

APPENDIX 3.

Description of the 13 socioeconomic, environmental, and geographical variables of 40 studied localities in Ecuador.

Name	Description	Level	Source
Socioeconomic			
1. Electricity access	Percentage of households in cantón with electric service	Cantón	INEC 2002
2. Telephone access	Percentage of households in cantón with telephone	Cantón	INEC 2002
3. Tap water access	Percentage of households in cantón with access to a public net of tap water	Cantón	INEC 2002
4. Health index	A composite indicator combining information about health infrastructure, availability of potable water, quality of sewer system, level of malnutrition and population mortality	Cantón	SIISE 2005
5. Uncovered basic needs index	A composite indicator expressing the lack of access to education, good nutrition, housing, electricity, tap water, and sewage system plus employment opportunities and degree of overcrowding	Cantón	SIISE 2005
6. Education index	A composite indicator combining information about alphabetization rates, access to schools and average years of school attendance	Cantón	SIISE 2005
7. Urban population	Percentage of people living in urban centers	Cantón	INEC 2002
8. Population density	Number of people per km ²	Cantón	INEC 2002
Environmental			
9. Vegetation remnancy index	Area of remnant natural vegetation in the cantón divided by the total area of the cantón.	Cantón	Ecociencia 2002
10. Vegetation fragmentation index	The ratio between the total area of remnant natural vegetation polygons (in km ²) in the cantón and their perimeter in (km).	Cantón	Ecociencia 2002

Geographical

11. Market distance	Straight line distance (log transformed) from the community to the main market available when the ethnobotanical study was carried out. The variable is an indicator of the market opportunities of the localities population, considering both the relative cost of bringing products to markets and the level of stimulus that a market provides to change production and consume patterns	Community	DINAREN 2002
12. Province capital distance	Straight line distance (log transformed) from the community to the province capital. Represents the degree of isolation of the locality with respect to governmental institutions (often located in the province capital) as well as distance to big commercial markets.	Community	DINAREN 2002
13. Road access	Number and quality of roads available for each community in a radius of 10 km. In weighting road quality a two-lane asphalted road was given a value of 4; an one-lane asphalted road was given a value of 3; a two lane dirt road was given a value of 2; and a one-lane dirt road was given a value of 1. The final value of road access was found by summing up values across all roads available to the community.	Community	DINAREN 2002
