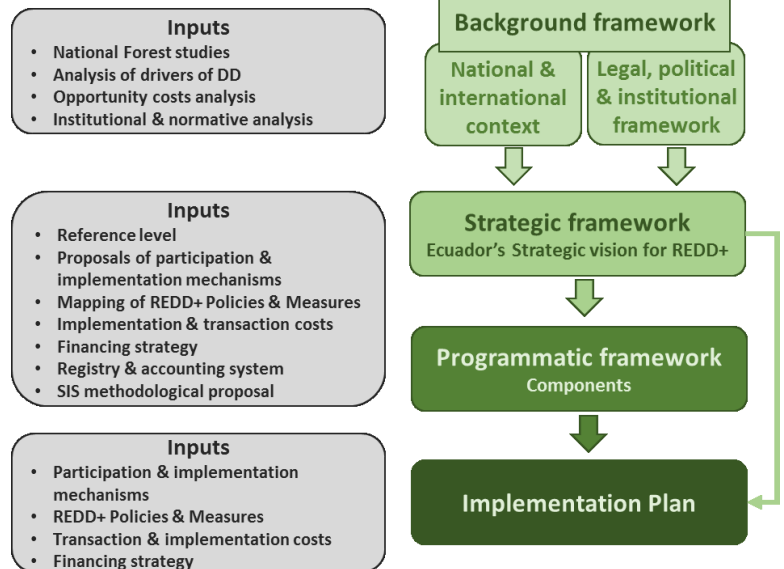


## ASIA - PACIFIC

### 1. PLANNING THE NS/AP DESIGN PROCESS

Ecuador's national REDD+ Action plan has built on all the information collected during the readiness phase. The development of the Action plan is an iterative process following three main stages relating to: i) the background framework; ii) the strategic & programmatic framework; and iii) the political and implementation framework. Each phase has been fed by various technical inputs as detailed in the following illustration:

The process has been very participatory, integrating the views on REDD+ from the various stakeholders, so as to build a shared vision for a common medium to long-term commitment. The participatory and validation processes have been organized around drafts of the action plan, but



also around the various components of the readiness phase relevant to the action plan. A multi-stakeholders REDD+ roundtable was set-up, as well as technical working groups emanating from the REDD+ Roundtable to address specific issues such as the proposed regulations on FPIC, social and environmental safeguards, or benefit sharing.

### 2. ANALYZING DRIVERS OF DD, AND OTHER ANALYTICAL WORK

Ecuador started by identifying the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and defining the areas where REDD+ will be implemented. An analysis of costs and benefits of REDD+ was added to the latter. Maps of land cover and land use were made for 3 time periods, which allowed identifying spatially changes in land cover and land use and provided the base for the study of drivers of deforestation. In Ecuador, the main direct driver of this deforestation is the expansion of the agricultural frontier. 13 areas of "homogenous deforestation processes" were identified.

Following the drivers study, areas where REDD+ will be implemented were selected, for which an analysis of costs and benefits of REDD+ was made. Various economic and spatial analysis were conducted to present decision-makers with information regarding the potential strategic options to implement REDD+ and its feasibility. Among those, the analysis of (direct and indirect) costs and benefits helped identifying appropriate PAMs, as well as estimate the overall financial potential from REDD+. It included an analysis of opportunity, implementation and transaction costs, as well as of the value of multiple benefits and potential REDD+ incomes, with quantitative, qualitative and spatial components.

The prioritization of areas for REDD+ implementation focused on post-2020 deforestation projections, along with a 4 variable analysis (deforestation, multiple benefits, carbon content, and social variables)

### 3. SHAPING THE STRATEGIC VISION FOR REDD+

REDD+ in Ecuador is deeply grounded in the country's legal and institutional framework. Ecuador's Constitution requests the implementation of crosscutting and adequate measures for forest conservation and emissions reductions from



deforestation. Building on this, the National Development Plan 2013-2017 aims to guarantee the rights of nature and promote environmental, territorial and global sustainability, and has guided various policies directly relevant to REDD+. The PNREDD+ is part of the mitigation component of the cross-sectoral Climate Change Strategy.

The government has developed an overarching agenda to transform the production matrix across the country to move towards a more sustainable and equitable development pathway. This involves simultaneous and progressive changes in the current production models towards a diversified economy tailored to the different regions. Within this broader context a specific programme has been developed to transform agricultural production in the Amazon (ATPA). It seeks the reconversion to sustainable agriculture systems production under the economic, social, environmental and cultural perspectives, through the implementation of land use planning on farms and the reduction of livestock areas intended for crop diversification. . REDD+ is seen as one of the means available to achieve this transformational agenda.

Ecuador is transitioning from a project-based approach to national-scale implementation fundamentally based on public PAMs. Ecuador's first FREL focuses on deforestation only, and covers all the continental territory (excluding islands). Other REDD+ activities might be considered in the future, according to national circumstances and capabilities, as well as technical and financial support. The national action plan includes however the 5 REDD+ activities and covers the entire national territory. Its implementation will be gradual depending on budget availability and other considerations. Implementation will first focus on 6 priority areas (53% of the country), including the whole Amazon region.

#### **4. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF PAMs**

PAMs have been identified and prioritized based on the detailed analysis of drivers of deforestation as well as other analytical work mentioned. Some PAMs are of national scale while others are more specific to some sub-national regions. Specific packages of PAMs have been identified for each of the 6 priority areas of homogenous deforestation processes.

Ecuador's experience highlighted the need to establish criteria for a gradual prioritization process, as well as the need to integrate the forest governance framework within the context of productive development goals, thus strengthening the existing incentives in a way that they may incorporate certain criteria linked to REDD+.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION<sup>1</sup>**

It's the Ministry of Environment who is the designated authority for REDD+ and heading both the Sub-Secretariat for Climate Change, and the Sub-Secretariat for Natural Heritage. REDD+ will be implemented involving all relevant Ministries, sectors and stakeholders. Intersectoral coordination will be ensured especially through the Intersectoral Committee on Climate Change, as well as regular intersectoral coordination meetings.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Focus of intervention is not just on reducing emissions, but on tackling the causes of deforestation;
- It's the country which must lead the process, giving the necessary guidelines to ensure overall coherence with its vision for REDD+;
- Important to gather key technical information to ensure informed decision-making, especially on what the country expects from the REDD+ mechanism (some UNFCCC decisions came over time -> uncertainty);
- The country vision for REDD+ represents a strategic guideline. It is shaped over time along the readiness process, according to the technical inputs gathered, and the evolving understanding of REDD+ and related opportunities;
- Regulations & institutional arrangements should be designed once there is strategic & programmatic clarity on REDD+, and their related technical & methodological implications.

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