



ECOS, Regional Cooperation to address Environmental Crimes

ANNUAL REPORT



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Annual report

Y1 2022 (October 2021 to September 2022)

ECOS project is implemented by the UNODC's Global Programme on crimes that affect the Environment (GP-CAE), which is part of the UNODC's Border Management Branch (BMB).

- Program purpose and program approach – brief outline

The overall objective is to **improve regional cooperation and the capacity of enforcement and justice system actors to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute transnational conservation crimes in the Amazon**. Specifically, the project sets out to address the threat to the Amazon from **wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and minerals-related crimes and illegal trade** in these natural resources. It will be accomplished using a **“crime scene to court” approach** based on targeted action along the entire criminal chain. The main goal is to improve regional cooperation and build the capacity of criminal justice system actors to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute transnational conservation crimes in **Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname**. The initiative also will **focus on tri-border areas**.

The project has three core interventions:

- Improving **regional cooperation**, backed by national and regional interventions.
- Building the evidence base for a better understanding and setting up the **baseline on the extent of TCCs in the Amazon**, driven by the government request and ownership of the outcome reports.
- Improving the legislation in the region through the rollout of the **UNODC Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime**, among others, in interested countries.

The expected results are:

- Improved **inter-agency coordination** at the national level and strengthened the capacity of criminal justice system actors to investigate and prosecute TCCs.
- Improved **evidence and availability of baselines on TCC** using UNODC Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment flagship tools.
- Improved application of **legislation and increased judicial cooperation**.
- Improved regional cooperation of law enforcement through the **South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN)** and improved coordination among other criminal justice actors.

- Overall status of program progress towards program objectives (narrative) and theory of change

As stated before, ECOS's overall objective is to improve regional cooperation and the capacity of enforcement and justice system actors to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute transnational conservation crimes in the Amazon.

In order to accomplish the objective, the project has established four strategic approaches, that are:



- **Strategic Approach 0 – Build evidence base to support addressing TCC:**

During the project's first year, 3 out of 6 countries are currently working on implementing ICCWC tools to establish baseline information on drivers of crimes that affect the environment. These countries are:

Brazil: While the **ICCWC Indicator Framework (IF)** was implemented before the ECOS project, the methodology of the tools allows the team to conduct a follow-up and update workshop from the last results. This workshop will be organized next year -**Q2 2023**- according to the national counterparts' agenda. Also, the ECOS team is preparing all the arrangements for applying **ICCWC Toolkit**. The international consultants for this process have been hired and are currently working on the preliminary phase of desk research.

Ecuador: Since **February 2022**, the ECOS team has been working on implementing the **ICCWC IF**. As a result, **by May 2022**, the desk research phase was completed, and the workshops for implementation of the tool with national counterparts. This exercise has been divided into two, Galapagos and the Continent, considering the administrative conditions in the islands. **By September 2022**, UNODC will present the main findings and results of the **ICCWC IF** to national counterparts, and **by October 2022**, the team will review the final report along with ICCWC partners; this report will be presented to the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador in the following months.

Regarding the ICCWC toolkit, the hiring process of international consultants will be conducted in **Q1 2023¹**.

Peru: Since **August 2022**, the ECOS team has been working on implementing the **ICCWC IF**. As part of the work planned for the environmental crime platform, the **ICCWC IF** workshop will be conducted between **Q2 and Q3 2023**.

About the other three ECOS countries, this is the status:

Colombia: **By April 2022**, the ECOS team presented the **ICCWC IF** during the inception mission. Due to the Presidential elections, this activity was delayed until the new government took office. **By October 2022**, the ECOS team will conduct consultation meetings with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to plan the implementation of this tool.

Guyana and Surinam: The team is currently working on the proper approach to implementing ECOS in these countries. It is planned to start with the inception phase if the governments allow it to conduct in-country missions.

- **Strategic Approach 1 – Strengthen coordination of transnational enforcement action and judicial cooperation in tri-border areas**

During ECOS Y1, the team has worked on implementing the following:

¹ Q1 2023: October – December 2022
Q2 2023: January – March 2023
Q3 2023: April – June 2023
Q4 2023: July – September 2023



Transnational enforcement action coordination: Due to the inception phases and working meetings with national counterparts and USAID, the ECOS team has been working on the participation of beneficiary countries in the **Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting (WIRE)**. This participation facilitates cooperation between origin, transit, and destination countries worldwide. The **WIRE** initiative seeks to **bring together law enforcement and criminal justice officials from selected countries to intensify cooperation in investigating transnational criminal networks involved in the trafficking of wildlife. Since its inception in 2016**, five UNODC-led WIRE meetings have been organized, serving as a platform to discuss cooperation on interception, investigation, and prosecution of wildlife and forest crime cases. It is the first meeting in which LAC countries will participate.

Support to South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN): During Y1, the team worked on the drafting of the **Terms of Reference of SudWEN** among the countries' Permanent Missions and their technical focal points. Peru has been invited to lead SudWEN as coordinator and president of the WEN. **By October 2022**, it is expected to communicate formally with Peru about its decision.

- **Strategic Approach 2 - Strengthen criminal provisions within wildlife and forest-related legal frameworks:**

Through the implementation of the **ICCWC tools**, the project is determining the main weakness and opportunities for improving the criminal legal frameworks among ECOS countries.

Meanwhile, **during Y1**, the team worked on the **UNODC's technical guides** translation and adaptation for drafting legislation in support of the ECOS countries.

- **Strategic Approach 3 – Build capacity for effective detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of TCCs (at national level)**

The team has been working on organizing diverse workshops **since Q2 2022**. The team and national counterparts are **planning, designing, developing, and implementing technology tools** to improve national and regional capacities to detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes that affect the environment.

- **Summary of completed activities and progress towards results under this award during the timeframe of the report**

During the reporting period, UNODC planned, developed, and participated in several activities at different levels of interaction and intervention. This report will summarize the main activities developed by ECOS with the support of the **UNODC's Border Management Branch (BMB)** through the **Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment** in each thematic area and the actions implemented at national and regional levels.

Wildlife Crimes

Translation of Guide on Drafting Legislation to Combat Wildlife Crime into Spanish and Portuguese:
This guide's translation and language adaptation will allow ECOS countries to use this document as a **guidance tool for improving and strengthening their national legal frameworks regarding wildlife crime**. This document, rather than a model legislative text, is a technical document that **provides approaches, research, examples, and good practices from several countries around the world on**



how to draft legislation to combat wildlife crime. The translation of this guide is part of the activities under **Component F Regional capacity building activities** of the ECOS project.

Preparation for the ICCWC Toolkit – Hiring international consultants: Implementing the **ICCWC Toolkit** is part of the activities considered under **Component E, Evidence gathering of drivers of conservation crimes**. As part of the methodology, for proper implementation of the toolkit, international consultants with experience and knowledge in legislation and law enforcement have been selected to conduct the toolkit in ECOS countries that requested the tool. Regarding this activity, identifying and hiring the leading consultant was part of the main activities for implementing the toolkit. Also, international consultants for the toolkit implementation in Brazil were hired and are currently working on the preparatory phase of the tool (desk research). Finally, the identification of international consultants for Ecuador has been completed, and the hiring process will start.

Regional gender study: This activity is supported by the **UNODC's Research and Analysis Branch (RAB)**. The locations of interest have been identified, and a regional analysis of data gaps has been completed. The hiring process for consultants is starting in Q4 2022.

This study will start in Brazil and then be extrapolated to the rest of the ECOS countries. The initiative aims **to understand women's role in the different thematic areas tackled by the project and in each part of the diverse value chains (timber, wildlife, minerals, fisheries)**. This study will provide elements for a regional strategy for gender-linked Environment topics. The team is reaching out to specific sectors related to women's rights to involve national authorities, civil society, and academia.

The first steps for this study will arrange during Q2 2023.

Crimes related to the fisheries sector

Legislative Guide on Addressing Crimes in the Fisheries Sector: In 2021, UNODC, with technical support from the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, started developing a **Legislative Guide on addressing crimes in the fisheries sector**. The setting of this Guide involved the engagement of two expert consultants. In February 2022, UNODC convened an Expert Group meeting to review the Guide. The tool is in the final clearance process and **will be published in Q4 2023 in English, Spanish and French**. In 2023, UNODC and FAO will disseminate the Guide in different regions. The tool is intended to support States in **enacting or strengthening domestic legislation to prevent and combat these illicit activities**, which can represent a lucrative source of profit for organized criminal groups. States are encouraged to use this Guide as a practical tool to draft, amend or review relevant national legislation within their constitutional and legislative framework.

UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector in Spanish and Portuguese: In 2022, UNODC translated the **UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector** into both languages. The team is disseminating this document to relevant counterparts and partners, **encouraging them to design and implement complementary activities with ECOS**.

Crimes related with trafficking of minerals and illegal mining

Legislative Guide developed by UNODC: In March 2022, UNODC convened an Expert Group Meeting to review the **Legislative Guide on Illegal Mining and Trafficking in Metals and Minerals**. Further, UNODC is developing a **Diagnostic toolkit on illegal mining and trafficking in precious metals**. During

this period, UNODC hired a consultant for this purpose. The aim of the toolkit is to provide a basis to work with Member States **to identify vulnerabilities and red flags along various stages of the gold supply chain** and **to develop activities and tools to close these gaps**. To support this endeavour, UNODC researched concrete case studies, allowing it to conclude the most relevant challenges in the gold supply chain. This initiative focused mainly on Latin America and several sources and transit jurisdictions. It is complemented by additional research on other regions conducted under different funding streams.

Informal Law Enforcement Network meetings: In cooperation with the **OECD** and **WCO**, **UNODC convenes the Informal Law Enforcement Network Meetings on Minerals Related Crimes**. During the **5th meeting, held in Paris in June 2022**, the focus was on **law enforcement challenges and opportunities in Latin America**. An agreement was found to **plan the 7th meeting in Latin America** to provide a platform for more concrete discussions about challenges in the Americas and further establish a network as the basis for enhanced cooperation. **Current talks are ongoing to host the meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname.**

South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN)

Activities implemented during ECOS Y1 around SudWEN:

- **Jan 17th**, UNODC NV CU 2022/10 to SudWEN Member Countries requesting to provide comments to the draft of the Terms of Reference (1st review).
- **February**, finalization of the report of the first SudWEN regional meeting held in November-December 2021
- **Feb 23rd**, meeting with Peruvian Permanent Mission (PM) - Explore the possibility of Peru taking on the role of SudWEN Chair.
- **April 05th - 06th**, SudWEN side event “SudWEN as a catalyst for regional cooperation” held in the margins of the II High-Level Conference of America on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Cartagena, Colombia/Meeting with US Government in the margins of the Conference in Cartagena to update on SudWEN progress.
- **April 16th – 20th**, Meetings with the US Government (USG) in Vienna in the margins of the CCPCJ to update on SudWEN progress
- **May 09th**, Virtual Meeting with the Department of Interior, US, to share information about SudWEN and ECOS in the region
- **June 01st**, Meeting with Peruvian Permanent Mission to invite the country to lead SudWEN.
- **June 16th**, Meeting with the Peruvian Ambassador of the Permanent Mission in Vienna with the Chief of the Environment Team for inviting the country to lead SudWEN.
- **June 27th**, Meeting with the Direction of Environment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru to invite the country to lead SudWEN.
- **July 13th**, 2022: Follow-up meeting with the Permanent Mission of Peru in Vienna
- **August**, Translation to English and Portuguese of the report of the first SudWEN regional meeting held in November-December 2021.
- **Aug 01st**, 2022: UNODC NV CU 2022/270 to SudWEN member countries requesting confirmation of the designated focal points (primary and alternate) as well as to provide additional comments to the revised draft of the Terms of Reference (2nd review).
- **Aug 17th**, Meeting with the BMB Team and local Peru team with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) team to present SudWEN and the possibility of Peru taking the Presidency and



- Coordination roles where the MFA expressed their interest in the Presidency position pending confirmation of the Coordination role.
- **Aug 31st**, UNODC Peru team meeting with MFA in Lima to explain in detail the objective and scope of SudWEN and the steps to be taken to chair SudWEN.
 - **Aug 22nd**, UNODC- USAID -USFWS meeting on SudWEN support at US Embassy Peru
 - **Sept 06th**, Meeting with the Peruvian - Follow up on the possibility of Peru taking on the role of Chair of the Network.
 - **Sept 13th**, Follow-up call with the PM of Peru.
 - September 16th, 2022: UNODC Peru team met with FEMA (Environmental Prosecutor's Office) to stress the importance of having a concrete answer to their desire to lead the network actively.
 - **Sept 30th**, Due to FEMA's unavailability to lead the network, the team met with OPROCTI (Cooperation and Projects Prosecutor's Office), exploring FECOR's (Organized Crime Prosecutor's Office) availability to lead SudWEN.

High-level and regional activities:

The following activities were held in the framework of Project ECOS during this year:

- **Feb 7th, 2022**, UNODC launched its new Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025

The **UNODC's Executive Director Ghada Waly** presented in Colombia the **UNODC Strategy 2022-2025** showing a forward-looking **Strategic Vision for UNODC in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**, prioritizing four investment areas: addressing the world drug problem, combatting transnational organized crime which includes the fight against crimes that affect the environment, countering corruption and economic crime, and enhancing crime prevention and criminal justice.

For this event UNODC convened national and regional LAC authorities, as well as partners from the International Cooperation, CSO, academia and other relevant.

This vision promotes a **specific regional initiative** focusing on strengthening normative and operational capacities to address crimes that affect the environment, especially **illegal mining, trafficking in wildlife and forest products and in waste, as well as crimes in the fisheries sector**. All of these criminal markets are heavily coordinated in the region and often use the same networks and facilitators engaged in drug and arms trafficking. Although recently there have been considerable efforts by some countries in LAC to strengthen their criminal justice systems to address the complexity of crimes that affect the environment, much more is required. **UNODC's Global Programme on crimes that Affect the Environment (GP-CAE)** will continue to lead **efforts to strengthen, coordinate and build regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Networks** to bring together national agencies to undertake national and regional information sharing, investigations and operations. It will also continue **to build national and regional capacity focusing on strengthening all components of the criminal justice system to address these crimes in a holistic "crime scene to court" approach** and ensuring coordination with International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partners, as well as working closely with civil society, and academia partners.



- **April 5-6th**, High-Level Conference of the Americas (Cartagena, Colombia)

During the reporting period, UNODC participated in the **II High-Level Conference of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia**. In this event **USAID, WCS and UNODC organized a joint side event “Sub-regional initiatives implemented by USAID and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and UNODC in addressing wildlife crime”**. In this event, both UNODC and WCS presented their projects **“Together for Conservation”** and **“ECOS, Regional Cooperation to Address Environmental Crimes”**, both supported by USAID in South America.

SudWEN regional side event

On April 5th, UNODC and the US Department of State held a side event on **“SudWEN as a catalyst for regional cooperation”** at the II High-Level Conference of America in Cartagena, Colombia. The event focused on how the network can serve as a **platform to support the actions of its members, foster cooperation between law enforcement and criminal justice actors, and promote the exchange of information and discussion at the technical level on trends and patterns of tracking and trade in wildlife**. The team discussed with selected Permanent Missions in Vienna their possible interest in taking on the role of Chair of SudWEN. Peru has been the most receptive country to this proposal, and the team’s efforts have been focused on that direction, working together with the US Department of State. A demarche was made to the Permanent Representative of Peru in Vienna, and the head of the team flew to Lima to meet with counterparts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss in further detail this possibility. An official response is pending.

The comments provided by Member States to the draft Terms of Reference have been compiled into one single version that is ready to be shared with participating countries.

- **April 21st**, Webinar: Environmental Crimes and their impacts on aquatic ecosystems in the Amazon

A joint webinar on **how environmental crimes impact aquatic ecosystems in the Amazon** was held in collaboration with WCS. The event was attended by Kerry Reeves, Deputy Director of the Office of Environment and Sustainable Growth from USAID; Sue Lieberman, WCS Vice President of International Policy; Jorge Rios, UNODC’s Chief of the Environment Team; Marion Adeney, Director of Amazon and Fire Programs at Conservation X Labs and Camila Ferrera, from WCS. Participants and the event panel highlighted that **addressing these threats requires comprehensive strategies that are reinforced and must be led by both governments and civil society**.

- **May 5-6th**, High-level event for launching ICCWC indicator framework and technical workshop for implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (Galapagos, Ecuador)

The launch and implementation of the **ICCWC Indicator Framework** for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (IF) were held in the Galapagos Islands. This event aimed **to make a self-assessment evaluation to know the responses of Galapagos authorities and institutions in wildlife crimes**.

The event included **100 participants (technical and administrative authorities of the wildlife sector, justice operators, customs, park rangers, civil society, and international cooperation)**.



High-level authorities present at the event included Gustavo Manrique Miranda, Minister of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador; Danny Rueda, Director of the Galapagos National Park; Hugo Arnal, Project Management Specialist of USAID Ecuador, and Jorge E. Ríos, UNODC's Chief of the Environment Team.

As a result, the **UNODC Environment Team** has reinforced its commitment to working through its **technical assistance model**. This model is based on **interagency, participative, and joint work**. **National authorities lead all areas of project processes of planning, design, development, and implementation of technical tools and capacity building.**

- **May 10-12th**, High-level event for a workshop and launching ICCWC Indicator Framework and the Wildlife Crime Analysis Toolkit and ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (Quito, Ecuador)

Just like the ICCWC IF exercise held in Galapagos, the ECOS team also developed the implementation of the **ICCWC Indicator Framework** and the launch of **The Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit** in **Ecuador Continental (Quito)**.

The **Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit** is designed **to assist government officials in wildlife and forestry administrations, policymakers, customs officials, and other relevant enforcement agencies and may also be helpful for independent experts and research entities.**

The event was attended by Daniel Sánchez Bustamante, Country Representative of USAID; Glenda Ortega, Undersecretary of Natural Heritage in the representation of the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador; Jorge E. Ríos, Chief of the Environment Team of UNODC and Antonino De Leo, Representative of UNODC Office Ecuador and Peru and counted with **over 100 participants**.

- **June 7th**, Strategic Dialogue on Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual event)

The **EU** and **UNODC** held a **Strategic Dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean**, intending to highlight **common priorities and challenges and identify opportunities to align efforts further and establish synergies**. Alan Cole, UNODC's Director of the Border Management Branch, home to the Environment Team, attended the dialogue and shared an update on the ECOS project implementation.

- **June 28th**, Launch of ECOS and *Together for Conservation* projects – High Level Event (Lima, Perú)

The **high-level launch of the USAID-funded Projects: "ECOS, Regional Cooperation to Address Environmental Crimes" of UNODC and "Together for Conservation" of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** was held on June 28th.

The event brought together several national authorities from academia, judiciary and administrative officers from the environmental sector, and civil society representatives in Peru, all committed to addressing environmental crimes.

This activity was developed in **coordination with USAID and WCS to present USAID's regional projects regarding conservation in the Amazon Region**. The event gathered **more than 120 authorities**, such as OSINFOR, SERFOR, and FEMA.

The proposal provided a space for exchanging information and experiences where the participants could create ties with USAID, UNDOC, and WCS. The event had three central moments:



- Video presentations of **ECOS** and **Together for Conservation** projects
- **Speeches from representatives of USAID, WCS and UNODC:** John McNamara, Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy; Daniela Pogliani, Deputy Chief of Party of WCS Perú and Jorge Rios, Chief of the Environment Team of UNODC.
- **Networking space:** After the presentation of the project, a networking event with representatives of public institutions, the academy, and other stakeholders related to the thematic areas of the project took place and allowed the exchange of contacts and information to aim for the implementation of the ECOS project.

Parallel to this, the event had information tables on each of the projects, where experts from UNODC and WCS shared key materials such as fact sheets and resolved doubts regarding the scope and development of the projects.

The **UNODC Comms team closely coordinated this event with WCS and USAID**. The event has a presence in several communication channels at national and regional levels, as well as the participation of regional entities such as Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, General Coordinator of the **Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica** (COICA). The meeting also had a presence in **national and international media of country offices of both projects and national counterparts, and meetings were held with national counterparts such as academia (Universidad de Lima), national (SERNANP), and civil society (SPDA)**.

Communication Strategy for ECOS

Communication is a cross-cutting area throughout the entire project. Since the project's inception, the Comms team has been working **to generate and strengthen the communication, visibility, and project positioning of the ECOS Project as a regional reference in the fight against environmental crimes in the Amazon**.

The Comms team aims to:

- **Expand the scope of dissemination of project activities**

ECOS Branding guidelines: The branding process of the ECOS project consisted of generating an image and brand that can be replicated throughout its implementation. To achieve it, the team created a logo from the union **UNODC's Global Program on Crimes that Affect the Environment logo and the USAID logo (brand guidelines of both institutions were considered to respect the colours, sizes, and uses of their images)**, including the logo in three languages Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

The branding also proposed a baseline of colours, with USAID blue being the main one throughout the project and (04) secondary colours corresponding to the thematic areas: wildlife, forest, fisheries, and minerals. The team designed additional guides, publications, and social media, as well as the taking and use of images and videos (use of fonts, logo).

ECOS merchandising based on the ECOS branding plan, the communications team worked on **informative materials** that helped the **correct positioning of the project at a technical and visual level:** general factsheet and the thematic lines of work, informative videos, banners, folders, pens, USBs, and others. These materials have been **used throughout the workshops, events, and other activities** within the framework of the project.



Furthermore, the team has generated PPT templates, attendance lists, agendas, and other materials that streamline the ECOS work at the regional level.

ECOS naming: The previous name of the project (CTCCA) generated confusion in public due to its English pronunciation and extension: **Combating Transnational Conservation Crimes in the Amazon**. For this reason, the communications team worked on a new naming proposal.

After a participatory process among UNODC members and constant communication with the USAID team, it was decided that ECOS would be the new name for the following reasons:

- "ECOS" is a word with the same pronunciation and connotation in different languages.
- The word "ECOS" has a positive association with actions and initiatives that protect the environment and the ecosystem.
- The word "ECOS" can be used not only for wildlife and forests but also for minerals and fisheries (ECOS wildlife, ECOS forest, ECOS minerals, ECOS fisheries).
- "ECOS" is a word that can be used in social media contexts and hashtags as it is easy to pronounce and remember, which will facilitate more significant positioning of the project in a shorter period.

ECOS audio-visual materials: Preparation of **audio-visual materials** to provide **greater visibility to the actions carried out** within the framework of the project, especially the **participatory and democratic work carried out by law enforcement agents**. These contents are disseminated through press releases, social networks, and email marketing tools like MailChimp.

Work with media outlets: Contact is being established **with the regional and national press media outlets of the ECOS countries** to publish the actions being developed.

Likewise, all actions are also marked in under the social media plan. This **plan is reflected in the official Twitter channels of UNODC and USAID**, as well as national and regional counterparts, when applicable.

- **Contribute to greater knowledge and positioning of the issues of forests, wildlife, mining and fishing in the Amazon and the work that the ECOS Project, together with the authorities and key actors of the countries, do in these fields.**

Development of informative material: **Informative factsheets of the ECOS thematic areas**, as well as informative clips, which are currently being developed. Currently, Comms team is working on the dissemination of these materials in the countries where the project is being implemented.

Translation of thematic areas documents: Work has been done on the translation of documents corresponding to the thematic areas of the project, such as the Regional Meeting Report of The South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN) in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

- **Support in terms of communication the regional, national, and international processes and activities carried out by ECOS Project, and those in which it participates.**

Development of events and support in workshops: Comms team is leading the management and coordination of high-level events to disseminate the project and its objective in ECOS countries. The team is working on **managing strategies ranging from planning the event's concept note, working with the admin team to acquire spaces and services, working with a technical team for presentations, and working with the media and counterparts to disseminate it.**



Additionally, the **Comms team has worked closely with the technical team** to manage workshops for justice operators at the national and regional levels. Materials like PowerPoint presentations, social media diffusion, invitations, and others were made based on the image and brand guidelines of the project.

- **Generate and strengthen communication work in the network, with communication specialists from national counterpart entities and strategic partners.**

Work with counterpart communications office: Contact has been established with the communication offices of counterpart project institutions at both regional and national levels. Some of the institutions worked with are, among others: **Civil Society:** Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), WWF, Wild Aid. **National counterparts:** Galápagos National Park, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador, Technological Innovation Center of Wood (CITEmadera), Agency for the Supervision of Forest Resources and Wildlife (OSINFOR). **Academy:** National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP)

Work with communications offices of UNODC and USAID: Comms team is working with USAID's and UNODC's nationals and regional offices to effectively disseminate the work within the framework of the project and have a presence in each country.

Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting: Participation of ECOS countries in the **Wildlife Inter-Regional Meeting (WIRE)** to create a bond of cooperation between origin, transit, and destination countries worldwide. The **WIRE initiative seeks to bring together law enforcement and criminal justice officials from selected countries worldwide to intensify cooperation in investigating transnational criminal networks involved in the trafficking of wild fauna and flora.** Since its inception in 2016, five UNODC-led WIRE meetings have been organized, serving as a platform to discuss cooperation on interception, investigation, and prosecution of wildlife and forest crime cases. In 2022, the WIRE will take place in Thailand from November 30th to December 2nd. With USAID's authorization to make ECOS countries will participate in the meeting, all the invitations were sent, and delegates from the institutions were received.

Ecuador will be participating with **two prosecutors** -one from Galápagos. **Peru** will be attended with the **General Prosecutor**. **Colombia** has informed that a **regional prosecutor** will participate, but the confirmation is still waiting. **Brazil** will join with **one delegate from the Federal Police and one from Customs** (this delegate's trip will be covered by other funds since USAID authorized sponsoring only one representative). Administrative activities are currently taking place to facilitate all the logistics required for ECOS participation in the WIRE.

National-level activities:

Recruitment processes for ECOS national staffs is briefly described below:

- **Brazil:** Project Coordinator (SB5)- recruitment in process- Project Associate (SB3) recruited.
- **Colombia:** vacancies for Project Coordinator (SB4) and Project Associate (SB3) were advertised and the review of qualifying candidates is currently ongoing.
- **Ecuador:** Regional Coordinator (P3 international), Chief Technical Adviser (P3 international), Project Assistant (SB3), National Project Coordinator (SB4), recruitment completed
- **Peru:** Project manager (SB4); environmental specialist (SB2); 1 UNV – legal specialist , 2 UNV for Comms, 2 Project Assistants (SB3).

Brazil

Activities related to ECOS project in Brazil started with an initial engagement with counterparts through virtual meetings and the recruitment process for project staff in 2021. The first introductory meeting of Brazil ECOS Project Coordinator² with USAID Brazil, USFWS and US DoS was on 14 January 2022.

Other introductory meetings with key stakeholders were held to present the project, identify areas for cooperation, synergies, and initiate a stakeholder mapping. Throughout Q2 and Q3 2022 UNODC continued the mapping of stakeholders, identified geographical priority areas, held round table consultations with national authorities and other relevant actors, and participated in events:

- **Inception Phase Mission in Brazil (HQ/Regional Coordination):** the mission was on April 11th - 13th and held meetings with the following stakeholders as part of the roundtable consultations of the inception phase of ECOS: Ministry of Environment (MMA), Brazilian Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (IBAMA), Federal Police, Prosecutor's Office, Freeland Brazil and WWF.
- **USAID mission to Brazil:** a meeting took place at UNODC office in Brasilia (on March 21st), where ECOS team and the Representative presented the activities developed by UNODC in Brazil and discussed the implementation of ECOS project in Brazil.
- **Mission to Belem:** the mission was held from April 27th – 29th to hold technical meetings with national authorities and other relevant actors. It was an opportunity to present the UNODC work in the environment area, and it also provided a good source of information in terms of necessities and identification of relevant stakeholders for the project.
- **Mission to Natal:** the mission was held from May 02nd – 06th and aimed at participating in the national event promoted by the Federal Police – IX National Meeting of Heads of Police Stations for the Repression of Crimes against the Environment and Historical Heritage, which made it possible to present the ECOS project to Federal Police officers that are currently working in operations to combat environment crimes such as wildlife trafficking, illegal deforestation, and others.
- **Meetings with relevant actors:** the team also held some meetings with Federal Police, IBAMA, ABRAMPA, Customs, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Ministry of Environment, Freeland Brasil, WWF, Instituto Vida Livre to consult the authorities about the activities they carry out and identify their needs.

In addition, relevant publications and documents were translated into Portuguese, including:

- Report of the Brazilian Event on ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
- Term of Reference for the operationalization of the SudWEN Initiative
- Regional Meeting Report – South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN)
- UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector
- UNODC Best Practice Guide on Forensic Timber Identification

During Q3, ECOS team put most of its efforts to advance with the **preparatory work for the Toolkit implementation**, planning the event to address the results of the **Indicator Framework** and

² ECOS Project Coordinator Brazil: Due to a poor performance it was decided to re-open the position. This is expected to Q1 2023.

identification of actions regarding the recommendations followed by the launching of the Toolkit in coordination with the **Department of Species of the Ministry of Environment** (focal point).

The preparatory work entailed the following activities: introductory meeting to the toolkit methodology with MMA; roadmap proposal with agenda and list of focal points; and coordination meetings to organize the event. However, due to the presidential election in October 2022, MMA requested UNODC to postpone the ICCWC Indicator Framework event, that was planned for November (Q1 2023), when the in-country mission of the toolkit experts is also expected to take place.

ECOS team also:

- Participated in the **USAID Implementing Partners Meeting** in August, which aimed to present **USAID-supported initiatives**, share knowledge and practices, and inform about **USAID's strategy**. ECOS team provided some materials about the project so that other USAID partners could learn about it. During the two-day event, it was also possible to **exchange information with USAID team regarding the project implementation in Brazil**.
- Attended the **Timber Identification Workshop** in Lima, Peru, in September. The Workshop had three moments: the presentation of projects and initiatives of the participating entities; working group to identify commonalities and opportunities for joint work; and next steps and conclusions. In addition, during the mission in Peru, there were other activities related to the workshop, such as preparatory meetings, visit to CITEmaderas and meeting to discuss the possibility of replicating the exercise in Brazil in Q2/3 2023. It was a good opportunity **to get to know the focal points, understand the work carried out by the ECOS team in Peru regarding forest crime and to get ideas on how to work in this thematic area in Brazil**.
- ECOS is supporting the **Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meetings (WIRE)** organization, that will be held in Q1 2023, by sending out invitations, exchanging information with authorities on the participation in the event, Leahy vetting process, etc. **Brazil will have 2 participants: 1 Customs and 1 Federal Police. One of them will be supported by ECOS Project.**

Virtual meetings

Some relevant meetings that took place throughout 2022 are listed below.

- **Jan 18th**, Meeting between ECOS Brasil, Freeland Brasil and Brazilian Biodiversity Information System (SiBBR) to present the project and learn more about the initiatives developed by the other organizations.
- **Feb 16th**, Meeting with Transparency International Brasil to present the project and understand ways to cooperate.
- **March 24th**, Meeting between ECOS Brasil and Plataforma Cipó to present the project and find possible synergies.
- **April 5th**, Meeting between ECOS Brazil, Instituto Vida Livre and IBAMA to present the projects and discuss possible synergies/Meeting between ECOS Brazil, Tapajos (another UNODC project in Brazil) and Interpol to exchange of information regarding the initiatives and finding synergies for cooperating in the future.
- **April 6th**, Meeting between ECOS Brazil and USAID Brazil for alignment between ECOS and USAID teams regarding the meetings during the Inception Phase Mission in Brazil.
- **May 23rd**, ECOS Reporting on indicators / MEL to discuss the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan for the ECOS project.

- **May 26th**, Meeting between ECOS Brazil, LEAP Brazil and Customs (Receita Federal/COREP) to discuss about potential trainings and joint activities.
- **May 30th**, Meeting with the Ministry of Environment to know the focal point for SudWEN in Brazil.
- **June 22nd**, Meeting between ECOS Brazil and USAID Brazil to update the list of participants for the high-level event promoted by USAID, WCS and UNODC.
- **June 23rd**, follow up meeting USAID Brazil to provide updates about the ECOS Brazil.
- **July 07th**, Meeting between ECOS Brazil and MMA as part of the preparatory work for the toolkit implementation.
- **July 20th**, Meeting with CENIMA/IBAMA for introducing the project implemented by IBAMA in partnership with JICA and finding possible synergies with ECOS project.
- **July 27th**, Meeting with the Regional Coordination to discuss about the workplan for Brazil.
- **Aug 19th**, Meeting with MMA to discuss the joint activities regarding the toolkit implementation.
- **Oct 06th**, Meeting between Regional Coordination, ECOS team and other UNODC initiatives related to environmental crimes in Brazil to find synergies and avoid duplication of activities.

Colombia

Inception phase – Roundtable consultations: During April 7th - 8th UNODC visited Colombia to conduct the roundtable consultations as part of the inception phase of the project.

A brief summary of the activities developed during these roundtable consultations in the Q3 2022 is described below:

- April 07th, Meeting with UK Embassy to find synergies with ECOS project and other UK initiatives/ Meeting with USAID Colombia to inform about the planning of roundtable consultations as part of the inception phase of ECOS.
- April 08th, Roundtable consultations with the Colombian national stakeholders.

The main points of discussion with Colombia national authorities will be described below:

- UNODC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a meeting where the UNODC environmental team presented the scope of the ECOS project, and the activities considered for Colombia; the toolkit implementation is the next activity that is regarded for the country.
- The General Prosecutor's Office requested training and technical assistance, particularly in reforming the environmental criminal law, regarding the illegal trade of wildlife (fauna and flora), illegal mining, and illicit flows. This may include the development of protocols for improving coordination between institutions for investigating these crimes, experiences exchange, and good practices at the regional level as well as the inter-agency team.
- The General Prosecutor's Office, the Superior Judicial Council, the Direction of Taxes and Customs, and the Financial Intelligence Unit are interested in receiving training and joint workshops for investigating environmental crimes such as wildlife crime, illegal mining, and financial-related offenses.
- The Ministry of Defence, considering its role in combatting organized crime, is interested in receiving training and technical assistance for identifying species.
- Regarding illegal mining and related offenses, the General Attorney Office and the Defense and Mining sectors are interested in receiving training and technical assistance on the investigations related to contamination and environmental damage and developing protocols for improving inter-agency coordination. Also, they expressed interest in the supply chain analysis on illegal mining and wildlife crimes.



- On crimes related to the fisheries sector, UNODC will liaise through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present the proposed work to the “National Roundtable of Fishing,” bringing together most of the public institutions working on the matter.
- UNODC is implementing a long-term mission to Colombia to re-engage with national stakeholders after the new government takes office in August.

In addition:

- **September.** A mission was carried out to plan and coordinate activities in the framework of the project with Colombian actors with the support of UNODC Colombia. Among the relevant activities carried out were the following:

Coordination between the UNODC Colombia and Peru teams. This meeting was held with Candice Walsh, the regional representative. She explained the vision of the Regional Office of UNODC-Colombia (ROCOL), the thematic axes to work on, and how to articulate the work teams of both countries. There are initiatives in Colombia that have already been working on environmental crime.

Coordination meetings with the focal point of the ECOS project in USAID Colombia, Maria Fernanda Ordoñez, to articulate actions with the different programs the US Government has been developing in Colombia. These initiatives include INL, ECON, Amazon Alive, and WCS.

September 21st to 23rd, II Workshop was held to design and develop the Rapid Reference Guide for Crimes Associated with the Deforestation Phenomenon, based on the **Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) developed in Peru.** This process has been led by the **UNODC’s LEAP program (part of the BMB), and Pro just of UNODC Colombia** and allowed the presentation of the ECOS project to the agents that apply the law to see future synergies and joint work, this included tools or instruments that can be developed to complement the Guide.

The different activities for 2023 began to be evaluated, among which are the global evaluations, introducing the **ICCWC Indicator Framework (IF)** to other actors, and proposing to work on both topics (flora and fauna) in said evaluation. This process is being coordinated with the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of the Environment.

The ECOS team participated from October 4th to 5th in the "International Joint Operations" workshop, which allowed for a space for dialogue with the Colombian Attorney General's Office and Interpol. From these spaces, the power to have joint activities at the bilateral level Colombia - Peru was coordinated; among these proposed activities are the standardization of criteria at the transnational level, guidelines for common activities between actors that apply the law, and the development of binational cases from joint research. These activities will be scheduled for the next calendar year and will be part of the agenda developed in the October mission.

It has been **coordinating with the HR of UNODC Colombia for the hiring process of the ECOS work team in Colombia.** This includes a general coordinator and two support people (at the coordination and administrative level). All these processes will be carried out in Q1 2023.

As requested by USAID, the ECOS team presented the project's scope to US Government agencies in Colombia and held meetings with national authorities after the Presidential Election.



Ecuador

May, the implementation of ECOS started in Ecuador with workshops on the **ICCWC Indicator Framework**. Two workshops were conducted considering the regulation differences between Galapagos and the rest of the country.

As part of the implementation in Galápagos, the ECOS team held bilateral meetings with strategic partners and national counterparts of Galápagos. Those meetings are detailed below:

Meeting with WWF Ecuador, Meeting for a brief presentation of the ECOS project and the Indicator Framework to apply in the Galapagos to find synergies between the activities developed in other projects financed and/or implemented by the United States.

- **WWF** has made a **diagnosis of the legislation and the processes carried out** in Galapagos and Ecuador within the environmental protection framework and is finalizing a report on the matter. This report **could be used as input for implementing the Toolkit in Ecuador**.
- **WWF** mentions that they have a **MoU with the Attorney General's Office** and will support this institution in implementing the Environmental Crimes Unit.

Meeting with WildAid, to introduce the ECOS project and ICCWC IF to implement in Galapagos to find synergies between the activities developed in other projects financed and/or executed by the United States.

- **WildAid** is developing a project to **combat wildlife trafficking in Galapagos**. This project receives funding from the **U.S. Department of the Interior**.
- **WildAid** is in the design stage of the action plan of this project and shows openness to finding **synergies with the ECOS project**.

Meeting with European Union Embassy and PacCTO, Meeting for presenting the ECOS project, the IF, and the toolkit.

- **El PacCTO** focuses on **supporting the State in combating organized crime**. It is a broad project that can address all crimes in which organized crime is present.
- **El PacCTO** is currently carrying out activities to strengthen law enforcement officials, participate in a security roundtable and provide a Jaguar network.
- **UNODC** presented the scope of the **ICCWC IF and Toolkit** tools and commented that these do not intersect with the activities that El PacCTO develops or plans to develop.

Meeting with the Prosecutor's Office, the Council of the Judiciary, and the Police, the **wildlife crimes in Galapagos are related to organized crime**, and the weaknesses of the institutions in charge of avoiding this crime have been identified. The **Attorney's Office only counts on two multicompetent prosecutors**, not specializing in environmental issues.

Likewise, weaknesses in administrative control procedures are identified. Ex: **Galapagos does not have Customs**, nor are there **protocols for controlling the shipment of parcels** from the Islands.

There is openness to receive training in developing expertise, evidence collection, and organized crime.

Launch of the ICCWC Indicator Framework (IF), Development of protocol event with the head of the environmental team, Minister of Environment, Director of Galapagos National Park, USAID representative, and other authorities attending the event.



The methodology and activities implemented for the ICCWC IF will be presented below:

IF Galápagos - Implementation Workshop – Thematic Axis: Wildlife Crime

The team organized the event attendees according to the workshop's methodology. Two working tables, a legislation table, and a law enforcement table, were established. Following the methodology of the workshop, the distribution of the results for each group was carried out as follows: Law Enforcement Table: Results 1,2,3,4, and 8/Legislation table: Results 4,5,6 and 8

Closing of the workshop on the implementation of the ICCW Indicator Framework – Thematic axis: Wildlife crime: After the exercise with the evaluation of the corresponding results in each worktable, the closing of the exercise was made with closing words from the Chief of the UNODC's Environmental Team and the Director of the Galapagos National Park. Preliminary conclusions and recommendations obtained during the workshop were also presented.

ICCWC Indicator Framework Continental Ecuador, as part of the implementation of ECOS in Ecuador, prior the ICCWC indicators framework workshop, the team held bilateral meetings with national counterparts and strategic partners of the country. Those meetings are detailed below:

Meeting with Department of interior USG – Chile, the main points of interest of the meeting were: UNODC presented the scope of the ECOS project, SudWEN, and the activities being implemented in Ecuador when the WildAid project that receives funding from DoI.

Meeting with the President of Judiciary Council, UNODC presented IF scope and the possibility of supporting the Council of the Judiciary to strengthen its management in addressing environmental crimes.

- The **Judiciary Council** mentioned its interest in **strengthening the knowledge of judicial officials in environmental crimes and related offenses**. Mentioned here was the possibility of working with the School of the Judicial Function and, later, considering the possibility of creating criminal judges specialized in environmental crimes.
- **UNODC** confirmed its participation in developing the curriculum on environmental issues.

Meeting with Ecuador Criminalistics

- **Criminalistics** mentions that it is a cross-cutting area to all crimes and **needs to strengthen its knowledge in environmental forensics**. Regarding specific problems identified, more excellent knowledge in expertise is required to determine **water contamination by mining**. They also mention the need to train **preventive police units (UPMA) in evidence processing as first responders**. Finally, they have identified disarticulation and **lack of coordination between some institutions** involved in the criminal process, which is why **rapid reference guides (RRG)** would be necessary to improve their function.
- **UNODC** presented the scope ICCWC IF and the ECOS project and mentioned that it can develop **training activities, articulation with several actors** of the criminal process, and **protocols and action guides**.

Meeting with the General Prosecutor's Office,

- **The Prosecutor's Office has created a specialized unit for environmental crimes**. Currently, this unit **only has one prosecutor who has competence at the national level**. This prosecutor relies

on prosecutors from other provinces to carry out the investigations. Given this, it is required to study environmental crimes in mutual legal cooperation (international criminal assistance).

- **UNODC** presented the scope of the ICCWC IF and the ECOS project and mentioned that it could develop **training activities, articulation with several actors** of the criminal process, and **protocols and action guides**.

Meeting with the Financial and Economic Analysis Unit (UAFE):

- **UAFE** mentioned that it presented its **National Risk Assessment, 2021**, and identified that **environmental crimes are latent crimes in the crimes of money laundering and the financing of other crimes**.
- **UAFE** is open to develop a **sectoral evaluation of areas that work in environmental matters** (Example: mining sector) and thus identify which of its stages may constitute risks against money laundering and financing of other crimes.
- **UAFE considered UNODC's participation in GAFILAT meetings**.
- UNODC presented the scope of the ICCWC IF and the ECOS project and highlighted the importance of identifying illicit flows in environmental crimes.

Launch of the ICCWC Toolkit and the Indicator Framework Development of a protocol event with the Minister of Environment, USAID representative, and other authorities attending the event.

IF continent - Implementation Workshop – Thematic Axis: Forest Crime

The ECOS team organized the attendees of the event according to the workshop's methodology, and two working tables, a legislation table, and a law enforcement table were established. Under the methodology of the workshop, the results were distributed for each group as follows:

IF continent -Implementation Workshop – Thematic Axis: Wildlife Crime

The ECOS team organized the event attendees according to the workshop's methodology. Two working tables, a legislation table, and a law enforcement table, were established.

Following the methodology of the workshop, the distribution of the results for each group was carried out as follows:

Closing of the workshop on the implementation of the ICCW Indicator Framework – Thematic axis: Wildlife crime

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations obtained during the workshop were also presented.

In August, Wild Aid and the ECOS team held a preparatory meeting before the workshops to launch the results of the ICCWC IF. In the same way, the presentation methodology was reviewed with the Wild Aid consultants.

Working groups with the Ministry of the Interior and specialized Police allowed to know the needs of the Environmental Police, Judicial Police, Environmental Crime Investigation Police, and Intelligence Department helped to identify needs in terms of training that are required to strengthen the institutional capacities.



August 29th, Meeting Between WWF-UNODC-WILDAID

WWF presents a proposal for areas of work and an **Action Plan** under the **Project Strengthening the Governance of Natural Resources in Ecuador**. The areas are **fishing, wildlife, law enforcement, and civil society** within the main support activities in Galapagos led by WWF.

- Design and develop public policy instruments to strengthen fishing control and the fight against IUU fishing.
- Strengthen the operational and technical capacities of DIRNEA, PNG, SRP, and MAATE for fishing control and fight against IUU fishing.
- Strengthen shark conservation mechanisms, with emphasis on CITES species.
- Networks of experts on environmental issues accompany and advise public entities in Continental Ecuador and Galapagos in the prosecution of environmental crimes and other related matters.
- A management model for the Galapagos National Park: clarify the processes and roles established in the law and incorporate reforms (manuals, protocols) that improve its planning and operation in a participatory manner.
- Development of an Environmental Observatory where information can be displayed through a map, statistical data, and analysis on legal cases and administrative processes of timber trafficking, wildlife, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

In **September**, **ECOS team and the Judiciary Council** held meetings to explore **possibilities of cooperation with the Judicial School to work on curricular issues for the training of justice operators**. ECOS received a formal request for technical assistance for the provinces' officials, presenting a more significant number of environmental crimes. However, this activity will be coordinated in 2023 because the appointment of specialized prosecutors still needs to be completed.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) communicated that they are working in species identification. Some **Customs and Police highlighted that they would like to have training not only in Quito or Guayaquil, but also at the borders** (Rumichaca - Northern border of Ecuador) and Huaquillas (Southern border of Ecuador). The team is working on identify some other areas and maybe work with the same teams with **Police, Attorney and Customs**. The areas of possible trainings could be Aquatic Crimes, Investigative Technicians, Environmental Crimes etc.

Sept 1st, Quito. The new National Coordinator in Ecuador joined the team, who will be responsible for implementing and coordinating activities with the different counterparts and strategic actors in Ecuador, as well as providing support to the regional team. Main findings of the ICCWC IF were presented to counterparts in continental Ecuador and Galapagos

Sept 25th -28th, Galapagos. The results and **main ICCWC IF findings were presented to the counterparts for validation**. In addition, presented and validated the main recommendations that the participants of the ICCWC IF workshop held in Galapagos raised as possible approaches and activities to improve the current state of the mechanisms that the State must fight against wildlife trafficking in the Islands. With this, an action plan will be built according to institutional needs.

Finally, the team presented an initiative for raising awareness "**Animals in Danger**" about the impact of wildlife trafficking in the Islands as a response to the findings of Indicator 8 of the ICCWC IF.

Sept 29th - 30th, Quito. A presentation of the IF results for Continental Ecuador was held. Similarly, work was done on a participatory exercise to identify short, medium, and long-term activities for

constructing an action plan focused on institutional needs for more effective responses to environmental crimes.

Action Plan: Within the IF findings presentation workshops framework, work is being done on a proposal for an action plan.

The ECOS team used a **participatory methodology to define short, medium, and long-term cooperation areas**. The contributions in the different regions of the chain have been systematized: **prevention, detection, investigation, and sanction**, and they were categorized and organized by type of assistance like training, equipment, normative support, and protocols designer.

Based on the experience in Peru with the specialized training program in environmental matters for the Judiciary. The Judiciary Council has requested an **analysis of the relevance of regional exchanges to learn how the judiciary schools work and good practices from Peru's experience in prosecuting cases for environmental crimes**.

Peru

- **April 1st**, Meeting (in person) with Center for Productive Innovation and Wood Technology Transfer (CITEmadera) to exchange information about ECOS and discuss possible synergies.
- **April 5th – 6th**, Participation in the II High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Trade in Wildlife in Cartagena, Colombia. In which ECOS was presented.
- **April 8th**, Meeting with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as part of the implementation of the ICCWC indicator framework in Ecuador (Ecuador and Galapagos process)
- **April/May**, Periodic meetings with the WCS team as part of the coordination for the launch event (June 28th, 2022).
- **April/May/June**, Periodic meetings with the Forestry and Wildlife Resources Oversight Agency (OSINFOR) team as part of the coordination of the training workshops for prosecutors and other joint activities.
- **May 2nd**, Participation in the CCP LEAP workshop in Callao, Lima (in person) to learn about the activities, the actors involved, and synergies with the work of ECOS.
- **May/June**, Periodic meeting with the National Commission for Environmental Management of the Judiciary to coordinate the Forestry Crime Training Program to be held in September.
- **June 1st**, Meeting with GIZ and CITEmadera as part of coordinating a training course on timber ID for customs (to be held in the following quarter).
- **June 23rd**, Meeting with WildAID (in person) as part of the actions to be taken within the context of the Indicator Framework (Galapagos process).
- **June 27th**, Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Introduce ECOS components and invite Peru to lead SudWEN for the first year of implementation/ Meeting with SERFOR to discuss the scope of ECOS and find further opportunities to collaborate with the institution/Meeting with OSINFOR to identify new collaborative opportunities and support current initiatives.
- **June 30th**, Meeting with Panthera to exchange information about ECOS and discuss possible synergies in the wildlife topic/Meeting with Andean Parliament (in person) to present information about ECOS and potential synergies.

Throughout April, May, and June, periodic meetings were held between UNODC and OSINFOR (national counterpart) as part of the coordination for the execution of training workshops on OSINFOR platforms (Casilla electronica, SIGO, and SIADO) for prosecutors and other authorities in the regions (Loreto and Madre de Dios). UNODC accompanied and coordinated the International Workshop on



environmental crime and related economic crimes organized by SERFOR/UNODC for justice sector operators in Peru. Also, regular meetings were held with WCS and USAID to coordinate the launching event of the ECOS and Conservando Juntos projects. UNODC accompanied and coordinated the international workshop. Details of the events are below:

Mission to Iquitos, Loreto, Peru (UNODC/OSINFOR) May 25th -27th, 2022: Training and technical support provided on the implementation of the Information Exchange Inbox (*Casilla Electronica*) and the modules on OSINFOR information exchange tools (SIGO/SIADO). In addition to an overview of the Rapid Reference Guide on the Investigation of Forest Crime (RRG) for prosecutors and regional authorities.

Mission to Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru (UNODC/OSINFOR) May 30th – 31st, 2022: Training and technical support provided on the implementation of the Information Exchange Inbox (*Casilla Electronica*) and the modules on OSINFOR information exchange tools (SIGO/SIADO). In addition to an overview of the Rapid Reference Guide on the Investigation of Forest Crime (RRG) for prosecutors, customs staff, and regional authorities.

Delivered lecture for the International Workshop on environmental crime and related economic crimes for justice sector operators in Peru (SERFOR/UNODC) June 8th, 2022: Two-hour hybrid workshop, in-person and through the IT platform ZOOM/ SERFOR Office HQ to train on forensic accounting tools for investigating economic crimes derived from environmental crimes (forest, wildlife, and fisheries).

In addition, coordination meetings continued with the National Commission for Environmental Management of the Judiciary (CNGA – PJ) to implement training courses on forest crimes to be carried out with the support of the Academy of the Judiciary (AMAG Peru).

UNODC also initiated coordination to reactivate the Specialized Technical Working Group on Timber Identification through meetings with academia (UNALM), the Specialized Forensic Team of the Public Prosecutor's Office (EFOMA), CITEmadera and other cooperation agencies (USFS, GIZ). The project communication team also worked on formulating the ECOS Project factsheet and has been working on the factsheets specific to the project components.

July 11th - 13th, Pucallpa, Peru - Training Workshop for Environmental Prosecutors (FEMA): Use and Operation of OSINFOR Information Systems for cases of forest crimes organized for prosecutors of the National Prosecutors Office and environmental prosecutors, Customs and Comptroller's Office

July 18th – 22nd, Pucallpa, Peru - Diagnostic Workshop to Strengthen Detection of Forest Crimes using SISFOR aimed at identifying the GIS and information needs of national authorities using the SISFOR system for investigations of criminal cases.

July, Periodic coordination meetings between the Andean Parliament, OSINFOR and UNODC, to identify joint activities and support the development of regional legislation on illegal logging.

July/August, Periodic coordination meetings between USFS and UNODC to define joint activities; the first being the Technical Meeting on Timber Identification Initiatives

Aug 17th - Sept 20th, Implementation of the course Criminal Justice Responses to Forest Crime, aimed at justice sector operators - judges and prosecutors, with the purpose of strengthening their knowledge and promoting the exchange of experiences to address investigations of forest crime. The



course was carried out in collaboration with the National Commission for Environmental Management of the Judiciary Authority and the Academy of the Judiciary.

Sept 15th, Lima, Peru - Technical Cooperation Gathering on Timber Identification. The technical workshop focused on generating an exchange of information on the processes associated with the identification of timber species, with the aim of strengthening joint technical work and assistance on detection of timber trafficking.

September, Periodic coordination meetings between GIZ, Sunat - Customs, CITEmadera and UNODC in the framework of the preparation for the "Training Workshop - Applying Forensic Timber Identification Tools against Illegal Timber Trafficking" aimed at Customs officials. (Scheduled to November 16th -17th,2022.)

August/October: Periodic coordination meetings between CITEmadera, GIZ, UNODC in the framework of updating the Mobile App ID Maderas (to incorporate more than 40 new species) for illegal timber detection and identification.

The next lines will summarize and highlight, in general terms, the main³ activities conducted and completed in Y1

A. Coordination of transnational enforcement action

During Y1, ECOS achieved the strengthening of the interagency platform in Peru, which is the proper space for developing technical tools that improve the State's capacity to address environmental crimes. This space gathers three groups of institutions:

- Criminal Justice institutions that are directly responsible for the investigation, prosecution, and sanction of environmental crimes.
- Administrative institutions that are responsible for the protection of the environment through the implementation of administrative regulations and sanctions and,
- Academy and NGO. They assist the former groups regarding investigation activities and creating a bond with society and its role in protecting the environment.

In Ecuador, during Y1, as part of the IF implementation, institutions from the criminal justice system and administrative institutions responsible for protecting the environment presented their delegates to participate in the workshops. They were also informed about the methodology of the interagency platform. As a result of the workshops, all institutions agreed on the necessity of creating an interagency space that allows sharing of information and developing technical tools for improving the State's responses to environmental crimes.

During the inception phase in Colombia, criminal justice and administrative institutions were informed about the methodology that entails the interagency working group. They agreed on having an interagency space to discuss the current challenges and bring solutions to the fight against wildlife crimes.

Finally, during the inception phase in Brazil, the methodology of the interagency group was informed to the national counterparts. Also, information-gathering activities were conducted in Brazil to

³ This section does not represent an extensive report of all the activities conducted in the implementation of ECOS in Y1.

determine which current interagency groups are working in Brazil to avoid overlapping and to provide support to them according to their needs.

B. Support to South American Wildlife Enforcement Network (SudWEN)

During Y1, regarding the reinvigoration of SudWEN, the next activities were conducted:

- SudWEN's regional meeting during December 2021.
- Collaborative elaboration of the Terms of Reference for SudWEN among the Permanent Missions and national delegates of the 11 countries⁴ that covers SudWEN in Dec 2021.
- Formal delivery of Terms of Reference to each country delegate, through the Permanent Missions in Vienna, for review and approval, January 2022 (Until the moment of elaboration of this document, 6 countries sent their approval and/or comments to the Terms of Reference)
- Formal Invitations⁵ to Peru to lead SudWEN (June – Sept 2022)

C. Addressing crimes in the fisheries sector

During the inception phases of Peru (2021), Ecuador (2021), Colombia (2022), the national authorities of those countries highlighted their interest in working on that thematic area. In this regard, UNODC, during Y1, has worked on the technical tools' translation into Spanish and Portuguese.

E. Evidence gathering of drivers of conservation crimes

During Y1, regarding the implementation of national assessments as tool for gathering information of drivers of conservation crimes, the next activities were conducted:

Brazil. During the inception phase, the ICCWC indicators framework tool for national assessment was presented, April 2022.

Colombia. During the inception phase, the ICCWC indicators framework tool for national assessment was presented, April 2022.

Ecuador. Inception phase and presentation of the tool to national authorities in November and December 2021

Establishment of national counterpart for the implementation of the ICCWC indicators framework, January 2022. The Ministry of Environment was appointed focal point for the activity.

Preparation phase. this phase included research about the institutions responsible for the protection of the environment, at administrative and judicial level, request of delegates that will participate and provide further information for the ICCWC indicators framework report and information gathering about current legislation, policies and quantitative data about wildlife crimes in the country (From February to April 2022).

- High-level launching event to present the ICCWC tools that were implemented in the country in May 2022.

⁴ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay

⁵ Verbal notes and communications were sent to the Peruvian Permanent Mission inviting the country to lead SudWEN. The activities related to the leading of SudWEN included meetings with the Peruvian Permanent Mission and meetings with national authorities of Peru to share detailed information about SudWEN and the importance of leading with regional initiative.



Collection of information in the field; this activity belongs to the conduction of participate workshops while all the delegates of the national institutions and it took place in May 2022.

Information and data analysis of the IF completed, May – September 2022.

Validation workshop. this activity implies the presentation of results and findings of the ICCWC indicators framework workshop and the elaboration of a first draft of a roadmap for providing technical assistance to the country. Took place in September 2022.

Peru

Presentation of the tool to technical national counterparts in August 2021.

Preparation phase, this phase included research about the institutions responsible for the protection of the environment, at administrative and judicial level, request of delegates that will participate and provide further information for the ICCWC indicators framework report and information gathering about current legislation, policies, and quantitative data about wildlife crimes in the country (Started in September 2022).

F. Regional capacity building activities

During Year I, the main capacity-building activities were conducted:

Brazil. During Y1, considering that the ICCWC indicators framework tool was implemented in 2019, planning and coordination meetings with the Ministry of Environment were conducted to organize a validation workshop of the results. This activity was expected by November 2022. The Ministry of Environment requested to postpone and implement that activity during the first months of 2023. Regarding the ICCWC toolkit, the international consultants for implementing the tool have been hired (September 2022). They are currently conducting the preparatory work of the toolkit, which entails desk research about current legislation and policies of the country to fight against environmental crimes. Roundtables and stakeholders' consultations were held.

Ecuador. After the ICCWC indicators framework workshops were conducted, the leading training topics were determined with national authorities in bilateral meetings.

Also, meetings and synergies with USG agencies took place during Y1, like the US Fish and Wildlife Service meeting in September 2022. Launch of the IF in Galapagos and mainland Ecuador in May

Presentation of IF results in Galapagos and Continental Ecuador and mapping the needs of counterparts in short, mid, and long term

Peru. Training for more than 180 judicial authorities regarding technical tools to improve the investigation of forestry crimes (RRG, SIGO, SIADO).

Three online platform training for judicial and administrative authorities about environmental crimes and specialized tools for improving the investigation of crimes.

As part of the partnership-building strategy of UNODC, meetings and activities with USG agencies were conducted, such as coordination with the US Forest Service to develop a workshop on the identification of timber in September 2022.

Communication strategy and branding plan finalized

Colombia. Roundtables and stakeholders' consultations held



Meetings with strategic counterparts in areas of the rule of law and environment.

- **Explanation of quantifiable outputs of the tasks, if appropriate and applicable**

N/A

- **Reasons why established targets were not met, if appropriate**

Technical roundtable consultations planned in Brazil for Q2 2022 (March) were postponed to early April due to conflicting schedules

Colombia: some meetings were postponed due to national elections

- **Description of any short-term consultants' progress and observations, identifying any significant issues and a description of follow-on activities**

N/A

- **Status of budget expenditures and analysis of any cost overruns or high unit costs**

Expenditure in Y1 2022 (October 2021 to September 2022): \$1,024,723.87⁶

- **Identification of problems, delays or adverse conditions that impair the ability to meet the objective of the award, including a statement of the action taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation**

N/A

- **Description of progress towards removing gender-related constraints and new opportunities pursued to create gender equality**

UNODC ensures the project is promoting gender equality internally and externally. ECOS' structure includes, at this moment, 6 women and 5 men who work under UN Guidelines related to respect and a healthy work environment. The gender balance is ensured in all recruitment processes.

The project implementation encourages an increasing number of women's participation who work in national and regional institutions and promotes their involvement in all project processes. Their attendance is registered for each activity or event organized by ECOS.

Regarding gender-equality UNODC, through ECOS, wants (i) to ensure the provision of data and information and free access to them, (ii) to generate further sensitizing and strengthening increasing the authorities' capacities and awareness, (iii) to conduct assessments and friendly material to avoid gender violence and promote more participation of women and, (iv) to draft studies related to gender equality in the environmental sector.

ECOS will implement a regional gender study to understand women's role.

⁶ The amount shown is an approximate figure resulted from the compilation of the reported values from previous quarterly reports since October 2021 until September 2022. This amount is preliminary. Official figures will be sent by UNODC's FRMS during by the beginning of 2023.

- **List of major activities planned for the next quarter (October- December)**

Brazil. Since MMA requested UNODC to postpone the ICCWC Indicator Framework event, which was planned for Q1 2023, the ECOS team has been arranging activities since Q2 2023 in close coordination with the new national administration and the UNODC's Office in Brazil and USAID Brazil support. The activities, proposed among others, are (i) the Magnometer Technical test for Federal Police and other relevant stakeholders. It can be used to improve investigations regarding illegal deforestation in the Amazon region, (ii) Capacity building in timber exportations for IBAMA, and (iii) Technical dialogue for exchanges on building the role of women in addressing TCCs, as a pre-activity for a more comprehensive study.

In addition, the team in Brazil will continue working on organizing other events planned for Q2/Q3 2023. It includes the ICCWC Indicator Framework event, launching and in-country mission of the Toolkit, Timber ID Meeting with national counterparts (replicating the experience in Peru), and Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 WIRE Meeting.

Colombia. Recruitment of Project Coordinator (SB4) and Project Associate (SB3) will be conducted on Q1, 2023.

Long-term mission and initiate coordination for Toolkit implementation will occur in Q2, 2023. Since the end of September, a mission has been carried out to begin talks with UNODC Colombia, government counterparts, and civil society. This has made it possible to identify joint activities at a transnational level.

Due to the Presidential elections, it is expected to conduct new roundtable consultations in Colombia (between Q1 and Q2, 2023).

Meetings are being scheduled with the National Prosecutor's Office, which includes forensic experts, to discuss the issue of wood identification. In this process, the academy has been integrated through the District University of Bogotá. This exchange will allow law enforcement agents to understand the complexity of the species identification process, which starts with having a consistent database and traceability from the herbarium to the xylothea through standard information-gathering methodologies and knowing the scope and use of each identification tool.

Colombia's participation in the WIRE event will be coordinated with the National Prosecutor's Office. This coordination is accompanied by inductions that allow a better understanding of this initiative and its scope.

By **Oct 18th to 21st**, with officials from USAID, BMB, and UNODC Colombia, meetings will be held with initiatives and partners of the US government related to the issue of environmental crimes. In addition, to meet with government actors such as the National Prosecutor's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Ministry of the Environment, and coordinate work on joint activities between Colombia and Peru.

Oct 24th - 26th, in Leticia, Amazonas, Forum "International Networks and their role in the conservation and protection of strategic ecosystems". This event will have the GP-CAE's Chief participation. The SudWEN Network's role as a regional coordination network will be announced.



Ecuador.

Oct 11th - 15th, The team will coordinate an agenda for the exploratory mission of experts from Lima on Forestry. The meetings will allow a first rapprochement with institutions specialized in forest control, as well as exploring possibilities of cooperation with the academy. The mission is scheduled for November 7-11

Oct 17th - 19th, Logistical coordination procedures for the WIRE will begin for the participation of delegates from the State Attorney General's Office Dr. Oswaldo Carvajal, Prosecutor specialized in environmental crimes, Dr. Leslie Chuqui, Prosecutor of San Cristobal Galapagos

Oct 20th -21st, The interviews and selection of the expert in communication for the ECOS team will be carried out, the administrative processes for the hiring and integration of the new team member are advancing.

Oct 26th, The ECOS Ecuador team will hold a first meeting with the UNDP program, PROAMAZONIA, to learn about initiatives implemented in the forestry area as part of the preparations for the mission of experts from Lima to Quito and Guayaquil and thus avoid overlapping.

Nov 7th – 11th, Forest experts'1 mission from Lima will visit Quito and Guayaquil in order to present some of the methodological tools that could help to public institutions and academia to explore areas of cooperation.

November-December: Delivery of the edited executive report products on the framework of indicators for Continental Ecuador and Galapagos. Presentation of the results of prioritized activities for the action plan in Ecuador

Peru:

Oct 6th, Lima, Peru - *Meeting of the Environmental Crimes Platform* aimed at informing, promoting, strengthening technical knowledge and promoting joint work to address environmental crimes in Peru under the ECOS project, as well as facilitating different processes between its key counterparts (personnel from the environmental sector and justice operators).

Oct 12th, Lima, Peru - *National Meeting of Prosecutors: Objective Safe Peru*. The meeting was aimed at promoting dialogue and exchanges between different prosecutors at the national and local levels to improve the investigation processes of the Prosecutors Office. There was also a technical space on environmental crimes to present the ECOS Project and other related USAID initiatives. (WCS, Prevent Project)

Oct 31st, – Iquitos, Peru – Mission and Exchanges in the Field with Prosecutors and Judges under the framework of the Course *Criminal Justice Responses to Forest Crime*, carried out in collaboration with the National Commission for Environmental Management of the Judiciary and the Academy of the Judiciary.

- Effectiveness of the MEL

1) The status of evaluation activities including the establishment of baseline data;



Highlight the implementation of Indicator Framework Evaluations in Ecuador (completed, the country report in on edition) with coordination in progress for implementations in Peru and Colombia. (Peru establishment of baseline data through Indicator Framework evaluation planned for Q2 2023)

2) The appropriateness of the data collected to measure project impact;

The MEL plan was approved in February 2022. It is the first implementation year of the project; several indicators are being reported in year two only and progress has been made against all the indicators that are due for reporting (details for indicators where data is available are summarized below). Baselines were established in February 2021. A number of indicators not due for reporting until Y2, will be reported against in the next reporting period. The methodology for measuring indicator progress remains relevant.

In addition, the data collected for project decision making, MEL and reporting processes are in line with USAID criteria for effective data collection holding validity to the indicators of the project, timeliness – collected during implementation of core activities, reliable as reported consistently using the same tools also ensuring precision.

Project Indicator Progress:

1. Number of laws, policies, or regulations that address biodiversity conservation and/or other environmental themes officially proposed, adopted, or implemented because of USG assistance. Coordination have been initiated with the Andean Parliament (Since June 2022) on the establishment of a regional level proposal on illegal logging. The proposal is being drafted and technical support being provided by UNODC for the Andean Parliament and authorities (OSINFOR) on building a harmonized policy tool to respond to illegal logging and the illegal timber trade across the region.
2. Number of countries increasing cooperation on TCCs- SudWEN annual meeting was held in November and December 2021 with 60 representatives from 11 countries across South America including international experts from the ICCWC consortium. The seminars aimed to promote taking urgent and coordinated actions at the national, regional, and international levels in the fight against illegal wildlife trade in South America. The meeting also facilitated an exchange of experiences among the participating officials from law enforcement authorities on how to implement the SudWEN network and best practices from the international level on responses on transnational cases of wildlife trafficking.
3. Percent of US government-assisted organizations with improved performance. Y1 Target is 0
4. Number of people trained in sustainable natural resources management and/or biodiversity - TCC- conservation as a result of USG assistance. Y1 target is 100 officials – In Peru alone the data collected for the project highlights the support for 103 government officials (from customs, prosecutors, judges, and other administrative authorities at the national and local levels) receiving trainings in specialized areas of technical assistance directed at strengthening investigative and enforcement measures and capacities to address environmental crimes.

5. Number of technical multi-stakeholder coordination platforms established. Apart from Peru, you have a new target 1 for Y1- confirmation of interagency working group established in Peru (Environmental Crime Platform) – with periodic coordination with Platform members through interagency coordination, trainings, and seminars at the national and local levels. The most recent engagements with Platform members this year included the participation of justice sector (Prosecutors Office, National Police, Judicial Authority), environmental authorities (Forest and Wildlife authorities at the national and local levels), international cooperation, academia and civil society members to promote joint work on forestry, wildlife and fisheries crimes.
 6. Number of law enforcement meetings held by SudWEN- 1 in Y1- The SUDWEN Regional Meeting conducted between Nov.2021-Dec.2021 with USG funding.
 7. Number of countries completing value chain analysis/corruption risk assessment in the fisheries sector. (Not planned for first year)
 8. Number of countries with established data baseline on TCCs through Toolkit and/or Indicator Framework – Established 1 Indicator Framework evaluation in Ecuador with process in Peru in progress
- 3) The identification of unanticipated challenges in the collection of evaluation data;
N/A**
- 4) The appropriateness of the overall MEL to measure performance and any proposed revisions thereto;**

The overall MEL process of the project is still valid and appropriate with no proposed revisions.

- 5) Practical and political factors that should be considered when analysing the performance data;** and consider changes at high-level and technical levels in each country

Peru. Changes with the project’s main counterpart – The Prosecutors Office both at the level of Attorney General and National Coordinator of the Specialized Prosecutors Office on Environmental Matters (FEMA) have affected the implementation of project activities and performance. The new Attorney General has limited opportunities for in-person trainings and availability for involvement in technical support activities due to the current workload and executing a back-log of investigations. In addition, engagement with the new coordinator on environmental crime matters has been limited to receive technical assistance proposed by UNODC for 2022. Greater availability for trainings and technical assistance support is envisioned for 2023. Changes in the management of the Forestry and Wildlife Service Authority (SERFOR) has also limited possibilities to engage on wildlife trafficking related areas of work envisioned under the SERFOR-led National Strategy to Reduce Wildlife Trafficking. A new action plan is being finalized with UNODC inputs to continue work with SERFOR and other authorities under the 2023-2027 action plan. Attempts to work with the national Police authority (PNP) has also been impacted due to changes in policing leadership and practical lack of engagement to conduct the Leahy Vetting process to participate in project trainings.



Ecuador. The focal point of the Ministry of Environment is still in charge of the coordination of ECOS Project which has ensured stability in the implementation of the project. Changes were the National Police and Armed Forces. It is necessary to highlight the social unrest the nowadays social arrest specially in Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo and Guayaquil that can be influenced in the execution.

6) The effectiveness of the evaluation activities to inform programming.

Currently no changes are being proposed over evaluation activities in the first year. Project programming is constantly being informed by project implementation progress and evaluation of activities in consultation with project counterparts.