

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 months in Latin America in the following pages.

Q4-2020

Investments & Fund News



eco.business Fund invests in Industrial Pesquera Santa Priscila in Ecuador

The eco.business Fund provided Industrial Pesquera Santa Priscila (IPSP), one of the largest shrimp and tilapia producers in Latin America, with a loan of USD 15 million to be used in IPSP's transition towards clean energy and greater resource efficiency. As wild-caught seafood has reached its full capacity, farmed aquaculture is critical for meeting growing global demand while reducing pressure on ecosystems. Additionally, as the fund's first corporate loan, this transaction signals the start of a new chapter for the fund in the area of corporate investments. Read the full press release, [here](#).

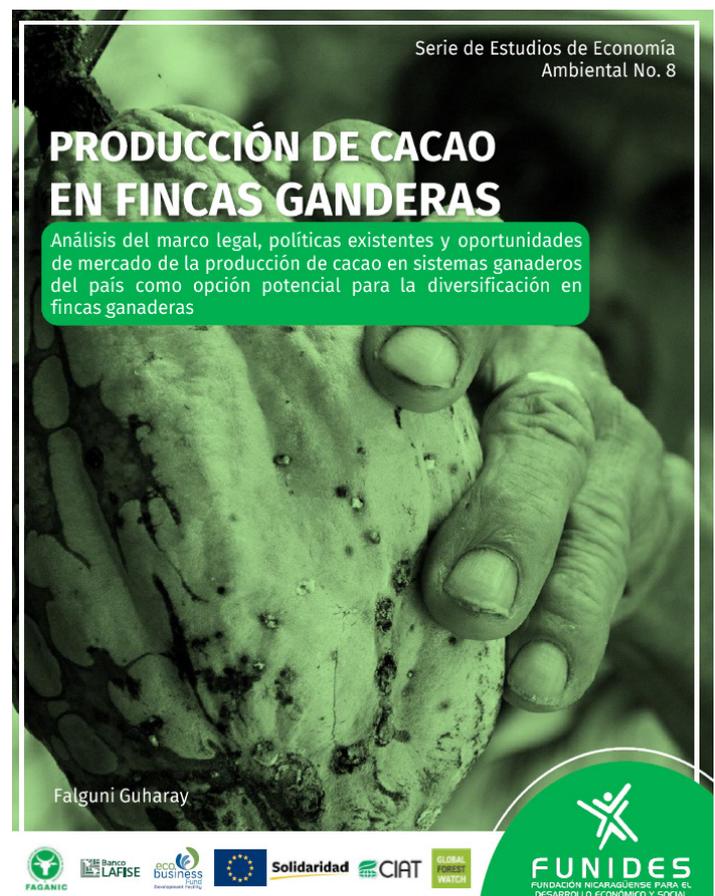
Development Facility News

Project with the initiative "Zero Deforestation Cattle Farming" comes to a successful close

As shared in the [previous bulletin](#), the Nicaraguan initiative "Zero Deforestation Cattle Farming," led by the Nicaraguan Foundation for Economic and Social Development ([FUNIDES](#)), Banco Lafise and the eco.business Development Facility, launched a cash prize contest where farmers from 16 associations were invited to submit project proposals designed to increase sustainable production practices in their farms. Three farmers were awarded prizes to implement their project proposals which included a wide range of sustainable practices such as reforestation of vulnerable areas, installation of live fences, rainwater harvesting, river basin conservation, and implementation of agroforestry systems, and a biodigester.

With the project coming to an end in 2020, the eco.business Development Facility is proud to have helped train over 130 cattle farmers in monitoring and safeguarding forests through the use of technology despite the mobility challenges posed by the pandemic. Click [here](#) to read the full project. In addition, the Development Facility participated in the establishment of guidelines on how to integrate agroforestry systems into cattle ranching, helping farmers diversify their income by producing and selling cacao and wood products in parallel to their current activities. Click [here](#) to read the guidelines on cacao production, and [here](#) for the guidelines about silvopastoral systems.

Lastly, the project has also played an integral part in the development of the Nicaraguan Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, which will coordinate local efforts in increasing the sustainability of the value chain.



Recordings of the webinar series held in partnership with UNEP FI are now available



Beginning in June this year, the eco.business Development Facility partnered with UNEP FI to co-host two webinar series, the first introducing the “Principles of Responsible Banking” framework and the second on “Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector.” The recordings of these webinar series are now available on UNEP FI’s YouTube channel, which can be accessed [here](#). In the third webinar, which focused on “Clients and Consumers,” the third principle of the framework, bank officials across Latin America learnt how the fund’s partners, Multibank and Bancolombia, led their clients towards greater sustainability and how the eco.business Development Facility contributes to these efforts.

The eco.business Fund receives new data on its impact in El Salvador



Starting in 2018, the eco.business Development Facility began to work with Banco Hipotecario to collect data on the environmental performance of their coffee clients. Recently, Universidad Zamorano in El Salvador analyzed the data to measure the impact of the fund and to develop indicators to measure the environmental impact of the fund moving forward. The study found that a significant amount of the bank’s clients incorporate a variety of sustainable practices in their operations, such as organic fertilizer use instead of chemical fertilizers which are better for long term crop production, soil conservation practices, and better labor and administrative practices. This

shows how the bank is shifting towards building a more sustainable portfolio with the help of the eco.business Development Facility. The study also investigated other topics such as the obstacles producers face that prevent them from transitioning to sustainable production systems. Therefore, the study serves as an important source of information for the Development Facility to initiate additional projects to help increase sustainability in the Salvadorian coffee industry.

eco.business Development Facility in sub-Saharan Africa launches first webinar on climate change

The eco.business Development Facility in sub-Saharan Africa hosted its first webinar in October, in partnership with the “Making Finance Work for Africa” (MFW4A) Secretariat, and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). Entitled “Risk and opportunities from climate change for the financial sector,” the webinar explored possible entry points for African local banks to tap into opportunities brought about by climate change but also point out possible risks and how to mitigate them.

The accelerating pace of climate change demands proactive and responsible adaptation strategies from the financial sector. This webinar highlighted the risks and opportunities that climate change poses for the financial sector in Africa and discussed how financial institutions can best respond to these in a sustainable manner.

Year in Review



17 webinars
with **1,500+** in attendance
from **30+** countries



530+ bank officers
trained from **10 partner**
institutions in **5 countries**



Supported the **development, update, and implementation of 6 ESMS** in **4 countries**

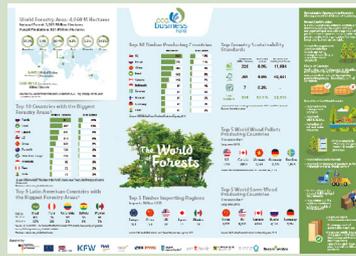


360+ end-borrowers
trained

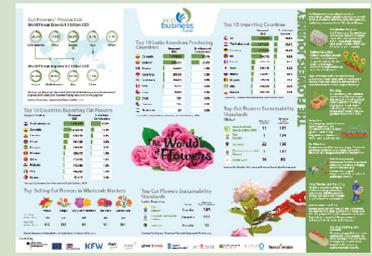
New Publications



Rice Profile



Forestry Profile



Flower Profile



Impact Story Florverde



Impact Story Eco Kakao



Impact Story Cotopaxi

Funded By:



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About us - The eco.business Fund aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation, to the sustainable use of natural resources, and to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. By providing financing for business practices that conserve nature and foster biodiversity, the fund seeks investments with both environmental and financial returns. The fund mainly provides loans to qualified financial institutions that on-lend the money to eligible borrowers, which include holders of recognized certifications or those making improvements in line with conservation and biodiversity goals. The fund supports sustainable operations in the sectors of agriculture, fishery (including aquaculture), forestry and tourism.

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