



# ACTO

Amazon Cooperation  
Treaty Organization

Permanent Secretariat

## AMAZONIAN STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGENDA

Approved at the X Meeting of the TCA's  
Ministers of Foreign Affairs

November 2010

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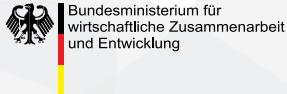
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## INTRODUCTION

*“CONVINCED that this Treaty represents the beginning of a process of cooperation which shall benefit their respective countries and the Amazon region as a whole...”*

So ends the preamble of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) signed on 3 July 1978 by representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela to begin the coordination and cooperation process that celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2010. Through its history the ACT has fostered the development of mechanisms to consolidate and institutionalize the common vision that motivates its Member Countries.

In 1998 the countries decided to take one more step in this joint process by establishing the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and its Permanent Secretariat (PS). Within the framework of these efforts and challenges, on 13 December 2002 the ACTO Headquarters was inaugurated in Brasilia, Brazil, where its PS is located.

ACTO is an international organization that has the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as its maximum body, supported and assisted by the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC) and by the Coordinating Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR). At the national level, the Member Countries have Permanent National Commissions (PNC) responsible for applying the provisions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty in their respective territories and implementing the decisions adopted by the ACC and Ministers of Foreign Affairs meetings, irrespective of any other activities entrusted by each State (Art. XXIII of ACT). Presided by the Foreign Affairs Ministries, these bodies bring together all the entities in charge of Amazonian cooperation and development in their respective territories.

The 2004-2012 Strategic Plan has oriented ACTO's activities up to this point. The Plan pools the main joint cooperation areas and initiatives and has enabled a great number of cooperation initiatives in the last years with non-reimbursable technical and financial assistance from partner governments and international organizations.



In November 2009 the Heads of State of the Member Countries issued a Declaration on ACTO with the mandate to endow the Organization with *“a new and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum to face the new and complex international challenges that lie ahead”*. In this context, they instructed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to *“...prepare a new Strategic Agenda for ACTO for the short, medium and long terms including regional actions to support the national initiatives with a view to strengthening the cooperation process”*.

This mandate took into account the rich transformations in the national and regional realities of the Member Countries. The profound changes in the international, regional and local agendas led to a new vision adapted to the current challenges to build unity while respecting diversity and preserving the Amazonian common heritage.

Consequently, in the framework of the 2004-2012 Strategic Plan review and following extensive consultations, regional sectoral dialogue and information gathering in the Member Countries, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in their X meeting approved the present new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda with an 8-year implementation horizon.

This Agenda incorporates a cross-cutting and multisectoral approach in all the programs, projects and activities identified to respond to concerns and requirements of the Member Countries and to the mandates of the ACT. Thanks to the adjustment and revision mechanisms provided for its implementation the Agenda is a guiding, flexible and adaptable tool capable of adequately reflecting all the common interests.

The New Strategic Agenda includes the vision, mission and strategic objectives of ACTO based on two crosscutting axes (conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources and sustainable 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 considered.

It also presents a thematic approach that integrates the areas of the ACT, namely: forests; water resources; management, monitoring and control of endangered wild fauna and flora species; protected areas; sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade; 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.

The Member Countries of ACTO made an important regional dialogue and concerted effort and achieved a commitment to execute the programs, projects and activities identified. In this context continuing to depend upon cooperation from Governments of friendly countries and international organizations will be important to allow the Organization to achieve its goals in benefit of the Amazon region and its population.

Lima, November 29, 2010





## **ACTO-VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Based on the above-referred input, the following visions and missions were identified:

### **a. Vision for the Amazon Region.**

“Achieve sustainable development in the Amazon region reconciling use, protection and conservation of its resources, with equitable conditions that ensure integral sustainable development, effective presence of the State in its different levels of Government and Amazonian populations that fully exercise their rights and obligations in the framework of the national laws in force and international agreements”.

### **b. ACTO – Vision for the future.**

“An Organization that is internationally recognized within the Member Countries and in the international environment as a reference in regional cooperation, discussions and positions on topics of the international agenda related to the Amazon, and sharing experiences, guided by the principles of full sovereignty, respect and harmony with nature, integral sustainable development and reducing asymmetries between the nations of the region”.

### **c. ACTO – Mission.**

“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”.

#### d. ACTO – Strategic objectives.

- Facilitate exchange and cooperation among the Member Countries, promoting strategic sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods in the region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, with emphasis on vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, and other tribal communities.
- Ensure that the interests and sovereignty of the Member Countries are respected and promoted.
- Facilitate and foster actions to preserve, protect, conserve and sustainably use the forest, biodiversity and water resources of the Amazon.
- Promote management of Amazonian resources in a context of respect and harmony with nature and the environment.
- Promote and disseminate the cultures of the Amazon, and foster respect and protection of ancestral and current knowledge and wisdom.
- Promote coordination of plans and programs of Member Countries for the development of Amazonian populations, paying particular attention to vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, and other tribal communities.



## CROSS-CUTTING AXES

Two cross-cutting axes were considered particularly important to prepare the Strategic Agenda: a) Conservation and Sustainable<sup>1</sup> Use of Renewable Natural Resources, and b) Sustainable Development (Improving quality of life for the Amazon Region's inhabitants).

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<sup>1</sup> In Spanish the word used for sustainable can be either “sostenible” or “sustentable”, depending on the legal base of each Member Country.



# SYNTHETIC MATRIX OF THE PLAN

VISION FOR THE AMAZON AND ACTO				
GENERAL THEMATIC CONTENT		CROSSCUTTING AXES		MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
		Conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources	Sustainable development	
SECTORAL AGENDAS	Conservation, protection and sustainable use of renewable natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forests.</li><li>• Water resources.</li><li>• Management, monitoring and control of wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.</li><li>• Protected Areas.</li><li>• Sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade.</li><li>• Research, technology and innovation in Amazonian biodiversity.</li></ul>		
	Indigenous Affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.</li><li>• Protecting traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and other tribal communities.</li><li>• Lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and other tribal communities.</li><li>• New topics.</li></ul>		
	Knowledge management and information sharing.			
	Regional health management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination with other initiatives.</li><li>• Epidemiologic surveillance.</li><li>• Environmental health.</li><li>• Development of health systems.</li><li>• Health technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health interventions.</li><li>• Determinants of health in the Amazon.</li><li>• Human resources policies for the Amazon.</li><li>• Special programs for surveillance.</li><li>• Drive, strengthen and consolidate research in the Amazon.</li><li>• Funding for the health agenda.</li></ul>		
	Infrastructure and transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport infrastructure.</li><li>• Commercial navigation.</li></ul>		
	Tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systematizing of tourism information in the Amazon.</li><li>• Creation of integrated regional circuits.</li><li>• Development of environmentally sustainable Community-based tourism.</li><li>• Strengthening the Amazon's tourism image.</li><li>• Regional tourism funding mechanism proposal.</li></ul>		
	Institutional, financial and legal strengthening.			
	Emerging topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Change.</li><li>• Regional Development.</li><li>• Energy.</li></ul>		
	PS/ACTO ROLE AND ACTIVITIES MAP			



## ■ PS/ACTO ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND ACTION GUIDELINES

*Roles and functions:* The PS/ACTO must function as:

- **Liaison:** fostering consensus among the Member Countries to develop activities, programs and projects that involve national, regional and international players.
- **Facilitator:** establishing spaces for political and technical dialogue among the Member Countries to ensure compliance with its mandates, including topics of interest of international forums like those related to climatic change, forests, biological diversity and trade of endangered species.
- **Coordinator:** regionally managing and administrating the execution of activities, programs and projects based on the mandates received from the Member Countries.
- **Arranger of regional and international cooperation support:** identifying financial cooperation sources to develop specific regional activities commissioned by Member Countries based on their priorities, with full respect for national sovereignty.
- **Generator of regional information:** producing reference regional information to propose analysis scenarios for the Amazon through experience and knowledge shared by the Member Countries.
- **Promoter of actions** to strengthen institutional capacity within the Member Countries according to their needs.

*Action guidelines:* The PS/ACTO underpins its work by the following guidelines:

- Search for consensus and results.
- Permanent consultation to the Member Countries and its stakeholders through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA).
- Fast and periodic information exchange using Information and Knowledge Technology - IKT.
- Effective coordination with the Permanent National Commissions (PNC) through the MFA.
- Transparent communication.
- Strengthened synergy and cross-cutting action between the Coordinating Offices.
- Increased participation of MFA focal points.
- Broad publicity for its activities and projects.
- Planning, monitoring and periodic evaluation of activities and projects.
- Dissemination of the annual reports produced by ACTO and its Member Countries in the framework of the ACT and others considered relevant by the Member Countries themselves.
- Facilitation of procedures to expedite decision-making by the Member Countries.





## THEMATIC APPROACH<sup>2</sup>

This section presents the topics and activities identified in the consultations with the Member Countries and in the technical proposals agreed upon in regional meetings. A specific objective was drafted for each topic as guidance for the activities programmed, based on the various criteria received from Member Countries and on the technical proposals produced until August 2010.

### A. Topic: Conservation, protection and sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

**Objective:** Contribute to sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods and to keeping the environment clean and healthy.

#### A.1. Subtopic: Forests.

**Objective:** Integrated and integral<sup>3</sup> sustainable forest management and conservation that result in real benefits for local populations.

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<sup>2</sup> In the case of Bolivia and Venezuela, considering that their legislations do not provide for biodiversity and biotrade, they do not participate in the concepts and guidelines of the subtopic biodiversity and biotrade.

<sup>3</sup> For the effects of the Strategic Agenda “integrated and integral forest management” means that the forest issue should be approached in a broad and comprehensive manner considering the multiple aspects of the forest, multidisciplinarity and other aspects, taking into account the definition of the United Nations Forum on Forests.



**Activities (short term):**

- i. Design methodologies for economic and environmental valuation of the forest<sup>4</sup>.
- ii. Forest cover monitoring and forest control.
- iii. Promote and strengthen community forest management<sup>5</sup>.
- iv. Promote and strengthen social participation in forest management.
- v. Facilitate capacity-leveling and analysis spaces for global dialogue (UNFF and UNFCCC).
- vi. Liaise sustainable funding for the forest sector.
- vii. Look for and identify new and additional funds for forest preservation.
- viii. Propose incentive mechanisms for reforestation.
- ix. Promote forest awareness among the Amazonian populations.
- x. Promote international technical and financial cooperation to combat illegal logging.
- xi. Promote actions to prevent and control forest fires.
- xii. Promote conservation, rehabilitation, reforestation and maintenance activities for forests and degraded areas.
- xiii. Promote the design and application of instruments for the economic forest valuation, its goods and services that may be used as a reference for executing programs and projects oriented to its conservation and sustainable use<sup>6</sup>.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote forest sector accounting in the National Accounts.
- ii. Promote the development of methodologies and shared tools related to the role of forests in combating climate change.
- iii. Liaise sustainable funding for the forest sector.
- iv. Promote actions to improve the sector's competitiveness.
- v. Promote and strengthen social participation in forest management.
- vi. Promote sustainable forest management with social inclusion.
- vii. Promote rehabilitation of forest ecosystems.

<sup>4</sup> The activities related to the economic and environmental valuation of forests as well as the environmental services will be performed based on the local laws and rules of Member Countries.

<sup>5</sup> For Peru forest management should be coordinated between the central government, the regional and local governments with the participation of the inhabitants and forest users.

<sup>6</sup> In the case of Venezuela and Bolivia, the term "environmental services" is not considered in its national legislation.

- viii. Promote the development of non-timber forest products.
- ix. Promote information sharing on forests and protected areas and technical exchange of experience.
- x. Promote international technical and financial cooperation to combat illegal logging.
- xi. Promote forest awareness among the Amazonian population.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Liaise sustainable funding for the forest sector.
- ii. Coordinate development of value adding initiatives.
- iii. Coordinate land use planning and ecological zoning to build the bases for regional planning.

**A.2. Subtopic: Water resources.**

**Objective:** Support the development and dissemination of a reference framework for efficient, integrated and comprehensive water resources management to promote increased access to water resources and its services by the population, especially sanitation, as a measure to improve the quality of life of Amazonian populations.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote the adoption of an integrated and integral approach to water resources management (adaptation to climate change, land, civil society participation in management).
- ii. Promote actions to facilitate equitable access to quality water for civil society in general, to the extent possible, with emphasis on vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, and other tribal communities.
- iii. Promote discussion of the specific problems of managing basins in border areas.
- iv. Encourage participation of vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples and other tribal communities on debates about water resources.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote shared discussion spaces to establish control policies for mining activities that contaminate the water.
- ii. Promote the adoption of common criteria to assess and monitor use of water resources, respecting the management specificities of each

- country.
- iii. Promote actions and mechanisms for regional land use planning and zoning to manage watersheds and micro-watersheds.
- iv. Implement an integral and sustainable water resources management model in Continental Amazon.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Promote actions and mechanisms for regional land use planning and environmental zoning to manage basins and micro-basins.

### **A.3 Subtopic: Management, monitoring and control of wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.**

**Objective:** Strengthen institutional and technical capacity in the Amazon countries from a regional perspective to manage, monitor and control wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.

**Line 1:** Interinstitutional coordination in the regional Amazonian context to manage, monitor and control wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Create spaces among Member Countries for experience sharing for managing, controlling and monitoring wild fauna and flora species endangered by trade for AA, AC and AO:
  - Legislation.
  - Species endangered by trade (timber products, hydrobiological products and others).
- ii. Conduct preparatory meetings for the Conferences of the Parties to the CITES.
- iii. Support the participation of delegations within the framework of the CITES.
- iv. Create spaces to share information and experience in controlling illegal traffic in wild fauna and flora.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Strengthen cooperation between the Member Countries on seizure of specimens endangered by trade.

- ii. Promote exchange of information and experience to strengthen rescue centers.

**Line 2:** Develop technical and institutional capacities to manage, monitor and control wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Expand the information base for official institutional players, programs and projects.
- ii. Formulate and implement a regional capacity-building program.
- iii. Study the marketing chains of wild fauna and flora species endangered by trade.
- iv. Prepare technical tools and disseminate technical documents for administration, management and control of endangered species.
- v. Advance the implementation of electronic permitting for CITES species.
- vi. Hold workshops on the impacts of CITES decisions on the livelihoods of the vulnerable population.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Formulate and implement a regional capacity-building program.
- ii. Support specialized education for human resources connected to the CITES Authorities in the countries of the region.
- iii. Foster and support initiatives for sustainable management of species endangered by trade.
- iv. Prepare technical tools and disseminate technical documents for administration, management and control of endangered species.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Formulate and implement a regional capacity-building program.

**Line 3:** Information management for management, monitoring and control of wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Offer support to facilitate regional and national generation and management of information associated to managing, monitoring and controlling wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade (regional reports on trade in wild fauna and flora species).
- ii. Information sharing on monitoring and evaluation systems for trade in



wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade (certification and legal origin schemes, among others).

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Information sharing on monitoring and evaluation systems for trade in wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade (certification and legal origin schemes, among others).

#### A.4. Subtopic: Protected Areas.

**Objective:** Strengthen management in national protected area systems with an ecosystem approach and contribute to biodiversity conservation in a regional context.

**Line 1:** Strengthen institutional planning and management capacity of National Protected Area Systems (NPAS) of the countries.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Systematize principles and guidelines to support planning in NPAS.
- ii. Strengthen collaborative management initiatives and coordinated operations between shared boundary Protected Areas (PA) in frontier zones.
- iii. Establish strategic cooperation partnerships with the public and private sectors.
- iv. Support national initiatives to prioritize biodiversity zones in each country.
- v. Prepare a regional diagnosis and map pressures and threats for protected areas and Amazonian biodiversity.
- vi. Establish shared boundary conservation areas in frontier zones identified for their conservation value.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Insert the actions of the Regional Program in local, regional and national development plans.

**Line 2:** Develop capacities of NPAS human resources and other players involved in managing protected areas.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Consolidate national diagnostic assessments and proposals for capacity-building.
- ii. Support the execution of national capacity-building plans or similar instruments for Amazonian PA management.
- iii. Support the participation of delegations within the framework of the CBD.
- iv. Experience exchange (trainee programs) for PA staff, prioritizing topics and areas.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Establish a scholarship fund that can be accessed by technical staff and employees of Amazonian PAs.

**Line 3:** Consolidate and systematize country information on natural protected areas of the Amazon.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote a shared and complementary information system between the countries.
- ii. Develop a dissemination and communication strategy for the actions of the Regional Program.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Generate a baseline of the state of PA and identify strategic players.
- ii. Promote a shared and complementary information system between the countries.
- iii. Develop a dissemination and communication strategy for the actions of the Regional Program.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Promote a shared and complementary information system between the countries.
- ii. Develop a dissemination and communication strategy for the actions of the Regional Program.

**Line 4:** Promote dialogue forums.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote dialogue on relevant topics for Amazonian PA management that are of interest to some or all of the members.
- ii. Support efforts to establish dialogue spaces between the program and the Frontier Commissions to enable coordination and cooperation.
- iii. Support the participation of delegations within the framework of the CBD.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote dialogue on relevant topics for Amazonian PA management that are of interest to some or all of the members.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Promote dialogue on relevant topics for Amazonian PA management that are of interest to some or all of the members.
- ii. Support the participation of PA staff in international events and arenas related to PA management. Participate in new intersectoral scenarios.

**Line 5:** Design, develop and consolidate funding alternatives and financial sustainability strategies for Amazonian NPAS.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Support national mechanisms, existing or in development, to ensure financial sustainability of Amazonian PA.

**Line 6:** Develop strategies to increase participation of PA and their zones of influence in socioeconomic development.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Identify successful initiatives of sustainable natural resource exploitation by local populations and offer opportunities for them to be shared.
- ii. Promote exchange of experience in managing impacts of infrastructure works and other development initiatives with potential impacts on PA.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Design and conduct a communication strategy for decision-makers, opinion formers, and public and private entities.
- ii. Support national strategies to develop tourism in Amazonian PA by

integrating them to international circuits.

**Line 7:** Governability, governance<sup>7</sup> and shared management in the Amazonian PA.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote exchange of experience in managing protected areas shared by other forms of land use and occupation (indigenous lands, afro-descendant lands, traditional populations, among others).
- ii. Ensure social participation in PA management through exchange of experience with policies, plans and practices.

**Line 8:** Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the Regional Program.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system.

**A.5. Subtopic: Sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade.**

**Objective:** Promote sustainable biodiversity use and conservation through regional actions that favor trade and investments in biodiversity products and services in the Member Countries of ACTO, with emphasis on value adding in the country of origin and fair and equitable benefit sharing, giving priority to local development and food safety.

**Line 1:** Promote dialogue to ease national formulation and implementation of biotrade-related policies and legal instruments.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Prepare a diagnosis of the state of national policies and legal instruments

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<sup>7</sup> In Venezuela the concepts “governability and governance” are currently being reviewed.



- related to regional biotrade with a view to sharing this information.
- ii. Identify compliance and enforcement mechanisms for legal instruments related sustainable use of biodiversity and regional trade therein.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Accompany national entities in formulating these policies and associated legal instruments.
- ii. Create mechanisms to promote sustainable biodiversity use.
- iii. Strengthen regional negotiation capacities on biotrade-related issues.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Design schemes to develop, improve, systematize and implement equitable benefit sharing in accordance with the CBD.

**Line 2:** Design and implement strategies to promote and position Amazonian biodiversity-derived products.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Foster coordinated positions in the countries with regard to political and/or technical barriers with a view to promoting access to Amazonian biodiversity-derived products.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Support public and private stakeholders in identifying value chains and consolidating their markets.
- ii. Help to identify and improve the regional supply of support services (technical, scientific and technological, legal, logistical) for biotrade initiatives.
- iii. Support the implementation of a commercial information system for Amazonian biodiversity-derived products.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Design, agree and implement marketing strategies (plans) for priority value chains.
- ii. Promote homologated regional sanitation registers building upon national legal instruments.

## **A.6. Subtopic: Research, technology and innovation in Amazonian biodiversity.**

**Objective:** Strengthen and develop capacities in science, technology and innovation, incorporating knowledge and traditional practices for conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity.

**Line 1:** Identify, prioritize and formulate research programs on Amazonian biodiversity.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Reconcile and validate topics of shared regional interest.
- ii. Develop programs in accordance with the concerted regional topics.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Implement validated research programs.

**Line 2:** Strengthen institutional capacities, legal instruments and human resources in the countries for research on regional Amazonian biodiversity.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Formulate a national capacity strengthening program in accordance with regional needs.
- ii. Implement and consolidate the strengthening program.

**Line 3:** Regional communication for research on Amazonian biodiversity.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Form and foster communication and exchange networks between the thematic areas of the research program.
- ii. Promote regional networks and strategic partnerships between member country research groups at the intermediate and local levels.
- iii. Disseminate regional research results periodically.

**Line 4:** Applied research and information exchange for sustainable use and development of Amazonian biodiversity products.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Strengthen horizontal cooperation between research centers and universities to strengthen biotrade.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Support the implementation of research lines on concrete problems and limiting factors of priority biotrade chains in the Amazon region.
- ii. Prepare an inventory of regional research projects, experiences, entities and infrastructure (laboratories and research centers).
- iii. Develop technology transfer processes according to biotrade chain needs, linking the academic and research sector to the productive sector.

**Line 5:** Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Design a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the programmatic area.

## **B. Topic: Indigenous Affairs.**

**Objective:** Ensure that indigenous peoples and tribal communities are included and participate in managing their resources, guided by the principle of respect for their rights (land, territory, social development, food and health security, and land use planning).

### **B.1. Subtopic: Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.**

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Prepare a strategic framework for a regional agenda to protect indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, under the framework of respect for their rights and internal legislation of the ACTO Member Countries.
- ii. Implement a regional project to protect indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Share information on policies, legislation and good practices related to protecting indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Start defining parameters and a conceptual proposal to create an Amazonian Development Fund aimed at protecting indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

### **B.2. Subtopic: Protecting traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and other tribal communities.**

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Hold a meeting to share experience and information on national free, prior and informed consultation mechanisms.
- ii. Create a working group to share information.
- iii. Convene regional meetings related to the CBD and ILO Convention 169 with active indigenous representation.
- iv. Recommend and support effective indigenous participation in the Permanent National Commissions on topics of their competence.
- v. Reinforce ACTO's institutional mechanisms for indigenous peoples.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote dissemination programs/activities and capacity-building on topics like the CBD and ILO Convention 169.
- ii. Establish spaces to exchange and systematize intercultural experiences



for developing capacity-building contents and materials, and experiences with traditional knowledge management to prepare an education plan proposal.

- iii. Create a working group to prepare an education plan proposal.
- iv. Promote recognition of ancestral knowledge on forest conservation.
- v. Promote closer activities of the indigenous agenda with the Indigenous Peoples Development Fund in order to identify cooperation programs related to preserving biodiversity and collective knowledge.

#### **Activities (long term):**

- i. Prepare an inventory on the advances made in the Member Countries in gathering the oral traditions of Amazonian indigenous peoples as part of their oral preservation.

### **B.3. Subtopic: Lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples and other tribal communities.**

#### **Activities (short term):**

- i. Hold meetings to learn of experiences demarcating indigenous lands and territories.
- ii. Convene a meeting to share experience and information on national free, prior and informed consultation mechanisms and on the fair and equitable distribution of benefits originated from the use thereof.
- iii. Invite UNAMAZ and other academic institutions to participate in programs to generate and systematize information and knowledge.
- iv. Establish exchange spaces to promote mechanisms that facilitate mobility of indigenous populations in frontier areas of the Member Countries.
- v. Compile information on the legal base and state of the situation (consultancy).
- vi. Organize a body of concepts and terms related to recognition and management of indigenous lands in each country (consultancy).
- vii. Promote experience sharing between the Member Countries on territorial management and traditional knowledge.

#### **Activities (medium term):**

- i. Compile information on the legal base and state of the situation (consultancy) and share the results online.

- ii. Post the systematized information about the legal base and state of the situation online for consultation.
- iii. Organize a body of concepts and terms related to recognition and management of indigenous lands in each country (consultancy) and share the results online.
- iv. Organize events for intercultural exchange and dissemination, in consultation and coordination with the indigenous organizations and with government representatives for this theme.
- v. Collaborate with the Member Countries on matters related to territorial management.
- vi. Coordinate a geographic information system.
- vii. Develop zoning studies looking for mechanisms that promote sustainable use of the biological diversity, and environmental services by supporting the planning for the use of natural resource.

#### **Activities (long term):**

- i. Guide the Member Countries on matters related to territorial management.
- ii. Coordinate a geographic information system.

### **B.4. Subtopic: New topics.**

- i. Science and technology among indigenous peoples.
- ii. Participation of young indigenous and other tribal community youths in the activities of ACTO and other spaces.
- iii. Food and nutritional security of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon.
- iv. Maintain and deepen dialogue spaces between indigenous and governmental authorities.

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<sup>8</sup> In the case of Venezuela and Bolivia, the term environmental services is not covered by the national legislation.

## ■ C. Topic: Knowledge management and information sharing.

**Objective:** Exchange information, knowledge and technology on all the thematic areas of this Strategic Agenda under the principles of solidarity, reciprocity, respect, harmony, complementarity, transparency, equilibrium and equitable conditions. Foster traditional and scientific exchanges to guarantee technological development and innovation that contributes to reducing environmental damages. Strengthen adequate educational policies as part of the formal and informal academic curricula in a systematic and sustained manner.

### Activities (short term):

- i. Promote a dialogue space to strengthen UNAMAZ and other academic institutions in terms of activities and/or programs related to indigenous peoples and other communities, guided by the principle of respect for their rights.
- ii. Enhance dissemination of the institutional framework, regulations, plans and projects developed by ACTO.
- iii. Open access to information on the Amazon generated by the countries.
- iv. Make it compatible with the guidelines and activities of UNASUR to avoid the duplication of efforts and resources.
- v. Reinforce the role of ACTO as a dialogue forum and a space to drive sustainable development in the Amazon Region.
- vi. Develop an integrated information system that can be accessed by the Member Countries.

### Activities (medium term):

- i. Promote the development of standardized regional indicators to facilitate research on the Amazon in national and regional institutions.
- ii. Promote technical capacity-building strategies for the different national players as required for the different thematic areas of regional interest (biodiversity, sustainable biodiversity use, fauna and flora management, geographic information systems, health, land use planning, economic ecological zoning).
- iii. Raise awareness of conservation, biological diversity, climate change, sustainable use of biodiversity, health and ancestral indigenous cultures through educational activities with differentiated materials and approaches

- by sectors and players.
- iv. Promote a dialogue space to strengthen UNAMAZ and other Amazonian academic institutions in terms of activities and/or programs related to indigenous peoples and other communities with full respect for their rights.
- v. Strengthen the Pan-Amazonian Network of Science, Technology and Innovation in Health.
- vi. Promote the development and evaluation of information systems Tele-medicine/Tele-health.
- vii. Create dialogue spaces regarding health and food security.
- viii. Strengthen information and knowledge management systems to reduce vulnerability in face of environmental and ecosystem risks.
- ix. Coordinate efforts through UNAMAZ and other Amazonian academic institutions to create a course or program to prepare human resources for work in environmental health.
- x. Promote distance education initiatives and the production of differentiated materials and content for the different sectors and players.
- xi. Make them compatible with the guidelines and activities of UNASUR to avoid the duplication of efforts and resources.
- xii. Develop standardized regional indicators for the Amazon.
- xiii. Develop an integrated information system that can be accessed by the Member Countries.
- xiv. Enhance dissemination of the institutional framework, regulations, plans and projects developed by ACTO.
- xv. Open access to information on the Amazon generated by the countries.
- xvi. Reinforce the role of ACTO as a dialogue forum and space to drive sustainable development in the Amazon region.
- xvii. Promote the inclusion of ancestral knowledge and communal and local practices of indigenous peoples as solutions to counter deforestation, and forest degradation and fragmentation.

### Activities (long term):

- i. Promote the creation of an Amazonian media network (e.g. Tele-medicine/ Tele-health).
- ii. Promote technical capacity-building strategies for the different national players according to long term needs in the different thematic areas of regional interest (biodiversity, biotrade, fauna and flora management, geographic information systems, health, land use planning, economic ecological zoning).
- iii. Promote knowledge of the Amazon countries through itinerant cultural exhibitions within ACTO and in side events of global forums.
- iv. Coordinate activities with specific activities of UNASUR to avoid the



- duplication of efforts and resources
- v. Reinforce the role of ACTO as a dialogue forum and space to drive sustainable development in the Amazon Region.

## ■ D. Topic: Regional health management.

**Objective:** Create an agreed operational and instrumental framework of strategies and indicators to institutionalize Environmental Health Surveillance in the Amazon Region, inserted in the national health systems, compatible with the International Health Regulations and with the 2010-2015 Five-Year Health Plan of the UNASUR South American Health Council, and guided by the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), thus strengthening the Amazonian regional cooperation process in health.

### D.1. Subtopic: Coordination with other initiatives.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Liaise a close coordination with the guidelines established in the 2010-2015 Five-Year Health Plan of the UNASUR South American Health Council.

### D.2. Subtopic: Epidemiological surveillance.

#### Line 1: Maternal and child health.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Coordinate a Health Status Analysis (HSA) in the Amazon regions of the Member Countries.

- ii. Promote a Regional Workshop to validate the HSA content, with the Ministries of Health of the eight countries.

#### Line 2: Prevalent diseases.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Promote the development of an environmental surveillance system (with special emphasis on Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue and HIV/AIDS and environmental health to support the efforts of the Member Countries within the activities of the Pan-Amazonian Network of ST&IH.

#### Line 3: Vector-borne diseases.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Promote the development of an epidemiological surveillance system (with special emphasis on Malaria, Dengue, Leishmaniasis, intestinal parasitosis, Helminthiasis, Onchocerciasis) to support the efforts of the Member Countries within the activities of the Pan-Amazonian Network of ST&IH.

### D.3. Subtopic: Environmental health.

#### Line 1: Implement a health surveillance system for the Amazonian regions.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Implement an environmental health surveillance project.

#### Line 2: Vector control.

- i. Rationalize the national epidemiological health surveillance systems for environmental health in the pilot areas of the ACTO/IDB Environmental Health Surveillance project.

**Line 3:** Management of environmental sanitation risks.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote capacity building programs for local population in the adequate treatment of solid waste.
- ii. Articulate shared mechanisms to assure the adequate treatment of solid waste.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Strengthen the surveillance over risk factors with environmental origin that may affect health (water, wastes, air, chemical substances, other).
- ii. Articulate shared mechanisms to assure the adequate treatment of solid waste.

**Activities (long term):**

- i. Articulate shared mechanisms to assure the adequate treatment of house solid waste.

**Line 3:** Radiological health.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote increased protection for operators of diagnostic imaging systems that use ionizing radiation in the Amazonian region.

**D.4. Subtopic: Development of health systems.**

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote development and evaluation of health surveillance systems, Tele-medicine/Tele-health.
- ii. Coordinate development and implementation of health projects in frontier areas, prioritizing pilot project areas of the ACTO/IDB Environmental Health Surveillance project, in coordination with the Andean Border Health Plan (PASAFRO-CAF) and other border health initiatives.

**D.5. Subtopic: Health technologies to improve the efficiency and efficacy of health interventions.**

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Coordinate initiatives with the South American Health Council in its 2010-2015 Five-Year Plan, participating in its Coordinating Committee.
- ii. Identify, promote and participate in initiatives geared to developing and implementing new health technologies that can be applied in the Amazon, including soft technologies accepted by the communities, building upon successful experiences in the Member Countries.
- iii. Promote development and evaluation of health information systems. Tele-medicine/Tele-health.
- iv. Support national initiatives in the Amazon region to the access to medicines and sanitation technologies.

**Activities (medium and long term):**

- i. Promote development and evaluation of health information systems. Tele-medicine/Tele-health.
- ii. Promote the development of alternative technologies geared to dispersed populations to ensure access to safe water, cold chain (biological conservation) and adequate solid waste disposal (biological and non-biological).
- iii. Support national initiatives in the Amazon region for the access to medicines and sanitation technologies.

**D.6. Subtopic: Determinants of health in the Amazon.**

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote a dialogue space (forum) to exchange experience with high national authorities who have responsibilities regarding the theme in the member Countries.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote systems and the promotion of ancestral knowledge and the participation of indigenous in health, taking into consideration national particularities.



**Line 1:** Nutrition.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Articulate nutritional programs focusing indigenous people and other tribal communities (growth and development studies).
- ii. Promote studies about the composition of nutrients in autoctonous food.
- iii. Promote programs to support the integral nutritional health of indigenous people and other communities including initiatives for the complementation of food with new and traditional autoctonous products.

**Activities (medium and long term):**

- i. Coordinate the establishment and consolidation of support programs to the integral nutritional health of indigenous people and other tribal communities including initiatives for the complementation of food with new and traditional autoctonous products.

**D.7. Subtopic: Human resource policy for the Amazon.**

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Promote and participate in identifying and executing initiatives aiming at continuing the strengthening of the capacity building of human resources in the Amazon Region, taking into account intercultural aspects, beginning with the capacity-building workshops programmed for the ACTO/IDB Environmental Health Surveillance project.
- ii. Promote and participate in identifying and executing initiatives to capacitate Indigenous Community Workers, taking into consideration national characteristics.
- iii. Promote recovery and dissemination of successful human resource development experiences that can be applied in the Amazon Region.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote and participate in identifying and executing initiatives aiming at continuing the strengthening of the capacity building of human resources in the Amazon Region, taking into account intercultural aspects, beginning with the capacity-building workshops programmed for the ACTO/IDB

Environmental Health Surveillance project.

- ii. Promote and participate in identifying and executing initiatives to train Indigenous Community Workers.
- iii. Promote recovery and dissemination of successful human resource development experiences that can be applied in the Amazon Region.
- iv. Promote the establishment of Level Four studies for professionals that study in frontier areas to encourage their permanence in that zone.

**D.8. Subtopic: Drive, strengthen and consolidate research in the Amazon.**

**Line 1:** Diagnostic of priority research.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Coordinate mapping of research conducted in the Amazon, as a support for the decision making process in health.

**Line 2:** Network of Amazonian Research Centers.

**Activities (medium and long term):**

- i. Promote development, strengthening and consolidation of research in health, in close coordination with the Pan-Amazonian Network of Science and technology and Innovation in Health (ST&IH).

**D.9. Subtopic: Funding for the health agenda.**

**Line 1:** Funding identification.

**Activities (short term):**

- i. Organize a donor roundtable with different international cooperation agencies to channel funds for activities of the health agenda.

## ■ E. Topic: Infrastructure and transport.

**Objective:** Promote dialogue mechanisms to analyze the impacts of the incorporation the Amazonian territories in the economic systems of the countries (productive and non productive) through highway and waterway connectivity and information technologies, preserving ecosystems, landscapes and associated environmental services in coordination with the activities of the UNASUR South American Infrastructure Council.

### E.1. Subtopic: Transport infrastructure.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Coordinate a meeting of regional physical integration initiatives like those of the South American Infrastructure Council of UNASUR to avoid duplicating efforts and optimize resource use.

### E.2. Subtopic: Commercial navigation.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Strengthen the activities of the Working Group on Commercial Navigation in the Rivers of the Amazon to update and harmonize cargo and passenger transport.

## ■ F. Topic: Tourism.

### F.1. Subtopic: Systematize tourism information in the Amazon.

**Objective:** Create an Amazon regional tourism information observatory and a system to update it.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Identify strategic cooperation alternatives together with the Focal Points to obtain information on sustainable tourism at the regional level.
- ii. Create a tourism observatory that can be used at the regional level.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Systematize information at the local, national and regional levels to exchange experience and plan the development of sustainable tourism in the Amazon.

#### Activities (long term):

- i. Identify strategic partners for the sector's sustainable development in the Amazon Region.

### F.2. Subtopic: Creating integrated regional circuits.

**Objective:** Establish integrated circuits as a pilot example of sustainable tourism in the Amazon Region.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Create integrated circuits: Amazon-Caribbean Tourism Trail (ACTT), Amazon-Andes-Pacific Route (AAPR), Amazon Water Route (AWR).
- ii. Prepare tourism handbooks for the three circuits.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Prepare specific criteria for improving product quality.
- ii. Identify technical and financial requirements to improve tourism infrastructure for the integrated circuits (transport, communication, etc.).

#### Activities (long term):

- i. Incorporate the integrated circuits in international quality and sustainability systems.
- ii. Adopt a certification system that is relevant for the Amazon.



### F.3. Subtopic: Developing environmentally sustainable community-based tourism.

**Objective:** Support the Member Countries in developing environmentally sustainable community-based tourism, guided by a set of agreed principles geared to maximizing the benefits for the region's communities and exchanging experience and good practices.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Consolidate action lines for developing environmentally sustainable community-based tourism.
- ii. Consider a proposal of principles and action lines in a regional tourism meeting on environmentally sustainable community-based tourism.
- iii. Assess the relevance of applying these principles and action lines in pilot communities.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Monitor and evaluate the second stage of applying the principles and action lines to develop environmentally sustainable community-based tourism.
- ii. Share lessons learned to benefit the new communities.

#### Activities (long term):

- i. Prepare a publication of environmentally sustainable good community-based tourism practices in the Amazon Region.

### F.4. Subtopic: Strengthening the Amazon's tourism image.

**Objective:** Strengthen the image of the Amazon as a Geodestination for sustainable tourism at the global level and promote environmentally responsible tourism that, without harming local ecosystems and their biodiversity, increases public awareness about the importance of environmental preservation policies and practices.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Participate in the 2011 World Travel Market (WTM) to launch the tourism handbook for the first product - Amazon-Caribbean Tourism Trail - with a

side event.

- ii. Participate in Expocruz 2011, Bolivia, with a thematic stand on community-based tourism in the Amazon.
- iii. Participate in the 2012 ITB to launch the "Amazonian Circuits 2012" with a side event.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Create a space in the ACTO Portal to disseminate the Amazon as a tourism Geodestination.
- ii. Monitor the Amazon's penetration in the global market through a number of international fairs.

#### Activities (long term):

- i. Create a common and integrated stand to promote the Amazon's image in regional and international fairs.

### F.5. Subtopic: Regional tourism funding mechanism proposal.

**Objective:** Discuss the feasibility of creating funding mechanisms to implement the regional tourism agenda.

#### Activities (short term):

- i. Organize a regional meeting for MFA Focal Points and sectoral bodies to discuss a regional tourism funding mechanism to propose to the ACC.

#### Activities (medium term):

- i. Hold a meeting for Focal Points and sectoral representatives to approve funding as part of the financial mechanism's operation.

#### Activities (long term):

- i. MFA focal points review the operations of the regional tourism funding mechanism proposal.

## ■ G. Topic: Institutional, financial and legal strengthening.

**Objective:** A modern dynamic Organization that is recognized in the Member Countries, produces positive results and meets regional expectations.

### Activities (short term):

- i. Help strengthen the PNC as required by each country to facilitate and expedite their work.
- ii. Align ACTO's institutional design to achieve an agile, unbureaucratic and effective Organization which produces concrete results that meet the expectations of the Member Countries.
- iii. Strengthen ACTO as a political dialogue forum and space to drive a regional agenda.
- iv. New PS/ACTO role as liaison, facilitator, coordinator, promoter and information generator.
- v. Implement a timely and efficient information network in ACTO, with new technologies and links to the PNC through the MFA and other sectoral, national and regional stakeholders.
- vi. Publish and update an activities agenda with information on all the thematic areas through an ACTO-network.
- vii. Manage financial support for specific agreed ACTO programs.
- viii. Assist the Member Countries in preparing for international meetings at their request.
- ix. Design facilitation mechanisms to address sectoral issues.
- x. Create a legal guidance and assistance sector and study the possibility of convening expert teams for technical and financial guidance.
- xi. Promote cooperation with international, regional and subregional like-minded organizations.

### Activities (medium term):

- i. Identify contribution mechanisms with the Member Countries to make ACTO financially feasible.
- ii. Support the PNC in the modalities required by each country.
- iii. Build a virtual library with national and ACTO documents.
- iv. Facilitate contact between the Member Countries and public or private financing institutions for specific projects, at the request of the Member Countries.
- v. Favor a greater visibility for ACTO in global forums, regional bodies and

national communities as the set of Member Countries concerned with the future of the Amazon.

- vi. Empower cooperation processes between countries.

### Activities (long term):

- i. Support the PNC in the modalities required by each country.
- ii. Empower cooperation processes between countries.
- iii. Promote sustainable development for the Amazon.

## ■ H. Emerging topics.

### Climate Change.

**Objective:** Coordinate and harness efforts in the region to counter the impacts of climate change, mainly by protecting the Amazon and its local populations identifying alternatives to strengthen regional cooperation.

### Activities (short term):

- i. Prepare technical studies on specific methods to protect tropical forests against droughts and floods in the Amazon.
- ii. Design specific programs to help Amazonian indigenous peoples face the impacts of climate change, respecting their cultures and their rights.
- iii. Promote the design and implementation of instruments for the economical valuation of forests, its goods and services that may serve as a reference for the execution of programs and projects focused on the mitigation of climate change.

### Activities (medium term):

- i. Identify opportunities for financing the execution of projects for clean development mechanisms and mitigation programs.
- ii. Help the Member Countries, at their request, participate more effectively in the multilateral effort to adjust, mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- iii. Propose applied research for possible actions geared to mitigation and adaptation.



- iv. Formulate local climate change adaptation projects in the Amazon Basin.
- v. Prepare studies on sectoral adaptation costs in the region.
- vi. Prepare technical studies on specific methods to protect tropical forests against droughts and floods in the Amazon.
- vii. Design specific programs to help Amazonian indigenous peoples face the impacts of climate change, respecting their cultures and their rights.
- viii. Coordinate quantitative and qualitative assessments of secondary effects on health and propose actions for adaptation and mitigation.
- ix. Raise awareness of climate change effects on health by promoting communication and dissemination of information with a multidisciplinary approach.
- x. Establish dialogue discussion spaces on health, food security and climate change.

#### **Activities (long term):**

- i. Support Member Countries, that so request, in identifying international financial mechanisms based on the reduction of emissions by deforestation and degradation of forests REDD+ that might facilitate payments to the countries that preserve their forests.
- ii. Support applied research to promote initiatives for conservation, restoration and recovery of degraded forests, ecological floors and degraded watersheds, sustainable forest management; and biological diversity protection, with international financial and technological support.
- iii. Create networks to share information on the latest climate change-related technologies<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> Bolivia holds a critical view with regard the funding mechanisms.

## **Regional Development.**

**Objective:** Promote economic and social development in integrated and sustainable Amazonian spaces by coordinating and disseminating public policies geared to job creation and income generation within a vision of sustainable economic development for the Amazon.

#### **Activities (short term):**

- i. Identify economic initiatives that create jobs and generate income.
- ii. Disseminate public policies and successful experiences related to sustainable development in the Amazon region among the Member Countries, including those with shared management.

#### **Activities (medium term):**

- i. Select public policies and successful experiences related to Amazonian sustainable development among the Member Countries.
- ii. Promote selected economic initiatives that create jobs and generate income in frontier areas.

#### **Activities (long term):**

- i. Create linkages between the Member Countries that wish to adopt public policies and successful experiences connected to regional sustainable development in the Amazon.
- i. Execute selected economic initiatives that create jobs and generate income.

## Energy.

**Objective:** Identify and exchange energy generation and consumption technologies that are adequate for the Amazon Region and preserve its ecosystems and landscapes, with full respect for the sovereignty of the Member Countries and taking into account their national laws.

**Activities (medium term):**

- i. Promote technology transfer between the Member Countries to implement low carbon energy infrastructure alternatives that respect the Amazonian ecosystems and landscapes.

**Activities (long term):**

1. Facilitate applied research for the utilization of new alternative energy sources that are adequate for the Amazon Region.





## PROJECT CYCLE

The Organization's project cycle is guided by Resolution RES/X MRE-OTCA/7 of November 30, 2010. Pursuant to this Resolution, the ACTO Project Cycle follows the stages described below. It is important to note that draft cooperation agreements to implement projects may be developed at the initiative of one or more parties to the Treaty, any Treaty body, or the Permanent Secretariat in compliance with its mandates.

**a) Identification.** Ideas for projects are analyzed with great care. This process includes analyzing the stakeholders, target groups, potential beneficiaries and situation, including a study of problems and possible solutions. Projects may also result from sectoral thematic or pre-feasibility studies developed per initiative of the Member Countries or the PS.

**b) Conception.** This stage ends with the submission of a Project Concept Note to the Member Countries through the Organization's formal channels. The countries have 60 calendar days to deliver their observations and suggestions on the concept note to the PS/ACTO. The content of concept notes is governed by the Resolution RES/X MRE-OTCA/7.

**c) Negotiation.** This process starts when the deadline given to the Member Countries to assess the project concept note ends without objections. It begins with the submission of information on the consultation results and state of negotiations to the Member Countries. In this stage the PS/ACTO interacts with the financing institutions and works out the operational details of the project proposal, including the definition of regional and national management mechanisms. It ends with the submission of the final version of the project to the Member Countries.

**d) Approval.** Begins with the submission of the project's final version to the Member Countries in the Organization's four official languages. The countries have a maximum period of 90 calendar days to approve it; in

exceptional situations a Member Country may request an extension of 30 additional calendar days. All the countries must give their written opinion in order for the Secretary General to sign the corresponding agreement. Exceptionally, in cases in which financial conditions require it, the PS/ACTO may request a reduction in the deadlines established in the Resolution RES/X MRE-OTCA/7.

**e) Execution.** This stage refers to the execution of the project activities pursuant to the management agreement established therefore.

**f) Monitoring.** Refers to the project monitoring process developed in two levels: (i) by the project management bodies, who monitor its execution against the monitoring indicators defined in the project proposal on a permanent basis; and (ii) by the ACTO decision-making bodies, which monitor its execution based on the biannual project briefs produced for the project.

**g) Evaluation.** This is the process of reflecting upon the project's implementation in the middle and at the end of its execution based on the monitoring indicators and procedures defined in the project itself. All projects must produce a final project brief to be circulated to the Member Countries.

**h) Disclosure.** This stage is directly associated to the evaluation. Evaluation results are usually communicated and transmitted to the stakeholders. The disclosure strategy must include printed and digital media and networks, among others, and be explicitly incorporated in all projects supported by the Organization.



## COMMUNICATION

Communication is a strategic element to implement the Cooperation Agenda and dynamize ACTO's action. All ACT bodies are responsible for communication, for the appropriate and effective use of the tools designed, and for taking the measures needed to achieve the objectives. Communication is linked to fulfilling ACTO's mission, strategic objectives and thematic agenda objectives. It is a fundamental instrument for their achievement.

Relaunching the Organization also requires adopting a strategy capable of transforming its institutional image into that of an international organization geared to Amazonian cooperation, in addition to transmitting to its target audiences the messages of their interest. The full and effective use of modern communication tools must also be introduced by the PS to facilitate the fulfillment of its mandate.

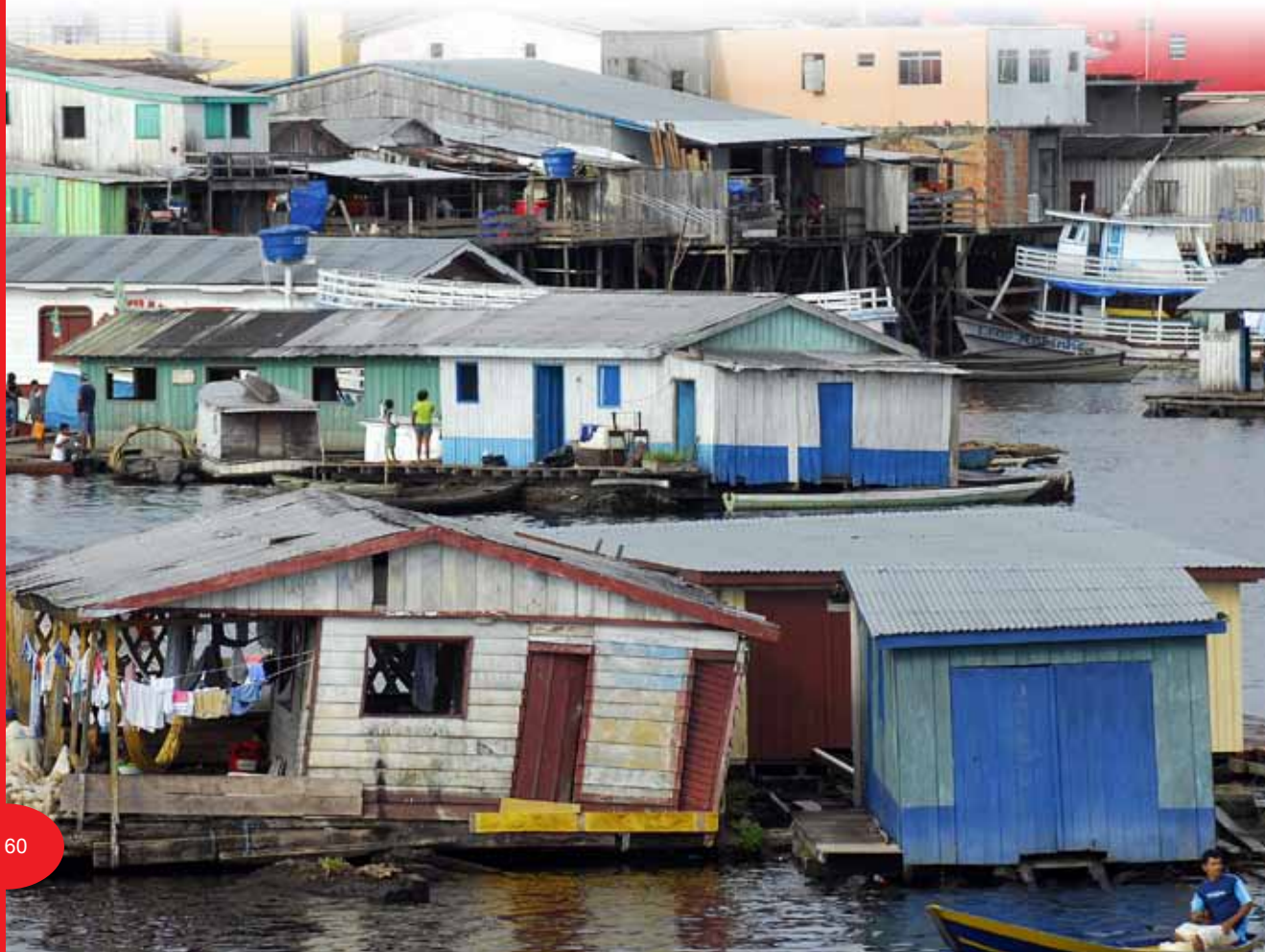
Communication must integrate the various sectors of the Organization so that their actions are efficient and work towards the same goals. The main elements identified have to do with internal communication, with a view to developing and keeping a positive environment in the Organization, and external communication, aimed at achieving a correct, appropriate and sufficient placement of the Organization's good image in society, especially among its main target audiences. In this sense the Communication Plan provides for:

- A new modern and permanently updated website, endowed with tools to publicize and disseminate events related to the Organization, including content and links to member country information of interest to the region, that includes an Extranet that allows the Member Countries to access relevant information on the Permanent Secretariat's technical and administrative activities.
- An intranet that will function as a guiding thread between the PNC and the MFA, facilitating the transfer of documents, communications and responses between the Member Countries and the PS/ACTO.
- The adoption of modern communication tools like a virtual forum and a video



conference system.

- Renewed relations with the media and journalists, responding quickly to their requests and promoting positive news on the Organization's mission.
- Production of texts and press notes on the events held within the framework of the Organization and preparation of bulletins, brochures and publications with a periodicity to be defined.
- The publication of a didactic and explanatory brochure about the ACT, ACTO and its PS for broad dissemination.
- Definition and standardization of the visual elements of ACTO (also defining use of the logo).



## ■ INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE TO EXECUTE THE AGENDA

The spinal cord for the good and appropriate implementation of the Strategic Cooperation Agenda is formed by shared responsibility for its implementation between the various decision-making bodies of ACTO. In this sense, any efforts to modernize the operational structure of the PS and its mechanisms to communicate, dialogue and interact with the official entities of the Member Countries, as well as to define action and regional cooperation priorities, must necessarily be accompanied by administrative, managerial and budgetary measures within the Member Countries themselves. The Agenda's implementation must be liaised, concerted, endorsed and institutionalized through periodic sectoral ministerial meetings.

Shared responsibility for the good and appropriate implementation of the Agenda must translate into a timely response by the Member Countries to consultations within the deadlines established, and into the adoption of measures and coordination that facilitate execution of its activities. In order to fulfill the mandates and meet the Member Countries' expectations in the context of the Organization's relaunching process, the PS personnel structure will necessarily have to be reinforced, for which the Member Countries will have to assign the necessary additional funds.

The PS will calculate the extra employees and equipment it will need to execute and coordinate specific projects and allocate the costs to the project itself, all of which will be specified in the project concept note. The selection processes for project execution and coordination staff will take into account the following aspects:

- a) All projects with international development assistance must include a communication and disclosure component to ensure that selection processes for temporary staff or consultancies are open to member country nationals, and that the results are broadly publicized to increase the Organization's visibility.
- b) Preference for regional project coordination posts will be given to

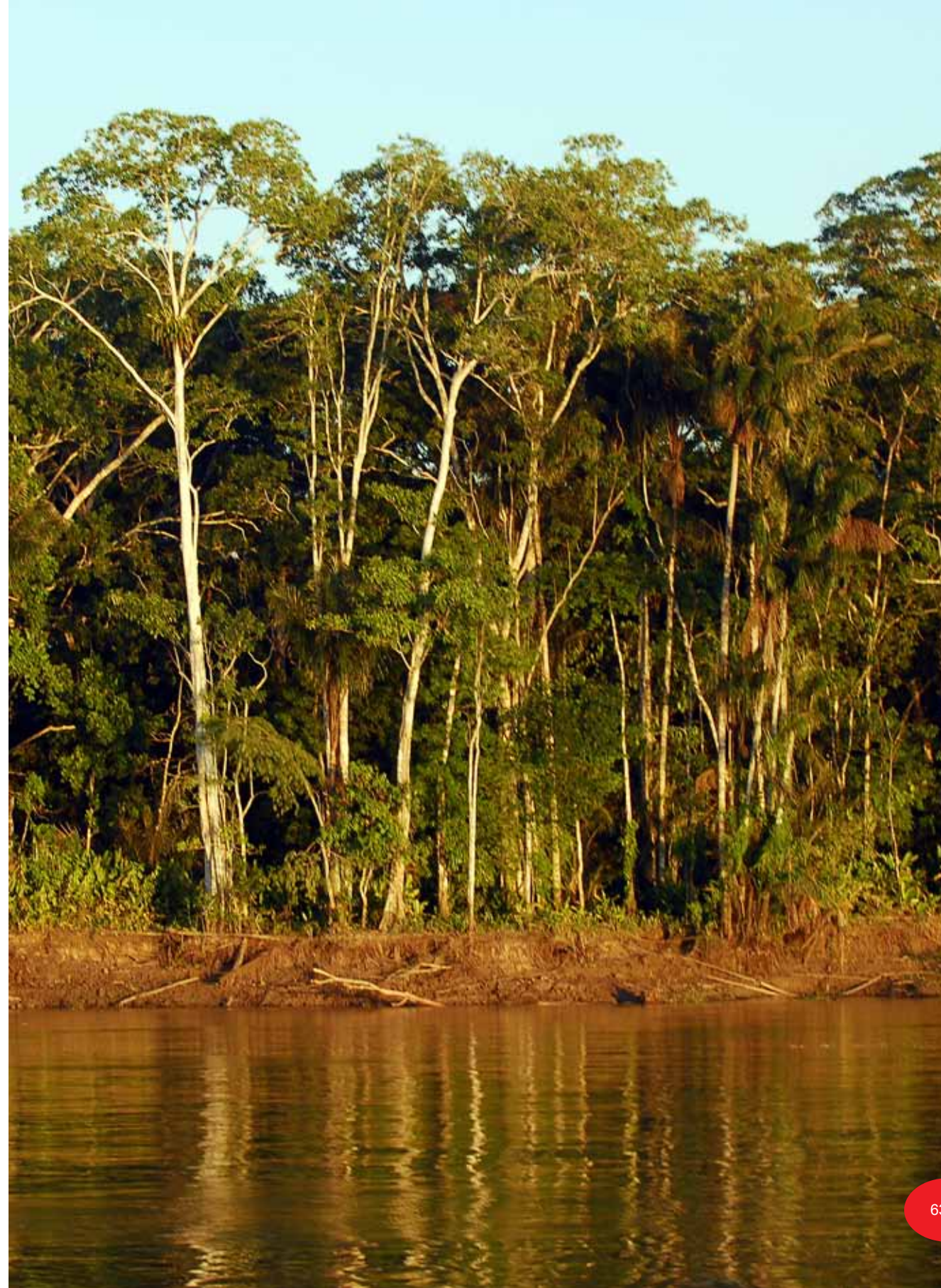


candidates of the Organization's Member Countries. Mastery of two official languages of the Treaty is mandatory.

- c) Support positions not associated to coordination will be filled pursuant to the implementation provisions of the corresponding project.
- d) To comply with the principle of transparency, whenever ACTO supports the participation of delegates of part of the Member Countries in international events and forums it shall notify such support to the other Member Countries.

Each Member Country may request that ACTO personnel, depending on the budgetary availability, may support the Permanent National Commissions by means of presentations and/or explaining the projects and programs or initiatives agreed upon in this Agenda.

Finally, whenever the PS/ACTO receives cooperation requests from subnational bodies, whether governmental or non-governmental, these will be transmitted to the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs for information and decision. If such requests are endorsed by the governments they shall be considered by the PS/ACTO.





## FUNDING

The allocation of specific funds is essential to implement the thematic agenda of the Amazonian Cooperation Strategic Agenda. Four probable sources of funding exist to this extent:

- a. Fixed annual contributions from the Member Countries or annual grants that can be used to finance specific plan activities in addition to enabling the functioning of the PS structure;
- b. Extraordinary contributions geared to specific strategic activities;
- c. International cooperation contributions within the framework of the RES/X MRE–OTCA/7 of November 30, 2010; and
- d. Contributions of national state-owned or private entities for activities to value the Amazonian culture, as approved by the Member Countries and in accordance with the Organization's project cycle guidelines.

The PS/ACTO, with support from the Member Countries, shall explore and identify opportunities related to triangular cooperation as a funding alternative.

The implementation of the new Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda will require identifying potential sources of funding both within the Member Countries and in terms of international cooperation, including Governments, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Foundations, and State-owned and Private Entities, within the framework of RES/X MRE–OTCA/7 of November 30, 2010.

International cooperation financing processes require 12 to 36 months of negotiations depending on the source, scope and extension of the object to be financed. As such, the Member Countries must take into account the need to adopt decisions on possible sources suggested by the PS/ACTO in the shortest delay possible within the deadlines established by RES/X MRE–OTCA/7 of November 30, 2010.

In view of the results of the internal discussion process on sources of funding and considering the complexity of the subject, its priority and the serious financial restrictions faced by the PS in its basic operations, the Member Countries must allocate specific funds to allow the PS/ACTO to

conduct a study on possible sources of funding. The idea is to allow the PS and the Organization's strategic projects to function independently from external sources. This analysis of opportunities, which should preferably be conducted on a regular basis, must be funded by one or more Member Countries and additionally supported by assigning specialized national professionals.





## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Agenda's execution will be the object of annual periodical monitoring and review, with a view to its constant improvement and full implementation. To this extent, the following criteria and indicators were defined:

### **a. Plan effectiveness and impacts.**

1. Number of cooperation projects and initiatives (exchange, interaction in frontier areas, support to reduce asymmetries, support to improve quality of life) identified, started and executed.

### **b. Thematic design and implementation strategy.**

1. Percentage of activities executed with regard to those programmed by subtopic, topic and coordinating office.
2. Proportion of resources applied by funding source for the activities executed.

### **c. Active participation of the Parties.**

1. Percentage of counterparts and/or focal points indicated with regard to the requests made to execute the Agenda.
2. Percentage of participation of the Member Countries in regional events.
3. Percentage of observance of the regulatory consultation deadlines.

### **d. PS/ACTO operating capacity.**

1. Rate of response by the Member Countries to information requests.
2. Number of project proposals sent to the Parties for consideration.
3. Percentage of technical and financial execution of annual operating plans.

## ACRONYMS

<b>MA/SA/EA</b>	Management Authority / Scientific Authority / Enforcement Authority.
<b>AAPR</b>	Amazon-Andes-Pacific Route.
<b>ACTT</b>	Amazon-Caribbean Tourism Trail.
<b>NPA</b> s	National Protected Areas.
<b>NPA</b> s	National Protected Areas of the Amazon.
<b>PA</b> s	Protected Areas.
<b>HSA</b>	Health Status Analysis.
<b>AWR</b>	Amazon Water Route.
<b>ACC</b>	Amazon Cooperation Council.
<b>CCOOR</b>	Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council.
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity.
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
<b>PNC</b>	Permanent National Commissions.
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals.
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization.
<b>ACTO</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.
<b>PASAFRO</b>	Andean Border Health Plan.
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation.
<b>NSPA</b> s	National System of Protected Areas.
<b>PS</b>	Permanent Secretariat.
<b>ACT</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
<b>IKT</b>	Information and Knowledge Technology.
<b>UNAMAZ</b>	Association of Amazonian Universities.
<b>UNASUR</b>	Union of South American Nations.
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
<b>UNFF</b>	United Nations Forum on Forests.





Bolivia



Brazil



Colombia



Ecuador



Guyana



Peru



Suriname



Venezuela