

The eco.business Fund provides dedicated financing for businesses and consumption practices that promote biodiversity conservation, support sustainable use of natural resources, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Learn more about the fund's most recent impact-creating activities carried out during the past few months in Latin America in the following pages.

Q2-2020



## Launch of the eco.business Sustainability Academy

The eco.business Sustainability Academy was successfully launched in April 2020 to provide training on sustainable practices for partner institutions and end-borrowers.

To date, the Sustainability Academy has already hosted multiple webinars and online training sessions with UNEP FI as well as four different partner institutions; namely, Banco Hipotecario, Banco Atlántida, Banco Pichincha, and Banco Guayaquil, on topics such as climate change adaptation, new business opportunities in light of the pandemic, the role of women in agribusiness, IFC Performance Standards, and biosafety measures in agribusiness. So far, more than 700 individuals have attended these sessions.

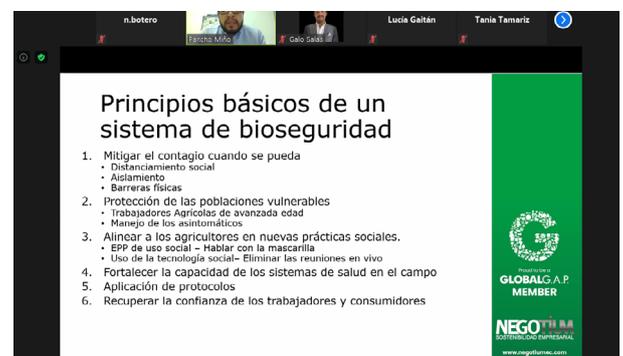
## Web-based monitoring system for social and environmental performance



The eco.business Development Facility is assisting the Nicaraguan bank, Banco Lafise in designing and implementing a web-based management system that diagnoses and monitors the social and environmental performance of its clients in the coffee, sugarcane, cacao, rice, cattle, and peanut sectors. The data is presented on a dashboard with interactive graphs, helping the bank obtain a snapshot of their portfolio and of each individual client. This new system now allows the bank to deepen its analysis of the social and environmental risks in its portfolio, monitor its clients' progress in sustainable performance, obtain data to measure its impact, and design new green products that respond to its clients' specific needs.

## Training sessions on biosafety with Banco Guayaquil

Responding to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on workplace dynamics, the eco.business Development Facility quickly identified the need to provide technical assistance that could help agricultural producers adapt to new health and safety regulations. For this reason, the eco.business Development Facility, in partnership with the *Ecuadorian Center for Efficient Use of Resources* and a consultant company specializing in agriculture, *Negotium*, designed training sessions for Banco Guayaquil's agribusiness clients on how to design biosafety measures and protocols and implement them into their production systems. Now, agribusinesses can comply with local legal requirements, allowing them to continue their operations safely, and reduce risk of infection.



## New partnership with UNEP FI

On June 16, the eco.business Development Facility launched an online course on the "Principles for Responsible Banking," in partnership with UNEP FI, the first webinar in a series of green finance courses to be offered to banks.

The first session was conducted with 83 bank representatives from Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Central America. The Development Facility contributed to the content creation of these courses based on its areas of expertise, for example, impact assessments, which is a key component of the Principles for Responsible Banking course.



The other green finance courses on offer, include:

- Environmental & Social Risk Analysis (ESRA) Training Program
- Corporate Ecoefficiency in Financial Institutions (CEFI)
- Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector

The remaining three courses will continue to be taught for the remainder of the year, through UNEP FI's online learning platform, allowing access to financial institutions around the globe.

## Sponsoring and speaking at the ColomBIODiversidad festival

For the fourth consecutive year, the eco.business Development Facility sponsored ColomBIODiversidad, the biggest biodiversity festival in Colombia. The theme of the festival this year was marine biodiversity. Antonio Wills, an expert consultant at the Development Facility, spoke in the session titled "Culinary Encounter: Responsible Fishing and Consumption" on sustainable practices and responsible consumption in the shrimp production industry, which was joined online by more than 600 people.



## Online course on IFC Performance Standards with Banco Pichincha

The eco.business Development Facility worked with the Center for Efficient Use of Resources to host an online training over the course of May with 71 Banco Pichincha officers in Ecuador on IFC Performance Standards. By increasing awareness among the local financial sector of the importance of environmental and social risk management, the fund and partner institutions are collaboratively helping generate social and environmental benefits on a systemic level. The bank will now conduct a pilot project to implement the Performance Standards throughout the course of the year.



Source: Pacific Risk Advisors

## Investments

In April, the eco.business Fund provided Banco Davivienda in Colombia with a loan of USD 12.5 million and expanded its credit line to Banco Ficohsa in Honduras by an additional USD 10 million. In May, the eco.business Fund provided Banco Davivienda in El Salvador with a loan of USD 25 million. These funds will continue to increase access to financing for businesses committed to sustainable practices, and conserving the unique ecological landscapes of the region.



Funded By:



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