CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN REGION

ECUADOR - Green Country

PROVINCE OF AZUAY

LIMITS:

The Province of Azuay is located in the south of Ecuador, in the inter-Andean region or sierra, mainly on the Hoya de Paute in the Northeast and the Hoya de Jubones in the southwest.

The limits of Ecuador are Colombia to the north, Peru to the south and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The boundaries of the Province of Azuay are the Province of Cañar to the north, the Province of Loja to the South, the Province of Guayas to the west, the Province of El Oro to the southwest, the Province of Morona Santiago to the east, and the Province of Zamora Chinchipe to the Southeast.
AREA:
It has an area of 8310 km²

DIFFERENTIATED ZONES:
Coast
Highland
Amazon
Insular Region (Galápagos)

AZUAY - DIVERSE
Azuay has:

- 30 Protective Forests,
- 2 National Parks - El Cajas and Río Negro Sopladora (its declaration will be this January 23, 2018 in Macas)
- 1 National Recreation Area Quimsacocha
- 3 Areas of Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Andean Condor (under municipal ordinance in Nabón, Oña and Santa Isabel cantons)

MAP OF PROTECTIVE FORESTS IN THE PROVINCE OF AZUAY

SOURCE: MAE-ECUADOR
The climate is variable, from the tropical to the glacial, due to the presence of the Andes mountain range and the subtropical vegetation to the west, the province is climatologically fragmented in diverse sectors. In addition, because of its tropical location, each climate zone has only two defined seasons: wet and dry. In the West, the temperature ranges between 20 °C and 33 °C, while in the Andean zone, it is usually between 10 °C and 28 °C. Currently the climate has varied reaching 29 degrees Celsius.
El Cajas has 285.4 km², it is a high altitude area west of Cuenca, and is located at a height of between 3152 to 4445 meters above sea level. It is formed by large elevations that have lacustrine systems inside, whose temperature ranges from 2 to 18 ° C.

QUIMSACOCHA MOORLAND

SOURCE: GOOGLE

It is located south of El Cajas National Park; its height ranges between 2800 to 4000 meters above sea level. Its extension is of 3217 hectares, and it is located between Victoria del Portete, Girón and San Fernando, 13.5 km from Cuenca.

RIO BLANCO MOORLAND

SOURCE: GOOGLE

It is located in Molleturo at 3200 meters above sea level.
THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF AZUAY in September 2016, in a great Provincial Assembly, supported by its people defending water and the environment, declared to the Province of Azuay "FREE OF METAL MINING" to ensure life in the moorlands and sources of Water.

Its rural population is highly dependent on the moorlands, protectors of water, and community leaders in defense of their culture.

They support the management of the Prefecture by considering that their programs benefit vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and women.

SUPPORT AND DECISION TO COMPROMISE CITIZENS OF AZUAY AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

1. The Provincial Government of Azuay is the promoter of the MAR Ordinance for the Mitigation, Adaptation and Reversal of climate change, with the initiative and support of the originative communities of the moorlands of Quimsacocha and Río Blanco, places where the mining exploitation has been constituted, to the detriment of the fragile ecosystems of the province of Azuay. This mining is located in El Cajas massif, a place declared as a Biosphere Reserve, located in the Cuenca Canton, a city declared as World Cultural Heritage.

2. The MAR Ordinance supports the fight against climate change and the reduction of its negative effects; therefore this ordinance integrates society and makes viable a better way of life.

3. The Provincial Government of Azuay, through its Department of Environmental Management, is committed through the Accreditation as Environmental Authority of Responsible Application, to govern, direct, order, arrange, or organize environmental management, environment and nature advocacy, within the scope of its territory; as expressed in the Organic Code of Territorial Organization, the Accreditation by Ministerial Resolution No. 212 issued on November 17, 2017 and the Constitution of 2008 in its Art. 263, in numeral 4, related to provincial environmental management.

GOALS IN THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF AZUAY

- **MAR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
  - The MAR Ordinance (Mitigation, Adaptation and Reversal of Climate Change) direct application:
    - Generate conditions to effectively prevent and manage actions against the negative effects of natural disasters caused by climate change. Avoid and reduce GHGs
    - Cantonal surveys on climate change were carried out
    - Generate conditions to maintain and improve productivity in changing weather conditions.
    - Use all the human capacity to maintain and even improve the climatic conditions that they have made and maintain the networks of life.
ENIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY OF RESPONSIBLE APPLICATION (AAAr)

- The Provincial Government of Azuay has assumed the Environmental Authority of Responsible Application, to govern, regulate, order, manage, arrange or organize environmental management, the environment and nature, in the scope of its territory.
- Creation of an Ordinance for the application and execution of plans and programs as an Environmental Authority.

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

- Coordination with the mixed economy enterprise GPATOURS in the route map for treks within the field of ecotourism in the communities of San Miguel de Pijili and Shagly; and the determination and execution of management plans for the existing flora and fauna in the area.
- Execution of risk management plans and recovery of areas degraded by fires and landslides.
- Drawing of the Azuay plant coverage map at a scale of 1:5000 to determine the different land uses and undertake major actions to recover the areas for conservation.
- Implementation of the spectacled bear and mountain tapir conservation project and socialization with the communities so that the agricultural frontier does not grow and make it a conservation area for wild animals in danger of extinction.
- Cooperation with UN WOMEN so that women living in the moorlands are trained to measure the water quality and flow with clean and renewed technology to maintain a standard of living without contamination in the moorlands.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS:

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

- Azuay has 712,127 inhabitants
- 12% corresponds to the indigenous population, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio, while 88% corresponds to mestizos and whites.
- It is one of the most important administrative, economic and financial centers in Ecuador.
- Its inhabitants maintain a policy of order; they are usually conservative, independent, and even initiators of their own projects that represent society as one of the best in the social field.
- They prove to be part of a culture of preparation, academic scholars inside and outside the Province and even the country.
It has committed authorities such as the Prefect Paúl Carrasco Carpio, known as one of the most representative men and politically accepted by his executive and entrepreneurial personality, at provincial and national level.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
Its different cantons are always promoted by its people and admired in the entrepreneurship in the manufacturing industry, for example with articles of toquilla straw such as hats or purses; fabric products such as the macanas; goldsmith’s work such as earrings, rings, handles, pendants of different metals; pottery such as pots, jugs, plates, etc., that gives its art an international recognition.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO BE APPLIED
- Constitution of Ecuador 2008
- Good Living Plan 2017 - 2030
- SDG Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030
- COOTAD
- Unified Text of Secondary Legislation of the Ministry of Environment
- MAR Ordinance
- AAAr Ordinance
- Biodiversity Agreement

CAPACITIES TO EXECUTE THE PRESENTED PROGRAMMING
- Environmental Authority of Responsible Application
- Socialization to parochial meetings
- Continuous training
- Empowerment of the programs to be executed
- National and international cooperation

DIFFICULTIES:
- Lack of budget
- Mining in the moorlands
- Deforestation
- Fires
- Heavy rains
- Landslides