



ACTO

Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization

**Compilation of the activities
of the ACTO Member Countries
in the International Year
of Biodiversity**

**Regional Action Plan
for Amazon Biodiversity
(Proposal)**

**Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization –
Permanent Secretariat (ACTO/PS)**

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in the International Year
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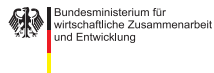
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Compilation of the activities of the ACTO Member Countries in the International Year of Biodiversity



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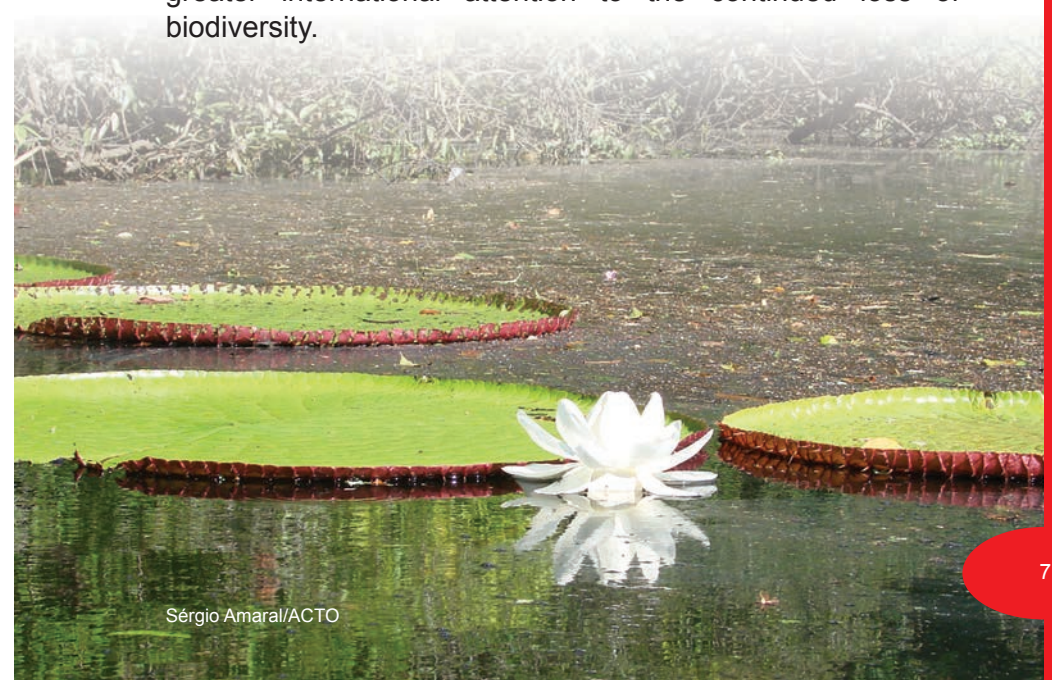
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Foreword

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the three “Rio Conventions” derived from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the “Earth Summit”, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The CBD objectives are “the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”.

2010 is a landmark year for the CBD. In its Resolution 61/203 the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). It designated the CBD Secretariat as the focal point for the IYB, and invited it to cooperate with other relevant United Nations bodies, multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to bringing greater international attention to the continued loss of biodiversity.



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The International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in essence aims to:

- Enhance public awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to biodiversity;
- Raise awareness of the accomplishments to save biodiversity that have already been realized by communities and governments;
- Urge all individuals, organizations and governments to take the immediate steps needed to halt the loss of biodiversity;
- Promote innovative solutions to reduce these threats; and
- Begin dialogue among stakeholders for steps to be taken in the post-2010 period.

In this context, the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela are responding to the IYB call by building and consolidating their policy and regulatory frameworks for biological diversity, taking measures to protect and conserve their natural heritage and raising public awareness of their biological wealth, as seen in the first part of this publication.

ACTO, as an international organization for regional cooperation, has worked with the Member Countries to generate proposals to contribute to the safeguarding of the Amazon biodiversity. This collective effort gives as a result a proposal for a Regional Action Plan for Amazon Biodiversity, which has been approved by the technical agencies and will be submitted for consideration of the political authorities of the Organization. This proposal constitutes the second part of this publication.

ACTO hopes that this compilation made with inputs provided by the 8 Member States, serves to let to know the efforts undertaken within each country to protect biodiversity, as well as the contributions of the regional cooperation body regarding these efforts.

Finally we thank the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member Countries, the Permanent National Commissions and their links, as well as to the respective Ministries of Environment who facilitated the information for this publication to be possible.

Brasilia DF, September 27th, 2010

Plurinational State of Bolivia

Introduction

As the National Competent Environmental Authority, the Vice Ministry of the Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Forest Management and Development's Directorate General for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP) works to comply with predefined overall objectives within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity as follows:

- Improving public awareness in the Country about the importance of safeguarding biological diversity and about the associated threats.
- Enhancing awareness of the achievements that have been made by communities and governments to save biological diversity.
- Encouraging individuals, non-governmental organizations and civil society to take the necessary actions immediately in order to halt biodiversity loss.
- Promoting innovative solutions to reduce threats to biodiversity.
- Launching dialogue among stakeholders on measures to be taken post 2010.

Context

Wildlife management

Wildlife management focused on actions to identify legal loopholes regarding use and conservation of wild species in various domains, including management plans, research, circuses, zoos, and a strategy for the control of

wildlife. Thus, the drafting of the Regulation on Wildlife is expected to be completed, and will cover matters related to the comprehensive management of conservation, research and wild fauna and flora management.

Scientific Research

Through its Competent National Environmental Authority, in its capacity as regulating agency for scientific research, especially for those initiatives related to collections, establishment of baselines for best use and monitoring of species conservation, the country must analyze and implement projects submitted by various accredited organizations at the national level.

Zoos and Bioparks

Reconciling different conservation efforts is a challenge for wildlife management. Given the current situation experienced by the surveillance system at different levels with regard to wildlife ownership and education needs of society in general, the Competent National Environmental Authority has worked to improve conditions and strategies to regulate different types of animal ownership.

Wildlife Management

■ National Program for the Conservation and Utilization of Yacare Caiman (*Caiman yacare*)

In implementing this program in Bolivia, a number of actions have been developed, these include fine-tuning the regulatory framework, preparing a technical proposal to implement the program, and follow-up of the comprehensive management plans for this species.

■ National Program for the use of vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*)

In order to ensure long-term life for populations of vicuña through the implementation of conservation measures

for the species in the wild, actions have been developed concerning technical assistance to managing communities and coordination of actions with Member Countries of the International Convention on the Conservation and Exploitation of Vicuña. These actions seek to consolidate the Program by ensuring that the participation of local communities in the conservation of this species results in economic benefits from sustainable use of its fiber.

■ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora – CITES

The Convention is regulated by the Scientific Authority and the CITES Coordinator, and the DGBAP is responsible for the administrative management of the Convention. In this sense, a diagnosis of CITES's Management Office status was conducted (exports of mahogany and cedar

wood, caiman skins, survey of documentation) and work is being performed for better control of traffic in endangered species in the country.

Activities in 2010

As part of wildlife management and to fulfill the demands of many communities, specific procedures were developed for the use of flora and fauna, under the terms of the ratification of the ban through DS 25 458.

Input was provided to design the new policy on protected areas management and monitor the mandate of the National Protected Areas Service. Activities related to wetlands include monitoring at different levels, projects and initiatives that have an influence on the wetlands of our country, especially in the so-called RAMSAR sites.

During 2010, actions concerning biosafety were conducted to review and adjust the Biosafety Regulation in Bolivia and monitor GM soybean crops: seeding areas, designated surfaces, commercial production areas, storage silos, etc.

Priority was given to diagnosing the extent of implementation of the current strategy in the various development plans and across all the relevant institutions. Based on this diagnosis and on the new government policies, the final version of the strategy that will be the framework for biodiversity development and sustainable use policies is being completed.

The Red Book of Vertebrates of Bolivia was updated for over 150 vertebrate specialists. The Red Book of Invertebrates is currently underway.



Hermes Justiniano

The National Bioculture Program began to be implemented in 2010 with a view to promoting ecosystem conservation and the wellbeing of peasants and indigenous communities in the country's Andean region through sustainable management of biodiversity, as well as respect and valorization of local cultures. The expected outcomes of the program are improved local governance, increased revenue and enhanced quality of life and food security in the Andean region of Bolivia, as a result of biodiversity conservation and management, nature-friendly cultural practices, and conservation of local water sources.

As far as the activities undertaken in 2010 to raise awareness are concerned, the DGBAP is conducting the following activities to achieve the proposed overall objectives.

- Support for the 9th International Vertebrate Conference

- Organization of the 1st Exhibition on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
- Publication of the book "Bolivia Megadiversa"
- Organization of the 1st National Conference on Biodiversity
- Development and Implementation of a Biological Diversity Dissemination and Communication Strategy.

Expectations regarding the CBD

Bolivia is currently working on the country's national report to be submitted and presented in the CBD CoP-10 in Nagoya, Japan. The report is being prepared on a participatory basis with the various social organizations, research centers, NGOs, and relevant organizations through workshops. To this end, a "Strategy for Bolivia's participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity's CoP-10" was developed.



Mileniusz Spanowicz



Brazil

Introduction

In this International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) Brazil has strengthened its commitment to the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to biodiversity in general, considered a strategic resource for a Megadiverse country that detains the world's greatest extension of tropical forest. Brazil is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and is home to approximately 15% of the planet's known species. This is a heritage impossible to quantify, not just in terms of the commercial use of biodiversity-derived products, but also in terms of the environmental services it provides, among them thermal regulation, maintenance of the hydrological cycle, erosion control and biological pest control.

In order to ensure the full exercise of the States' sovereignty over their natural resources and their valuation, with emphasis on protecting traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities, Brazil defends the creation of an International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (IR-ABS). For Brazil and other developing countries, this is the main ongoing political process in the context of the CBD. The Regime is expected to be approved during the 10th Conference of the Parties (CoP 10) to the CBD.

Context

Brazil has a special responsibility with regard to the CBD because of its position as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. As a result it faces the daily challenges of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and fair and

equitable sharing of the benefits derived of its utilization. This task poses great difficulties in terms of scientific, technological and financial development.

Brazil was the first country to sign the CBD. In order to fulfill its obligations it created instruments like: the National Strategy for Biological Diversity that has the main goal of formalizing the National Biodiversity Policy; the National Biological Diversity Program (PRONABIO) that enables the actions proposed by the National Policy and the National Policy and by the Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Brazilian Biological Diversity (PROBIO), the executive component of PRONABIO, which aims to support initiatives that provide information and basic data on Brazilian biodiversity. The Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests (SBF), through the Directorate for the National Biodiversity Conservation Programme (DCBio), is the technical coordination center of the CBD in Brazil. In 2003 the National Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO) was created to coordinate, supervise and evaluate the actions of PRONABIO. Its responsibilities



Sérgio Amaral/ACTO

include coordinating development of the National Biodiversity Policy and promoting the implementation of the commitments assumed by Brazil within the CBD, among others.

Brazil has an extensive Protected Areas System to promote biodiversity conservation. More than 17% of its territory is protected in conservation units and 12% in indigenous lands, in addition to large Areas of Permanent Preservation and Legal Forest Reserves in private properties. This protected areas network has more than 1,600 public conservation units covering a total area of more than 147 million hectares. It is important to note that starting in 2003 the Government increased the total protected surface area to 70 million hectares, a 100% increase over the previous period.

In the international sphere Brazil has had an active participation in the CBD negotiations. As the current Chair of the Group of Likeminded Megadiverse Countries, Brazil is working with the Group and other developing countries for the adoption of the IR-ABS in the CoP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. The importance and urgency of establishing an effective IR-ABS, which would be introduced through the entry into force of the Protocol, comes from the need to achieve an understanding at the international level to provide stability, predictability and certainty for genetic resource suppliers and users. This will contribute to scientific development and encourage investments to preserve and recognize the value of traditional knowledge and of the communities that hold it, thus ensuring better conditions for future generations.

Brazil is of the opinion that the CBD registers a deficit in the implementation of its third objective: the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources. Brazil believes that no examination of

the causes of biodiversity loss may be considered precise or sufficient without taking into account the impacts of the lack of an effective ABS Regime.

Activities in 2010

The biodiversity data published in the 3rd Global Outlook Report (GOR3) translated into Portuguese by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the German Government indicate no signs of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss nor a significant reduction of the pressures to which it is subjected. Nevertheless, Brazil presents positive numbers: the annual deforestation rate decreased by 75% since 2004 while protected areas presented a 100% increase since 2002.

In addition to its active participation in the Convention, Brazil will be present in the High Level Segment on Biodiversity, a side event to the United Nations General Assembly opening session. Equally important to measures taken in the international level are the actual negotiations of the Regional Amazonian Biodiversity Action Plan within the context of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

Expectations regarding the CBD

During the CoP10 in Japan, the CBD plans to adopt an International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (IR-ABS). As President of the Group of Likeminded Megadiverse Countries, Brazil argues that regulating access and benefit sharing, along with promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, represent strategic actions for the conservation of biological diversity and an opportunity to assert its sovereign rights over biodiversity and the rights of traditional communities. In this context, considering that the Bonn Guidelines have proved

inefficient, it is necessary to adopt a binding regime with clear and compulsory rules for all countries addressing all forms of biodiversity, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Some of the critical elements of this Regime are: effective enforcement measures; prior informed consent (PIC); establishment of mutually agreed terms (MAT); adequate treatment of associated traditional knowledge and rights of indigenous and local communities; internationally recognized certification; declaration of origin of genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge (“disclosure”), inclusion of genetic resources derivatives in the international regime (“derivatives”), recognition of the sovereignty of the countries of origin (“country of origin”) on their respective natural resources; and access to and transfer of technology.

Access and benefit sharing is a highly important matter for the group of developing countries that hold two thirds of the world’s genetic resources. Brazil has a vital interest in the matter as one of the megadiverse countries with the largest tropical forest area and richest biodiversity, and President of the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries since 2008. The Regime is expected to promote a new attitude towards the value of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to combat biopiracy.

Another fundamental dimension of the Regime is the preservation of the nations’ sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies, enshrined in Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration. Technological advances from developments in science and particularly from biotechnology point out that

countries with a large biological heritage, including Brazil, need a legal basis to regulate the use of these resources in a transparent manner, so that the benefits derived from their research and exploitation are shared by their population and mankind in general.

Brazil’s main expectation for the CBD CoP 10 concerns the adoption of the IR-ABS. The CBD Strategic Plan post 2010 and its new Resource Mobilization Strategy are of interest as well. The Parties will also discuss work programs on continental waters, coastal and marine biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, agricultural biodiversity, arid and sub-arid lands biodiversity, forest biodiversity, biofuels and biodiversity, invasive species, Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), traditional knowledge - article 8(j) and related provisions -, incentive measures and emerging issues.



Sérgio Amaral/ACTO



Colombia

Introduction

Colombia ranks second worldwide in biodiversity - it is considered one of the richest countries in the world in terms of diversity. The variety of ecosystems (ranging from snow-capped mountains, tropical rainforests, moors, broad valleys, plains, oceans, deserts, countless rivers, lakes and ponds) in Colombia is one of the reasons why our country is megadiverse, a fact that is expressed through its thousands of plant and animal species. It is estimated that Colombia holds 10% of all species on Earth.

Biodiversity plays a fundamental role in the inner workings of ecosystems and especially as a basis for the well-being and quality of life of all mankind. Societies have gradually come to understand the direct relationship between biodiversity and human health and development. All nations of the world must understand the magnitude of the problem that is biodiversity loss, and the irreversible consequences of not taking immediate corrective measures. Hence the importance of declaring the year 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity as an urgent way of contributing to global awareness and undertaking coordinated and consistent efforts - with enough committed resources - to stop the loss of biodiversity.

IYB 2010 is of great importance to Colombia, because it is an excellent opportunity for the country to position itself in its role as a megadiverse country - creating opportunities for sustainable development and taking advantage of the situation to further publicize and raise awareness at all levels (social and sectoral), thus helping to stop the loss of biodiversity, in

compliance with the CBD objectives.

Context

The Convention on Biological Diversity is the most important international instrument aimed at conserving biodiversity and assisting in decision-making about the implementation of some of the mandates of the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, especially those related to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of using biodiversity.

Colombia, as a megadiverse country, has been a leading player in international negotiations under the CBD, its Subsidiary Scientific, Technical and Technological Body and the Strategic Working Groups on such topics as Access, Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge and the Working Group on Protected Areas. The goal is to generate development in agriculture, food supply, poverty eradication, biotrade and access to genetic resources, as well as benefit sharing, all of which are essential to the national sustainable development agenda and to fulfilling the obligations undertaken by Colombia in the context of regional and multilateral agreements on biodiversity matters.

Colombia views its commitment to the fight against biodiversity loss as a critical requirement to ensure environmental sustainability at a global level. There has been persistent work devoted to recovering, maintaining and preserving the flora and fauna of our country, across all levels of government, academia, and civil society and grassroots communities. In this sense, significant financial and technical resources have been allocated to halt the progression of biodiversity loss and ensure that development processes are not detrimental to the conservation of natural resources.

The country has recently conducted important activities within the framework of the CBD commitments by updating the National Biodiversity Policy - a process that began by laying of technical and conceptual foundations for reviewing and updating the new National Policy on Biodiversity into what is now called the “National Policy for the Integrated Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.” This document is currently being analyzed by the Colombian Government and is expected to be approved by December, 2010.

The National Policy framework includes three main biodiversity-related components: 1) knowledge, 2) conservation and 3) sustainable use. It also includes a crosscutting component of fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived of its use. As part of the knowledge component, the Biodiversity Information System (SIB), the map of marine, coastal and inland ecosystems in Colombia (IDEAM 2002), the National Report on the Status of Biodiversity (INSEB 2004) and the National Report on Knowledge about Biodiversity (INACIB 2004) were established. As for conservation, the most significant achievements were the consolidation of the National



Colombia

Protected Areas System (SINAP), the creation of Special and Management Regimes (REM) specifying indigenous and afrodescendent communities, Law 388 of 1997 on Terrestrial Zoning for the conservation of transformed areas and the acknowledgment of the Main Ecological Structure (EEP) as an alternative to territorial biodiversity management. In terms of use, the country has advanced in its environmental certification endeavors in such areas as ecologic farming, incorporating biotrade into its National Competitiveness Policy (CONPES 3527/2008), and implementing the Cleaner Production Policy, based on sustainability criteria and associated with several productive sectors that work with reconversion agendas.

Activities in 2010

Colombia conducted many academic and scientific activities on relevant biodiversity topics, with the participation of leading scientific and academic personalities from Colombia and abroad. Approximately ten events were held during the first semester. These were aimed at all audiences, but were mainly geared to institutional, academic and research sectors. Biodiversity issues and the IYB celebration were also widely disseminated by the media. During the first half of 2010, eight press releases were issued, as well as 22 printed releases, 8 radio announcements and 10 television announcements.

The set of initiatives undertaken to date can be grouped into three areas:

1. Institutional

- The process of reviewing and updating the “National Policy for the Integrated Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services”, which is in its early adoption phase.
- The celebration of the International Wetlands Day, highlighting the importance of conserving biodiversity

in these ecosystems (February 2, 2010).

- The celebration of 2010 as National Orchid Year, according to Resolution 0956 of 2010 (May 22, 2010).
- The International Environment Fair (June 2 - 5, 2010).
- The celebration of the International Day for the Fight against Desertification and Drought, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity for the soil (June 17, 2010).

2. Academic

- The biodiversity: Why are we losing it? How can we conserve it? Sebastian Winkler, Bogota D.C., February 25.
- Visualizing territories: ENVISION and the modeling of the landscape. Kellie Vache (PhD in Regional Bioengineering, Oregon State Univeristy). Bogota D.C., March 18.
- Cooperation and competition in the economy of bioersvity. Juan Camilo Cardenas (PhD in Natural Resource Economics, Andes U.) Bogota, D.C., April 8.
- The Environment and Biodiversity: 50 years of activism in Colombia. Special Day of the Earth Event (Panel). Bogota, D.C., April 22.
- Ecosystem-based adaptation: links between the Biological Diversity and the Climate Change. New challenges. Ángela Andrade. Policy Coordinator, International Conservation. Bogota, D.C., May 6.
- Biodiversity Day. International Panel: Health and Biodiversity. Aaron Bernstein, MD MPH. Clara Ocampo PhD CIDEIM. Silvia Ziller, GISP. Bogota, D.C., May 20.
- Climatic Change and threatened species. Carlos Jaramillo, PhD, Smithsonian Institute, Panama. Stuart Pimm, PhD, Duke University. Bogota, D.C., June 24.
- Where does “megadiversity” come from? Antoine Cleef, PhD, U. of Amsterdam, Netherlands. Bogota, D.C., 22 July.

3. Communication

- Design, implementation and maintenance of the “2010 International Year of Biological Diversity in Colombia” website. (www.2010colombia.com)
- Newsletter published by the Research Institute on Biological Resources Alexander von Humboldt, distributed electronically.

Expectations regarding the CBD

In accordance with the Negotiation Route established through Decision IX/12, the 9th Session of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to be held in Montreal on September 18-21, 2010 will constitute an opportunity to complete negotiations on the International Regime and compile a document to be adopted by the CBD CoP 10 in October, 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

The objective of the Regime is the effective implementation of national legislation, assured compliance and enforcement to control biopiracy, the development of mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits by developing countries that supply genetic resources, and the protection of traditional knowledge associated to biological diversity.

The International Regime is a critical issue for Colombia, in its role as megadiverse country. However, the current state of the negotiations is riddled with several outstanding issues, including the scope of the Regime (whether or not it should extend to derivatives), the consequences of misappropriation in administrative, legal and even criminal terms, and a common international understanding, within the CBD, about the misappropriation of genetic material. Also on the negotiating table is a discussion on the effects that such misappropriation

may or may not have under the intellectual property system - namely, on patents associated with biological or genetic material.

Other items on the CBD Thematic Agenda for the COP 10 are of great interest to the country, including:

- a. Review of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, including the Report on the Status of Biodiversity (GBO3).
- b. Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity: including topics such as protected marine areas that go beyond national jurisdictions and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- c. Biodiversity and Climate Change: including topics such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and the possibility of instituting a work program jointly with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- d. Agricultural Biodiversity: Biofuels.
- e. Article 8(j) and related provisions: Protection of traditional knowledge.
- f. New and Emerging Topics.
- g. Strategic Plan post-2010.



Colombia



Introduction

Now that the United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), the countries of the world through their competent national authorities are even more committed to making an impact. This will be achieved through national strategies of various types. Discussion spaces will also be created at different levels on the importance of our biodiversity, which goes beyond conservation to cover the creation of sustainable management and development opportunities, understanding biodiversity as a strategic resource that provides goods and environmental services.

In the case of Ecuador, with the leadership of the Ministry of Environment (MAE), the IYB offered an opportunity to impact regional, national and local development plans and programs not just at the technical but also at the political level. Various activities are programmed for biodiversity protection and conservation, including the creation of new locally managed protected areas, micro-watershed management, reforestation programs and environmental education, among others.

On the other hand, it offered an opportunity to consolidate medium and long term processes with local organizations and governments with a view to institutionalizing biodiversity conservation and protection in development plans and committing human and financial resources therefore.

Context

A series of activities were developed in the country

geared to implementing the CBD through its Programmes of Work, among them the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Ecuador is seriously committed to creating new protected areas, with particular focus on areas with marine and marine-coastal ecosystems. The country already has a network of marine and marine-coastal areas. As part of this commitment the budget for managing and administrating protected areas was increased and new technical staff was hired (protected area managers, forest guards). Funds were also set aside to equip these areas and improve the infrastructure. Despite being a small country, close to 19% of the national territory is considered State Heritage of Natural Areas (PANE), totaling 44 protected areas.

The new Constitution also created a National System of Protected Areas (NSPA) with subsystems at different levels: State (PANE), Municipal Autonomous Sectional Governments, Private and Communal. In so doing it institutionalized protected areas at the highest level, prioritizing participation and shared responsibility with other public institutional stakeholders and civil society in general.

Other initiatives geared to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are also promoted, including biotrade and environmental education, among others.

In addition, the country is currently executing funds allocated by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for various projects for biodiversity management, conservation and sustainable use.

Activities in 2010

In accordance with the proposal programmed and approved by the corresponding authorities, the following

pages present a report of the activities executed, especially during “Biodiversity Week”, both at the central (Quito - central area) and provincial levels. These activities were made possible by the assistance and support of professionals of the National Biodiversity Office, MAE Provincial Offices and MAE Communication Office.

Conference cycle

Various conferences were offered with the support and collaboration of the School of Biological Sciences of the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE) with the participation of renowned scientists, professionals and leaders with experience in biodiversity management and research. The event took place in the auditorium of the PUCE Exact and Natural Sciences School from 17-20 May 2010. A total of 44 conferences were presented on a different topic every day: Ecuadorian Biodiversity, the National Protected Areas System (NPAS), Other Forms of Conservation and the Benefits of Biodiversity. Several organizations, academic institutions, secondary schools and universities participated in the event.



Biodiversity fair

The Ministry convened various organizations, both public and private, to present the activities and projects being executed in their areas. More than 45 entities participated, including the MAE with its technical offices and projects. The event took place on May 20th-21st in the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) with extensive public participation. Publicity materials (leaflets, posters, bags, t-shirts, pens and stickers) and technical documents on various subjects related to biodiversity management were distributed during the event.

Cultural Festival of Music and Arts

With the support of the Pichincha Provincial Government a music festival was held with the participation of several artists of different musical styles of the Culture Office of the GPP. The event took place all Friday May 21st in the MAGAP premises.

Information magazine, supplement

A supplement was distributed in one of the country's most read newspapers "Diario El Comercio" on May 22nd to celebrate "International Biodiversity Day". Various distinguished national articles were published on the matter, namely:

- The biodiversity from the vision of the Ministry of Environment, Marcela Aguiñaga, Minister, MAE.
- Program "Sociobosque", Max Lascano, MAE.
- REDD: An opportunity of management on the Climatic Change for the conservation of the biodiversity, Marco Chiu, Stephanie Arellano, Subsecretariat for Climate Change, MAE
- The "Yasuni" initiative, a proposal to change history, María Fernanda Espinoza, Minister Coordinator of Natural and Cultural Heritage.

- Regularization of land in the north Amazon, Martha Moncada, Plan Ecuador.
- The biosphere reserves of Ecuador, Isidro Gutiérrez, National Biodiversity Office, MAE.
- The use of the biodiversity in Ecuador based on timber forest products and non-timber forest products, National Forestry Office, MAE.

Television spot

In order to disseminate the IYB at all levels and in all the media, a television spot was prepared calling attention to the country's most representative ecosystems. The spot is 30 seconds long and will be aired on local and national state-owned and private TV channels.

Dissemination materials

Different dissemination materials were prepared with the official IYB logo in gigantic art prints, banners, leaflets, posters, bags, t-shirts, caps, pens, stickers, key rings and



badges, among others. These materials are still being distributed in the various acts and events held at the local and national levels. The IYB logo is also included on dissemination materials produced by the MAE on different topics. In addition, all official communications (official letters, memos) display the IYB logo.

Several activities were and continue to be developed in the country's 23 provinces. These activities are being conducted according to each province's potential. Among them are reforestation campaigns in elementary and secondary schools, parades, fairs, open houses, seminars, conferences and press notes. Dissemination materials were also specifically designed for the IYB.

Expectations regarding the CBD

- a. After having participated in several meetings on ABS, Ecuador's greatest expectations concern the adoption of the "International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing" in the coming CoP10.
- b. Adoption of the new Strategic Plan to implement the CBD.
- c. Biodiversity and Climate Change.
- d. Biofuels and Biodiversity.



Introduction

Guyana signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in June 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It later ratified the Convention on 29 August 1994. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for ensuring that the country fulfills its obligations with regard to the Environmental Protection Law. The EPA is also the focal point for all biodiversity-related matters.

Public awareness and support for biodiversity conservation are essential to achieve the main objectives of the CBD. This is of fundamental importance for Guyana, where a series of communities to a great extent continue depending on biodiversity for their livelihoods and wellbeing. As such, the EPA has committed to increasing awareness of biodiversity, its main threats and management needs among the key stakeholders and general public. The designation of 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) gave the EPA the support it needed for its biodiversity education and awareness program. This support came at a very timely moment in which Guyana, through its recently formulated Low Carbon Development Strategy, identified the conservation of forests and associated biodiversity as the means to achieve low carbon development.

Context

As a signatory to the CBD, Guyana works non-stop to fulfill its obligations. The country recently developed its

National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Guyana's Biodiversity. This strategy provided the base for the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) that identified important actions for biodiversity conservation. Several of these are already underway, including the implementation of a Protected Areas System, fundraising, strengthening of legal frameworks and public awareness and education on biodiversity-related matters.

Guyana is currently preparing its CBD National Report on the state of the country's biodiversity and related conservation and management initiatives. A Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) was created to foster information sharing between the stakeholders. This mechanism will strengthen planning processes for the conservation and sustainable use of Guyana's biological resources.

With an economy based mainly on natural resources, Guyana's economic development depends to a large extent on its biodiversity. Conservation and sustainable development are therefore extremely important for present and future generations



of Guyanans. Although measures are being taken to prepare and apply mechanisms for research and sustainable use of biological resources, we are all responsible for participating in conserving and protecting our natural resources. It is against this backdrop that this year's activities were programmed for a great number of stakeholders and with extensive popular participation.

Activities in 2010

Given that 2010 was declared International Year of Biodiversity, activities have focused on biodiversity will continue to do so throughout the year. A series of activities were already successfully concluded.

Expositions

5 expositions showcasing different aspects of biodiversity were coordinated by key stakeholders.

The National Museum organized an exposition on the fauna and flora of Guyana. This expo coincided with the activities of the International Month of Museums. A stamp collection on the local fauna and flora was organized by the Guyana Post Office Corporation, while the National Library exhibited a collection of books, photos and posters during the month of May.

The Guyana Zoo coordinated guided tours to the Park's plant biodiversity and wildlife. The educational sessions conducted by the Park with selected schools during the month of May also centered on biodiversity.

Movies/Seminars

The EPA coordinated a series of 4 seminars in the Walter Roth Anthropology Museum for the general public.

These took place from 17-22 May and included:

- “The Rupununi - Rediscovering the Lost World”, focused on the need to understand and conserve one of largest wetlands of Guyana.
- “Biodiversity management - Who is responsible?”
- “Biodiversity Conservation and Use for Food and Agriculture”, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems for human food security and wellbeing.
- “Integrated Conservation and Development Projects: Case Studies in Guyana”

Youth Forum

For the IYB a Youth Forum on Biodiversity was organized for 10th grade students in the National Sports Complex of Guyana. The Forum was attended by 48 students and 10 teachers of 10 schools. The following presentations were offered during the Forum: “Youths for biodiversity conservation”, “Biodiversity for the common good”, “Biodiversity in danger”, “Biodiversity is the future of my country”, “National Protected Areas System - What is conservation and how can we make it work?” and “Human beings need nature to prosper.”

Butterfly watching

A butterfly watching event took place in the Guyana Zoo coordinated by the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. Approximately 90 students of 3 schools in Georgetown benefited from the exercise.

Annual Environmental Camping

The EPA celebrated its Annual Environmental Camping on July 19th-22nd under the motto “Many Species, One Planet,

One Future”. The event aimed to build capacities among youths to design and develop activities within their respective environment clubs, raise awareness of environmental matters and create a “voice of youth” on the issues at hand. This year’s camping was attended by 22 youths and 5 teachers of 6 secondary schools. The activities included presentations (biodiversity and climate change), practical sessions (The Network of Life, The World is a Network), games (My Carbon Footprint; Planning Programs), field work (bird studies, bird watching), theater and cultural presentations (biodiversity presentations, folkloristic songs, plays, musicals) and data pooling.

Green Walk and Ride for the Environment

The Annual Green Walk took place in Georgetown on May 30th and attracted more than 350 participants representing NGOs, agencies and universities of Guyana. The first Annual Ride for the Environment was held in Linden on June 6th with more than 30 people representing 4 groups. Both events were developed on the topic “Many Species, One Planet, One Future”.

Dissemination Programs

The dissemination programs included a roundtable on “The human connection and biodiversity”, a message from the Honorable First Minister Samuel Hinds on the importance of biodiversity and a speech on “Biodiversity and Climate Change” presented by Mr. Shyam Nokta, Chairman of the National Climate Unit. A news report on the IYB and its importance was aired on Channel 11, the National Communication Network.

Monthly articles will continue to be published in the Guyana Times on different aspects of biodiversity.

Expectations regarding the CBD

Guyana recently finished its Strategy for Low Carbon Development that seeks to conserve the country's standing forests and associated biodiversity, committing to a low carbon development route. Guyana would therefore like to see the CBD CoP10 emphasize the role of the existing forests and associated biodiversity in carbon storage and mitigation of climate change.

The Conference should clearly identify the need for an international financing mechanism based on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) that compensates countries for preserving their forests and associated biodiversity.

These payments are necessary to facilitate effective biodiversity conservation in countries with limited financial resources. Special measures should be taken to ensure that the ecosystem services provided by protected areas, particularly carbon sequestration, are included in any international REDD+ financing mechanism.



Peru

Introduction

The CBD's International Year of Biodiversity 2010 became an important vehicle in our country to disseminate through network television channels information on the conservation of biodiversity and on environmental and social events that affect it. In Peru biodiversity is an important source of direct income and jobs for a large part of the population. It is fundamental for our culture: science and technology for sustainable development and for the benefit of future generations.

Context

Peru approved the National Biological Diversity Strategy as the main planning instrument for biodiversity in the national sphere and to ensure compliance with the CBD. According to Article 2 of Supreme Decree N° 102-2001-PMC compliance with the CBD is mandatory and must be reflected in all policies, plans and sectoral programs.

Among the many initiatives are the National Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity, the Action Plan of Economic Incentives for Biodiversity Protection in six productive sectors (forests, fisheries, mining, oil, agriculture and industry), the National Monitoring Program, including taxonomy, the Information Network for CBD Stakeholders in Peru and delivery of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Reports for the CBD.

The National Biodiversity Strategy will build upon the Institutional Strategic Plans of 20 inland regions and will harmonize the concerted development plans, the Operational Plan and the Multisectoral Plan. These documents contain policy guidelines for each region and crosscutting lines that orient their development.

The regions are being encouraged to develop Regional Biodiversity Strategies under the responsibility of their Regional Governments pursuant to the Basic Decentralization Law (LAW N° 27783). In this sense, there are currently 5 Amazonian RBS and 2 Andean RBS approved by Regional Ordinance and 1 RBS of Lambayeque that is in being analyzed.

Through the National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP), an entity connected to the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the National System of Natural Protected Areas (SINANPE) aims to contribute to the country's sustainable development by conserving representative biodiversity samples in 10 different management modalities.

The National Reserve System of Guano Islands, Islets and Cape (RNSIIPG) was created on January 1st containing a set of 22 islands and islets and 11 capes along the Peruvian coast, totaling 140,833.47 ha of national protected territory.

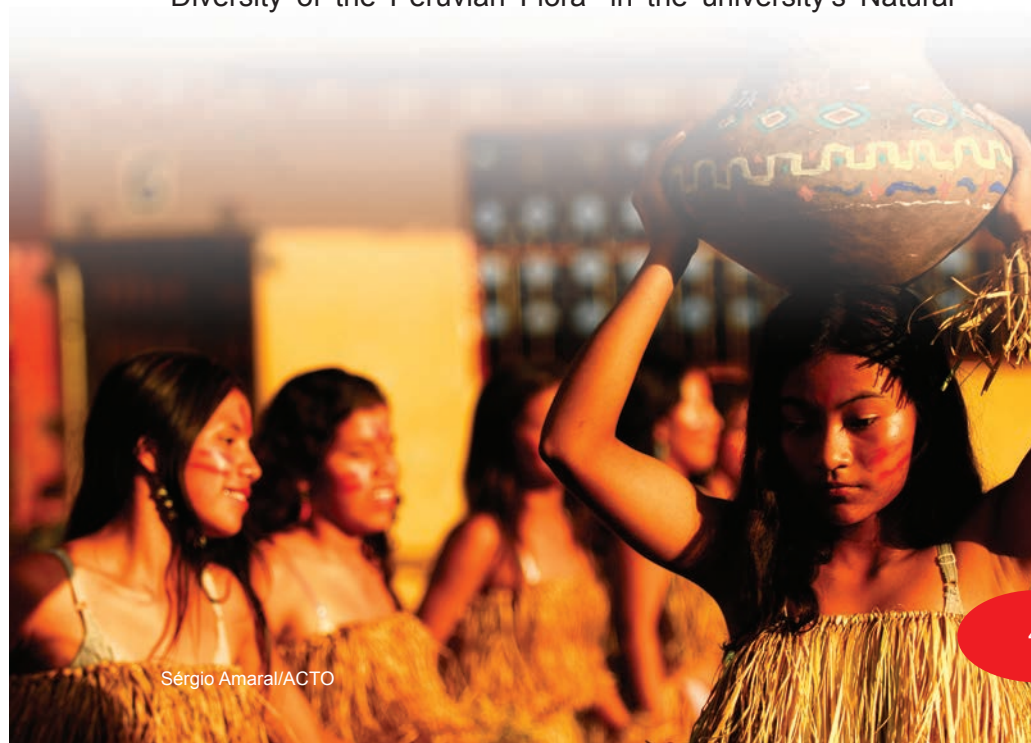
Natural Protected Areas	Thousands of ha
Nationals (67)	18.594.909,10
Regional Conservation Areas (6)	830.964,11
Private Conservation Areas (21)	131.791,77
Total	19.557.664,98
% of Total Surface Area of Peru	15%

Activities in 2010

The Ministry of Environment developed the following activities in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity:

The IYB was officially launched on February 23rd in a ceremony presided by the Minister of Environment Antonio Brack Egg, after which a series of Peruvian biodiversity products such as organic coffee and maca were presented. The exhibit in the Naval Center of San Borja was attended by some of the winners of the 1st National Biotrade Competition organized by MINAM, such as the company Cecovasa de Puno and 2A, which includes eight companies and provides many jobs in its productive chain.

On February 26th, together with “Universidad Mayor de San Marcos”, MINAM offered the International Symposium “Diversity of the Peruvian Flora” in the university's Natural



History Museum. The event was attended by renowned researchers and scientists who paid tribute to the famous biologist Doctor Ramón Ferreyra (1910-2005), remembered for being one of the most important researchers in the area of natural sciences in Peru and the first botanist in the country. One of his most important works is the San Marcos Herbarium, which he founded in 1948 and directed until 1981.

The **2010 School Festival for Biodiversity** was held with the slogan “School students of Peru in the IYB... Let’s hear them”. It aimed to promote education in ecoefficiency by “Managing and Valuing Biodiversity” and was promoted by the Ministries of Environment, Education and Health. Among its specific objectives were:

1. Enhancing knowledge, feelings and values on the importance of biodiversity through the Regional Education Offices.
2. Enhancing environmental culture and awareness about the worrisome situation that species find themselves in due to manmade changes in the ecosystems, and about the benefits that biodiversity brings to quality of life.
3. Disseminating and/or exhibiting good environmental practices and ecoefficiency in educational institutions that can be replicated and serve as motivation.
4. Build awareness on biodiversity through art activities.

The art program was launched on May 28th in the city of Tarapoto. 25 regions participated through their regional and/or local governments or other public and/or private institutions and organizations, in coordination with the Regional Education Offices. Since then participants have been invited to select the place and date to hold art programs

in their regions (May-August).

With the participation of 25 educational institutions (5th grade elementary to the last year of high school) a street parade was held under the title **BIO STREET “The faces of biodiversity, real and invented”**. The students paraded with masks, costumes, torches and others alluding to varieties of wild and domesticated flora and fauna species of the region.

Activities in the schools were adapted to the various levels. Among them were: puzzles for the initial grades showing endangered biodiversity species; presentations of the choral “Voices for Nature” for elementary classes with well-known songs and compositions related to biodiversity protection; presentations of the choreography “Move for Biodiversity” for secondary students on topics related to the Earth, the environment and conservation; “Biodiversity in our Region” drawings on regional fauna and flora species for teachers; “One Face one Species” mask design for family heads, who prepared and presented masks designed according to Peruvian fauna and flora species using recycled materials (paper, plastic and others).

The **OPEN HOUSE** events brought the importance and impact of biodiversity on the economy and people’s daily lives closer to the public opinion. “The common citizen must be aware that biodiversity is part of our lives and that several attributes of our culture and our identity, such as the contribution of medicinal plants to health, the diverse Peruvian cuisine and biotrade of native products exist thanks to our country’s ecosystems, natural species and genetic resources. These resources are available to all and need to be protected because they are part of who we are”. Citizens are invited to participate in the event offered by the Ministry

of Environment on the esplanade once a month.

- March 26th. 1st Edition - “Peru: A Touch of Flavor and History” was led by Chef Flavio Solórzano and researcher Isabel Álvarez of the Señorío del Sulco, who analyzed the history of Peruvian cuisine and the base of our native products.
- April 30th. 2nd Edition - “Ancestral health-related knowledge” with the participation of Doctor Segundo Armas, Vice-President of the Peruvian Association of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, SPEMAC; nutritionist and oncological therapist Carmen Alvarado; and businessman José Luis Silva, manager of Hersil Laboratories, who developed a line of pharmaceutical products based on biodiversity, offered a complete overview of how ancestral knowledge is being transferred through alternative medicine, which is gaining well deserved notoriety in the national and international spheres.
- May 28th. 3rd Edition - “Flowers: an expression of beauty from biodiversity” with the participation of the FLORALÍES association, known for its history of promoting Peruvian flowers and the Peruvian Orchids Club, which presented an exhibit of the Peruvian flowers most demanded abroad. It is important to note that the variety of flowers found in Peru is the result of the climatic conditions of the Andes Mountains that cross countless valleys that descend towards the coast and jungle. In them wildlife is made to adapt to a great number of ecosystems.
- July 2nd. 4th Edition - “Peru, Country of Ancestral Knowledge” with the participation of Etienne Durt,

a connoisseur of the Andean world and ancestral knowledge; Mrs. Sara Quinteros, an expert on traditional knowledge and plant varieties of the INDECOPI Inventions and New Technologies Office; Mrs. Miriam Soria Gonzales, Shipiba artisan and teacher of needlepoint and painting with natural dyes at CITE Artesanía Ucayali; and Mr. Christian Hurtado Panduro, artisan renowned for his wood carvings at CITE Artesanía Ucayali.

Expectations regarding the CBD

- a. Approval of the accountability and compensation system of the Cartagena Protocol, incorporating the topics that are important for Peru and for the region. (COP- MOP5).



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- b.** As to the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing, Peru believes that it is unlikely to be approved due to the many substantive topics and extreme positions to reconcile.
- c.** Work on the Biodiversity and Development theme that will be addressed in this CoP and that Peru endorses.
- d.** Peru expects to be recognized as a country that conserves its ecosystems - including its natural forests - as exemplified by the creation of the Forest Conservation Program.
- e.** Peru expects recognition of the importance of its vast agrobiodiversity, since the country has a great agricultural wealth with traditional knowledge-based management and use of native plants.



Activities in 2010

On 25th April 2010 the Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment aired a television report explaining the importance of biodiversity and of the year's theme "Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is Our Life" to the audience.

The second activity took place on 27th April 2010, when the Ministry organized an Information Session for journalists. The session had two goals: First, inform the journalists about biodiversity and the importance of conserving it and using it sustainably. Second, encourage them to use the information acquired during the session to inform the public. During the session different stakeholders presented speeches on biodiversity related activities being developed in their areas.

On 8th June 2010 a Biodiversity Seminar was held to celebrate the International Day of Biological Diversity. Various experts gave presentations on their areas of work on the situation, trends and threats to biodiversity. This seminar also contributed information to prepare the 4th National Biodiversity Report.

Starting in June 2010 the promotional movies of the CBD and documentaries on biodiversity are being sent to different TV stations.

The next activity programmed is a creative learning experience about biodiversity, for children to learn about biodiversity and its importance for human beings. Children will be divided by age groups and different activities will be provided for each category.



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Introduction

In accordance with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Simon Bolivar National Plan, Venezuela takes part in the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. As mandated by UN Resolution 61/203, the activities that comprise the IYB celebration are being promoted at the local, regional and international levels by the competent national authority, the Ministry of the People's Power for the Environment, through the National Office of Biological Diversity. Following the core principles of revolution -- "to contribute according to each one's possibilities" and "to act according to each one's responsibilities" -- a program was created seeking partnerships to strengthen the region towards a multi-polar world, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Venezuelan State.

The launching ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in December 2009 took place with true revolutionary zeal at the Catia parish, one of the most popular areas of the capital. The main function paid tribute to the men and women that lost their lives fighting for our biodiversity: "for the leaves, the trees, the men and the women felled". In addition, activities were held throughout the country by the different Environment State Offices of the Ministry of the People's Power for the Environment, including events in different zoos and aquariums. These activities included the creation of a mural with the IYB logo.

Context

As the national environmental authority, the National Office of Biological Diversity (NOBD) of the Ministry of the People's Power for the Environment is proud of safeguarding of the country's biodiversity, one of its most valuable resources, and of taking active part in one of the most meaningful political and social transformation processes of the history of our country and of our continent.

The alarming loss of biodiversity worldwide is the historical product of misguided development models based on the accumulation of wealth and the depletion of natural resources. It is our responsibility to take on the accumulated debt and bridge the social gap by implementing environmentally responsible policies with special skills and attitudes, and creating institutions committed to the process of change. Faithful to our principles, we have made progress in incorporating environmental education, community participation, national sovereignty and socialist ethics as inherent crosscutting elements of the revolutionary process.

At the national level we are backed by intra and inter-ministerial committees to ensure that this commitment spreads throughout the public administration in 2010. In addition, the people's participation will be guaranteed and traditional, ancestral and popular knowledge will be respected by structures and principles inherent to the revolutionary government and by a participatory planning of the activities.

The activities being planned, coordinated and organized for this year by the National Office of Biological Diversity and the different forms of social organization

(conservation committees, community councils, collectives, watershed councils, etc.) will make an important contribution towards achieving the CBD objectives and the Millennium Development Goals.

Activities in 2010

As part of the governmental component, an intra-ministerial committee and an inter-ministerial committee were created to plan the celebration. In addition, the National Office of Biological Collections and the National Network of Biological Collections (G.O. 373.026 16Nov2009) were created to claim the true value of our intellectual and biological heritage, ensuring access to information both in far-off schools and in the highest decision-making spheres.



Venezuela

At the national level we are working with the support of these committees, ensuring that this commitment spreads throughout the public administration in 2010.

We are working to achieve institutional change and building State policies and strategic lines for biodiversity:

1. Organizational consolidation of the Planning and Monitoring Unit.
2. Creation of the Latin American School of Biological Diversity.
3. Construction and consolidation of the NOBD databases.
4. Creation of the Environmental Impact Research Unit.
5. We have actively participated in international politics together with the Office of International Management and Cooperation and the Ministry of the People's Power for International Relations, addressing issues on the international agenda and taking the country's position to different forums, ranging from the conservation of sea turtles, CITES, ACTO, SPAW Protocol, RAMSAR (wetlands), the CBD, to global issues like climate change.

As part of our sovereign, democratic and participatory administration, we have:

1. Organized the First Venezuelan Congress of Biological Diversity.

2. Collectively constructed the National Plan for Biodiversity Conservation.
3. Established the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation as a management level response to the problems that threaten our biodiversity. This strategy comprises seven lines of action, based on biodiversity knowledge, conservation and management as necessary elements to build a more equitable society both for present and future generations. Managing biodiversity information is the main line of this strategy, although it is imperative that knowledge is available to make formal decisions that ensure the preservation of our biodiversity.



Venezuela



4. Worked at developing legal tools to manage biodiversity.
5. Maintained the National Biosafety Committee, the National Commission for Tepuyes and the Intra-Ministerial Commission on Access to Genetic Resources, with the purpose of strengthening democracy in the environmental decision-making process, and encouraged the creation of working groups to discuss various documents to inform decisions at the national level.
6. Strengthened capacity building for a new society.

Expectations regarding the CBD

The collective construction process will continue in the near future with the preparation of bioregional action plans in 8 workshops. These workshops aim to identify actions to be executed in 2010-2013 with the participation of key social players of the region.

The people's participation is also guaranteed and traditional, ancestral and popular knowledge is respected by structures and principles inherent to the revolutionary government and by the participatory planning of activities. Activities are planned, coordinated and organized together with different forms of social organization (conservation committees, community councils, collectives, watershed councils, etc.) to multiply the outcomes and make an important contribution towards achieving the CBD objectives and the MDGs.

Based on this work we are preparing the national proposal to be submitted to the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We are currently working on the International Year of Biodiversity convinced that 2010 will bring true positive changes, adding the element of environmental sovereignty to the bicentennial year and to the true principles of the revolutionary government.

Regional Action Plan for Amazon Biodiversity (Proposal)



Sérgio Amaral/ACTO

Introduction

Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity - CDB (Art.6), the plans of action on biodiversity are proposed instruments to define and to implement actions that guarantee the fulfillment of the objectives of conservation, sustainable use of the biodiversity, and the right and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the biological diversity.

With such aim, in July 2005, the PS/ACTO subscribed the Agreement of Regional Technical Cooperation Non Reimbursable no. ATN/OC-9251-RG of the Initiative RPG of the Inter-American Development Bank - I.A.D.B. "Strengthening of the Joint Regional Management for the Sustainable Utilization of the Amazonian Biodiversity" – Biodiversity ACTO Program-; with the aim to develop the proposal of the Regional Action Plan for the Amazonian Biodiversity, which strengthen the alliances between the Governments and facilitate the implementation of programs and projects on regional scale, aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of the area. In that sense; it is proposed a coordinated action that supports and complements the management of the Party Countries about biodiversity, besides it facilitates a larger cooperation, communication and coordination with regard to the attention of needs that can be hardly considered on individual basis.

The technical proposal of the Regional Action Plan for the Amazonian Biodiversity; decided by the environmental authorities of the ACTO Party Countries in the Regional Meeting "Rescuing and valuing the Amazonian biodiversity: towards the approval and implementation of a Regional

Action Plan", held in the city of Lima, Peru in May of 2010; aim to reinforce the actions of cooperation, communication and coordination between the ACTO Countries, and to contribute in this way to the improvement of the life conditions of its populations, generating conditions for a harmonious relation with the environment. Also, it complements and fortifies the biodiversity national and local plans, in agreement with the National Strategies and Biodiversity Actions Plans of each ACTO Country. All this with the intention to address subjects of regional scope that allows a larger knowledge and exchange of successful experiences, that results in greater effectiveness in the actions of conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity.

For such effect, the proposal of the Regional Action Plan for the Amazonian Biodiversity, includes four programmatic areas: (1) Investigation, Technology and Innovation in Amazonian Biodiversity [I+T+i]; (2) Protected areas; (3) Management, Monitoring and Control of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora threatened by bio commerce;



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(4) Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Biotrade. These programmatic areas are based on the Declarations of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the ACTO Countries, as much on the VII Meeting (Manaos, Brazil, 2004) and also in the IX Meeting (Iquitos, Peru, 2005); in the ACTO Strategic Plan 2004 - 2012; as well as in emergent subjects and guidelines contained in the ACTO Declaration of Manaos (November 2009), for the preparation of a new Strategic Agenda of Amazonian Cooperation on the short, the medium and long term which will have to contain actions at regional level which support the national initiatives.

The Regional Action Plan for the Amazonian Biodiversity that is detailed will be presented in the next Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the ACTO countries, which is a competent organ of the ACTO, so that it can be incorporated in the New Strategic Agenda of Cooperation of the Organization.

Brasília DF, August 30th, 2010

STRENGTHENING THE JOINT
REGIONAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE AMAZONIAN BIODIVERSITY
(ACTO BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM)

















REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR AMAZON BIODIVERSITY

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT
ATN/OC-9251-RG RPG INITIATIVE

INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IADB)
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (ACTO)

MAY, 2010

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Scope of the Action Plan

While it is clear that each of the Amazonian countries has been implementing, in their own area of competence, actions towards meeting the objectives of knowing, conserving and using biodiversity sustainably, the challenge is such that still it is required more and better coordinated efforts to eliminate the direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss currently affecting the Amazon.

It is then urgent to promote cooperation, communication and coordination frameworks as well as support networks among the nations of the amazon region to meet the challenge that implies sustaining biodiversity. This will contribute to build and strengthen management mechanisms and institutional regional bases, especially for ACTO Member Countries in order to promote joint actions that promote sustainability of Amazonian biodiversity.

The Action Plan is a strategic alliance to act in coordination in solving issues of common interest. For these issues, a regional action plan constitutes itself as an instrument for joint coordination that allows more and better communication that in turn facilitates knowledge of progress achieved; greater complementarity and avoiding effort duplication; more cooperation and coordination helping to avoid isolated activities and capitalizing on common efforts. Therefore, the programmatic areas considered in the Regional Action Plan, answer to the following criteria:

Criteria	Priority
Cooperation	Actions oriented towards greater cooperation and the achievement of a relatively homogeneous regional capacity based on the identification of national strengths and weaknesses. Actions that foster the creation of synergies between two or more countries to execute activities that can be replicated in other Amazonian nations.
Communication	Actions that enhance communication by means of the exchange of information and experiences between the countries regarding biodiversity management.
Coordination	Actions to enhance coordination between the countries in order to meet needs that cannot be met by the countries independently, regarding the priorities and goals established by each nation

Ultimately, a regional action plan allows a greater positive impact on biodiversity, since working together in a more coordinated way, more knowledge can be obtained and better conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is accomplished.

Vision

The Amazon Biodiversity Regional Action Plan becomes an important and effective instrument for ACTO Member Countries regarding coordination, communication and cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as for the fair and equitable benefit sharing of benefits, within a framework of respect for the sovereignty of States and complementarities on national efforts.

Principles

Principle	Description
Recognition of the strategic value of biodiversity and fair and equitable benefit sharing	Biodiversity is a development driver for the Amazon countries.
Sovereignty	Biodiversity is a national heritage.
Equilibrium between ecological, economic and social conditions (sustainable development)	Reconciling biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its components and adoption of an ecosystem approach as a sustainable management strategy in a context of human development.
Cooperation	Actions that strengthen the creation of synergies among amazon countries.
Participation	Creation of spaces that promote inclusion, participation and social ownership with relevant social actors and sectors including local and indigenous communities.
Shared but differentiated responsibility	Recognition of each country's specificities and differing levels of development and capacity.
Recognition of cultural diversity and knowledge dialogue	Appreciation, respect and defense of cultural diversity, the cultural value of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Recognition of the importance of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity.
Joint Vision	Work perspective and complementarity of national regional significance.
Prevention and precaution	The lack of scientific certainty does not constitute sufficient reason to delay efficient conservation measures whenever there serious threats to biodiversity exist.

General Objective

The Amazon Biodiversity Regional Action Plan aims to strengthen the coordination, communication, cooperation and development of capacities among ACTO Member Countries regarding knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Amazon region, as well as the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from its use, thus contributing to improve the living conditions of their populations.

Programmatic Area

Research, Technology and Innovation in Amazon Biodiversity [R+D+i]



Adriana Rivera

Specific Objective

Strengthen and develop scientific, technological and innovation knowledge and capacities, as well as incorporating the ancient knowledge and traditional practices for the conservation and sustainable use of Amazon biodiversity.

#	Action Line	#	Activities	Time		
				ST	MT	LT
1	To identify, prioritize and formulate research programs on Amazonian biodiversity.	1.1	Harmonizing and validating regional issues of common interest.	X		
		1.2	Develop programs in correspondence to the concerted regional issues.	X		
		1.3	Implement validated research programs.		X	
2	Strengthen institutional, regulatory and personnel capacities in the countries for research on Amazonian biodiversity.	2.1	Develop the program to strengthen national capacities in correspondence with the regional needs.	X		
		2.2	Implement and strengthen the capacity building program.	X		
3	Regional communication about research on Amazonian biodiversity.	3.1	Create and enhance communication and exchange networks between thematic areas of the research program.		X	
		3.2	Promoting regional networking and partnerships among research groups of local and intermediate level from member countries.		X	
		3.3	Periodically disseminate results of research undertaken at the regional level.		X	

4	Promote applied research and information exchange for sustainable use and development of products of the Amazon biodiversity.	4.1	Support the implementation of research into specific problems and constraints of the chains selected and identified as priorities for the Biotrade in the Amazon region.		X	
		4.2	Support the implementation of a regional database about organizations, researchers and research in the Amazon, as well as infrastructure (laboratories and research centers) at the regional level.		X	
		4.3	Develop technology transfer consistent with the needs of biotrade chains, linking the academic and research sectors with the productive sector.	X		
		4.4	Strengthen horizontal cooperation between universities and research institutes to strengthen Biotrade.	X		
5	Implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.	5.1	Design of a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.	X		
		5.2	Implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.		X	

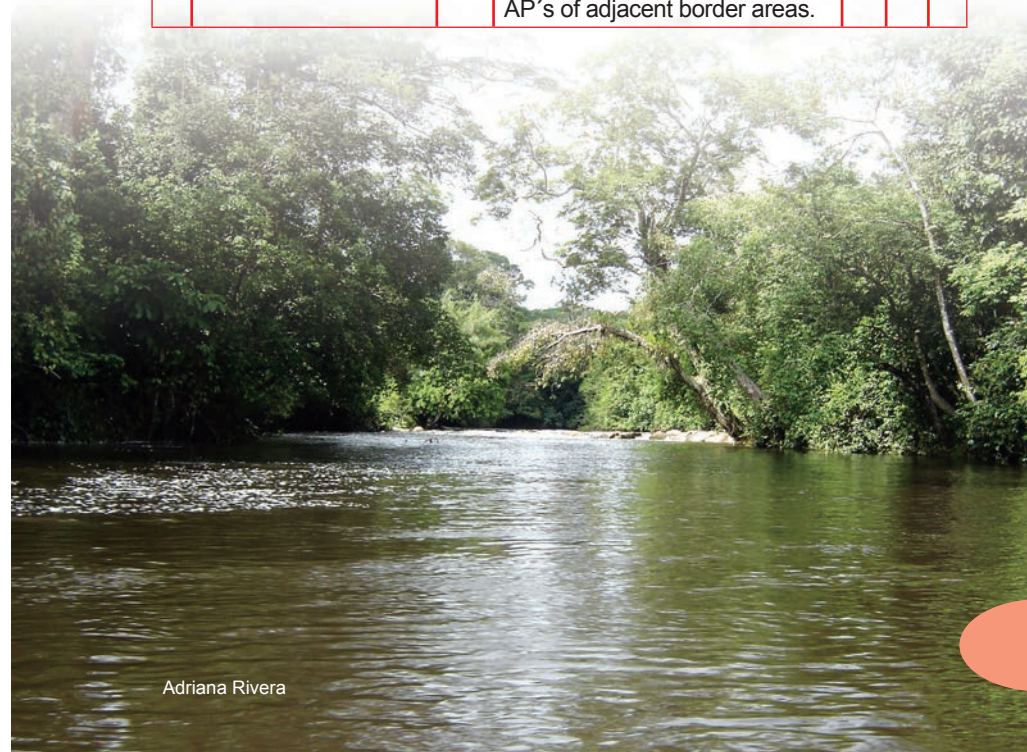
Programmatic Area

Protected Areas

Specific Objective

Strengthen the management of national systems of protected areas under an ecosystem approach, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in a regional context.

#	Action Line	#	Activities	Time		
				ST	MT	LT
1	Strengthen the institutional planning and management capacity of National Protected Area Systems - NPAS.	1.1	Systematize principles and guidelines to support planning in NPA.	X		
		1.2	Strengthen collaborative management initiatives or coordinated operation between AP's of adjacent border areas.	X		



Adriana Rivera

		1.3	Establish strategic alliances of cooperation with other public or private sectors.	X		
		1.4	Support national efforts to prioritize areas of biodiversity in each country.	X		
		1.5	Develop a regional analysis and mapping of pressures and threats to protected areas and for the amazon biodiversity.	X		
		1.6	Insert the actions of the Regional Program in local, regional (branch) and national development plans.			X
		1.7	Supporting national conservation initiatives in border areas identified by their conservation value.	X		
2	Develop the management capacity of NPAS employees and other actors involved with these areas.	2.1	Consolidate national diagnosis and training proposals.	X		
		2.2	Support implementation of national training plans or similar tools for the management of PAs in the Amazon.	X		
		2.3	Support the participation of delegations to the CBD.			
		2.4	Exchange experience (internship) between the PA staff, prioritizing issues and areas.	X		
		2.5	Establish a scholarship fund available to technicians and officials of the P A of the countries of the Amazon region.		X	
3	Consolidate and systematize country information on natural protected areas of the Amazon.	3.1	Generate a baseline of the state of PA in the region and identification of strategic actors.		X	

		3.2	Promote a shared information system among the countries of the region.	X	X	X
		3.3	Develop a strategy for dissemination and communication of the actions of the Regional Program.	X	X	X
4	Promotion of the political dialog.	4.1	Promote the development of policy dialogues on issues relevant to the management of Amazonian protected areas that are of interest to all or some of the members.	X	X	X
		4.2	Support the participation of the PA staff in international events and scenarios that relate to the management of PA. Participate in new cross-cutting scenarios.			X
		4.3	Support the search for the establishment of forums for dialogue between the program and the Commissions of Frontiers, as an area of coordination and cooperation.	X		
		4.4	Support the participation of delegations to the CBD.	X		
5	Design, develop and consolidate financing alternatives and financial sustainability strategies for the NPAS of the Amazon.	5.1	Support the current mechanisms or in elaboration process in each country in order to ensure the financial sustainability of the amazon PA's.	X		
6	Develop strategies to increase the participation of protected areas and their zones of influence in socioeconomic development.	6.1	Design and conduct a communications strategy to decision makers, opinion makers and public and private companies.		X	

		6.2	Identify successful sustainable use initiatives of local people, and promote its exchange.	X		
		6.3	Promote the exchange of experiences in the management of impacts of infrastructure and other development initiatives with potential impacts on protected areas.	X		
		6.4	Support the articulation of the national initiatives of development of ecotourism in the Amazonian protected areas, integrating them to the international circuits.		X	
7	Governance and shared management of Amazonian PA.	7.1	Promote the exchange of experiences in the management of protected areas in conflict with other forms of occupation and land use (indigenous lands, lands of the descendants of slaves, traditional communities, among others).	X		
		7.2	Addressing the specialty of social participation in the management of the PA through the exchange of experiences on policies, plans and practices.	X		
8	Establish and operate a system for the Member Countries to monitor and evaluate the programmatic area.	8.1	Design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system.	X		

Programmatic Area

Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Species Threatened by Trade

Specific Objective

Strengthen, in a regional perspective, the institutional and technical capacity of the countries of the Amazon region, regarding management, monitoring and control of wild fauna and flora species threatened by trade.



Sérgio Amara/ACTO

#	Action Line	#	Activities	Time		
				ST	MT	LT
1	Interinstitutional coordination in the Amazon Region for the management, monitoring and control of wild species of fauna and flora threatened by trade.	1.1	Generate spaces between the Member Countries for the exchange of experiences between Management, Scientific and Observation Authorities regarding management, control and monitoring of species of fauna and flora threatened by trade - Legislation - Species threatened by trade (Timber, hydro-biological and others).	X		
		1.2	Development of meetings prior to the Conference of the Parties to CITES.	X		
		1.3	Support the participation of delegations in the framework of CITES.	X		
		1.4	Generate spaces for exchange of information and experiences regarding the control of illegal wildlife trafficking.	X		
		1.5	Strengthening cooperation among countries on the confiscation of specimens threatened by trade.		X	
		1.6	Promote the exchange of information and experiences, to strengthen the rescue centers.		X	
2	Development of technical and institutional capacities for the management, monitoring and control of wild species of fauna and flora threatened by trade.	2.1	Expand the information base of institutional actors, programs and projects.	X		
		2.2	Develop and implement a regional training program.	X	X	X
		2.3	Support specialized training of personnel involved in CITES Authorities in the countries of the region.		X	

		2.4	Study of the supply chains of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade.	X		
		2.5	Encourage and support the development of initiatives for sustainable management of species threatened by trade.		X	
		2.6	Development of technical tools and dissemination of technical documents for the control and management of threatened species.	X	X	
		2.7	Progress in the implementation of electronic permits for CITES species.	X		
3	Management of information related to the management, monitoring and control of wild species of fauna and flora threatened by trade.	2.8	Development of workshops on the impacts of CITES decisions on the livelihoods of the poor.	X		
		3.1	Provide support to facilitate at the regional and national levels the development and management of information associated with the management, monitoring and control of species of fauna and flora threatened by trade (regional reports on trade in species of wild fauna and flora).		X	
		3.2	Information exchange about the monitoring and assessment systems of trade in flora and fauna species threatened by trade (certification schemes and legal origin, etc.).		X	X

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Biotrade

Specific Objective

Promote sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, through regional actions that favor investment and trade in products derived from biodiversity of ACTO Member Countries, with emphasis on value adding in the country of origin and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, giving priority to local development and food security and sovereignty.



ProVárzea/Ibama - L.C. Marigo

#	Action Line	#	Activities	Time		
				ST	MT	LT
1	Promote dialogue to facilitate countries in their process of formulating and implementing policies and regulations related to biotrade.	1.1	Prepare a diagnosis on the status of national policies and regulations related to biotrade at the regional level to carry out their socialization.	X		
		1.2	Accompany national institutions in policy formulation and development of the respective regulations.		X	
		1.3	Identify the compliance and enforcement mechanisms of the legislation relating to sustainable use and trade of biological diversity at the regional level.	X		
		1.4	Design schemes for the development, improvement, systematization and implementation of equitable distribution of benefits in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.			X
		1.5	Develop mechanisms to promote sustainable use of biodiversity.	X		
		1.6	Strengthen the negotiating capacities of the region on issues related to Biotrade.	X		
2	Design and implementation of strategies for the promotion and positioning of products and services derived from Amazon Biodiversity.	2.1	Support the public and private actors of identified value chains for its consolidation in the markets.	X		

	2.2	Support the identification and improvement of the regional supply of support services (technical, financial, scientific and technological, legal, logistical) for biotrade initiatives.	X		
	2.3	Design, agree and implement marketing strategies (plans) for prioritized value chains.			X
	2.4	Support the implementation of an information system for products from Amazon biotrade.		X	
	2.5	Promote regional sanitary registers based on the standards set nationally.			X
	2.6	Promote coordinated positions of the countries facing political and / or technical barriers, to promote access to markets of products from the Amazon biodiversity.	X		

Management of the Action Plan

Management of the Regional Action Plan will help identify regional synergies, helping to promote political and technical dialogue among Member Countries of ACTO, in order to identify properly coordinated approaches on issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, according to the most recent Presidential Declaration of Manaus.

This chapter presents five management instruments that facilitate the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, namely: coordination, financial, capacity building, information management, and monitoring and evaluation. As well, an explanation is provided for the action lines and activities of short, medium and long term.

Management Instruments

Coordination

The Coordination Mechanism of the Regional Action Plan will be defined according to the guidelines that in this matter will be established in the New Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation.

Financing

The Financial aspects of the Regional Action Plan will be defined according to the guidelines that in this matter will be established in the New Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation.

Capacity Building

Capacity building can contribute to effective implementation of the Regional Action Plan enabling and / or facilitating the exchange of experiences on key issues of the Plan, related to its programmatic areas thus providing in this way a comprehensive vision towards the conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity.

In line with the concept of “capacity building”, defined this as “the activities necessary to improve the capacity of individuals, institutions and systems to make and implement decisions and perform functions effectively, efficiently and sustainable”, the Plan considers a contribution in three levels, with distinct emphasis. The Individual level refers

to the process of developing skills and changing attitudes and behaviors achieved through training in various forms, including, among others, courses, practical training and exchanges. An Institutional level, defined as complete systems, with individual and group components and their relationships with the outside is designed to improve overall performance and ability to adapt to change. The Systemic level, is related to the creation of “enabling environments” policy frameworks, economic, regulatory and responsibilities.

Information

The information management should not only be considered at the technological level, but must be integrated with different levels of scope, type and communication strategies. Indeed, it is necessary to generate synergies with regional and national initiatives; it should consider mechanisms for information management that take into account the particular characteristics of each country in terms of responsibilities and functioning of the national coordinations.

Monitoring and evaluation

In a first instance, monitoring and evaluation should be understood as complement, counseling and feedback processes to the actors that are doing particular actions and/or activities, so that in the process, necessary adjustments can be made. To track the implementation of the Regional Action Plan management indicators are necessary. Likewise, the monitoring and evaluation system should assess the fulfillment of the goals outlined in its programmatic areas and the implementation of planned activities and the achievement of expected results. The monitoring system will enable appropriate adjustments to be made in the implementation of the Plan

and report, when required, on the use and application of resources and inputs. In first instance, the following management indicators for each programmatic area might be considered:

■ **Research, Technology and Innovation in Amazon Biodiversity [R+D+i].**

Priority research topics of regional interest for Amazonian biodiversity identified; national capacities for Amazonian biodiversity research detailed; needs to strengthen national capacities for regional research, defined; information system on Amazonian biodiversity research, implemented; network of researchers and research institutes, coordinating and exchanging information; strategic alliances for joint research, established.

■ **Protected Areas.**

These will be updated according to the results of the programmatic area.

■ **Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Species Threatened by Trade.**

Cooperation agreements signed with government agencies of countries and other organizations; ongoing training programs; annual regional meetings of CITES authorities, prior to the technical committees of fauna and flora; technical identification manuals for priority groups in the region; inter-institutional working agreements subscribed between the ACTO and educational organizations (universities, research centers, etc.).

■ **Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and BioTrade.**

Dialogue platform to strengthen the intervention capacity of the region in the field of biotrade; promotion of Biotrade related academic initiatives; applied research

and design of value-added products; development of technical capacities in national institutions; and promotion of priority value chains for the region.

Moreover, biodiversity assessment indicators will be implemented additional to the management indicators.