

METHODOLOGY



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 Managment 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:** Personel, 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).

METHODOLOGY



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



INADEQUANCY CONTROLS

61,08%

SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

DEFICIENCIES IN CONTROL

Law enforcement

Emergency management

Medical

Comunications

Transport

Foreign

RANGE

05 Totally ineffective

04 Very poor

03 Poor

O2 Certain inconsistencies

01 Adequate

GENERAL THREATS

CAPABILITIES

48,375%

THREATS

TERRORISM

ORGANIZED CRIME

CIVIL UNREST

COMMON CRIME

HEALTH THREAT

ENVIRONMENTAL

CYBERCRIME

INTERNAL THREATS

RECURRENCE

RESOURCES

Personel

Weapons

Equipment

Transportation

TERRORISM

ORGANIZED CRIME

CIVIL UNREST

COMMON CRIME

HEALTH THREAT

ENVIRONMENTAL

CYBERCRIME

INTERNAL THREATS

ECUADOR SECURITY PROTECTION • TRANSPORTATION • INVESTIGATIONS

RANGE

05 Unlimited (or unknown)

04 High

03 Medium

02 Low

O1 Nonexistent (or unknown)











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VULNERABILITIES	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE		
POLITICAL Ecuador at a Crossroads: Political Polarization and the Country's Future	Ecuador's political situation is uncertain as the second round of elections has not yet occurred. With candidates representing diverse positions, the country appears caught between capitalism and 21st-century socialism. This polarization is also reflected in the National Assembly, where two dominant parties hold significant legislative power. The political landscape will remain unclear until citizens vote for their next leader.	4.0		
ECONOMIC Ecuador's Vision for Growth: Catalyzing Foreign Investment and Elevating the Technology Sector	There is a strong push for increased foreign investment in various sectors, including mining, real estate, agribusiness, tourism, renewable energy, and aquaculture, which are expected to drive economic growth. Globally, the technology sector is anticipated to see the most significant expansion. Changes in market promotion and support for the private sector may occur soon, as economic dynamics are closely linked to political factors.			
SOCIOCULTURAL Ecuador's Security Crisis: Increasing Insecurity and Potential Links to Drug Trafficking.	The social sector is deeply affected by widespread insecurity among citizens, exacerbated by high-profile murders, kidnappings, and extortions. In response, the government has replaced key security officials in six ministries, leading to controversy due to some ministers' past links to drug trafficking. If connections to "narco-generals" are confirmed, the risk of civil unrest or internal threats could rise.			
TECHNOLOGICAL Cybersecurity in Ecuador: A Rising Challenge for Businesses and Citizens	Cyber crimes remain a significant threat, including attacks on the public sector to obtain sensitive information. In Ecuador, cyber threats have grown by 4.9%, with small and medium-sized companies bearing the brunt, often leading to their closure. The theft of personal information has resulted in substantial economic losses. Companies and individuals must prioritize prevention and mitigation strategies to enhance digital security and avoid more significant damage in the future.	3.0		
ECOLOGICAL Climate Change and Social Conflicts: The Ecological Challenges Facing Ecuador	Climate change significantly impacts Ecuador, which is transitioning from severe drought to heavy rains. These rains have led to overflowing rivers, landslides, floods, and structural collapses, affecting citizens and the agricultural sector. A new minister has been appointed to address these challenges. However, ongoing illegal mining, deforestation, and oil extraction agreements are straining natural resources and harming indigenous communities. These issues damage the environment and escalate social conflicts, complicating the country's security situation.	5.0		
LEGAL Corruption in Ecuador: Challenges Facing the New President and the Need for Judicial Transparency	Ecuador's legal system struggles with corruption, which should be the new president's top priority. The government is trapped in a cycle of poor transparency and hidden corrupt practices, exacerbated by inadequate education among judges, politicians, and law enforcement—this culture of impunity fuels further crime in the public sector. Aspiring leaders have pledged to enact stronger laws to address corruption directly.	3.0		
AVERAGE SCORE	VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE			

63,88%



3,83%









THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE	
TERRORISM Terrorism and Organized Crime in Ecuador: Growing Threats and Political Challenges	Terrorism threats in Ecuador have risen recently, leading to the classification of organized crime gangs as terrorists and the declaration of an internal armed conflict. The Specialized Prosecutor's Office for Transnational and International Organized Crime (Fedoti) has identified related crimes, such as drug and arms trafficking and sexual exploitation. A proposal is being considered to invite international forces for support and collaboration with key allies. However, the unstable political situation and the upcoming second round of elections raise concerns about escalating violence, posing significant challenges for the winning candidate.		
ORGANIZED CRIME The Struggle Against Organized Crime and Gangs in Ecuador	Organized crime, similar to terrorism, is a significant challenge for the country. The new government must improve criminal investigations and strengthen the judicial system to address the gangs terrorizing citizens. Territorial massacres are rising due to shifts in criminal hierarchies. Los Lobos and Los Choneros operate in multiple provinces, and violence remains a concern until their structures are stabilized. Despite efforts to disrupt gang leaders, groups like Los Choneros and Los Tiguerones continue to flourish, backed by more prominent organizations like the Jalisco cartel and the Balkan mafia.		
CIVIL UNREST Civil Unrest in Ecuador: Citizens Demand Government Action Amid Rising Violence	Civil unrest has arisen in Ecuador as citizens demand government action to ensure safety amid increasing violence. Although protests have been peaceful thus far, they risk escalating if the government remains unresponsive. Several cities have experienced unrest, causing road closures and disrupting daily life. The root causes include economic inequality, lack of essential services, and corruption, though significant confrontations between authorities and the public have not yet occurred.		
COMMON CRIME The Surge in Ordinary Crime and Its Widespread Impact Across Ecuador	Ordinary crime is a serious issue affecting everyone in the country. Crimes such as theft, vehicle theft, fraud, homicides, and gender-based violence are frequently reported in the news. The rise in intentional homicides this year has plunged Ecuador into a state of heightened violence, particularly in the coastal provinces and the Amazon, where most murders occur. This problem is not limited to high-value executives but is spreading across all social levels and is rooted in various issues impacting Ecuador.		
HEALTH THREAT Health Concerns in Ecuador: Respiratory Viruses and Rising Medical Costs in 2025	Ecuador faces health challenges in early 2025, mainly from respiratory viruses like HMPV, influenza, and RSV, primarily affecting children and older adults. Health authorities are urging the population to adopt biosecurity measures such as handwashing, avoiding contact with the sick, and wearing masks when ill. It is crucial to enhance prevention strategies, including vaccination and hygiene promotion. Additionally, an increase in chronic diseases has boosted the import of medical supplies, raising the demand for specific treatments. According to the WTW Global Medical Trends Survey 2025, medical care costs have risen by 11% compared to other countries in the region, leading to higher costs for private insurance, consultations, medications, and tests.	3.0	



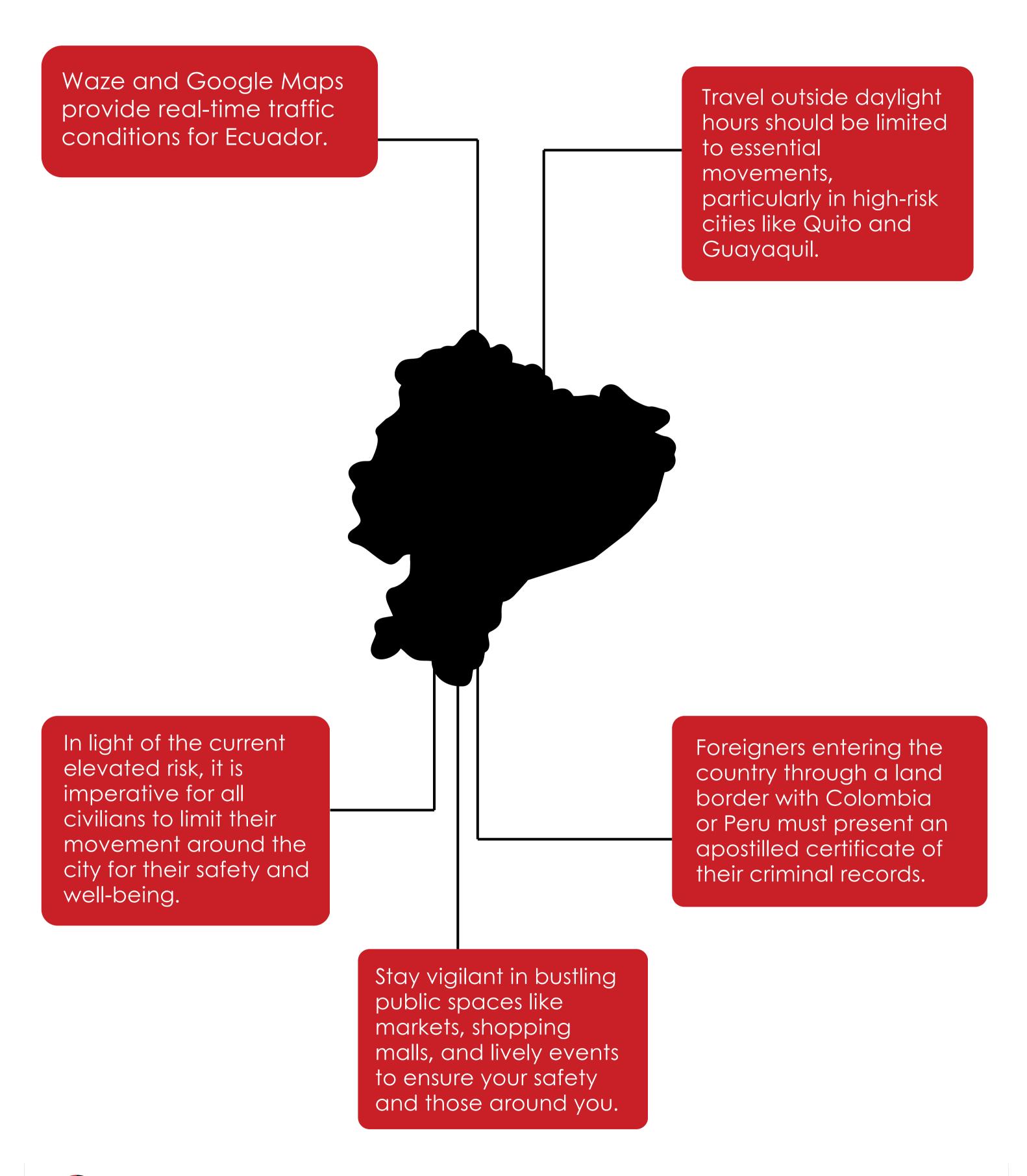






THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE	
Environmental Threats in Ecuador: Addressing Climate Change and Protecting Biodiversity	Ecuador faces serious environmental threats in 2025 that jeopardize biodiversity, health, and safety. Climate change has intensified rainfall, landslides, and flooding, particularly in low-lying areas, disrupting the drinking water supply and increasing the risk of gastrointestinal diseases and vector-borne illnesses like dengue. The government has launched a climate action plan focused on adaptation and mitigation, including urban native forests to improve air quality and manage excess water. However, these efforts require strong citizen involvement and a comprehensive national environmental policy. Additionally, Ecuador must confront challenges such as forest fires, deforestation, and biodiversity loss in the Amazon region. Strengthening public policies, investing in resilient infrastructure, and engaging citizens to combat climate change effectively and ensure a sustainable future are essential.	4.0	
CYBERCRIME The Rise of Cybercrime in Ecuador: Growing Threats and Digital Education Initiatives	Ecuador has become the third country with the highest rates of cybercrime, facing threats like multipurpose and info stealer malware, ransomware, illegal crypto mining, and mobile device attacks. Most scams involve digital purchases and sales, compounded by a lack of awareness. Personal and financial data are primary targets for criminals. In response to this challenge, innovative initiatives significantly enhance digital education, empowering individuals and organizations to effectively assess and address their vulnerabilities. Small and medium-sized businesses are affected considerably, often struggling to recover from attacks.		
INTERNAL THREATS Security Challenges in Ecuador: Violence, Vulnerabilities, and the Need for Prevention	Ecuador faces significant due to both direct and structural violence, impacting the security of businesses and communities. There is a rising vulnerability to security breaches, with frequent cases of extortion, blackmail, and kidnappings involving employees' families. Robberies in homes and pharmacies indicate security weaknesses and possible internal complicity, as criminals appear to know where valuables are located. Ineffective investigations and flawed security technology exacerbate the problem, allowing increasingly organized criminal gangs to exploit these vulnerabilities. Encouraging community participation, promptly reporting suspicious activities, and increasing investment in preventive measures are crucial to addressing these threats.		
AVERAGE SCORE	THREATS PERCENTAGE		
3,62	45,25%		







EMERGENCY CONTACTS	Numbers	
Emergency Number	911	
British Embassy	+593 2 3972 200	
US Embassy Quito	(2) 398-5000	
US Embassy Guayaquil	(04) 371-7000	

ECUADOR OPERATIONAL STATUS





AIRPORT

Airport	Location	Type	Remarks	Numbers
Mariscal Sucre International Airport	Quito	International	The country's main airport is modern and busy.	+59398333999
Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport	Guayaquil	International	Significant commercial and cargo airport.	+593 4-216- 9000

ROADS

Numerous dangerous incidents have been reported on these roads, including robbery, kidnappings, and vehicle attacks.



- -Santo Domingo Esmeraldas.
- -Santo Domingo El Carmen Chone.
- -Quito-Tulcán.
- -Quito Los Bancos.
- -Los Bancos Esmeraldas.
- -Guayaquil- Quevedo- Santo Domingo.
- -Guayaquil El Triunfo Pallatanga.
- -Guayaquil El Triunfo Cuenca.
- -Guayaquil Naranjal Machala.
- -Baeza El Coca.
- -El Coca Lago Agrio.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Ecuador's international mobility has changed significantly due to the crisis. The country is now requiring judicial clearance for individuals crossing its land borders. In response, Peru has declared a state of emergency and increased surveillance in several provinces, while Colombia is also taking measures to stop drug trafficking with Ecuador.



Ecuador has cut diplomatic ties with Mexico, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, though their embassies still function. There is growing demand for emergency evacuation services and safe transportation, and we have successfully managed various cases, including evacuations, support for student groups, and assistance for media and international workers.

We have Protective Intelligence capabilities in:





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



Our operations in Colombia and all Latin America 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.







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