

Main Objective

Develop a Strategic Action Program (SAP) agreed between the 8 Member Countries of the ACTO for an integrated and sustainable management of transboundary water resources of the Amazon Basin, and create a favorable environment for future implementation, through a comprehensive engagement process with the key stakeholders in the Basin.

Expected outcomes

- Construction of a shared Vision for the Amazon River Basin.
- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Amazon Basin.
- Targeted research related to aquatic ecosystems, groundwater and sedimentation in transboundary areas.
- Hydro-climate Vulnerability Atlas of the Amazon Basin.
- Pilots Projects in Integrated Water Resources Management.
- Demonstration Projects under Special priorities on Adaptation aims to develop strategic adaptation and response strategies to climate change.
- Integrated Information System.
- Communication, Education and Finance Strategies.
- Multi-stakeholders Participation Plan (MSPP).
- Strategic Action Program



Stakeholder and financing:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF), donor agency;
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Implementing Agency
- And ACTO as the Project Executing Agency.

National Focal Points:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs/General Direction of Limits and Borders (Bolivia)
- National Water Agency, ANA, (Brazil)
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Colombia)
- National Water Secretariat, SENAGUA, (Ecuador)
- Ministry of Public Works and Communication (Guyana)
- National Water Authority (Perú)
- Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources (Suriname)
- People's Power Ministry for the Environment (Venezuela)

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**Integrated and Sustainable
Management of Transboundary Water
Resources in the Amazon River Basin,
considering Climate Variability and
Climate Change**

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is an intergovernmental body that brings together the eight Member Countries of the Amazon Basin: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. Its Permanent Secretariat (PS/ACTO) was created at the end of 2002 to offer its Member Countries a political dialogue and regional cooperation platform based on the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), signed in 1978.

The ACTO's Mission is: "To be a permanent cooperation, exchange and information forum guided by the principle of reducing regional asymmetries among the Member Countries through its actions, cooperating in national processes for socioeconomic progress and enabling a gradual incorporation of these vast territories into the national economies; promoting regional cooperation actions to improve the quality of life of Amazonian inhabitants; and working under the principle of sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods in harmony with nature and the environment and considering the internal laws of the Member Countries".

The Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda adopted at 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2012, is the guiding instrument for the implementation of ACTO activities, for the short, medium and long term, it is included the vision, mission and strategic objectives of ACTO based on two cross-cutting axes. (Conservation and Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources and Socioeconomic Development). It establishes the role and action guidelines of the PS/ACTO's own project cycle and the institutional structure to manage the Agenda and the various finance modalities.

It also presents a thematic approach that integrates the areas of the ACTO, namely: forests; water resources; management, monitoring and control of endangered wild fauna and flora species; protected areas; sustainable use of biodiversity and biotrade ¹; indigenous affairs; knowledge management and information sharing; regional health management; infrastructure and transport; commercial navigation and tourism; in addition to emerging topics like regional development, climate change and energy.

Recognizing the role of numerous groups of actors in the management of the Amazon Basin, ACTO sought the support of the Global Environment Facility, (GEF) to develop a Strategic Action Programme, SAP, considered an essential tool to respond to the needs of the Basin.

For this reason, in 2002 the idea of a project to create the SAP, was presented to the Seventh Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. In 2005, resources for the formulation of the Regional Project were approved. In 2010, the Project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin considering Climate Variability and Climate Change" was signed. Its main objective is to formulate the Strategic Action Program, SAP.

1. In the case of Bolivia, considering that their legislation does not provide for biodiversity and biotrade this country does not participate of the concept and guidelines of the subtopic.

Relevance of the Project

The Amazon River is the world's longest, widest, and deepest river. The Amazon River Basin covers between 5.1 and 8.1 million km², depending on the criteria adopted.

And extends into Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, representing between 25 and 40% of the surface of the LAC and Caribbean region.

With a length of approximately 6.900 km, from its source in the Peruvian Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Coast of Brazil.

The Amazon River System, with an average discharge of 220,000m³ /second, accounts for more than 15% of the annual global river runoff, exceeding the combined discharge of the world's nine largest rivers.

Due to its enormous extent, and natural environmental complexity, the Amazon Basin is essential for the global environment. With an important role in both, the regional and global climate and ecosystem equilibrium.

The GEF- Amazon Project, was prepared by the eight Basin countries signatories to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty-TCA (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela).

The Project will contribute to:

- biodiversity and habitat protection,
- ecosystem conservation,
- erosion prevention,
- water quality protection, and maintenance of a global carbon dioxide (CO₂) sink, while providing a sustainable basis for human economic development within the Basin and reducing the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to extreme events.

The prevention of water pollution and mitigation of ecosystem degradation, caused by unregulated anthropogenic activities, will result in the protection and maintenance of a globally significant ecosystem.



Background

In the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda, the Project aims to support the development and dissemination of a reference framework for efficient, integrated and comprehensive water resources and its services by the population, especially sanitation, as a measure to improve the quality of life of Amazonian populations.

The project is structured in three thematic components and the two others related to project management, monitoring and evaluation, as follows:

1. **Understanding the Amazon society**, seeks to execute a public opinion research, for the creation of scenarios and a shared vision concerning the management of transboundary water resources in the Amazon Basin, and a study of the institutional and legal standards to define strategic response actions.
2. **Understanding the natural resource base**: through targeted research providing input on aquatic systems, groundwater, river sedimentation of large transboundary rivers and the development of a Hydro-climatic vulnerability Atlas, this will provide the scientific basis for formulating a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Basin.
3. **Strategic Action Program, (SAP)**, the core of the project, is based on i) pilot projects on integrated management of water resources and priority adaptation measures to climate change, ii) the creation of an Integrated Information System and iii) a Communication, Education and Public Participation Strategies, along with a funding strategy for the future implementation of the SAP.

