

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT IN DESIGN * (*)

RG-O1711 - BioBuilders - Canopy Bridge

PITCH ELIGIBILITY DATE	COUNTRY(IES)	
07/26/2024	Ecuador	
ALIGNED WITH COUNTRY STRATEGY?		
Yes		
PARTNER(S)		
EcoDecision		
PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT		
N/A (**)		
TOTAL BUDGET	IDB Lab	LOCAL COUNTERPART AND COFINANCING
US 1,000,000	US 500,000	US 500,000
DESCRIPTION		

The problem In the Amazon, preserving biodiversity hinges on fostering vibrant local economies that maintain diverse farming systems and landscapes. highest proportions of Indigenous populations (65% and 51%, respectively (Pillalaza Piguave, S.F.) and their stewardship has been a respectively, Global Forest Watch, 2024). However, these provinces also have the lowest income levels in the nation, with 70% of residents These Indigenous communities, with generations of experience in complex agroforestry, now confront ecological and economic challenges vulnerable to market fluctuations, pests, and climate change – and forests increasingly vulnerable to deforestation for livestock, agriculture and Prioritizing diverse farming systems and creating revenue from a much wider array of products can safeguard biodiversity, conserve forests, while the economic potential of lesser-known products of the rainforest has been pointed to for years (May et al., 2013); (National Research untapped. While Ecuadorian Amazonian communities can exploit up to 150 species from their chakras (FAO, 2023), revenue is largely recently, wayusa).

Bringing new and undervalued products to market is a complex task. Those fortunate enough to be familiar with Amazon products find them or no experience with these ingredients - and traditional uses, recipes and processing methods do not always align with broader market preferences. as well as building marketing and distribution systems where they previously did not exist. And in the Amazon, farmers grapple with challenges processing constraints.

The solution EcoDecision's Canopy Bridge program has a proven track record of developing and bringing to market new rainforest food ingredients to market.

The overall objective of this project is to develop new commercial food products, increase sales, and enhance farmer capacity in order to boost purchases of macambo, cassava, and other products from farmers. Investments will contribute to a minimum 20% average increase in revenues to farmers derived from their agroforestry systems (chakras) during the project period. Through macambo-tree initiatives, a core group of 200 farmers will be on track to generate sustainable total revenues of US\$150,000/year when trees reach maturity (Y6). Purchasing from a total of 500 farmers during the project period, and uptake by other entities, will create a strong multiplier effect. Diversifying income sources across various crops

enhances resilience to economic and climate fluctuations.

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**The IDB categorizes all projects into one of six E/S impact categories. Category A projects are those with the most significant and mostly permanent E/S impacts, category B those that cause mostly local and short-term impacts, and category C those with minimal or no negative impacts. A fourth category, FI-1 (high risk) Financial Intermediary (FI)'s portfolio includes exposure to business activities with potential significant adverse environmental or social risks or impacts that are diverse, mostly irreversible or unprecedented, FI-2 (medium risk) FI's portfolio consists of business activities that have potential limited adverse environmental or social risks or impacts, FI-3 (low risk) FI's portfolio consists of financial exposure to business activities that predominantly have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

Efforts will enhance management and tree planting on approximately 1,000 hectares, directly sequestering approximately 4,200 tCO₂e. Making agroforestry economically viable prevents land-use conversion, avoiding emissions of carbon stocks of 295,000 tCO₂e. Focusing on buffer zones around 620,000 hectares of national protected areas, this project will reduce deforestation.

The beneficiaries Canopy Bridge works in close collaboration with Indigenous farmers in Ecuador's Napo and Pastaza provinces, primarily with Indigenous woman farmers of the Kichwa and Shuar nations.

Overall beneficiary population:

- 200 farmer families directly involved in farmer capacity building, chakra enrichment planning and farmer field schools, representing a total population of 1350 people (average family size of 6.7 pp).
- 500 farmer families involved in Canopy Bridge supply chains, receiving increased income from product sales, representing a total population of 3350 people (average family size of 6.7 pp).
- >80% farmers are women participating as direct beneficiaries in Canopy Bridge supply chains Institutional beneficiaries:
- At least 10 NGOs and government agencies motivated by Canopy Bridge macambo value-chain development to engage in farmer capacity building, agroforestry, research and other value-chain development activities;
- At least 10 local bioenterprise startups from Napo and neighboring provinces, receiving technical support and access to facilities, benefiting an additional 200 farmer families.

The partner EcoDecision SAS is a mission-driven company; Canopy Bridge is the company's program and brand focused on fostering diversity and sustainability in the Amazon through its unique Food Innovation Lab. Under Canopy Bridge, the company invests in market-focused food product R&D to unlock the culinary potential of Amazon ingredients and position them in new markets. Their team and facilities, based in the Ecuadorian Amazon (Archidona, Napo), integrate deep knowledge of rainforest foods with modern technology and access to consumer markets.

The IDB Lab's contribution will be a \$500,000 Non-Reimbursable Technical Cooperation from the Facility Bio-Business RG-O1711 funded by the Green Climate Fund. This project was selected from the open call Amazon Biobuilders developed for this facility. This project is under the umbrella of IDB Lab's Amazonia Forever program.

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