

Amazon Basin Project - Project Implementation of the Strategic Actions Program in the Amazon River Basin considering climate variability and change



A look at the Amazon Basin

The Amazon Basin is the most biologically diverse river basin in the world, covering more than 6,118,000 km², or 44% of the land area of South America. It covers more than half of the tropical rainforest and contains the largest freshwater system on the planet, discharging 15-20% of the world's liquid freshwater into the Atlantic Ocean. As such, it plays an essential role in global water and carbon cycles, making it an important natural regulator of the world's climate. Precipitation levels range from 200 mm per year in the Andes to more than 6,000 mm per year in some locations in the Amazon plains. It is characterized by 14

types of climates and 21 types of soil. Hence its extraordinary richness, more than 30,000 species of plants, about 3,000 species of fish, 60 species of reptiles, 35 families of mammals, and approximately 1,800 species of birds inhabit the region. Its population is approximately 48.5 million people, under an accelerated process of urbanization and territorial occupation, with its main economic activities being: extraction of natural, mineral and forest resources, fishing, agriculture, mining and small-scale tourism, which impact the quantity and quality of the Amazon Basin's water resources. (ATCO/SAP, 2018).



Join the tasks of the Amazon Basin Project

Building a space for dialogue on **Transboundary Water Governance** in the Amazon countries is the first task to create an **Innovative governance model for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** in the Amazon Basin. This implies the **social participation of the sectors** of the region, of the Project partners, pending the situation of the Basin, because everything that happens in the Amazon contributes to regulate the Earth's climate. Through interaction, Amazonian stakeholders will have an opportunity to share the diversity of uses, knowledge and management of **water governance and jointly create the Model**, from the local level, to move towards greater participation and sustainability of water management. The Project is a space to create links for the Basin, and this is also evident in the second task of the

Project, which is: **Building community resilience and protection of aquatic ecosystems in the face of climate change.**

This perspective **includes social participation**; planners, scientists and communities will be united. Therefore, this is an innovative project that will promote **the adaptive capacity to droughts and floods** in order to face the effects of climate change, seeking to guarantee water security. In addition, the third task of the Project is to monitor water resources and ecosystems through **regional monitoring networks**, to monitor water quality and quantity, erosion and ecosystems, and thus **provide environmental data** for coordinated decision making in the Region.



For a new Amazon Basin: Inclusive and Sustainable

The strategic principle of the Project is **citizen participation** under the gender perspective, i.e. it seeks to promote gender equality and the empowerment of **women** in integrated water management, so that they can participate in the **training and decision-making processes** in all the initiatives carried out by the Project. The actions of the Amazon Basin Project will allow the **institutional strengthening of water governance at the regional (ACTO) and national levels** for

better management of the basin, the state of the ecosystem and livelihoods. Likewise, **informed communities** will be able to improve their **adaptive capacity to droughts and floods, loss of glaciers and sea level rise while protecting ecosystems**. **Compatible information** will be available in the Basin for political decision making in IWRM and **for the conservation and protection of bio-aquatic ecosystems**.



Learn about the socioeconomic, environmental and institutional benefits sought by the Amazon Basin Project:

The countries seek to maintain the **long-term sustainability of IWRM**, to achieve socioeconomic, environmental and institutional benefits through the effective implementation of the SAP at the national and regional levels.

- A **Permanent Regional Coordination Mechanism for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** for the Amazon Basin will be created in ACTO.
- More than **1,400 professionals will be trained**

and more than **10,000 members of local communities** will be trained (at least **40% women**).

- Nearly **7.8 million people** will have increased their resilience to climate change impacts.
- An area of **600,000,000 ha** will be covered by an **integrated environmental monitoring system**.

Participants: The 8 ACTO Member Countries, UNEP and the GEF, which contributes USD11,735,780.