



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID/ECUADOR ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMMING

Ecuador - home to Amazonian rainforest, Andean paramos and cloud forests, and the Galapagos Islands - is among the top ten megadiverse countries in the world. This biodiversity supports an equally impressive cultural diversity, and natural resources form the backbone of the country's sustainable development. USAID collaborates with the government and people of Ecuador to protect the country's natural heritage and mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE?

USAID COMBATS ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing decimates important fish species, impacts exports and destroys the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. USAID and other USG partners work with the Government of Ecuador, the private sector, and communities to combat IUU fishing. We do this by providing training to all fisheries inspectors in Ecuador on new rules designed to reduce IUU and building capacities within justice and enforcement agencies to detect and investigate IUU and hold accountable those who have committed such crimes. USAID also assists Interpol in providing training to Ecuadorian

government staff on techniques for boarding vessels suspected of IUU fishing. USAID has launched a regional program designed to reduce IUU among artisanal fishers in Ecuador and Peru.

USAID HELPS CONSERVE LANDS AND SPECIES.

USAID works closely with the Ecuadorian government and communities to conserve the country's unique ecosystems and plant and animal species by creating sustainable livelihoods and stronger value chains, as well as managing wildfires. USAID's public-private partnerships are leveraging industry know-how to promote deforestation free production in the Amazon. USAID supports training of several local fire departments to ensure wildland fire prevention and control. It also works with NASA to design initiatives to map and measure carbon stored in critical high altitude peatlands. USAID is further supporting the creation and strengthening of the Environmental department at the country's General Attorney's Office. All of this leads to improved policy and planning decisions by the government and communities in Ecuador, as well as decreased emissions contributing to climate change.

USAID ENGAGES LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND POLICYMAKERS TO COMBAT CONSERVATION CRIMES

USAID works regionally to create the conditions necessary to eliminate conservation crimes, such as wildlife trafficking, illegal mining and timber harvesting. Our program with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works with policymakers and other high-level stakeholders in Ecuador and across South America to support law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and environmental authorities to improve national, regional, and international criminal justice and preventive responses to environmental crimes. On the local level, USAID engages indigenous organizations and local communities to help combat wildlife crimes and strengthen protections for valuable habitats, while also developing more robust and sustainable livelihood strategies.

USAID STRENGTHENS INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

USAID works closely to address the needs and interests of indigenous communities across the Amazon Basin and strengthen their capacity to ensure their voices are represented in policymaking processes. USAID also works with indigenous organizations to strengthen their management and budgeting practices, which prepares them to take control of their own projects.

USAID WORKS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO THE ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

USAID supports the fight against climate change through decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the overall sustainability of the energy sector in Ecuador through the scaling up of nontraditional renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, and sustainable transport. These efforts aim to promote the financial and operational performance of the energy sector and its governance which will ensure access to reliable and affordable energy needed to improve the lives of the Ecuadorian people.