



**PROGRAM FOR  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
OF THE AMAZON  
BASIN/REGION**



**ACTO**

Amazon Cooperation  
Treaty Organization

# **PROGRAM FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE AMAZON BASIN/REGION<sup>1</sup>**

May, 2021

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**1.** According to Article II of the TCA *This Treaty shall be in force in the territories of the Contracting Parties in the Amazonian Basin as well as in any territory of a Contracting Party which, by virtue of its geographical, ecological, or economic characteristics is considered closely connected with that Basin.*

# AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

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## **ACRONYMS LIST**

<b>ACT</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty
<b>ACTO</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
<b>ARO</b>	Amazonian Regional Observatory
<b>ASCA</b>	Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>IPBES</b>	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
<b>MC</b>	Member Countries
<b>NBSAPS</b>	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
<b>OECMS</b>	Other effective area-based conservation measures
<b>PS</b>	Permanent Secretariat
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goal

# SUMMARY

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# FOREWORD

The Amazon is considered one of the regions with the greatest wealth of biological diversity on the planet, sheltering the richest diversity of birds, freshwater fish, primates and butterflies. The region is considered the world's last refuge for various endangered species such as harpy eagles and pink river dolphins, and it is the habitat for a third of the planet's known vascular plant species.

However, this important ecosystem faces numerous threats, amongst which the main one refers to the loss and degradation of habitats caused by deforestation and changes in land use due to the expanding agricultural frontier. Livestock production continues to be a driver of deforestation despite public policies and law enforcement efforts to combat and control it (PAE, ACTO 2018).

Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity requires coordinated and organized public management. That is why, as a result of a series of meetings, more than a year of intense negotiation, dedicated technical work and political will and determination, the Amazonian countries agreed on the **Regional Program of Biological Diversity for the Amazon Basin/Region**, in May 2021.

This Program is the long-term guiding framework for the development and implementation of strategic actions and cooperation with the objective of improving the management of biological diversity and the protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities in the Amazon. On the other hand, within the Program's framework, a **Rapid assessment of biological diversity and ecosystem services of the Amazon Basin/Region** will be carried out, as an important input to guide the countries' public policies in the Amazonian territories, based on reviewed and updated scientific information. All this is conducted recognizing and respecting the visions, approaches and management instruments under the national regulations of the ACTO Member Countries.

As a result, the Program is intended to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Amazon Region.

The formulation and approval of this Program has been made possible by the commitment and work of the Embassies, the Ministries of the Environment, and other technical entities of the ACTO Member Countries.

This initiative was supported by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) through the project *Support for the development and implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Amazonian Cooperation*; and by German cooperation for sustainable development (BMZ/GIZ) through the project *Support for ACTO's biodiversity program within the framework of the CBD in Latin America – ACTO Biomaz Project*.

**Alexandra Moreira**

Secretary General

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization



# I. PROGRAM JUSTIFICATION



## A. REGIONAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The Amazon Basin/Region, comprising 44% of the surface of South America, is home to the largest contiguous tropical rainforest in the world. It is the most important source of freshwater in the continent, and one of the most important biological diversity hotspots, which provides multiple ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/ environmental services, in accordance with the national legislation of the Member Countries (MC), and nature's contributions to people, which are crucial for the survival, well-being, and development of the inhabitants of the region and the Amazonian countries. In turn, the Amazon Basin/Region has a population of around 40 million inhabitants and more than 420 indigenous peoples, thus presenting a rich biological and cultural diversity.

The Amazon Basin/Region is recognized for being a complex and heterogeneous region due to its diverse geological, geomorphological, climatological, hydrographic, and biological processes, standing out worldwide for the variety of ecosystems, species richness and high endemism. It is considered one of the areas with the greatest biological diversity wealth worldwide, containing the richest diversity of birds, freshwater fish, primates, and butterflies. It is estimated that the Amazon Basin/Region is home to about 10% of the known biological diversity, including elements of 56 eco-regions of ecological systems of international importance<sup>2</sup>, 6 natural world heritage sites and more than 10 endemic bird areas. The region is considered the world's last refuge for endangered species such as harpy eagles and pink river dolphins and is the habitat for a significant suite of the planet's known species. More than 14,000 species of flowering plants from the lowland and rainforests of the Amazon Basin/Region are known to exist<sup>3</sup> (which corresponds to only about 3.6% of the world's known flora), not including the areas of montane, savanna and paramo forests areas. It is known, however, that the total flora of the Amazon Basin/Region is still poorly known in scientific terms, and recent studies estimate that the total number of tree species in the lowland and humid forests of the Amazon Basin/Region reaches 14,000 to 17,000 species<sup>4</sup> (approximately 20% of the world's total), well above the 6,700 tree species currently known. There is also a great wealth of species in terms of inland fish, however, the knowledge of the ichthyofauna is still incomplete. It is estimated that about 2,500 species of freshwater fish are recognized throughout the Amazon Basin/Region<sup>5</sup>, although there are still many species without formal description that are erroneously included under a common name<sup>6</sup>.

The Amazonian countries need to advance in the consolidation of territories with sustainable and harmonious development, whereby nature and the biological diversity play an important role, not only for the provision of environmental functions but also for the social and economic development of the local population. Moreover, it must be taken into account that in the Amazon Basin/Region there is an ongoing

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2. Ecorregiones. Global 2001.

3. Cardoso, Domingos et al., 2017. Amazon plant diversity revealed by a taxonomically verified species list. PNAS 114(40): 10695-10700.

4. Ter Steege, Hans et al., 2020. Biased-corrected richness estimates for the Amazonian tree flora. Scientific Reports 10: 10130, 13p.

5. Jézéquel et al. 2020. A database of freshwater fish species of the Amazon Basin. Scientific Data 7:96 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-020-0436-4>

6. Albert & Reis, 201b en Alho, 2104/OTCA/GEF/ PNUMA; Chaves, 2015.



social and economic agenda. There are still important infrastructure deficits to be covered, sustained income to be generated for the population, access to basic public services to be improved, and many other needs related to sustainable development. Thus, the challenge in the Amazon Basin/Region is still a proper environmental and biological diversity management, while strengthening local economies, reducing social inequality gaps, and combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which gave rise to the constitution of ACTO, establishes in its first article that: *“the Contracting Parties agree to undertake joint actions and efforts in such a way that these joint actions produce equitable and mutually beneficial results and achieve also the preservation of the environment, and the conservation and rational utilization of the natural resources of those territories”*. In this context, ACTO Member Countries (MC) have advanced nationally in biological diversity conservation goals and, within the framework of ACTO, they have promoted regional protection actions and the use of biological diversity components in a context of sustainable development, strengthening their capacities to comply with the commitments agreed upon by the Parties in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Strengthening regional cooperation actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components is necessary, enhancing, and expanding the previous successful experiences and initiatives in the region, from the MC and the ACTO.

There are several elements that should be taken into account by a Biological Diversity Program for the Amazon Basin/Region in the context of ACTO<sup>7</sup>, the most important of which are the following:

- a) The contribution of biological diversity management with an ecosystem approach to sustainable development, taking into account the important existing linkage and connection among biological diversity, society, and the economy in Amazonian countries.
- b) Strengthening the role of multiple stakeholders (public, private, indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities, academia, cooperation entities and civil society) in biological diversity issues, taking into account the particularities of the Amazon Basin/Region, the potential of its biological diversity and the need to promote the value addition of its products, in addition to the sustainable management complexity of the components of biological diversity in this region.
- c) The potential of the biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region should become an opportunity for sustainable development, focused on reducing inequality gaps in income, health, and education, among others, promoting sustainable employment, environmentally responsible practices of the population, and the recovery of ecosystems and species under threat or under pressure from international trade.

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7. According to Article II of the ACT: This Treaty shall be in force in the territories of the Contracting Parties in the Amazonian Basin as well as in any territory of a Contracting Party which, by virtue of its geographical, ecological or economic characteristics is considered closely connected with that Basin.

- d) Strengthening the capacity of the ACTO MC in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components, and the commitments of the CBD and its management tools<sup>8</sup>.
- e) The need to strengthen regional coordination and cooperation in the Amazonian Countries, particularly in the area of management and monitoring of biological diversity and nature's contributions to people.
- f) The creation and/or strengthening of regional, national, and territorial capacities on biological diversity management issues through implementation mechanisms and instruments allow to identify, systematize, and disseminate successful initiatives and experiences of ACTO MC on biological diversity.
- g) The need to achieve the integration of ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services in different sectors to reverse the main causes of biological diversity loss and ecosystem deterioration.
- h) The need to have sufficient financial resources for the adequate fulfillment of national commitments assumed within the framework of the CBD.
- i) The promotion of sustainable economic activities through the participation of different stakeholders in the processes of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services, fostering the fair and equitable participation of their benefits in the value chain, and in turn, promoting the protection of associated traditional knowledge.
- j) Protection, access, and sustainable use of traditional knowledge associated with biological diversity, promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from those knowledges to the Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities, in accordance with the national legislation of the MC.

## **B. THE PROGRAM IN THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL CONTEXT**

The Program is focused on the objectives related to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources, in accordance with the national legislation of the MC and in line with the objectives of the Con-

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8. Once the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is approved, it will be considered among the management tools.

vention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked to biological diversity; and the strengthening of national capacities to contribute to and implement the commitments agreed under the CBD and its management tools.

The Program is also aimed at the fulfillment of the mandates established in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), which refer to the need for the rational planning of the use of Amazonian flora and fauna in order to maintain the ecological balance of the region and preserve the species. In particular, Article VII of the ACT refers to: *“a) Promote scientific research and exchange information and technical personnel among the competent agencies within the respective countries so as to increase their knowledge of the flora and fauna of their Amazon territories and prevent and control diseases in said territories; and b) Establish a regular system for the proper exchange of information on the conservationist measures adopted or to be adopted by each State in its Amazonian territories, these shall be the subject of an annual report submitted by each country”*.

The results derived from the Assessment on biological diversity and the ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services for the Amazon Basin/Region will contribute to improve the Biological Diversity Program guidelines and, in turn, to the implementation of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA). Within this framework, the program will focus on strengthening the work of ACTO through the following central aspects:

- Improving knowledge and information on biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region.
- Strengthening regional knowledge management, monitoring, and exchange of experiences and initiatives on public policies and best practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components.
- Strengthening of national and territorial capacities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components with a regional impact approach.
- Strategic planning and institutional strengthening of ACTO.

In this context, the work of ACTO will continue to be strengthened in the following areas:

- National protected area systems in articulation with other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- Sustainable use of biological diversity and fair and equitable sharing of its benefits with emphasis on value addition.
- Management, monitoring and control of wildlife species threatened by trade.
- Scientific research, technology and innovation related to Amazonian biological diversity.
- Science/decision-making interface.

It also considers expanding ACTO's work to new topics related to biological diversity management, such as, among others:

- Strengthening the protection and conservation of biological diversity and the management of wild flora and fauna species, with emphasis on endangered and endemic species, for sustainable collection, trade, distribution and use of wild species.
- Promotion and strengthening of prevention, control, monitoring and eradication of invasive species.
- The development and strengthening of the innovative potential of activities related to sustainable production practices aimed at the conservation and sustainable socioeconomic development based on biological diversity in harmony and balance with Mother Earth/Nature, recognizing the visions, approaches, models, and instruments implemented according to the national regulations of the Member Countries, such as the economics of biological diversity, the bioeconomy, biotrade, the economy of Mother Earth, among others.
- Strengthen alliances among relevant stakeholders (private, public, community, mixed and others) to frame the use and exploitation of biological diversity within the criteria of sustainability in the fair and equitable distribution of benefits.
- Promote the sustainable use of biological diversity in productive activities and the strengthening of measures and instruments for the management of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services.
- Strengthening the management and protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities associated with biological diversity.
- Strengthening risk management associated with natural disasters, climate change, zoonotic diseases, loss of sovereignty and food security, in the context and considering the existing pressures on biological diversity.
- Capacity building in the management of the One Health approach (Animal Health, Ecosystem Health and Human Health) and other holistic approaches.

The implementation of the Biological Diversity Program will involve the experience and knowledge of the MC and the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO (PS/ACTO) in the management and conservation of biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region, including aspects related to regional and thematic dialogue forums, the development of strategic agendas and regional programs for cooperation in sustainable development, the establishment of information and monitoring systems, and the creation of regional institutional networks, among others.

The Program intends not to repeat actions already carried out by the MC and should be based, in all cases, on the MC's experiences developed at the national level, focusing and responding to their needs in terms of facing the challenges of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components identified by each MC, promoting their regional replicability on the basis of regional coordination and

exchange of knowledge and experiences. It is also intended to promote synergy and complementarity with related initiatives (ongoing or planned) of the Amazon Basin/Region managed by ACTO MC (independently or bilaterally) or by international cooperation, in coordination with the MC. It will also promote the participation of multiple actors (public, private, indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities, academia, cooperation entities and civil society, among others) in actions in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region.

In this context, the Program is based on the development of regional instruments supporting the coordination and regional articulation of national experiences, promoting regional services and products, as well as on the strengthening of national actions with regional impact and scope. As appropriate, connections and linkages will also be established with other regional integration and cooperation organizations.

There are several ongoing actions of ACTO that could be reinforced and articulated within the framework of this Program. The regional Bioamazon project aims to improve the monitoring and regulation of international trade in wild fauna and flora and to support the development of a regional information and knowledge management system, as well as the introduction of an electronic licensing system for trade in species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). A CITES module is operating in the Amazonian Regional Observatory-ARO that will enable regional monitoring of endangered species of flora and fauna. ACTO has also carried out successful monitoring deforestation activities, which are an example for the harmonization of methodological approaches, reduction of regional asymmetries and formulation of forest policies by the organization's MC. Likewise, the ACTO MC are working on an assessment on the state of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services for the Amazon Basin/Region, applying the format and methodology of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

It is also important to note that all ACTO MC have National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in line with the CBD objectives and Aichi Targets and are committed to structuring CBD management tools. The NBSAPs configure an Amazon Basin/Region with a diversity of efforts at different levels (regional, national, subnational, and local) to achieve the objectives and targets of the CBD, and with an enormous commitment towards the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biological diversity components.



## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM**





## **A. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

Improve biological diversity management and the protection of traditional knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other tribal communities in the Amazon Basin/Region through short, medium, and long-term collaboration and cooperation actions; contributing to the commitments of the CBD goals, its management tools, and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; recognizing the visions, approaches, models and instruments implemented according to the national regulations of the Member Countries.

## **B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- a)** Elaborate a Rapid Assessment on the state of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services of the Amazon Basin/Region taking into account the scientific knowledge and other knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities, and include their results, and other existing ones, to provide feedback to the Program for Biological Diversity of the Amazon Basin/Region.
- b)** Consolidate the mechanisms and instruments for access to information, monitoring, and exchange of experiences and initiatives at the regional level on conservation, management, and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region.
- c)** Strengthen the capacities of the set of stakeholders in the Amazonian countries in coordination and with the consent of the MC, for the management, conservation, and sustainable use of biological diversity, based on regional cooperation.
- d)** Contribute to the strengthening and development of regional cooperation and comprehensive planning of the territory through different environmental management tools.
- e)** Support informed decision-making about the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity based on science and the different forms and sources of knowledge of the Amazon Basin/Region.

### **III. SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM**



The program will be implemented under coordination and cooperation among ACTO Member Countries on issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components in the Amazon Basin/Region, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its sustainable management tools, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the priorities determined by the MC. The Program recognizes national needs and priorities, and on these bases, it advances on priority regional mechanisms, instruments and actions that contribute to the development of a shared regional effort for the management of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services and nature's contributions to people.

The Program will recognize and articulate the results obtained from the rapid assessment on biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services in the Amazon Basin/Region under the methodological and conceptual format of the IPBES and other assessments, aimed at the systematization of available information and scientific knowledge and other knowledge systems on biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region, including the indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities, within the framework of respect to their rights as recognized in the legislation of the MC. This process allows the identification of information gaps in key areas of knowledge on biological diversity; and the articulation with scientific promotion agencies and allowing for improved decision making and more effective orientation of the development of policies, strategies, plans, programs, and projects on biological diversity in ACTO Member Countries. The Program will also progress in the development of tools for the systematization of scientific knowledge and other knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities, and to support decision-making. This information should also benefit the processes of mainstreaming biological diversity issues into the different sectors of public management of the MC and advance in intersectoral approaches.

The program recognizes that in the Amazon Basin/Region it is necessary to advance in preparing mechanisms, instruments and actions for the development of a shared regional effort for the management of biological diversity in terms of conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. Of particular importance is the identification of models, initiatives and actions developed by the countries, within the framework of the implementation of their NBSAPs. Mechanisms will be established to record experiences, exchange information, produce indicators and regional monitoring, and manage knowledge on biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region; hence, they will support the replication and multiplication of successful national processes at the regional level of ACTO, and in other countries and regions of the world, thus complying with the postulates of the ACT. Consequently, the MC will strengthen regional mechanisms and instruments to facilitate their contribution to international biological diversity commitments.

The Program will support national actions of the MC, consolidating projects, policies and instruments at different national and local scales that may have regional impact, enabling the consolidation of national technical capacities to achieve the countries' goals in the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. Through processes of dissemination and exchange of experiences and good practices, these actions will be disseminated within the ACTO MC allowing them to gain in scale in the Amazon Basin/Region, thus boosting regional cooperation

processes among the ACTO MC. Transfer of knowledge and experiences from other countries of the world in this area will also be promoted; and support will also be provided to the strengthening of biological diversity management processes in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as well as in indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities, and in relation to biological diversity, food and health, among other topics.

In particular, it is considered to strengthen -when appropriate and in accordance with national legislation- the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities over traditional knowledge associated with biological diversity; including prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms, and fair and equitable benefit sharing, as important pillars in any negotiation process for access to biological diversity resources and associated intangible assets.

Likewise, actions will be established to advance with the MC in the identification, evaluation, training, and implementation of financial mechanisms to provide resources to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services and contributions of nature to people.

The Biological Diversity Program, according to the regulations and priorities of the Member Countries, will seek to include in its financial management and sustainability strategies, initiatives and projects for natural protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), valuing the experiences on the subject of the Member Countries and the region's, for example, the portfolio of projects and financial sustainability for natural protected areas and OECMs of the Amazon Basin/Region produced by the relevant authorities of the sector and by the respective technical networks for regional cooperation.

The Program will strengthen regional capacities in strategic planning on biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region, promoting regional dialogue for the formulation of a Regional Strategy and a Biological Diversity Action Plan.

The Program will strengthen the capacity of the PS/ACTO as a technical entity of regional cooperation for advising, accompanying and providing technical assistance to the MC in the processes of conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region. Also, regional institutional capacities in strategic planning on management, administration and conservation of biological diversity will be strengthened in the Amazon Basin/Region, promoting regional dialogue.

Thus, as a whole, the Program will contribute, nationally and regionally, to the fulfillment of the objectives and commitments set forth by the ACTO MC in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its management tools, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





# **IV. COMPONENTS, RESULTS, AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

## A. COMPONENT 1

Regional scientific analysis of the status, trends and causes of biological diversity loss and deterioration of ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services/contributions of nature to people in the Amazon Basin/Region, as well as advances in the restoration and sustainability of biological diversity uses.

**Result 1:** Scientific and traditional knowledge and access to information has been expanded, systematized, disseminated to strengthen the capacity of ACTO MC to assist in political and technical decision-making, as well as actions, programs or schemes on conservation, recovery, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity components in the Amazon Basin/Region, including threatened species, with an interdisciplinary approach and based on scientific, governmental, and diverse knowledge systems, including scientific knowledge and of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities within the framework of respect for the rights recognized in the national legislations of the MC.

### **Strategic Actions:**

- 1) Regional Evaluation on biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services of the Amazon Basin/Region.** It includes the preparation of the first regional assessment on biological diversity and its relationship with the ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services and nature's contributions developed in the 8 Amazonian Countries; and it will be elaborated under the conceptual and methodological format of the IPBES, taking into account broadly all previous analyses and studies carried out by the official institutions of each country, complementing, systematizing and improving the existing information in the different national reports on biological diversity and, at the same time, providing more detail on the status, trends and dynamics of the biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services described in the IPBES global assessment and the assessment of the Americas on the Amazon Basin/Region. The Member Countries will have the opportunity to highlight their conservation, protection, and sustainable use of biological diversity actions. In this context, timely and rigorous information can be provided for decision making, by strengthening the science/policy/society interface.

## B. COMPONENT 2

Regional mechanisms and instruments to support conservation, restoration, forest management and sustainable use of biological diversity components.

**Results:** Strengthened mechanisms and instruments deemed important and effective by MC to support the management of information, monitoring, exchange of experiences, transfer of knowledge and/or technologies, training, and replicability of actions, in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of the compo-

nents of biological diversity. These will be carried out on the basis of the national biological diversity information and control and surveillance systems, especially for wild flora and fauna, existing in the MC. Regional protocols will also be promoted to establish the parameters for the management and use of data and information to contribute to public policy decision-making, considering regional and national objectives, and taking into account the regulations of each country.

### **Strategic Actions:**

- 1) Biological diversity knowledge and information management.** ACTO is advancing in the consolidation of the Amazonian Regional Observatory-ARO as a platform for documentation, systematization, analysis, and exchange of experiences among the MC, and with other countries and regions of the world. In this context, the identification, documentation (including lessons learned), systematization and dissemination of information on successful models, initiatives, actions, and innovative practices for biological diversity management in the Amazon Basin/Region will be promoted, encouraging regionally shared actions for transformative change. This initiative will articulate national systems on biological diversity and other relevant topics in a regional platform. It will also link the experiences and initiatives implemented in the region by academic entities, international cooperation, and others underway in the Amazon Basin/Region, in coordination with the MC, promoting synergy and complementarity among the regional initiatives deployed in the region by the ACTO MC.
- 2) Regional biological diversity monitoring.** The Program will also support the development of a regional monitoring module on biological diversity articulated to the ARO, based on the existing information in the national systems of the MC, taking into account information standardization and representativeness. Harmonized biological diversity indicators will also be discussed among the MC for a regional monitoring, aligned with the CBD and SDG indicators, as well as tools and methodologies for information sharing. The Program will support, by means of this information module, regional and national monitoring of compliance with the targets of the MC in relation to the commitments of the CBD, its management tools, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the consolidation of information and databases, preparation of reports, and promotion of regional dialogue on the status and trends of biological diversity in the Amazon Basin/Region. Consequently, practical tools can be generated to improve the positioning of the MC in relation to their biological diversity management actions.
- 3) Promotion of processes to systematize best practices and solutions for managing biological diversity and ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services.** The Program will provide visibility to the successful experiences linked to learning initiatives, solutions and/or approaches in terms of biological diversity management in the MC, presenting the advantages and added value of a regional approach within the framework of ACTO; therefore, the identification, selection and systematization will be promoted based on a conceptual and methodological approach shared with the MC. Likewise, these experiences will be disseminated nationally, regionally and globally, promoting their replicability at the regional level, as appropriate.

## C. COMPONENT 3

Strengthening national capacities for the management of biological diversity with regional impact.

**Results:** The experiences and capacities of ACTO Member Countries have been strengthened to meet the challenges of conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity within the framework of the CBD, and through the local level stakeholders, as a fundamental part of the planning process for the territorial development of the Amazon Basin/Region.

### Strategic Actions:

- 1) Development of national and territorial actions for the management of biological diversity towards a transformative change.** The Program recognizes the differentiated needs and priorities of the MC, and, in order of priorities, actions will be identified to strengthen national capacities in biological diversity management. In this sense, support is provided to the MC in the management of national and local capacity building projects, holding of regional dialogue, training courses, processes of horizontal exchange of experiences and technical assistance on regionally prioritized topics are foreseen. The following are the topics that will be worked on:
  - Protection and conservation of biological diversity and the management of wild flora and fauna species, with an emphasis on endangered and endemic species.
  - Prevention, control, monitoring and eradication of invasive species.
  - Promotion of sustainable production practices aimed at the conservation and sustainable socioeconomic development based on biological diversity, in harmony and balance with Mother Earth/Nature, recognizing the visions, approaches, models and instruments implemented according to the national regulations of the Member Countries, such as the economics of biological diversity, the bioeconomy, biocommerce, the economy of Mother Earth, among others.
  - Development of measures and tools for biological diversity management in a context of sustainable development.
  - Promotion of the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the use of biological diversity genetic resources in the Amazon Basin/Region.
  - Participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities in biological diversity conservation.
  - Gender and women's inclusion in biological diversity management.
  - Risk management and zoonotic disease prevention, related to factors such as loss and pressure of biological diversity.
  - Other topics to be prioritized by the MC.



Based on national experiences, regional scale will be promoted through the dissemination and exchange of best practices and learning processes and technology transfer regionally, through ACTO. Synergies and complementarities will also be established with other initiatives already underway (ongoing and planned) that are being developed by local, public, private, academic, international cooperation and other stakeholders, in coordination with the MC of ACTO, avoiding duplication of functions and efforts.

**2) Promotion of sustainable use of biological diversity components.** It is related to the promotion of sustainable use through regional actions that favor investments and trade of products derived from the biological diversity of the ACTO MC, including the sustainable management and production of species of wild fauna and flora, with emphasis on adding value in the country of origin and on the fair and equitable distribution of its benefits, prioritizing the development of local economies and food security. In particular, the establishment of an Amazon Regional Forum of initiatives of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises linked to the use of natural products from the Amazon Basin/Region will be promoted, encouraging meetings of producers (in situ and ex situ managers of biological diversity) and buyers of Amazonian products based on biological diversity, with particular interest in indigenous and local communities of the MC. In this context, a training initiative for young entrepreneurs in partnership with academia and industry will be promoted. A catalog of Amazonian products and the opening of a promotional window for Amazonian products on the ACTO's web page are also planned, based on existing information already produced by the MC and the work of their National Trade and Export Agencies.

**3) Management of traditional knowledge associated with biological diversity in indigenous peoples, local communities, and others tribal communities.** The program will promote articulated work within the ACTO MC to implement CBD initiatives related to indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities, including the promotion, and strengthening of local enterprises of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Amazon Basin/Region. Special attention will be paid to the issues of consultation and/or prior informed consent, in accordance with the respective national legislation, mutually agreed conditions and fair and equitable distribution of benefits, community protocols, strengthening of management systems and protection of traditional knowledge and intellectual property associated with traditional knowledge. Training processes in financial economics, income generation and investment plans will also be considered. Likewise, it will contemplate improving the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities in carrying out assessments on biological diversity, within the framework of the IPBES methodology.

**4) Strengthening management processes in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).** It refers to national and regional actions carried out to strengthen national systems of protected areas and OECMs, aimed at protecting biological diversity and the sustainable development of the local populations that inhabit them. Experiences of co-

ordinated management of biological diversity in protected areas and OECMs will be shared voluntarily. The Program will promote actions under Natural Protected Areas and OECMs; and will consider the results and the proven work experience of the relevant authorities of the sector and their technical networks for regional cooperation.

- 5) Management, monitoring and control of wild fauna and flora species endangered by trade.** Its purpose is to strengthen, from a regional perspective, the institutional and technical capacity of the ACTO MC on issues related to the management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by illegal trade, particularly CITES-listed species. Progress will be made in strengthening national and regional interoperable information systems related to the management, monitoring and control of CITES species or other species of wild fauna and flora threatened by illegal trade in the Amazon Basin/Region, as well as in the development of national mechanisms, systems or processes for issuing electronic permits, harmonized with CITES guidelines and others that the MC consider relevant.
- 6) Biological diversity, food and health** In the Amazon Basin/Region, agricultural practices and the use of forest products, bush meat hunting and fishing are the most frequent sources of protein in the diet of indigenous peoples, local and other tribal communities, contributing substantially to food security and adequate nutrition of the population. The use of biological diversity will be promoted as a source of well-being for indigenous peoples and local communities through the provision of local foods and by strengthening the existing links among biological diversity, food, and public health. Research on the relation between emerging diseases and the impact of the use of wildlife for human consumption will be promoted, for the use of biological diversity, taking into account its health and epidemiological implications.
- 7) Identification and analysis of options for financial mechanisms and instruments.** The Program will facilitate the identification, evaluation and regional analysis of financial mechanisms and instruments developed within the MC in the Amazonian region and in other countries of the world, on conservation, restoration, sustainable use of biological diversity components and protection of ecosystem benefits/environmental functions/environmental services. The feasibility of developing training processes to apply these mechanisms and instruments at different scales and with different actors will be analyzed, as well as their potential impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity components. Therefore, exchanges will be promoted to strengthen experience-based learning among ACTO MC and with other countries. Likewise, the Program will be able to support the identification of greater funding sources for regional initiatives at the Amazon Basin/Region level, including the widest variety of options.

## D. COMPONENT 4

Strategic planning and institutional strengthening of ACTO.

**Results:** The strategic planning and regional technical capacity of the PS/ACTO has been strengthened to support the MC in biological diversity management.

### **Strategic Actions:**

- 1) Strengthening the PS/ACTO as a regional technical supporting entity specialized in the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biological diversity components.** The PS/ACTO will strengthen its technical profile in the formulation of regional financing management, and execution of regional projects related to the management and sustainable use of biological diversity components. Through the strengthening of the PS/ACTO's technical team, specialized advice will be provided to the MC in the development of national capacities, promoting greater balance among the Amazonian countries in this area.
  
- 2) Updating of National Biological Diversity Strategies and Action Plans.** The Program will provide support to the updating of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of the ACTO MC with respect to the objectives of the management tools of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), promoting the identification of common regional aspects to be strengthened in the Program's implementation process. It will also foster the development of regional dialogue and exchange on approaches and effective measures and gender-sensitive implementation, to achieving the objectives of the CBD in the national contexts of the MC.



# V. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK





The program will last until 2030, coinciding with the period of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the proposal to update the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA).

This program will be implemented progressively according to the priorities of the strategic actions of ACTO's MC, for which a proposal will be prepared as a management document of priority strategic actions, which will include a capacity building strategy for effective national implementation, a resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the prioritized regional strategies, and a communication strategy.

The Program will be financed through the PS/ACTO, which will provide support or feedback to the Member Countries during the Program's implementation stage. Likewise, the management and search for financial resources for the implementation of the Program will be carried out by the PS/ACTO with the support of the MC, with whom the Organization will work on the possibility of implementing a board of donors, as well as the coordination with the different cooperation agencies of the MC and the strategic allies identified for this topic.

