

# UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019

## Proposition to Nature Based Solutions Workstream

**SUBMITTED BY:** PROAmazonia, Ecuador

**SUPPORTED BY:** Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE), Ecuadorian Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) and UNDP-Ecuador

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**1. Title: PROAmazonia - Utilizing forest conservation and sustainable production practices to address climate change and strengthen local livelihoods in Ecuador**

**2. Context and Rationale:**

Ecuador is recognized globally as a mega-diverse country with more than 60% of the country covered by undisturbed natural ecosystems and 1/3 of the land area is formally protected. It is home to 12.6 million hectares of native forests with ¾ located in the Amazon region, with more than 2 million people who depend on them and land for their livelihoods.

Ecuador formally recognizes the rights of nature in its Constitution (2008) and has numerous public policies and initiatives to protect forests, biodiversity and associated environmental services. The National Development Plan (2017-2022) established deforestation reduction targets; while the REDD+ National Action Plan (2016) defines policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD+ Action Plan requires several national and international efforts for its implementation. As such, the Government of Ecuador is implementing enabling policies and instruments to ensure REDD+ implementation is successful and sustainable over time. PROAmazonia is one of the initiatives that directly contributes to national requirements identified in the REDD+ Action Plan.

The National Climate Change Strategy identifies the LULUCF sector as a priority for mitigation actions and the NDC, recently presented to the UNFCCC, defines reduction targets through the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan (2016-2025) through a conditional scenario of 16% and unconditional of 4% compared to the 2000-2008 National Forest Reference Emissions Level.

**3. An overview of the contribution:**

PROAmazonia is an ambitious, five-year collaborative initiative to transform the agriculture and forestry sectors in the Amazon region to more sustainable management and production practices. It is an inclusive, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative seeking a just transition to sustainable land-use practices to significantly reduce deforestation and restore degraded ecosystems, improve the livelihoods of some of the most impoverished communities in Ecuador, and establish viable economic markets for sustainably produced, deforestation-free products.

In 2018, PROAmazonia achieved the following milestones:

- **Ecosystem Protection:** 157,000ha of native forest protected under long-term conservation agreements, through of Socio Bosque program;
- **Watershed Protection:** Established four new Municipal Hydrological Protected Areas covering 136,000 ha for long-term watershed conservation;

- **Forest Restoration:** Restoration of 2,447 hectares in the southern dry forest, including active replanting and fencing from stock as well as allowing for natural regeneration processes;
- **Sustainable Land Management Practices:** 5,022 small producers signed agreements to implement sustainable land management practices. To date, the total of hectares under agreements is 15,066;
- **Capacity Development:** 830 people (55% men, 45% women) from Amazon communities received training to strengthen their capacities and knowledge of conservation, restoration and climate change, and;

#### 4. Contribution to National GHG Reductions:

Preliminary data for the period 2014-2016 shows that Ecuador is reducing its deforestation faster than in the previous period, corresponding to a GHG emissions reduction of approximately 5.2MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq per year for the 2014-2016 period.

#### 5. How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

Data show that between 1990 and 2000, the average gross annual deforestation was 129,943 ha per year, for 2000-2008 period it was 108.666 ha per year. In the period 2014-2016 this figure reduced to 94,353 ha per year, thanks to government policies implemented at an early stage<sup>1</sup> to address deforestation drivers. For a mega-diverse country like Ecuador, achieving and maintaining these transformations requires a sustained and long-term commitment to sustainable development and actions across all sectors and levels of government.

Forest conservation and restoration, recognized as a natural solution to address climate change, are at the heart of PROAmazonia. Project interventions will reduce deforestation in the Amazon region, conserve high value ecosystems and actively restore degraded forest ecosystems. By sustainably improving productivity in existing agricultural and livestock areas, further expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier into native forests will be avoided, thus reducing deforestation and protecting biodiversity.

In addition to timber, forests provide important, high-value products such as seeds, fruits, plants, oils, fibers, fungi, among others, which can be sustainably utilized for medicinal, food, cosmetic and cultural purposes. PROAmazonia enables economic transformation by supporting local entrepreneurial efforts to sustainably develop non-timber forest products, thus increasing the economic value of the forests, while maintaining ecosystem function and diversifying income sources for local communities.

#### 6. How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years:

- **Reduction in carbon emission and carbon capture (GTonnes).** The LULUCF sector is the second largest GHG emitter after the Energy Sector with a 25,35% of contribution according to the National GHG Inventory (MAE, 2012). Interventions implemented and strengthened by PROAmazonia will reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions by 15 million tons between 2016 and 2025.
- **Increasing climate resilience:** PROAmazonia will strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change by reducing forest loss and by protecting and restoring forest

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<sup>1</sup> REDD+ Readiness phase

ecosystems, strengthening resilience of local communities through diversified income sources and implementation of sustainable land management practices, which reduce negative impacts from extreme weather events resulting from climate change.

- **Social impact (job increase; poverty reduction; Just transition, etc.):** The project will have significant positive social impact in communities with high-poverty rates by generating increased family income from improved production and access to incentives for sustainable land practices and green credits to support new bio-enterprises to commercialize in specialized markets. PROAmazonia utilizes a gender sensitive approach and applies the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all project activities. Communities are supported and enabled to make a just transition to sustainable practices, ensuring no-one is left behind.
- **Net economic impact (total in US\$; how was it achieved?):** Over its 6-year timeframe, PROAmazonia will invest \$53 million directly and \$92 million in co-financing, which will benefit one million people in a direct and indirect manner, resulting in a 10% increase in household income for small-scale producers, this will be achieved through increased production from existing agricultural areas and establishing access to international markets seeking sustainable and deforestation-free products and supply chains.
- **Impact on realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular SDGs 1,2,6,12,13,14,15,16):** Measures implemented through PROAmazonia and accompanied by private sector investment and ongoing support from the national government advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, specifically in relation to SDGs: 1. no poverty; 5. gender equity; 6. clean water; 12. responsible production and consumption; 13. climate action; 15. life on land and; 16. Justice and strong institutions.
- **Food security:** The Agenda for Transforming Production in the Amazon Region (ATPA), supports beneficiaries to establish Farm Integrated Management Plans (IMP) and seeks to transform 300,000 hectares of grassland to traditional systems (chakra and Ajashuar); semi-intensive and intensive agroforestry systems, silvo-pastoral systems and forestry systems<sup>2</sup>.
- **Minimising species extinction and ecological losses and fostering an increase of biodiversity:** By improving agricultural practices and reducing expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier, PROAmazonia will minimize ecological losses through deforestation, to reinforce environmental and social co-benefits ensuring the Amazon forest continues to support an amazing array of biological diversity.

## 7. Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?

PROAmazonia is delivered through a unique national-scale collaborative management model through the Ministry of Environment (MAE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) provides implementation support. Other key institutions closely involved with project implementation include Indigenous Nationalities, represented by CONFENIAE – organization representing all Amazon region indigenous nationalities, three Water Funds, SENPLADES - national agency responsible for planning, UTPL - academic institution, 18 Local Governments and a collaboration with UN-Women to ensure a gender-sensitive approach is implemented throughout the project.

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<sup>2</sup> Chakra and Ajashuar are ancestral agroforestry smallholder farm systems that combine a number of crops and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). ATPA targets are 10% conversion to improved agroforestry systems; 38% semi-intensive agroforestry; 10% intensive agroforestry; 28% silvopastoral systems; and 13% forestry systems.

**8. How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?**

During the national and local consultations for the elaboration of the REDD+AP, hundreds of stakeholders, including indigenous communities and small farmers, actively discussed the best ways of addressing the drivers of deforestation and provided inputs consolidated into the national REDD+ AP and the Funding Proposal. During project implementation Information and training was and will be provided so that participants are properly informed before they decide to opt-in, in compliance with a human rights-based approach, and the principles of accountability and rule of law, both national and international.

**9. Where can the contribution be put into action?**

The Project is currently being implemented in six Amazon provinces of Ecuador. It is highly replicable in other Amazon regions and other Latin American countries as well as other regions where there is a high economic and social dependency on agricultural production in and adjacent to tropical forests. Lessons learned in relation to Project implementation, governance and monitoring will be documented and shared widely to support knowledge transfer and guide sustainable transformation initiatives in other regions.

**10. How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?**

Through a multi-faceted, multi-stakeholder and gender-sensitive approach and the REDD+ working group<sup>3</sup>, the project will contribute to national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through conservation, sustainable forest management, and optimization of other land uses to reduce pressure on forests. Thus, reducing GHG emissions. The target is twofold: (1) Reducing gross emissions from deforestation by at least 20% by 2025, based on the 2000-2008 Forest Emissions Reference Level; and (2) reducing the net deforestation rate by 2025.

To achieve the desired impact the project aims to achieve the following transformational impacts:

- Mainstream measures to address climate change and implement REDD+ in public policies and territorial planning processes
- Transition towards sustainable and deforestation-free agriculture and livestock production
- Strengthen sustainable forest management practices and increase production and commercial use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)
- Increase carbon sinks through forest conservation and reforestation efforts.

In addition, the enabling conditions required to monitor progress towards the transformational outcomes described above will be in place along with systems necessary to comply with the requirements of the UNFCCC for REDD+.

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<sup>3</sup> A list of all stakeholders involved in PROAmazonia is attached for reference. The REDD+ Work Group, which includes representatives from multiple sectors (academia, agriculture production, indigenous people, civil society organizations, organizations of women and youth, etc.) has played an instrumental role during the development of the national REDD+AP. The Work Group will continue to serve as a platform to supervise and monitor the implementation of the REDD+AP and provide feedback to MAE to improve effectiveness.

**11. Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstreams (industry transition; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)?**

Yes – in addition to NBS, PROAmazonia is aligned with:

- **Resilience and adaptation:** Adopting sustainable agricultural practices will improve resilience to extreme weather events. Farmers who implement best practices will be rewarded with access to international markets.
- **Climate finance and carbon pricing:** Climate change measures will be incorporated in banking credits and financing policies to promote sustainable land practices. A proposal for Results Based Payments (RBP) is under development, but not yet implemented; however, if the proposal is approved by GCF, it will be implemented under PROAmazonia and other initiatives that address the REDD+ Action Plan.
- **Mitigation strategy:** The conservation of forests will contribute to climate change mitigation due to their capacity to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

**12. How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?**

Project interventions are aligned with and/or accompanied by public policies that promote conservation and sustainable production, strengthen forest control and ensure that territorial planning includes environmental and climate change considerations. Strengthening capacity of local governments to implement new territorial planning processes that incorporate climate change and sustainable production considerations, ensures the permanence of these actions and guarantees the right of future generations to a healthy environment.

**13. What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)?**

The project is financed with \$53 million USD from GCF and GEF and co-financing of \$92 million USD from MAE and MAG and other partners, along with additional in-kind support and partnership-agreements with a number of institutional, academic and community collaborators. The project governance structure requires collaborative decision-making for project implementation between the implementing agencies (MAE, MAG) and UNDP-Ecuador.

**14. What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?**

Numerous indigenous communities and organizations – such as CONFENIAE<sup>4</sup>, are involved in some project implementation activities, monitoring – including as “honorary forestry inspectors” - and advisory roles, as part of Forest Control activities. Emissions reduction monitoring is at the national level through the National Forest Monitoring System for the periods established by the Ministry of Environment. The information is reported based on the official reference emissions level assessed by the UNFCCC. A set of approximately 100 indicators are used to monitor and evaluate project interventions and results on a regular basis.

**15. What is the communication strategy?**

A comprehensive communications strategy ensures the project visibility and includes regular project updates via social media platforms and the project website. Efforts to actively engage and communicate about the project with Amazon communities include public forums and workshops and regular community liaison from regional staff. The communication and public relations strategy of PROAmazonía seeks to maintain the position of Ecuador as a country

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<sup>4</sup> CONFENIAE is a regional indigenous organization representing about 1,500 communities, belonging to the Amazonian nationalities including; Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Waorani, Sapara, Andwa, Shiwiar, Cofan, Siona, Siekopai and Kijus.

committed to global efforts to combat climate change and comply with the 2030 Agenda. The strategy incorporates gender, interculturality and inter-generational considerations and complements the stakeholder involvement and capacity building strategies through provision of information, awareness raising and edu-communication activities.

**16. What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).**

The Ministry of Environment (MAE) is the executing entity responsible for overall implementation of this project under GCF with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) as responsible party. MAGAP is the executing entity under GEF with MAE as the responsible party.

UNDP is the GCF and GEF implementing agency.

Three Water Funds – the Fund for Water Protection (FONAG), the Regional Fund for Water (FORAGUA), and the Water Fund for the Protection of the Paute River Watershed (FONAPA) – are Responsible Parties, responsible for the implementation of REDD+ implementation plans in their respective jurisdictions.

Other national entities support implementation: The Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Finance, the Internal Revenue Service (SRI), the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES), local governments (GADs), and line ministries responsible for applicable Policies and Measures (PAMs) to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation. UNDP draws upon relevant partners, including the UN-REDD partnership, for technical expertise as needed and in full agreement with the Government of Ecuador.

**ANNEX 1:****LIST OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS – PROAMAZONÍA****GCF Project Partners**

<b>Partners</b>
1. Ministry of Environment (Ministerio del Ambiente - MAE)
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería - MAG)
3. Secretariat of Planning and Development (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo - Senplades)
4. Ministry of Foreign Trade (Ministerio de Comercio Exterior - MCE)
5. Decentralized Autonomous Governments: provinces, cantonal and parishes (Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados - GAD)
6. BanEcuador y CFN
7. Senagua
8. Water Funds: FONAG, FORAGUA y FONAPA (Fondos de Agua)
9. Food and Agriculture Organization (Organización de la Agricultura y la Alimentación FAO)
10. National Tax Service (Servicio de Rentas Internas - SRI)
11. Ministry of Production (Ministerio de Producción - MIPRO)
12. Private sector (Sector privado)
13. REDD+ Work Group (Mesa REDD+)
14. Indigenous communities (Comunidades indígenas)
15. National Institution of Agricultural Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias – INIAP)
16. Consortium of Dry Forest – (Mancomunidad Bosque Seco – MBS)

**GEF Project Partners**

<b>National, Regional and Local Government Partners</b>
1. Ministry of Environment (Ministerio del Ambiente - MAE)
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería - MAG)
3. Secretariat of Planning and Development (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo - Senplades)
4. Ministry of Foreign Trade (Ministerio de Comercio Exterior - MCE)
5. Ministry of Tourism (Ministerio de Turismo - MINTUR)
6. National Biodiversity Institute (Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad - INB)
7. Socio Bosque Incentives Program (Programa Socio Bosque - PSB)
8. Institute for Eco-development of Ecuadorian Amazon Region (Instituto para el Eco-desarrollo de la Región Amazónica Ecuatoriana - ECORAE)
9. Decentralized Autonomous Governments: 6 provinces (Napó, Sucumbíos, Orellana, Pastaza, Morona Santiago y Zamora Chinchipe) - Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados Provinciales.
10. Decentralized Autonomous Governments: 5 cantons (Shushufindi, Orellana, Taisha, Morona, Nangaritza) Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados Cantonales.
11. Decentralized Autonomous Governments: 5 parishes (Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados Parroquiales)
12. Autonomous Provincial Government Consortium (Consejo de Gobiernos Provinciales del Ecuador - CONGOPE)
13. Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas - AME)

<b>National, Regional and Local Government Partners</b>
Public Banks (Banca Pública):
14. BanEcuador
15. National Popular and Solidarity Corporation (Corporación Nacional de Finanzas Populares y solidarias - CONAFIPS)
16. National Institution of Agricultural Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias – INIAP)

<b>Academic Partners</b>
Universities and research centers (Universidades y Centros de Investigación)
1. IKIAM Amazonian Regional University (IKIAM Universidad Regional Amazónica)
2. Amazonian State University (Universidad Estatal Amazónica - UEA)
3. Private Technical University of Loja (Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja - UTPL)

<b>Indigenous and Civil Society Partners</b>
Indigenous Nationalities Organizations (Organizaciones de las Nacionalidades Indígenas)
1. Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazono (Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana - CONFENIAE)
2. Achuar Nationality of Ecuador (Nacionalidad Achuar del Ecuador - NAE)
Women and Youth groups (Grupos de mujeres y jóvenes):
3. Inter-cultural Network of Amazonian Women (Red intercultural de mujeres amazónicas - RIMA)
4. UNWOMEN (ONU Mujeres)
NGO (ONG):
5. Nature and Culture International (Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional - NCI)
6. HIVOS – Northern Amazon (HIVOS- Amazonía Norte)
7. World Wide Fund (WWF)
8. Populorum Progressio Ecuadorian Fund (Fondo Ecuatoriano <i>Populorum Progressio</i> - FEPP)
9. Trade for Development (Comercio para el Desarrollo - COPADE)
10. Corporation of Biological Farmers (Corporación Ecuatoriana de Agricultores - PROBIO)
11. Latin American Future Foundation (Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano – FFLA)
12. Corporation for Environmental Management and Law (Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental - ECOLEX)

<b>Private sector Partners</b>
Producers' associations (Gremios y asociaciones productivas):
1. Cattlemen's Association of the Sierra and Oriente (Asociación de Ganaderos de la Sierra y el Oriente - AGSO)
2. African Palm Producers' Association (Asociación de Productores de Palma Africana - ANCUPA)
3. CHANKUAP Association (Asociación CHANKUAP)
Companies (commodity buyers, processors and/or exporters) Empresas (compradoras, productoras y exportadoras de materias primas)
4. Lavazza Italian coffee company.
5. Corporation for Sustainable Forest Management Corporación para el Manejo Forestal (COMAFORS)