



ACTO – Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
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REGIONAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF FORESTS IN THE AMAZON REGION

2017

The first regional report on the Amazon forests



FIGURE 1. ACTO MEMBER COUNTRIES

The forest area certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system increased since year 2000 (figure 11) but still represents only one percent of the total forest area of the region. Only in Brazil the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) has certified forests on almost 3 million hectares of forests in 2015 of which 480 000 ha are Amazon forests. However, there may be some double counting between FSC and PEFC that would need to be further investigated.

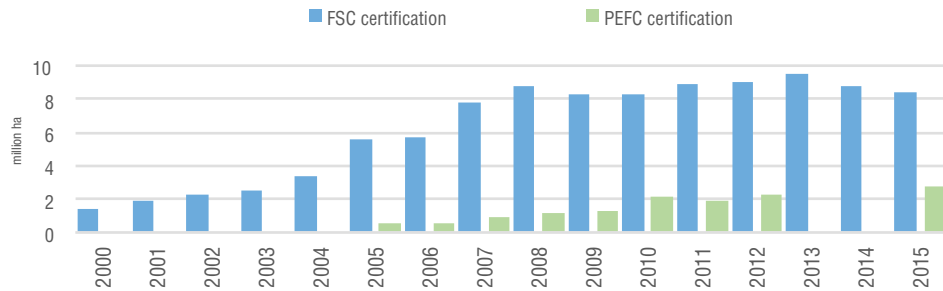


FIGURE 11. INTERNATIONAL FOREST CERTIFICATION IN THE AMAZON REGION

Regional report on the status of forests in the Amazon region 2017

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is working in collaboration with the FAO Forest Resources Assessment team in the preparation of the first regional report on the status and changes of the Amazon forest resources. The collected information will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals reporting, support policies, decisions and negotiations related to forests.

For more information
 The report will be officially launched by summer 2017 and will be available online at <http://www.otca-official.info/>



Regional Amazon Program
 BMZ-DGIS-GIZ

The technical cooperation project "Strengthening of the regional organization ACTO", known as the Regional Amazon Program, is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Governments of Germany (BMZ) and the Netherlands (DGIS). The project responds to the need to strengthen the capacities of the ACTO to meet the demand of the Amazon countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela and Suriname) for regional initiatives and actions to foster sustainable development in the Amazon.
 Photo credits: ACTO



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Within the context of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA) approved in 2010, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) aims to enhance cross-bordering knowledge on the status and changes of the Amazon forest resources with the objective to improve their overall management and promote sustainable development.

Based on 11 selected variables of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015) country reports, ACTO Member countries collected data on the part of forest area belonging to the Amazon forest. Each country provided information on what at national level is identified as Amazon forest, based on its own definition.

The first report on the situation of the Amazon forest resources will collect reliable information to improve forest monitoring, management and conservation.

Forest resources in the Amazon region

In 2015, the total forest area in the region was more than 770 million hectares representing close to one fifth of the World's forest area (about 4 billion hectares).

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) signed in 1978 by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela is a legal instrument that recognizes the transboundary nature of the Amazon. It encourages regional cooperation between member countries and foresees increased scientific and technological research, information exchange, natural resources use and preservation of cultural heritage.

In 1995 the Amazon countries decided to institutionally strengthen the Amazon Cooperation Treaty by creating a Permanent Secretariat endowed with legal personality.

The decision was enforced in 1998 with the approval of the ACTO Protocol of Amendment that officially instituted the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as a mechanism responsible for enhancing and strengthening cooperation processes developed in the context of the Treaty (figure 1).

For more information:
<http://www.otca.info/portal/index.php?p=index>

In 2015, the share of forest area in the Amazon countries as a percentage of land area was 58 percent, compared to 31 percent at world level. The eight countries accounted for 92 percent of the total forest area of South America (close to 850 million hectares), more than half in Brazil (figure 2).

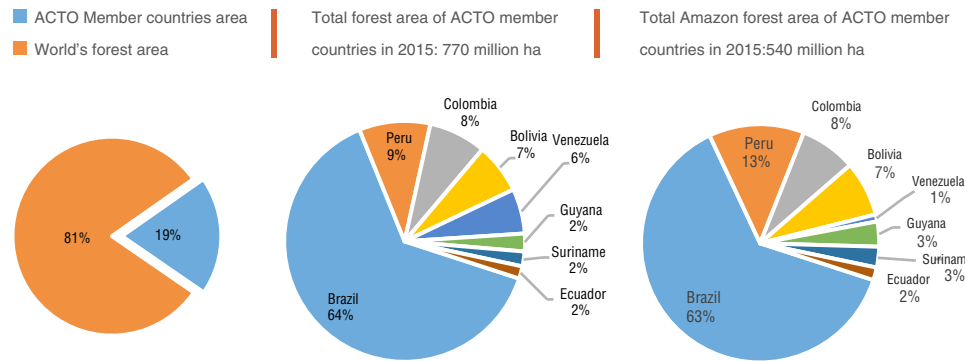


FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE OF FOREST AREA AND AMAZON FOREST AREA IN THE AMAZON REGION

The Amazon forest represented 70% of the total forest area (or about 540 million hectares) in the region. The share of Amazon forest as percent of total forest at national level varies greatly between countries (figure 3). The forest area of countries like Guyana and Suriname, that represent 4 percent of the total forest area of the region, is 100 percent Amazon forest. In Venezuela is 11 percent, while Brazil accounts for more than half of the total forest area of the country (table 1).

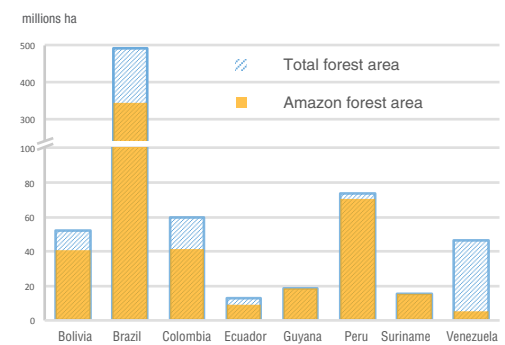


FIGURE 3. PROPORTION OF AMAZON FOREST AREA COMPARED TO TOTAL FOREST AREA IN 2015

Country	Total forest area 2015 (million ha)	Total Amazon forest area 2015	
		Million ha	% of total forest area at country level
Bolivia	52.10	40.80	78
Brazil	493.42	342.82	69
Colombia	59.63	41.44	69
Ecuador	12.85	9.38	73
Guyana	18.48	18.48	100
Peru	73.97	70.54	95
Suriname	15.31	15.31	100
Venezuela	46.68	5.20	11
Total	772.45	543.96	70

TABLE 1. TOTAL FOREST AREA AND TOTAL AMAZON FOREST AREA PER COUNTRY IN 2015



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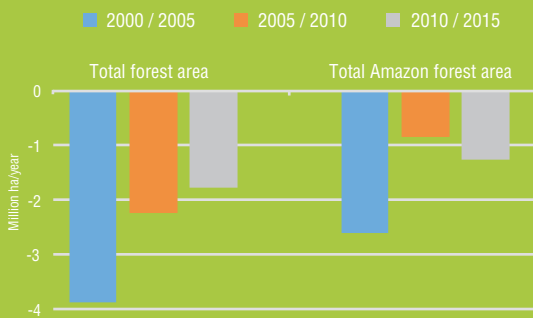


FIGURE 4. TREND IN ANNUAL CHANGE RATE OF TOTAL FOREST AREA AND AMAZON FOREST AREA

Country	Annual change (2000-2015)			
	Forest area		Amazon forest area	
	1 000 ha/yr	%	1 000 ha/yr	%
Bolivia	-213.3	-0.40	-193.3	-0.46
Brazil	-1856.8	-0.37	-960.9	-0.27
Colombia	-192.8	-0.32	-104.1	-0.25
Ecuador	-58.9	-0.44	-26.3	-0.27
Guyana	0.6	n.s.	0.6	n.s.
Peru	-144.9	-0.19	-275.7	-0.38
Suriname	-5.1	-0.03	-5.1	-0.03
Venezuela	-164.5	-0.34	4.6	0.09
Total	-2635.7	-2.09	-1560.2	-1.57

TABLE 2. ANNUAL FOREST CHANGE PER COUNTRY FROM 2000 TO 2015

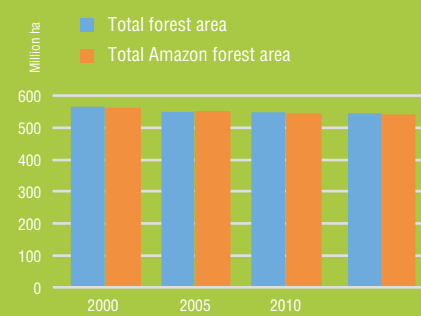


FIGURE 5. PROPORTION OF AMAZON NATURAL FOREST AREA FROM 2000 TO 2015

In 2015, almost 100 percent of the Amazon forest area was natural forest (540 million hectares) (figure 5), which represents 70 percent of the total forest area of the region. Changes in Amazon natural forest area since 2000 are not significant: the area decreased of 1.5 million hectares per year with an annual rate below 1%. Planted Amazon forests accounted for less than 1 million hectares or less than 0.5 percent of the Amazon forest area (figure 5).

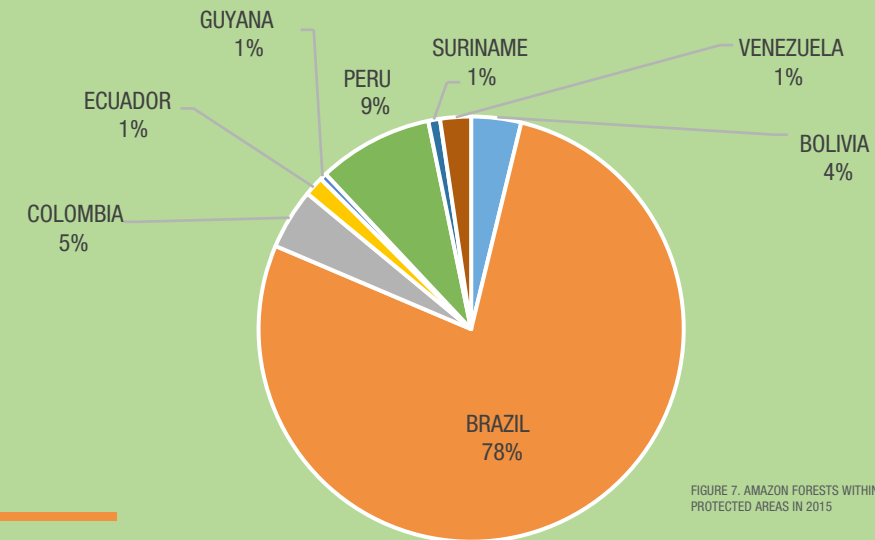


FIGURE 7. AMAZON FORESTS WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS IN 2015

In 2015, the share of forest area in the Amazon countries as a percentage of land area was 58 percent, compared to 31 percent at world level. The eight countries accounted for 92 percent of the total forest area of South America (close to 850 million hectares), more than half in Brazil (figure 2).

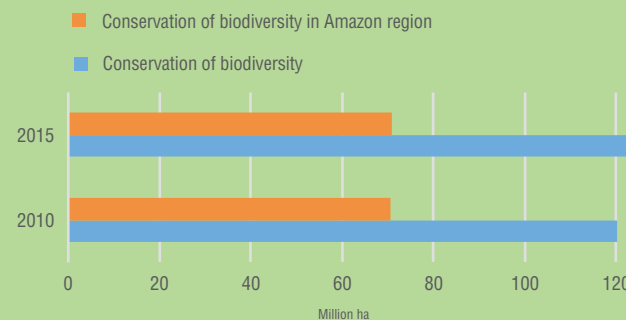


FIGURE 6. AREA DESIGNATED FOR CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE AMAZON REGION IN 2015

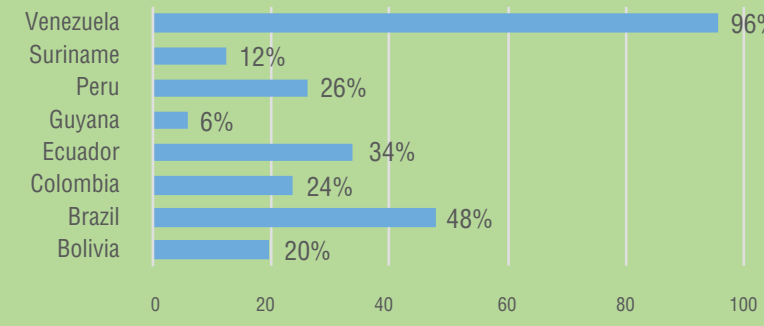


FIGURE 8. PROPORTION OF AMAZON FOREST AREA IN PROTECTED AREAS, 2015

Eighty-one percent of the Amazon forest in 2015 was publicly owned, more than half of which is in Brazil. Bolivia, Venezuela (100 percent) and Suriname (almost 100 percent) have the highest proportion of Amazon forest under public ownership compared to other countries. Colombia was the country that accounted for the highest share (57 percent) of Amazon forest area under private ownership at national level (figure 9).

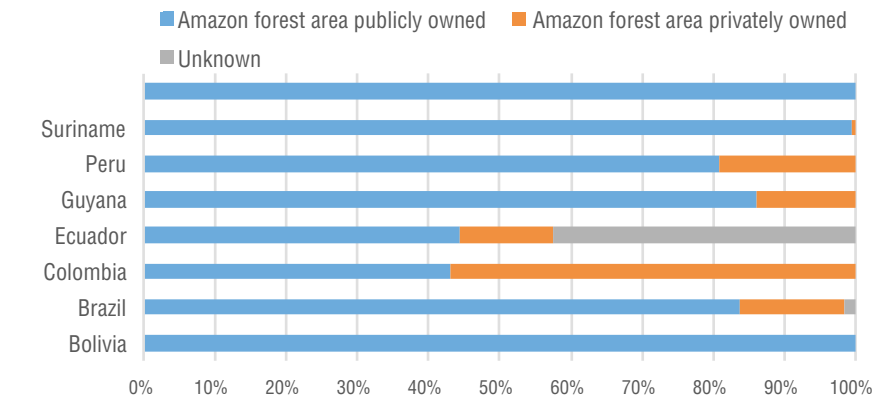


FIGURE 9. PROPORTION PRIVATE AND PUBLIC AMAZON FOREST PER COUNTRY IN 2015

All countries of the region have legislation and regulations that govern and guide sustainable forest management operations at national level. Legislation and regulations supporting sustainable forest management specifically for Amazon forests have already been developed in 7 out of 8 countries.

In 2015, less than 10 percent of the Amazon forest area was under management plan (39 million hectares), more than 70 percent of which for production (figure 10).

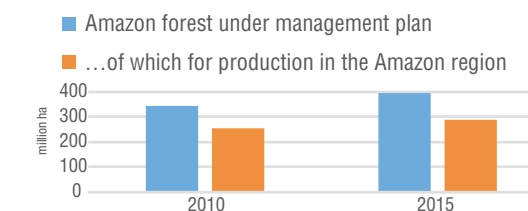


FIGURE 10. AMAZON FOREST UNDER MANAGEMENT PLAN. INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE FOR COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, THEREFORE DATA REFERS TO 91 PERCENT OF THE AMAZON FOREST