



IDH Aquaculture program in Ecuador and Latin America

Aquaculture production in Latin America is expected to increase by 49% up to 2030. This increase in production must remain within the limits of sustainability. Ecuador is the second largest exporter of white leg shrimp in the world and accounts for more than half of shrimp production in the Americas. Shrimp is currently Ecuador's second largest export industry, after oil. The Ecuadorian industry has successfully developed an approach to cope with disease problems, though this needs to be mainstreamed among producers of all scales. By adopting an aquascape approach not only the best farms benefit, but the whole area does, enabling the industry to grow sustainably. IDH supports the Latin American industry by supporting the Sustainable Shrimp Partnership to reach small and medium producers and to adopt increasingly innovative approaches towards zero antibiotic use.

Since 2010 IDH is orchestrating change towards responsible aquaculture. We co-founded the ASC together with WWF and accelerated ASC certification. We upgraded 630.000 MT, an equivalent of 250 Olympic swimming pools, of shrimp, tilapia and pangasius production towards sustainability.

IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative
IDH brings together businesses, companies, governments and NGOs to combine their interests and power in sustainable production and trade of tropical commodities. We co-finance new approaches to sustainable production and trade, and when successful organize new financial arrangements that mix public and private investments to scale them. By working together with companies, we ensure that new models are economically viable and replicable. We make sure there is sufficient demand for sustainable products.

We are endorsed and (financially) supported by numerous European governments and global institutions. Our head office is in the Netherlands. The goal of the [IDH Aquaculture Program](#) is to **develop** and **mainstream**

responsible aquaculture that feed people and has social benefits and low environmental impact. We focus on the top 2 challenges in the sector: diseases and feed related issues.

Diseases result in loss of income, waste of inputs, water pollution and irresponsible practices like the excessive use of antibiotics. Diseases hamper producers to think long term, as disease occurrence threatens their long-term business. As a result, investors are reluctant to make long term (sustainable) investments.

Feed is most often the biggest cost in aquaculture production, but it is often used inefficiently. Feed often consists of marine ingredients such as fish oil and fish meal, which may be caught through illegal, unreported and unregulated practices (such as overfishing or illegitimate labor practices on vessels).

Aquascapes

Building on experiences with our [landscape](#) and [commodity](#) programs we are developing **aquascapes**. A geographical area where aquaculture farmers are connected through proximity, jurisdiction or by using the same water.

In these aquaculture areas, we improve production by strengthening **partnerships** as to develop joint strategies that tackle diseases and feed-related issues. We organize cooperation between (e.g.) producers, input suppliers, service providers and local governments and in the supply chain with traders, brands and retailers. We support **innovation** by promoting the use of technology and data to increase sector efficiency, traceability and transparency.



By strengthening **partnerships** and **innovation** we can reduce production risks, hence attracting **investments**. Together with financial institutions we can share risks and increase the profitability of an aquascape.

At the same time we encourage **market recognition** of better aquaculture areas, leading to **Verified Sourcing Areas** which enable buyers to effortlessly source sustainable products.

Track record in Latin America

IDH previously focused on improving practices at the farm level towards ASC certification. IDH worked towards the world's first ASC certified shrimp; and partnered in projects in Ecuador, Honduras and Belize towards ASC certification. IDH partnered with large-scale and small and mid-sized farmers to improve their environmental farming practices and the employment conditions of the aquaculture workers.

IDH learned that ASC certification is a useful tool to improve the social and environmental performance of shrimp growers. Yet, in Belize, the shrimp industry was severely struck by a disease although the entire industry was

More Info?

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certified. We therefore realized that we need to move beyond individual farms and support the establishment of partnerships to together target disease issues.

Current program in Latin America

Currently, IDH partners with the National Chamber for Aquaculture (CNA), WWF and ASC in the Sustainable Shrimp Partnership (SSP). The goal of SSP is to accelerate the progress of the farmed shrimp sector to higher levels of sustainability. All SSP members are committed to farming shrimp which meet the SSP product qualifications of:

- ASC certification
- Zero use of antibiotics
- Minimal environmental impact - measured through a water quality assessment
- Full traceability

IDH helps SSP achieve their mission by being a member of the SSP advisory board; by supporting the adoption of innovative traceability models such as blockchain; and in supporting farmers to achieve SSP through the establishment and coordination of an improvement program.

The improvement program is established because small and medium-size producers may face more challenges to become compliant to the SSP criteria. The program helps those producers to comply with the SSP criteria, especially in controlling diseases and reducing the risk of using antibiotics.

This improvement program goes beyond a farm-to-farm approach, by designing activities for zones (areas where aquaculture farmers are connected) instead of for individual farms. This area-based approach takes previously learned lessons into account and offers a new way of thinking to achieve responsible aquaculture production.

Partners

Private

Camara Nacional de Acuicultura
 Sustainable Shrimp Partnership:
 Omarsa
 SONGA - Sociedad Nacional de Galapagos C.A.
 Santa Priscila
 Naturisa
 Produmar
 Belize Shrimp Growers Association
 Grupo Granjas Marinas

Public

Pro Ecuador

Other

Aquaculture Stewardship Council
 WWF
 Blue you Consulting
 Geaconnection
 Compete Caribbean