

Regional Workshop on Ecuador's Experience in Developing Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts and Knowledge Exchange

Regional Workshop dates: 1–2 December 2025

Bilateral and Inter-Institutional Work for Ecuador: 3 December 2025

Quito, Ecuador

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction

Following the work carried out within the framework of the Regional Methodological Workshop held in [December 2024](#), and in view of the interest expressed by several countries in advancing or initiating the development of Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts (EW-MFA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Ecuador are organizing a regional workshop in Quito, Ecuador, on 1–2 December 2025 to foster peer learning and collaboration on this topic. The event forms part of the Statistics and Data Project “Resilient and agile National Statistical Systems to meet post-COVID-19 data needs to recover better” under the 14th tranche of the United Nations Development Account (DA14 project).

The aim of the regional workshop is to share Ecuador's national experience in compiling EW-MFA and consolidate regional collaboration in environmental-economic accounting and to promote EW-MFA as a fundamental tool for monitoring progress toward SDG targets 8.4 and 12.2 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as for informing national strategies on circular economy, sustainable production, and resource efficiency.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Present the methodology and process followed by Ecuador for the compilation of its Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts, including data sources, material categories, and harmonization approaches.
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences, methodologies, and institutional arrangements among participating countries that are in the initial stages of EW-MFA development.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities regarding data availability, inter-institutional coordination, and policy applications of EW-MFA.
- Highlight the relevance of EW-MFA for evidence-based policymaking on resource efficiency, circular economy, and sustainable production and consumption.

The workshop will bring together experts from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Argentina and Uruguay, representing national statistical offices, central banks, ministries of environment,

and other sectoral institutions responsible for data production and use in material flow analysis, including non-governmental organizations, academia and international organisations.

2. Provisional Agenda

Day 1: Technical and Methodological Focus

- Opening session and presentation of workshop objectives.
- Introduction to UNEP's methodology for compiling Material Flow Accounts.
- Ecuador's experience: material categories, data sources, and harmonization process.
- Interactive exchange with technical teams from participating countries on data availability, challenges, and opportunities.

Day 2: Institutional and Policy Dimensions

- Presentation of results and key findings from the Ecuadorian case.
- Discussion on the policy relevance of MFA for resource efficiency and circular economy strategies.
- Dialogue with national data-providing institutions.
- Country interventions on institutional arrangements and lessons learned.
- (To be confirmed) Symbolic inter-institutional signing ceremony among entities collaborating in MFA compilation.

Day 3: Bilateral and Inter-Institutional Work (Internal to Ecuador)

- Technical meetings with national institutions involved in EW-MFA compilation.
- Definition of next steps and agreements for continued regional collaboration on EW-MFA.

3. Expected Outcomes and Way Forward

The workshop is expected to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of participating countries to develop Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts in line with international standards. It will foster closer collaboration among national institutions, encouraging better coordination and data sharing across agencies involved in material flow analysis. Through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, countries will contribute to building a regional community of practice around SDG targets 8.4 and 12.2, promoting shared understanding and methodological consistency. The discussions and interactions during the event will also help define practical next steps and collective actions to sustain and expand regional efforts on Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounting in the years ahead.

Building on Ecuador's experience, this initiative will contribute to defining a regional roadmap for the systematic development of Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts and for strengthening cooperation under UNEP's work on resource efficiency and circular economy. By translating the lessons learned into practical steps for national implementation, the workshop will support participating institutions in advancing toward a shared regional vision of sustainable material management and more resilient, low-impact economies.