

Analyzing Effectiveness of Payment Ecosystem Services in Ecuador from an Environmental and Socio Economic Perspective

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The Socio Bosque Program was launched in Ecuador in 2008 by the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment (MEA) in accordance with national conservation initiatives. Socio Bosque was created to address conservation in the forests of Ecuador and in 2009 MEA expanded Socio Bosque to include SocioParamo, which was designed to address the paramo ecosystems of the Andean region. Both services aim to implement community practices to conserve the environment while also providing a means for poverty alleviation and socioeconomic mobility. Environmental practices of the programs include burn-exclusion, afforestation, and moderate grazing. The objectives of these practices are to regulate water, conserve carbon stores, and maintain the ecosystem's biodiversity. While these conservation incentive programs have displayed evidence of effectiveness in addressing carbon conservation and biodiversity, the programs fail to be as effective in terms of economic equity for landowners who participate.