

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Ecuador
Program Title:	Biodiversity Conservation
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	518-001
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,000,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,100,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1997
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's environment strategy in Ecuador conserves biodiversity by strengthening natural resources management in three globally biological important areas: 1) over 1,000,000 hectares in indigenous territories in northern and eastern Ecuador (Awa, Cofan and Huaorani); 2) the 133,000 km² Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR); and 3) conservation of tropical Andes in the Condor Bioserve, which provides 70% of Quito's water. USAID's environmental activities in the indigenous territories focus on territorial consolidation, capacity building for territorial conservation, and financial sustainability. Within the Galapagos Marine Reserve, USAID supports implementation of the marine zoning plan; strengthens governance of the Marine Reserve, reduces illegal fishing and over-fishing, increases tourism's contributions to conservation, and promotes public education and outreach. Activities in the Condor Bioserve include strengthening natural resource management through innovative financing arrangements (e.g. conservation easements) and protected area management. All the programs create direct incentives for conservation.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Conservation in indigenous lands (\$1,260,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). In northern Ecuador, indigenous peoples and their territories are vulnerable to the growing spillover effect of drug-related violence in Colombia and to illicit crops due to local needs to generate income. USAID will continue strengthening the legal rights of indigenous peoples over their resources, providing training in conflict mitigation, assistance for demarcation and defense of vulnerable boundaries (Cofan and Awa lands), and in the elaboration of natural resource management plans in the Huaorani and Awa lands. In addition, the indigenous federations of Awa, Cofan, and Huaorani will receive USAID-funded training to strengthen their administrative and technical capacities and to develop mechanisms, such as tourism and micro-enterprise, to guarantee their financial sustainability. Prime implementer is Chemonics and sub-implementers are the indigenous federations and partner non-government organizations (Altropico Foundation, Foundation for the Survival of the Cofan People, Jatun Sacha, and Ecolex).

Biodiversity program in the Galapagos (\$1,640,000 DA). USAID efforts will focus on: 1) strengthening the governance of the Marine Reserve, 2) increasing the capacity to sustainably manage fisheries, 3) increasing tourism's contribution to conservation, 4) implementing the zoning plan, and 5) improving communication with target audiences. A central program hypothesis is that by USAID improving the governance of the Marine Reserve and reducing fishing pressure, a better balance can be achieved between conservation and socio-economic activities. USAID programs will also update the Galapagos Management Plan, produce a strategic plan for the Charles Darwin Foundation, and complete the community-based ecotourism activity in Puerto Villamil, Isabela Island. Prime implementer is World Wildlife Fund in an alliance with eight other local and international non-governmental organizations, Galapagos National Park, and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Conservation of the tropical Andes (\$2,100,000 DA). To stem the loss of grasslands and forests that threatens protected areas and Quito's water supply, USAID will focus on consolidating the conservation of

protected areas and their buffer zones in the Condor BioReserve through the hiring and training of community park guards, partnerships with private landowners to improve the management of their forests and farms (including both individuals and indigenous groups), closer collaboration and planning with local government, and legal and financial reforms to strengthen the Ministry of Environment. USAID will fund a new communication component to build on these interventions to catalyze behavior change in target audiences. Prime implementers are The Nature Conservancy and OIKOS Corporation, and sub-implementers are the Antisana Foundation, the Rumicocha Foundation, and EcoCiencia.

FY 2005 Program:

Conservation in indigenous lands (\$2,000,000 ESF, \$500,000 DA). USAID will fund sustainable income generating activities that provide alternative income sources to reduce the vulnerability of indigenous groups to coca production, given their proximity to the Colombian border. USAID will continue to provide technical assistance to indigenous groups to consolidate and sustainably manage their territories, defend their rights, and improve negotiations with outside economic and political actors. USAID will also initiate similar activities along the northern border and Amazon Basin with additional indigenous groups such as the Secoya and Siona. Same implementers as above.

Biodiversity program in the Galapagos (\$2,100,000 DA) will continue to improve the governance of the Galapagos Marine Reserve and reduce fishing pressures.

Conservation of the tropical Andes (\$2,500,000 DA). USAID will increase the focus of the program on the conservation of private lands, including indigenous territories threatened by colonization in the northern border. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: In Fiscal Year 2003, USAID's environment program achieved important results. Non-USAID financing of key conservation activities increased by \$1.8 million, ten new key policy documents were developed on water and fishing matters, and management plans were developed for additional 23,700 hectares in the Awa territories and Condor BioReserve.

The Indigenous Lands Program contributed to the recognition and legalization of the ancestral rights of the indigenous Cofan's 110,000 hectares through an agreement with the Ministry of Environment; initiated patrols to defend Cofan territory from external pressures; and strengthened the institutional capacity of the three indigenous groups. By Fiscal Year 2008, at least three indigenous groups (Awa, Cofan, and Huaorani) will be culturally, economically, and institutionally strong enough to sustain the conservation of their rich territories in the face of inroads made by colonists, coca producers, and extractive industries.

In the Galapagos, socio economic and scientific data collected during and after fishing seasons were used in the decision-making process by the new forum for local governance supported by USAID. A quantitative study confirmed that our outreach program is bearing fruit: there is a growing public interest in the participatory management of the marine reserve and two-thirds of Galapagos residents now identify themselves as having a medium or high understanding of the Marine Reserve. By Fiscal Year 2008, the Galapagos governance system will be effectively functioning, law enforcement at sea and in the trade channels will be effective, the vast majority of fisherman and tourism operators will be implementing best practices, and populations of key harvested species will become measurably healthier.

A 2003 study revealed that the program in the Condor BioReserve is having a positive biophysical impact, the Antisana and Cayambe Reserves remain relatively well conserved, losing only 0.12% and 0.24% respectively of natural habitat per year, well below Ecuadorian averages for deforestation (which range from 1 to 4% per year). As a result of the community park guard activities, the number of fires damaging natural grasslands has been reduced by 35% (from 99 to 64) during the period from CY 2000 to 2002. By FY 2008, the Ministry of Environment, collaborating NGOs, and local governments will consolidate the conservation of the Antisana and Cayambe Coca Reserves, and Cotopaxi and Llanganates National Parks, conserving 776,203 hectares, with no further significant loss of habitat.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Ecuador

518-001 Biodiversity Conservation	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	20,833	2,000
Expenditures	15,420	0
Unliquidated	5,413	2,000
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	5,097	1,000
Expenditures	4,299	2,000
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	25,930	3,000
Expenditures	19,719	2,000
Unliquidated	6,211	1,000
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	4,691	1,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	4,691	1,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	4,645	1,000
Future Obligations	12,445	4,000
Est. Total Cost	47,711	9,000