

ECUADOR

A nation of conservation stewards

CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

Ecuador



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

From the Amazon Rainforest to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador is home to some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Ecuador contains **15 million hectares of natural vegetation**, of which 6 million hectares lie within indigenous territories. Ecuador is also home to one of the **largest marine reserves in the world**, the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Its protected waters extend 40 nautical miles, covering a total area of 13 million hectares of Pacific Ocean. The Reserve contains an extraordinary diversity of marine life, including penguins, corals and hammerhead sharks, as well as species found nowhere else in the world, such as marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, swallow-tailed gulls and waved albatross.



MANGROVES OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR © BELEN VALLEJO

However, Ecuador's marine and coastal ecosystems are under significant threat due to unplanned urbanization, aquaculture expansion, unsustainable tourism and overfishing. Ecuador's forests are also threatened by agricultural expansion, cattle ranching and extractive industries. If we act now, **we can combat** these environmental challenges that continue to cause biodiversity loss and threaten precious natural capital and livelihoods.



WHERE WE WORK.

In Ecuador, Conservation International (CI) works in Andes Choco to establish protected areas and support forest conservation; in the Amazon to help manage indigenous territories; in the Galapagos, where fisheries provide livelihoods for local communities; and off the coast of continental Ecuador, where we support mangrove conservation and coastal fisheries management.

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.

Protecting Forests and Oceans for People, Nature and Climate.

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OUR WORK WITH THE ACHUAR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

More than 10% of Ecuador's remaining forests belong to the 87 communities and 6,400 people of the Achuar indigenous peoples. Our work focuses on strengthening and establishing the Achuar System of Conservation and Ecological Reserves (SACRE for its acronym in Spanish). CI works hand-in-hand with the Achuar people to conserve **675,500 hectares** of forests and biodiversity, while enhancing capacities to incorporate gender mainstreaming and strengthening indigenous governance.



Ecuadorian Amazon Conservation Indicators



13 million hectares of terrestrial extension



1.3 billion tons of carbon sequestered



18.5% self-identified indigenous peoples
11 indigenous nationalities

OUR PRODUCTION MODELS

Agriculture is one of the leading causes of deforestation in Ecuador. CI seeks to achieve **zero net deforestation** in production of key agriculture commodities, such as palm oil and cacao. We participate in discussions to inform decision-makers and help influence critical policy. Currently, CI is a member of the UN's Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil. This committee aims to help Ecuador become certified as a sustainable palm oil producer.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS & CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

CI supports the conservation of mangroves as a nature-based solution to climate change. Mangrove forests can store up to **ten times more carbon** per acre than a terrestrial forest. CI works with the Ministry of Environment to implement **conservation agreements** with local communities who **protect mangrove forests** by providing economic alternatives to clearing mangroves. Using this incentive-based strategy, artisanal fisher associations receive concessions to sustainably extract mangrove resources in exchange for implementing conservation and monitoring activities. As a result of this collaboration with local fishers, **more than 40% of Ecuador's mangroves have been protected.**

COASTAL CLEANUPS

To raise awareness of marine pollution, CI has joined forces with partners and volunteers to organize marine debris cleanups in remote sites, populated islands and underwater areas. We use education and communication campaigns to **raise awareness of marine pollution impacts**. These campaigns informed the public of measures to prevent marine pollution and, in turn, have conserved marine biodiversity.



COASTAL CLEANUP INITIATIVE IN GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR © JUAN A. REECE

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

We work closely with artisanal fisher associations to support **capacity building** and **sustainable management** of marine resources. In the Galapagos, we responsibly manage spiny lobster, tuna and prawn fisheries. On mainland Ecuador, we responsibly manage black shell and red crab fisheries.

Marine Conservation Indicators



14 million hectares conserved



500 million tons of carbon stored



5,000 direct beneficiaries
270,000 indirect beneficiaries



COASTAL ECUADOR © JUAN A. REECE

MANAGING PROTECTED AREAS

CI supports the creation and management of marine and coastal protected areas. We seek to **strengthen compliance and surveillance of marine protected areas**, improve tourism management and responsibly manage our fisheries. CI also aims to educate and generate awareness of environmental services for the benefit of communities that live in the coastal zone.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

CI works with the Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management of the Ministry of Environment to support environmental policies that conserve marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine resources at **national and regional scales**.

OUR CALL TO ACTION.

Nature doesn't need people. People need nature.



We need your support to successfully implement our nature-based climate solutions, achieve our conservation priorities and secure a sustainable future for humanity.

With your support, CI Ecuador will:

- Reduce deforestation in the Amazon, helping to meet our goal of zero net deforestation in key agricultural commodities
- Expand the number of hectares under conservation in our marine and coastal landscapes
- Establish additional marine and coastal protected areas
- Strengthen community-based governance models to enhance indigenous peoples' rights and territorial management
- Develop additional conservation agreements to protect nature and livelihoods
- Improve sustainable fisheries management and sustainable agriculture in the Galapagos

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We believe the **conservation of nature is the most efficient solution for climate change**, and the key for a development path that guarantees a sustainable future for humanity. In Ecuador, CI is demonstrating that strong partnerships, innovative ideas and real commitment can have **lasting and tangible positive benefits for biodiversity and people.** ”

Luis Suarez

Vice President, CI Ecuador

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