



USAID SUSTAINABLE FORESTS AND COASTS

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS BY CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

Improving Livelihoods by Conserving Biodiversity



Local Partners:

Ministry of Environment (MAE)
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture, and Fishery (MAGAP)
Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR)
Municipalities/Townships
Local Communities

Implementing Partners:

Chemonics International
Conservación y Desarrollo
Fundación Altrópico
Fundación Ecológica Bioeducar
La Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental (ECOLEX)
Rainforest Alliance
Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño (CIIFEN)

Length of Project:

June 2009 - June 2014

Investment:

\$14.3 million

Contacts:

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Background:

Ecuador's biodiversity, including endangered species and rainforests, are at risk because of insufficient capacity to manage natural resources, loss of habitats due to expanding agriculture and livestock, lack of economic opportunities, and effects of climate change. For this reason, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MAE) of Ecuador created the USAID Sustainable Forests and Coasts Project in mid 2009. Project technical assistance is concentrated in the following five geographic areas based on their importance to biodiversity conservation:

- 1) Gran Chachi Reserve and its buffer zone
- 2) Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve and its coastal watersheds
- 3) Machalilla National Park and the Ayampe River watershed
- 4) Churute Mangrove Ecological Reserve and the mangrove concessions in surrounding areas (Gulf of Guayaquil)
- 5) El Salado Mangrove and Wildlife Production Reserve

Project Objective:

Conserve biodiversity in critical habitats along the Ecuadorian coast and benefit communities that live in and/or around these areas.

Project Technical Assistance:

The project provides technical assistance aimed at conserving biodiversity, such as:

- Improving management of critical terrestrial and coastal marine habitats, consisting of: Improving management of timber and non-timber forest products and information regarding coastal marine resources (red crab stock analysis); Promoting forest management/conservation; Strengthening mangrove/concession management; and fomenting implementation of key actions from environmental management plans for watersheds and beaches.
- Rehabilitating degraded terrestrial and coastal marine habitats by promoting protection of water source/riverbank vegetation, fomenting mangrove recovery and promoting reforestation/regeneration.
- Reviewing and reformulating policies and programs related to conservation and biodiversity management.
- Establishing and implementing climate change response and adaptation measures based on vulnerability analysis.
- Reducing greenhouse gases and carbon sink conservation.
- Developing market-based economic opportunities by facilitating access to environmentally responsible markets and supporting microenterprises.
- Developing legal/economic conservation incentives and supporting land owners/communities access and maintain Socio Bosque conservation incentives.
- Building institutional capacity for natural resource management.
- Designing and supporting implementation of surveillance and monitoring systems to protect natural resources and strengthen management of protected areas.
- Strengthening partnerships and leveraging funds to improve inter-institutional communication and coordination.

Expected Results thru 2012

- Improved management of 220,564 hectares of terrestrial areas and 135,188 hectares of marine areas.
- Improved natural resource management practices as a result of training 1,700 people.
- 16 producer organizations linked to new markets.
- 1,700 households with increased economic benefits.
- \$2.6M in funds leveraged to increase the impact and sustainability of activities.
- 12 coalitions/partnerships created or strengthened among local actors to promote and coordinate conservation efforts.