LOW-EMISSION RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LED-R) AT A GLANCE

- Largest province in Ecuador by area, with country’s highest biodiversity
- Contains 35% of Yasuni National Park (YNP), occupied by Waorani indigenous group – site of ongoing conflict over oil extraction
- 78% forest cover of which 67% is primary forest; highest in Ecuador
- 7 constitutionally-recognized indigenous nationalities occupy 80% of provincial area (~2 million ha), as legally endorsed in the provincial Territorial Development & Zoning Plan (PDOT), & have exclusive land use rights
- Significant petroleum production since 1970s has contributed to land use changes, migration & settlement activities by the Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Government (GAD)
- SocioBosque Program provides income for local communities (LC) in 30% of Pastaza

SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION

Ecuador’s Constitution empowers provincial and municipal GADs to manage conservation within their territories. This level of authority facilitated development and approval of the Pastaza Ecological Area of Sustainable Development (AEDSPP) Ordinance in 2017. The Ordinance stipulates conservation of 92% of provincial territory (2,542 km²), protects water sources, and proposes a new scheme of productive conservation using ancestral cultivation systems. The AEDSPP also strengthens biodiversity preservation by creating a biological corridor bordering YNP. The Ordinance promotes forest protection through use of a multimodal transport system (linked to PDOT intervention areas), which promotes development of towns on river banks, facilitating transportation of goods by water to supplement transportation via existing roads and guaranteeing the non-expansion of deforestation for road construction. As a result, deforestation related to expansion of transportation infrastructure has decreased. The Consortium for Environmental Management of the AEDSPP, made up of the Provincial GAD and five Municipal GADs, in coordination with the province’s IP groups, manages the AEDSPP. It also increases IP capacities for management and negotiation with government and other stakeholders. Next, the Consortium will develop a comprehensive management plan for the AEDSPP as a tool for executing programs, projects, and activities that promote sustainable production in the area.

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Petroleum exploration & production began in Eastern Ecuador, & construction of highways to access remote regions, contributing to settlement & land conversion
- ~2000 indigenous peoples (IP) marched from Puyo to Quito, demanding communal land titling & constitutional reform to declare Ecuador plurinational & pluricultural
- Ecuador committed to halt oil extraction in the Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) area of YNP, in exchange for USD 3.6 billion compensation for untapped oil revenue from international donors (bilateral & private)
- PDOT created as a planned vision of sustainable development
- Rio Branco Declaration
- Under2 MOU
- Territorial Development & Zoning Plan (PDOT)
- Bonn Challenge
- National REDD+ Action Plan (PdA REDD+)
- Pastaza Declaration
- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC
- Ecuador abandoned Yasuni-ITT Initiative, citing low turnout of finance (<0.5% of the goal was received), opening area to extraction
- Joined Andes-Amazon Alliance of Governments by signing the SF Declaration, committing to collaboration & a shared LED-R vision
- Jointed Governors’ Climate & Forests Task Force
- Amazonian Platform for Forests, Climate & Human Wellbeing (PA) created through Pastaza Declaration
- Consortium for Environmental management of the AEDSPP formed

PLEDGES & COMMITMENTS

1 Reduce deforestation 80%. 2 Limit emissions 80-95% below 1990 levels. 3 Increase provincial area under conservation or environmental management by 3022 ha; restore 697 ha of forest in degraded areas. 4 Restore 0.5 million ha degraded land. 5 Reduce gross emissions from deforestation at least 20% below FREL for 2000-2008. 6 Net zero deforestation. 7 Reduce land use sector emissions 4% below reference level (up to 16% conditional on international support); reduce all GHG emissions up to 20% conditionally.
**PROGRESS TO JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- **EARLY**
- **INTERMEDIATE**
- **ADVANCED**

**KEY INTERVENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION(S) IMPLEMENTING</th>
<th>INTERVENTION &amp; FOCUS</th>
<th>DISINCENTIVES</th>
<th>ENABLING MEASURES</th>
<th>INCENTIVES</th>
<th>BENEFICIARIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹</td>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹</td>
<td>Provincial Environmental Policies Ordinance</td>
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<td>LC, general population</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹ MUNICIPAL PUBLIC²</td>
<td>Coordinate provincial environmental policies with common standards &amp; regulate carbon losses</td>
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<td>Provincial GADs, general populations</td>
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<td>NATIONAL PUBLIC³</td>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹</td>
<td>Consortium of Autonomous Provincial Governments of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONGA)</td>
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<td>LC</td>
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<td>Coordinated management of 6 provincial GADs for sustainable development</td>
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<td>Provincial GADs, general populations, LC</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹</td>
<td>PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹ MUNICIPAL PUBLIC²</td>
<td>Hydrological Resources Protection &amp; Conservation Ordinance</td>
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<td>Conservation of riparian zones through establishment of water recharge protection zones, linked to PES</td>
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<tr>
<td>MULTILATERAL OTHER⁴</td>
<td>NATIONAL PUBLIC³ PROVINCIAL PUBLIC¹</td>
<td>Integrated Amazonian Program for Forest Conservation &amp; Sustainable Production (PROAmazonia)</td>
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<td>Provincial GADs, general populations, LC</td>
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<td>Links emissions reduction efforts with productive sector at national level; supports provincial gov in updating PDOT, incorporating REDD+</td>
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¹ Autonomous Decentralized Government (GAD) of Pastaza Province. ² Municipal GADs. ³ Republic of Ecuador: 4 GADs of Pastaza, Sucumbios, Orellana, Napo, Morona Santiago, & Zamora Chinchipe. 5 UNDP through Green Climate Fund & World Fund for Environment (GEF). 6 Ministry of Environment (MAE), Ministry of Agriculture & Cattle Ranching (MAG).

**CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHALLENGES**
- Economic reliance on oil, reflected by failure of Yasuní-ITT Initiative
- Administrative turnover in multiple levels of government has delayed AEDSPP planning processes
- Existing sustainable production systems promoted by provincial government do not offer long-term benefits for IP
- Financial institutions are still wary of investment risks, impeding establishment of partnerships with private banks

**OPPORTUNITIES**
- Current provincial administration is proactively seeking international support for Pastaza’s jurisdiction LED-R strategy
- Andes-Amazon Alliance connects Pastaza to jurisdictions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, & Peru, offering international learning exchange
- PA creates opportunities for cross-regional collaboration for implementing National & Provincial strategies for REDD+, climate change, forests, IP, & biodiversity
- PDJ & ATP create significant economic inputs for forest protection & sustainable agriculture, respectively

**CITATION**

**COMPLETE REFERENCES & DATA SOURCES PROVIDED AT** www.earthinnovation.org/state-of-jurisdictional-sustainability
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