

**RSPO**

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

# ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

## Towards Robust and Well-Enforced Land Use Plans in Ecuador

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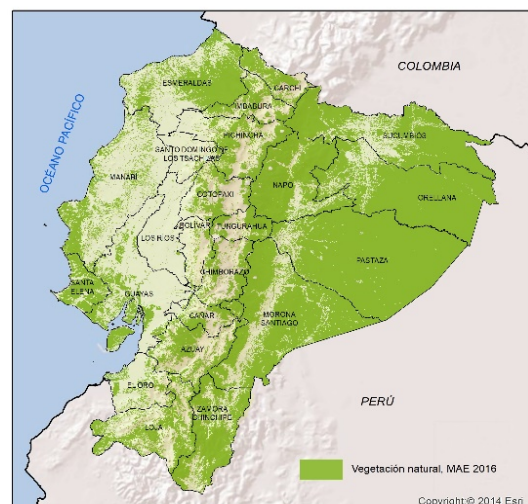


A Renewed Commitment to  
Achieving Market Transformation



## Country Context ECUADOR

- One third of the territory contains protected áreas
- More than 60% of the territory is covered by natural ecosystems
- More than 50% of the country is covered by native forests
- There are 12'631,199 ha of native forests in Ecuador (MAE, 2018)
- We are a megadiverse country and we carry out actions to maintain this condition

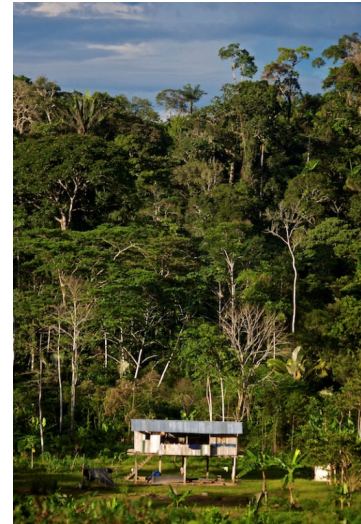


Map of native forests of Ecuador



## Main Policies for Land Use Planning

- The National Development Plan 2017-2022: Has established deforestation reduction targets
- The REDD+ National Action Plan was issued on 2016 and defines policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
- Land Use Planning is a competence of the local governments where REDD+ measures play a role avoiding deforestation.
- The National Protection Areas System (SNAP) is under the scope of the Ministry of Environment.



## Overview



- The oil palm sector is one of the strategic and priority partners of the Government of the Republic of Ecuador to continue with its objective of reducing deforestation and introducing sustainable production practices.
- In 2017, the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture promoted the signing of a multisectoral commitment, through which members of the oil palm chain and civil society expressed their willingness to move towards sustainable palm oil production.
- This production will be based on international standards and will be achieved under an intersectoral and inter-institutional structure responsible for decision-making, monitoring and supervision of the actions needed to achieve this common goal.



## Context of the oil palm in Ecuador and in the Amazon region



- The palm oil chain is one of the most dynamic in the country. Worldwide, we are the 7th exporter of palm oil and its derivatives.
- Palm oil derivatives rank fifth place among agricultural products for export. In the last five years, more than 50% of national production was exported, contributing positively to the equilibrium of the country's trade balance.
- The cultivation of oil palm generates approximately 150.000 direct and indirect jobs, which contributes to the development of the Ecuadorian rural sector.



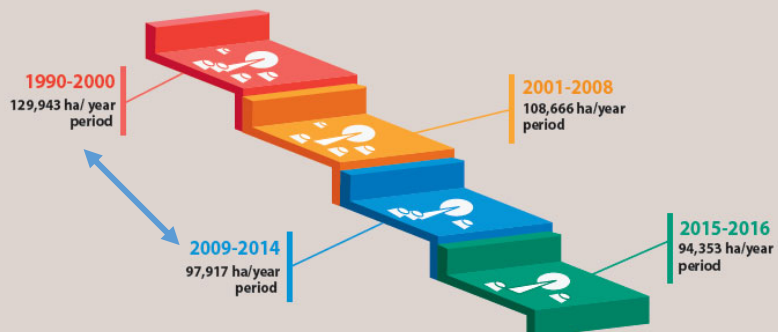
## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - Reduction of our gross deforestation rate



- Gross deforestation rate was reduced by 27% in the last 10 years
- 28.8 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq were reduced between 2009-2014

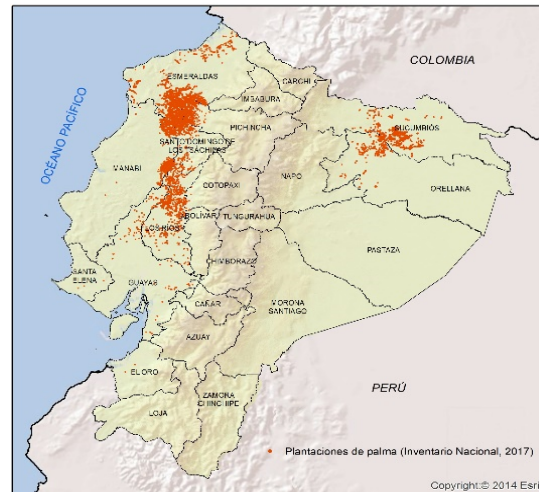
Reduction in the annual rate of gross deforestation in Ecuador



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - Traceability, transparency and origin

- In 2017 a National Oil Palm survey took place nation wide, providing exact location of all plantations and legal status of land ownership.
- It also contributed with data to establishing the percentages of the producers that are enforcing regulations and where are located.
- All plantations were surveyed through geographic information systems to determine their exact location.
- This allows us to know the source from which the palm we export comes from and the way in which it is produced.



Palm Oil plantations. National Inventory, 2017



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - Traceability, transparency and origin

- From 2014 through 2017 the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture conducted a national effort to determine the biodiversity areas, sensitive ecosystems location and carbon stocks mapping.
- 88% of oil palm producers in Ecuador are small farmers, which highlights the social importance of this productive chain.
- Having the exact location information is valuable, since they are the main actors in the chain and who should actively participate in the entire transition process towards sustainable production systems.





## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - We have stringent environmental regulations

- Ecuador has recognized the rights of nature for the first time, which include the nature's right to be restored, to respect its integrality and to avoid the interruption of its life cycle.
- The preservation of the environment, the conservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity, the prevention of environmental damage and the recovery of degraded natural spaces, are declared of public interest.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - We have stringent environmental regulations

Every project that takes place in the country must comply with a set of laws established to guarantee nature rights:



- Both plantations and extraction mills must have an environmental management plan by law
- Generate periodic reports on compliance and,
- Demonstrate that their activities are developed outside protected areas or natural ecosystems.



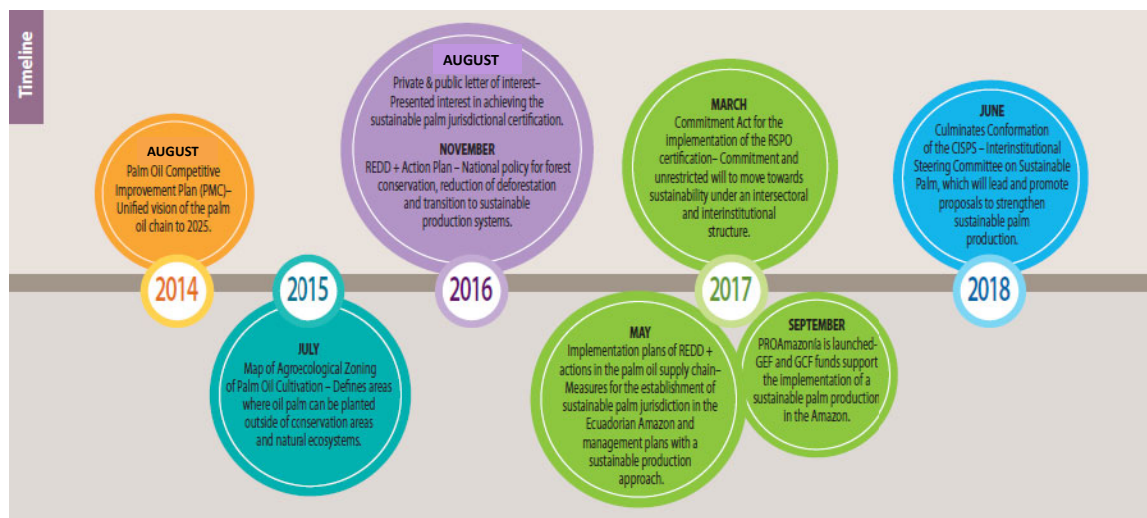
## ACHIEVEMENTS

### - Rights recognition and guarantee

- The Ecuadorian Constitution recognizes and guarantees the right of indigenous peoples to the ownership of their ancestral territories, as well as to be consulted, in a prior, free and informed way.
- Ecuador is signatory of international human rights treaties and conventions.
- Child labor is prohibited
- The labour rights are guaranteed and affiliation to the national social security system is mandatory.



## Important Milestones for jurisdictional certification



# Ecuador's Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil



## MAIL CHALLENGES:

- Achieve an RSPO jurisdictional certification for the entire Amazon region with a view to replicating this in the rest of the country. Amazon contains 74% of Ecuador's natural forests.
- By 2025, double the production and triple the exports, with an increase in productivity of at least 30%, without compromising areas with high conservation values or forests with high carbon stocks.
- Generate a supply chain free of deforestation by 2025 in the Amazon region, with a view to expanding it to the rest of the country by 2030.



Under the leadership of the Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil, Ecuador is working to achieve a sustainable and efficient oil palm production nationwide.

# Thank You

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