# BUILDING A PROJECT PIPELINE: ADVANCING JUST TRANSITION

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

TAP Transformative Actions Program

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITARY AND STORMWATER SEWER SYSTEM FOR VALLE DEL UPANO, LOS VERGELES, AND NARANJAL (CANTÓN MORONA)

### PROJECT CITY
Macas, Cantón Morona — Morona Santiago, Ecuador

### SECTOR
E – Sewerage, waste collection, treatment and disposal; remediation / materials recovery (Sewerage)

### COST
USD 8,909,012.45

### STAGE OF PROJECT CYCLE

| CONCEPT | PLAN* | IMPLEMENTATION | ONGOING | CLOSED |
|---|---|---|---|---|

*Technical designs and approvals in place; financing to be secured

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Cantón Morona faces a structural sanitation gap in the urban neighborhoods of Valle del Upano, Los Vergeles, and Naranjal. There is no public sanitary or stormwater network: ~80% of residents use septic pits/biodigesters and 20% discharge directly to nearby rivers and streams, driving waterbody contamination, infectious diseases, and an infant mortality rate of 15.12‰ in the cantonal capital (above the national average).

The municipality prioritizes the construction of integrated sanitary and stormwater systems to improve public health, protect natural resources, and strengthen resilience to intense rainfall and climate change. The project aligns with the Constitution of Ecuador, COOTAD, COPyFP, and national decentralization/cooperation policy (Resolución N°009-CNC-2011). It will directly benefit 2,952 inhabitants in 648 households, reducing untreated discharges near Sangay National Park (Natural World Heritage).

Technical studies and final designs (2025) have approved technical viability. The Ministry of Environment classified the work as LOW impact with Environmental Registry MAATE-SUIA-RA-DZDA-2023-369 (includes Environmental Management Plan). The intervention area is municipal urban land; no expropriations are required.

## EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

The intervention combines infrastructure, environmental management, and social participation: participatory diagnostics, community awareness, and neighborhood stewardship of the system. Municipal departments (Water & Sewerage, Planning, Administrative Management) coordinate procurement, supervision, and O&M under national public contracting norms

## SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Targets urban sectors with basic-service deficits; aims to lower contamination exposure, reduce disease incidence, and improve health outcomes for 2,952 residents (including children and low-income families).

## CO-BENEFITS

### CLIMATE BENEFITS

- Adaptation to intense rainfall via stormwater network and sustainable drainage solutions (as per project objectives).
- Reduced pollutant loads to rivers/streams near protected ecosystems.

### RESILIENCE BENEFITS

- Stormwater drainage sized to current urban expansion
- Progressive household connections as urbanization grows.
- Institutional strengthening for operation, maintenance, monitoring, and supervision.

### SOCIAL BENEFTIS

- Reduced waterborne/infectious diseases and improved infant health through safe collection/ conveyance.
- Sanitation education in schools/communities and community co-responsibility for proper system use.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Lower public costs linked to contamination/ flooding and associated emergency responses.
- Design emphasizes durable materials, low technical requirements, and simple maintenance (as stated in project design).

## RELATED SDGs


## SUPPORTED BY

ICLEI Governos Locais pela Sustentabilidade AMÉRICA DO SUL

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES Strategies for Financing and Resilience

AMAZON CITIES FORUM

IDB

## TAP SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical support for project structuring/ readiness (as per TAP pipeline scope).
- Visibility/matchmaking with cooperating institutions.
- Capacity building for procurement, supervision, community engagement, and M&E.