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GENDER AND INTERCULTURALITY IN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT:

A CASE STUDY OF THE EXPERIENCE OF ECUADOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS 2015 - 2030 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

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This technical note provides a brief tour of the main conceptual and methodological elements that guided the inclusion of gender considerations and interculturality in the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy, from an integrative view of the relationships between biodiversity, men and women of the communities and different nationalities, in search of the Good Living and sustainability of the development model that Ecuador decided to build since 2008.

This note is organized into four parts. It begins with an introduction on the constitutional provisions related to equality and equity approaches. It continues to analyze how these approaches are essential for the sustainable use

of goods and services of biodiversity and the importance of conservation for local populations. It is observed how gender differences determine the relationship between women and men with access to these biodiversity resources. Next, the gender and intercultural approaches as key elements for biodiversity management and the Good Living are analyzed, focusing on the connections between women and men within the various communities and nationalities. Subsequently, a reflection is made about how the mainstreaming of these gender approaches can become a powerful tool to advance the construction of the Good Living with regards to equality and justice. Finally the results of the mainstreaming of gender and intercultural approaches in the 2015 - 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and its 2021 Action Plan are presented.





1. The Constitution of Montecristi.- starting point for addressing the gender and interculturality approaches in the national biodiversity planning

The Constitution of the Republic which currently governs the legal identity of Ecuador, incorporates three key elements that enhance the vision of the country which are of great importance regarding nature, communities and various nationalities; and the rights associated with them.

The first of these elements refers to the paradigm of the Good Living, as a key concept in the ideological definition that guides the implementation of a new development model. The Good Living is inspired by the philosophy of the native peoples of America, the Sumak Kawsay of indigenous worldviews seeks to harmonize the development of human potentialities and capabilities, as enabling conditions for poverty eradication and the right to exercise freedom. Thus, respect for nature and the need to create decent living conditions for people are two sides of the same coin. The concept of Good Living, therefore, allows to support the search for a harmonious relationship with nature, even recognizing it as rights holder.

Closely connected with the concept of the Good Living, the Constitution of the Republic includes as a second element, the recognition of nature or Pachamama as a subject of rights. This progress challenges the anthropocentric view about the relationship between humans beings and nature, to recognize a different dignity from human beings, with such a level of importance that it is necessary to protect nature through the following constitutional rights:

- The right to fully respect the existence and maintenance of nature and the regeneration of its vital cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes. (Art. 71)
- The right to restoration (Art. 72)
- The right for the State to:
 - Encourage individuals, companies and organizations to protect nature and promote respect for all the elements that form an ecosystem (Art. 71, third paragraph).
 - In cases of severe or permanent environmental

Article 14.- The right of people to live in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment that guarantees sustainability and the Good Living, *Sumak Kawsay*, is recognized.

Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador

impact, including those related to the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources, establish the most effective mechanisms to achieve restoration and take appropriate measures to eliminate or mitigate adverse environmental consequences. (Art. 72, second paragraph).

- Apply precautionary measures and restrictions on activities that may lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystems or the permanent alteration of natural cycles. (Art. 73).

The third element relates to the incorporation of plurinationality between constitutional elements that define the character of the Ecuadorian State. This condition involves the challenge of defining the scope of plurinationality, so that beyond being a proclamation, it becomes an effective recognition of unity in diversity.

Regarding biodiversity, the plurinational nature of the Ecuadorian State strengthens the respect for the rights of nationalities and indigenous peoples, as well as of Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubios (Ecuadorian coastal natives) to “preserve and promote their practices of biodiversity management and their natural environment”. (Art 57, 8.) and to “maintain, protect and develop collective knowledge; their sciences, technologies and ancestral knowledge; genetic resources that contain biodiversity and agricultural biodiversity; their traditional medicine practices, including the right to recover, promote and protect ritual and

sacred places, as well as plants, animals, minerals and ecosystems within their territories; and knowledge of resources and properties of fauna and flora” (Art. 57, paragraph 12).

Finally, a fourth element that frames the gender perspective in national planning for biodiversity, is the constitutional recognition of the principle of equality in rights, duties and opportunities for men and women (Art. 11, paragraph 2) and the right to formal and material equality and non-discrimination (Art. 66). Accordingly, Art. 70 states that “... the State shall formulate and implement policies to achieve equality between women and men, through a specialized mechanism in accordance with the law, and incorporate the gender perspective into plans and programs and provide technical assistance for its mandatory implementation in the public sector. To comply with this article, Art. 156 establishes “the implementation of boards of equality that shall exercise powers in the formulation, mainstreaming, enforcement, monitoring and evaluation of public policies related to gender, ethnic, generational, intercultural, disability and human mobility issues, according to the law ...”.

Based on these definitions, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE, known by its acronym in Spanish) decided to formulate the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and its 2016-2021 Action Plan, from a conceptual, methodological and operational approach of gender perspectives and multiculturalism.



2. Equality and equity as fundamental principles in the construction of the Good Living, eradication of poverty and sustainable development

In Ecuador, the equality and non-discrimination principles of people and the rights of nature, represent a big progress in order to acknowledge the correspondence between biodiversity, individuals and communities living within its territory. This implies new relations and forms of interaction between natural and human systems in search of the Good Living.

With this new vision, we must recognize that any development model that seeks human well-being, inevitably causes changes in biodiversity and the ecosystems capacity to generate environmental services that make the welfare state possible. These changes affect differently to women and men, accentuating inequalities, inequities and exclusions in the use, access and participation of benefits of goods and services for biodiversity of different population groups, particularly in rural women (farmers, indigenous, Montubio). Indeed, they are generally excluded from the negotiation process and decision making, preventing policies and representation processes from reflecting their needs and demands regarding the application of biodiversity (Pazmiño, 2005: 69).

Indigenous and African-descendant women represent the diversity within diversity, because diversity is not limited to only being a woman or



The roll of the Good Living is considered as a goal to persevere through reflective questioning of the prevailing system and continuous interaction between social and institutional stakeholders. ... It requires an action and a communicative understanding to find potential alternatives (Jara, 2013: 39).



indigenous or African-descendant. Concealing the difference within women as a group, or within indigenous as communities or groups, it is the result of essentialization which involves the construction of a collective sense, a "we men" and "we women" that homogenizes who are part of it. But differences or diversities exist, as well as power relations that explain these differences in terms of more and less, with consequences of domains and privileges for some, and subordination for others. (Rodríguez and Iturmendi, 2013:25)

It should be emphasized that women living in the territories where biodiversity reaches high levels of endemism are active participants in caring for this natural wealth and building a culture of social relations in balance with nature. However, the vital role of these groups regarding biodiversity management, generally is not recognized or valued, despite the significant contributions women make to the rural Good Living and the fulfillment of the rights of nature.

Likewise, peasants manage biodiversity for food and agriculture, when they make the selection of plant and animal genetic resources; conservation systems of seeds and germplasm exchange (on farms, gene banks, seed fairs, among others); in land use and combined farming systems, rotations, orchards, combination of fibers and secondary crop (Laub & Sisto, 2007). In mangroves, rivers and forests of Ecuador, there is also a differentiated management of biodiversity by men and women, there is even ancestral knowledge relat-

ed to biodiversity management that is differentiated by gender (Suarez-Duke, 2008).

Despite the aforementioned, the analyzes performed on legal and technical issues related to biodiversity, reflect a gap in the consideration and inclusion of gender perspectives and multiculturalism in the processes of design, development and implementation of action plans, strategies, projects and related tools; as well as of the spaces and processes of decision making and biodiversity management responsibilities. In some cases, the same actions designed to promote the conservation of biodiversity, undermine human rights; especially individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Evidence of this is, for example, when in order to protect the public good, a decision for the conservation limits the access of the population to public services and enjoyment of social policies, emphasizing the indicators under which poverty in the territories is measured. This realization leads us to examine the underlying causes of poverty from a multidimensional, heterogeneous and contextual view (Chant, 2003), tempered by variables of class, ethnicity and gender that condition them. Therefore, the eradication of poverty in these biodiverse territories means, among other things, to stimulate the reproductive work (housework, social services), knowledge and ancestral wisdom in the use of biodiversity and increase the benefit that men and women get in different ways from it.



3. Integration of gender and intercultural approaches as key elements for the management of biodiversity and sustainable use of goods and ecosystem services.

Biodiversity has a different importance to women and men mainly due to two factors: the gender division of labor and the distribution of roles that are conditioned by culture, social relations and the natural environment. Hence the importance of incorporating gender considerations and multiculturalism in policies and conservation programs, as well as the participation of benefits derived from their sustainable use.

To have a clear understanding, we assume the definition of gender by Benería, which conceptualizes it as: “The group of beliefs, physical features, attitudes, feelings, values, behaviors, activities that differentiate men and women through a process of social construction that has several characteristics. First, it is a historical process which develops at different levels.

Secondly, this process involves the ranking of these features and activities so that those who are defined as male, are credited with greater value “(Benería, 1987: 46).

On the other hand, Cuvi and Poats mention that “multiculturalism promotes horizontal dialogue between cultures, a respectful relationship without hierarchies. This implies to adapt our criteria and criticism, our prejudices and focus on understanding other cultural practices different from ours. So, keywords around the concept of multiculturalism are: respect for diversity, interaction, dialogue, horizontality “(Cuvi and Poats, 2011: 9).

For the construction of a conceptual framework on gender and multiculturalism, two important aspects should be considered: “The first one, to recognize the



dynamism of cultures, and the second one, the recognition of the capacity of action of women who belong to non-dominant ethnic groups or socially excluded groups.” (Rodríguez and Iturmendi, 2013:32). In the first case, the rural-indigenous women and African-descendants, rely on a dynamic conception of culture, for example; in their demands they conceive culture as a world view, and in the struggle for their rights, they claimed culture as ethnicity, and, in their struggle for cultural change of gender equality, they see culture as a tradition (Rodríguez, 2011). In the second case, the reference to the capacity of action of women is a key aspect, understood as the greatest ability to act on the circumstances around them and on themselves, women will have to make use of potential and available resources, being of great importance the participation of women in the use, access and conservation of biodiversity.

The integration of gender and intercultural approaches allow to progress towards equal rights for people who experience different types of discrimination.

Gender equality with an intercultural perspective suggests that an intercultural dialogue among women is necessary, allowing to create an intercultural gender concept as well. If the recognition of causes for the subordination of women allowed to move from an approach focused on women to an

approach based on gender relations, the recognition of cultural diversity of women, and the combination of identities that generate oppression, this should enable us to move towards an intercultural gender approach. (Rodríguez and Iturmendi, 2013:35).

These theoretical considerations have a counterpart in public policies, mainly through the National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality; and the National Agenda for Nationalities and Peoples Equality, which are essential tools to ensure implementation of gender and multicultural policies, plans and programs. These two agendas require approaches and concepts from the perspective of equality and non-discrimination for the sustainability of life. In turn, they constitute roadmaps that add coherence to the institutional proposals on several axes, as in our case, the environmental axe. Also, its importance lies in its national and local nature, giving an added value that only the territorial integration is able to offer. Finally, its value is also operational, as they define actions for the short and medium term which should be promoted jointly by all State institutions.

The National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality sets as its objective: “To ensure the principle of equality and non-discrimination”, ie, to motivate women to exercise their rights in equality with men, “strengthen their citizenship from difference and diversity, to

Art. 156.- National Councils for Equality are responsible for ensuring the full enjoyment and exercising of the rights established in the Constitution and in international human rights agreements. The councils shall exercise authority in the formulation, mainstreaming, enforcement, monitoring and evaluation of public policies related to gender, ethnic, generational, intercultural, disability and human mobility issues in accordance with the law. For the compliance of its purposes, governing and executing entities will be coordinated, as well as specialized agencies that protect rights at all levels of government.





develop their capacities in freedom and autonomy on the path to the achievement of the Good Living“ (Transition Commission, 2014). Axis No. 8 of this Agenda concerning the environmental field, consists of a pol-

icy and seven strategic guidelines relating to environmental management, natural resources management and habitat, and the involvement and empowerment of women, as shown in the following table:

National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality *Axis 8. Environment: political and strategic guidelines*

Policy 8. Promote the full participation of women and their empowerment in the areas of environmental management, natural resources management and habitat, contributing to the balance between nature and society as essential elements of environmental conditions for the preservation of life .

a.	Incorporate knowledge, practices and sustainable knowledge of rural women related to the conservation and the use of the environment, resources and services in the planning of the productive matrix, strategic sectors, food sovereignty and a social and solidary economy.
b.	Recognize and appreciate the social and economic role of women in the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources, through compensatory mechanisms (taxes, subsidies) and for implementing services and community and associative goods.
c.	Increase and strengthen the participation of rural women in dealing with agricultural production units to improve productive performance, marketing networks and the use of clean technologies to ensure food sovereignty.
d.	Promote equal participation of women in productive activities of herbal medicines, natural cosmetics and organic products, taking advantage of biodiverse resources with sustainable management through the development of research, science and technology linked to the external market.
e.	Ensure equal participation of rural women in the management and administration of the Drinking water and irrigation Boards, as well as the protection of sources of pure unpolluted water.
h.	Incorporate affirmative actions in housing programs and land property by the State, in favor of heads of households women, who are member of peoples and nationalities as well as LGBTI people living in poverty and extreme poverty.
j.	Create effective mechanisms for planning, land management and planning of strategic sectors, taking into account the legitimate dialogue with the social structure, especially of organized women for the decision-making involving the modification of the conditions of ecosystems and natural resources.

Source and preparation: Transition Commission, 2014

The National Agenda for Nationalities and Peoples Equality aims to “contribute as a tool of participatory planning for inclusion, with the expansion to a more intercultural and inclusive approach on the issue of equal rights of indigenous nationalities, Afro-Ecuadorian and montubio peoples, in all other instruments of planning and management of public policies, such as Sectoral and Intersectoral

Agendas of the public sector in order to reduce inequality, exclusion and racial, economic, cultural and social discrimination “ (ANINP, 2013). The Agenda consists of seven axes for equality of nationalities and peoples, specifically the first axis “Lands and territories” are directly related to biodiversity, as shown in the following table, in which policy and strategic guidelines are present.



National Agenda for Nationalities and Peoples Equality

Axis 1: Land and territory

1.1. Promote the protection of nature, ancestral lands and territories to ensure environmental care, self-sustenance and cultural identity of nationalities and peoples, avoiding unnecessary pollution and waste of products.

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| a. | Promote and strengthen recognition programs, sanitation, recovery, redistribution and legalization of ancestral lands and territories; conflict resolution in pending cases of overlaps with other territorial units, like protected areas, mining or oil companies. |
| b. | Encourage and respect the rights to community management and water, land and territories sustainability, according to the worldviews, cultural and historical practices of the communities and the various nationalities. |
| c. | Promote the establishment of standards for the protection, the respect for and the recognition of biocultural heritage and collective and ancestral knowledge against biopiracy and theft of patents by scientists from pharmaceutical and food companies, in the territories of the various indigenous nationalities. |
| d. | Establish alliances between the State and indigenous communities, related to water conservation in watersheds, wetlands, springs, sources in the Andean moors and Coast and Amazon mangroves. |
| e. | Generate and implement training programs on treatment of solid waste and sewage in populated areas of nationalities and peoples. |
| f. | Boost participatory training programs targeted to government employees, on the rights of nature, in order to reduce the use of agrochemicals that affect the environment. |
| g. | Respect and strengthen land management, production systems and environmental care, through cultural practices in the Amazon, Coast and highlands, avoiding over-exploitation of the soil, for the best protection and conservation of nature and its ecosystems. |
| h. | Implement programs of reforestation with native plants for the protection of water sources and for the conservation and recovery of degraded land in the territories of indigenous groups. |
| i. | Encourage forest and agricultural production with native seeds; and the recovery of those at risk of extinction in communities, in order to guarantee sovereignty and security of food. |

1.2. Promote research of ancestral knowledge and expertise in the area of biodiversity, ecosystems, land, water and care for nature, for recovery, recognition and practice.

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|----|---|
| a. | Create protection regulations in research and use of ancestral knowledge to guarantee intellectual property and collective biocultural heritage of the communities and territories of indigenous people. |
| b. | Implement specialized research units in public institutions and relevant areas to strengthen ancestral knowledge complemented with scientific research, for the solution of environmental, economic, social and cultural problems of indigenous groups. |
| c. | Promote participatory spaces and exchange knowledge and experiences between indigenous people on practices of community management and conservation of ecosystems (forests, mangroves, marine resources, lakes or ponds, wetlands, moors, etc.) |
| d. | Motivate the creation of research projects of ancestral knowledge on agricultural, forestry, livestock and marine biodiversity, to ensure sovereignty and security of food and to protect the tangible and intangible national heritage of the various nationalities. |

Source and preparation: ANIPN 2013 -2017

These Agendas have their communication partner in the Ministry of Environment, who, sensitive to the concerns, needs and interests of women and men who live in territories surrounded by natural landscapes

and biodiversity, has developed the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and the 2016-2021 Action Plan, taking into account gender considerations and multiculturalism.

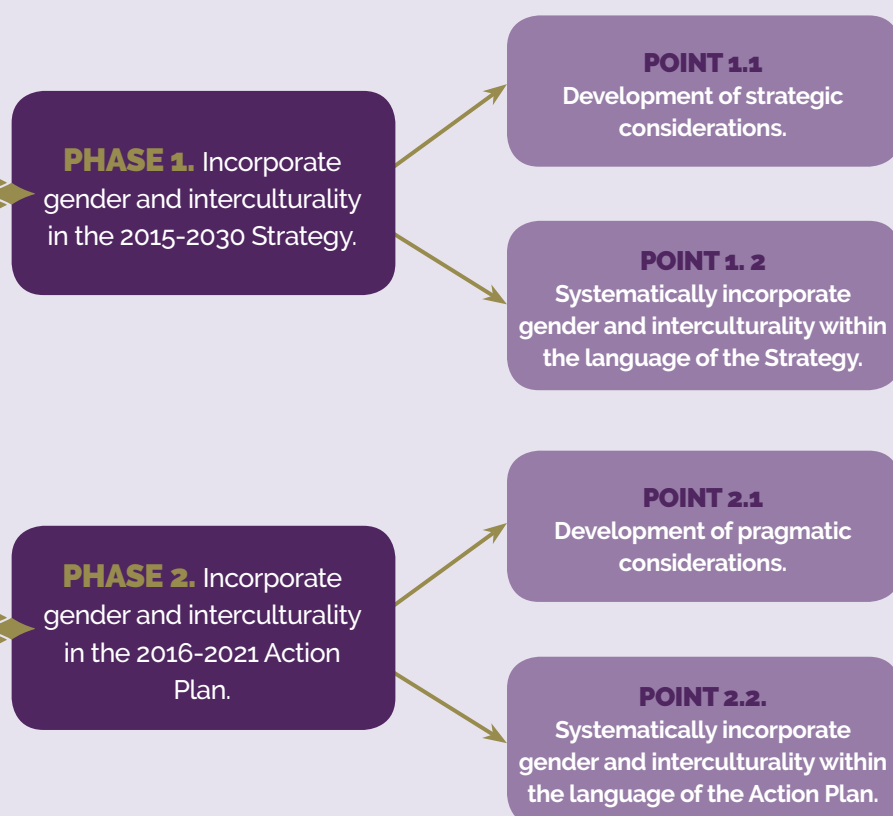
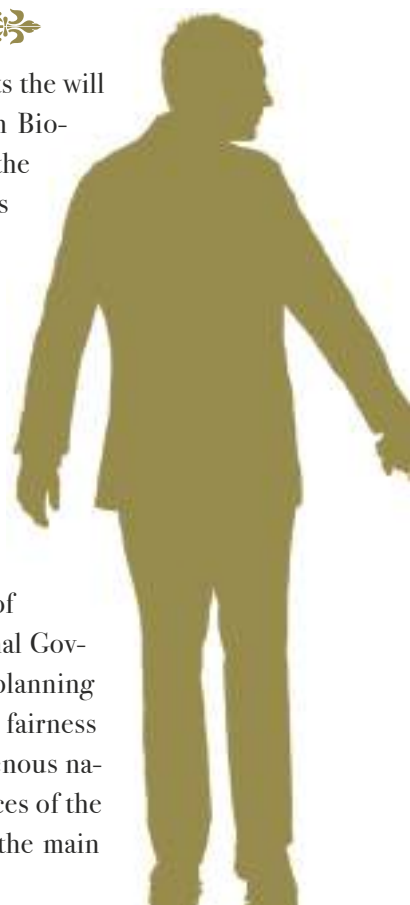


4. Gender mainstreaming and multiculturalism approach in the 2015- 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy.



The 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity reflects the will of the countries that are part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to safeguard diversity and the benefits that it provides to people. This Plan defines two major strategic objectives, aimed to: “Increase the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for everybody” and to “Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building”, complying with the primary objective of the Convention, which seeks the “Conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable participation in the benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources” (CBD, 1992).

Due to what has been mentioned in the most important context of global action for biodiversity, the similarity of views with the National Government of Ecuador is clear, regarding the strategic importance of planning and management for biodiversity, principles of justice, inclusion, fairness and equal participation of men and women within the various indigenous nationalities with regards to the conservation of these strategic resources of the country. The Gender Action Plan in the framework of the CBD is the main



reference document regarding equality and gender equity, it contains a mandate for the development of the Guide for Gender Mainstreaming for National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans, which has been the basis for the 2015-2030 the National Biodiversity Strategy.

In all these considerations, Ecuador paid particular attention to the integration of gender and intercultural approaches in the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy. This experience has allowed the country to build a methodological guide for the mainstreaming of these approaches. The guide takes as a reference the recommendations of the CBD Secretariat, the principles of equality and non-discrimination established in the Constitution of the Republic, as well as in the National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) guidelines, and Gender Equality Agendas of the various nationalities. Likewise, it draws on the experience generated by the National Biodiversity Strategy and the reflections at the end of the process of the national

dialogue held with the aim of agreeing on the 2016-2021 Action Plan.

The guide considers four areas of action, interrelated, which enable a comprehensive approach of gender and intercultural perspectives in the management of a national biodiversity strategy: political, organizational, implementation and representation spheres. Each of these areas is broken down into phases, moments and steps that describe a methodological route, which is accompanied by “checklists” based on the work of Sasvari, A and colleagues (2010). These checklists are executed through guiding questions that facilitate the mainstreaming of these approaches in the implementation and monitoring of the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy.

Illustratively, we will mention that the sphere of implementation is organized in two phases; the first focuses on the incorporation of gender and multiculturalism in the strategic dimension, while the second phase concerns the programmatic dimension (Action Plan). Each phase includes a first moment of participatory construction of strategic and programmatic elements; and a second moment of systematic incorporation of these elements in the text of the Strategy and Action Plan.

STEPS:

- 1.1.1** Development of workshops at a national and sub-national level (planning zones).
- 1.1.2** Participatory diagnosis with a focus on gender and interculturality.
- 1.1.3** Field-work: ●

- Establishment of field support teams.
- Participatory diagnosis and identification of options.
- To identify female representatives for women and representatives of indigenous communities and nationalities at a local level for the regional workshops.
- Conclusion of the participatory process for the development of the Strategy.

STEPS:

- 2.1.1** Induction of the planning team.
- 2.1.2** Identify a group of actions and measures, each one of them clearly linked to the objectives and aims of the strategy.
- 2.1.3** Establish a set of priorities and rate each action in relation of its priority (high, medium, low and/or essential. Highly important and desirable if the resources allow).
- 2.1.4** Implementation Plan: Identify the activities which the institution is capable of performing themselves and those activities which require assistance from other govern-

ment entities at a national and local level and activities for collaboration, amongst others.

- 2.1.5** Develop a coordination plan to put into practice the action plan.
- 2.1.6** Develop a plan to monitor and evaluate, on a regular basis, the execution of the action plan.
- 2.1.7** Develop a calendar to put into practice the action plan.
- 2.1.8** Develop a budget to facilitate the implementation of the action plan and all other measurements hereby stated.

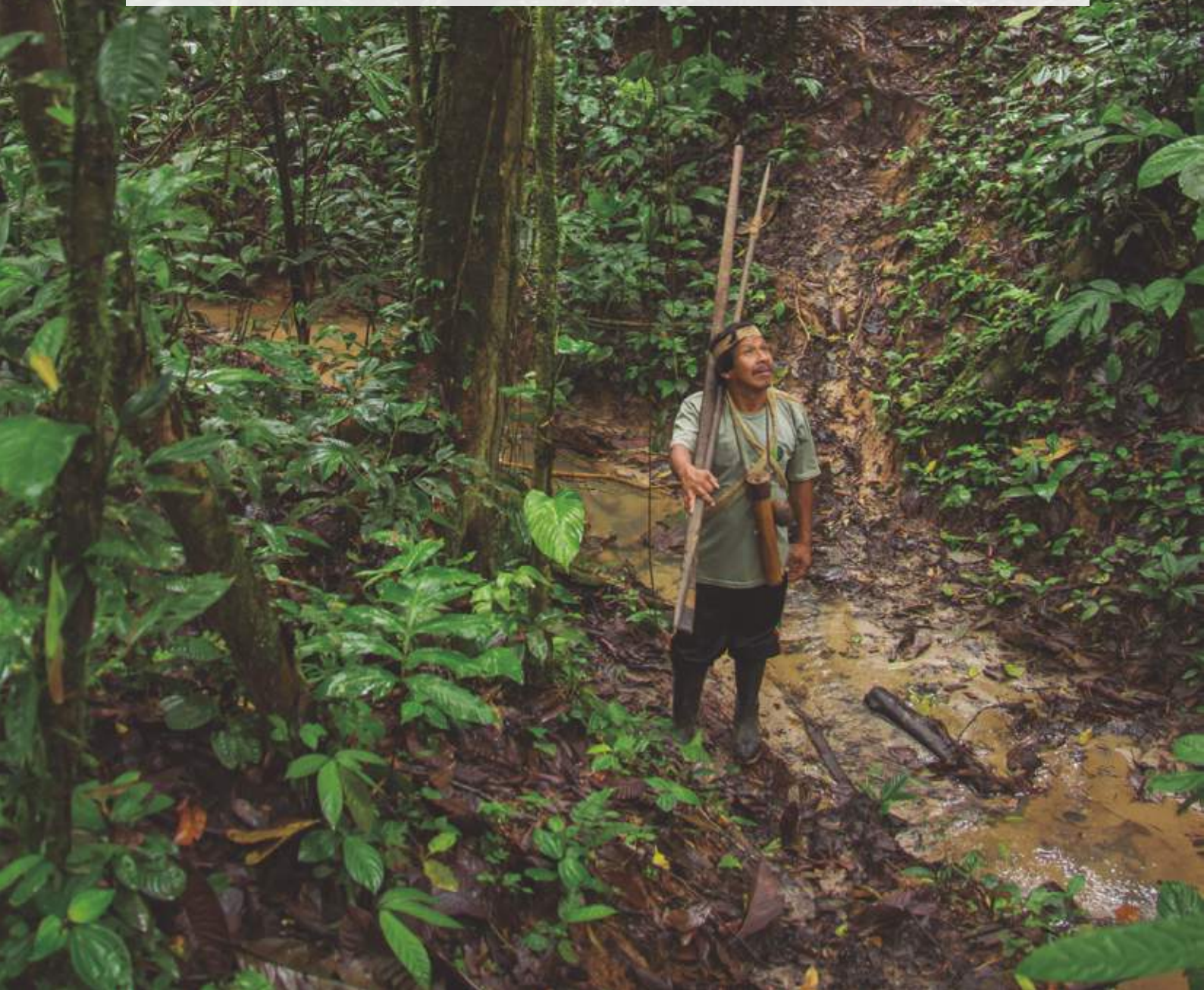
STEPS:

- 2.2.1** Name of the proposed measure.
- 2.2.2** Objective of the proposed measure.
- 2.2.3** Context.
- 2.2.4** Description.
- 2.2.5** Entities in charge of implementation.
- 2.2.6** Duration of the measure.
- 2.2.7** Budget





The 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) is the guiding method by which the Ecuadorian State can measure, understand, value, protect, restore and utilize its resources in biodiversity in a sustainable manner. In response to: commitments made at an international level, the challenges associated with changing its productive matrix, eradicating poverty and the preservation of the biocultural heritage of the Ecuadorian people. The NBS determines 4 objectives and 20 national outcomes to which Ecuador commits itself, until the year 2030, as well as the intermediate goals which it sets for itself to achieve by 2021. These determinations are based on a national planning framework as well as on sectoral and cross-sectoral public policies established by the Decentralized National System of Participatory Planning. From this point on, it seeks to further establish actions to be implemented in the territories to contribute to sustainable development, innovation and a systemic competitiveness across the country.



5. Outcomes of the process of (gender and intercultural) mainstreaming in the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and its 2021 Action Plan.

Following below is a systematic presentation of the proposals that resulted from a participatory process in the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy. The results were in turn the main reference points for the consolidation of the 2016-2021 NBS Action Plan. They also constitute the fundamental concepts for the development of new plans, programs and projects that aim to contribute to the sustainable management of resources in biodiversity and as such be part of the implementation of the NBS.



Outcome 1. The Ecuadorian population has reached an adequate level of knowledge, understanding and consciousness with respect to the importance of its biodiversity and can implement behaviors towards its conservation and sustainable use.

Action Item 1.1. Include within the communication strategies of the CNIG and CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE, and MAE content related to the importance of biodiversity principles, ancestral knowledge and know-how, and the participation of men and women in conservation practices, with a focus on women: indigenous, Ecuadorian of African descent, coastal and highland rural inhabitants.

Strengthen the knowledge, attitudes and skill sets; in terms of gender and interculturality, of the technical personnel of the *Undersecretariat for Natural Heritage* and other groups in related areas.

Success Indicator: Number of communication strategies that integrate and disseminate rules and regulations, content and principles of best practice, and access and benefits of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective.

Success Indicator: Percentage of male and female public servants trained in the principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective.

Achievement: by 2016, the 3 communication strategies will show evidence of content with respect to principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective.

Achievement: by 2017, 150 trained individuals in aspects of gender and interculturality.

Responsible Institutions: MAE; CNIG; CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE, GAD.



Action Item 1.2: Coordinate with the Ministry of Education the development and implementation of an Action Plan with regards to the importance of incorporating the principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective into the national education system; particularly into the curriculum matrices of primary, secondary and higher education.

Success Indicator: by 2017, the principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective would have been incorporated into the curriculum matrices of primary, secondary and higher education.

Success Indicator: Number of children: indigenous, Ecuadorian of African descent, coastal rural inhabitants who have access to scholarship programs and education credits financed by the state for matters of conservation.

Success Indicator: Number of young adult, men and women, who benefit from scholarship programs in matters of cultural values and principles of biodiversity with an emphasis on individuals of indigenous communities and nationalities (indigenous, Ecuadorian of African descent, coastal and highland rural inhabitants).

Achievement: by 2017, the curriculum matrices include principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective at all three levels of education.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, ME, SENESCYT, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 2. Ecuador has integrated the biodiversity into: its national accounting, its national and local development planning strategies, the eradication of poverty and the change of its productive matrix.

Action Item 2.1: Promote and disseminate incentives to encourage the inclusion of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities into the GAD, and similar institutions in the field of environment, in line with constitutional mandates and local development opportunities set forth by the PNBV.

Success Indicator: Number of *Development Plans and Land Management* (PDOT known by its acronym in Spanish) that include and execute management measures of biological diversity which take into account the specific interests of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2020, at least 75% will incorporate and execute principles of biodiversity from a gender and intercultural perspective directly in the PDOT.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 3. Ecuador has consolidated an incentive portfolio for the protection, sustainable use and restoration of its biodiversity; policies have been put in place to eliminate detrimental incentives that limit conservation efforts.

Action Item 3.1: Design and implement an incentive program for a sustainable forestry management plan with the effective participation of men and women from rural areas, indigenous communities and nationalities, to bring to a halt the expansion of the agricultural boundaries.

Success Indicator: Number of projects with sustainable management alternatives led by women and young adults from indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2017, at least 5 approved projects led by young women.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.

Action Item 3.2: Establish strategies to secure financial support that assure the participation of men and women of differing age and ethnic groups in the protection, sustainable use and restoration of resources in biodiversity which takes into account a traditional knowledge base and ancestral know-how of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Success Indicator: Number of households with a female head of family that benefit from the mechanisms of retribution, compensation of environmental gains for indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2020, 85% of the indigenous communities and nationalities, especially the households with a female head of family, are receiving benefits in an equitable manner from the environmental gains of biodiversity.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENPLADES.

Outcome 4. Ecuador manages national policies that ensure a sustainable production and a responsible consumption of goods and services within safe ecological boundaries.

Action Item 4.1: Produce baseline information so that strategic sectors reference it in projects, of sustainable production and responsible consumption of goods and services, and consider through them the traditional knowledge base, ancestral know-how, priorities and demands by men and women and incorporate previous consultation practices and approvals for the proposed interventions.

Success Indicator: Number of energy projects which have been developed in consultation and approved by representatives of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2017, at least 3 projects developed in consultation have been approved.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 5. Ecuador has strengthened the mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan.

Action Item 5.1: Integrate into the work that MAE executes in the Protected Areas (PA) the councils for equality. To achieve a joint approach for the integration of indigenous communities and nationalities, especially in the case of women, to fortify the capabilities and participation in the management and decision making process of Protected Areas.

Success Indicator: Number of signed agreements in the territories for the management of its biodiversity in terms of gender and interculturality.

Achievement: by 2018, 100% of the PA will take into account the: knowledge, know-how, demands and interests of indigenous communities and nationalities and recruit men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities to work in the PA.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 6. Ecuador has secured sustainable financial support for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and the fulfillment of national and international commitments it has made with regards to the conservation of its biodiversity.

Action Item 6.1: Secure international funding to finance specific initiatives that allow the effective involvement of women: indigenous, Ecuadorians of African descent and coastal rural inhabitants in the implementation of the ENBPA in the territories.

Success Indicator: A percentage of the NBS budget is earmarked to promote the involvement of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2017, at least 2 international entities have contributed financial support towards activities that promote gender and interculturality.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 7. Ecuador has reduced at least 15% the rate of loss of terrestrial habitats in relation to the base line established back in 2014.

Action Item 7.1: Promote local measures in indigenous communities and nationalities of, Ecuadorians of African descent, and coastal rural inhabitants; to incorporate traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how in rural territories vulnerable to environmental deterioration.

Success Indicator: Percentage of vulnerable ecosystems undergoing conservation initiatives by indigenous communities, Ecuadorian of African descent, and coastal rural inhabitants.

Achievement: by 2019, "X" percentage of deteriorated territory is undergoing conservation or environmental management, taking into consideration the underlying causes of the degradation.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 8. In a sustainable manner, Ecuador takes advantage of its costal-marine and fresh water resources at an industrial, artisanal and subsistence level, to guarantee the conservation of its biodiversity and that the development of these activities is done within safe ecological limits.

Action Item 8.1: Systemize the base line information about costal-marine ecosystems taking into account the knowledge and know-how of coastal rural inhabitants and Ecuadorians of African descent communities and peoples.

Success Indicators: Percentage of environmentally sustainable initiatives which are proposed and executed by women of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Number of productive projects which are designed and executed while respecting the ecosystems, and in line with agreements undersigned by members of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: By 2019, at least 3 initiatives have been put in place to increase resilience of the ecosystems with the direct involvement of young adult, men and women, of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC.



Outcome 9. Ecuador ensures the sustainable management of agricultural, agroforestry and forestry production systems through the use of clean energy technologies; thus guaranteeing the conservation of its biodiversity.

Action Item 9.1: Develop a set of training tools that incorporate technical content with traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how with regards to agricultural, agroforestry, forestry and aquaculture production systems that enable a sustainable resource management. This instruction is aimed towards technical personnel of MAGAP and GAD; as well as men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Success Indicator: Number of organizations of indigenous communities and nationalities who carry out a sustainable management plan of the production systems.

Achievement: by 2018, the sets of training tools are applied to the production systems.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, MAGAP, SENPLADES, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 10. Ecuador comprehensively manages environmental liabilities, solid, liquid and gaseous waste; as well as controlling pollution factors in water, soil and air, to reach levels that do not harm public health and the natural system.

Action Item 10.1: Integrate traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how to carry out a comprehensive management of environmental liabilities.

Success Indicators: Number of conservation projects managed by indigenous communities and nationalities who live in contingency areas.

Number of conservation projects that recruit women from indigenous communities, Ecuadorians of African descent and coastal rural inhabitants.

Achievement: by 2020, at least 20% of the projects are managed by communities who live in contingency areas and these projects maintain a focus on gender and interculturality.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODAE.



Outcome 11a. Ecuador has implemented a plan to eradicate invasive species from the Galapagos Islands and the monitoring system provides data to ensure a restoration of the affected ecological systems.

Action Item 11a.1: Develop a plan to eradicate invasive species with the active involvement of the inhabitants, men and women, of the affected areas within the Galapagos Islands.

Success Indicator: Number of projects implemented by women who support the eradication of invasive species at the Galapagos Islands.

Achievement: by 2019, the plan to eradicate invasive species is implemented by active involvement of young adults from the Galapagos Islands.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, CGREG, CNIG



Outcome 11b. Ecuador develops and puts into place mechanisms for the prevention, control, eradication and monitoring of invasive species in continental Ecuador which has been prioritized by MAE.

Action Item 11b.1: Research and evaluate social, economic, cultural and other factors of the men and women who inhabit territories affected by alien species, to better understand the risk and attenuating circumstances which they face.

Success Indicator: Number of research studies that look at the causes for the introduction of alien invasive species.

Achievement: by 2018, 4 intervention plans are implemented in the zones of interest with an aim towards food sovereignty and territoriality seen from the perspective of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, AGROCALIDAD, MAGAP, INB.

Outcome 12. Ecuador has conducted a characterization of coral systems and other vulnerable marine ecosystems and developed specific measures to prevent, control and mitigate sources deterioration associated with human activity and climate change.

Action Item 12.1: Strengthened collaboration efforts between state, academic and non-government entities, as well as men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities, to achieve an improved management of coastal-marine resources with a focus on gender and interculturality.

Success Indicator: Number of ancestral practices carried out by communities who seek to preserve coastal-marine ecosystems.

Achievement: by 2017, 4 established collaboration agreements with institutions and organizations that represent fishermen and gatherers are put in place.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENESCYT, CNIG, CODAE.



Outcome 13. Ecuador retains its natural heritage through an integrated and participatory management of SNAP and other conservation tools and mechanisms of its terrestrial, aquatic and marine landscapes.

Action Item 13.1: Establish a training program aimed towards: management committees, park rangers, technical personnel of MAE and GADs, women groups, environmentalists, among other groups, with regards to sustainable management of SNAP, taking into account the knowledge base and ancestral know-how of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Success Indicator: Number of men and women, especially women of indigenous communities, coastal rural inhabitants and Ecuadorians of African descent that work at PA.

Achievement: by 2018, the majority of management plans by the PA's take into account the issue of gender and interculturality.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENPLADES, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 14. Ecuador implements a comprehensive plan to prevent the extinction of wildlife and cultivated species which are considered a priority.

Action Item 14.1: Research and evaluate social, economic, cultural and other factors in the territories where wildlife species, that are deemed in danger of extinction, can be found. To better understand the risk and attenuating circumstances which they are subject to.

Success Indicator: Percentage of protection mechanisms and strategies in place in conjunction with indigenous communities and nationalities, such as: highland rural inhabitants, coastal rural inhabitants, indigenous peoples and Ecuadorians of African descent, to minimize the impact over animal species at risk and deemed in danger of extinction.

Achievement: by 2017, there are 2 comprehensive management mechanisms in place to minimize the impact over animal species at risk and deemed in danger of extinction.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE



Outcome 15. Ecuador uses its genetic resources in a sustainable manner in conjunction with the changes to the productive matrix and food sovereignty.

Action Item 15.1: Analyze the risks and potential threats to its biodiversity and ecosystem resources and the subsequent causes (economic and socio-cultural) in order to take effective action towards a sustainable approach to its genetic resources.

Success Indicator: Number of conservation studies and selection of seed material carried out in conjunction with the knowledge and know-how of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities.

Achievement: by 2016, 4 technical studies about the risks and potential threats to its biodiversity.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENESCYT, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE, CNIG.





Outcome 16. Ecuador restores degraded habitats in order to increase the resilience of its ecosystems and its ability to provide essential goods and services, in line with its plan of the *Good Living* for its people and the changes to its productive matrix.

Action Item 16.1: Incorporate the involvement of men and women of various ages and ethnic background in the efforts to restore degraded habitats.

Success Indicator: Percentage of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities who participate in the efforts to restore degraded habitats.

Achievement: by 2020, 60% of men and 40% of women of indigenous communities and nationalities participate in reforestation efforts of degraded habitats; in accordance with the communities that make part of agreements in place with MAE and the provincial GAD entities.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENPLADES, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 18. Ecuador has established a system of protection, preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge, ancestral know-how and traditional cultural expressions relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity.

Action Item 18.1: Develop a base line against which to identify traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how related to biodiversity and ecosystems, and the conservation practices that, particularly women, in indigenous communities and nationalities possess.

Success Indicator: Number of studies on traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how on biodiversity.

Achievement: by 2018, at least 4 studies will be conducted in indigenous communities, Ecuadorians from African descent, and coastal rural inhabitants, as a base line to create bio-cultural protocols.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENESCYT, GAD, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.



Outcome 19. Through the designation of the Research Institute for Biodiversity, Ecuador, encourages applied scientific research and knowledge management of its natural heritage and develops innovative technological processes that support the change of its productive matrix.

Action Item 19.1: Define in conjunction with the *Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres*, the *Igualdad de Género* and the *Consejo de Nacionalidades y Pueblos* the research opportunities related to biodiversity, knowledge and ancestral know-how with an outlook on gender and interculturality.

Success Indicators: National index developed through the participation of men and women of indigenous communities and nationalities, classifying vascular plants and vertebrate animals, terrestrial and aquatic, species.

Number of indexes classifying traditional knowledge and ancestral know-how about conservation and benefits of local flora and fauna in matters of public health, nutrition practices, agriculture, amongst others, in indigenous communities and nationalities to benefit sustainable development at local and national levels.

Achievement: by 2018, 3 research proposals will be in progress.

Responsible Institutions: MAE, SENESCYT, INIAP, INP, INB, CNIG, CODAE- CODEPMOC - CODENPE.






As a final message



The formulation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and a gender- sensitive and interculturality action plan, leaves several lessons learned and pending tasks. On one side, the verification of constitutional, legislative and public policies developments, demonstrate the desire of the Ecuadorian State to continue the construction of a development model based on principles of social and environmental justice; equity and real equality in favor of rights holders; and non-discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, sexual diversity, cultural diversity, among others. Furthermore, the continuous creation of National Councils for equality, as a joint effort between civil society and State, present positive scenarios for the development of an institutional framework to ensure the full enjoyment and the exercise of rights established in the Constitution and human rights international instruments.

Now, in order to move from a theoretical understanding towards the operationalization of gender and intercultural approaches, for example in the management of biodiversity, we require mechanisms and instruments, capacities, even institutional and individual intentions. Precisely, these challenges mean the beginning of the creation process of the National Biodiversity Strategy; which led to the Ministry of Environment to consider the need to design and implement a gender-sensitive and interculturality planning exercise. The result, which can always be improved, is a first attempt to substantively mainstream these approaches into an instrument of biodiversity planning at a national level, which has been applied synthetically in this Technical Note as well as, in Annexes accompanying the National Biodiversity Strategy and its 2016-2021 Action Plan.





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