deforestation and later report and record the results in full compliance with the UNFCCC and now GCF. The project will help to continue the transformation of the forest sector that Ecuador has undertaken for several years.

12. The reinvestment of the proceeds into the national REDD-plus action plan will help Ecuador to further reduce emissions from deforestation in the coming years and involve the private sector, which will further help Ecuador meet its national REDD-plus targets. The

strategic investments from GCF for implementation of the action plan seek to complement existing funding sources (Forest Investment Programme (FIP), REDD Early Movers (REM) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and has the potential to attract other donors and financial mechanisms to blend in for implementation of the very ambitious REDD-plus action plan.

13. There is furthermore a strong potential for building a platform to engage the private sector. The project specifically targets private sector engagement through output 2 focusing on private-public partnerships for marketing deforestation free commodities. This will help provide the needed evidence base to further engage the private sector across all components of the REDD-plus action plan and provide additional experience and valuable lessons learned to the other donors and national stakeholders.

14. The lessons learned from private-sector engagement will not only benefit Ecuador but will be an important pilot for other countries engaging in REDD-plus RBP and showcase a solid model.

2.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: High

15. The GCF project will create an enabling environment to sustainable development by achieving systemic change at the local and national levels. The REDD-plus action plan focuses on sustainable development across all its outputs. The outputs in the action plan that will be supported through this proposal do explicitly concentrate on economic, environmental and social aspects and seek to improve the livelihoods of rural poor.

16. In addition, the proposed project is expected to engage and improve the livelihoods of women who are mostly in disadvantaged positions. The project will strengthen governance in indigenous territories and provides support for improving their livelihoods.

17. Ecuador has built a very strong and solid policy framework on gender over the years, such as the National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality. Through its solid policy framework on gender, Ecuador has achieved the highest female workforce participation rates (55 per cent) in Latin America. The project will build on this national platform. The project will use the various regulations of the policy instruments in the activities in full compliance with national policies, international treaties and UNDP gender policies and guidelines.

18. The project targets poverty reduction and, through the focus on improving agricultural production, will lead to higher production but with fewer impacts on the environment and resulting in improved conditions for the rural poor. This will also lead to improved economic impacts.

19. The project activities have a positive impact on the environment. Biodiversity conservation is well embedded across the activities. Ecuador's forests are considered a biodiversity hotspot in the world. Through its various activities, including the development of improved agricultural practices, among others, the project will lead to a reduction of encroachment on the environment, and better protection of the forests and biodiversity conservation.

2.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: High

20. The focus of the use of proceeds will target strategic parts of the REDD-plus action plan that is currently not funded by the other funding sources (GEF, REM, FIP, etc.) with only 24 per cent of the total financial needs for implementation being covered.
21. The outputs of the REDD-plus action plan targeted by this project all have a strong focus on capacity-building of the various stakeholders involved (indigenous peoples, local communities and government). There is a strong focus on strengthening the operational management of the action plan. This will not only support the implementation of this project but also provide a strong platform for the entire REDD-plus action plan and indirectly support the implementation of all other outputs and activities that are part of the action plan.
22. The main beneficiaries of these payments include the rural population and indigenous peoples living in the Amazon region of Ecuador. The GCF contribution will play a crucial part in meeting the target of implementing REDD-plus for 2025 and in attracting other support to help Ecuador meet its target.

2.5 Country ownership

Scale: High

23. The project is fully aligned with national policies, nationally determined contribution priorities and national strategies and the proceeds will be used to reinvest in the full implementation of Ecuador's very ambitious and strategic national REDD-plus action plan.
24. Indigenous peoples and local communities are at the centre of the project. The use of proceeds through the targeted outputs all focus directly and indirectly on these groups. Ecuador has developed and promoted innovative approaches for engaging stakeholders. These include the national REDD-plus roundtable, technical working groups and local spaces for dialogues. The numerous meetings held through all three platforms across national and subnational levels have led to very extensive stakeholder consultations over the last few years to fully engage all stakeholders in REDD-plus. This intensive engagement has without doubt laid the groundwork for this project.
25. In the context of the preparation of this proposal, the government undertook a highly consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and relevant stakeholders. Evidence on this process was provided in an annex as part of the funding proposal.

2.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: High

26. The REDD-plus results for 2014 presented to GCF and the suggested budget clearly highlight that a fixed price of USD 5 per tCO₂eq will be applied to the project, which is cost effective and in accordance with the TOR of the pilot programme. Furthermore, the payment for these past results is reinvested into a transformation of the forest sector, which will allow Ecuador to continue to reduce emissions from deforestation.
27. The reinvestment into the national action plan further helps Ecuador reach economies of scale together with other donors currently supporting the action plan and brings different donors and partners together to improve complementarity and coherence. The GCF investment will complement ongoing support from the GEF, REM and FIP and blend in with them. The project is a model by showcasing how GCF funds can help bring complementarity and coherence with other important funding sources for REDD-plus RBPs. Each of these funds has a very clearly defined role, which is described in the project with specific details on what GCF

investments will cover. There is furthermore potential to further link with and build on the lessons learned from the Socio Bosque programme.

28. There will furthermore be numerous lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of activities and coordination with the other sources that will be crucial not only for Ecuador but for other REDD-plus countries engaging in RBP. This will be important with regards to the private sector and in seeking to increase their engagement in REDD-plus finance.

III. Assessment of consistency with GCF safeguards and policies

3.1 Environmental and social safeguards

29. The accredited entity (AE) provided an environmental and social assessment (ESA) describing the extent to which the *Socio Bosque* programme (PSB), as well as the applicable policies, laws and regulations (PLRs), have been consistent with the GCF environmental and social safeguards (ESS) standards and GCF Gender Policy. The AE provided an environmental and social screening report identifying environmental and social risks and impacts of activities that will be supported by the payment proceeds and an environmental and social management framework (ESMF) describing the processes for further due diligence and management of risks and impacts. These documents are submitted in accordance with GCF requirements for funding proposals under the pilot programme for REDD-plus RBP.

30. The ESA retroactively reviews activities for which Ecuador seeks RBP. It includes a detailed PLR analysis, which assesses national policy alignment with both the social and environmental standards (SES) of the AE and with the Cancun Safeguards. It also includes a detailed analysis of the programme (*Proyecto Socio Bosque de Conservación*) and the extent to which implementation of that project was consistent with the SES of the AE. The AE noted that its SES is coherent with the GCF ESS standards.

31. The framework developed by the AE for analysing and comparing its own standards (SES) against those of Ecuador's PLRs, those of the UNFCCC (Cancun Safeguards) and the GCF ESS standards represents an approach to measuring alignment of various safeguard requirements, addressing the problem of duplicative reporting, and moving countries towards a more universal system for monitoring and reporting the application of safeguards. For the project alignment review, a set of analytical matrices lists key indicators for assessing consistency with each of the UNDP principles and requirement for each thematic safeguard issue (i.e. biodiversity, indigenous peoples, cultural heritage, resettlement, etc.). The review concludes that the safeguard approach of Ecuador's PSB and the applicable national PLRs on forest, the environment and sustainable development were well aligned with Ecuador's regulatory, legal and policy framework, and that it contributed to effective implementation of safeguards consistent with the SES. Similarly, the matrix developed to analyse Ecuador's PLRs against the SES and Cancun Safeguards determined that during the year for which the AE seeks RBP (2014), the PSB was well aligned with the SES, and that, overall, its activities and approach were consistent with key objectives of the SES without significant shortcomings. Even where shortcomings were identified, the AE assessment found that positive alignment with the SES was "dominant", and most areas in need of strengthening were covered by other elements of REDD-plus programming at that time or are planned in future.

32. The rich analytical matrices in the ESA validate the conclusions of the summary of information (SOI) provided by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment. While the ESA includes a

great deal more information and analyses than the SOI, the latter addresses the extent to which the Ministry believes it has respected and addressed the Cancun Safeguards and concludes that, overall, there is adequate alignment consistent with GCF requirements. It describes processes and initiatives it undertook during the preparation of Ecuador's REDD-plus activities that relate to both the Cancun safeguards and to its own PLRs, and it provides summaries of its approach to each of the seven UNFCCC safeguards. Those descriptions, as well as the gaps and opportunities it identifies for strengthening forest governance, reducing emissions, and applying relevant social and environmental safeguard criteria, are consistent with the more complex descriptions and empirical findings offered in the ESA. Both the ESA and the SOI emphasize additional efforts and criteria that were used to demonstrate consistency with UNDP standards and alignment with the Cancun safeguards.

33. The ESA and SOI appear to demonstrate that, overall, the programme for which the AE is seeking RBP was implemented in a manner consistent with the safeguard policies of the AE, and in relative alignment with the Cancun Safeguards. The translated/annotated recommendations for improvement noted in the passing scorecard below are drawn from the SOI where they are more thoroughly summarized.

34. The funding proposal describes the RBP project that will be potentially supported by the proceeds from REDD-plus RBP. The project outlines five proposed outputs and nine activities conducted nationwide as well as in identified regions such as the provinces of Azuay and Canar in the southwest region of La Sierra, and in La Costa and the Amazon forest. The objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of emissions from land use change and forestry through a set of interventions on policies and institutional management, transitioning to sustainable agricultural production systems, sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration, and operational management of the national REDD-plus action plan.

35. The AE has classified the RBP project as having probable moderate environmental and social risks and impacts, equivalent to Category B of the GCF project safeguard categorization. The AE took into account that most of the activities that will be conducted will have minimal environmental and social risks. Activities that have physical elements, such as those that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, restoration, and enhancements of value chain for non-timber forest products may potentially generate mild to moderate environmental and social risks.

36. The AE prepared an ESMF that describes the environmental and social due diligence process that will be undertaken for the various activities of the project. The ESMF provides the principles and procedures for screening, assessing and managing the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the activities of the project, including those that have yet to be defined. An environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) will be undertaken for activities that have potential moderate environmental and social impacts. However, clarity would be needed on what will be covered by the ESIA and the type of safeguard activity or documents will be required at each stage of the subprojects or activities and the agencies responsible. Once the activities or outputs are finalized and with details, the ESMF will need to be updated to include a subproject or activity screening checklist. The checklist will need to be developed to assess the eligibility of the proposed subproject or activity, and, if eligible, to determine the commensurate level of environmental and social assessments (for example, ESIA, EMP, codes of practice, etc.), the required plans (resettlement plans, indigenous peoples plan, biodiversity action plan, etc.) as well as other safeguard instruments. Activities with potentially high environmental and social risks as well as those that can lead to physical and economic displacement and infringements on tangible or intangible heritage, will not be supported by the project. The forms, templates,

specifications and terms of reference related to due diligence and management of environmental and social risks and impacts are presented as annexes of the ESMF.

37. The ESMF presented a wide range of potential environmental and social risks and the proposed applicable mitigation measures. These risks cover various environmental and social aspects that include integrating assessment of social risks and impacts, land tenure, indigenous peoples, pollution, access restrictions to land and resources, biodiversity and natural habitats, and emission displacements and reversals.

38. The project will be implemented through a national mechanism that will function at three levels: decision-making, technical advisory, and project management. The ESMF recommended that the Project Board include a Senior Beneficiary to represent and articulate the issues and needs of the project beneficiaries. A project management unit (PMU) will be established for the specific RBP project and tasked to manage the delivery of outputs. The ESMF recommended that adequate skill and expertise be acquired for the PMU to ensure the conduct of due diligence and the implementation of the mitigation measures. Project quality assurance will be provided by the AE.

39. Extensive stakeholder engagement and consultations have been undertaken in the course of developing the project and the ESMF. The engagement is complemented by the various spaces for dialogue established by the government, which include the national REDD-plus roundtable, the working groups and the technical committees. The consultations and engagement will be on an ongoing basis, undertaken throughout the project implementation, and designed to align with the national requirements and guidelines. The engagement will be supported by the disclosure of information about the activities, including reports, screening results, ESIA, and monitoring reports. A project-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be developed consistent with the grievance redress system of the AE. The principles and specifications of the project-level GRM are presented in the ESMF.

40. The environmental and social monitoring, review and reporting requirements are presented in the ESMF. The indicative cost related to ESMF implementation was also provided.

3.2 Gender policy

41. The Gender Assessment provided by the AE indicates that Ecuador has the enabling environment that provides the space for women as well as men to equitably benefit from the intervention of REDD-plus through the PSB. The country has policies and laws that are favourable for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Ecuador's constitution provides for the formulation and execution of policies to achieve equality between women and men while sector policies follow suit to promote the same principles. Further, institutional structures are put in place to follow through with the implementation of the commitments made and to protect the right to equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The enabling environment allows for integration of gender equality in the programmes and projects including the PSB.

42. The AE prepared an ESA that describes how PSB and the applicable PLRs are consistent with the requirements of the SES of the AE, which include, as an overarching principle, gender equality and women's empowerment.

43. The findings on the ESA indicate that while the PSB did not specifically include gender equality and women's empowerment in its objectives, incentive money (19.8 per cent) was directed to women's issues and encouraged inclusive participation at all levels of stakeholder

engagement, decision-making, capacity-building and training. However, the assessment also indicates that there was indeed greater participation of men than women, along with significant differences in the exercise and enjoyment of rights, including the right to access and control over land and resources, decision-making and participation processes, among others. In addition, PSB staff were not provided the context to deal with and challenge cultural norms that favour both the ownership of land and, at times, decision-making by men. Confirming the ESA findings, the gender assessment provided by the AE indicated that although investments were made towards women and women groups, data from the investments indicated a marked difference between men and women in terms of number of agreements, number of hectares included, annual incentives and number of beneficiaries, with men represented more in all aspects.

44. To the credit of the project, recognizing the need to address the challenges in addressing gender issues and with the intent to ensure women equally participate and benefit, the project conducted assessments on the challenges and provided recommendations. The recommendations revolve around diagnosing the gender issues at the implementation level; developing awareness and training programmes for technical staff as well as developing policy and an action plan to mainstream gender in the implementation of the programme. The diagnosis and the recommendations are stepping stones for the AE to be able to compile and submit the preliminary gender assessment and action plan.

45. The gender assessment and action plan are preliminary as both are based on desk reviews. With the submission of both documents, the AE must conform to the requirements of the GCF Gender Policy and Action Plan. The gender analysis provides the broader gender context and extensive analysis of the REDD-plus project. The action plan is also comprehensive and responds to and is aimed at addressing the gaps identified. Further, it is intended to ensure proceeds are reaching stakeholders equally, particularly women. The action plan provides gender-responsive actions, baselines, targets, indicators and budgets. It also ensures that the monitoring and evaluation plan will include the gender issues identified through the assessment and action plan. A gender-responsive ESIA will be undertaken and is expected to provide concrete and relevant inputs to improve, integrate and make relevant the gender-related interventions going forward. Gender experts or gender expertise will be put in place to follow up and support implementation of the activities. These steps to improve gender issues will allow the government of Ecuador to fulfil its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and are in line with the policy of GCF. The AE will have to include in the final action plan timelines for each of the activities that will be undertaken.

3.3 Risks

3.3.1. Overall programme assessment (medium risk):

46. Under the pilot programme for REDD-plus results-based payments, GCF is requested to provide a payment of USD 18,571,766 for the emission reductions (ERs) achieved by Ecuador in 2014. The volume of ERs for which GCF funding is sought is within 30 per cent of the total payable volume as required under the TOR; and

47. The end use activities are in accordance with the National REDD-plus Action Plan and as permitted under the TOR. The AE and executing entity (EE) are expected to coordinate with various stakeholders for the implementation of the end-use activities.

3.3.2. AE/EE capability to execute the current programme (medium risk):

48. UNDP is an AE and has an extensive track record in implementation of projects in developing countries. The AE is considered a reliable partner to monitor and support the REDD-plus projects in Ecuador; and

49. The Ministry of the Environment (MAE) is the EE for the proposed project as well as for another GCF funded project (FP019). As mentioned in the funding proposal, the current capability of the MAE to execute the REDD-plus project is demonstrated by its suitable organizational structure, with three under secretariats and general coordination offices in each of the 24 Ecuadorian provinces. However, the project implementation depends on actions of multiple stakeholders, ranging from different national line ministries, local governments and agricultural producers and indigenous communities. GCF is relying upon the AE and EE to ensure proper coordination among the stakeholders.

3.3.3. Programme specific execution risks (medium risk):

50. Risk of double payments: the funding proposal indicates that the Government established a national registry to track emissions reduction achieved. This is also to ensure the transparency that the reduced emissions of which the RBP received will not be transferred and/or used for other payments in the future. To avoid any other party having a competing claim to the results proposed to GCF for payment, the Government issued a Ministerial Decree whereby MAE is the REDD-plus national authority and the only body with power to request RBP;

51. Use of proceeds: Ecuador will use the proceeds from RBP to invest in activities that support the implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan alongside other financing (including another GCF approved project, FP019) from GEF, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and potential donors. Thus, the end use is as permitted in the TOR. The proposed activities will be implemented over six years and thus need to be adequately monitored to achieve the desired impact; and

52. Disbursement plan: the project implementation will be over six years and the funding proposal provided information regarding use of the AE fee and project management cost (PMC) over this period. It is recommended that the disbursement of GCF financing is carried out over the six-year period corresponding to the implementation of the activities.

3.3.4. Compliance risk (medium risk):

53. The project is located in Ecuador. According to the “Know Your Country AML” website (<https://www.knowyourcountry.com/ecuador1111>), which is an internationally recognized due diligence database on country AML/CFT and corruption risk, Ecuador has in the past faced some deficiencies in its AML/CFT regime, although improvements have been made. As a result, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which evaluates countries with respect to AML/CFT international standards, has lessened its requirements to monitor Ecuador’s implementation of these requirements.

54. According to the Know Your Country AML – Ecuador website, Ecuador continues to face financial compliance issues, particularly with the transit of illicit cash, often related to the illicit drug market and corruption. Of significance, there is deemed a lack of sufficient internal controls among some Ecuadorian public and private institutions to prevent money-laundering or illicit financial activities. There have been other enforcement actions related to corruption and bribery, such as that recently taken against some high-ranking officials in the state-run energy agency. (Source: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=298672ad-7028->

[4042-96b6-a1d1bfa8eed2](#)). These recent events demonstrate that the potential of abuse of funds for corruption, money laundering, and other illicit activities still remain present.

55. UNDP, as the AE, has experience in managing projects of the type envisioned in this project and is contractually obligated to apply and implement its internal policies and controls to prevent money-laundering and related illicit activities. UNDP is aware of the risks and has committed to monitoring, addressing, and mitigating those risks where identified pursuant to its own policies and procedures. An important monitoring and mitigation measure would emphasize that sanctions screenings be conducted at disbursement stage to ensure no sanctioned party is involved in the project funds disbursement. In addition, close monitoring of the project activities should be undertaken to ensure funds are properly spent and accounted for and not diverted for illicit purposes. Based on the monitoring and mitigation efforts of the AE and review of the sources indicated above, Compliance rates the risk as MEDIUM.

3.3.5. GCF portfolio concentration risk (low risk):

56. In case of approval, the impact of this proposal on the GCF portfolio risk remains non-material and within the risk appetite in terms of concentration level, results area or single proposal.

3.3.6. Conclusion (medium risk):

57. It is recommended that any approval by the Board is made by considering the above points.

Summary Risk Assessment		Rationale
Overall programme	Medium	The proposed payment is for emissions reductions already achieved by Ecuador. The proceeds will be used for investment to support the implementation of national REDD-plus action plans and coordination with other financing. The project implementation depends on actions of multiple stakeholders. GCF is relying on the accredited entity to ensure proper co-ordination among the stakeholders and monitoring the use of the disbursements and the use of the disbursed funds
Accredited entity/executing entity capability	Medium	
Project specific execution	Medium	
Compliance	Medium	
GCF portfolio concentration	Low	

3.4 Results monitoring and reporting

58. Following the requirements of the ToR, the proposal will follow a simplified reporting for which a specific template was developed by the secretariat. The frequency of reporting will be annually following the AMA.

59. The monitoring of the use of proceeds will be conducted at the main activity level according to the description provided in the funding proposal.

3.5 Legal assessment

60. The Accreditation Master Agreement was signed with the Accredited Entity on 5 August 2016, and it became effective on 23 November 2016.

61. The Accredited Entity has provided a certificate confirming that it has obtained all internal approvals and it has the capacity and authority to implement the project.

62. The proposed project will be implemented in the Republic of Ecuador, country in which GCF is not provided with privileges and immunities. This means that, amongst other things, GCF is not protected against litigation or expropriation in this country, which risks need to be further assessed. The Secretariat submitted a draft of the privileges and immunities agreement to the Government of Ecuador on 18 August 2015, an updated draft was shared on 25 October 2018. The draft agreement is currently in negotiation.

63. The Heads of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) and Independent Integrity Unit (IIU) have both expressed that it would not be legally feasible to undertake their redress activities and/or investigations, as appropriate, in countries where the GCF is not provided with relevant privileges and immunities. Therefore, it is recommended that disbursements by the GCF are made only after the GCF has obtained satisfactory protection against litigation and expropriation in the country or has been provided with appropriate privileges and immunities.

IV. List of proposed conditions

64. In order to mitigate risk, it is recommended that any approval by the Board is made subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Signature of the funded activity agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to the Secretariat within 180 days from the date of Board approval; and
- (b) Completion of the relevant due diligence to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.

Annex I: Scorecard (aligned to the funding proposal template structure)

Section A: Proposed and projected REDD-plus results		
Criteria	Status (Yes/No)	Remarks
Does the total volume of achieved results indicated in the proposal match the results indicated in the biennial update report (BUR) during the results period (31 December 2013 to 31 December 2018)?	Yes	The total volume of results including the results offered to GCF are 28,990,071 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ eq) over the period 2009–2014.
Is the volume of achieved results offered to the pilot programme equal to or less than the total volume of achieved results indicated in the BUR during the results period?	Yes	Only the volume for 2014 is offered to GCF, and meets the eligible period. The volume offered equals the volume of achieved results for that year.
Is the expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved significant compared to the overall level of REDD-plus results achieved in the current funding proposal being submitted?	Yes	The expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved in the following years of the eligibility period is higher than the volume of results for the current period.
Is the total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme within the available allocation of funding for the pilot programme and below the cap per country?	Yes	The proposed volume falls within the available allocation of funding and remains below the cap per country.
Section B: Carbon elements		
B.1. Forest reference emission level/forest reference level (FREL/FRL)		
Criteria	Score	Remarks
(i) Is the FREL/FRL consistent with the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, including the definition of forest used?	1	Ecuador explained that the FREL is not consistent with the GHG inventory provided in its second national communication because the activity data used in the FREL have undergone significant improvement compared to the GHG inventory, and the methods have been updated from those given in the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines to those given in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) good practice guidance for land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). The assessment team (AT) acknowledges this

		<p>explanation and highlights that consistency should be ensured in the next GHG inventory to be submitted with the first BUR.</p> <p>The Technical Assessment Report (TAR) concludes the FREL and the GHG inventory are inconsistent but there is clear indication that inconsistencies will be resolved in the next GHG inventory or FREL/FRL. It is noted that in the technical report on the technical analysis of the technical annex to the first BUR, the LULUCF experts noted that Ecuador’s technical annex did not include sufficient information to assess consistency with the data used in the construction of the FREL and those used in the latest GHG inventories available. The experts did find two areas of inconsistency in the estimations arising from the assumptions used between the construction of the FREL and the results and the estimation of the emissions and removals from the LULUCF sector for the 2010 GHG inventory. Ecuador explained that the data to be used in its third national communication can be expected to be consistent with those used in the construction of the FREL and the results presented in the technical annex and the summary of the GHG inventory included in its first BUR. Ecuador further explained to the LULUCF experts that in order to maintain consistency, all data and methods used for the construction of Ecuador’s FREL were taken into account in the GHG estimates for the LULUCF sector included in its national GHG inventory for 2010. At the time of the assessment, the publication of the national inventory report (NIR) was pending. After considering the explanations and the draft of the NIR for the 2010 GHG inventory provided by Ecuador during the TA week, the LULUCF experts noted that the activity data and emission factors used for the estimation of the 2010 GHG inventory and those applied to calculate the emissions for the 2009–2014 results period are consistent.</p>
<p>(ii) Is the FREL/FRL based on historical data and is it equal to or below the average annual historical emissions during the reference period, unless a country is an HFLD country?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Ecuador is not a HFLD country. The FREL/FRL is equal to average annual historical emissions associated with gross deforestation for the historical reference period 2000–2008.</p>

<p>(iii) Is the FREL/FRL in accordance with the guidelines in decision 12/CP.17?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The assessment team notes that the data and information used by Ecuador in constructing its FREL are transparent and complete and are mostly in accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17. The AT identified areas for improvement but did not highlight any material issues in the modified FREL.</p>
<p>(iv) Are the data and information provided for the FREL/FRL transparent? (Has information been provided to allow an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on submission of information on reference levels has been addressed?)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The TAR noted certain areas where improved transparency is needed.</p> <p>No information was provided in the modified FREL submission on the possible overestimation of emissions from deforestation of the young forests. In addition, no information was provided on the criteria used to assign forest areas younger than 10 years old to different categories of forest lands. In this regard, Ecuador replied that no distinction of age was considered in the national forest inventory; hence, the carbon density used represented forests in different successional stages. The AT considers that the limited information on this may not be completely transparent. It further considers that Ecuador could provide estimates of the emissions from the deforestation of young forests using more conservative emission factors (e.g. using the IPCC factors for the growth of secondary tropical forests) and an explanation of the criteria used to assign forest areas younger than 10 years to different categories of forest lands. The AT considers the estimation of the carbon densities across successional stages to be an area for future improvement in the context of a step-wise approach. The AT did not raise material concerns regarding the issues listed above.</p> <p>The funding proposal describes the plan and steps for addressing these concerns. For construction of the FREL-2, Ecuador states it is already improving its detection of activity data, where young and mature forests are now differentiated. In addition, Ecuador states that it has incorporated improvements in the design of its latest national forest inventory to obtain sufficient information on its young and mature forests. A sampling design with a systematic distribution in all forest types was considered based on the volume variation coefficients obtained in the first forest inventory. This systematic distribution includes a larger number of sampling units</p>

		<p>than the previous inventory, distributed in both mature and young forests. Additionally, it includes adjustments in the classification variables to determine the origin and condition of the forests. It also includes satellite monitoring of the sampling units (unpublished internal document, MAE 2018). This national forestry inventory cycle will be completed in 2022.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the issues raised remain unresolved due to the limitation of time and data and the country has provided a plan on how it will seek to overcome them.</p>
(v) Is the FREL/FRL complete? (Has information been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the FREL/FRL?)	2	The AT concluded that the information is complete.
(vi) Is the FREL/FRL consistent? (Were data and methodologies applied consistently over the time series used for the construction of the FREL/FRL?)	2	The TAR did not find material issues in regard to the consistency of the FEL/FRL. The AT did note that the exclusion of young forest areas may raise issues of consistency if the future frequency of assessment of forest land-use change will differ from the one used to set the FREL. Considering this technical input by the AT, Ecuador, in the modified FREL submission, included all of the forest area conversions younger than 10 years old in the revised FREL, increasing the FREL value by 27.5%.
(vii) Is the FREL/FRL accurate? (The data and methodologies used neither over- nor under-estimate emissions and/or removals during the reference period, so far as can be judged.)	1	The modified FREL showcased improved data and accuracy and the AT commended Ecuador for their efforts. However, several issues for improvement were identified. The AT noted, and Ecuador acknowledged, that the method used for estimating the land use changes over time (map comparison) has the potential risk of over-estimation of land-use changes. Ecuador implemented a process involving visual quality control of the generated transitions but further potential improvements in the methodological approach were identified.

<p>(viii) Have all REDD-plus activities that are significant sources of emissions been included?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The only activity included in Ecuador's FREL is deforestation. The other activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, have not been included at this time due to a lack of information.</p> <p>The AT noted that due to a lack of information on emissions from forest degradation, it is currently not possible to assess its significance.</p> <p>The AT commends Ecuador for initiating work on the definition of forest degradation and acknowledges Ecuador's intention to include forest degradation in the construction of future FRELS when new, adequate data and better information become available. The funding proposal provides further information on the next steps including the implementation of SEPAL (processing and analysis for land monitoring) and the pilot phase of the second national forest inventory in the Amazon lowland evergreen forest.</p>
<p>(ix) Have all of the most significant pools been included?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>AT noted that the most, but not all, significant pools were included. Ecuador explained in its submission that soil organic carbon (SOC) was excluded from the proposed FREL owing to a lack of accurate data for estimating carbon stocks in this pool, and not due to its lack of significance. The AT found that the exclusion of the SOC pool was adequately justified. The AT commends Ecuador's efforts to obtain better information on this pool, with the aim of including it in future submissions as part of the step-wise approach.</p>
<p>(x) Have all gases that are a significant source of emissions been included?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The AT notes that exclusion of non-CO₂ gases is well justified.</p>
<p>(xi) Is the information provided in the construction of the FREL/FRL (data, methodologies and estimates) guided by the most recent applicable IPCC guidance and guidelines as adopted by the Conference of the Parties?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The information is guided by 2003 good practice guidelines.</p>

(xii) Have any significant issues related to the application of IPCC GLs/GPGs been raised in the TA report?	2	No significant issues were raised.
(xiii) What is the reference period for the FREL/FRL?	1	The FREL covers a period of eight years (2000–2008).
(xiv) How does the reference level for the results included in the proposal compare to the previous reference level that applies to the same area?	1	No previous FREL has been submitted.
(xv) Has the country provided information on aggregate uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances?	1	The FREL provides an accuracy assessment of the individual land-use maps and the uncertainty of the emission factors. The AT suggested several improvements to heighten the accuracy of the land-use change analysis. Additional information on aggregate uncertainty was provided in the FP and was calculated as 44.8%.
B.2. REDD-plus results reporting		
Criteria	Score	Remarks
(i) Are the reported results in the technical annex to the BUR consistent with the FREL/FRL (including the same pools, activities and gases)?	2	The Technical Analysis of the Technical Report (TATR) concludes that there is consistency in methodologies, definitions, comprehensiveness and the information provided between the assessed FREL and the results of the implementation of the REDD-plus activities.
(ii) Are the data and information provided in the technical annex transparent? (Has information been provided to allow an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on results reporting has been addressed?)	2	The assessment team notes that the data and information used by Ecuador in constructing its FREL are transparent and complete.

(iii) Are the data and information provided in the technical annex complete? (Has information been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the results?)	2	The AT notes that the data and information used for constructing the FREL are complete. No significant issues were raised.
(iv) Are the data and information provided in the technical annex consistent? (Were data and methodologies applied consistently over the results time series?)	2	On the results time series, the LULUCF experts conclude that the data and information provided are considered to be transparent, consistent, complete and accurate to the extent possible.
(v) Are the data and information provided in the technical annex accurate? (Does the annex neither over- nor under-estimate emissions and/or removals?)	1	TATR highlights that data and information provided are considered to be transparent, consistent, complete and accurate to the extent possible. Nonetheless, the AT noted the need for more information on carbon stocks at different successional stages as an area for future improvement.
(vi) How many years are there between the last year of the FREL period, and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments?	1	Six years. The last year of the FREL is 2008 and proposed results are from 2014.
(vii) Has the country provided information on aggregate uncertainties, considering national capabilities and circumstances?	1	<p>The LULUCF experts noted that the uncertainties for the emission factors and the uncertainties for the deforestation maps were provided. However, they concluded that these were not used in assessing the uncertainties of the emission estimates. Thus, the effect of the uncertainties on the accuracy of the results of the activity reduce emissions from deforestation could not be assessed.</p> <p>The FP does contain further information on the aggregate uncertainties and an aggregate uncertainty estimate of 39.9% was obtained for the results period 2009–2014.</p>
(viii) Has information been provided on payments that have been (or are expected to be) received from other sources for results recognized by the country ^a from the same national or subnational area during the period for which a country is proposing to receive payments from GCF? And has the country provided sufficient assurance that results	2	An agreement with REDD Early Movers (REM) is in place (2015–2019), and a transparent overview is provided. Ecuador’s FREL-2, to be submitted to the UNFCCC by the end of 2019, will be the basis for Ecuador to estimate REDD-plus results and receive REDD-plus results-based payments moving forward, including from REM and GCF.

already paid for by other sources have been excluded from the total volume offered to GCF?		
(ix) Are the results proposed to GCF for payment included in a registry or similar system, that tracks emission reductions and corresponding payments ^b to ensure there is no past or future double payment (or use) of such emissions reduction?	2	Yes, Ecuador has a national emissions reduction accounting registry.
Total score section B	36	
Any fails	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

^a Through the REDD-plus national entity or focal point, where appointed.

^b For each of these results, tracking information should identify (at a minimum) the corresponding national or subnational area, the entity eligible to receive payment, the year generated, and the source of results-based payments received and, where possible, the identifying number.

Section C: Non-carbon elements		
C.1. Cancun Safeguards		
Does the summary of information on safeguards provide information on how each of the safeguards below were addressed and respected in a way that ensures transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness?		
Criteria	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)	Remarks
(i) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.	Pass	It will be important to determine challenges and needs associated with implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan, and to identify capacities and additional resources required to institutionalize consistent processes. For reporting on this safeguard, it will be important to undertake specific analyses of alignment and compatibility of the REDD-plus Action Plan with policies, regulations and laws on future forestry issues.
(ii) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying and strengthening internal governance structures for rights holders involved in REDD-plus implementation will be

		<p>critically important, as will involving more local actors (communities, ethnic groups, etc.) in REDD-plus action planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information mechanisms that promote transparency of the operational and financial management of REDD-plus need to be strengthened, including those related to the distribution of REDD-plus resources. This includes ways to validate and disburse progress reports on REDD-plus implementation activities. This will require developing processes that allow for efficient compilation of information about safeguards, as well as information generated from implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan. • Inter-agency (inter-institutional) links should be strengthened to enable better coordination and institutionalization of REDD-plus activities across government. This may involve training institutional staff and local stakeholders to improve capacity of technical teams supporting REDD-plus initiatives. • The constitutional norm related to recognition of and respect for different types of land and resource ownership, and support for governmental processes that seek to solve conflicts in this area, needs to be applied across REDD-plus initiatives. • It will be important to apply the ‘Counter Budget of Income and Expenses of the Public Sector’ as a tool for reporting financial information and promoting transparency on REDD-plus programmes. • As noted by the MAE, these and other challenges relevant to this safeguard highlight the need to develop a framework for evaluating changes in forest governance as policies and regulations are amended and adopted.
(iii) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic approaches for dialogue and engagement with indigenous peoples and other vulnerable communities need to be

<p>international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>		<p>developed or strengthened. Culturally appropriate processes should be designed to ensure involvement of these stakeholders in decision-making processes around REDD-plus activities – including strengthening existing processes for protection of their lands and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be important to develop or strengthen benefits-sharing agreements and/or financial resources earmarked for affected local stakeholders. Training programmes and improved information dissemination regarding financial agreements will also be important. • Communication and engagement processes, as well as training and capacity building programmes, should be culturally and linguistically relevant to the local populations. • Design and implementation of any REDD-plus plans and activities should ensure the collective rights of stakeholders, taking into account differences in social organization, decision-making norms, governance structures and ethnic identities. • REDD-plus Action Plans should be designed to promote intellectual property policies that recognize and respect traditional knowledge. • Tools and processes for gathering data on the participation of indigenous peoples and other local stakeholders should be developed. They should include their comments and concerns, and how those concerns are or will be addressed.
<p>(iv) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision.</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be important to strengthen mechanisms and forms of participation that promote gender and generational approaches, emphasizing culturally appropriate engagement with local stakeholders.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A challenge regarding stakeholder participation, which is promoted by Ecuador, is how to involve priority groups as defined by the Constitution (i.e. young people, the disabled, women, etc.). Strategies should be developed for addressing this challenge, potentially engaging the assistance of locally based facilitators or professionals who have this as an expertise. • Implementation of REDD-plus activities could be linked to existing participation spaces at national and local levels, to strengthen opportunities for dialogue, deliberation and monitoring activity.
<p>(v) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the 12 protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.</p>	<p>Pass</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research efforts should be strengthened to better understand the existence of forest resources and biological diversity, ecosystem services and the risks associated with loss or change in that diversity. • Continued allocation of resources is necessary for periodic monitoring of changes in the state of ecosystem services, so appropriate decisions and actions can be implemented. These resources should in turn strengthen institutionalization of the National Forest Monitoring System. • It is important to develop strategies for managing stakeholder expectations involving potential economic and non-economic benefits on REDD-plus projects. Such strategies include frequent engagement and exchanges of information and perspectives; clear channels of communication among and between stakeholders and project implementers, etc. The MAE would need to continue to identify interests, expectations and opportunities for co-benefits, as well as define participatory measures and REDD-plus actions aimed at reducing deforestation and degradation. • The MAE would need to explore avenues for strengthening relationships and partnerships with research institutes, universities, NGOs or other actors who can collect and compile

		<p>data and information on relevant environmental matters. Such institutions can be sources of trusted, third-party information. They can serve as contributors of information for SOIs for subsequent REDD-plus projects, and provide analyses on non-conversion of natural forests.</p>
(vi) Actions to address the risks of reversals.	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address the challenge of aligning and managing the various tools that guide implementation of REDD-plus (including tools used by implementing partners to identify and address risks of reversals) it will be important to strengthen the technical capacity of MAE staff, so they can better promote and follow through on execution of critical REDD-plus measures. • It will also be important to update risk-identification processes, including threats and changes in the behaviour of promoters of deforestation and forest degradation (i.e. developers, extractive projects, etc.), who could threaten the long-term viability of REDD-plus projects. • The MAE and implementing partners should continue to support efforts to promote a high level of ownership and participation by relevant stakeholders, including capacity and incentive programmes, and generally enforcing policies aimed at good governance around protection of forests.
(vii) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate forest control and monitoring of natural resources requires tools and verifiable criteria, and strong coordination between forest control and forest monitoring systems. The 2008 Constitution included a requirement to update forestry regulations, in observance of the rights of nature, and the Project of the Organic Environmental Code is currently considering several reforms to existing environmental laws. Building alliances with partners – or developing public-private partnerships – will

		<p>help improve coordinated efforts and strengthen management of activities related to Ecuador’s forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the implementation of REDD-plus actions begin, it will be important to determine the necessary resources and processes for updating at the national level information on the causes, risks and threats of deforestation. This should include resources for capacity building for gathering and updating the information. • It will be important to strengthen application of the legal and political framework with respect to land rights and territories. • It is essential to consider the contributions of community or local monitoring systems as sources of information that feed national environmental information systems. This will require identifying needs and implementing efforts to strengthen community monitoring systems.
C.2. Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits		
Criteria	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)	Remarks
<p>Has information been provided on how proceeds will be used consistent with GCF policies? Has information been provided on how the proceeds will be used in a manner consistent with the country’s NDC, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low carbon development plans and policies? Has information been provided on how the proceeds will be used in a manner that contributes to the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities, including non-carbon benefits?</p>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear description of how the proceeds will be used to reinvest in the implementation of five outputs within the REDD-plus action plan. • The outputs and outcomes are very well described and are fully in line with the REDD-plus action plan. • Annex X provides an overview of implementation. But all outputs and activities are indicated to be implemented simultaneously. • The proposal provides an overall description of the implementation arrangements. The role of the executing agency, MAE, needs however to be more clearly described.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex XIII (h) provides sufficiently detailed information and descriptions of the non-carbon benefits.
Total score section C	2	
Any fails	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Section D: Investment framework		
Criteria	Evaluation (High/Medium/Low)	Remarks
Impact potential	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The relevant mitigation and/or adaptation impact is specified. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The GCF core indicators (and other indicators) are provided with specific values. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Methodologies provided for calculating non-GHG indicators are clear and robust. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal compares the indicator values against appropriate benchmarks to demonstrate the impact potential.
Paradigm shift potential	High	<p>The proposal clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> describes the potential for scaling up to the country's NDC, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low-carbon development plans and policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> explains how the programme contributes to strengthening knowledge and learning. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> describes how proposed measures will create an enabling environment and contribute to innovation, market development and transformation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> explains how the programme strengthens the regulatory framework and policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> demonstrates paradigm shift potential for catalysing impact beyond a one-off payment.
Sustainable development potential	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal demonstrates environmental, social and economic impact, including the gender sensitive development impact.

Needs of the recipient	High	<p>The proposal clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> describes the degree of vulnerability of country/population, and demonstrates that the programme addresses the issues. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> explains in detail how the programme addresses financial, economic, social and institutional needs.
Country ownership	High	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sufficiently explains how the programme contributes to a national climate strategy and/or policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> specifies in detail how the multi-stakeholder consultation was conducted.
Efficiency and effectiveness	High	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clearly describes adequateness of the financial structure for cost-effectiveness and efficiency. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> provides information on financial viability in the long run. <input type="checkbox"/> explains in detail the application of best practices and the degree of innovation.
Section E: GCF policies		
For the period of the results considered in the request for proposal		
Criteria	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)	Remarks
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)	Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate and sufficient information provided in an environmental and social assessment report describing the extent to which the measures undertaken to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, in the context of the REDD-plus proposal, were consistent with the requirements of the applicable GCF ESS standards.

Risk assessment	Pass	☒ Adequate and sufficient information provided that allows for an assessment of the historical performance of the activities undertaken (track record) against the risk tolerance levels specified in the risk appetite statement and the criteria (where applicable) outlined in the risk guidelines for funding proposals.
Gender	Pass	☒ Adequate and sufficient information provided in the assessment describing the extent to which the measures undertaken complied with the GCF gender policy. The assessment by the AE determined the alignment of the PSB and the PLRs with its Social and Environmental Standards which include an overarching principle of gender equality and women's empowerment.
Interim policy on prohibited practices	Pass	☒ Appropriate and sufficient information provided in a due diligence report to demonstrate that no prohibited practices occurred during the implementation of the activities that lead to the REDD-plus results, such as: undisclosed prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism occurred during the implementation of results-based actions; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved.
For the use of proceeds		
Criteria	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)	Remarks
Environmental and social safeguards (ESS)	Pass	☒ Adequate and sufficient information provided in an environmental and social management framework that will describe how environmental and social risks and impacts will be identified, assessed and managed in a manner consistent with ESS standards of GCF, including the determination of the relevant environmental and social risk category of the proposed activities.
Risk assessment	Pass	☒ Adequate and sufficient information provided that details how the plan for the use of proceeds does not violate the risk tolerance levels specified in the risk appetite statement and allows for performance monitoring and evaluation against the criteria (where applicable) outlined in the risk guidelines for funding proposals.

Gender	Pass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate and sufficient information provided on how the AE will undertake an activity-level gender assessment and action plan once the details of the activities become known.
Monitoring and evaluation	Pass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate and sufficient information provided on how the activities to be undertaken with GCF proceeds comply with the GCF monitoring and accountability framework.
Interim policy on prohibited practices	Pass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate and sufficient information provided that assures that the activities with use of proceeds will follow the interim policy on prohibited practices, such as: undisclosed prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism; improper subsequent use of GCF proceeds in the prohibited practices; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved, etc.
Indigenous peoples policy	Pass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate and sufficient information provided on how the activities will meet the requirements of the policy and guided by the prevailing relevant national laws and/or obligations of the countries directly applicable to the activities under relevant international treaties and agreements.

Section F: GCF legal arrangements

E.6.1. Legal title to REDD-plus results

Requirement	Remarks	Status (Complete/Pending)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis with respect to legal title to REDD-plus results in the country is provided. It includes an analysis of entitlement to claim for the results to be paid for by GCF.	<p>Under the Constitution of Ecuador, environmental services cannot be owned. In accordance with its authority bestowed under the Environmental Code of Ecuador, the Minister of Environment of Ecuador has categorized emission reductions (“ER”) from REDD+ actions as environmental services. Accordingly, in the Republic of Ecuador, ERs from REDD+ actions can neither be owned nor any legal title thereto can be created.</p> <p>Pursuant to the foregoing, since the REDD+ ERs cannot be owned or appropriated, they cannot be transferred or</p>	Complete

	otherwise be transacted. The national environmental authority, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador is authorized to manage environmental services including, the REDD+ ERs and, pursuant to Ministerial Order 116 of 2006, request REDD+ RBP on behalf of the State. No person or entity other than the Republic of Ecuador has a competing claim to the REDD+ ERs proposed to the GCF for RBP.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A covenant provided that no other party has a competing claim to the results proposed to GCF in accordance with national policy, legal or regulatory frameworks.	A covenant is included in the term sheet	Complete
Section G: Accredited entity fee		
Requirement	Remarks	Status (Complete/Pending)
Is the proposed list of activities clearly specified and justifiable as part of the AE fee?	Yes, the accredited entity fee includes properly justified information on the use of the expected fees by the AE	Complete
Is the fee amount considered reasonable and justifiable?	The agreed amount was 4% which is reasonable considering the nature of this results-based payments proposal which requires less responsibilities from the AE to the GCF and a simplified reporting. Although it is also acknowledged that the AE will need to implement additional activities specific to REDD-plus	Complete
Is the proposed list of activities justifiable as part of the Project Management Cost (PMC)?	The proposed activities included in the PMC seem reasonable.	Complete
Is the PMC amount considered adequate and justifiable?	Although the PMC costs seem significantly high compared to other projects with similar activities, the amount was defined in agreement between the host country and the AE,	Complete



	considering that the PMC costs are included within the payments provided to the host country,	
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Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment of FP110

Proposal name:	Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014
Accredited entity:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project/programme size:	Small

I. Scorecard application

1. The independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP), with support of a Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) expert selected from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) roster of experts and with experience in REDD-plus assessment and analysis, assessed the proposal “Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014” using the scorecard included in the terms of reference (ToR) for the pilot programme for REDD-plus results-based payments.

1.1 Summary of scorecard results

Scorecard section		Results
Carbon elements		Score: 36 All criteria “pass”
Non-carbon elements	Cancun safeguards:	All criteria “pass”
	Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits	Score: 2

2. Based on the above results and following the procedures of the TOR, the iTAP recommends that the Board consider the following:

- (a) GCF volume of ERs: **3,623,759 tCO₂ eq**; and
- (b) Additional 2.5 per cent for use of proceeds and non-carbon elements
- (c) Proposed REDD-plus results-based payments (USD 5/tCO₂eq): **USD18,571,766**

1.2 Main findings

3. The following paragraphs describe the main findings on those sections of the scorecard where the assessment was found to be lower than the maximum score for each criterion (see details in annex):

- (a) **B.1.(i) Consistency between the FREL/FRL and the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory:** The assessment of Ecuador’s FREL conducted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) found that the FREL/FRL was not consistent with the GHG inventory provided in Ecuador’s second national communication because the activity data used in the FREL/FRL had undergone significant improvement compared with the GHG inventory, and the methods had been updated. The technical assessment report (TAR) concluded that the FREL/FRL and the GHG inventory are inconsistent but also that there is a clear indication in the FREL/FRL and additional documents submitted to the GCF that inconsistencies will be resolved in

the next GHG inventory or FREL/FRL. This corresponds to a score of 1 according to the scorecard. Further details are provided in the scorecard table.

- (b) **B.1.(iv) Transparency of the FREL/FRL:** The UNFCCC Assessment Team (AT) noted that Ecuador estimated the emissions from deforestation of young forest areas (less than 10 years) using the same carbon density (in t C/ha) that was used for more mature forests in the original FREL/FRL submission. This would lead to a likely overestimation of emissions due to the expected lower carbon stocks of these young forest areas compared with the carbon stocks of more mature forests. No information was provided in the modified FREL/FRL submission on this possible overestimation of emissions from deforestation of the young forests. In addition, no information was provided on the criteria used to assign forest areas less than 10 years old to different categories of forest lands. In this regard, Ecuador replied that no distinction of age was considered in the national forest inventory; hence, the carbon density used represented forests in different successional stages. The AT considered that the limited information on this may not be completely transparent. The AT further considered that Ecuador could provide estimates of the emissions from the deforestation of young forests using more conservative emission factors (e.g. using the IPCC factors for the growth of secondary tropical forests) and an explanation on the criteria used to assign forest areas less than 10 years to different categories of forest lands. This corresponds to a score of 1 in the scorecard.
- (c) **B.1.(vii) Accuracy of the FREL/FRL:** As pointed out above, the use of carbon densities representing forests in different successional stages for young forests may result in an overestimation of emissions in the FREL/FRL. This corresponds to a score of 1 following the scorecard.
- (d) **B.1.(ix) Inclusion of the most significant pools:** Ecuador explained in its submission that soil organic carbon (SOC) was excluded from the proposed FREL/FRL owing to a lack of accurate data for estimating carbon stocks in this pool, and not due to its lack of significance. Overall, given the high uncertainty that typically characterizes forest SOC, the AT considered that the exclusion of SOC was adequately justified by Ecuador. Ecuador recognized that the inclusion of the SOC pool might be an area for future improvement under a step-wise approach; for this reason, country-specific data are currently under development. This situation corresponds to score 1 of the scorecard.
- (e) **B.1.(xi) IPCC guidance:** Ecuador applied the IPCC's 2003 good practice guidance for LULUCF, which corresponds to a value of 1 according to the scorecard.
- (f) **B.1.(xiii) Length of the FREL/FRL:** Ecuador's FREL/FRL covers a period of 8 years, which falls in the score of 1 established in the scorecard (1: 5–9 or 16–20 years).
- (g) **B.1.(xiv) Comparison with the previous FREL/FRL submission:** So far, Ecuador has only submitted one FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC. This situation is scored with 1 by the scorecard (1 – no adjustment made or no previous FREL/FRL submission).
- (h) **B.1.(xv) Aggregate FREL/FRL uncertainties:** In the funding proposal, Ecuador provides estimates of the aggregate uncertainty for the 2000–2008 emission estimates, which amount to 44.8 per cent. According to the scorecard, this corresponds to a score of 1 (1: < 50 per cent, and assumptions and sources of uncertainties are identified and assessed for their relative contribution).
- (i) **B.2.(v) Accuracy of data and information provided in the technical annex:** The AT identified the provision of more information on carbon stocks at the different successional stages as an area for future improvement, with the aim of showing that there is no likely overestimation or underestimation of emissions and to enhance transparency of Ecuador's future submissions. The AT also noted that, because Ecuador has used a consistent methodology for estimating emissions in the establishment of the

FREL and the results for the period 2009–2014, the net effect of any overestimation or underestimation of emissions will be partially cancelled out. Following the scorecard, this implies a score of 1.

- (j) **B.2.(vi) Number of years between the last year of the FREL period and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments:** The last year of the FREL is 2008 and proposed results from 2014 (i.e. 6 years). According to the scorecard, this represents a score of 1 (1–6 to 9 years).
- (k) **B.2.(vii) Aggregate uncertainties for results:** In its funding proposal, Ecuador provides an estimate of the aggregate uncertainty for the results period 2009–2014 (39.9 per cent). This implies a score of 1 in the scorecard.

II. Assessment of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

2.1 Impact potential

Scale: N/A

4. Ecuador proactively identified policies and measures, by conducting studies on policy, action plans and through extensive consultations, which have culminated in: (a) the analysis of drivers of deforestation¹ and forest degradation; and (b) addressing barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement, conservation and sustainable forest management. Consequently, not only has a FREL been established, but the implementation of such policies and measures have led to emission reductions of 28.99 million tCO₂eq over the period 2009–2014, even without considering potential sequestration in soils and so on. Such a considerable emission reduction qualifies Ecuador to place its claims for ‘results- based payment (RBP)’ under REDD-plus, with particular reference to a claim of 4.831million tCO₂eq for 2014. The funding proposal clearly presents past results that Ecuador achieved at the national level by reducing emissions from deforestation. The results² are presented in detail in the REDD+ technical annex of the BUR, which has been technically assessed³ by the UNFCCC.

5. Under the REDD-plus RBP system, as approved by the Board and covered under the REDD-plus pilot programme, this result by Ecuador deserves special mention. Recognizing that such a result had already been achieved in 2014 and that, since then, Ecuador has exhibited REDD-plus emission reductions in successive years,⁴ it appears that the project possesses considerable potential to contribute to the achievement of the GCF objectives and results areas.

6. The proposed project, with the RBP proceeds, will have four outputs:

- (a) Policies and institutional management for REDD-plus, which includes measures such as the implementation of updated local land-use plans and the management of land rights;
- (b) Transition to sustainable agriculture production systems, which includes measures such as the promotion of marketing of deforestation-free commodities, and providing support to develop various value chains that will not cause forest degradation;
- (c) Sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration, which includes measures such as research and development (R&D) of non-timber forest products (NTFP) and their use in industries, and increase in forest restoration efforts; and

¹ As it is claimed, it is mainly due to conversion of forests for the expansion of agricultural activities.

² The results, as reported by Ecuador, have also been analysed by experts designated for conducting such assessments under Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) activities within the UNFCCC.

³ Please see <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/tar/ecu.pdf> and <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tatr/ecu.pdf>.

⁴ As reported in the funding proposal.

- (d) Operational management of the National REDD-plus Action Plan, which includes measures such as strengthening institutional capacities to better implement the REDD-plus Action Plan, improving the national forest monitoring system, implementing environmental and social management plans, and strengthening REDD-plus implementation in indigenous people's territories.
7. The methodologies provided for calculating both GHG and non-GHG indicators are clear and robust. However, the level of detail provided in terms of the four major outputs and various activities to address deforestation in the future appear to be too general for the iTAP to assess the adequacy of those measures and strategies, whereas it was easier for the iTAP to understand the 2014 results. By examining the various activities laid out in the project document, the iTAP is of opinion that the project exhibited positive results for 2014 to establish claims for the payment. Given the level of information of the funding proposal, it appears to the iTAP that the Government of Ecuador is heading on the right direction towards more positive results for emission reductions in the future. However, the iTAP needs further clarity in information and evidence in order to assess the efficacy of utilization of the proceeds of the payments, taking into consideration the possibility and likelihood of occurrence of changes in the drivers of deforestation in a complex set of national circumstances.

2.2 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: N/A

8. A process towards bringing a paradigm shift regarding forest management has already started in Ecuador with the successful implementation of its National REDD-plus Action Plan and with achieving measurable and reportable REDD-plus results for the first FREL timeline. Ecuador completed the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus. The proposal also calls for actions towards further consolidation of enabling activities to continue with the implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan in Ecuador.
9. The early success of Ecuador, implementing one of the first REDD-plus initiatives in the world, provides ample opportunity for other countries with REDD-plus aspirations to learn from and emulate relevant actions. There are a number of areas where learning opportunities are available, such as the R&D for the development and subsequent promotion of non-timber forest products (NTFP) in industrial activities, the safeguards regarding establishing rights of indigenous people and the policy measures to lift existing barriers and to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
10. As the first example of REDD-plus RBP, this project will act as a confidence builder for developing countries taking appropriate actions and also for the world to invest more in carbon sequestration through REDD-plus. The project has elements that will catalyse⁵ impacts beyond the one-off payment under the RBP system. This project, therefore, has significant potential to shift the paradigm from indiscriminate deforestation to forest management, and conservation, involving the primary users of forests.

2.3 Sustainable development potential

Scale: N/A

11. A systemic change towards addressing deforestation has already been initiated through the implementation of Ecuador's National REDD-plus Action Plan, which contributes to sustainable development of forestry and allied sectors at the local and national levels. The project aims to consolidate the early work by reinvesting the proceeds (of the claim) to

⁵ This can be achieved through a variety of activities, such as the development of land-use plans and their implementation at the local level, the management of land rights within protected forests, the development of value chains and marketing of deforestation-free commodities, and the provision of support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), promoting industrial use of NRFP and enhancing forest restoration efforts in degraded lands.

strengthen the enabling environment through institutional measures. In this way, it is clear that the project is contributing directly to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) -13 “...take urgent actions to combat climate change ...” and also SDG-15 “...protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managed forests, and halt biodiversity loss”.

12. The project considers further consolidation of earlier works and full implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan, while the latter focuses on contributing to sustainable development across its outputs. In addition to contributing to environmental aspects of the SDGs, the National REDD-plus Action Plan and the project concentrate on economic and social aspects, with particular emphasis on improving the livelihoods of rural poor and indigenous communities.

13. Activity 1.2 is likely to improve the management of land rights by means of regularization of the right of ownership of pre-existing agrarian possession following the declaration of a protected area. Such activities have beneficial social and economic roles for the poor rural people within the protected areas, which contribute to SDG-1 “...end poverty in all its forms everywhere” and SDG-2 “...end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. However, this must be accompanied by regular monitoring and social mobilization through consultations so that no further encroachment occurs within the peripheral forested areas.

14. The promotion of value chains is likely to open up access to new economic opportunities for poor people, which in turn will contribute indirectly to SDG-1. However, lack of proper understanding and inadequate skills set might significantly inhibit poor people’s access to such activities. The project should aim to facilitate access for poor and, particularly, indigenous communities to skills-enhancement training and other means (such as the creation of access to credits) so that they can take full advantage of the growth of value chains involving NTFP. This is how local level decarbonization of micro-scale economies will be established.

15. The project promises the realization of a variety of non-carbon benefits through the implementation of REDD-plus activities. Such non-carbon benefits include: water regulation in the form of flow regulation to assist the sustained production of hydro-electricity (direct economic benefit accrued in 2014 worth USD 4.04 million); biodiversity conservation by reducing encroachment in buffer zones of biodiversity hotspots (benefits worth USD 25.62 million accrued in 2014); and poverty alleviation by creating economic opportunities⁶ for economically active population group.

16. Owing to the favourable policy regime in Ecuador, women constitute about 55 per cent of the workforce, which is one of the highest rates among Latin American countries. Assuming that this project will be implemented within the policy framework, it is expected that the project will continue to deliver gender equity by creating opportunities and addressing barriers to participation by women in using/accessing goods and services from the REDD-plus activities. Particular reference may be made to activities such as livestock rearing, agriculture, value chains, and cocoa agro-forestry systems. Creating a gender-specific enabling environment is the key in this context. Such progress (if any) needs to be brought under the monitoring and reporting framework so that the project becomes a REDD-plus model for other REDD-plus aspiring countries.

2.4 Needs of the recipient

Scale: N/A

17. Although Ecuador is a vulnerable developing country, it has taken leadership in REDD-plus activities under the forestry-related opportunities created by the UNFCCC and the Warsaw

⁶ Such opportunities can be realized through the promotion of SMEs, incentivizing the development of value chains involving non-timber forest products, and so on.

Framework for REDD-plus. The voluntary commitment through the nationally determined contribution to achieve the goal of the Paris Agreement clearly highlights the eagerness of Ecuador to contribute to arresting deforestation and providing goods and services from forest management activities. However, the economy of Ecuador is too sensitive to external factors such as international oil prices, while the country is still struggling with considerable levels of extreme poverty. The unfortunate reality is that the population living in the Amazon forest lands constitute some 47.7 and 21.8 per cent of poor and extreme poor in the country, respectively. Clearly, Ecuador needs international support to address such poverty in the forested areas, bring opportunities to poor people so that they can maintain and gradually enhance the forested areas and also escape abject poverty.

18. The results for 2009–2014 appear to be encouraging. While the carbon-related gains are evident, the country also has made significant progress in terms of addressing poverty. It is expected that the process will continue with the proceeds so that more poor people get the benefit and their plights are addressed adequately. It is now the responsibility of the international community to put forward the finance that is needed by Ecuador so that the paradigm shift takes place and global carbon stock is boosted with complementary social and economic benefit streams for the poor people of Ecuador.

19. This funding proposal came to GCF Secretariat as a response to the Board's call for projects under the REDD-plus pilot programme. Ecuador has already proved to be eligible under the REDD-plus policy regime of GCF as well as that of UNFCCC (through the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus). The results for a number of years have been achieved and vetted by the UNFCCC processes. There is a dearth of financing to improve technology-driven advanced monitoring systems and strengthening institutional mechanisms. There are currently insufficient funds to fully implement Ecuador's National REDD-plus Action Plan. The project funding proposal explains how the programme will address financial, economic, social and institutional needs. All these indicate the eligibility as well as the needs of Ecuador to establish its claim from the RBP system under REDD-plus within the rules of GCF.

2.5 Country ownership

Scale: N/A

20. The project is the formal outcome of successful past actions of Ecuador regarding REDD-plus activities within the Warsaw Framework on REDD-plus. In order to become eligible to put forward the claim under the RBP system, Ecuador developed its REDD-plus Action Plan and started to implement it. The FREL has been developed and duly registered with UNFCCC. The advanced forest monitoring system is established. The policy and regulatory regimes are developed and being put into practice with the aim of improved forest management. The funding proposal explains how the programme contributes to the national REDD-plus strategy. The project, therefore, is fully aligned with the REDD-plus Action Plan of Ecuador.

21. The Ministry of Environment (MAE) is the national authority on environment, and is in charge of formulating environment and resource management related policies and strategies. MAE is also in charge of developing related projects and programmes, with particular focus on conservation and the enhancement of ecosystems and natural resources management. In Ecuador, MAE includes the UNFCCC focal point, which fulfils the role of coordinating activities involving climate change. Finally, MAE has the national mandate to coordinate the implementation of national policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation. This project is conceived to be delivered under the aegis of MAE.

22. MAE has both demonstrable experience and the institutional strength to handle a fairly large portfolio, exceeding the tentative claim⁷ for the emission reductions of about 4.83 million tCO₂eq. This shows the overall capability of MAE to handle finance. It is expected that the GCF-

⁷ The exact amount to be paid would depend on the scorecard, as prescribed by the GCF Board.

backed project will build on the experience of MAE in sustainable forest management and sustainable land use programmes, both being parts of the current proposal (Output 3 and Output 1, respectively).

23. MAE has demonstrated its capacity in developing and implementing the REDD-plus Action Plan in Ecuador; and the development and subsequent endorsement of the FREL by the UNFCCC and all other activities have contributed to the arrest of deforestation and initiating the paradigm shift towards greener solutions. If a good beginning is considered to be a trailer, then a lot more positive benefits are likely to be delivered through the financing of the project. The iTAP is of the opinion that MAE and the demonstrated country ownership must be given a chance to do better and prosper with REDD-plus activities.

2.6 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: N/A

24. An economic analysis is presented as part of the funding proposal package (annex XII). A timeframe of 10 years (i.e. up to 2028) has been used to estimate flows and operational results of the project. Given that a lasting change in the current land-use pattern towards a low-emission development pathway can only be realized in a longer timeframe, the 10 year projection with a discount rate of 6 per cent⁸ is acceptable. The cost and benefit analysis and the economic analyses suggest that the project is economically beneficial with an economic net present value of USD 354.38 million.

25. In addition to such positive results from economic analyses, it is important not to discount the global-scale benefits that the project might offer –by slowing down climate change and by deferring acute needs for immediate adaptation in many vulnerable countries. If such value could have been added with the benefit streams of the project, the economic efficiency would have been much higher for such a project. However, such economic efficiency can only be achieved if the proceeds are properly utilized towards arresting deforestation and effectively promoting forest restoration and management, by creating greater economic access for women, poor and indigenous communities in the project-related activities. Proper monitoring and subsequent reporting and verification are key in order to inform the success of the pilot project.

26. In terms of efficiency, GCF does not dictate terms of RBP under REDD-plus, since it is the discretion of the recipient of the RBP system to make best use of the proceeds. However, the iTAP considers that more careful planning on the creation of greater access through skills enhancement and incentives for poor people, especially women and indigenous communities, to participate in the value chains and commercial aspects of NTFPs might enhance the programmatic efficiency of the project.

27. It is worth remember that this assessment is based on a funding proposal, which is developed according to the guidelines provided by GCF. For the claims for RBP schemes, the requirement for detailed information on forward-looking interventions by utilizing the proceeds is rather inadequate. This might have resulted in inadequate information on the use of proceeds in the light of actual analysis on various drivers of deforestation. For future transactions to be properly assessed by the iTAP, it would be important to receive better guidelines from the Board on the types of actions and indicators they would like to see on the use of proceeds for consolidating REDD-plus goals and achievements.

28. Efficiency of this REDD-plus process strongly depends on preventing forest degradation ongoing in Ecuador. Unfortunately, neither the FREL/FRL nor the funding proposal cover this process. iTAP considers that without proper monitoring and consideration of the forest degradation process, the slow-down of gross deforestation could lead to an increase in degradation (leakage), which may significantly reduce the efficiency and final effect of REDD-

⁸ A commonly used discount rate in case of Ecuador.

plus process under this funding proposal. Therefore, this criterion is scored as medium in the scorecard.

III. Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel

29. The Ecuador REDD-plus project proposal presents a good case for financing under REDD-plus pilot programme of GCF. However, because of its nature, the project proposal lacks sufficient information on the efficacy of the utilization of the proceeds for the iTAP to make specific and decisive remarks.
30. The iTAP recommends this project be approved by the Board.
31. The iTAP recommends the following:
- (a) Strengthen the gender action plan, giving greater emphasis to the creation of economic access (through, e.g., tailor-made skills enhancement programmes, credit support) to the modalities, such as SMEs, value chains and marketing of NTFP;
 - (b) Ensure that the environment and social impact assessment is completed, as promised, during the inception stage;
 - (c) Strengthen the project monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure that deforestation and forest degradation do not take place during the course of the project implementation, involving regular monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) opportunities and end-of-project MRV compliance; and
 - (d) Strengthen the project governance structure by creating greater opportunities for the representation of indigenous people, and women's, youth and civil society organizations in project governance beyond participation in the inception level consultations

Annex: Scorecard

Section A: Proposed and projected REDD-plus results		
Criteria	Status (Yes/No)	Remarks
Does the total volume of achieved results indicated in the proposal match the results indicated in the BUR during the results period (31 December 2013 to 31 December 2018)?	Yes	The total results for the 2009–2014 period (28,990,071 t CO ₂ eq per year) and those for 2014 (the only year for which results are eligible under the GCF pilot programme) are the same in the funding proposal (page 2) and the BUR technical annex (page 188).
Is the volume of achieved results offered to the pilot-programme equal or less than the total volume of achieved results indicated in the BUR during the results period?	Yes	Only the volume for 2014 is offered to GCF that meets the eligible period. The volume offered equals the volume of achieved results for that year
Is the expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved significant compared with the overall level of REDD-plus results achieved in the current funding proposal being submitted?	Yes	The expected volume of REDD-plus results to be achieved in the following years of the eligibility period is higher than the volume of results for the current period
Is the total volume expected to be submitted to the pilot programme within the available allocation of funding for the pilot programme and below the cap per country?	Yes	The proposed total volume (25,777,719 t CO ₂ eq in the 2014–2018 period minus the results that may be paid and cancelled as a consequence of the implementation of the REDD-plus Early Movers Programme in Ecuador (expected to range from 12.6 to 2.52 Mt CO ₂ eq) falls within the available allocation of funding and remains below the cap per country (30 Mt CO ₂ eq).
Section B: Carbon elements		
B.1. Forest reference emission level / forest reference level		
Criteria	Score	Remarks

<p>(i) Is the FREL/FRL consistent with the GHG inventory, including the definition of forest used?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Ecuador explained that the FREL is not consistent with the GHG inventory provided in its second national communication because the activity data used in the FREL have undergone significant improvement compared with the GHG inventory, and the methods have been updated from those given in the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for Emission Inventory to those given in the IPCC good practice guidance for LULUCF. The AT acknowledges this explanation and highlights that consistency should be ensured in the next GHG inventory to be submitted with the first BUR.</p> <p>The TAR concludes that the FREL and the GHG inventory are inconsistent but there is a clear indication that inconsistencies will be resolved in the next GHG inventory or FREL/FRL. It is noted that in the technical report on the technical analysis of the technical annex to the first BUR, the LULUCF experts noted that Ecuador's technical annex did not include sufficient information to assess consistency with the data used in the construction of the FREL and those used in the latest GHG inventories available. The experts did find two areas of inconsistency in the estimations arising from the assumptions used between the construction of the FREL and the results and the estimation of the emissions and removals from the LULUCF sector for the 2010 GHG inventory. Ecuador explained that the data to be used in its third national communication can be expected to be consistent with those used in the construction of the FREL and the results presented in the technical annex and the summary of the GHG inventory included in its first BUR. Ecuador further explained to the LULUCF experts that in order to maintain consistency, all data and methods used for the construction of Ecuador's FREL were taken into account in the GHG estimates for the LULUCF sector included in its national GHG inventory for 2010.</p> <p>At the time of the assessment, the publication of the national inventory report (NIR) was pending. After considering the</p>
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		<p>explanations and the draft NIR for the 2010 GHG inventory provided by Ecuador during the technical analysis week, the LULUCF experts noted that the activity data and emission factors used for the estimation of the 2010 GHG inventory and those applied to calculate the emissions for the year 2009–2014 result period are consistent.</p>
<p>(ii) Is the FREL/FRL based on historical data and is it equal to or below the average annual historical emissions during the reference period, unless a country is an HFLD country?</p>	2	<p>Ecuador is not a HFLD country. The FREL/FRL is equal to average annual historical emissions associated with gross deforestation for the historical reference period 2000–2008.</p>
<p>(iii) Is the FREL/FRL in accordance with the guidelines in decision 12/CP.17?</p>	2	<p>The AT noted that the data and information used by Ecuador in constructing its FREL are transparent and complete, and are mostly in accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17. The AT identified areas for improvement but did not highlight any material issues in the modified FREL.</p>
<p>(iv) Is the data and information provided for the FREL/FRL transparent? (Has information been provided to allow an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on submission of information on reference levels has been addressed?)</p>	1	<p>The TAR noted certain areas where improved transparency is needed.</p> <p>No information was provided in the modified FREL submission on the possible overestimation of emissions from deforestation of young forests. In addition, no information was provided on the criteria used to assign forest areas less than 10 years old to different categories of forest lands. In this regard, Ecuador replied that no distinction of age was considered in the national forest inventory; hence, the carbon density used represented forests in different successional stages. The AT considers that the limited information on this may not be completely transparent. It further considers that Ecuador could provide estimates of the emissions from the deforestation of young forests using more conservative emission factors (e.g. using the IPCC factors for the growth of secondary tropical forests) and an explanation on the criteria used to assign forest areas less than 10 years old to different categories of forest lands. The AT considers the estimation of the carbon densities across successional stages to be an area for future improvement in the context of a step-wise Action Plan approach. The AT did not raise material concerns regarding the issues listed above</p>

		<p>The funding proposal describes the plan and steps for addressing these concerns. For construction of the FREL-2, Ecuador states that it is already improving its detection of activity data, where young and mature forests are now differentiated. In addition, Ecuador states that it has incorporated improvements in the design of its latest national forest inventory, in order to obtain sufficient information on its young and mature forests. A sampling design with a systematic distribution in all forest types was considered based on the volume variation coefficients obtained in the first forest inventory. This systematic distribution includes a larger number of sampling units than the previous inventory, distributed in both mature forests and in young forests. Additionally, it includes adjustments in the classification variables to determine the origin and condition of the forests. It also includes satellite monitoring of the sampling units (unpublished internal document, MAE 2018). This national forestry inventory cycle will be completed in 2022.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the issues raised remain unresolved due to the limitation of time and data and the country has provided a plan on how it will seek to overcome them.</p>
(v) Is the FREL/FRL complete? (Has information been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the FREL/FRL?)	2	The AT concluded that information is complete.
(vi) Is the FREL/FRL consistent? (Were data and methodologies applied consistently over the time series used for the construction of the FREL/FRL?)	2	The TAR did not find material issues regarding the consistency of the FEL/FRL. The AT did note that the exclusion of young forest areas may raise issues of consistency if the future frequency of assessment of forest land-use change differs from the one used to set the FREL. Taking into account this technical input by the AT, Ecuador, in the modified FREL submission, included all of these forest area conversions less than 10 years old into the revised FREL, increasing the FREL value by 27.5%.
(vii) Is the FREL/FRL accurate? (The data and methodologies used neither over- nor underestimate emissions and/or removals during the reference period, so far as can be judged.)	1	The modified FREL showcased improved data and accuracy and the AT commended Ecuador for its efforts. However, several issues for improvement were identified. The AT noted, and Ecuador acknowledged that the method used for estimating the land use changes over time (map comparison) has the potential risk of overestimation of land-use changes. Ecuador implemented

		<p>a process involving visual quality control of the generated transitions but further potential improvements in the methodological approach were identified.</p> <p>According to paragraph 37 of the TAR, the modified FREL submission included the deforestation of young forest areas (less than 10 years), which was previously excluded from the original FREL submission. As a consequence, the new FREL value was 27.5 per cent higher than the original value. The AT noted that the emissions from the deforestation of the young forest areas were estimated using the carbon density originally used for more mature forests; this would lead to a likely overestimation of emissions in the FREL. In this regard, Ecuador replied that the carbon density used represents forests in different successional stages. For transparency reasons, the AT considered the provision of more information on this as a priority area for future improvement, with the aim of showing that there is no likely overestimation of emissions. Furthermore, in the context of a step-wise approach, the AT considered the estimation of the carbon densities across successional stages as an area for future improvement.</p>
<p>(viii) Have all REDD-plus activities that are a significant source of emissions been included?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The only activity included in Ecuador's FREL is deforestation. The other activities referred to in decision1/CP.16, paragraph 70, have not been included at this time due to a lack of information. The AT noted that due to lack of information on emissions from forest degradation, it is currently not possible to assess its significance.</p> <p>The AT commends Ecuador for initiating work on the definition of forest degradation, and acknowledges Ecuador's intention to include forest degradation in the construction of future FRELS when new, adequate data and better information become available. The funding proposal provides further information on</p>

		<p>the next steps including the implementation of SEPAL and the pilot phase of the second national forest inventory in the Amazon Lowland Evergreen Forest.</p>
<p>(ix) Have all of the most significant pools been included?</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The AT noted that the most, but not all, significant pools were included. Ecuador explained in its submission that SOC was excluded from the proposed FREL owing to a lack of accurate data for estimating carbon stocks in this pool, and not due to its lack of significance. The AT found that the exclusion of the SOC pool was adequately justified. The AT commends Ecuador for its efforts to obtain better information on this pool, with the aim of including this pool in future submissions as part of the step-wise approach. According to paragraph 27 of the TAR, Ecuador explained in its submission that SOC was excluded from the proposed FREL owing to a lack of accurate data for estimating carbon stocks in this pool, and not due to its lack of significance. Ecuador recognized that the inclusion of the SOC pool might be an area for future improvement under a step-wise approach; for this reason, country specific data are currently under development. In addition, Ecuador considered that the exclusion of the SOC pool results in a conservative estimation of the FREL because it is reasonable to assume that SOC will behave in the same way as the biomass pool. Overall, given the high uncertainty that typically characterizes forest SOC, the AT considered that the exclusion of SOC was adequately justified by Ecuador.</p>
<p>(x) Have all gases that are a significant source of emissions been included?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The AT notes that the exclusion of non-CO₂ gases is justified. Following paragraph 28 of the TAR, the FREL submitted by Ecuador included only CO₂. The submission explains that the process of slash-and-burn is the most common deforestation practice in Ecuador, resulting in the emission of methane and nitrous oxide. However, there are insufficient data on the emissions of non-CO₂ gases to allow the inclusion of accurate estimates in the FREL. With a view to collecting data that are more accurate in the future, Ecuador included in its submission an estimate of the potential maximum contribution of non-CO₂ gases</p>

		to annual GHG emissions, using the IPCC emission factors and assuming that all deforestation was associated with slash-and-burn processes. This calculation resulted in less than 5 per cent of the total annual GHG emissions in t CO ₂ eq. Ecuador further explained that because it is expected that a reduction in deforestation will result in a reduction of fires (and the associated non-CO ₂ emissions), the exclusion of non-CO ₂ gases can be considered conservative. The AT commends Ecuador for the information provided. Overall, the AT considers that the exclusion of non-CO ₂ gases is adequately justified, and welcomes the intention expressed by Ecuador to collect data that are more accurate, with a view to including all GHGs in future FREL submissions.
(xi) Is the information provided in the construction of the FREL/FRL (data, methodologies and estimates) guided by the most recent applicable IPCC guidance and guidelines as adopted by the Conference of the Parties?	1	Guided by 2003 GPGs. (score = 1)
(xii) Have any significant issues related to the application of IPCC GLs/GPGs been raised in the TA report?	2	No significant issues were raised.
(xiii) What is the reference period for the FREL/FRL?	1	The FREL covers a period of 8 years (2000–2008)
(xiv) How does the reference level for the results included in the proposal compare with the previous reference level that applies to the same area?	1	No previous FREL has been submitted.
(xv) Has the country provided information on aggregate uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances?	1	The FREL provides an accuracy assessment of the individual land-use maps and the uncertainty of the emission factors. The AT suggested several improvements to approve the accuracy of the land-use change analysis. Additional information on aggregate uncertainty was provided in the funding proposal and was calculated as 44.8%.
B.2. REDD-plus results reporting		
Criteria	Score	Remarks

<p>(i) Are the reported results in the technical annex to the BUR consistent with the FREL/FRL (including the inclusion of same pools, activities and gases)?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>According to paragraphs 13, 14 and 16 of the TATR, the LULUCF experts noted that Ecuador has been consistent in using the same methodologies and definitions for developing the FREL and for estimating the results of the implementation of activities to reduce emissions from deforestation for the period 2009–2014.</p>
<p>(ii) Is the data and information provided in the technical annex transparent? (Has information been provided to allow an understanding of how UNFCCC guidance on results reporting has been addressed?)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>As stated in paragraph 20 of the TATR (and also paragraph 38), the LULUCF experts concluded that Ecuador provided the necessary information allowing for the reconstruction of the results of the implementation of the activity on reducing emissions from deforestation. The data and information provided were considered to be transparent, consistent, complete and accurate to the extent possible. The LULUCF experts noted that making available all the information that was not included in the technical annex on a web page (e.g. on the website of the Ministry of Environment) would have improved the transparency of the technical annex. In response, Ecuador made available all the necessary data and information on the Ministry's website prior to the finalization of the report. The LULUCF experts commended Ecuador for these additional efforts to promote transparency of the country's REDD-plus submissions.</p>
<p>(iii) Is the data and information provided in the technical annex complete? (Has information been provided that allows for the reconstruction of the results?)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The AT noted that the data and information used for constructing the FREL is complete (reference: paragraphs 20 and 38 of the TATR). No significant issues were raised.</p>
<p>(iv) Is the data and information provided in the technical annex consistent? (Were data and methodologies applied consistently over the results time series?)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>As stated in paragraph 37 of the TATR, the LULUCF experts concluded that the results of the activity were reported using consistent methodologies, definitions, assumptions and information as used for the assessed FREL.</p>
<p>(v) Is the data and information provided in the technical annex accurate? (Does it neither over- nor underestimate emissions and/or removals?)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The TATR highlights that data and information provided are considered to be transparent, consistent, complete and accurate to the extent possible. The AT identified the provision of more information on carbon stocks at the different successional stages as an area for future improvement, with the aim of showing that there is no likely overestimation or underestimation of emissions and to enhance transparency of its future submissions. The AT</p>

		also noted that, because Ecuador has used a consistent methodology for estimating emissions in the establishment of the FREL and the results for the period 2009–2014, the net effect of any overestimation or underestimation of emissions will be partially cancelled out (paragraph 29 of the TATR).
(vi) What is the number of years between the last year of the FREL period, and the year corresponding to the results being proposed for payments?	1	6 years. The last year of the FREL is 2008 and proposed results from 2014.
(vii) Has the country provided information on aggregate uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and circumstances?	1	<p>The LULUCF experts noted that the uncertainties for the emission factors and the uncertainties for the deforestation maps were provided. However, they concluded that these were not used in assessing the uncertainties of the emission estimates. Thus, the effect of the uncertainties on the accuracy of the results of the implementation of the activity on reducing emissions from deforestation could not be assessed.</p> <p>The funding proposal does contain further information on the aggregate uncertainties and an aggregate uncertainty estimate of 39.9% was obtained for the results period 2009–2014.</p>
(viii) Has information been provided on payments that have been (or are expected to be) received from other sources for results recognized by the country ⁹ from the same national or sub-national area during the period for which a country is proposing to receive payments from the GCF? And has the country provided sufficient assurance that results that have been paid for by other sources have been excluded from the total volume offered to the GCF?	2	According to the funding proposal, no payments have been, or are expected to be received from other sources of funding for results recognized by Ecuador at a national level for the year 2014. REM will provide payments for emission reductions from deforestation achieved on a national scale in Ecuador over the period 2015–2019. Therefore REDD-plus results-based payments from REM will not be made for 2014. Therefore, there is no risk of double payment associated with the current proposal.
(ix) Are the results proposed to the GCF for payment included in a registry or similar system, that tracks emission reductions and corresponding payments ¹⁰ to ensure there is no past or future double payment [or use] of such emission reductions?	2	A national registry of emission reduction accounting for REDD-plus has been created to ensure transparency of emission reductions achieved and results-based payment received, in order to avoid double payments. The registry is the central tool for

⁹Through the REDD-plus national entity or focal point, where appointed

¹⁰ Tracking information should, at a minimum, identify for each of these results the corresponding national or sub-national area, the entity eligible to receive payment, the year generated, and the source of results-based payments received and, where possible, the identifying number.

		accounting REDD-plus emission reductions in Ecuador. It was established in May 2018 and will serve to register and deactivate/retire emission reductions paid for by diverse sources.
Total score section B	36	
Any fails	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Abbreviations: AT = Assessment Team (under the aegis of UNFCCC), BUR = biennial updated report, FREL = forest reference emission level, FRL = forest reference level, GHG = greenhouse gas, HFLD = , IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, LULUCF = Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry, REM = REDD-plus early movers, SEPAL = System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring, SOC = soil organic carbon, TA = Technical Assessment, TAR = technical assessment report, UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Section C: Non-carbon elements		
C.1. Cancun Safeguards		
Does the “summary of information on safeguards” provide information on how each of the safeguards below were addressed and respected in a way that ensures transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness:		
Criteria	Evaluation (pass/fail)	Remarks
(i) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision 17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(ii) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty.	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision 17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(iii) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision 17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(iv) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision

paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision.		17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(v) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the 12 protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision 17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(vi) Actions to address the risks of reversals.	Pass	The summary provides information on how the safeguard was addressed and respected taking into account decision 17/CP.21(Evaluation = Pass)
(vii) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.	Pass	The forest reference emission level is national: the risk of displacement is therefore already low.
C.2. Use of proceeds and non-carbon benefits		
Criteria	Evaluation (pass/fail)	Remarks
Has information been provided on how proceeds will be used consistent with GCF policies? Has information been provided on how the proceeds will be used in a manner consistent with the country's nationally determined contribution, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low-carbon development plans and policies? Has information been provided on how the proceeds will be used in a manner that contributes to the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities, including non-carbon benefits?	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecuador will use the proceeds from results-based payments to invest in activities that support the implementation of the National REDD-plus Action Plan alongside other sources of domestic and international finance. Consequently, the use of proceeds as depicted in the proposal is fully consistent with the REDD-plus Action Plan. Proceeds are expected to support all 5 outputs of the REDD-plus Action Plan. - Ecuador is currently working on its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with the aim of submitting to the UNFCCC in the first quarter of 2019, so it is not possible at this point to know if the proposal will be consistent with it. - The outputs and outcomes are described and are in line with the REDD-plus action plan. However, more granularity and explanations

		<p>could have provided a better understanding regarding the future course of action. The funding proposal does not mention any other low carbon development plans or policies. It is assumed that by investing the proceed in the REDD-plus Action Plan, Ecuador will be contributing to the long-term sustainability of REDD-plus activities, including non-carbon benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex 10 provides an overview of implementation. But all outputs and activities are indicated to be implemented simultaneously. The presentation is not clear and realistic. - The proposal provides an overall description of the implementation arrangements. The role of the executing agency, MAE, needs however to be more clearly described. - There is indicative information and descriptions of the Non-Carbon benefits (section C.2.6).
Total score section C	2	
Any fails	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Abbreviations: MAE = Ministry of Environment, NDC = nationally determined contribution.

Section D: Investment framework (although not applicable for small size proposals it was applied in the context of the REDD-plus pilot programme)		
Criteria	Evaluation (High/Medium/Low)	Remarks
Impact potential	High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The relevant mitigation and/or adaptation impact is specified.

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The GCF core indicators (and other indicators) are provided with specific values. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Methodologies provided for calculating non-GHG indicators are clear and robust. <input type="checkbox"/> The proposal compares the indicator values against appropriate benchmarks to demonstrate the impact potential.
Paradigm shift potential	Medium to High	<p>The proposal clearly:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Describes the potential for scaling up to the country's NDC, national REDD-plus strategy and/or low-carbon development plans and policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explains how the programme contributes to strengthening knowledge and learning. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Describes how proposed measures will create an enabling environment and contribute to innovation, market development and transformation. <input type="checkbox"/> Explains how the programme strengthens the regulatory framework and policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates paradigm shift potential for catalysing impact beyond a one-off payment
Sustainable development potential	High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal demonstrates environmental, social and economic impact, including the gender sensitive development impact.
Needs of the recipient	High	<p>The proposal clearly:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Describes the degree of vulnerability of country/population, and demonstrates that the programme addresses the issues. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explains in detail how the programme addresses financial, economic, social and institutional needs.
Country ownership	High	<p>The proposal:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sufficiently explains how the programme contributes to a national climate strategy and/or policies. <input type="checkbox"/> Specifies in detail how the multi-stakeholder consultation was conducted.
Efficiency and effectiveness	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> The proposal clearly describes the adequateness of the financial structure for cost-



effectiveness and efficiency.

Information is provided on financial viability in the long run.

The proposal explains in detail the application of best practices and the degree of innovation.

Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel’s assessment (FP110)

Proposal name: Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014

Accredited entity: UNDP

Scorecard results

We commend the iTAP for its sound analytic work to conduct the scorecard assessment, which is, overall, a fair assessment and well-justified, based on the relevant UNFCCC technical assessment and analysis reports as well as the additional information provided in the FP.

We found only one exception, where the score and justification does not seem to match the UNFCCC FREL assessment team findings. This seemed to be the case for criterion 2.B.1(ix), regarding inclusion of the most significant pools. The criterion asks: *“Have all of the most significant pools been included?”* In our analysis of the TAR, it seems that the AT responded affirmatively to this. In the TAR (para. 36 of the conclusions), it reads, “The AT notes that Ecuador included in its FREL the most significant pools and GHGs.” However, the iTAP scored assigned a score of 1 in this case, which is equivalent to a “no, but justified to a lack of data and/or the omission does not overestimate emissions or underestimate removals ...” rather than a score of 2, which is equivalent to a “yes”. In the iTAP’s explanation for the score of 1 in this case, it states, “The AT notes that most, but not all, significant pools were included” but this phrasing is not directly drawn from the TAR. Moreover, the criterion does not require that all significant pools are included, but instead, it is “all of the most significant.” And, again, the AT concluded that Ecuador did include in its FREL the most significant pools.

Impact potential

We welcome the “High” assessment on this criterion.

We note that the in its assessment, the iTAP considers that *“the level of detail provided in terms of the four major outputs and various activities to address deforestation in the future appear to be too general for the iTAP to assess the adequacy of those measures and strategies”* and that *“the iTAP needs further clarity in information and evidence in order to assess the efficacy of utilization of the proceeds of the payments, taking into consideration the possibility and likelihood of occurrence of changes in the drivers of deforestation in a complex set of national circumstances.”*

In the context of a standard/traditional Funding Proposal to the GCF, it is expected that the AE will develop its FP with due consideration of the investment criteria and the applicable and relevant activity-specific sub-criteria and indicative assessment factors approved by the Board. This is a forward-looking exercise.

However, in the context of the REDD+ RBP pilot program, the use of the investment framework and more specifically the investment criteria seem slightly different in the sense that they appear to be more backward looking:

- In TOR of the pilot program for REDD+ RBP, the Section 4.2 *“Stage 2: Developing a GCF REDD-plus results-based payment funding proposal”* indicates that *“The complete Funding Proposal should be submitted consistent with the template developed specifically for REDD+ RBP Funding Proposals [...] and will require the following additional information: [...] A description of the alignment of the proposals with the GCF Investment Framework during the full period over which results were generated”*.

- In the FP template developed specifically for REDD+ RBP Funding Proposals, section D. is focused on Investment framework and it requests to *“Describe in this section how the proposed REDD-plus results-based programme aligns with each of the criteria of the Investment Framework for the activities that lead to the achieved results for the full period over which the results being submitted in this proposal were achieved.”*, i.e. 2014 in the case of Ecuador.
- Finally, in the scorecard (Annex XII), the section 4 is focused on GCF investment framework for the FP, and clarifies that *“The criteria of the Investment Framework will be applied to inform on past actions towards achieving results.”*

Therefore, the responses to the investment criteria of the GCF have been prepared thinking mainly about the full period over which the results being submitted in this proposal were achieved, i.e. 2014; and not so much thinking about the Impact Potential related to the use of the proceeds in the future.

Paradigm shift potential

We take note of the “Medium to High” assessment provided by the ITAP to this criterion.

ITAP acknowledges that the following aspects have been properly documented: i) the potential for scaling up to the country’s NDC, national REDD+ strategy and/or low-carbon development plans and policies; ii) how the programme contributes to strengthening knowledge and learning; how proposed measures will create an enabling environment and contribute to innovation, market development and transformation; and paradigm shift potential for catalyzing impact beyond a one-off payment. However, further explanation related to how the programme strengthens the regulatory framework and policies seems necessary.

From our perspective, the implementation of actions to reduce deforestation in 2014, linked to the national efforts to comply with the requirements of the Warsaw framework for REDD+, have contributed to drive investments away from agricultural practices linked to deforestation, and increase the attention and investments towards forest protection and conservation. In addition, the endorsement of the national REDD+ strategy is a clear example of the adoption of a cross sectorial effort to reduce GHG emission and reduce deforestation at the national level. This new strategy, in line with the Constitution and the main development plans and priorities of the country, is led by MAE and implemented by sectors and entities in charge of national and local planning, agriculture, banking sector and others. All these efforts are resulting, today, in the inclusion of provisions to avoid deforestation into the tools and requirements related to land use planning and in the loans from the banking sector to agriculture producers, and finally into the inclusion of LULUCF into the National Determined Contribution of the country.

At the international level, it is expected that this FP will also be an eye opener for the all REDD+ countries, the board members of the GCF, the UNFCCC communities and the donors in general, because it will demonstrate that an agreement which has been negotiate for over a decade to incentivize countries to reduce their emission from deforestation will finally get paid for these results verified by the UNFCCC. There is no doubt that in term of paradigm shift, this will be a major and very symbolic milestone in Ecuador and for many other countries and stakeholders.

Sustainable development potential

The ITAP gave a “High” assessment to this criterion, and we share this appreciation that the action implemented in 2014 to reduce deforestation in Ecuador have contributed significantly to sustainable development in many different ways.

We would like to provide 2 clarifications related to comments provided by ITAP: *“The project should aim to facilitate access for poor and, particularly, indigenous communities to skills-enhancement training and other means (such as the creation of access to credits) so that they can take full advantage of the growth of value chains involving NTFP”*, and *“reference may be made to activities such as livestock rearing, agriculture, value chains, and cocoa agro-forestry systems”*. It is important to keep in mind that Ecuador is already implementing a GCF project, jointly with a GEF project, under the umbrella of the national REDD+ Action Plan, which is contributing directly to facilitate access of local communities to training, creation and access to credits, as well as enhancement of agricultural value chain such as cocoa, coffee, NFTP and cattle. The present project, financed from the REDD+ RBP, will contribute significantly to the implementation of REDD+ activities by local communities and stakeholders, which will include capacity building and institutional and organization strengthening. More specifically, usd2.5m will be channeled through indigenous organizations and will be used very much in line with the concerns raised above by ITAP.

Needs of the recipient

We commend ITAP for its “High” assessment to this criterion.

As ITAP rightly pointed out, *“there are currently insufficient funds to fully implement Ecuador’s National REDD-plus Action Plan”*. In this regard, for Ecuador, it would have been ideal to submit to the GCF all of the ERs reported and verified for the period 2009-2014. However, the eligibility period decided by the GCF for the REDD+ RBP pilot program starts in Dec 2013, so Ecuador can’t resent ERs 2009-2013; and now, it will be *“the responsibility of the international community to put forward the finance that is needed by Ecuador so that the paradigm shift takes place and global carbon stock is boosted with complementary social and economic benefit streams for the poor people of Ecuador”* as concluded by ITAP.

Given the needs of the recipient country to plan the implementation of its national REDD+ action plan based on stable and predictable funds, it will be important for Ecuador to get a sense of how the GCF will manage its RBP pipeline during the pilot program, and determine the indicative country-specific allocation of funding, subject to available resources.

Country ownership

We welcome the “High” assessment to this criterion from the ITAP.

Efficiency and effectiveness

The ITAP gave a “Medium” assessment to this criterion, mainly because the adequateness of the financial structure for cost-effectiveness and efficiency is insufficiently described, as well as the application of best practices and the degree of innovation.

ITAP rightly points out that their *“assessment is based on a funding proposal, which is developed according to the guidelines provided by GCF. For the claims for RBP schemes, the requirement for*

detailed information on forward-looking interventions by utilizing the proceeds is rather inadequate.”

In addition, it is worth clarifying that the template of the FP does not really seek to clarify the adequateness of the financial structure for cost-effectiveness and efficiency looking forward, or the application of best practices and the degree of innovation. It is why the ITAP is not in a position of providing a substantive assessment on these points.

The spirit of the pilot program, as reflected in the template of the FP, is to stick as much as possible to the decision of the UNFCCC. Deliberately, the GCF has decided to provide relatively limited guidance regarding the conditions related to the use of proceeds. Basically, countries have to ensure that REDD+ RBP are used in line with their national REDD+ strategy, NDC and/or low carbon development plan; in line with the objectives of the GCF; and in compliance with GCF policies and safeguards. Additionally, a simplified reporting process will be defined in the context of the REDD+ RBP pilot program. This intent of simplification is welcome. The sub-criterion and assessment factor typically used for standard investment FP to assess efficiency and effectiveness may result slightly irrelevant or inapplicable in the specific context of RBP.

Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel:

In its conclusion, the ITAP indicates that *“the proposal presents a good case for financing under REDD-plus pilot programme of GCF. However, because of its nature, the project proposal lacks sufficient information on the efficacy of the utilization of the proceeds for the iTAP to make specific and decisive remarks”*.

We welcome the first part of the conclusion, but would like to clarify the second part. As stated earlier, in the context of the REDD+ RBP pilot program, the investment framework and criteria are treated differently than in standard projects, in the sense that they are backward looking. The section 4 of the scorecard clarifies that *“The criteria of the Investment Framework will be applied to inform on past actions towards achieving results”* (i.e. 2014). Therefore, we acknowledge that the FP does not provide a detailed analysis of the use of proceeds from an Efficiency and effectiveness perspective, but this is due to the design of the pilot program. Ecuador is seeking payment for results achieved in the past. A description of how the proceeds will be used is clearly provided in the FP, as requested in the TOR.

With regards to the 4 recommendations of the ITAP:

- a) *Strengthen the gender action plan, giving greater emphasis to the creation of economic access (through, e.g., tailor-made skills enhancement programmes, credit support) to the modalities, such as SMEs, value chains and marketing of NTFP;*

This is well noted. Just to clarify, we are interpreting this comment to mean that that gender action plan (GAP) should give large emphasis to the creation of economic access to *women*. The comment does not state ‘women’ specifically; thus, we thought it best to note here. This said, it is the goal of the project to ensure women receive ample support to improve their access to and involvement in the economy, markets and value chains. Key in this process and ensuring the long-term success of such efforts, particularly after the project ends, is ensuring women, and their businesses, have the capacity, know-how, skills, business acumen and resources to actively participate and compete in markets and value chains. Thus, we are in full agreement with this comment, and the GAP has this as one of its main focuses.

The main outputs of the project, which focus on economic aspects, are Output 2.1 and 3.1, and it is precisely these outputs that have gender-responsive activities, and corresponding indicators and targets, assigned to them in the GAP. For example, for

Output 2.1, an equitable number of producers within the value chains targeted will be women. We have raised the previous target to now require that 40% of producers involved are women. In this effort, the project also places emphasis on building the capacity of women and men producers equitably. In this process, the GAP notes that additional skills training programmes for women and youth producers will be required if there are gaps in their capacity and/or they have additional needs that need to be addressed prior to the conducting the training. Minor edits have been made in the GAP to make this activity clearer. Additionally, Output 3.1 puts a very strong emphasis on supporting and equitably involving and targeting women-owned SMEs. The project will require that 40% of the SMEs involved in the Output are women-owned SMEs (this is an activity and target listed in the GAP). Under this Output, the GAP also calls for “assessing business-related training, market access issues, and needs of businesses owned by women and addressing these needs, so that they can actively and competitively participate in national and international markets”. Thus, we interpret this to be tailor-made skills enhancement programmes. Nevertheless, some minor edits have been made to the GAP to make this activity clearer.

In terms of providing credit support to women, direct credit support is not a component of the project and it will not be provided by the project to producers, stakeholders, business owners, etc. Rather the project will work with such actors to set up private-public partnerships, build their capacity on various issues, set up business clusters within the NTFP value chains, etc. Thus, it will not be possible to provide direct credit support to women. Nevertheless, the project (as noted above) will be taking multiple steps to actively and equitably ensure women are involved in and benefit from the project, including those project outputs focused on creating economic access.

- b) *Ensure that the environment and social impact assessment is completed, as promised, during the inception stage;*

This is well noted and we fully concur with the importance of having the ESIA completed during the inception stage of the project. It is for this reason that we have already started to develop the TOR of this specific activity, so they can be launched as soon as the RBP project is approved by the Board of the GCF.

- c) *Strengthen the project monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure that deforestation and forest degradation do not take place during the course of the project implementation, involving regular monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) opportunities and end-of-project MRV compliance; and*

It is in the best interest of Ecuador to keep improving their monitoring and reporting capacities. Ecuador has been a pioneer in REDD+; was one of the first country to submit its FREL and then the REDD+ technical annex to the UNFCCC. Improvements on the FREL are being done presently, to include forest degradation, and the capacities of the MAE on MRV are being strengthened by the existing GCF project already under implementation in Ecuador. The present RBP project also includes significant funds to enhance MAE's capacities in implementing REDD+ (usd1.5m) and to integrate degradation in its FREL and upcoming technical annexes (usd600.000), learning from example of the few other countries which have started to include this REDD+ activity into their FREL. We coincide with the ITAP that these issues are critical, and we are very confident that Ecuador will keep increase it capacity to provide more robust



iteration of FRELs and REDD+ technical annexes in the futur thanks to the support of the GCF.

- d) *Strengthen the project governance structure by creating greater opportunities for the representation of indigenous people, and women's, youth and civil society organizations in project governance beyond participation in the inception level consultations.*

As AE, we fully concur with the idea of creating greater opportunities for the representation of indigenous people, and women's, youth and civil society organizations in project governance beyond participation in the inception level consultations. We also acknowledge the efforts that Ecuador, under the leadership of the MAE, is presently doing in creating one single governance structure for REDD+ in the country, which will take into account the different sources of funds co-financing the implementation of the national REDD+ action plan (GCF, GEF, FIP, REM, other), the governmental and non governmental entities involved in its implementation, the role of the decision bodies and of the advisory bodies, etc. As a result of the ESMF, it is planned to have detailed implementation plans to support gender-responsive and socially inclusive stakeholder engagement efforts, wherein equitable and meaningful participation of indigenous people, women's, youth and civil society organizations in project governance and decision-making processes will be ensured. These plans will define the best possible options to maximize these multi-stakeholder engagement and efforts, strengthen governance structure and foster opportunities during project implementation



Gender Assessment and Action Plan

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1. Introduction

The Green Climate Fund recognizes the central importance of gender considerations in terms of both impact and access to climate funding, and requires a Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan to be submitted as part of the funding proposals that it assesses. The main objective of the Gender Assessment is to screen the gender aspects of the GCF project, and to subsequently strengthen the gender responsive actions within the project. It is within this context that this gender assessment aims to provide an overview of the gender dynamics in Ecuador, with a focus on REDD+ and related thematic areas, specifically as they refer to the results period (2014) as well as the investment of proceeds for this proposal. The information and design considerations in this Annex should not be considered additional, but rather part of the basis of the proposal, including its Stakeholder Engagement and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Annexes.

This gender assessment also identifies gender issues that are relevant to the project and examines potential gender mainstreaming opportunities. The assessment was based upon available data from studies conducted by the Government of Ecuador, donor agencies, and multilateral organizations; and included:

1. Undertaking a desktop review and aligning approaches in this proposal with the national priorities of Ecuador;
2. Reviewing and considering national aspirations as detailed in the national policies and agenda on gender and women's empowerment;
3. Incorporating information and lessons learned from past studies and assessments on gender in Ecuador from the Government of Ecuador, the United Nations and international development organizations;
4. Integrating gender considerations in the project indicators, targets, budget and activities, and identifying women as leaders and decision-makers.

2. Existing Gender Dynamics and Inequalities in Ecuador

According to projections from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), based on the 2010 Census, as of 2014 there are 16,027,466 people in Ecuador, of whom 49.5% are men and 50.5% are women. The highest percentage of population ranges between 5 to 9 years of age.¹

At the national level, there are 3,810,548 households, of which 28.7% have female heads, a 3% increase from 2001 (25.4%), and of these, 70% are in the urban area. Afro-Ecuadorian households have the highest number of female heads of household (32.2%), which is above the national average. The Montubio people have the lowest percentage of homes headed by women at 21.4%. Of households headed by women, 70.2% lacked a spouse. In other words, approximately 770,000 women

¹ Government of Ecuador. *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)*. Available at <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>

are heads of household and assume the sole responsibility of raising their children (INEC, 2012: 4). In addition, 3,645,167 women are mothers (INEC, 2010) and of this group, 339,656 are single mothers and 122,301 are teenage mothers. 51.3% of single mothers have one child, 20.6% two and 7.1% have more than six children.²

Gender inequalities constitute one of the structural problems of the Ecuadorian socioeconomic system. For centuries, both under the colonial regime and in the subsequent Republic, a power structure and a culture have prevailed, which in the public and private spheres placed women at a disadvantage by denying and limiting their rights and freedoms, and impose patriarchal patterns of coexistence based on male authority. In this way, cultural norms and codes were institutionalized, which constituted a social model of domination and subordination and ignored the multiple contributions of women in society. This subordination, besides having a social, cultural and political significance, has resulted in the sexual division of labor, labor segregation and discrimination, and has devalued the various economic activities carried out by women.³

2.1 Gender Inequality Index

Through the years, several indices have developed to quantify the concept of gender inequality. The United Nations Development Programme uses the Gender Inequality Index (GII) and Gender Development Index (GDI). GII is a composite measure that shows inequality in achievement between women and men in reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market while the GDI measures achievement in human development in three areas: health, education, and command over economic resources. The GDI considers the gender gaps on human development between men and women.

Ecuador has a GII of 0.391, ranking it 88 out of 159 countries in the 2015 index. The female Human Development Index (HDI) value for Ecuador is 0.730 in contrast with 0.748 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.976, which places the country into Group 1 (high equality in HDI achievements between women and men).⁴

The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) of the World Economic Forum examines the gap between men and women in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival; and political empowerment.⁵ Out of 144 countries, Ecuador's rankings, based on GGGI in the year 2016, are given below⁶:

Description	Score	Rank
Economic participation and opportunity	0.631	93

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ United Nations Development Programme (2016). Briefing Note for Countries on the 2016 Human Development Report: Ecuador. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ECU.pdf

⁵ World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Report 2014 Country Profiles. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CountryProfiles.pdf

⁶ World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Report 2014 Country Profiles: Ecuador. Available at <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=ECU>

Educational attainment	0.996	48
Health and survival	0.980	1
Political empowerment	0.297	32
Gender Gap Index 2016	0.726	40

* Inequality = 0.00; Equality = 1.00. Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2014

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) developed the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), a composite index that scores countries (i.e., 0 to 1) on 14 indicators grouped into five sub-indices: discriminatory family code, restricted physical integrity, son bias, restricted resources and assets, and restricted civil liberties to measure the discrimination against women in social institutions across 160 countries. The 2014 SIGI value for Ecuador is 0.0422, suggesting that discrimination against women is low.⁷

2.2 Education

Since 2007, Ecuador has been undertaking an Educational Reform process, wherein it sees education as a public good for training and qualification in different levels and cycles, which is fundamental to strengthen and diversify individual and social capacities. Under this reform process, Ecuador's education system is an integrated system that articulates and gives continuity at basic, middle and higher levels. It is coordinated by the Ministry Coordinator of Knowledge and Human Talent, which coordinates the application of the system, where science, technology and ancestral knowledge all play a role. The principle of equality is included as an indicator for educational quality within related regulations.⁸

The Organic Law of Intercultural Education, in force since March 2011, establishes the promotion of equality between men and women, including people with different sexual orientation and gender identity. This law also mentions the right to receive an integral and scientific education, respecting the rights of those who study, as well as promotes gender equality and non-discrimination.⁹

In the last 30 years, significant progress has been made in the eradication of structural illiteracy in Ecuador, and starting in 2008, the eradication of illiteracy became a priority within state education policies. One of the most relevant programs in terms of the eradication of illiteracy was the Monsenor Leonidas Proaño National Campaign of 1990, which contributed to reducing the illiteracy rate from 16.5% (1980) to 11.7% (1990). Between 2000 and 2010 another initiative, promoted by local governments and based on literacy campaigns under the Cuban methodology "Yo si puedo", was also undertaken.¹⁰

⁷ OECD. Social Institutions and Gender Index 2014. <http://www.genderindex.org/ranking/>

⁸ Government of Ecuador. *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)*. Available at <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

However, gender inequalities in the area still persist. According to INEC data (2013), the illiteracy rate at a national level for women is 7.8% and 5.6% for men. When the illiteracy rate by geographic location is analyzed, the illiteracy rate of rural women increases to 15.2% and 10.7% for men. According to disaggregation by ethnicity, indigenous women have the highest illiteracy rate with 28.3%, followed by Montubias women with 14.7%, Afro-Ecuadorian women with 7.8%, 6.2% mestizas and 3.1% whites. The national average of schooling for the year 2013 was 9.6 years for women and 9.9 men. However, similar to illiteracy levels, rural women (6.6 years) have fewer years of schooling, compared to rural men (10.6 years) and their urban peers.¹¹

2.3 Political participation and decision-making

The Quotas Law of 1998 has had mixed success in promoting the political participation of women. This can be illustrated through the comparison of data over the last 10 years. In 2009, women represented 32.3% of the total elected assembly members, while in 2013, they represented 40.15%. Regarding women in public appointments, the participation of women increased from 2003 to 2010, wherein the percentage of women members ministerial cabinet rose from 26.7% to 42.1%. However, in 2013, this percentage fell again to 21.1%, which is below 2003 levels.¹²

To note, there has also been areas of progress as well. For example, in 2012, in the National Court of Justice, female participation was 42.9%, and in the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control was 57.1%. These results can in part be attributed to the application of affirmative action measures established by the Constitution and laws, as well as by the political decisions of the authorities.¹³

In the area of local governments, in 2009, at the level of councils and parish councils, the percentages of women's participation were 28.61% for the councilors and 21.93% for the *vocalías* of the parish councils. Other local positions are also low, where women only represent 6.3% of the mayorships and 8.7% prefecture positions. This data illustrates the low level of women's participation in local governments in relation to other dignities.¹⁴

Women's and men's roles and involvement in decision-making processes not only vary across national and local levels, but also across cultures. For example, in the Shuar culture, there are currently assemblies where one chooses a representative of the community while the traditional organization can have one or several elderly leaders, who could either be men or women. In the Cofán culture, masculinity is present and men occupy most of the leadership roles. In the community, the leader is a man, but his wife is involved in his role, helping to maintain cordial relations with the community. In some cultures, like the Achuar, the Amazonian Kichwa or the Chachi in Esmeraldas, women's access to decision-making processes and involvement in public affairs is especially restricted. On the other

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

hand, there are cases, such as the Afro-descendant culture in the north of Esmeraldas, where public participation of women is more balanced and they have means and agency to intervene in decisions.¹⁵

2.4 Labour force participation and earnings¹⁶

The participation of women in economic activities has been on a steady increase from 15.8% in 1974 to 18.1% in 1982, from 26.0% in 1990 to 30.5% in 2001, and then to 36.5% in 2010. The periods of 1982-1990 and 2001-2010 are the fastest growing, which can be attributed to the strong economic crises that the country experienced, which forced women to search out paid work. According to the data from the Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment [Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC), 2013], the Global Participation Rate for women in the 2007-2013 period ranges between 47.6% and 42.5%, while for men it is 70.2% and 65.1%.

Women's involvement in the labor market depends to a greater extent on the level of education. In 2013, for example, at the national level, 24.9% of the economically active population were women with higher education, compared to 16.9% of men in the same condition. In the urban area, the trend remains, with 32.6% for women, compared to 24.3% for men, and similarly in rural areas men represent 3.9% and women 6.9%. (INEC, 2013). Regarding the levels of unemployment, 6.1% are women while 4.0% are men (INEC, 2013).

One of the most relevant inequality gaps between men and women is monetary income. According to the INEC (2013), women, in general, receive 79.1% of income in relation to men. Rural women are the most disadvantaged, wherein they receive 72.9% compared to their male counterparts. Comparative data from 2003 in relation to 2013 shows that the income gap has slightly improved, especially in the rural area, where the gap was reduced from 52.9 to 27.1 points and in the urban area it went from 33.0 to 23.2 points. There is a direct relationship between education levels and income, wherein women with higher / postgraduate levels of education are the ones that position themselves more remuneratively, although they are still below the male average (INEC, 2013).

At the national level, men occupy 13.9% of their time in unpaid work and 86.1% in paid work while women devote 40.4% to unpaid work and 59.6% to paid work. There is a significant gap in unpaid work, wherein women work up to three times more than men without pay, while men spend more time in paid work. With respect to unpaid work (domestic + caring for people), working time differs between men and women. At the national level, women spend 31:49 hours a week compared to 9:09 hours for men, a difference of 22:40 hours per week dedicated to unpaid work.

The Survey on the Use of Time shows that at the national level, the total time of work (paid work plus unpaid work) of women on average is 77:39 hours/week while that of men is 59:57 hours/week. In general, women work 17:42 hours more than men at the national level, 14:53 more hours in urban

¹⁵ UN-REDD Programme (2015). "Diagnosis of gender issues in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan in Ecuador"

¹⁶ Government of Ecuador. *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)*. Available at <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>

areas and 23:14 hours in rural areas than men. Women in rural areas work 81:36 hours a week, 5:48 hours more than women in the urban area. This difference is due to the weight of domestic tasks and the time required to complete them given limited access to resources such as water and housing services. These differences in total work time are also related to sociocultural aspects linked to customs and traditions.

This situation shows unequal and disadvantaged relationships in the labor market by gender. The participation of women in the economic sphere, at present, has important advances; however, much is missing for full compliance with the principle of equal rights, duties and opportunities.

2.5 Land tenure and rights

In Ecuador, agrarian reform was initiated in 1964, and aimed at the expropriation of unexploited lands and the colonization of wastelands. Under this reform, land was granted in usufruct to cooperatives. The law gave priority to assignments to heads of households whose main activity was agriculture and who did not own land or had very small extensions. In 1973, the Law of Integral Agrarian Reform maintained these provisions, with which women were, in most cases, excluded from the allocation of land. Women were not recognized as farmers or heads of households. This was supported by Civil Code provisions at that time stipulating that the husband was the administrator of the marital property. However, over time the land rights for women have slowly improved. Under the current Constitution (Article 5), adopted in 2008 with amendments in 2011, all persons, women and men, are equal and shall enjoy the same rights, duties and opportunities in access to property. It also notes that the State is responsible for promoting redistribution, eliminating privileges and inequalities in access to land, so it will avoid concentration and hoarding of land.¹⁷

Nevertheless, there are discrepancies between the provisions of the Civil Code and customary rules. In practice, lands titled in the husband's name remain at the husband's disposal, even if they were purchased during the term of the conjugal union. As it can often be the case that women do not know their rights, in rural areas it is not common for the double signature in the sale of real estate, if the names of both spouses are not registered in the title of the land. And although the sale of real estate requires the signature of the spouse, this provision often gets ignored. As a consequence, women lose access to land without their consent or even with consent. When women do own land, ownership of land by women and joint ownership by couples are much more frequent in the sierra, with a greater indigenous population than on the coast, where the land belongs mostly to men.¹⁸

In terms of community ownership of land, the mechanisms of participation and representation of the land does not promote the participation of women, but rather only of male leaders. Therefore, the exercise of land ownership by women is visible in only very few occasions.¹⁹

¹⁷ FAO (2017). Gender and Land Rights Database. Ghana. Accessed on 7 August, 2018. http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/customary-law/en/?country_iso3=ECU

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ UN-REDD Programme (2015). "Diagnosis of gender issues in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan in Ecuador"

2.6 Agricultural Sector Engagement²⁰

Agriculture is an important source of employment and income, characterized by the dominance of small and medium productive units. It is estimated that small and medium farmers represent 95.5% of the country's agricultural production units. The productive units under 20 hectares supply 41% of milk production, 63% of potato production, 46% of corn production and 48% of rice production (Ministry of Environment, 2012).

Women in rural areas are responsible for 61% of agro-production activities in the country, through the contribution of skilled, unskilled labor and unpaid productive work. Within households, women are those who contribute the most to food sovereignty, through family agricultural units, not only for the production of agricultural goods, raising of small animals and poultry, but also for the contribution they make with unpaid labor in productive processes and unpaid domestic work and care.

There are 842,882 agricultural production units, of which 25.4% are in the hands of women producers and 74.6% of men. Of the total agricultural production units that are managed by women, 46.7% have less than one hectare of land and 16.1% less than 2 hectares. This unequal distribution means that only 38.7% of women are part of the rural female economically active population within the agricultural sector. This inequality is the result of structures of discrimination against women, with deep roots in the productive sphere. Women, in general, often only have small-scale productive systems, oriented to production for self-consumption and national consumption. There is evidence of a strong concentration of the land, considering that 42.6% of the total agricultural production units are greater than 100 hectares. (INEC, 2000).

2.7 Health²¹

The most urgent issues around sexual and reproductive health are the ignorance and disrespect of sexual rights and reproductive rights, the lack of education about them and the limited coverage that still exists in the country to address the health of the population. Those who are most affected by these problems are women, particularly those in the lowest quintiles of poverty, as well as adolescents, single mothers, those with disabilities, indigenous women, afro descendants, carriers of HIV, sex workers, lesbian women, transgender people, transsexuals and gay men.

Additionally, a large problem that affects the disrespect of sexual rights and reproductive rights in the country is the persistence of sexist and misogynistic sociocultural patterns that are expressed in practices of violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Violence based on gender, where the masculine is valued positively and the feminine is considered inferior, affects the violation of the sexual rights and reproductive rights of women and LGBTI persons.

²⁰ Government of Ecuador. *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)*. Available at <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>

²¹ Ibid

In Ecuador, 92.5% of women nationally in fertile age know about some method of contraception, but only 49.4% use any of them. Regarding their use, it has been observed that women from rural areas are often the ones that most use these methods, although they have less information on them than women in urban areas.

According to the Population and Housing Census of 1982, the total average number of children per woman in Ecuador was 5.3 and 2.4 in 2010. This decrease can be seen both in the urban and rural areas. Although, adolescent pregnancy in 2013 has declined slightly with respect to 2003, it is still considered a problem within the country. 5% of adolescent women from 12 to 19 years of age are either mothers or breastfeeding. This incidence of teenage pregnancies is related, among other aspects, to limitations and inadequacies in access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as lack of information and lack of access to sex education.

In Ecuador, the national maternal mortality rate experienced a significant decrease until 2006. However, the trend has increased since 2009, reaching 87.15 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2012 (INEC - Yearbook of Births and Deaths, 2012). The economic and financial crisis of the years 1999-2000 had repercussions in the deterioration of the services of medical attention to women, which could explain in part the tendency to the increase of the maternal mortality. There is also a marked tendency for women to get sick from causes linked to the fulfillment of roles that are associated with their femininity. Pregnancies ending in abortion, maternal care related to the fetus and other complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, are the main causes of morbidity according to the statistics of the Yearbook of Hospital Expenditures 2012 of the INEC.

3. Legal and Administrative Framework Protecting Women and Protecting Gender Equality

3.1 Key International Protocols and Frameworks Ratified by Ecuador in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Human Rights

Ecuador has ratified and/or signed many key international conventions, treaties and plans of actions on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights. Critical among them are:²²

- UN Declaration on Human Rights;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against the Woman "Convention of Belém do Pará";
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995;
- The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (Voted in favour as a member);
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- The International Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and

²² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cerd.aspx>

- Members of their Families;
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3.2 Key National Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Frameworks, Policies and Laws

3.2.1 Constitution²³

Ecuador's Constitution provides for the formulation and execution of policies to achieve equality between women and men. For example, in Article 6, it states that all Ecuadorians are citizens and will enjoy the rights established in the Constitution, and therefore reaffirms the notion of equal rights between women and men. Similarly, Article 11 notes that all people are equal and will enjoy the same rights, duties and opportunities, wherein no one can be discriminated against because of their ethnicity, place of birth, age, sex, gender identity, cultural identity, civil status, language, religion, ideology, political affiliation, judicial past, socio-political condition, economic or migratory status, sexual orientation, disability, physical differences, or health issues.

Likewise, through Article 85, the Constitution guarantees the equitable distribution of the budget for execution of those public policies which are focused on achieving equality. It is also important to highlight that Article 333, paragraph 1 recognizes unpaid work self-supporting work, such as human care that is carried out in homes, as productive work. Likewise, article 369 guarantees social benefits for people who perform unpaid work and care tasks, which in turn is financed with contribution and contribution from the State.

Articles 57, 58, 59, guarantee following collective rights to indigenous communes, communities, peoples and nationalities: identity, non-racism, compensation for racism, communal lands, land ownership, usufruct of natural resources, prior consultation, programs to ensure conservation, proper forms of coexistence, customary law, no displacement, conservation of ancestral knowledge, natural and historical heritage, intercultural education, organization, participation in politics and public plans, legislative measures, relations on borders, clothing and emblems, and no military activities within their territories.

3.2.2 Institutional Policy on Gender Equality (2016-2019)

In line of its mandate to ensure the protection of the human rights of all the inhabitants of Ecuador, guaranteeing non-discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender, age, culture, beliefs, among others, the Ombudsman of Ecuador developed a Policy on Gender Equality which aims to significantly address structural inequality internally as well as within its institutions.

It seeks to contribute to the construction of a society that integrates the approach of gender equality and human rights through the use and creation of tools and spaces that facilitate the conception of equitable roles and social relations, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life. Its two main objectives include the following: 1) Mainstream a gender equality approach in the organizational

²³ Ministry of Environment, Ecuador (2017) "Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations"

culture; and 2) Provide services to the population from a gender equality perspective.²⁴

3.2.3 National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)

Although it is being currently evaluated and is only dated until 2017, the National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017) remains valid and the country continues to implement its approach.

The Agenda, structured across nine axes, focuses on rights and proposes public interventions to overcome gender inequality gaps. Its purpose lies in the transformation of discriminatory social relations towards a State in which real or substantive equality is guaranteed. It is framed around work of the State, to enable the restructuring of the colonial legacies of neoliberalism.

The Agenda is a technical-political tool whose main objective is to make effective the fulfillment of rights and the mainstreaming of gender equality in the country. Through the linking of the specialized mechanism with the Government and executing entities of public institutions, it contains a list of equality policies, which are oriented to intersectoral, sectoral and territorial public action in a medium term horizon of execution and compliance.²⁵

3.2.3 National Plan for Good Living (2017-2021)

Developed by the National Secretariat of Planning and Development (Senplades) and approved by National Planning Council, the National Plan for Good Living 2017-2021, is the country's technical roadmap and the political instrument that directs the actions of the government from 2017-2021. It contains the guidelines to comply with the Government Program and guarantees the rights of citizens. Public policies, the programming and execution of budgets, as well as the prioritization of public investment are included within the Plan.

It is based on the achievements of the last 10 years and highlights the existence of new challenges to be achieved around three main axes: 1) rights for all throughout life; 2) economy at the service of society; and 3) more society, better State. The vision of the Plan is also part of international commitments to global development, such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The Plan integrates gender equality and women's empowerment principles both within its policies and targets. It calls for the eradication of gender violence and notes comprehensive care for such victims will be guaranteed. It states advances will be seen in achieving co-responsibility in reproductive roles and the sustainability of life, contributing to the autonomy and participation of women in other spheres. Gender parity and equality in access to managerial positions in the public and private sectors will be promoted, with measures of affirmative action.

²⁴ Ombudsman of Ecuador (2016). Institutional Policy on Gender Equality 2016-2019. Available at: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ecu164407.pdf>

²⁵ Government of Ecuador. *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014-2017)*. Available at <http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>

It further guarantees plural participation, with a focus on gender and emphasis on indigenous and peasant organizations, on the sustainable management of natural resources and environmental services. It will also strengthen systems focused on children in order to stimulate the capacities of girls and boys, taking into account the territorial contexts, interculturality and gender as well as promote safe and equitable access to rural land, particularly for women.

Some gender-sensitive targets within the Plan include decreasing the birth rate in adolescent girls between 15 to 19 years of age from 20.4% to 15% and reducing the gap in adequate employment between men and women from 35.5% to 32.30% and the wage gap between men and women from 21.9% to 18.18%.²⁶

3.2.4 Ministerial Policies on Gender

The Ministry of Environment (MAE) has developed a Strategy for the “Institutionalization of Gender and Interculturality Approaches in the Formulation of Plans, Programs and Projects”. Through this Strategy, MAE assumes responsibility and leadership for compliance with the constitutional mandates and international agreements signed by Ecuador regarding gender equality, management environmental and sustainable development. MAE demonstrates, with the Strategy, its willingness to be an active agent “in the definition of policies, mechanisms and strategies that make it possible to the inclusion of the gender and intercultural approach in programs, projects and actions related to environmental issues”. The Strategy uses a human development and gender equality approach and seeks to empower and channel the individual and collective capacities of women. It also promotes the mainstreaming of gender in the MAE for the achievement of gender equality goals, wherein gender is an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies.

The Ministry of Finance, in an effort to contribute to the investment in policies that guarantee equality and non-discrimination, as well as compliance with the rights of Nature, has developed classifiers in equality-related policies. These have been in use since May 31, 2013 and apply to the budgets of the institutions within the public sector (established in Article 100 of the Organic Code of Planning and Public Finance). This means that institutions must consider, in the Annual Planning of Public Policy (PAPP), the economic resources that will be allocated for supporting gender equality.²⁷

3.2.5 Additional frameworks and policies supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment

There are also other national policies, laws and legislation frameworks which also support gender equality and women’s empowerment in Ecuador. These include:²⁸

²⁶ National Secretariat of Planning and Development, Ecuador (2017). National Plan for Good Living 2017-2021. Available at <https://www.gobiernoelectronico.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/09/Plan-Nacional-para-el-Buen-Vivir-2017-2021.pdf>

²⁷ Ministry of Environment, Ecuador (2017) “Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations”

²⁸ Ibid

- Organic Law of the National Councils for Equality
- National Agenda of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador
- Plurinational Agenda for Equality
- National Environmental Policy
- National Climate Change Strategy
- Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion
- Official Registry 184 of August 30, 2011 (Guide for the Elaboration of Public Policies)
- Comprehensive Criminal Organic Code
- Organic Code of Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization
- Organic Code of Planning and Public Finance
- Organic Law of Food Sovereignty
- Organic Law of Intercultural Education
- Organic Law of the Public Service 2010
- Organic Law of Popular and Solidarity Economy 2011

3.3 Institutional Arrangements

In order to promote equality of rights and opportunities, Consejos Nacionales de Igualdad (National Councils for Equality) were created in July 2014, and continue to be responsible for ensuring the full and effective exercise of the rights enshrined in the Constitution and international human rights instruments, including the right of gender equality. Among other things, these councils possess the authority to formulate, mainstream, observe, monitor and evaluate public policy concerning gender issues. These councils coordinate with the other institutions of government to ensure the protection of the right to equality and the matter of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women – including in the context of climate change programming like REDD+.²⁹

The Ombudsman of Ecuador is the National Human Rights Institution that promotes and protects the rights of the people, communities, peoples, nationalities and collectives that inhabit the country, of Ecuadorians and Ecuadorians living abroad, and the rights of the nature. The Institution, in all its operational plans, aligns its budget to the expenditures on gender equality policies of the Ministry of Finance of Ecuador, in order to verify the specific expenditures which are made in the subject. To fulfill its mandate, the Ombudsman undertakes different processes including the following: 1) Research and advocacy on public policy and regulations with a focus on human rights, focusing on the historically excluded population; 2) Protection of rights, through which the Ombudsman attends all the cases that come to their attention without making a differentiated attention by virtue of gender, since the analysis and assessment of the case is carried out according to the violated right; and 3) Education in human rights, rights of nature and rights of users and consumers.

4. Gender Issues Around Forests and REDD+³⁰

²⁹ Ministry of Environment, Ecuador (2017) “Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations”

³⁰ UN-REDD Programme (2015). “Diagnosis of gender issues in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan in Ecuador”

In Ecuador, women and men living in and around forests have differentiated roles as well as have gender differentiated use, access and control of forest resources. Women produce food (sowing, harvesting and harvesting), raise small animals, collect firewood, collect forest materials for crafts, clothes, decoration and medicinal plants. They are often involved in the collection of non-traditional forest products and agricultural practices, and usually visit the area of forests that are nearer to their homes and water sources. Some women living in and around forests are also leaders, and thus, it should not be assumed that all women are homemakers working on only reproductive activities. Men often perform activities that require more physical efforts, such as loading products, opening trails, cutting trees for firewood, hunting, fishing, and monitoring and surveillance of forests. They also access deep forest areas to undertake these activities. In certain communities there are cultural restrictions on access for women within some of the forested areas that men visit.

To note, gender roles also vary across cultures and territories living near and around forests in Ecuador. In some areas, roles and powers relations between women and men do not follow the trends discussed above. For example, in some instances and cultures, men are involved in the care of the children or in the preparation of food, and some women share authority with their husbands over the community.

For indigenous cultures and Afro-Ecuadorian people, forests, in a general way, are considered as holistic spaces of life and not only as a source of resources. In some indigenous and Afro cultures women fulfill ritual roles and in almost all, they possess knowledge about herbs and other therapeutic resources. In the Chachi and Afros cultures of the north of Esmeraldas, women play a role in the extraction of wood. Achuar women are involved in fishing and Achuar men in the collection of non-timber forest products. Many Afro women have important forms of agricultural work, and some sail in the sea and in the rivers, usually male domains.

This demonstrates that gender roles are less rigid in some cultures and forested areas within Ecuador. In some cases, reproductive and productive activities are conceived as areas of cooperation between women and men. Although it should be noted, that these areas are not exempt from men exercising domination over women.

Within Ecuador, the loss of forests has a different impact on men and women. For women, these negative effects are seen in the welfare and survival of families, while in the case of men, in the decrease in the generation of resources and/or income.

5. Gender integration within forest conservation efforts and REDD+ action in Ecuador

5.1 Socio Bosque Program

In 2008, in effort to conserve forests in the country, Ecuador created the Socio Bosque Program (PSB). The Program delivers economic incentives to peasants and indigenous communities who voluntarily commit themselves to the conservation and protection of their native forests, páramos or other native vegetation. The delivery of this incentive is conditional on the protection and conservation of its forests, which means that people receive the incentive once they comply with the monitoring

conditions that are determined in an agreement signed with the MAE.³¹

Under PSB, title holders of both genders were eligible to apply for and secure *convenios*. Also, the programme received numerous Investment Plans that contained budget line items for women's groups and initiatives. That said, the project provided many lessons learned on gender which is being used to help inform the new use of proceeds proposed under this funding proposal. For example, individual agreement data from PSM shows differences between men and women in terms of number of agreements, number of hectares included, annual incentives, and number of beneficiaries. There is an obvious, marked difference in this category in which the percentage of male beneficiaries is greater compared to female beneficiaries. Additionally, the PSB showed that when dealing with collective titles – the matter of female to male title holders becomes somewhat moot as it is the people/village that holds the title. There was also a need to ensure increased engagement of women in the project after the conclusion of *convenios* (as well as more *convenios* with women where individual landowners were in question).

5.2 REDD+ Design

From 2012-2015, a joint REDD+ National Programme between the UN-REDD Programme and the MAE was undertaken in order to support Ecuador in completing its preparation for the implementation of REDD+ at the national level through specific activities framed within the country's National REDD+ Strategy. During implementation of this joint REDD+ National Programme it became evident that significant differences in the exercise and enjoyment of the rights of women and men existed, including the rights to access and control over land and resources, decision-making and participation processes, among others. In response to this need, the joint Programme took stronger steps to address this need and promote that a gender approach would be sufficiently integrated into the country's efforts on REDD+, both in design and implementation. The large focus of this work involved the following three main tasks:

1. Undertaking a diagnosis of gender issues in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan (dated April 2015);
2. Developing a gender and REDD+ awareness and training tool for technical staff and social actors (dated April 2015) to build capacity on gender among both government staff when implementing the REDD+ National Programme; and
3. Drafting a policy and corresponding action plan for mainstreaming gender in its REDD+ National Programme (dated May 2015).

Such actions were an important step to help promote that the country's approach on REDD+ would be in line the constitutional and legal framework of the country, which establishes gender equality as one of its central principles.

5.3 REDD+ Action Plan

³¹ For more information, see <http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/node/755>

The gender analyses and recommendations from the support provided on gender under the Joint Programme helped to inform and strengthen the gender approach of the REDD+ Action Plan, which was finalized in November 2016.

Within the National REDD+ Action Plan, gender is a fundamental transversal element and is incorporated and considered in all of its areas. It recognizes that to guarantee the success and sustainability of REDD+ in its implementation, it is essential that effective mechanisms be established to apply the constitutional, legal and international precepts regarding gender in national plans and programs.

A gender approach is also noted as one of the six components of the Action Plan. The Plan notes that its proposed measures and actions constitute instruments that seek to strengthen or deepen the processes in development as well as incorporate and internalize pragmatically gender equality guidelines. To achieve this, the Action Plan notes that the country's REDD+ efforts will involve the following:

1. Promote the participation of women in national and local participation spaces and in the decision-making associated with REDD+ implementation, according to their circumstances and considering gender roles and arrangements.
2. Establish a capacity development plan for women that is associated with their participation in the implementation of the different measures and actions of the REDD+ Action Plan.
3. Identify and generate measures and incentives, within the framework of deforestation factors, and for the enhancement of environmental and social co-benefits, which promote the participation of women and young people in the processes of productive transformation, such as agroforestry systems.
4. Identify and promote opportunities that allow the integration of knowledge, skills, abilities and experience of women in the implementation of REDD+ measures and actions.
5. Involve producers and members of women's associations in the processes of transitioning to sustainable production systems and initiatives to take advantage of NTFPs, in accordance with the role they have and the opportunities identified for their insertion in the value chain.
6. Encourage the full participation of women in the spaces of environmental management and natural resource management.
7. Promote the equal participation of rural women in the management and protection of water basins and water sources.
8. Promote equal opportunities for women producers, through training programs, strengthening leadership, and through incentives of various kinds, including those of a technological nature.
9. Promote, strengthen and improve the access of rural women to the means of production and commercialization, giving special consideration to agroecological practices, to traditional or ancestral sustainable practices and those that conserve biodiversity and environmental services.
10. Ensure that REDD+ local resource allocation mechanisms use data disaggregated by sex, seeking that women participate in the benefits of the implementation of REDD + measures and actions.

Additionally, trainings and consultations on REDD+ were carried out in priority areas to ensure that a variety of stakeholders were aware of the objectives of the National REDD+ Action Plan and could contribute to its design and future implementation. For example, a total of 2,878 people were trained, of whom 976 were women. The consultations led to the development of the priority PAMs as well as their spatial prioritization.

While these gender considerations are encouraging, the Plan does not often clearly identify the subjects it is referencing, which is an essential element of a gender approach. The concrete inclusion of the gender approach in the design of the objectives and goals of the REDD + Action Plan is also not included. Given this, the real opportunity for mainstreaming a gender approach within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan is then within its implementation plans that respond to the strategic components and operational components of the Action Plan. If the gender approach is not mainstreamed in such implementation plans, the REDD+ Action Plan does not have a real opportunity to systematically impact the reduction of the gaps between women and men.³²

5.4 REDD+ Implementation

Building upon this work on gender, and recognizing the importance of mainstreaming gender in the implementation of its REDD+ policies and actions, the Undersecretariat of Climate Change (SCC) (the responsible entity for the design and implementation of policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change) sought to strengthen its plans for REDD+ implementation. To guide this effort, the SCC coordinated the development of an analysis on "Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations", which was contracted through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH within the framework of the Early Movers REDD Program. This 2017 analysis provides recommendations and practical actions to help strengthen the consideration of the gender approach in the planning, execution and monitoring of policies and actions of the SCC in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It also gives an account of recommendations and specific actions to mainstream the gender approach in the implementation of the REDD + Action Plan and in the design of the implementation plans for REDD+ measures and actions.

To assist in the implementation of REDD+, the MAE and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) receive financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the Project "Integrated management of multiple use landscapes of high conservation value for the sustainable development of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region", and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the project "Promotion of financial instruments and land use planning to reduce emissions from deforestation", that as a whole - and potentially other additional programs – constitute the "Integrated Amazonian Program for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production" (ProAmazonia) that address the relationship between forests and sustainable agricultural production. ProAmazonia seeks to link the national efforts of contribution to the reduction of deforestation with the national priority agendas and policies of the economic sectors of the country, to reduce the causes and agents of deforestation,

³² Ministry of Environment, Ecuador (2017) "Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations"

as well as to promote a sustainable and integrated management of resources. that promotes the reduction of poverty and sustainable human development. This work is framed in the REDD+ Action Plan of Ecuador and Forests for Good Living 2016-2025.

While both of the GEF and GCF projects integrated a gender perspective into their design and background analysis, it will be critical to ensure, moving forward, that gender is integrated into the safeguards-related outputs undertaken as part of ProAmazonia project, including within safeguards-related output development (including TORs), implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, given the existing gender inequalities in the country and the potential gender risks identified by both of these GEF and GCF project documents, a gender action plan and corresponding theory of change will be developed to mitigate/avoid gender risks, define gender goals for the project and how they will be implemented, including across its other thematic and work areas. The need for additional gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated baseline data will also be assessed, in order to see whether existing data provides enough adequate information to have a basis for comparison to appropriately monitor the implementation of a gender approach in the ProAmazonia project.

Additionally, given its experience and technical expertise on gender and women's empowerment issues, it is planned to have UN Women assist the government of Ecuador to mainstream gender within the ProAmazonia program. An agreement is in the process of being written to formalize this support.

6. Recommendations

This preliminary gender analysis acts as an entry point for gender mainstreaming throughout design and implementation of the proposed project. The results and findings of the gender analysis has also informed and guided the development of a Gender Action Plan (please see Section 7 below).

This gender analysis, conducted through desk review, resulted in the following actions:

- Identification of gender inequalities and challenges and risks faced by women and other marginalized groups in Ecuador around thematic areas of relevance to REDD+ action, such as national policies and regulations, decision-making processes, agricultural production, forest use, land tenure, education, etc.;
- Identification of gaps, entry points and opportunities for mainstreaming gender in the proposed project, and in the implementation of REDD+ action more broadly;
- Development of the gender approach used within this proposal to effectively integrate gender and women's and youth empowerment considerations within the social, economic, political and local context within the country;
- Identification of sectors and thematic area of particular relevance in REDD+ in which gender-responsive actions can catalyze transformational positive change for marginalized groups, such as women and youth;
- Demonstration of the need to develop a gender-responsive environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), in which the need for additional gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated baseline data (e.g. on land tenure, value chains, etc.) is also assessed (and addressed as

necessary)

- Demonstration of the need to ensure the stakeholder consultations and engagement efforts for the ESIA are designed and undertaken using a gender approach and equitably include representatives from more marginalized groups, including women, youth, single-family households.
- Establishment of recommendations to incorporate into the preliminary Gender Action Plan.

Key entry points and recommendations for gender action within programme design and implementation are listed below. To note, these recommendations are based on preliminary findings of this assessment (based solely on a desk review). Thus, the findings and recommendations of this gender assessment, including the gender-responsive actions, indicators, etc., noted in the Gender Action Plan in Section 7 below, will need re-assessed and revised as necessary during the ESIA process, as well as will need to be consulted with and validated by state and non-state stakeholders, including those more marginalized, such as women, youth, indigenous, people, etc.³³

- Develop a gender-responsive ESIA in which the need for additional gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated baseline data (e.g. on land tenure, value chains, etc.) is also assessed (and addressed as necessary).
- In partnership with the MAE and REDD+ stakeholders, including those more marginalized, such as women, youth, indigenous, people, etc., develop a gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan.
- Review and assess land tenure (both individual and collective) arrangements and regulations around REDD+ and forest conservation, to help ensure women can actively participate in REDD+ and receive equitable benefits and rewards for their efforts.
- Mainstream gender within the implementation plans that respond to the strategic components and operational components of the Nation REDD+ Action Plan.
- Take affirmative measures to solicit and incorporate the perspectives of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the proposed outputs of this proposed programme.
- Modify the Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ (*Mesa de Trabajo*) to ensure the REDD+ *Mesa de Trabajo* has gender equitable participation as well as the equitable representation and involvement of representatives of more marginalized groups, such as women, youth, indigenous, people, etc.
- Create a specialized team composed of male and female experts focusing on supporting the mainstreaming of gender throughout the design and implementation of the 4 proposed outputs, as well as any associated gender action plans and mitigation measures that are developed during the safeguards work and social and environmental assessments, etc.
- Build capacity of women and youth from local and indigenous communities on REDD+ and provide them with adequate resources (e.g. financing, know-how, etc.) to actively participate and benefit from the activities of the proposed programme.
- Elaborate an internal and external communication strategy that socializes the gender focus in

³³ These recommendations are strongly informed by the analysis and findings of the GIZ 2017 “Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations” report.

REDD+ programming.

- Carry out training and capacity building among Ministry of Environment and REDD+ staff, stakeholders and partners on matters of gender equality, the contributions of women to REDD+, and the specific harms faced by women in the context of ecosystem destruction and conversion.
- As the National Councils for Equality possess the authority to formulate, mainstream, observe, monitor and evaluate public policy concerning gender issues, train and build capacity of their members on REDD+ as necessary, so that their guidance can be context specific and they can be used as resource to help gender integration into REDD+
- Require and develop capacities to collect and report on accurate disaggregated data around all REDD+ activities with respect to male and female participation, benefit sharing, positive and negative impacts, then share it across government institutions, and make such data publicly accessible.
- While strengthening the Safeguards information System, review, build upon and incorporate the gender indicators recommended in the 2017 GIZ “Mainstreaming the gender approach in measures and actions in the face of Climate Change with emphasis on REDD + - Situational analysis and Recommendations” report (pp. 32, 38-42) into all monitoring and reporting activities.
- Devote and allocate adequate funds, resources and expertise for implementing gender-related strategies, monitoring the results of implementation, and holding individuals and institutions accountable for outcomes that promote gender equality.
- During project implementation conduct qualitative assessments on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated to the project.

Addressing the gender dimensions and gaps identified within this assessment and implementing the corresponding recommendations noted above and gender-responsive actions noted below in the Gender Action Plan within project design and implementation, will help to ensure the project provides gender-responsive results.

7. Gender Action Plan

Data presented above provides context and an overall baseline assessment on the gender dynamics, inequalities and state-of-play within Ecuador, its forest sector and in its efforts on REDD+ action to date. This analysis identified the differences between men and women and has helped to identify gaps and provide a baseline for comparison.

Addressing the gender gaps noted above, this Gender Action Plan provides suggested entry points for gender-responsive actions to be taken under the applicable activities of the proposed project. In addition, specific indicators are also proposed to measure and track progress on these actions at the activity level. This can be incorporated into the detailed M&E plan which will be developed at the start of implementation, and provides concrete recommendations on how to ensure gender (including disaggregated data) continues to be collected and measured throughout implementation.

The gender budget assigned to each of the activities below reflects the portion of the activity and corresponding budget, which either has gender equality as a significant objective or has gender equality as a principal objective within it. So, for example, for Activity 1.1, the overall budget is 1,160,283 USD. However, the portion of the sub-activities and corresponding budget for Activity 1.1, which either has gender equality as a significant objective or has gender equality as a principal objective, is 66,936 USD. Thus, it is this amount which is reflected in the budget column within the Gender Action Plan below.

To note, as additional gender data collection in the field still needs to be undertaken in the forest sector and around REDD+ issues within the country, detailed gender baseline data, as they pertain to the project activities, in many cases are not yet known. In these instances, baseline information for the activities within the Gender Action Plan are currently marked with a '0', to illustrate that such information is not yet available. Such information will be collected during the process of developing the gender-responsive ESIA, wherein the generation of gender-responsive baseline data for the proposed programme will be undertaken. Thereafter, the Gender Action Plan below will be revised as necessary and gender baseline information will be provided.

Gender Action Plan

Objective	Gender-responsive actions	Gender indicators	Responsible Institutions/ Individuals	Budget (USD)
Activity 1.1: Implementing land use plans at the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate a gender perspective within the Land Use Plans (LUPs) of local governments Equitably and meaningfully involve women, men and youth from communities in development of the LUPs of local governments Equitably build capacity of women, men and youth from communities on REDD+ and LUPs, so that they can meaningfully engage in LUP development and raise their perspectives. 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Local governments have begun the process of updating their PDOTs to include climate change and gender criteria and actions</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of LUPs of local governments that integrate 1) a gender perspective and 2) assign an explicit budget to support such activities</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% LUPs of local governments integrate 1) a gender perspective and 2) assign an explicit budget to support such activities</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of participants of consultations/workshops on LUPs, who are women and youth</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 50% of participants of consultations/workshops on LUPs are women and female youth</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and trainings for this activity who felt they could actively participate and had their perspectives taken into account</p>	MAE, UNDP, SENPLADES	66,936

		<p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and trainings for this activity at least 'adequately' met and/or achieved these parameters</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women's constraints (e.g. location, timing, women's only groups, etc.)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women's and youth constraints</p>		
<p>Activity 1.2: Improving the management of land rights within Protective Forests and National Protected Areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitably and meaningfully involve women, men and youth from communities in efforts to develop a baseline and information system of the monitoring of land use zoning within the Protective Forests and National Protected Areas LUPs • Equitably build capacity of women, men and youth from communities on land use zoning within the Protective Forests land use plans, so that they can meaningfully engage in LUPs 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Protective Forests and National Protected Areas in Ecuador have management plans.</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of participants of consultations/workshops on baseline development for land use zoning within the Protective Forests and National Protected Areas land use plans who are women and youth</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40% participants of consultations on land use zoning for the Protective Forests and National Protected Areas land use plans are women and female youth</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women's constraints (e.g. location, timing, women's only groups, etc.)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women's and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and trainings for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2)</p>	MAE, UNDP	378,448

	<p>development and raise their perspectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate findings of land use zoning within the Protective Forests land use plans equitably and meaningfully involve women, men and youth from communities • Disaggregate by sex land ownership where possible (e.g. with individual land titles at a minimum) as well as collect data on land plot size as well. 	<p>understood the content being discussed and 3) had their perspectives taken into account</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and trainings for this activity at least 'adequately' met and/or achieved these parameters</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of land titles that have data on sex of owner and plot size</p> <p><u>Target:</u> The sex of the owner and size of the land plot are noted for 100% of land titles that are individually held</p>		
<p>Activity 2.1: Establishing a private-public partnership for marketing deforestation-free commodities from the Amazon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target an equitable number of women producers within these value chains (e.g. at least 30% of producers are women) • Work and collaborate with those private sector companies who promote gender equality and a human rights base approach (HRBA) in their work • Design all consultations and training associated 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of producers involved in this activity who are women</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 30% of producers are women</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of private sector companies who have gender equality and/or a HRBA principles explicitly listed in their vision and/or mission statement.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of private sector companies have gender equality and/or a HRBA principles explicitly listed in their vision and/or mission statement.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p>	<p>MAE, UNDP</p>	<p>1,500,679</p>

	<p>with this activity to encourage women’s active involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address any knowledge gaps and particular needs of women and youth in advance of consultations for this activity to enable the active participation of these groups 	<p><u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women’s constraints (e.g. location, timing, women’s only groups, etc.)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women’s and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and trainings for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the content being discussed and 3) had their perspectives taken into account</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and trainings for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p>		
<p>Activity 3.1: Supporting the business case for forests: supporting SMEs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target an equitable number of women-owned businesses producers within these value chains (e.g. at least 30% of businesses targeted are women-owned) • Ensure that women-owned businesses are equitably represented in each business cluster • Design all consultations and training associated with this activity to 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of businesses involved in this activity which are women-owned</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40% of businesses involved in this activity are women-owned</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> # and % of women-owned businesses within each business cluster</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 30% of business within each business cluster are women-owned</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> # and % women trained who say the value chain trainings helped 1) them to understand the market better and 2) their businesses has become more competitive and profitable</p>	<p>MAE, UNDP</p>	<p>2,394,523</p>

	<p>encourage women’s active involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address any knowledge gaps and particular needs of women-owned businesses in advance of consultations for this activity to enable the active participation of this group • Assess business-related training, market access issues, and needs of businesses owned by women and address these needs, so that they can actively and competitively participate in national and international markets 	<p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women trained who say the value chain trainings helped their businesses to become more competitive and profitable. Measured 1 year and 3 years after training given.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women’s constraints (e.g. location, timing, women’s only groups, etc.)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women’s and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and trainings for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the content being discussed and 3) had their business needs addressed</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and trainings for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2: R&D on industrial uses of NTFP and other deforestation-free products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate gender within studies on industrial uses of NTFP • Given their involvement in NTFP, equitably and meaningfully consult with women, men and youth from communities during the development of the studies 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of industrial uses of NTFP studies that integrate a gender perspective</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of industrial uses of NTFP studies integrate a gender perspective</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of consultations and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women’s constraints (e.g. location, timing, women’s only groups, etc.)</p>	<p>MAE, UNDP, research centers and universities</p>	<p>0</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate findings of studies equitably with women, men and youth from communities 	<p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women’s and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and workshops for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the content being discussed and 3) had their perspectives taken into account</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and workshops for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p>		
<p>Activity 3.3: Increasing forest restoration efforts in the Southwest region of Ecuador</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In capacity building activities related to the maintenance of restored areas with stakeholders, equitably and meaningfully involve and target women, men and youth from communities • Design all consultations and training associated with this activity to encourage women’s active involvement • When new agreements are signed with individuals, collect sex disaggregated on signatories • 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of participants of capacity building activities and consultations/workshops associated with this activity who are women</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40% participants of capacity building activities and consultations/workshops associated with this activity are women</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women’s constraints (e.g. location, timing, women’s only groups, etc.)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women’s and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and capacity building for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the content being discussed and 3) had their perspectives taken into account</p>	<p>MAE, UNDP</p>	<p>765,576</p>

		<p><u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and capacity building for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1: Strengthening of the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Environment to manage the implementation of the REDD-plus Action Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and build capacity of MAE staff and REDD+ staff, stakeholders and partners on the ‘why’ and ‘how to’ integrate a gender perspective within REDD+ Implementation • Hire a gender expert or create a specialized team composed of male and female experts focusing on supporting the mainstreaming of gender of this proposed programme • Train and build capacity of National Councils for Equality members on REDD+ as necessary, so that their guidance can be context specific and they can be used as resource to help gender integration into REDD+ 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> # of MAE and REDD+ staff and stakeholders who have had their capacity built/awareness raised on gender and REDD+ (disaggregated by sex and stakeholder group) <u>Target:</u> 80% of MAE and REDD+ staff and stakeholders have their capacity built/awareness raised on gender and REDD+</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> Evidence of changes in perception/understanding of gender among MAE and REDD+ staff and stakeholders <u>Target:</u> 80% of MAE and REDD+ staff and stakeholders trained demonstrate changes in perception/ understanding of gender (e.g. through use of pre and post workshop surveys, etc.)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> No existing gender expert or team is supporting the mainstreaming of gender in REDD+ efforts in Ecuador, however efforts are underway to hire a gender specialist for ProAmazonia <u>Indicator:</u> Evidence that either gender expert or team is supporting the mainstreaming of gender in REDD+ efforts in Ecuador for the lifespan of the programme <u>Target:</u> Either a gender expert or team is hired to support the mainstreaming of gender in REDD+ efforts in Ecuador for the lifespan of the programme</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % and # of National Councils for Equality members who have had their capacity built/awareness raised on REDD+ (disaggregated by</p>	<p>MAE, UNDP, National Councils for Equality</p>	<p>95,311</p>

		sex) <u>Target:</u> 80% of National Councils for Equality members have their capacity built/awareness raised on gender and REDD+		
Activity 4.2: Improving the National Forest Monitoring System capacity to monitor forest degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When undertaking local monitoring and validation efforts within a pilot area, equitably and meaningfully consult with involve women, men and youth from the applicable communities 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women and female youth involved 1) in monitoring activities and 2) consulted with during the validation process <u>Target:</u> 40% of community participants of involved 1) in monitoring activities and 2) consulted with during the validation process are women or female youth</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % of trainings and workshops associated with this activity which are designed to account for women’s constraints (e.g. location, timing, women’s only groups, etc.) <u>Target:</u> 100% of meetings and workshops associated with this activity are designed to account for women’s and youth constraints</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women from communities involved in the monitoring and validation efforts within the pilot area who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the activities being undertaken and 3) had their perspectives taken into account <u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants involved in the monitoring and validation efforts within the pilot area felt the activities for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p>	MAE, UNDP,	0
Activity 4.3: Implementation of the Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement all gender-related findings and activities of the 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % of gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP that are successfully implemented</p>	MAE, UNDP	717,425

<p>Consultation Plan Environmental and Social Management Plan for the use of proceeds</p>	<p>Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure results monitoring framework for the implementation of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP sufficiently integrates gender-sensitive and sex disaggregated indicators and targets • Allocate sufficient budget to cover costs of 1) implementing gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP; and 2) collecting data for the gender-sensitive indicators within the Stakeholder Consultation Plan's and ESMP's results framework • Develop a gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan. 	<p><u>Target:</u> 100% gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP are successfully implemented</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of gender-sensitive and sex disaggregated indicators and targets within results monitoring framework for the implementation of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 90% of gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP have corresponding gender indicators and targets established within the results monitoring framework</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of budget allocated to cover costs of 1) implementing gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP; and 2) collecting data for the gender-sensitive indicators within the Stakeholder Consultation Plan's and ESMP's results framework</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Evidence that sufficient funds are budgeted to cover costs of 1) implementing gender-related findings and activities of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP; and 2) collecting data for the gender-sensitive indicators within the Stakeholder Consultation Plan and ESMP's results framework</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> No current gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan exists</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Evidence that a gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan was drafted</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Gender policy to guide the mainstreaming of gender within the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan drafted within the first year of programme</p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate above mentioned gender policy with state and non-state stakeholders, including those more marginalized, such as women, youth, etc. • Modify the Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> so that it fully mainstreams a gender perspective • Ensure gender equitable participation and the equitable involvement of representatives of marginalized groups (such as women, youth, indigenous, people, etc.) in the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> • Elaborate an internal and external communication strategy that socializes the gender focus in REDD+ programming 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % and # of participants of the gender policy consultations and validation meeting who are women and youth <u>Target:</u> At least 50% participants of consultations and validation meeting are women and female youth</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Indicator:</u> % and # of women participants involved in consultations and validation meetings for this activity who felt they 1) could actively participate, 2) understood the content being discussed and 3) had their perspectives taken into account <u>Target:</u> 90% of women participants felt the consultations and validation meetings for this activity at least ‘adequately’ met and/or achieved these parameters</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> exists but only included a limited amount of gender considerations <u>Indicator:</u> Evidence that a gender perspective has been integrated into Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> <u>Target:</u> A gender perspective integrated into Guide to the Participation of Actors in the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i></p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> exists <u>Indicator:</u> # and % of women who sit on the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> <u>Target:</u> 40% of members of the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> are women</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i> exists <u>Indicator:</u> At least 1 representative from a women’s organization and 1 youth organization actively participant on the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i></p>		
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		<p><u>Target:</u> 1 representative from a women’s organization and 1 youth organization actively participant on the REDD+ <i>Mesa de Trabajo</i></p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> There is an existing internal and external communication strategy for ProAmazonia, which has a gender focus</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Evidence that an internal and external communication strategy that socializes the gender focus in REDD+ programming was drafted</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Internal and external communication strategy that socializes the gender focus in REDD+ programming drafted within the first year of programme</p>		
Output 4.4: Strengthening REDD+ Implementation in Indigenous Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate a gender approach within the support provided by the proposed project to the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador • For those activities being supported by the proposed project, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure results monitoring framework for the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador sufficiently integrates gender- 	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Evidence that gender is mainstreamed within the support provided by the proposed project to the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Gender mainstreamed with the support provided by the proposed project to the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % and # of gender-sensitive and sex disaggregated indicators and targets integrated within results monitoring framework for the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 30% of targets and indicators are gender-sensitive</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> % of budget allocated to support the full integration of gender within the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador</p>	MAE, UNDP, CONFENIAE	788,263



	<p>sensitive and sex disaggregated indicators and targets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allocate sufficient budget to support the full integration of gender within the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador 	<p><u>Target:</u> 5% of budget to support the REDD+ Implementation Plan in the Amazonian Indigenous Territories of Ecuador is allocated for gender-related activities.</p>		
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