

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10396
Project Name:	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sustainable use areas of the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP) of Ecuador and its buffer zones.
Countr(ies):	Ecuador
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sustainable use areas of the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP) of Ecuador and its buffer zones.

Country

Ecuador

GEF ID

10396

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/10/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

Promote conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and capacity building in sustainable use zones and buffer zones within the State Subsystem of Protected Areas (SEAP).

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

4,835,750.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,327,726.14

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

11/19/2021

Agency Approval

11/1/2021

Implementation Start 12/20/2022	First Disbursement 4/30/2023
Expected MTR 9/20/2025	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/20/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The results demonstrate significant progress towards achieving the objectives of the SEAP Parques para la Vida Project. The actions implemented across the four components reflect an integrated approach that strengthens governance, enhances information management, promotes sustainable production, and fosters social inclusion with a gender and intercultural perspective. The advancement in regulatory frameworks, active governance platforms, capacity building through farmer field schools, and the development of tools such as the monitoring dashboard contribute to the effective management of protected areas and their surrounding landscapes. Moreover, the engagement with communities through FPIC processes and the development of gender-focused actions highlight the Project's commitment to inclusive and participatory conservation, the Project has achieved the following results:

Component 1

The three deliverables of the consultancy for the scoping and contracting of the design, development, and implementation of the Information Management System (SGI) have been completed. The terms of reference are expected to be approved during the second half of 2025.

A consultant was hired to carry out the cartographic data collection and is currently updating the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in the communities of Guangra and Pomacocha.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition approved the draft Technical Regulation for the regime of land ownership and possession within the National System of Protected Areas.

Component 2

The four governance platforms remain active and will be monitored and facilitated by a consultant during the second half of 2025.

Work is underway on the development and approval of the following local regulations:

- Implementation of the Co-Management Plan for the Protected and Sustainable Development Area Block 1, under the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Government of El Chaco.
- Ordinance to optimize the Functional Organic Statute for environmental governance of the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Government of Alausí.
- Resolution of the Decentralized Autonomous Parochial Government of Cebadas for the Integrated Environmental Risk Management, with a focus on the management and maintenance of ravines.
- Ordinance to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence against women under the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Government of Quijos.

Component 3

The Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Program has been developed, including curricula that incorporate a landscape approach, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable production. The program is currently under implementation.

Curricula have been defined for the three target landscapes.

Improvement plans have been prepared for the three landscapes. In the case of the Cebadas–Achupallas landscape, implementation is already underway through procurement processes.

The project has 25 active and operational “NUMI” Farmer Field Schools.

In coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, a baseline study is being carried out for the development of sustainable tourism products and capacity building in the Cebadas-Achupallas area, including the Atillo and Ozogoché sectors.

A consultancy was conducted to analyze the feasibility of establishing a Marketing Center in the parish of Papallacta. The study included the following components:

- Demand market study: analysis of the unmet demand from visitors to the parish of Papallacta regarding the purchase of agricultural and tourism products.
- Supply market study: characterization of the agricultural and tourism productive supply in the parishes of Papallacta and Cuyuja.
- Technical report on location and sizing: definition of the most suitable site for the center and determination of its physical and functional characteristics.
- Proposal for organizational structure and management strategies: document establishing the recommended organizational structure and the most appropriate strategies for the efficient and sustainable operation of the marketing center in Papallacta.

Design and implementation of an early warning system (EWS) for frost, drought, and flooding in the Achupallas parish.

The Participatory Rural Appraisal and improvement plans for the Pablo Sexto landscape are available. These documents make it possible to understand the reality of the territory from multiple dimensions, identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities, and provide a solid technical foundation for strategic planning, organizational strengthening, and decision-making aimed at the sustainable development of the landscape.

Contributed to the development of the Visitor Management Plan for Sangay National Park, which aims to optimize the tourist experience, ensure biodiversity conservation, and generate benefits for local communities. This plan was approved and officially submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition.

Component 4

To date, 54 publications have been made on CONDESAN’s social media and website. These include the project’s positioning strategy, media plan, biodiversity protection campaigns, and the celebration of key environmental calendar dates. The strategy incorporates a gender perspective and inclusive communication tailored to Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities.

Fifteen Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) agreements have been signed with participating communities.

The Project supported the development of the Gender Plan for the National System of Protected Areas, as well as the organization of the Second Meeting of Women Park Rangers.

The monitoring system is operational and currently features an interactive results dashboard.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) has requested the inclusion of new guidelines in the development of the Information System, which has delayed the process. In addition, MAATE's response times for reviewing and/or approving products or activities have been lengthy, taking up to five months.

The country experienced a period of power outages, which hindered the implementation of project activities.

The inputs and validation processes by MAATE for national regulations have also been delayed, and the change in authorities has further complicated their execution. As a result, the development of the training plan has been postponed due to the absence of both national and local regulations. Progress on training activities is expected by November.

The number of beneficiaries has decreased due to the non-participation of COOPROAGROCAN. As a corrective measure, the Project is developing a strategy to meet the indicator, which includes replication, updating the stakeholder mapping, among other actions. This strategy will be implemented starting in the second semester.

Frequent staff turnover can cause significant delays in project implementation, as the continuity of activities is disrupted. Furthermore, the hiring and selection processes tend to be lengthy, making it difficult to fill vacancies in a timely manner and resulting in periods without key personnel. This situation affects efficiency and the ability to meet established deadlines, putting the achievement of project objectives at risk.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among technicians. •MAG is a member of the interinstitutional technical coordination table generated by the project. •Field School Trainer
Government Institutions	Ministry of Tourism	Co-financing partner	•Tourism diagnosis in the Cebadas-Achupallas landscape
Government Institutions	Papallacta Parish DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning.
Government Institutions	Cuyuja Parish DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning. •Legal advice in the framework of competencies •Coordination and support for carrying out the project's territorial presentation in the landscape Papallacta-El Chaco.
Government Institutions	Quijos Municipal DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning. •Beneficiaries of local ordinance
Government Institutions	El Chaco Municipal DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning. •Beneficiaries of local ordinance
Government Institutions	Cebadas Parish DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning. •Beneficiaries of local ordinance
Government Institutions	Pablo Sexto Municipal DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Participation in training given by the Project. •Technical assistance in preparing development plans and territorial planning.
Government Institutions	Achupallas Parish DAG	Strategic partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities.
Government Institutions	Alausí Municipal DAG	Co-financing partner	•Project dissemination and information gathering among producers and associations/communities. •Provides information for the collection of cartographic information
Government Institutions	Paramo Program executed by Programa de Apoyo al Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (PASNAP)	Co-financing partner	•Coordination for the design and implementation of the Information Management System for the SNAP. •Coordination for implementation of joint actions in territory. •Creation of proposal for financial incentives for sustainable production by BanEcuador.
		Co-financing	

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Through the project's gender plan, implemented with field schools, training is provided and activities are carried out to help close gender gaps. Women beneficiaries of the project have equitable access to incentives (Mineral salts have been delivered, with 51% of the beneficiaries being women) in all three intervention areas.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The active participation of women and youth is promoted in the various intervention spaces of the Project, such as workshops, training sessions, field days, technical assistance, among others.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The project, through the implementation of field schools, generates socioeconomic benefits for women. Furthermore, incentives tailored to local circumstances and participatory processes are offered in the Cebadas-Achupallas landscape. The farmer field schools are a component of capacity building, which is complemented by continuous technical assistance and guidance to incorporate sustainability and economic efficiency criteria. By applying this intervention model, participants improve their skills and, consequently, their production systems, which leads to increased income in a way that is responsible toward biodiversity and the environment. Additionally, through the extension program and the farmer field schools, the aim is to foster community innovations that create local opportunities for sustainable development through community service centers (such as veterinary kits and silage centers). This enables people, especially young individuals, to receive training and develop the capacity to offer services, which in turn allows them to generate and diversify their economic income.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	To enable women to attend rural schools, the project implemented recreational materials so their children could play while they learned.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The Project is developing a training program that encompasses capacity building across all four components. Data collection is currently underway to identify the main topics needed by the target audience. In addition, a consultant will be hired to develop the training plan for component 2 for the legal aspect. Technical meetings were held to define the intervention model for the Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Program, during which the expanded curriculum and specific curricula for each intervention landscape were developed. The program has a landscape-based approach focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable production, and it is currently being implemented in the intervention landscapes. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, together with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments, have contributed to the implementation of the field schools. In addition, considering that knowledge management is a key tool for the sustainability of the Project, a matrix is being developed to systematize the materials used in the Project's training plans and programs.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	The Project has implemented a landscape and intersectionality approach in all its activities. Although resources are limited, the Project has forged partnerships with stakeholders (annex, stakeholder mapping) to strengthen actions in the field and promote the Project's sustainability. For the Project, having the support of the ministries and decentralized autonomous governments has allowed it to better serve the participating communities. The following instruments have been used: Methodology for defining intervention landscapes. Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Program. Free, Prior and Informed Consent Agreements.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	To date, 54 publications have been made on CONDESAN's social media and website. These publications include the project's positioning strategy, media plan, campaigns to protect biodiversity, and celebration of dates in the environmental calendar. Also consider the gender approach and inclusive communication in indigenous peoples and nationalities. An important challenge is the presence of illiteracy and the need, especially, for translations into Kichwa to ensure effective communication.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	https://condesan.org/2025/03/13/mujeres-protectoras-de-la-biodiversidad/ https://condesan.org/2025/02/24/hitos-2024-proyecto-seap-ecuador/ https://condesan.org/2025/05/13/las-escuelas-de-campo-numi-se-implementan-en-la-parroquia-de-achupallas-a-traves-del-proyecto-seap-parques-para-la-vida/
Please provide links to related website, social media account	Web: https://condesan.org/ Facebook: /CONDESANandes Instagram: condesanandes X: _CONDESAN

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	At the request of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the following indicator was eliminated: Land Fund for the management of the ZUS created. At the request of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the following indicator was eliminated: Proposed agreement to define the limit of the agricultural frontier in buffer zones.
Components and Cost	There have been no changes to the project components, but there have been two budgetary modifications. First was after the approval of the acquisition of two vans; the second was to allocate more resources for: the development of consulting services, the acquisition of supplies and materials for the implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use practices, and the acquisition of a motorcycle for Pablo Sexto landscape.
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	The project execution began in December 2022, however the hiring of UIP staff began in June 2023.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	It is important to highlight that during the formulation phase of the Project, some institutions were not initially considered to commit counterpart contributions. However, following the update of the stakeholder mapping and the implementation of activities in the field, these institutions have made significant contributions. This is the case of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments of Papallacta and Cuyuja, whose contributions are detailed in the co-financing section.

Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Corporación de Alpaqueros de Chimborazo	-1.941	-78.5233	

Location Description:

Cebadas, Achupallas-Chimborazo

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Papallacta-El Chaco	0.394538	-77.8344	

Location Description:

Papallacta, Cuyuja, Sardinas, El Chaco, Baeza-Napo

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, tourism, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Cebadas-Achupallas	-2.343889	-78.68844	

Location Description:

Cebadas, Achupallas-Chimborazo

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, tourism, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Comuna Guangra	-78.6115430572	-2.47087636999	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
ASOCIACION DE PRODUCTORES DE GUANABANA DE PABLO SEXTO	-78.0612900046	-1.9288699788	

Location Description:

Pablo Sexto

Activity Description:

Agriculture, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNIDAD YAMANUNKA	-78.0351616715	-1.87306359012	

Location Description:

Pablo Sexto

Activity Description:

Agriculture, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNIDAD SHAWI	-77.9804733284	-1.88228747866	

Location Description:

Pablo Sexto

Activity Description:

Agriculture, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNA COBSHE ALTO	-78.7194650013	-2.22946165057	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNA CHIPCHA	-78.7182163902	-2.2504705393	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNA POMACOCHA	-78.6448988904	-2.3654416489	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNA TOTORAS CUCHO	-78.6836419459	-2.2433374835	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PULPITO	-78.5814058351	-2.13207609451	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
ASARATY	-78.5768611129	-1.9030891518	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
TABLILLAS	-78.6142413905	-1.91426054092	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNA OZOGOCHE ALTO	-78.5970072239	-2.25633498259	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
RETEN ICHUBAMBA	-78.6229813905	-2.01933970686	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Livestock, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
PLAYA AZUL	-78.6440833349	-1.90786998565	

Location Description:

Cebadas

Activity Description:

Tourism, conservation and entrepreneurship

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
COMUNIDAD KUNKUB	-78.0558644491	-1.8643702572	

Location Description:

Pablo Sexto

Activity Description:

Agriculture, tourist, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
ASOCIACION MELIPIPONICULTORES DE PABLO SEXTO	-78.0606208379	-1.89706275691	

Location Description:

Pablo Sexto

Activity Description:

Agriculture, tourist, conservation and entrepreneurship.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Early Warning System	-78.76580961	-2.26757693	

Location Description:

Achupallas

Activity Description:

Agriculture, livestock and conservation

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10396_2025PIR_FAO_Ecuador