



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

FiTI Candidate Country application

Country: Ecuador

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Attachments to this Candidate application:

- Public commitment letter to join the FiTI, appointment of Lead Ministry and FiTI National Lead by Mgs. Julio José Prado Lucio-Paredes, Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, submitted on December 23, 2021
- Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG of Ecuador, approved and circulated on November 11, 2022
- Workplan 2022-2023 of the FiTI National MSG of Ecuador, approved and circulated on November 18, 2022

Rationales and objectives

Please provide a general statement on the rationales for implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in your country and on the objectives that your country wants to achieve through the FiTI.

The Government of Ecuador has committed to FiTI because it considers transparency to be a pillar for achieving sustainable fisheries. Through the implementation of the FiTI Standard, the following objectives are being pursued:

- Improve access to fisheries information so that it is available, updated and easy to find for Ecuadorian citizens interested in the fisheries sector.
- Contribute to the combat against illegal fishing by promoting greater access to fisheries information that will make it more difficult to commit illegal acts.
- Strengthen accountability processes to bring citizens closer to the public function, so that we can show ecuadorians and the world that we are doing things right.
- Lead efforts in the region to increase transparency in fisheries, setting an example in fisheries management.
- Strengthen the governance of the fisheries sector through greater participation of stakeholders.

Step 1: Public commitment

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.1

<i>Name, role/title and contact information of the government's senior official who issued the public commitment:</i>	<p>Mgs. Julio José Prado Lucio-Paredes, Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries (jprado@produccion.gob.ec) through a public letter directed to the FiTI Chair sent on December 23, 2021.</p> <p>Atty. Andrés Arens Hidalgo, Viceminister of Aquaculture and Fisheries (aarens@produccion.gob.ec) reemphasized the government's commitment at a public event in Manta on March 11, 2022.</p>
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Please indicate below where your government's commitment to implement the FiTI in your country can be found (e.g. website, press release). Furthermore, please outline whether this statement:

- ***has been publicised through media outlets, such as radio, television, print media and social media;***
- ***has been translated into all the official languages of your country (if applicable).***

Ecuador's public commitment was initially communicated through an official letter No. MPCEIP-DMPCEIP-2021-0944-O in which Mr. Prado, Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries, which informed Dr. Valeria Merino, Chair of the FiTI International Board, of Ecuador's interest in joining FiTI.

Subsequently, in a public event on March 11, 2022, Mr. Andrés Arens, Viceminister of Aquaculture and Fisheries, reconfirmed the country's willingness to join FiTI and implement the FiTI Standard. This event was featured on social media¹ and accompanied by a [press release](#).

The public commitment letter is attached to this FiTI Candidate country application.

Step 2: Enabling environment for stakeholder participation

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.2

Please describe below your government's commitment to an enabling environment for business and civil society participation. Such an environment refers to relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules as well as actual practice in implementing the FiTI.

The [Constitution of Ecuador \(2008\)](#) recognizes in its Art. 384 communication, information, freedom of expression and citizen participation as rights. Likewise, the [Organic Law of Communication](#) recognizes in its Art. 17 the rights of freedom of thought and expression.

Also, it is worth mentioning the existence of [the Organic Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information](#) (Law 24) and its [Regulations](#) approved by Executive Decree No. 2471 of January 19, 2005. Both instruments are key to regulate the concepts of transparency and access to public information.

Specifically regarding Ecuador's marine fisheries, the sector is regulated by the [Organic Law for the Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries](#) (LODAP). In this sense, it is highlighted that the LODAP recognizes the principle of transparency: People will have access to public information of general interest, records, files and administrative archives, in accordance with current regulations. It is also mentioned that the fishing authority will manage the National Aquaculture and Fishing Information System following the principle of transparency (Art. 27). Likewise, in relation to traceability, it is indicated that the mechanisms and procedures implemented must

¹ For example in [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).

consider transparency within the processes (Art. 36). On the other hand, the LODAP [Regulation](#) also indicates that within the framework of the governance principle, dialogue roundtables may be established to follow participatory and transparent processes.

In this context, it is considered that the regulatory framework favors and supports a favorable environment for the participation of the different actors of the private sector and civil society. This is also emphasized by several international indexes measuring governance and rights, such as:

- Freedom in the World 2022 ranks Ecuador as 71/100 or “Free”.² This is a significant improvement from the 2019 edition of the report, which scored Ecuador at 67/100 or “Partly Free”. In the 2022 report, Ecuador scores particularly well in the ‘Freedom of Expression and Beliefs’ and ‘Associational and Organisational Rights’ sections, e.g. receiving a score of 3/4 for the question: ‘Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights and governance-related work?’
- Ecuador is ranked 68th of 180 countries in the 2022 Reporters Without Borders Index, with a score of 64.61/100.³

In early 2020, the Escazu Agreement entered into force as it was ratified by the National Assembly. This agreement links protocols and global, regional and national frameworks to establish standards to strengthen capacities for policy formulation, access to information and decision making on environmental issues with the participation of governments and civil society in order to promote sustainable development in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Since 2018, Ecuador is also a national member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)⁴, demonstrating the government’s commitment to become more open to its citizens by implementing principles and practices that promote transparency and access to information, as well as civic participation, accountability and public integrity.

Also, in 2020, Ecuador joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)⁵, which is the global standard for good governance of oil, gas and mineral resources.

Finally, Ecuador is classified as an upper middle income country.⁶

Step 3: FiTI Lead Ministry and FiTI National Lead

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.3

² <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ecuador/freedom-world/2022>

³ <https://rsf.org/en/country/ecuador>

⁴ <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/ecuador>

⁵ <https://eiti.org/ecuador>

⁶ <https://data.worldbank.org/country/EC>

FiTI Lead Ministry:

<i>Name, address and contact information (e.g. website, phone) of the appointed FiTI Lead Ministry:</i>	The Viceministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries (VAP), within the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries (MPCEIP) (https://www.produccion.gob.ec/viceministerio-de-acuacultura-y-pesca/)
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Please describe below the rationales for selecting the FiTI Lead Ministry:

Through [Executive Decree No. 559](#) of November 14, 2018, the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries (MPCEIP) was created (by merging different previously existing ministries). and through [Executive Decree No. 636](#), the Viceministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries (VAP) was created. Additionally, through [Ministerial Agreement No. 21 001](#) of March 4, 2021, the Organic Statute of said Ministry was approved, which details that the Minister is responsible for directing the public fisheries policy, and the Viceminister of Aquaculture and Fisheries has the mission of issuing strategic guidelines and directives for the regulation, promotion and exploitation of fishing and aquaculture activities, through the implementation of policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects.

Consequently, the VAP is the governing body for fisheries in Ecuador, as indicated in its Organic Statute. It is therefore seen as the most appropriate institution to lead the coordination related to the FiTI implementation within Ecuador.

FiTI National Lead:

<i>Name, title/role and contact information of the FiTI National Lead:</i>	Mr José Isidro Andrade Vera Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy VAP-MPCEIP jandrade@produccion.gob.ec
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Please describe below the rationales for appointing the FiTI National Lead (e.g. competences, experiences, authority and freedom to coordinate action on the FiTI implementation across relevant ministries and agencies):

Isidro Andrade was designated through a communication from Minister Prado addressed to the Chair of the FiTI International Board as the focal point and FiTI National Lead for the necessary coordination for its implementation. From his position as Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, he is responsible for designing, proposing and evaluating management regulations, plans, programs, national and international cooperation agreements, based on technical and scientific instruments to regulate and promote the activities of the fisheries and aquaculture sector,

helping to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of resources in all its phases. Likewise, he has participated in multiple international events, for example, as Ecuadorian Commissioner to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). In that sense, from his position and with his background, he has the coordination and articulation skills necessary to be the FiTI National Lead.

Please describe below where the announcement of the FiTI Lead Ministry and the FiTI National Lead can be found in the public domain (e.g. website, press release):

Minister Prado's communication was featured during the public launch event on March 11, 2022 in Manta (see above) as well as reported through MPCEIP's official website and social media (as previously stated).

The appointment letter is attached to this FiTI Candidate country application.

Step 4: FiTI National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG)

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.4

Name, title/role, organisation, and contact information of the <u>Chair of the FiTI National MSG</u>:	Atty. Andrés Arens Hidalgo Viceminister of Aquaculture and Fisheries VAP-MPCEIP aarens@produccion.gob.pe
State whether membership in the FiTI National MSG is <u>individual or institutional</u>:	Institutional
<u>Total number of members in the FiTI National MSG</u>:	18 members and the FiTI National MSG Chair
List of <u>government</u> members in the FiTI National MSG (alternates are listed in italic):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undersecretary of Fishery Resources [Alejandro Moya] ▪ Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition [David Veintimilla; <i>Harry Reyes</i>] ▪ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility [Isabel Albornoz; <i>Edwin Zambrano</i>]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (IPIAP) [Pilar Solis; <i>David Chicaiza</i>] ▪ National Directorate of Public Records (DINARP) [María Gálvez; <i>Nashaly Zapata, Isabel Calero</i>] ▪ National Directorate of Aquatic Spaces (DIRNEA) [Freddy Espinoza; <i>Kleber Guerra</i>]
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<p>List of <u>business</u> members in the FiTI National MSG (alternates are listed in italic):</p>	<p><u>Industrial sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cobus Group [Juan Carlos Correia; <i>Goretti Correia</i>] ▪ Society of Producers and Marketers of Marine Ingredients of Ecuador (INMARE) [Andrés Carrión] ▪ National Chamber of Fisheries (CNP)⁷ [Karina Solis; <i>Rafael Trujillo, Bruno Leone</i>] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Ecuadorian Chamber of Industrialists and Tuna Processors (CEIPA)</i> [Monica Maldonado] ○ <i>Tuna Association of Ecuador (ATUNEC)</i> [Luigi Benincasa]
	<p>Artisanal Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Galapagos Artisanal Fishing Organizations Corporation (CORPAG) [Juan Carlos Torres; <i>Grace Unda</i>] ▪ National Federation of Fishing Cooperatives of Ecuador (FENACOPEC) [Gabriela Cruz; <i>Patricia Santos</i>] ▪ Association of Fishing Production of Manta Shipowners (ASOAMAN) [George Pinto, Javier Alarcón]

⁷ Initially, the National Chamber of Fisheries (CNP) is the main representative of Ecuador's tuna industry in the FiTI National MSG; the Ecuadorian Chamber of Industrialists and Tuna Processors (CEIPA) and the Association of Tuna Fishermen of Ecuador (ATUNEC) serve as Alternates to the CNP. After a period of time, a rotating mechanism will be applied (following the order they have been named), so that each of the three tuna industry representatives will eventually serve as the main representative in this group.

<p>List of <u>civil society members in the FiTI National MSG</u> (alternates are listed in italic):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservación Internacional Ecuador [Xavier Chalen; <i>Nelson Zambrano; Luis Suárez</i>] ▪ WWF Ecuador [Pablo Guerrero, <i>Fernando Rey</i>] ▪ Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo [Marcelo Espinel; <i>Mauricio Alarcón; Santiago Mena</i>] ▪ TUNACONS [Guillermo Morán; Jose Luis García] ▪ College of Biologists of Manabí (COBIM) [David Valle] ▪ Universidad Eloy Alfaro Lay de Manabí (ULEAM) [Jaime Sánchez; <i>George García</i>]
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<p>List of <u>permanent observer organisations to the FiTI National MSG</u> (if any):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently none (under discussion)
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Please state below where information regarding the members of the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website):

At the moment there is no web page dedicated to FiTI Ecuador. However, this is one of the actions proposed in the FiTI Ecuador workplan (see below). This website will then eventually provide specific information on each of the members of the MSG.

Please describe below the efforts and measures taken to ensure the openness and inclusiveness of the invitation process to participate in the FiTI National MSG:

To ensure an open and inclusive process to participate in the MSG (in terms of the private sector and civil society) the MPCEIP opened a period to receive requests for expression of interest, which was published on its institutional portal. A [first request for expressions of interest \(EoI\)](#) was published on May 26 for a period of 3 weeks, and subsequently a [second request for EoI](#) was launched on June 23 also for another period of 3 weeks. The EoI was open to interested parties that met a minimum set of criteria, which was developed under guidance from the FiTI International Secretariat.

In preparation for both requests of EoI, two virtual workshops were organized by the MPCEIP with support from the FiTI International Secretariat. The first was organized on May 17 and

targeted national authorities, whereas the second workshop (May 18) was public and open to all interested parties. This second workshop was announced on social networks ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) and the transmission of the event is recorded on MPCEIP's [social media channels](#).

Furthermore, the requests of Eol were also disseminated through MPCEIP's social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

Overall, the process to participate in the MSG was open for almost 2 months and widely announced. It is therefore seen that during the process of establishing the National MSG the government ensured that interested parties from civil society and private sector were informed and had available information to freely nominate their representatives without any governmental interference.

Please provide information below on the selection process conducted by every stakeholder group to nominate their own representatives:

The total number of available seats in the FiTI Ecuador NSMG was determined by the VAP (FiTI Lead Ministry) as 18. This is because the number is sufficiently large to reflect the diverse interests within Ecuador's marine fisheries sector while still ensuring the effective operation of the group.

The public sector representatives were defined by the MPCEIP – taking into consideration the competencies and functions of the different institutions – and subsequently, invited to participate in the process of implementing the FiTI Standard. Each designated Ministry assigned its representatives by means of an official letter.

For the private sector, more expressions of interest were received – based on the publicly announced call for Expressions of Interest (see above) – than the number of members foreseen for this part of the MSG. Therefore, under the guidance of the FiTI National Lead, a rotation scheme has been determined for three representatives of Ecuador's tuna sector. This was agreed by the tuna representatives during the first MSG meeting; the National Chamber of Fisheries (CNP) will begin as the main representative of Ecuador's tuna industry in the FiTI National MSG; the Ecuadorian Chamber of Industrialists and Tuna Processors (CEIPA) and the Association of Tuna Fishermen of Ecuador (ATUNEC) will serve as Alternates to the CNP. After a period of 12 months, a rotating mechanism will be applied (following the order they have been named), so that each of the three tuna industry representatives will eventually serve as the main representative in this group.

For civil society, only 4 expressions of interest were received initially. Noting the absence of academic institutions, the FiTI National Lead sent additional invitations to the College of Biologists of Manabí and the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí, both of which agreed to participate on behalf of academia.

The MSG had its first meeting on the 30th of September 2022 as an in-person meeting in Manta.

Please document below how the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG were approved:

The VAP used the Terms of Reference template shown in the FiTI International Secretariat's [Guidance #1](#) , which has been tailored to the Ecuadorian context. It should be noted that the Terms of Reference have been prepared taking into consideration the requirements A.4 of the FiTI Standard in order to have all the minimum provisions required.

A draft of the Terms of Reference was shared prior to the first meeting of the MSG on September 26th, 2022 so that they could be reviewed by the members. During the first meeting a provisional vote was taken on the document, and a two-week period was given to receive written comments. Following the comment period, the various proposals were evaluated, and adjustments were made where appropriate.

Finally, the approved Terms of Reference were shared with the members of the MSG at the time of convening the second meeting of the group (November 11th, 2022).

Please indicate the provisions of the Terms of Reference for decision-making procedures in case a consensus cannot be reached (i.e. voting is required):

Article 36. - **Quorum.** - The quorum to start a meeting and carry out a vote is at least half of the members of the MSG, and at least two members of each group of interested parties must be present. If the quorum is not reached, the participating members may decide to conduct the corresponding debate, and this must be recorded in the minutes, however, they may not adopt any decision.

Article 37. - **Types of Majority to Adopt Decisions.** - The members may vote for or against the recommendations or motions submitted for debate, or abstain from voting. As a general rule, the decisions of the MSG shall be adopted by an absolute majority of half plus one of the members with voice and vote, seeking ideally that they are adopted by consensus of all members.

Article 38. - **Debates.** - Discussions shall be conducted by the Chair, who shall state in the notice of the meeting the agenda, the time for discussion of each item, and the total time scheduled for the meeting.

The Chair shall give the necessary instructions so that the debates can be carried out within the time foreseen in the approved agenda.

The sessions shall be recorded and the National Secretariat shall be responsible for keeping such records for at least fifteen years.

Article 39. - **Decision-Making.** - The Chair shall take a vote on each item on the agenda at the end of the time allotted for discussion, which shall be recorded by the National Secretariat in the corresponding minutes.

The National Secretariat shall report when the time allotted for discussion of an item has expired, at which time the Chair shall ask the members to vote on the approval or rejection of the motion or recommendation. If half plus one of the members with voice and vote consider that they cannot vote at that time, they shall express succinctly and clearly the reasons that prevent them from voting, the Secretary shall record what the members have said and the meeting shall immediately move on to the next item on the agenda, leaving the item or items not voted on for the end of the meeting, provided that two or more members agree.

When revisiting a point on which a decision could not be made, a summary debate shall be held, in which only those elements that prevented a decision from being made shall be discussed; the Presidency shall define the time for this new debate, at the conclusion of this summary debate, a new vote shall be taken.

To decide on the adoption of normative resolutions and rulings, a technical and legal report shall always be required; to decide on the issuance of agreements, the National Secretariat shall submit executive summaries and a draft agreement that shall include the pertinent motivation for said act; in addition, the pertinent documentation shall be attached to inform the MSG.

Article 40. - **Deferral of the adoption of a decision.** - An item may be left unresolved only at the express request of one or more delegates and only when the reason is the lack of information essential to the adoption of a decision. If, at the request of the Chair, none of the delegates requests that an item be left unresolved, the National Secretariat shall proceed to take a vote on the item, which shall be decided by an absolute majority of half plus one of the members with voice and vote, excluding abstentions.

In the event that a delegate states that he/she cannot vote because he/she needs to analyze a technical report in greater detail, this shall be recorded in the minutes and for voting purposes his/her vote shall be considered an abstention and shall be decided by the vote of the other members. The only exception to this rule is in the case of reports that have not been circulated prior to the meeting together with the Notice of the meeting, within the corresponding term.

Please state below where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website):⁸

As mentioned above, for the moment there is no dedicated website for the FiTI implementation process in Ecuador. The approved Terms of Reference have been circulated to all members of the MSG and have also been attached to this Candidate Application.

Step 5: FiTI National Secretariat

⁸ In case the Terms of Reference are not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.5

Organisation/host structure and address of the FiTI National Secretariat:	Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy VAP-MPCEIP
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Please describe below the rationales for selecting this organisation to act as the FiTI National Secretariat:

The Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy has been assigned within the FiTI Lead Ministry (VAP) to ensure operational support for the FiTI National Lead as well as the MSG in order to perform their responsibilities.

Hosting the National Secretariat within the FiTI Lead Ministry is associated with significant benefits because it facilitates communication to and relations with relevant government agencies and bodies, often speeding up government cooperation. At the same time, this proximity of the National Secretariat to one stakeholder (e.g. government) has not been seen as questionable by the National MSG to threaten considerably the Secretariat's independence.

Name, title/role and contact information of the Head of the FiTI National Secretariat:	Jose Isidro Andrade Vera (FiTI National Lead) Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy jandrade@produccion.gob.ec
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Current number of staff assigned to serve in the FiTI National Secretariat (part-time and full-time), including name, title/role and contact information:	David Alexander Villavicencio Villavicencio (Analyst) dvillavicencio@produccion.gob.ec
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Please describe below the process of selecting key staff of the FiTI National Secretariat (e.g. qualifications, experience):

The staff designated to serve as the FiTI National Secretariat have been involved since the initial FiTI discussions in Ecuador and therefore have experience and knowledge of the process. Expertise and credentials of the Head of the FiTI National Secretariat (who is also the FiTI National Responsible) have been previously described, and David Villavicencio is a Foreign

Trade Engineer, with more than 20 years of experience, and has been working in the VAP for more than 8 years, so he has a wide knowledge of the Ecuadorian fishing sector.

Please describe below the measures taken for establishing a properly authorised and resourced FiTI National Secretariat:

Currently, the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is providing the human resources necessary for the National Secretariat's work. At present, these tasks are of an operational nature, since the FiTI implementation process is just beginning.

Discussions have also been initiated with other technical and financial partners to support the FiTI National Secretariat with implementing the FiTI.

Please state where the formally-documented Terms of Reference of the FiTI National Secretariat can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).⁹

The Terms of Reference of the FiTI MSG also include provisions related to the functioning of the National Secretariat of FiTI Ecuador (Art. 28-31).

Please state whether operational synergy effects have been explored in case similar secretariats or organisations that support other multi-stakeholder initiatives are already established in the country, if applicable:

Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo (Transparency International Chapter Ecuador) – which is a member of FiTI Ecuador's MSG – is also participating in other multi-stakeholder processes, such as EITI and OGP. For the time being, no possible synergies or opportunities for collaboration have been identified; however, it is possible to identify them in the future, once the FiTI implementation process has advanced.

Step 6: Workplan

→ FiTI Standard, Part I, Section A.6

<i>Timeframe of workplan:</i>	November 2022 – December 2023
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⁹ In case such Terms of Reference are not yet published online, please attach a copy of this document as an annex to this application.

<p>List the core objectives for the first reporting period, as documented in the workplan:</p>	<p><u>General objective:</u> Implement the FiTI Standard in Ecuador with the participation of all MSG members.</p> <p><u>Specific objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring Ecuador into compliance with the requirements of the FiTI Standard. ▪ Strengthen the governance and administration of the FiTI Ecuador National MSG ▪ Strengthen implementation of the FiTI Standard (including the recommendations of Ecuador’s TAKING STOCK assessment, provided by the FiTI International Secretariat)..
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<p>State the anticipated financial budget for the achievement of these objectives and indicate, to what percentage this budget has already been secured:¹⁰</p>	<p>Approximately USD 66,000, primarily for the engagement of a Report Compiler to prepare Ecuador’s inaugural FiTI Report, and to implement training, capacity building and raising awareness activities.</p> <p>This budget has not yet been secured. However, in the MSG’s FiTI Work Plan fundraising activities have been proposed.</p>
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Please state below whether input from stakeholders outside of the FiTI National MSG has been included in the preparation of this workplan:

Yes, the workplan has taken into account the recommendations of the TAKING STOCK assessment conducted by the FiTI International Secretariat, which included also feedback from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in Ecuador.

Please document below how the first workplan of the FiTI National MSG was approved:

A workplan proposal was initially prepared by one of the members of the National MSG (Conservation International), presented and agreed during the first meeting of the National MSG (in Manta on September 30th). This proposal was shared by e-mail, providing a deadline for review and written input before discussing it during a National MSG meeting. Finally, the

¹⁰ In case the anticipated budget is less than 50% secured at the time of submission this application, please indicate how the FiTI Lead Ministry/FiTI National MSG is planning to obtain the remaining funding.

workplan was presented at the 2nd National MSG meeting (in a virtual meeting on November 18), in which members of the National MSG provided input and comments on the document, agreeing to its approval after incorporating their comments. Thus, after the process described above, the work plan was approved by its members by consensus.

Please state where the approved workplan for the FiTI National MSG can be found in the public domain (e.g. website).

At the moment there is no dedicated website for the FiTI implementation process in Ecuador. However, this is one of the activities proposed in the FiTI MSG's own workplan. The approved workplan is attached to this Candidate Application.

Additional information

Please provide any additional information deemed useful for the FiTI International Board in assessing this application. While this section is non-mandatory, such information may include:

- ***additional relevant organisations and/or individuals involved in the sign-up process (and their activities);***
- ***necessary legal or administrative requirements for establishing the FiTI in your country (e.g. presidential decree), if applicable;***
- ***other national efforts (e.g. open government) that can be used to further anchor the implementation of the FiTI in the country;***
- ***any other information relevant to assess the fulfilment of individual sign-up steps;***
- ***determined calendar year that will be covered by the first FiTI Report.***

During 2021, in order to socialize more information about FiTI with the actors of the Ecuadorian fishing sector, the VAP convened a [meeting](#). This meeting provided more information on the FiTI Standard and the implementation process, clarifying doubts and questions from the main stakeholders of the fishing sector. The fishing sector was also involved in the process, since after the event there were signs of endorsement and support from them towards FiTI.

After the public commitment made in March 2022, the Ecuadorian government has also expressed its commitment to FiTI at international events, for example during the [UN Ocean Conference](#). During this event, the [commitment towards the FiTI](#) was also officially communicated to the UN.

Ecuador is also in the process of elaborating its 2nd National Action Plan to the Open Government Partnership, in which a [commitment](#) related to the implementation of FiTI has been selected to be included within the plan.