ANNEX 7

TECHNICAL ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE CONSERVATION COMMITMENTS[1]
BIOCORREDOR AMAZÓNICO FUND

To support Implementation of the management model for the Biocorredor Amazónico, and in accordance with the order of priority set out in section six (6) of the Grant Award Procedures Manual, the following is detailed:

➢ To meet the ***"Conservation Commitment: Increase 1.8 Million Hectares of New Eligible Areas Under In Situ Conservation Mechanisms, including 18 thousand kilometers of rivers,"*** the following elements must be taken into account:

a) Processes that increase the area under conservation, incorporate ecological value, fill gaps in ecological representation, and reduce current or future threats to the baseline of existing areas under conservation; and support the health, well-being, and livelihoods of the communes, communities, peoples, and indigenous nationalities that inhabit the Amazonía Ecuatoriana.
b) Creation and/or recognition of new conservation mechanisms, such as: protected areas; OECMs (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures), in line with regulations and best practices; officially recognized Protective Forests and Vegetation (PFV); connectivity corridors; and others recognized by the national environmental authority.
c) Inclusion of areas that contribute to fulfilling the commitment to conserve ecosystems, including 18,000 km of representative and connected rivers.
d) Ecological representativeness: identification of ecosystems and species underrepresented in the SNAP and prioritization of their inclusion.
e) Ecological connectivity: identification of biological corridors and core areas, use of GIS tools and connectivity models (e.g., Marxan).
f) Preparation of dossiers and technical, legal, and administrative instruments: ministerial dossier, technical data sheet, georeferenced map, and registration in the national database of conservation areas, including the minimum technical standards for size, conservation status, integrity, governance, financial sustainability, among others.

➢ To fulfill the ***"Conservation Commitment: Updating and adopting management tools that improve the management of Eligible Areas under In Situ Conservation Mechanisms"*** the following elements must be considered:

a) Management Plans with components related to freshwater, ecosystems, climate change adaptation, a gender approach, and interculturality, among others.
b) Annual Operational Plans (AOP) aligned with the BCA Conservation Plan.

[1]This document is not subject to modification, as it refers to the Conservation Commitments undertaken by the Republic of Ecuador.

c) Management effectiveness assessments (e.g., METT, IMET) and continuous improvement plans.
d) Plans that contribute to meeting the commitment to conserve ecosystems, including 18,000 km of representative and connected rivers.
e) Co-management mechanisms and cooperation agreements with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and decentralized autonomous governments.
f) Strengthening basic infrastructure, monitoring and surveillance, and equipment in accordance with the zoning of the conservation mechanism.
g) Biodiversity monitoring and connectivity between areas in buffer zones and adjacent areas.
h) Financial sustainability and business plans for areas.
i) Zoning, demarcation, and delimitation of conservation mechanisms.
j) Innovative mechanisms that contribute to resolving land tenure and land use conflicts in protected areas.
k) Governance, institutional strengthening, participation, and the guarantee of rights.
l) Participation and consultation mechanisms.
m) Programmatic plans: monitoring and surveillance, public use and tourism, environmental education, biodiversity management, among others.
n) Specific tools for each in situ conservation mechanism, based on, but not limited to, the following details:

In situ conservation mechanism	Description	Management Tools
National System of Protected Areas (SNAP)	Main national management framework that integrates the administration, management, and development of the country's protected areas, under the State, Decentralized Autonomous, Community, and Private subsystems.	Management Plans Technical and Programmatic Plans Annual Operational Management Plans Annual Expenditure Plan Management Effectiveness Assessment Financial Sustainability Plans. Zoning, demarcation, delimitation Mechanisms for resolving conflicts related to land tenure and land use.
Protective Forests and Protective Vegetation (PFV)	Conservation designation declared by the National Environmental Authority that aligns conservation with sustainable resource management and local participation	Technical Plans

Proyecto Socio Bosque II	Economic incentive mechanism targeting individual and collective landowners who commit to conserving native forests, páramos, or other natural ecosystems.	Annual Operational Plan SEMOP Monitoring, Evaluation and Application System
Connectivity Corridors	Territorial areas that maintain or restore ecological connectivity between natural areas, facilitating gene flow and the movement of species.	Management Plan Corridor Action Plan
Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)	Geographic areas that contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation, outside the formal framework of SNAP, recognized for their governance and conservation outcomes.	Technical Plans

➢ To meet the ***"Conservation Commitment: Adoption of an Amazonian Biodiversity Research Agenda"***, the following must be taken into account:

a) Scientific and technological information to strengthen conservation decision-making in the Biocorredor Amazónico, based on applied research, ancestral knowledge, innovation, and knowledge management.
b) Basic and applied ecological research for the conservation, use, and improvement of freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.
c) Applied research on biodiversity, connectivity, carbon, ecosystem services, and climate change.
d) Development and implementation of tools for spatial analysis and modeling.
e) Open data repositories and shared knowledge bases.
f) Experience sharing, lessons learned, and knowledge management.

➢ To fulfill the ***"Conservation Commitment: Adoption of a Plan to Promote the Sustainable Use, Processing, and Use of Biodiversity in the Ecuadorian Amazon"*** the National Plan to Promote the Sustainable Use, Processing, and Use of Biodiversity 2022-2030, made official by the National Environmental Authority, shall be used as a reference.

➢ In compliance with the "***Conservation Commitment: Adoption of a <u>Monitoring Framework for forests, freshwater, biodiversity, and protected areas in the Ecuadorian Amazon</u>"***, the following shall be considered:

a) Ecological indicators: forest cover, avoided deforestation, connectivity, indicator species.
b) Disaggregated social indicators: number of beneficiary families, green employment, participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, etc.
c) Interoperable geospatial data platforms across systems.
d) Technical reporting and auditing protocols.
e) Independent verification of conservation milestones and external audits.
f) Early warning and traceability systems.
g) Existing monitoring processes, which include, but are not limited to, the National Forest Monitoring System (SNMB, from the Spanish), the Biodiversity Information System (SIB, from the Spanish), the Forest authorization System (SAF from the Spanish), the Protected Areas Information System, and the INABIO research information system.

➢ In compliance with the "***Conservation Commitment: <u>Restoration</u> of 40,000 hectares in the Ecuadorian Amazon"*** the following shall be taken into account:

a) Identification of priority restoration areas in accordance with the National Forest Restoration Plan.
b) Restoration plans with biodiversity and carbon objectives.
c) Restoration and ecological monitoring methodologies: planting density, native species, success indicators (vegetation cover, survival rate, diversity).
d) Technical protocols of the National Environmental Authority for restoration and monitoring (baseline, permanent plots, annual monitoring).
e) Measurement of co-benefits: carbon, water, connectivity, and others.
f) Climate risk management and forest fires.
g) The Comprehensive Amazonian Plan (CAP) and the CONFENIAE Implementation Plan.

➢ To meet the "***Conservation Commitment: <u>Support for Communes, Communities, Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities"</u>*** the following shall be considered:

a) Strengthening the management and conservation capacities of the 11 Indigenous nationalities and their local communities to strengthen the management and conservation of their territories.
b) Development and implementation of a needs assessment and action plan to strengthen the technical capacities of the 23 affiliated social organizations of CONFENIAE.
c) Technical and financial support to develop, review, update, and implement life plans and management and governance models for communes, communities, indigenous peoples and nationalities, and to support the implementation of management plans for territories of life.
d) Technical training plans: restoration, monitoring, area management, governance.

e) Intercultural environmental education programs.
f) Community communication strategies.
g) Social impact indicators.

➢ To comply with the ***"Conservation Commitments: Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan; - Ecuador's National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC) and other climate change policies and tools, such as the REDD+ Action Plan; and the National Bioeconomy Strategy"***, the guidelines and provisions of each of the strategies mentioned must be taken into account, with a focus on implementing priority actions in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

I, Heather Hayes, with national ID number 1719847715, hereby certify that the attached is a complete and accurate English translation of the original Spanish language version of the attached document: *Anexo 7 Elementos Técnicos,* and that I am competent in both the English and Spanish languages to render such translation.

HEATHER LYNN HAYES

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