

ECUADOR



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General Information & Overview

NDC UNFCCC Submission: [SEGUNDA CONTRIBUCIÓN DETERMINADA A NIVEL NACIONAL](#)

Date of NDC submission/update: 6 February 2025

Summary of quantified targets:

- **Headline target (if present):** Reduce 7% of GHG emissions (~8,800 kt CO₂-eq) (unconditional target) or 8% of GHG emissions (~10,600 kt CO₂-eq) (conditional target) by 2035 compared to the 2010 baseline scenario.
- **Long-Term Goals (if present):** NA
- **Other relevant quantified target(s) for nature:** NA

NDC Scope:

- **Sectors:**
 - Mitigation sectors: Energy, Industrial Processes, Agriculture, Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF), Waste
 - Adaptation sectors: Natural Heritage, Water Resources, Health, Human Settlements, Productive and Strategic Sectors, Food Sovereignty, Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture, and Fisheries (SAG)
- **Thematic areas:** Mitigation, Adaptation, Loss & Damage, Means of Implementation
- **NbS Ecosystems included:** The NDC prioritizes ecosystem restoration, sustainable forest management, water resource conservation, and desertification reduction
- **Indication to use Article 6:** Ecuador declares its interest to participate under the cooperative approaches and states it will develop the necessary instruments to enable implementation of Article 6 at the national level.

Key updates from previous NDC

Ecuador's Second NDC differs from its First NDC in several key aspects, including its time frame, emissions reduction targets, and methodological approach. While the Second NDC extends its target year to 2035 and incorporates a broader scope by including the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector, its emissions reduction targets represent a lower percentage and absolute reduction compared to the First NDC.

In the First NDC, the Business-as-Usual (BAU) emissions for 2025 were projected at 76,900 kt CO₂-eq, with:

- Unconditional reduction target of 9,130 kt CO₂-eq (9%)
- Conditional reduction target of 15,680 kt CO₂-eq (20.4%)

In the Second NDC, the BAU reference point is based on a trend projection from 2010, Ecuador commits to:

- Unconditional reduction target of 8,800 kt CO₂-eq (7%), relative to a trend-based BAU projection for 2010 across all mitigation sectors.
- Conditional reduction target of 10,600 kt CO₂-eq (8%), contingent on international support.

Additionally, the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) indicates that Ecuador's actual 2022 emissions (~88,262 kt CO₂-eq) were higher than the previously estimated ~73,000 kt CO₂-eq.

While the Second NDC adjusts its approach to emissions reductions, it also introduces several enhancements:

- The inclusion of LULUCF, which accounts for approximately 29.26% of Ecuador's total emissions, within the economy-wide target.
- A more detailed estimation of financial resources needed for implementation.
- The incorporation of a Loss and Damage component.
- A stronger emphasis on nature conservation and restoration: The Second NDC expands NbS (now covering water conservation and desertification, whereas the first NDC only broadly mentioned forests). However, the mitigation target is less ambitious in percentage terms.

Key conclusions

- **Ecuador's Second NDC outlines mitigation targets that are less ambitious in certain respects compared to the First NDC.** However, the Second NDC expands adaptation and loss & damage efforts, including a detailed financial needs assessment, LULUCF integration, and a stronger focus on nature conservation and restoration, signaling a more comprehensive approach to climate resilience.
- **More nature-based targets are included, but they lack specificity.** While the NDC expands its scope to include more ecosystem-focused actions, the absence of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) targets limits accountability and tracking progress.
- **Strong institutional and governance framework.** The NDC clearly outlines a solid institutional and policy structure, creating an enabling environment for implementation. However, ensuring effective coordination across sectors will be key to success.
- **Stakeholder participation is a major strength, but climate justice could be better integrated into targets.** The NDC demonstrates strong public engagement, particularly through territorial

workshops and inclusion of cross-cutting themes (gender, interculturality, intergenerationality). However, climate justice principles are not deeply embedded in the targets themselves, and more effort is needed to ensure equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms.

- **Key gaps remain: reliance on conditional financing and economic dependence on fossil fuel exports.** A large portion of the NDC’s commitments rely on external financing, making implementation uncertain without secured funding. Additionally, Ecuador’s continued dependence on fossil fuel exports presents a structural challenge for long-term low-carbon development.

Detailed Assessment

Topic	Assessment
Does the NDC indicate that a whole of government approach was utilized?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NDC describes the government structure, and details the roles and responsibilities of institutions related to climate change See page 15. The governmental structure for climate change policy and planning includes an inter- institutional committee to facilitate intersectoral policy development and implementation, bringing together representatives from different state and local governments, as well as different national ministries. See page 36 ● Main Climate change management instruments: National Climate Change Strategy National Climate Change Mitigation Plan, National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contribution and National Climate Finance Strategy. 	
Does the NDC indicate that a whole of society approach was utilized?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NDC describes a broad participatory approach, involving local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, private sector, academia, women, LGBTQI+ people, and youth organizations in the design of climate commitments. Seventeen stakeholder workshops were held in eight major cities, plus virtual consultations for remote regions and a national survey to gather inputs from civil society. Gender equality, interculturality, and intergenerational perspectives were included as transversal approaches. An independent oversight team was involved to ensure transparency. A dedicated microsite was developed to keep the public informed. See page 38 ● Additionally, the NDC includes a dedicated section on cross-cutting themes: gender, intergenerationality, and interculturality. See page 106 	
Do the NDC targets include nature/ecosystems?	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NDC describes the existing ecosystems in the country, with 91 ecosystems identified, including 24 terrestrial ecosystems in the Coastal region, 45 in the Andes, and 22 in the Amazon. See page 74. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some general measures to address nature-related targets include: sustainable agriculture, low-emission livestock systems, conservation of priority water zones, restoration with native species, expansion of protected areas, and sustainable forest management. Special attention is given to the Galápagos Islands, where climate adaptation efforts focus on endemic species conservation and water cycle regulation. See page 56. 	
Does the NDC include information about the methods and data used to develop nature-related targets?	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC follows the IPCC 2006 Guidelines and the 2019 Refinement for calculating GHG emissions in agriculture, land use (USCUSS in Spanish), and waste treatment. The biomass loss-and-gain method is applied for forestry carbon stock assessments. The assumptions for the modeling of the BAU trend are also included. See page 61. However, spatial planning tools (e.g., GIS, remote sensing) are not explicitly mentioned and nature-related targets lack measurability and time-boundness. 	
Are NbS included in the economy-wide target?	Partial
<p>The Second NDC integrates NbS into the economy-wide GHG reduction target through the LULUCF and agriculture sectors, in an improvement from the First NDC which disaggregated LULUCF from the economy-wide target, but there are no specific measurable sectoral targets, or emission reduction targets from those sectors. See page 53.</p>	
Are mitigation targets defined for the AFOLU sector, including in wetlands and coastal areas?	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the NDC outlines key nature-based measures for agriculture, forestry, and land use (e.g., sustainable agriculture, reforestation, forest fire prevention), these actions lack specific, measurable targets or specific plans, programs, or projects. There are no quantified goals for restored ecosystems, carbon sequestration potential, or hectares of reforestation efforts. See page 56. Additionally, although Ecuador has abundant wetlands and coastal ecosystems, they are not included within mitigation targets. 	
Do adaptation measures include NbS and/or EbA approaches?	Partial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural heritage section of the adaptation component calls for establishing conservation areas and ecosystem restoration to reduce biodiversity loss, as well as improved management and monitoring to protect endemic species. See page 85. Green infrastructure is integrated into the water assets and human settlement sectors, and the productive and strategic sectors consider the role of NbS in flood reduction. See page 85. The agriculture and aquaculture sector promotes sustainable management of agricultural lands and aquacultural areas. See page 87. Despite the inclusion of NbS, all actions lack specific, measurable targets or specific plans, 	

<p>programs, and projects to enact the high level action areas.</p>	
<p>Is nature integrated as an essential component in addressing loss and damage?</p>	<p>Partial</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDC breaks loss and damage into several measures, including “rehabilitate” which includes the restoration of degraded ecosystems as a key response to climatic impacts and “retrieve” which refers to the restoration of a sector’s functionality through rebuilding natural systems. See page 100. • Although this framework includes nature in post-event responses, the NDC does not provide detail on actions that can be taken to avert or minimize loss and damage. The framework provided only covers ex-post actions, and lacks specific, measurable, and time-bound policies. 	
<p>Does the NDC integrate NbS into mitigation and adaptation targets for non-AFOLU sectors?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The non-AFOLU sectors included in the mitigation component (energy, industrial processes, and waste) do not consider nature. See page 56.</p>	
<p>Does the NDC align with other national and international agendas?</p>	<p>Partial</p>
<p>National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mitigation component aligns with the sectoral lines of action in Ecuador’s National Development Plan (see page 67), and Ecuador has worked to align development and land use plans with adaptation planning (see page 89). <p>International:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDC demonstrates how mitigation and adaptation efforts in each of the included sectors contribute to the SDGs. See pages 67 and 94. Although the NDC notes that the mitigation contribution aligns to the UNCCD and CBD, it does not provide any detail on <i>how</i>. • Ecuador’s NDC considers the country’s significant biological diversity and its adaptation component highlights the risk of species loss and the role of conservation in protecting biodiversity. That being said, apart from a brief mention of the fact that the mitigation component “contributes” to the CBD, the NDC does not draw linkages between the proposed actions to protect biodiversity and the country’s efforts under the UNCCD. 	
<p>Are adaptation and mitigation targets consistent with each other?</p>	<p>Partial</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDC does not address co-benefits or tradeoffs between adaptation and mitigation targets. Although NbS are included in both adaptation and mitigation components, there is not a clear consideration of the carbon storage and resilience benefits for certain activities (for example, 	

forest conservation).

- Additionally, while the adaptation section includes a section on water heritage and identifies four priority river basins, the mitigation component does not consider the role of sustainable water management in reducing emissions.
- Furthermore, the adaptation component notes that hydropower contributes around 80% of electricity production and that climate variability may affect electricity generation. The mitigation component, however, does not discuss hydropower at all. As a result, the NDC could strengthen both its mitigation and adaptation planning efforts by further considering how freshwater is a cross-cutting topic of major importance to Ecuador. Additionally, the NDC includes efforts to protect and conserve ecosystems but does not consider the tradeoffs between hydropower and conservation of freshwater and wetland ecosystems.
- Finally, the adaptation component conducts a risk analysis on productive and strategic sectors, including the “hydrocarbon sector,” and outlines actions to strengthen the resilience of the sector to ensure long-term sustainability. That being said, adaptive actions to promote the long term sustainability of Ecuador’s hydrocarbons sector is consistent with low-carbon, sustainable development.

Are climate justice and equitable approaches applied across NDC targets?

Partial

As mentioned above, the NDC development process placed a strong emphasis on inclusion of different marginalized groups. The NDC includes a section on cross-cutting issues to highlight the importance of gender, intergenerationality, and interculturality to both development and implementation of the plan ([see page 106](#)). This section highlights the importance of ensuring women benefit equally from climate change initiatives and that they acquire more decision-making power and control over natural, economic, and cultural resources. The section highlights the importance of an intergenerational approach to the NDC to strengthen social protection for children, and finally, emphasizes strengthening indigenous, Montubio and Afro-Ecuadorian communities. However, the NDC does not integrate these climate justice and equitable approaches into the mitigation and adaptation component targets.

Are means of implementation (MOI) needs for NbS implementation clearly communicated?

Partial

- Ecuador estimates that \$6.5 billion is needed for the implementation of its second NDC, but details of this budget will be specified by the individual executing entities ([see page 9](#)). As a result, the NDC does not disaggregate financial costs across different sectors in the NDC, nor provide detailed estimates of financial or capacity needs.
- Ecuador’s National Climate Finance Strategy identifies financing gaps needed to achieve climate goals, and also focuses on establishing the institutional arrangements and enabling conditions to better facilitate multilevel and multisectoral climate finance ([see page 103](#)). Ecuador has also developed a climate change activities catalogue to identify the amounts invested in climate change and facilitate quantification of existing gaps.

Are there defined roadmaps and accountability structures for NbS implementation?

Partial

The NDC describes the providers of data for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) as actors from the National Government, Decentralized Autonomous Governments, Research Institutes, Academia, International Cooperation, and the Private Sector. [See page 37](#). The National Climate Change Registry which is under development, will consolidate information on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation policy ([see page 92](#)).