



# GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	FIDES
Country:	Ecuador
Reporting Quarter:	FY18 Q1 (July to September 2017)
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## <Highlight 1>: COMMUNITARIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL

Two main actions were carried out in the first trimester which were the completion of the background document for the School for the Strengthening of Communitarian Leadership Skills and the opening of the aforementioned with the Human, Nature and Gender's Rights Module 1.

The School's Base Document along with the background information that justify its implementation, poses the methodology that will be used as well as the main themes:

- Rights: human, gender equality and nature
- Territories preserved by town and local communities: collective and good living rights
- Climate change and Adaptation based on ecosystems
- Social Control and Participation
- The Impact on public policies
- Final meeting to plan the replication process in the communities

The school's aim is:

To strengthen the abilities and skills needed for the exercise of democratic communitarian leadership; the commitment to the application of the aforementioned rights as well as the sustainable management and resilience of its territories.

In addition, a module about habituation to the climate change based on ecosystems is being developed and will be introduced to the school.

The school and its first module were inaugurated with a total of 29 participants from all the communities, 11 of those being women; the workshop took place in the city of Montecristi from 28th to 30th of September.

The main objectives of this module were as follows:

- To generate and strengthen knowledge about the nature of human rights, gender rights, collective rights and the rights of nature and the importance of their application.
- To reinforce the skills of the people participating in order for them to familiarise with the appropriate means and tools to establish the various levels of application and the appropriate ways to achieve their restitution and defence when those rights have been violated.

There will also be practical tasks between the modules along with the replica to 10 community fellows. These workshops will be subject to academic evaluation.

They have been provided by lawyer Silvana Rivadeneira, a professional with wide experience and knowledge in terms of Rights of Nature as well as the Rights of villages and communities.

Herein will be attached the document including the methodology used and implemented in the Leadership school.

#### <Highlight 2>: THE REFORESTATION OF MANGROVE IN CHONE'S RIVER ESTUARY

Reforestation in Chone River estuary was continued, 4.000 seedlings of red mangrove were planted this trimester. The process was carried out across two hectares in an area known as the "Cormorants' zone". It counted with the participation of 15 members from the Communitarian Tourism Centre "*Jóvenes del Manglar*", 5 of whom were females. They also had the support of two Park Rangers from the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador (MAE) and from the "Vida Silvestre Islas Corazón y Fragatas" Refuge.

#### <Highlight 3>: IMPROVEMENT OF ARTISAN SALT

There has been a deep exploration on the possible actions to improve and implement the production and commercialization of gourmet salt with the Salt Producers' Association (ASPROSAL). With this aim, the attention has been focused on various aspects:

- The revision of the Environmental Plan for the "las Pampas" salt mines. This involves an initial assessment regarding compliance with the activities and action plans established in the management plan of the "las Pampas" salt mines from July 2014 to June 2017. Consecutively, a second Environmental Plan for the 2017-2019 period will also be developed. For this, candidates underwent a selection process and finally contracted Biologist José Merchán's services. At the time of this present report, this is an ongoing Project.
- The construction of the machinery for the salt processing, including a dryer and mixer, is also taking place. This activity is being performed with the financial counterparty of the Czech Embassy with headquarters in Lima (Perú) as well as the "Bicorredor Portoviejo" project supported by the Small Grant Program (SGP).
- FIDES builds strategic relationships with the Foundation of the Pichincha Bank (CRISFE) that has several programs. For instance, the program of Financial Education offered along with small associative amounts of credit to entrepreneurs. Also, there is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Alliance (AEI). These relationships have been targeted to generate a lending process for people in the ASPROSAL that have credit needs linked to the salt production. There will be a loan for the amount of USA \$12.000, which will be invested in the purchase of geomembranes in order to increase the salt production.

[Photos](#)



Photo1: Workshop School of Leadership. Module 1: Group Work. ©FIDES Foundation



Photo 2: Workshop School of Leadership. Integration work. ©FIDES Foundation



Photo 3: Workshop School of Leadership. Module 1: Group Work. ©FIDES Foundation



Photo 4: Red mangrove tree nursery. ©FIDES Foundation





Photo 5: Transport of mangrove seedlings. ©FIDES Foundation



Photo 6: Mangrove reforestation. ©FIDES Foundation