



Ecuador: Short Way to Go

Ecuador has ratified the Paris Agreement in July 2017. Therefore, its first Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement is from 2019. For the purposes of this analysis we consider the 2019 NDC an updated version of the 2015 INDC.

Ecuador's [updated 2019 NDC](#) was submitted in March 2019. We consider that the country has enhanced its climate ambition, moving from targets in two sectors to an aggregate target with broader sectoral coverage and a separate target for LULUCF, with a clear indication of conditional and unconditional targets.

The NDC addresses both mitigation and adaptation and was the product of a strong participatory process. Ecuador is the first country to present an NDC with a gender mainstreaming approach, which is a major advance. The NDC was also the first to comply with decision 4/CMA.1 from COP 24. A Long-Term Strategy, under development, is expected to be aligned with the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement and establish 2030 and 2050 targets.

The commitments in the 2019 NDC demonstrate a high level of national planning and intergovernmental coordination on climate change. Nonetheless, ambition is linked to financial needs, which is stressed throughout the NDC in its conditional and unconditional targets. Taking into account the country's marginal participation in global emissions, we conclude that Ecuador's NDC has a Short Way to Go to become the NDC We Want.

Advances

We consider that the country has enhanced its climate ambition, moving from targets in two sectors (Energy and AFOLU - restoration) to an aggregate target with broader sectoral coverage (Energy, Agriculture, Industrial Processes, Waste and a separate target for LULUCF), with a clear indication of conditional and unconditional targets.

The country has committed to reduce emissions from the sectors mentioned above by 9% compared to the scenario for 2025 (unconditional); and up to 20.9% (conditional). For LULUCF, the unconditional target of emissions reductions 4% and up to 16% (conditional), with a possible total reduction of GHG emissions of 20% in comparison to the reference level for the year 2025¹.

The 2019 NDC presents a detailed and robust adaptation component with a sectoral approach, which is a major advance. The NDC identifies impacts, risks and vulnerabilities and presents conditional and unconditional adaptation goals for the following priority sectors: Agriculture, Natural Heritage, Water Heritage, Health, Human Settlements and Productive & Strategic Sectors. It also mentions key aspects taken into account for planning adaptation measures: the need to reduce gender gaps; adaptation needs of vulnerable groups; the need for rigorous scientific information and consideration of traditional/ancestral knowledge of local actors.

¹ Ecuador will reduce 20% of emissions in comparison with *Ecuador's Forest Reference Emission Level of the period 2000-2008*, presented and evaluated by the UNFCCC under the Framework of its REDD+ National Strategy.

Both the INDC and NDC are strong in applying nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation. The 2019 LULUCF target will be achieved through the REDD + Action Plan "Forests for Good Living" 2016-2025, a key policy for the NDC implementation, with projects such as PROAmazonia (a GCF and GEF project that not only helps Ecuador comply with climate commitments, but also supports improving livelihoods of rural communities and indigenous peoples). The NDC also mentions developing and implementing sustainable agro-productive systems (agricultural livestock and forestry); strengthening sustainable forest management and restoration; increasing the surface area of the National System of Protected Areas; and conserving areas of water importance.

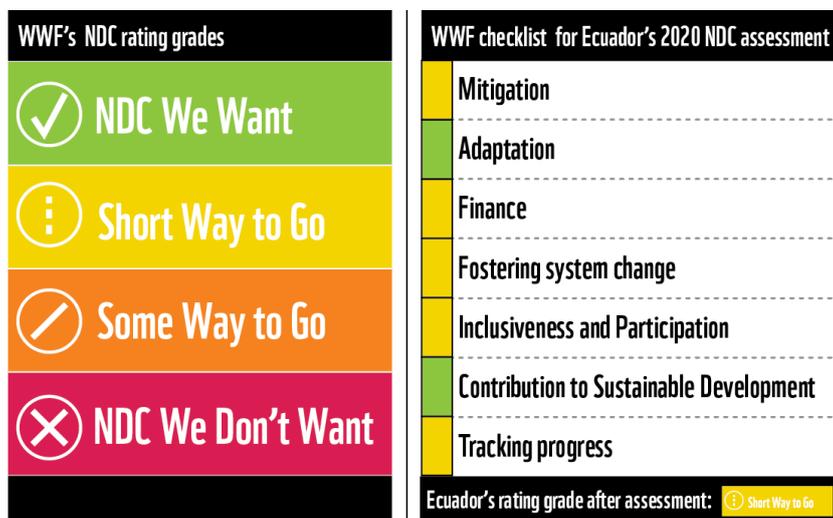
Ecuador conducted a strong participatory process for the development of the NDC, which included the participation of more than 150 public and private institutions, academia, civil society and international organizations through a series of workshops and meetings. Key sectors of government were engaged. UNDP provided methodologies and facilitated a platform for integrating stakeholders in the discussions. The NDC Support Program, through UNDP and UN Women, contributed to the pioneering gender mainstreaming approach. The updated submission has a gender-responsive approach fully integrated, guaranteeing not only equal participation in the consultation process, but also providing tools to identify gender gaps and proposed solutions to reduce inequalities and ensure a fair distribution of benefits.

The NDC is aligned to the 2030 Agenda, seeking to become a mechanism that contributes to the fulfillment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Information on how the planned adaptation actions contribute to the achievement of specific SDGs is provided.

Gaps

Efforts to present disaggregated targets for sectors would be welcome to facilitate implementation monitoring, since the only quantitative sectoral target presented is for the LULUCF sector. A more ambitious approach for phasing out oil exploitation and for the mining sector, with a focus on just transition policies, would be expected given the economic importance of those sectors for the country.

Although Ecuador undertook a strong and comprehensive participatory process, two elements we deem important could have further strengthened it: broader disclosure of information (publicly sharing drafts of the scope, ambition and content of the proposed NDC for comments) and reporting back on process (inviting input, meaningfully considering it and reporting back on what was and was not accepted).



For more information

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