

ECUADOR

Assignment Name: National Forest Control Service		Country: Ecuador	
Location within Country: The whole territory of mainland Ecuador		Professional Staff Provided by SGS: Project Director, Operations Manager, 2 Finance & Administrative Managers, 2 Technical Assistants, 1 Data Processing Officer, 1 HR Supervisor, 106 Foresters, 14 Regional Administrative Managers.	
Name of Client: Government of Ecuador, Ministry of Environment		Nº of Staff: 130 full-time staff	
Address: Quito, Ecuador		Duration of Assignment: 10 years	
Start Date: January 2003	Completion Date: January 2013 (on hold since November 2003)	Approx. Cost/Value of Services: US\$ 4 million per year	
Names of Associated Consultants: N/A		Professional Staff Provided by Associated Consultants: N/A	
Names of Senior Staff Involved and Functions Performed: César Berni, Project Director			
Narrative Description of Project: The project aims to ensure that Ecuador's annual production of 3 million m3 of timber forest products is harvested legally and at a sustainable level. The monitoring and control function of Ecuador's forest sector has been outsourced to SGS as an independent verification company. Ecuador's "Modernisation of the State" programme, which includes delegating specific Government roles to private sector organisations, has yielded the legal framework for this contract. In the process, the Ministry of Environment has changed its role from controller and tax collector to enforcement authority and facilitator of sound management. Taxes and service fees are to be collected by SGS for each cubic meter of logs and sawn timber authorised for extraction. Representatives of the police, army and civil society will participate at each checkpoint. The fee rates and the levels of administrative and operational infrastructure are to be adjusted annually to the volume of operation within the limits of agreed financial criteria.			
Description of Services Provided by SGS Staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of management and harvesting plans; 2. Approval and issue of logging licences and timber transportation permits; 3. Collection of forest taxes; 4. Supervision of forest exploitation and the performance of forest stewards; 5. Monitoring of transportation of forest products; 6. Building and operation of a data network for the forest sector. <p>SGS Ecuador will provide the services from 32 offices, including 14 forest inspection units, 12 road checkpoints and 6 mobile units. These will carry out a national log tracking programme. SGS will perform random physical and documentary checks to verify compliance with relevant laws, regulations and best practice, and will issue reports of findings and professional opinions to inform decision-making and law enforcement. SGS will operate an on-line forest management information system linking the various units and the Ministry. The public will have access to reliable forest sector information on a dedicated website.</p>			