



**HELPS**  
LATAM EXPERT

# ECUADOR SITUATIONAL REPORT AUGUST, 2024

## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

4,03/5

80,71%

### VULNERABILITIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

### THREATS

Terrorism

Organized Crime

Protestors

Common Crime

Medical

Environmental

Cybercrime

## GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT

79,40%

## RANGE

05 Severe

04 High Risk

03 Elevated

02 Guarded

01 Low

ECUADOR SECURITY  
PROTECTION • TRANSPORTATION • INVESTIGATIONS

The First part of our proposed methodology focuses on the assessment of vulnerabilities and threats across the country. This approach is comprehensive and multidimensional, encompassing political, economic, sociocultural, technological, ecological, and legal aspects. Furthermore, it considers specific threats such as terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, and medical threats.

Data collection is carried out using official government sources, national and international media, and individual testimonials in each country. This approach ensures a broad and diverse view of the region's situation. Data is collected over a 30-day period, allowing for real-time analysis and its progressive evolution. Once the information is gathered, it is classified into different categories of vulnerabilities and risks. Each category is evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest level and 5 being the most severe. This scale allows for a quantitative assessment, facilitating comparison between different categories.

The purpose of this methodology lies in the need to understand and measure vulnerabilities. Countries are diverse and complex, with a variety of challenges and opportunities. By providing a quantitative assessment, it offers tools for evaluation and decision-making, research, and understanding of the situation in each country. Lastly, the methodology is dynamic and adaptable. By collecting data from a variety of sources and updating the information every 30 days, it can keep up with rapid changes in the political, economic, and social environment. This is especially important in a region like Latin America, where conditions can change quickly.

The second part of our protective intelligence framework is used to assess and quantify the probability of general risk to any individual or organization in a context, by evaluating the vulnerabilities and threats within the designated area.

The scores help in understanding the severity of deficiencies (General Vulnerabilities) and capabilities (General Threats), which then are used to calculate the overall risk probability.

## 1. General Vulnerabilities (measured by the inadequacy of controls)

1.1 Deficiencies in the System (PESTEL) - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

1.2 Deficiencies in Response Capacities: Police, Armed forces, Disaster Management and, Emergency & Medical- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

## 2. General Threats (measured by capabilities)

2.1 Resources: Personnel, Weapons, Equipment, Transportation- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being nonexistent, 2 being low, 3 being medium, 4 being high, and 5 being unlimited (or unknown).

2.2 Information about: Type of crimes, Criminal Resilience, surveillance and Intelligence capability, Ability to co-opt internal staff - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being unlimited, 2 being high, 3 being medium, 4 being low, and 5 being nonexistent (or unknown).

## 3. General Risk in the context (Average between CRP, IC, GTC)

In this part of the methodology, a comprehensive evaluation of the overall risk in a specific context is conducted. This evaluation is based on the average of three key components. The first component is Inadequate Controls (IC), referring to security or preventive measures that may be insufficient or not functioning correctly. The second component is the General Threat Capability (GTC), which assesses the potential dangers that threats might pose in each scenario due to their capabilities. The third and final component is the Country Risk Probability (CRP), which considers the inherent risk level in the country based on PESTEL and TOPCMEX measures. By summing these three components, we obtain the General Risk Probability in the Context in the context, providing a comprehensive measure of the risk level to which an individual or entity may be exposed.

## GENERAL VULNERABILITIES (INADEQUANCY CONTROLS)

75%

### SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

### RESPONSE DEFICIENCY

Police

Armed forces

Disasters management

Emergency & medical

## RANGE

05

Totally ineffective

04

Very poor

03

Poor

02

Certain inconsistencies

01

Adequate

# GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY

## GENERAL THREATS (CAPABILITIES)

82,5%

### INFORMATION

Type of offense

Years of experience

Surveillance and Intelligence Capacity

Ability to Co-opt Internal Staff

### RESOURCES

Personel

Weapons

Equipment

Transportation

## RANGE

05

Unlimited (or unknown)

04

High

03

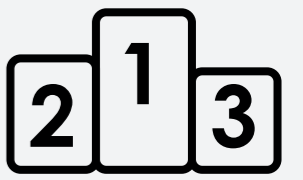
Medium

02

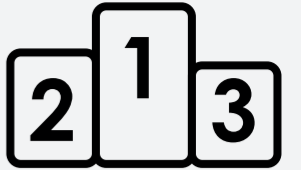
Low

01

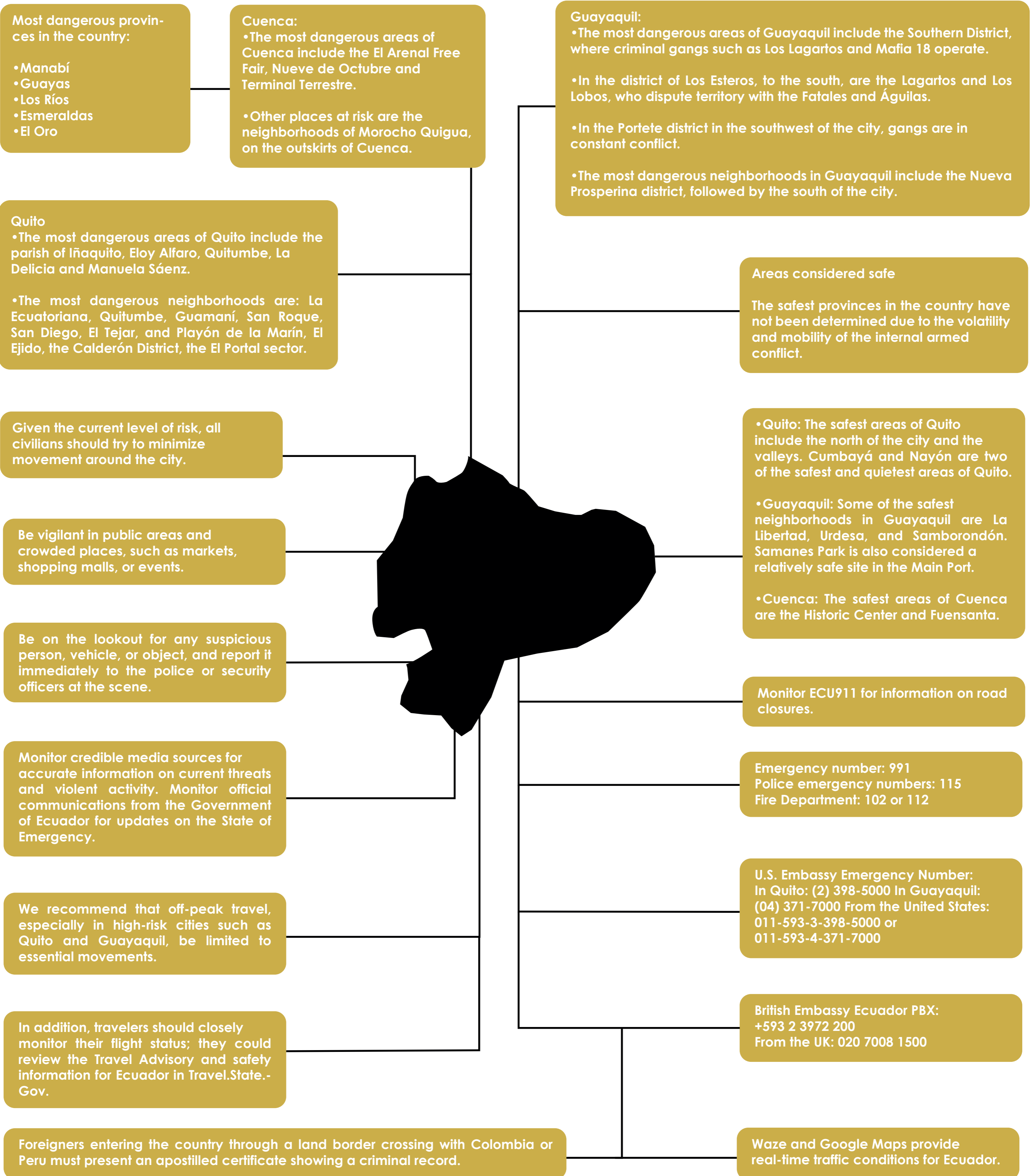
Nonexistent (or unknown)



VULNERABILITIES	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
<b>POLITICAL</b>	Conaie threatens uprising if Noboa's economic policies remain unchanged.	The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie), led by Leonidas Iza, threatens protests if Daniel Noboa's government doesn't change its economic policies, which hurt rural communities. Vice President Verónica Abad has accused Noboa of gender-based political violence, intensifying internal crises. Noboa is also criticized for Decree 371, expanding military force, while the 2025 elections remain fragmented with 17 candidates, raising concerns about governance and a potential Constituent Assembly.	4.0
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	Tourism crisis worsens in Ecuador's provinces under state of emergency.	Tourism in Ecuador is in crisis, particularly in provinces under a state of emergency since July 2024, like Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, and El Oro. Hotel occupancy has dropped to pandemic levels, severely impacting local economies. Tourism chambers are seeking financial support and safe corridors to revive the sector. The crisis risks increasing unemployment, social tensions, and damaging public perception of the government's handling of security and economic recovery.	4.0
<b>SOCIOCULTURAL</b>	Criminal gangs increasingly recruit minors amid economic, social instability.	The recruitment of minors by criminal gangs in Ecuador has risen alarmingly, as shown by the capture of a 16-year-old known as "the red-haired hitman," accused of four murders in Guayaquil related to drug trafficking. Criminal gangs exploit the vulnerability of teenagers, offering money and food, while the lack of educational and economic opportunities worsens the situation. Between 2019 and 2023, the recruitment of minors increased by 700%.	5.0
<b>TECHNOLOGICAL</b>	Ecuador's energy crisis deepens due to erosion, infrastructure issues.	Ecuador faces a severe energy crisis, worsened by erosion threatening the Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric plant and insufficient infrastructure investment. The erosion of the Coca River endangers the country's largest power source, while aging thermoelectric plants and increased reliance on imported electricity from Colombia raise costs. Delays in renewable energy projects and a projected energy deficit for 2024-2025 further heighten concerns about the country's energy future.	5.0
<b>ECOLOGICAL</b>	Illegal wildlife trade threatens Ecuador's biodiversity and ecological balance.	Illegal wildlife trade in Ecuador is rising, threatening biodiversity and ecosystems. Criminal gangs exploit exotic species like caimans and lizards as status symbols and in trafficking, worsening the problem. This activity endangers endemic species and disrupts ecological balance. Despite efforts by the Environmental Protection Unit and Ministry of Environment, limited resources and weak enforcement allow this practice to persist, jeopardizing Ecuador's ecological stability.	4.0
<b>LEGAL</b>	Judicial corruption exposed amid partial nullity of judge appointment process.	On August 26, 2024, Ecuador's Judiciary Council declared partial nullity of the National Court of Justice judge selection due to irregularities in hiring for trustworthiness tests. Verónica Sarauz, widow of Fernando Villavicencio, filed an organized crime complaint after his assassination. Former judge Simón G. admitted to taking bribes to release criminals, revealing judicial corruption. Two officials were also prosecuted for aiding the Albanian mafia through irregular precautionary measures.	5.0
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>		<b>VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE</b>	
4,5		90%	



THREATS	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM ANALYSIS	SCORE
<b>TERRORISM</b>	Explosives and armed attacks escalate terrorism in Ecuadorian communities.	Terrorism in Ecuador involves explosives, armed attacks, and criminal network infiltration. Gangs like "Los Choneros" and "Los Lobos" use explosives for extortion and territorial control. Attacks on infrastructure and vehicles in key areas highlight rising violence. The infiltration of terrorist groups and organized crime into residential and border regions is alarming, impacting both urban and rural populations as violence escalates with the use of weapons and explosives to create chaos and control.	<b>4.0</b>
<b>ORGANIZED CRIME</b>	Drug trafficking intensifies as organized crime infiltrates Ecuador's institutions.	Ecuador faces systematic violence from homicides, executions, and illegal activities linked to drug trafficking and corruption. Illegal mining and illicit gold trade destabilize the economy and security. Arms and explosives trafficking challenge state authority. Extortion and kidnappings weaken the economy. Money laundering and corruption distort the economy and increase crime. Without effective intervention, violence and corruption may intensify.	<b>5.0</b>
<b>PROTESTORS</b>	Indigenous protests demand immediate end to Yasuní oil extraction.	Indigenous protests demand the immediate halt of oil extraction in Yasuní National Park after the 2023 referendum supported stopping the activity. However, the government's plan to cease by 2030 has sparked discontent, with indigenous communities fearing threats to their territory and biodiversity. This situation reflects long-standing tensions between the government and indigenous groups, who feel their rights and the referendum's outcome are being ignored, potentially escalating social unrest.	<b>3.0</b>
<b>COMMON CRIME</b>	Common crime rises in Ecuador with vehicle thefts and extortion.	Common crime in Ecuador has risen, with increases in home burglaries, vehicle thefts, and muggings. Car thefts grew by 7.47% in mid-2024, while business robberies slightly declined. Contract killings, often involving motorcycles, are concentrated in cities like Manta and Quito, targeting those linked to crime or personal disputes. Extortion, kidnappings for ransom, homicides, and armed robberies continue, reflecting persistent violence in both urban and rural areas.	<b>4.0</b>
<b>MEDICAL</b>	Public health crisis worsens as dengue cases overwhelm hospitals.	Ecuador's healthcare system faces major challenges, especially with outbreaks like dengue. In 2024, dengue cases surged, with 15,492 confirmed out of 20,701 suspected cases, overwhelming hospitals, particularly in rural and coastal areas. Despite 99.12% reporting coverage in the public network, institutions like IESS didn't surpass 65%. Limited resources, weak infrastructure, and increased mosquito populations have worsened the situation, threatening the stability of the healthcare system.	<b>3.0</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	Ecuador faces growing climate threats, drought, and forest fires.	Ecuador faces growing climate threats, especially in the Sierra and Amazon regions, with low humidity (30%-75%) and high temperatures (up to 36°C) increasing forest fire risks. Coastal drought worsens, with Guayaquil recording just 2.5 mm of rain in August 2024. La Niña has intensified cold in the Sierra, affecting agriculture and water supplies. These conditions heighten environmental stress, increasing risks of desertification and biodiversity loss.	<b>3.0</b>
<b>CYBERCRIME</b>	AKIRA ransomware increases cybersecurity risks for Ecuadorian organizations.	The AKIRA ransomware hit several organizations in Ecuador, prompting an EcuCERT alert on August 6, 2024. It encrypts files and demands ransoms, disrupting critical operations. Cyberattacks are rising in Ecuador, endangering technological security. A Windows vulnerability (CVE-2024-38063) allows remote code execution, worsening the risk. Without updates, threats will keep growing, affecting businesses and infrastructure.	<b>3.0</b>
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>		<b>THREATS PERCENTAGE</b>	
<b>3,57</b>		<b>71,42%</b>	





## AIRPORTS

Ecuador's airports, including the international airports of Quito and Guayaquil, are operating with adjustments due to the situation in the country. At Guayaquil Airport, only people who have a digital or printed ticket can enter the terminal, and only one companion is allowed. In addition, a thorough review of the vehicles that pick up passengers will be carried out.

On the other hand, Quito airport only allows access to the air terminal to passengers who carry their travel documents, such as passport or citizenship card, and their air ticket or boarding pass. Other visitors are not allowed to enter the terminal to drop off or pick up passengers. In addition, the control and inspection of passengers and baggage, as well as random vehicle checks, have been strengthened.



## HOSPITALS

Hospitals in Ecuador are operating under difficult conditions due to the internal armed conflict. Despite this, emergency services have been guaranteed in all first, second and third level establishments. In Quito, the Metropolitan Hospital stands out for its capacity and modernity in care. In Guayaquil, Omni Hospital is recognized for its comprehensive and highly responsive care. In Cuenca, Santa Inés Hospital provides effective and quality health services.



## ROADS

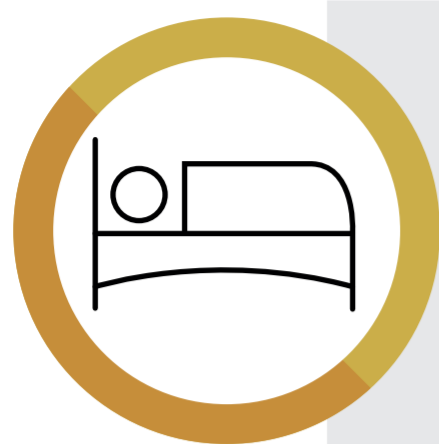
Several landslides have been reported on highways across the country.

Road Alóag- Santo Domingo has reported rockfalls and landslides.

The Culebrita River in the northwest of Pichincha has overflowed due to rains, affecting the routes of the El Achiote enclosure.

The Coca-Joya de los Sachas road is partially enabled due to overflows of the nearby river.

Partial closures on the Cuenca – Molleturo road.



## HOTELS

Hotels in Ecuador usually operate, but with a number of adjustments in favor of customer safety. Quito has three hotel zones: the historic center (tourist), La Carolina (commercial and financial) and Mariscal Sucre (tourist and leisure). Guayaquil has two hotel zones: Malecón 2000 (tourist and financial) and Centro de Guayaquil (tourist). Cuenca has a hotel zone called Centro Histórico, where most of the city's tourist attractions and businesses are located. It is recommended not to walk through the hotel zone, especially at night, in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil.



## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

International mobility in Ecuador has undergone a series of adjustments due to the crisis. Ecuador has increased its efforts to control the entry of people across land borders, requesting a judicial past that allows their access. Peru declared an emergency at the border and reinforced surveillance in the provinces of Amazonas, Cajamarca, Loreto, Piura and Tumbes. Colombia has also taken steps aimed at stemming the flow of drugs it shares with Ecuador.

**There is an increase in demand for emergency evacuation services and safe transportation. We have successfully handled several cases, including emergency evacuations, student groups, international workers, and media support.**



**We are ready to HELP. Our operations in Ecuador are active 24/07.**

Executive Protection - Secure Transportation - Private Investigation



We have Protective Intelligence capabilities in:



If you have specific questions or wish to subscribe to our **IN-DEPTH PERU-SPECIFIC CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**, you may contact our Protective Intelligence team at



**HELPS**  
**LATAM EXPERT**

**Our operations are 100% active.**

If you need Executive Protection, Secure Transportation, Private Investigations, Risk Management, and Crisis Support, **we are ready to HELP 24/7.**

**Risk is out there, but Helps Latam Expert is here for you.  
Contact us for a free Latin American capabilities statement.**



**+593 99 810 4457**



**admin@latam.expert**



**www.latam.expert**