



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Enhancing countries' capacity to report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on greenhouse gas emissions for the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector: Ecuador

2013-2016

1. Background

Ecuador has submitted two [national communications](#) (NCs 2000, 2012) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), providing information on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and measures to mitigate and to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change among other information. In 2016, Ecuador also presented its [First Biennial Update Report](#) (BUR), which included the REDD+ technical annex to the BUR. In 2010, GHG emissions from the Agriculture and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors contributed to respectively 18 % and 30% of the national GHG emissions.

Since 2013, the [United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries](#) (UN-REDD) and the [Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture](#) (MICCA) Programmes have provided support to Ecuador for the preparation and reporting of the national GHG inventory (NGHGI), agriculture and LULUCF components, to the UNFCCC. This brief highlights the implemented activities and fruitful collaboration that were fundamental in assisting Ecuador in successfully meeting its commitments to the UNFCCC reporting process for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors¹.

2. Implemented activities and outcomes

FAO coached national experts and institutions and facilitated dialogue and exchange of knowledge through the following activities:

- National kick-off meeting on GHG inventories for Agriculture and LULUCF and follow-up activities
- South-south cooperation initiatives on data collection and GHG inventories
- Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC – Agriculture and LULUCF

2.1 National kick-off meeting on GHG inventories for Agriculture and LULUCF and follow-up activities (2013-2015)

On March 2013, in Quito, the FAO joined efforts with the Coalition for Rainforest Nations Capacity Development for REDD+ (CD-REDD) initiative and the UNDP Low Emissions Capacity Building (LECB) Programme to support the event organized by the *Ministerio del Ambiente* (MAE, Ministry of Environment) in setting a common objective and work plan for the development of the NGHGI, Agriculture and LULUCF sectors. Participants included the representatives of relevant ministries and institutions involved in the NGHGI development, such as: the Under-Secretary of Natural Heritage from the MAE, the *Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo* (SENPLADES, National Secretary of Planning and Development), the *Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca* (MAGAP, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock,

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Aquaculture and Fisheries), the Under-Secretary of Livestock and General Coordination of the National Information System, the *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias* (INIAP, National Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Research), and the *Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos* (INEC, National Institute of Statistics and Census).

During the workshop, a particular focus was given to the establishment of institutional arrangements. Indeed, one of the main outcomes was the conclusion of a draft agreement, which recommended arrangements to institutionalize a sustainable NGHGI management system. Furthermore, the success of the initial stakeholder engagement for the AFOLU sector highlighted the importance of establishing an interinstitutional platform in the country, and concretely led to replicate this initiative in the other sectors (Energy, Industries, and Waste).

After, this meeting the UN-REDD National Programme (NP) continued to support Ecuador, especially on facilitating institutional arrangements, data collection, and improvement of data quality, in coordination with the CD-REDD initiative and UNDP/LECB Programme. Dedicated remote support was provided to the country, including for the revision of the technical documents related to the NGHGI as well as technical advice for the preparation of the inventory. It was also possible to reestablish a channel of communication between Ecuador and the FAO. The MAGAP started to regularly provide data to the FAO on fertilizers, through the [questionnaires](#). In fact, national official data on fertilizers is now available in the FAO global database (FAOSTAT). Finally, a major achievement was the first draft² of the NGHGI for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors for the year 2010. Key country documents of UN-REDD activities are available [here](#).

2.2 South-south cooperation initiatives on data collection and GHG inventories (2013-2105)

On June 3-4, 2013, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador was among the eighteen countries to attend the [Second FAO Workshop on Statistics for Greenhouse gas Emissions](#), organized by the FAO³. The aim of this workshop was to raise awareness on the importance of agricultural statistics as a basis for both preparing the NGHGI and planning national mitigation actions, and to facilitate communication and exchange of relevant knowledge at national and regional level. A representative from the INEC attended and shared its experience on the importance of data collection through the agricultural survey (*Encuesta de Superficie y Producción Agropecuaria Continua*, ESPAC) to derive environmental indicators, and support the preparation of the NGHGI. The INEC has been actively involved in the preparation and consultation processes of the NGHGI since then. INEC and the MAE are all part of the Spanish discussion group platform (*Grupo de discusión en línea sobre las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en agricultura*) that was launched in September 2013 after this workshop.

²This product was provided to the UNDP/LECB Programme, which was supporting the Third National Communication (TNC)/BUR/UNDP.

³The Spanish version of the report is available here: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3397s/i3397s.pdf>

On July 21–23, 2014, in San José, the FAO in collaboration with the government of Costa Rica⁴, organized the [Mesoamerican workshop on national emission inventories and mitigation plans in agriculture & land-use, land-use change and forestry](#). The aim of the workshop was to acknowledge technical and institutional capacities and to identify gaps for the preparation and presentation of the NGHGI and the BUR for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors. The workshop was jointly organized by the MICCA, the UN-REDD, and the Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation Project. Fifty-six (56) representatives from 15 countries participated in this workshop. Representatives from the INEC and the MAE from Ecuador also attended.

The FAO, in collaboration with the UNDP, provided technical support to the government of Colombia to implement the [Latin American workshop exchanging experience on the preparation of the national greenhouse gas inventory](#), held on November 17-20, 2016, in Bogota. Twenty five (25) representatives from 6 countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, México and Colombia) participated. The aim of the workshop was to share experience and lessons learnt on the progress made with regards to implementing the IPCC methods for the preparation of the NGHGI, the establishment of the NGHGI system and the presentation of the BUR in the Latin American Region. Ecuador shared its experience on institutional arrangements as well as on the preparation of the First BUR, with emphasis on the NGHGI. Detailed information on the workshop is available [here](#).

2.3 Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC – Agriculture and LULUCF (2015-2016)

After the end of the UN-REDD NP (June 2015), Ecuador received technical assistance through targeted support (TS). The TS activities aimed at developing and implementing a Monitoring, Measuring, Reporting and Verifying process for REDD+ in Ecuador. Main results included the design of REDD+ activities consistently with the FREL and the NGHGI, and the development of the NGHGI for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors to be included in the BUR of Ecuador for the UNFCCC. In this context, the UN-REDD TS has also supported the GHG Inventory System for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors design and implementation. This will contribute to the sustainability of the inventory reporting process to the UNFCCC, as well as strengthen institutional arrangements through data sharing, while scaling up the scope of the *Sistema Único de Información Ambiental* (SUIA, Environmental Information System).

A joint technical mission between UN-REDD and MICCA Programmes was prepared in coordination with the Third National Communication (TNC)/BUR/UNDP from Ecuador. FAO provided technical advice for the preparation and reporting of the NGHGI for the agriculture/LULUCF sectors to the First BUR, reviewed the REDD+ technical annex to the BUR and advised on the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process under the UNFCCC. A full-dedicated week provided the basis to discuss with the TNC/BUR/UNDP team, run a [one-day national meeting with key stakeholders for validating the First BUR](#), and revise the NGHGI for the agriculture and LULUCF sectors.

⁴ For more information, consult the brochure from Costa Rica: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5741e.pdf> (en); <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5741s.pdf> (es)

3. Conclusions

Ecuador represents an example of country ownership and leadership that supports the enabling environment for lasting change under the UNFCCC reporting process for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors. Currently, Ecuador is among the [thirty-four countries that have submitted their First BUR](#) and among the four countries that have also included the REDD+ technical annex together with [Brazil](#), [Colombia](#) and [Malaysia](#). The BUR will now go into the ICA under the UNFCCC. In fact, Ecuador can now seek to obtain and receive results-based payments for REDD+ activities.

The support provided by the FAO has allowed individuals and national institutions to enhance their knowledge about conceptual and methodological requirements in order to estimate and report national GHG emissions for the agriculture and LULUCF sectors to the UNFCCC.

The FAO has successfully used all technical resources and know-how available within the FAO Headquarters, Sub Regional Office for Mesoamerica and country-office to support Ecuador. A joint effort between the UN-REDD and the MICCA Programmes has also allowed for the agriculture and LULUCF sectors of the NGHGI to be reported in the BUR, including its REDD+ technical annex. Finally, the fruitful collaboration among UN agencies and other initiatives was undoubtedly key in successfully supporting Ecuador's CD activities.

The FAO will continue to strengthen Ecuador's capacity to report to the UNFCCC, in supporting the Third National Communication, the process of the ICA for the BUR and the REDD+ technical annex, as well as the development of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for the Agriculture and LULUCF sectors.

