



Strengthening the capacity for integrating REDD+ projects into BioTrade strategies in Ecuador



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Strengthening the Capacity in
Integrating REDD+ Projects into
BioTrade Strategies in Ecuador
Report of the Consultancy**



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For further information on UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative please consult the following website: <http://www.unctad.org/biotrade> or contact: biotrade@unctad.org

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Acronyms

ADE*	Business Development Foundation
BIOCAN *	Program related to Biodiversity from the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN)
CAF*	Development Bank of Latin America
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCB	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDENMA*	Ecuadorian Committee for the Defense Nature and the Environment
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CICC*	National Committee for Climate Change
CONESUP*	National Council of Higher Education
CORDELIM*	Corporation for the Promotion of Clean Development Mechanism
CORPEI	Corporation for the Promotion of Exports and Investments
EcoCiencia*	Ecological Research Foundation
ENCC*	National Strategy for Climate Change
ENF	National Forest Evaluation
GADS*	Autonomous Decentralized Governments
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
INAMHI*	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MAE*	Ministry of Environment of Ecuador
MAGAP*	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador
MCPEC*	Coordinating Ministry of Production, Employment and Competitiveness
PNBSE*	National Program for Sustainable BioTrade
PNBV*	National Plan for Good Living
PNREDD*	REDD National Program
PROFAFOR*	Forests Absorbing Carbon dioxide Emission-FACE Program in Ecuador
PUCE*	Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador

REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, sustainable forest management and increasing forest carbon stocks
SAMBITO*	Environmental Total Solutions
SEPS*	Superintendence of Popular and Solidarity Economy
TULAS*	Unified Text on Secondary Environmental Legislation of Ministry of Environment
UCG*	Casa Grande University
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOCACE*	Union of Cocoa Producers Organizations
UPS*	Polytechnic Salesian University
USFQ*	San Francisco de Quito University
USFQ-CTT*	Technology Transfer Center from USFQ
UTPL*	Private Technical University of Loja
VCS	Voluntary Carbon Standard

*Acronyms as used in Spanish.

I. Background

UNCTAD's BioTrade/REDD+ initiative aims to strengthen capacities in three developing countries, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador, in the formulation and implementation of projects that involve trade, environment and sustainable development, aligned with BioTrade and the reduction of Green House Gases Emissions (GHG) from deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management and increasing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). In Latin American countries, deforestation and land use change are major drivers on climate change, where forests are frequently transformed into crop land, cattle raising land and /or rural living areas. On the other hand, BioTrade has the potential of fostering the conservation and sustainable management of forest, because it creates economic incentives and opportunities for development and improvement of living conditions of rural communities.

Climate change has affected biodiversity, increasing its vulnerability to its impacts, which is evidenced on changes in species distribution, population sizes and timing of reproduction or migration of events, among others. To confront climate change, an integrated and strategic approach is required such as the integration of biodiversity-based strategies in climate change mitigation. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) REDD+ mechanism, offers financial incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to achieve sustainable development. With the introduction of these measures and funding, there exists an opportunity for developing countries to integrate BioTrade activities into climate-friendly policies, thereby strengthening local economic activities in forest buffer zones.

On the market side, at national and international levels, demand is changing due to the incremental interest for environmentally-friendly and fair products, of consumers from both developed and developing countries, combined with the corporate social and environmental strategies of multinationals. Related to this, the demand of GHG reduction projects has also seen a shift in recent years, demanding projects that not only reduce emissions, but also preserve biodiversity, improve the living conditions of rural and indigenous communities, alleviate poverty, and promote gender equity and sustainable development. These projects have marketed their credits with a premium which in return has increased the interest for developing such initiatives.

However, there is still limited practical experience in linking the two concepts of sustainable use-conservation of biodiversity and carbon sequestration, particularly within the framework of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and a value chain approach. This in turn has limited active participation of developing countries, in seizing the development opportunities of emerging biodiversity and carbon markets.

It is important to mention, that in general terms, Ecuador has failed to exploit the full potential of BioTrade or REDD+ promotion, meaning that there is a long list of pending activities to consolidate a

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