

Field Days Agenda

Tena and Orellana, Ecuador: 15-16 June, 2010

Hosted by IUCN Regional Office for South America and the Ministry of Environment, Ecuador

General Information

The field experience will be based on direct observation and dialogue. During the field visit we will see how indigenous communities, which represent the largest share of forest ownership in Ecuador, are supported by private and public entities to conserve and manage their forests in a sustainable manner.

During the two-day field visit, the dialogue participants will have the opportunity to:

- Understand the unique value of forests for indigenous communities and how the activities they perform contribute to conservation as well as ecosystem services and economic benefits.
- Understand the need for a national REDD strategy that takes into account local stakeholders' needs.
- Analyze how REDD processes can contribute to or hinder sustainable forest management.
- Analyze Ecuador's advantages and disadvantages in developing REDD activities and how the country could benefit from lessons learned in other countries.

Brief Information About the Country and the Sites We Will Be Visiting

Ecuador is one of the identified 17 'megadiverse' countries (as classified by The World Conservation Monitoring Centre, an agency of the UNEP), and about 39% of its inland territory is covered by forest (about 10.8 million hectares). Biodiversity is protected by the *Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas* (National System of Protected Areas, SNAP for its Spanish acronym), which covers around 18% (around 4.7 million hectares) of the inland territory with 34 protected areas. The deforestation rate in Ecuador is the highest in the region – around 1.7% per year. One estimate indicates that 45-65% of the commercial wood is illegal.

Indigenous communities and the state are the primary forest owners in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian government made great progress in recent years in granting land property titles to indigenous communities. Around 7.5 million hectares of forest are now under indigenous communities' possession or tenure. Despite reforms, conflicts over land use as protected areas, indigenous territories, and other uses are still common.

The forest cover of the Ecuadorian Amazon region is about 60%. Between 1990 and 2000, the Napo province (which we will be visiting on the field days) had the highest deforestation rate in the Amazon region (2.38% yearly), and



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the Orellana province had one of the lowest (0.78% yearly)—we will be visiting both these provinces during the field days.

On Tuesday, 15 June, we will visit Kichwa indigenous communities Juan Pío Montufar and Estrella Yakú, which – along with the San Francisco de Asís community – are interested in developing a REDD project in their community forest. The REDD project is led by PROFAFOR, a private Ecuadorian company that has worked with voluntary carbon markets for the last seventeen years. The project area is located in the Orellana province, Loreto and Orellana cantons, San José de Payamino y Puerto Francisco de Orellana (Coca) parishes. PROFAFOR works to get stakeholder involvement as well as gathering secondary information. It will start working on a forest inventory of carbon stocks soon.

On Wednesday, 16 June, we will visit the Kichwa indigenous community Campo Cocha, which has agreed to participate in the governmental programme Socio Bosque, led by the Ecuadorian Environmental Ministry. Campo Cocha is located in the Napo province, Tena canton, Ahuano parish. The community has 280 inhabitants gathered in 54 families. They own 2,600 forest hectares, devoting 91% of their forest to conservation through the Socio Bosque programme. It joined the programme in September 2009. The Socio Bosque Programme started in 2008 and provides incentives to local communities and private parties to conserve their forests.



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Map of Ecuador.

The blue triangles show the sites where the REDD Readiness dialogue will take place.



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In each of the sites visited will be opportunities to interact directly with community members and learn about their participation in tackling deforestation and forest degradation. Snacks, drinks and a field style lunch will be provided.

Please remember to bring hiking shoes, comfortable clothes, sun block and mosquitoes repellent.

Agenda

Tuesday, 15 June

- 5:00** Departure from Hotel Quito.
- 6:20** Flight (40 min) from Quito to Coca airport in the Ecuadorean Amazon Region.
- 7:45** Breakfast and field trip briefing.
- 8:45** Depart for the field in two separate groups to visit two indigenous communities; each group will visit one community.
Bus 1: Estrella Yaku
Bus 2: Juan Pío Montufar
- 9:30** Welcoming and introductions with the community and PROFAFOR (REDD project promoter) followed by an interaction program with community members.
- 11:30** Visit community forestlands.
- 13:00** Lunch with the community.
- 14:30** Depart for the hotels.
- 17:00** Arrival and check-in at hotels.
Bus 1: Hotel Hakuna Matata
Bus 2: Hotel Huasquila
- 19:00** Informal group dinner at respective hotels.

Wednesday, 16 June

- 8:30** Depart hotel for the field visit to Campo Cocha.
- 10:00** Welcoming by the community with a dance and music performance. Presentations and introductions from the community and the Socio Bosque programme, followed by interaction program with community members.
- 12:00** We will split into two groups. One group will visit the community forestland. The other group will view local forestland from a boat on an Amazon tributary and then learn from community members about their hunting practices and cacao farming, a main livelihood in the community.
- 13:30** Lunch with the community (in our separate groups).
- 15:00** Depart for Papallacta.
- 18:30** Arrive at the hotel Termas de Papallacta.
- 20:00** Dinner and exchange of field days experience in the hotel Termas de Papallacta.

