

***Ecuador's approach to governance for  
implementing a REDD+ mechanism***

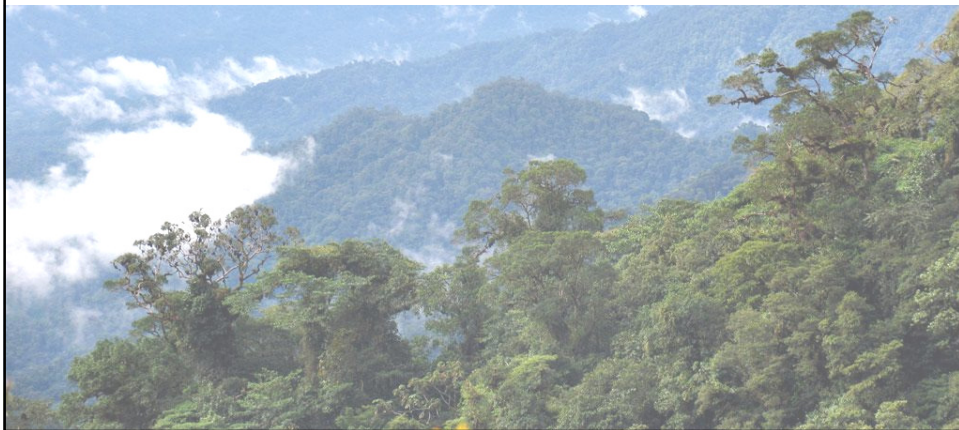


**Second Expert Workshop on monitoring governance for REDD+**



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**Ecuador's Background**



**Ministerio del Ambiente**

- Ecuador is one of the 17 mega diverse countries
- Approximately 10 million hectares of forests
- 14 different indigenous nationalities
- Currently Ecuador has one of the highest deforestation rates among Latin America
- Yearly 198.000 hectares of forest are lost (Clirsen; 2000)

## Ecuador's proposal to change this trend...

**Ministerio del Ambiente**

- New Constitution (approved 2008) includes specific mandates to:
  - ✓ Protect biodiversity
  - ✓ Mitigate Climate Change
- National Development Plan (2009 – 2013) includes Deforestation reduction as one of the goals

**Reduce Deforestation Rate**  
**NATIONAL PRIORITY**

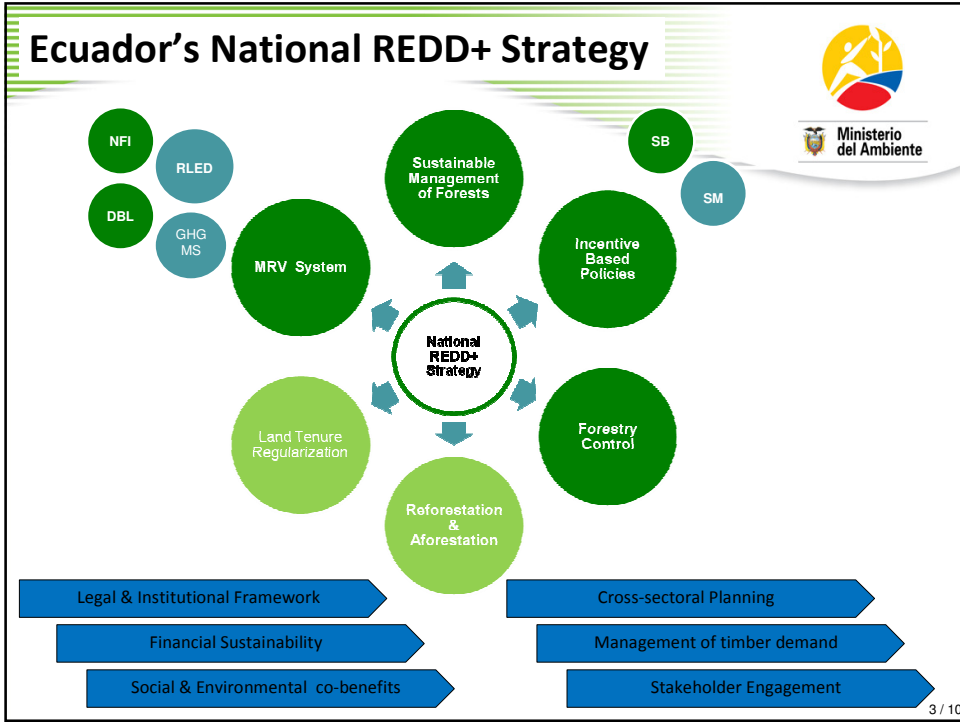
**Ministry of Environment**  
REDD+

**Forestry Governance Model** | **National Climate Change Strategy**

**Undersecretary of Natural Heritage** | **Undersecretary of Climate Change**

**National Forestry Direction** | **National Biodiversity Direction** | **National Direction for Climate Change Mitigation** | **National Direction for Climate Change Adaptation**

2 / 10



## Understanding Governance



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### Definition of Governance:

- Focuses on the national-specific **relationships** between state and non-state actors
- **Capacity** of the government to **effectively formulate and implement sound policies** and **respect** of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them (WB)
- Rules of the political system to **solve conflicts** between actors and adopt decision (**legality**). It has also been used to describe the "**proper functioning of institutions** and their **acceptance** by the public" (**legitimacy**). And it has been used to invoke the efficacy of government and the **achievement of consensus** by democratic means (**participation**).
- (UNDP)

4 / 10

## Understanding Governance



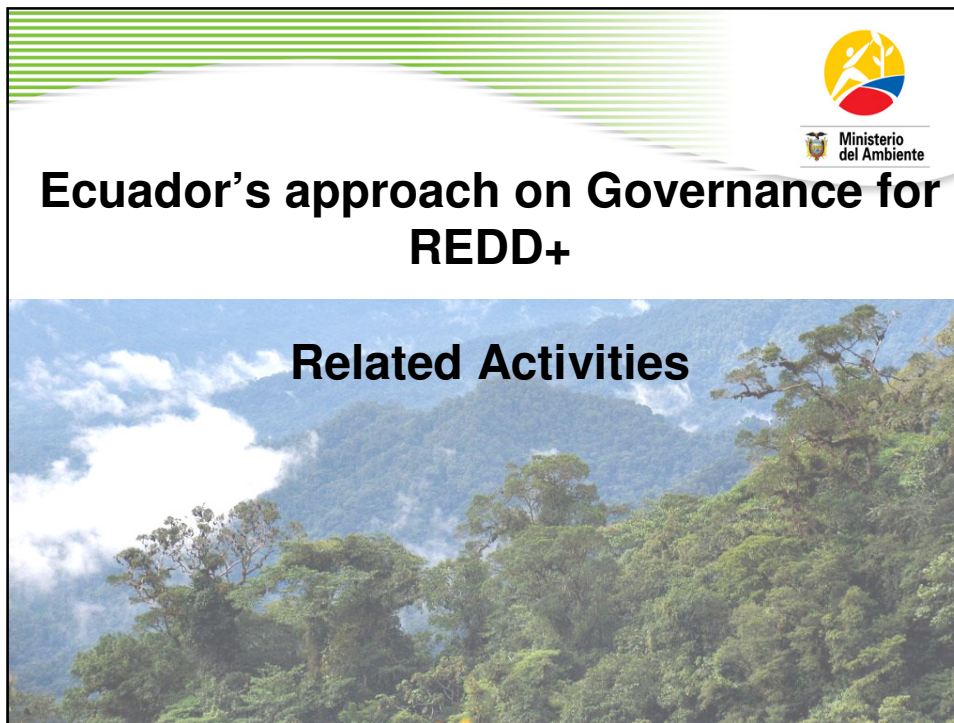
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### Parameters for Governance REDD+:

- **Clear, coherent** policy, laws and regulations
- **Effective implementation** and enforcement of, and compliance with, those policies, laws and regulations
- **Transparent** and accountable decision-making and **institutions**

### Key elements of "Good Governance" (REDD+ SES):

- Accessibility
- **People's participation**
- **Transparency**
- Accountability
- **Rule of law**
- Predictability,
- Justice and;
- **Sustainability**



**Authority – legislation (legality aspects)**

Articles in the constitution

**Art. 14:** Right of the population to live in healthy environment...

**Art. 395:** Environmental policies are cross-cutting and of mandatory compliance (Estate & civil society)

**Art. 414:** Estate will promote the implementation of measures to mitigate CC, by limiting emissions in the forestry and other relevant sectors

National development plan

Objectives and guidelines for adaptation and mitigation actions

Stresses the importance of institutional coordination

## Authority – legislation (legality aspects)



### National Environmental Policy

**P3: To manage climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to reduce social, economic and environmental vulnerability**

**Strategy 3: To reduce GHG emissions from productive sectors**

### Presidential Executive Decree 1815

**Adaptation and Mitigation are declared as Estate Policy**

**Ministry of environment called to develop the Climate Change National Strategy**

6 / 10

## Institutional Arrangements (legality / legitimacy aspects)



Amendment to Presidential Executive Decree 1815 creates the Committee

### Inter-institutional Committee for Climate Change

National Secretary of Planning

Coordinating Ministry of Natural and Cultural Heritage

Ministry of Environment (President)

Coordinating Ministry of Estrategic Sectors

Coordinating Ministry of Production, Employment and Competitiveness

Coordinating Ministry of Social Development

Foreign Affairs Ministry

National Secretary of Water

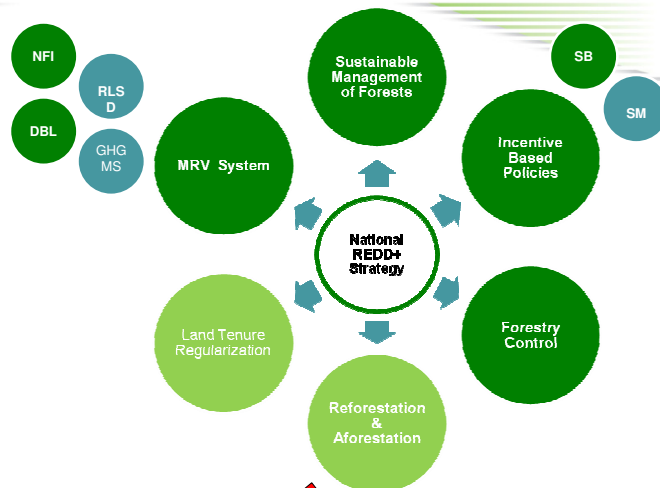
National Secretary of Risk Management

The Undersecretary of climate change acts as the technical secretariat

## Engaging CSO and IPs in the design & implementation of a REDD+ mechanism (legitimacy / participation)

- Stakeholder engagement Program: aims to involve key stakeholders in the process of developing and subsequently implementing the National REDD+ Strategy and includes four components:
  - Information
  - Consultations
  - Effective Engagement
  - Capacity Building
- It has started focusing on indigenous people with the first component this year
- For the implementation of the following 3 components an strategy will be developed
- Technical and financial support is needed for the implementation

## Ecuador's National REDD+ Strategy



Legal & Institutional Framework

Financial Sustainability

Social & Environmental co-benefits

Cross-sectoral Planning

Management of timber demand

Stakeholder Engagement

## Applying REDD+ SES in Ecuador's National REDD+ Strategy



- ✓ Work program with CCBA- CARE to develop a REDD+ Standard that could be used at a national level.
- ✓ First phase: Development of a Bench-mark of good practice guide (principles, criteria and indicators)
- ✓ Consultations workshops were conducted
- ✓ Second phase: National interpretation of the Standards, and pilot implementation in countries

...”Although it is framed as a standard for **measuring positive social and environmental impacts of REDD+ activities** beyond the scope of the safeguards, in fact **most of the criteria and indicators focus on measuring elements of effective and accountable governance**, rightly identifying them as essential institutional **pre-conditions** for achieving the positive outcomes”

## REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards



- ✓ **Rights** to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected
- ✓ The **benefits** of the REDD+ program are **shared equitably** among all stakeholders and rights holders ‘Equity’ and ‘equitable’ are defined as just, impartial and fair to all parties.
- ✓ The REDD+ program contributes to **sustainable livelihoods** and poverty alleviation for forest-dependent peoples. Forest-dependent peoples include Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- ✓ The REDD+ program contributes to broader **sustainable development and good governance** objectives
- ✓ **Biodiversity and ecosystem services** are maintained and enhanced
- ✓ All relevant stakeholders and rights holders are able to **participate fully and effectively** in the REDD+ program
- ✓ All stakeholders and rights holders have timely access to appropriate and accurate **information** to enable good governance of the REDD+ program
- ✓ The REDD+ program **complies** with applicable local and national **laws** and international **treaties and agreements**



## Some issues to bear in mind



*Generally speaking ... when discussing governance issues... the following remains difficult to manage*

- Forms and modalities for decision making
- Ensuring legitimacy
- Building and maintaining trust
- Finding adequate platforms to secure long-term processes



**Thanks for your attention!**

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