# Pilot Study for Waste Characterization in the Municipality of Puerto López, Ecuador

Ecuador / Latin America and the Caribbean

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- The waste sector is a significant source of human-driven methane emissions. The lack of data and information about the methane emissions from landfills and dumpsites makes it difficult to address these emission sources.
- The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition of Ecuador is creating a Waste Characterization guideline for municipalities to be published in 2024.
- The guide was piloted in Puerto López, a small city in Ecuador's Cayambe canton, with the goal of identifying the barriers to implementation of the waste characterization guidelines.
- Small municipalities comprise around 80% of urban areas in Ecuador.
  - Puerto López, a tourist hub with a protected area, hosts an average daily floating population of 717 people per day.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Waste characterization included collection, classification, and surveys to assess waste generation and management.
- Sampled 131 households, including 70 urban, and 61 rural. Additionally, 60 samples were taken from non-household sources: markets, schools, and from street sweeping.
- The region generated 75.08 tons of waste per day of which 53% is organic waste and 47% is inorganic waste with a total density of 185.10 kilograms (kg)/meter (m)3.
- Lessons learned from the pilot study include the significance of community engagement and effective planning to ensure success for future projects.

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## PARTNERS INVOLVED IN PROJECT

- Global Methane Hub (GMH)
- Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)
- Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE)
- Municipality of Puerto López
- Clean Air Task Force (CATF)