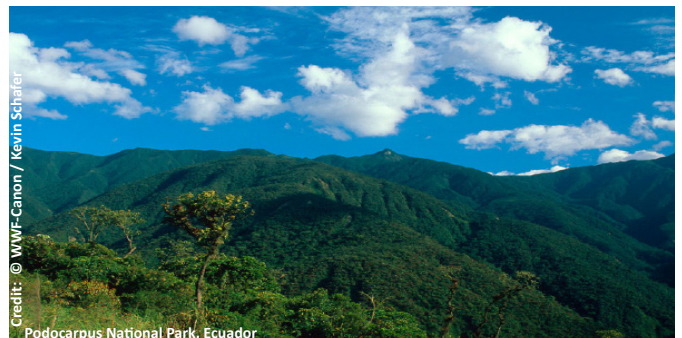


[www.flegt.info](http://www.flegt.info)

## CONTEXT OF TIMBER TRADE

- Ecuador's Ministry of Environment (MAE 2011) estimated the total forest cover at 9.59 million ha, which is 34.5% of the land area. Primary forests cover 48.71% of the total cover, naturally regenerated forests – 49.60%, and plantations – 1.69%.
- There are three major forest types: Amazon rainforests (80% of the forest estate); montane (sierra) forests of various types in the Andes (7%) and tropical rainforest in the coastal plains of the Pacific region (13%).
- Pine and eucalyptus together account for around half of timber production from plantations.
- ITTO (2009) estimated that 3.94 million ha of forest land comprises State production forest, further 6.83 million ha are owned by local communities and indigenous groups (ancestral indigenous or Afro-Ecuadorian), although the majority of the latter are not subject to official land titles.
- About 7.5 million ha of forest are used directly or indirectly by Indigenous communities for their livelihoods. It is estimated that about 850 000 people depend directly on forest resources for their livelihoods.
- ITTO (2009) estimated that Ecuador had the highest rate of deforestation of any South American country in 2009.
- FAO (2010) estimated the annual loss of forest cover between 2005 and 2010 at an average of 198 000 ha (1.89%) per year.
- The principal drivers of deforestation are ever-increasing areas of subsistence and commercial agriculture and cattle ranching, illegal logging and the exploitation of non-renewable resources such as oil, gold and other minerals, accompanied by road construction and subsequent colonization.
- Illegal logging is widespread in Ecuador; it is estimated, for example, that 85% of the Cedro Cedrela odorata harvested in the Ecuadorian Amazon is illegal (ITTO 2011).
- ITTO (2011) estimated total officially sanctioned harvest of natural forests under the licensing systems above at around 400 000 m<sup>3</sup> to 500 000 m<sup>3</sup> per year.
- Legal harvesting is carried out under three kinds of permit: cutting permits, areas harvested according to simplified forest management plans, and areas with integrated management and sustainable management areas.
- Annual timber harvesting was 3 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2011 of which 2.2 million m<sup>3</sup> derived from plantations, up from 1.8 million m<sup>3</sup> only two years previously. Of the remaining volume in 2011, 400 000 m<sup>3</sup> derived from native forests and another 400 000 m<sup>3</sup> from secondary forest on land subject to disturbance (both natural such as landslides and man-made for development).
- The timber industry is characterized by a high number of small timber extractors and wood-processing units with low capital input and by poor working conditions. It is estimated that there are more than 500 units of active extractors and timber companies in Ecuador.
- 80% of the harvested volume of timber from natural forests comes from about 25 species.
- About 120 timber species are used in the domestic market.
- In 2012, panel products were the leading exported timber commodity, accounting for 26% of value, followed by sawnwood (26%), paper (20%), plywood and veneer (13%), logs (7%), and chips (3%).
- Ecuador produces over 90% of the world's supply of Balsa which is exported as kiln dried sawn and planed blocks, veneers and laminates.
- 90% of fuelwood in the mountain region comes from plantations (especially of eucalyptus and pine) and 10% from natural forests.



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## MAJOR HARVESTED & TRADED SPECIES

Anime	<i>Protium</i> spp.
Pulgande	<i>Dacryodes</i> spp.
Shimbillo	<i>Inga</i> spp.
Guarumo macho	<i>Pourouma chocoana</i>
Kapok	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>
Guachapele/Cadeno	<i>Pseudosamanea guachapele</i>
Ipe	<i>Tabebuia</i> spp.
Yellow Ipe	<i>Tabebuia chrysantha</i>
Quina	<i>Myroxylon peruiferum</i>

## IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL SPECIES

Southern Blue Gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>
Laurel	<i>Cordia alliodora</i>
Balsa	<i>Ochroma lagopus</i>
Sande/Huina	<i>Brosimum utile</i>
Sangre de Gallina	<i>Otoba glycyarpa</i>
Chuncho	<i>Cedrelinga catenaeformis</i>
Romerillo/Azucena	<i>Prumnopitys</i> spp.
Copal	<i>Tratinickia glaziovii</i>

## PLANTATION SPECIES

Pino	<i>Pine</i> spp.
Pachaco	<i>Schizolobium parahybum</i>
Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda copaia</i>
Cutanga	<i>Parkia multijuga</i>
Mascarey	<i>Hyeronima alchornoides</i>
Aliso	<i>Alnus acuminata</i>
Teak/Teca	<i>Tectona grandis</i>

## EXPORT MARKETS – KEY FACTS

Export of round wood has been banned since 2005, except in limited quantities for scientific and experimental purposes. Semi-finished forest products exports are allowed only when 'domestic needs and the minimum levels of industrialization have been met.'

Export of mahogany and cedar logs has been banned.

### CITES Appendix II-listed tree species:

Brazilian Rosewood *Aniba roseodora*  
Big-leaf Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*

### CITES Appendix III-listed tree species:

Brazilian Cedarwood *Cedrela fissilis*  
Spanish Cedar *Cedrela odorata*



## LEGAL TIMBER (legality framework)

### National Forest Governance Policy

[http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics\\_pdf\\_download/topics\\_id=2706&no=0&disp=inline](http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2706&no=0&disp=inline)

### Forestry Development Strategy Sustainable from Ecuador

<http://www.tecnologiaslimpias.cl/ecuador/docs/forestal.pdf>

### National Forest and Reforestation Programme

<http://ecuadorforestal.org/informacion-s-f-e/p-n-f-r>



## RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### Sustainable Forest Management Standard for Dry Forest, No. 244, in Spanish

[ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/NORMAS-PARA-MANEJO-FORESTAL-SUSTENTABLE-DE-BOSQUE-SECO.pdf](http://ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/NORMAS-PARA-MANEJO-FORESTAL-SUSTENTABLE-DE-BOSQUE-SECO.pdf)

### Rules for the Administrative Procedures Requires to Authorize the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber, No 139, in Spanish

[ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/PROCEDIMIENTOS-PARA-AUTORIZAR-EL-APROVECHAMIENTO-Y-CORTA-DE-MADERA.pdf](http://ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/PROCEDIMIENTOS-PARA-AUTORIZAR-EL-APROVECHAMIENTO-Y-CORTA-DE-MADERA.pdf)

### Rules for Harvesting of Timber in Cultivated Forests and from Agroforestry Schemes, No 40, in Spanish

[chmecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/paginas\\_espanol/3normativa/docs/plantaciones.PDF](http://chmecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/paginas_espanol/3normativa/docs/plantaciones.PDF)

### Rules for Sustainable Forest Management for the Harvesting of Wood from Humid Forests, No 39, in Spanish

[chmecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/paginas\\_espanol/3normativa/docs/bhumedo.PDF](http://chmecuador.ambiente.gob.ec/paginas_espanol/3normativa/docs/bhumedo.PDF)

### Rights to Timber Harvesting, No 041, in Spanish

[ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Derecho-de-Aprovechamiento-de-Madera-en-Pie.pdf](http://ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Derecho-de-Aprovechamiento-de-Madera-en-Pie.pdf)

### Competencia en Materia de Plantaciones Forestales Sustentables

[ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/COMPETENCIA-EN-MATERIA-DE-PLANTACIONES-FORESTALES-SUSTENTABLES.pdf](http://ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/COMPETENCIA-EN-MATERIA-DE-PLANTACIONES-FORESTALES-SUSTENTABLES.pdf)







## MAJOR FOREST GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

### Lack of effective regulation

There is a large, often contradictory and unclear body of laws and regulations that affects the sustainable forest management and which usually is only partially enforced. Discrepancy between forest regulations and actual harvesting practice exist. The high rigor of legal provisions for harvesting operations may push forest users towards illegality.

### Forest tenure and land rights

Pronounced social and ethnic divisions complicate sustainable forest management and forest conservation. In many cases, and despite new legislative provisions, forest tenure remains unclear.

### Recession of forestry section

Concession management was abandoned in the early 1980s and Ecuador now uses a system of short-term logging licenses. This has discouraged development of a large commercial forestry sector based on natural forest timbers.

## FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### Key government authorities

- **Ministry of Environment (MAE)**  
<http://www.ambiente.gob.ec>
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries**  
<http://www.agricultura.gob.ec>
- **PROFORESTAL**  
<http://www.proforestal.gob.ec>
- **National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES)**  
<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec>

### Non-governmental organizations

- **WWF Ecuador**  
<http://www.wwf.org.ec>
- **Fundacion Natura**  
<http://www.natura.org.co>
- **Conservation International Ecuador**  
<http://conservation.org.ec>
- **The Nature Conservancy**  
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/southamerica/ecuador>



Credit: © WWF-Canon / Kevin Schafer

Epiphyte-laden cloud forest trees in the Mindo-Nambillo Reserve, Ecuador



Credit: © WWF-Canon / Kevin Schafer

Angel Biological Reserve showing typical plant species Andes Mountains

## RELEVANT REPORTS & WEBSITES

- **Análisis de Sinergias entre la Aplicación de las Leyes, la Gobernanza y el Comercio Forestal e Iniciativas Afines en Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú**  
[http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic\\_pub\\_forestry29.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic_pub_forestry29.pdf)
- **Baseline of Deforestation in Ecuador, in Spanish**  
<http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec/files/Folleto%20mapa-parte1.pdf>
- **Chatham House Illegal Logging Portal**  
<http://www.illegal-logging.info>
- **CITES Appendices**  
<http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php>
- **Ecuador Forest Portal**  
<http://ecuadorforestal.org>
- **Ecuadorian Forestry Sector: management proposals for sustainable forest, in Spanish**  
[http://www.bosquesandinos.info/ECOBONA\\_sectorforestal/Sectorforestal1.pdf](http://www.bosquesandinos.info/ECOBONA_sectorforestal/Sectorforestal1.pdf)
- **Evaluation and Scoping of EU Timber Importers from South America, TRAFFIC**  
[http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic\\_pub\\_forestry27.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/traffic_pub_forestry27.pdf)





## RELEVANT REPORTS & WEBSITES

- Forestry and Conservation of Natural Areas and Wildlife Law, in Spanish  
<http://ecuadorforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/LEY-FORESTAL-Y-DE-CONSERVACION-DE-AREAS-NATURALES-Y-VIDA-SILVESTRE.pdf>
- FSC Ecuador  
<http://fscecuador.org>
- GFTN  
<http://gftn.panda.org>
- Socio Bosque Program  
<http://sociobosque.ambiente.gob.ec>
- Status of Tropical Forest Management, ITTO 2011  
[http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics\\_pdf\\_download/topics\\_id=2660&no=0&disp=inline](http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2660&no=0&disp=inline)
- Tendencias de la Gobernanza Forestal en Colombia, Ecuador y Perú  
<http://flegt.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Gob-Forestal-Co-Ec-Pe-Junio20141.pdf>
- TRAFFIC  
<http://www.traffic.org>



Credit: © WWF-Canon / Kevin Schafer  
Indian farms on edge of Sangay National Park Andean Mountains, Ecuador



Credit: © WWF-Canon / Kevin Schafer  
Podocarpus National Park Cloud Forest at approximately 3200 meters Andes Mountains Cajanuma, Ecuador

## TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND FEDERATIONS

- The Ecuadorian Association of Industrial Wood (AIMA)  
<http://www.aima.org.ec>
- The Ecuadorian Association of Producers of Teak and Tropical Timber (ASOTECA)  
<http://asoteca.org.ec>
- Sustainable Forest Management Corporation (COMAFORS)  
<http://comafors.org>

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