



COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AMAZON REGION

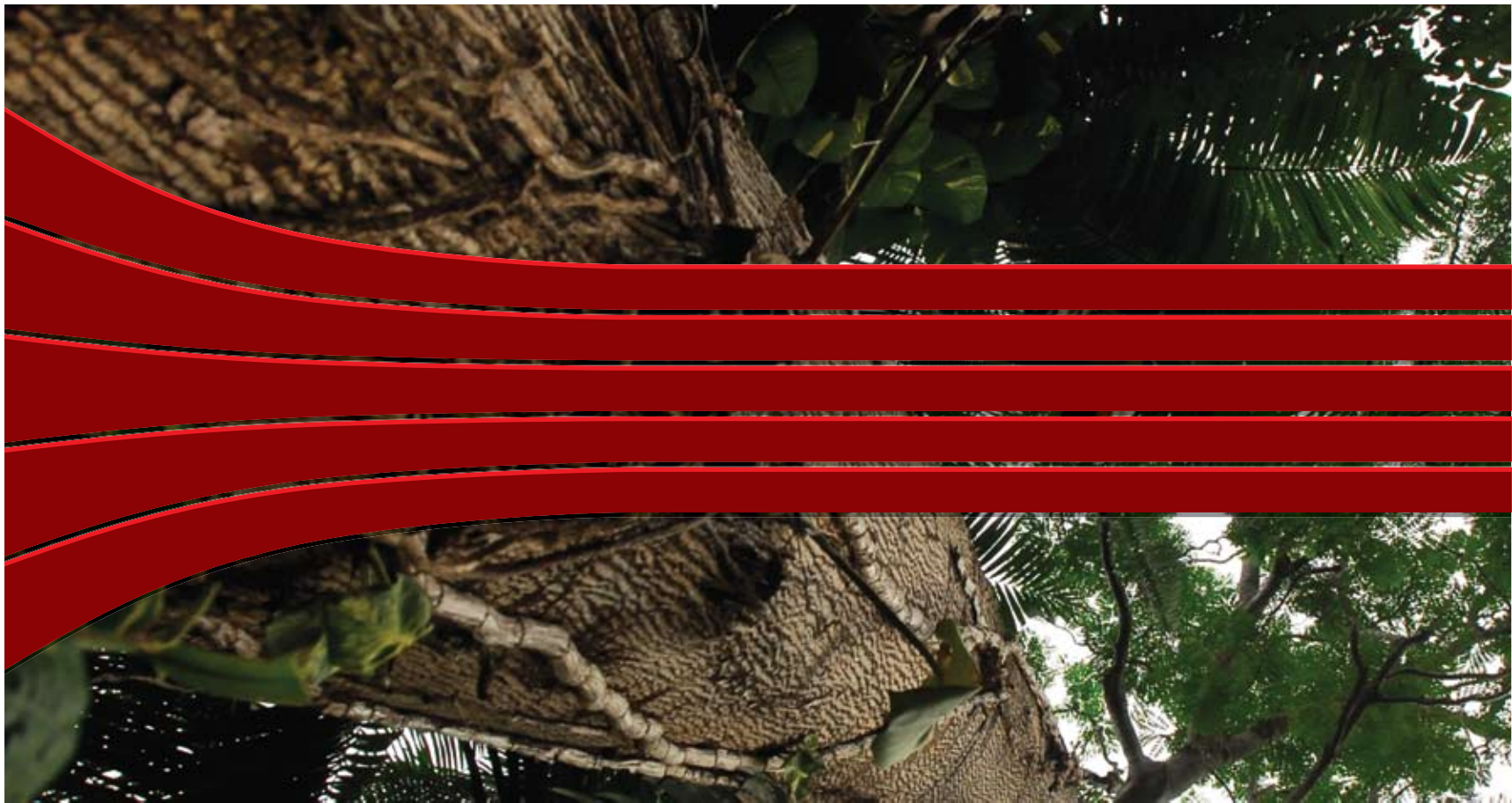
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO

ACTO – Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
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Institutional Presentation



Everything that is said about the Amazon is immense, large, challenging and often immeasurable. Past and future challenges impose themselves on the present. In order to act in benefit of the region knowing its peculiarities and characteristics is essential.


The Amazon covers 6% of the planet's surface and occupies 40% of the Latin American and Caribbean territory. Its 5.1 and 8.1 million kilometers of extension are impressive. Its rivers discharge approximately 20% of the world's fresh water to the oceans, more than the Missouri-Mississippi, Nile and Yangtze rivers together. Its basin has 25 thousand kilometers of navigable rivers.

With its 6.9 thousand kilometers of extension, the Amazon River is the longest in the world. It has over a thousand tributaries and discharges nearly 220 thousand square meters per second. At least 40 thousand plant species have been identified in the Amazon Basin. Of this total, 2 thousand were classified as being used for food, medicine or other purposes.

Cultural diversity is one the region's main features. The Amazon is inhabited by 420 different indigenous and tribal peoples that speak 86 languages and 650 dialects. At least 60 peoples live in complete isolation. Its 38.7 million inhabitants account for 11% of the population of the eight Amazon countries.

After 32 years of the duration of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, Member Countries have made significant progress in the context of an unprecedented process of cooperation, promoting and reaffirming the renewed role of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as a forum for cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection to strengthen, deepen and broaden the dialogue, continue to preserve and protect fully the Amazonian territories, facilitating rapprochement among their peoples, and promoting the harmonious, participatory and sustainable development.

The Amazon contains a valuable potential for integrated sustainable development of the countries and strengthens the capacity of the respective national economies. It is a territory with a definite historical and socio-cultural legacy and the legacy has been present in the traditional villages where local people inhabit. Therefore, the development of the Amazon territory is characterized by sustainability criteria and environmental conservation at all times considering the cultural and social values, as well as knowledge, ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and other communities in the region.



“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 bio-commerce; 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.



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”.



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”.



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”.

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.

The Permanent Secretariat

Ever since it was created, ACTO has strived to build an institutionalism capable of contributing to overcome the challenges implied in sustainable Amazonian development, establishing a regional political and dialogue space able to build consensus and convergence. The Permanent

Secretariat of ACTO was established as a strategic line of the guideline, policies to minimize geographical discontinuities across bridges of dialogue, and represents a strong ally of the Amazonian countries concerning the protection of regional interests.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS THAT WORK WITH THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

Institution	Nature		
	Technical Cooperation	Financial Cooperation	Management
Ministries: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Health, Energy and Mines, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Fisheries, Foreign Trade and Tourism of the eight Member Countries of ACTO.	X	X	X
International Cooperation Organizations: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Directorate General of Development Cooperation (DGIS), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	X	X	
Cooperation Agencies and International Organizations:			
- Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)	X	X	
- Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	X	X	
- Convention on Biological Diversity	X		
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Diversity	X	X	
- Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ)	X	X	
Institution	Nature		
	Technical Cooperation	Financial Cooperation	Management
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)		X	
- World Bank (WB)	X	X	
- Bank of Amazon		X	
- HSBC Bank		X	
- Andean Development Corporation (CAF)		X	
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	X		
- Andean Community (CAN)	X		
- Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)	X		
- Brazilian Institute for Environment and Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA)	X		
- Institute for Amazonian Regional Eco-development (ECORAE)	X		
- KfW		X	
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)		X	
- Organization of American States (OAS)	X		
- World Health Organization (WHO)	X	X	
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	X	X	
- Amazonian Parliament (PARLAMAZ)		X	
- Petrobras		X	
- United Nations Program for Environment (UNEP)	X	X	
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	X	X	
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)	X	X	
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)		X	

GEF Amazon Project:

Integrated and sustainable management of transboundary water resources in the Amazon River Basin, considering climate variability and climate change.

Building a shared vision among the 8 ACTO Member Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, to assume the responsibility for an integrated and sustainable management of transboundary water resources of the Amazon Basin, in the context of climate change.

Objective

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

Activities/Actions

Project has been structured in five components, three tematics: I. Understanding the Amazon Society; II. Understanding the natural resource Base of the Amazon Basin; and III. Strategic Action Program, (SAP) and two other components, one related to the management of the Project and the other Monitoring and Evaluation.

- 1. Understanding the Amazon society**, seeks to execute a public opinion research, for the creation of scenarios and a shared vision concerning the management of transboundary water resources in the Amazon Basin, and a study of the institutional and legal standards to define strategic response actions.
- 2. Understanding the natural resource base:** through targeted research providing input on aquatic systems, groundwater, river sedimentation of large transboundary rivers and the development of a Hydro-climatic vulnerability Atlas, to provide the scientific basis for formulating a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, (TDA) of the Basin.

- 3. Strategic Action Program, (SAP)**, the core of the project, is based on i) pilot projects on integrated management of water resources and priority adaptation measures to climate change, ii) the creation of an Integrated Information System and iii) a Communication, Education and Public Participation Strategies, along with a funding strategy for the future implementation of the SAP.



Strategic Partners

- Global Environment Facility (GEF), Donor Agency;
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Implementing Agency
- ACTO, Project Executing Agency.

Others: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), UNESCO, Universities and Research Institutes, National Agencies or Institutions of Water Resources Management of the 8 Member Countries.

Funding

Total amount: U.S. \$ 52 million, funded by a grant of U.S. \$ 7 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and contributions totalling U.S. \$ 45.2 million from the participating countries and other donors.

Opportunities for Cooperation

- ✓ Scenarios building concerning a shared vision of the basin stakeholder.
- ✓ Research: Study of groundwater and aquatic ecosystems.
- ✓ Building a database on water quality and sources of pollution.
- ✓ Adaptation measures to climate change: developing a Vulnerability Atlas concerning extreme hydro-climatic events of the Amazon Basin.
- ✓ Demonstration Projects in Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management, with emphasis on adaptation and response to climate variability.
- ✓ Funding for the implementation of the Strategic Action Program, SAP.
- ✓ Communication and Environmental Education programs concerning Integrated and Sustainable Management of Water Resources of the Amazon Basin.



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CITES Electronic Permitting in the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

Promoting regional cooperation through technology exchange for CITES electronic permitting

With the aim of generating a working strategy for ACTO Member Countries regarding electronic permitting, ACTO Permanent Secretariat (PS/ACTO), with the support of the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ) and the participation of the CITES Secretariat, undertook an analysis of the progress of the Amazon countries in relation to the systems of electronic issuance of permits. As a result, a regional project on capacity building for e-permit was formulated. Among ACTO Member Countries there is a wide appreciation on the potential benefits of a joint initiative, including the opportunity to benefit from experience/know-how from other countries within the region.

Objective

ACTO Member Countries have a harmonized system for the issuance of CITES electronic permits.

Activities

The project aims to develop and implement a harmonized system of electronic permitting for ACTO Member Countries. It will be developed through two components promoting regional cooperation through technology exchange and technical assistance among Member Countries considering the valuable experience of some countries in the implementation or preparation of e-permit systems. Each component of the project has been formulated to address the asymmetries to be overcome among the countries for the implementation of the system.

Thus, the first component enables the Member Countries of ACTO, i.e. Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela, at an early stage of CITES e-permitting implementation, to learn from the experience of other countries through knowledge

transfer provided by experts nominated by experienced countries and delivered through targeted work packages. The deliverables will together form a template to be used by national CITES electronic permitting projects to provide the basis for regionally aligned solutions.

The second component, directed towards Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, considers strengthening the liaison between e-permitting and Single Windows national initiatives, and providing the capacity building for Component A of the project (south south cooperation) with the deep technical contributions that it requires in order to complete its deliverables.

Strategic partners

This initiative counts with the participation of the CITES Secretariat, that it is developing a project to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade with UE funding.



Funding

Project cost by source: ACTO through the Amazon Regional Program DGIS/BMZ/GIZ: USD 100 thousand; CITES Secretariat USD 100 thousand.

Cooperation opportunities

The main obstacles in the region for implementing e-permitting systems are: lack of technology and lack of financing. For such a reason, a regional project could offer the opportunity for least developed countries to make progress in a modest approach, but important step towards national electronic CITES permitting.

Community Forest Management in the Mid-South of the Ecuadorian Amazon

Promoting management and trade in legal timber

As recognition of the impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use strategies, community forest management is becoming increasingly important in the Amazon region. Nevertheless, local, traditional and indigenous populations often lack access to standards used to harvest forest resources according to their scale conditions and production technology. This hinders their access to new markets that might increase benefits to the community, adding value to their products and maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems they inhabit.

Objective

Help participants of the forest production chain ensure and increase income through sustainable/legal forest management and trade in timber.

Project activities and actions

The project began its activities in August 2007 and ended in February 2010. Contributions were classified as follows:

1. Institutional strengthening for community forest management:

- Design and implementation of a technical assistance and capacity-building strategy for small-scale forest producers through courses, lectures and follow-up field visits.
- Implementation of a system to finance forest operations and provision of funds to forest producers through microcredit schemes managed by a community association called ASOKANUS, which was trained and advised under the project.
- Strengthening governance in community associations, working with as many as 25 communities by providing access to funding and technical advice for forest operations extending across approximately 60,000 ha of native forest.



2. Environmental impact of forest operations:

- Implementation of zoning criteria in family farms, through which land use was classified into production and protection zones.
- Development of measures to protect and maintain the productive capacity of the forest, informing forest producers of local and national standards to foster compliance and adequate planning of forest management activities.

3. Applicability of the national legal base:

- Greater knowledge of the national legal base and procedures to join the simplified forest harvesting program (PAFsi).
- Promotion of quality timber production through training in sawmilling, wood drying and transport, and waste reduction in these processes.

4. Social, economic and cultural impacts of the project:

- Increased income level of small-scale forest producers and family farmers by selling timber to the ASOKANUS community association and reducing the participation of intermediaries in the marketing process.
- Forest contribution to community welfare, having ascertained that sawnwood from native forests provides immediate and complementary income and is the main source of cash for Shuar family farmers, followed by agricultural products and pasture.

The project obtained a number of important achievements, among them: (i) reduction in illegal activity and decrease in deforestation; (ii) greater compliance with legal instruments; (iii) increased income of producers; (iv) an effective microcredit system; (v) participation and empowerment of the communities, especially through Shuar local technical staff; (vi) legal timber marketing experiences; (vii) proposals by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment to improve regulations and incentives to make community forest management feasible; and (viii) new systematized information and baseline studies to learn more of the implementation context for community forest management.



Foto: Nicolas Kingman

Strategic Partners

The Shuar Arutam Government Council (CGPSHA), the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, the Amazon Forest Service Foundation (SFA) as project executing entity and the Amazon Regional Program BMZ/DGIS/GIZ as the main source funding for the project.

Funding

Project cost by source: Amazon Regional Program: USD 245 thousand; SFA: USD 60 thousand.

Cooperation Opportunities

- Improve local conditions to promote good forest management in the sawnwood production chain.
- Facilitate marketing of legal timber products from sustainably managed native forests to the national market.
- Promote the project's experiences in other regions of the Amazon, both at the national and international levels.

Regional Proposal

Building Capacities of ACTO Member Countries in Ecologically Responsible Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Managed Forests of the Amazon

The proposal pursues to enhance biodiversity conservation and strengthen environmental guidelines in managed forests across the Amazon region. Institutional and technical capacities in biodiversity conservation of ACTO Member Countries have increased by at least 25% on current levels within 5 years of project completion and are contributing towards the implementation of more ecologically responsible approaches to the management of tropical forests of the region.



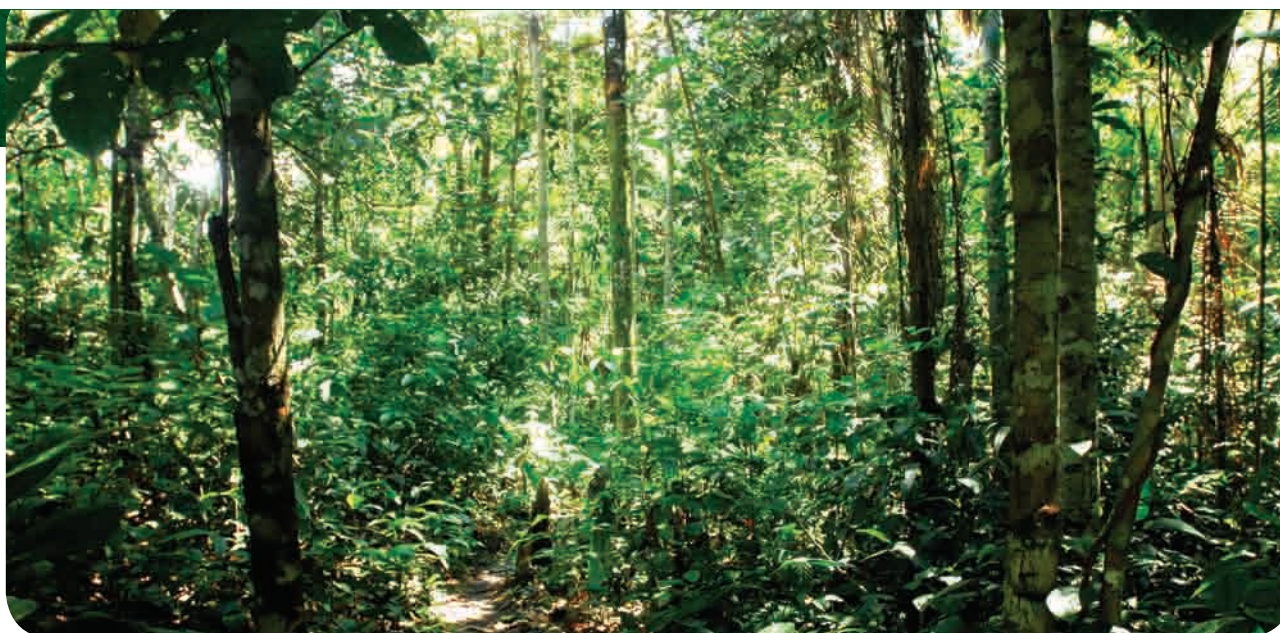
Objective

To establish an interdisciplinary process for building and delivering the technical capacity necessary for implementing ecologically responsible forest management in public and private production forests of the Amazon region, favouring the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity.

Activities / Actions

The project will deliver on the specific project objective through the following main outputs:

1. Detailed national assessments taking into account the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for Conservation of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests as well as national and regional forest management standards, to report on (a) the extent to which public and private production forests of ACTO nations currently consider and implement biodiversity concerns and guidelines; (b) the national-level capacity for training and knowledge exchange in ecologically responsible forest management.



2. At least three existing forest management centres are strengthened to become coordinating centres of excellence for training in ecologically responsible forest management for the Amazon region. These centres are supported by newly developed training materials and a strengthened network of professional trainers.
3. A regional Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) on ecologically responsible forest management is established under the coordination of ACTO's wider regional cooperation platform to facilitate sharing of information and experiences regarding the opportunities and challenges for incorporating biodiversity conservation concerns into the management of public and private forests.

Strategic Partners

Financial Cooperation of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD).

Funding

Total amount: US\$ 2.3 M. The ITTO with 1.3 M and other contributions with 1 M.

Cooperation Opportunities

- ✓ In addition to other resources the proposed project will build directly from the ITTO-IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (2009). Building on a large number of previous initiatives and guidelines from, ACTO member countries, ITTO, CBD, FAO and other

organizations these guidelines provide an appropriate framework guiding training and capacity building. Project work will focus in particular on the subset of principles that deal directly with forest management and capacity building, whilst also generating important information that is relevant to policy, legal, and socio-economic guidelines.

- ✓ This project will contribute to the implementation of both the ITTO Council Decision 6 (XLIV) adopted the "ITTO-IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests" and Decision 6 (XLVI) on "ITTO-CBD Partnership Initiative for tropical forest conservation" through the delivery of a phased program of training and capacity building with an approach to environmentally responsible forest management.
- ✓ Specifically, the project will contribute to the promotion of good practices on sustainable forest management in relation to the conservation of biodiversity and livelihoods in the Amazon countries.
- ✓ ACTO members have access to the best available information on existing national capacity for integrating biodiversity conservation and forest management.
- ✓ A regional network of centres of excellence and training courses provide increased capacity for delivering ecologically responsible forest management in the Amazon.
- ✓ Access to information and experiences regarding opportunities and challenges facing ecological responsible management is increased within and between ACTO member nations.

Prevention and Control of Forest Fires

Promoting regional cooperation to reduce the effects of forest fires in the Amazon

Considering the economic, social and main environmental impacts associated to the effects of climate change, forest fires constitute a growing problem for the Amazon countries. In general, over 95% of the fires in the region are either directly or indirectly caused by man.

Forest fires in the Amazon vary from one country to another due to differences in weather conditions, vegetation, relief, land use and cultural levels. The number of forest fires in the region has increased in the last years due mainly to land use changes associated to deforestation and population growth. Some of the consequences go beyond the national frontiers, like smoke contamination and its negative effects on human security and health, loss of forest cover and biological diversity, and even greenhouse gas emissions and their contribution to the impacts of climate change.

Objective

Promote regional cooperation and develop knowledge about prevention, management and control of forest fires in the Amazon.

Project activities and actions:

Elements to operationalize negotiations of a framework cooperation agreement to combat transboundary forest fires between ACTO Member Countries: this instrument, which is currently in consultation with Member Countries, will establish mechanisms to coordinate fire brigades of two or more countries as well as access to equipment and materials for technical assistance activities and joint work in controlling forest fires in frontier areas between two or more Amazon countries.

Developing knowledge to prevent, manage and control forest fires: ACTO is in the process of developing a regional training program on fire management aiming to strengthen technical capacities in the responsible institutions of its Member Countries and social groups that are strategic in preventing and managing fire and controlling forest fires.





Foto: Roberto Faldutti

Strategic Partners

Authorities responsible for managing and controlling forest fires in the Amazon countries and the cooperation in support of sustainable forest management.

Opportunities for cooperation – funding

To develop this cooperation process it is expected to count with international organizations, cooperation agencies, interested governments and civil society organizations, encouraging the participation of science and technology institutes and universities.

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Verification of Legal Origin and Timber Traceability

Strengthening verification mechanisms to reduce illegal logging and timber trade in the Amazon countries



Illegal logging and timber trade in the Amazon produce economic, social and environmental impacts that endanger governmental efforts to manage natural resources. In practice, illegal trade in timber discourages investments in sustainable forest management, as the surplus of illegal timber ends up competing in the same markets and devaluing the supply of legal timber.

Controlling illegal logging in the Amazon region is complex. The verification mechanisms in place in the Amazon countries are insufficiently effective to reduce illegal trade in timber, especially in frontier areas. In view of this situation, the forest authorities of ACTO Member Countries have agreed to develop joint actions to strengthen their ability to control illegal trade in timber.

Objective

Contribute to strengthening capacity to combat illegal logging and trade in timber among forest authorities of ACTO Member Countries.

Project activities and actions

Project: “Computer-aided wood identification”

The process of identifying wood in checkpoints or ports is complex and in many cases ineffective in combating illegal timber trade. This regional project will develop a regional Amazonian computer-aided wood identification tool to help verification agents correctly identify tree species, thus contributing to reducing illegal trade in timber.

Regional workshop on wood origin and traceability mechanisms: event held in February 2012 as a space to share the Amazon countries' experiences with illegal logging control, verification of origin and traceability of wood. It also debated cooperation needs and joint activities to neutralize illegal logging, as a phenomenon that crosses national frontiers.

The workshop also offered an opportunity to present and discuss other mechanisms and experiences like: (i) the genetic fingerprinting method, a technique based on interpreting variations in tree genomes that allows origin to be verified by comparing the genotypes of wood samples to the genetic designs of forest population samples; and (ii) the “infrared spectroscopy” method that makes it possible to



distinguish between apparently similar forest species using scales of infrared light predetermined in the laboratory that are subsequently compared to the wood being marketed.

Strategic Partners

The forest offices or forest services of ACTO Member Countries, Brazilian Forest Service (SFB), Colombian Institute of Scientific Research (SINCHI), BMZ/DGIS/GIZ Amazon Regional Program.

Cooperation Opportunities

ACTO aims to continue fostering action to reduce illegal logging and trade in timber in the Amazon countries and is open to new partners interested in participating in the process.



Development of Regional Programme on Issues of Forest Protection, Biodiversity Conservation and / or Climate Change

The ACTO and the German Government have made a commitment to fund a Regional Program in the thematic areas of forest protection, biodiversity conservation and / or climate change. For the financing of the Program, it will have the funding of grant aid with a value of up to 10 million Euros. This assignment was provisioned in 2006 and 2007, and was formally accepted by ACTO in 2009 and became part of the agenda of the Organization in 2011.

Objective

Develop and design a project proposal. The proposal must be constructed in a participatory form with key thematic actors in countries of ACTO, considering the regional perspective, collecting the capital of information and accumulated implementation experience in the Organization, incorporating the guidelines and thematic content of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda and meeting the characteristics of financial cooperation.

Activities/Actions

The preparation of the Program was initiated with the international selection of a consulting firm which happened to support the preparatory efforts of the Organization. To date, it has included the systematization of regional sectoral consultation processes undertaken by the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO throughout 2010 and 2011, the interaction with the Member Countries to prioritize specific issues and the collection of inputs and definition of regional and global trends. We have identified three project profiles, which are expected to select the most cost-effective alternative to proceed with detailed formulation.

The proposed profiles and those will be the subject of analysis, improvement and prioritization are designed to address the following objectives:

Profile 1: Strengthen, under a regional perspective, the technical and institutional capacity of the countries of the Amazon Region in the management, monitoring and control of species of fauna and flora threatened with extinction by trade.





Profile 2: Develop strategies and capabilities against regional adaptation to climate variability, with direct influence on governance for sustainable use and conservation of forest resources.

Profile 3: Strengthen regional capacity to improve the effectiveness of collaborative management or coordinated operations in protected areas adjacent to the Amazon region to the potential effects of climate variability.

Strategic partners

German Bank of Cooperation for Development – KfW

Costs associated with the process of preparation

€ 400 thousand from KfW and approximately US\$ 150 thousand from the PS/ACTO and the Member Countries.

Opportunities for Cooperation

- ✓ Co-financing of the thematic area that will be prioritized in the process of project preparation.
- ✓ Funding initiative in the thematic areas that will not be subject to funding from KfW.
- ✓ Establishment of a Regional Fund to develop and support initiatives in the identified areas that allows sustainability of actions for sustainable development in the Amazon.

Development of the Productive Chain of Natural Ingredients in the Municipality of Mitú, Vaupés, with Projection to the Cosmetic Sector

Promoting sustainable productive alternatives in the Amazon for indigenous peoples

The municipality of Mitú (Vaupés) is located in the Eastern Amazonian region of Colombia (Alto Rio Negro region). It is mainly an indigenous territory that is undergoing a rapid process of cultural and political integration with the rest of the country. However, the productive sector is still very weak and its development depends on a limited local market.

This project arises as a management model of natural renewable resources that has been agreed in a participatory way between the local government (municipality), a public institution that supports and promotes research and technological expertise (SINCHI) and indigenous communities benefiting from the process.



Objective

To create the technical and operational conditions to advance in the innovation and participatory development of a technological package for the use, cultivation and processing benefits of species producing natural ingredients for the cosmetic sector, in order to improve livelihoods of indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon.

Activities

The main activities of the project are: (i) to formulate management plans for the species involved, (ii) to develop an experimental unit for the development, dissemination and technology transfer; (iii) to establish demonstrative family production units for the production of raw materials and (iv) to validate the product research.

Strategic partners

The Amazon Institute for Scientific Research SINCHI (Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas SINCHI) working for this project with 40

families of 6 indigenous communities of the groups Cubeo, Yurutí, Barazano, Bara, and Siriano in Vaupés (Colombia). The Institute seeks to strengthen the organizational and financial capacities of the productive chain in order to facilitate its access to national and international markets steadily. As well it facilitates the participation of local indigenous communities in the whole process.

Funding

Project cost by source: Amazon Regional Program DGIS/BMZ/GIZ: EUR 203.984; SINCHI and Municipality of Mitú, EUR 92.201

Cooperation opportunities

The project takes into account the (i) recovery of the indigenous community's view on the use of sustainable use of Biodiversity as one of the most important income source; (ii) identification of

economic opportunities for local communities in areas of conflict in border areas.

In the first stage, the project will build the technical and operational conditions to advance in the development and innovation of a technological package for the cultivation and transformation of species for the natural ingredients sector with participation of local communities. The productive process is based on wild and domesticated plant species with traditional use, all native to the region. The consolidation of the chain of natural ingredients for the cosmetics sector represents an opportunity for the development of regional projects through the exchange of experiences and scientific cooperation with recovery of traditional knowledge of local communities. These initiatives strengthen social participation and development of applied technologies that benefit the livelihoods of the communities involved.



Supporting the Trinational Conservation and Sustainable Development Program of the National Protected Areas Corridor: Trinational Project

The region of the protected areas in the Gueppi, La Paya and Cuyabeno corridor, covers an area of 1.6 million ha of Amazon forest of high ecological, social and cultural interest and faces countless and complex threats. The main environmental problems are deforestation in order to the expansion of pastures, illegal logging and international traffic in timber and wildlife. The social problems are reflected in high poverty indexes, the absence of the Government and its services, armed conflicts in the frontier zone, the existence of illicit activities and migration of populations towards more secure areas.

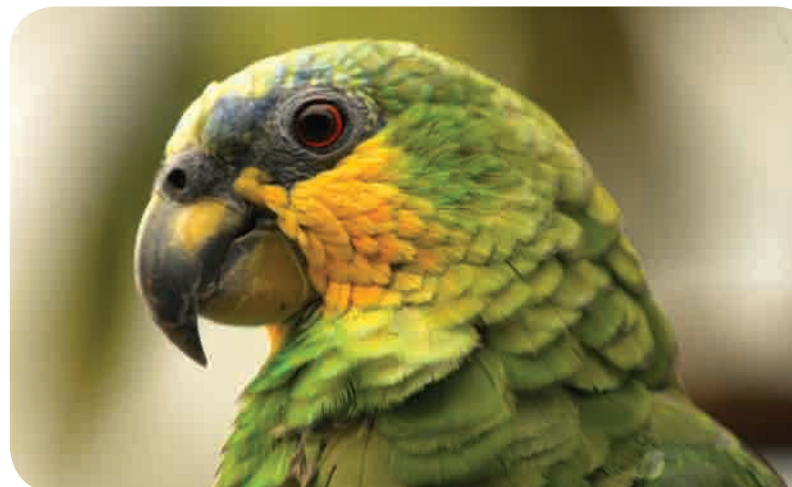
The existence of dialogue initiatives that go beyond the national borders shows that many problems are not restricted to the national territories. Furthermore, the specifics of the Amazon and particularly of its frontier regions make the coordinated action between the countries a concrete alternative to national approaches representing a series of advantages to face all the challenges.

Objective

To contribute to the consolidation of the Trinational Conservation and Sustainable Development Program of the National Protected Areas Corridor La Paya (Colombia), Güeppi (Perú) and Cuyabeno (Ecuador)": The Trinational Project, as a model for coordinated management of transboundary protected areas that can be replicated in other areas of the Amazon region.

Activities

The project activities can be divided into: (i) operational structure; and; (ii) coordination for planning and management. The first involves the creation and setting-up of a Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee. The second includes the preparation of the corridor's conservation and development strategy and socio-environmental baseline, as well as an update of the protected areas management plans, and concerted plans for public exploitation and management





of hydro biological resources. It also involves capacity-building and the exchange of plans for protected area administrators, as well as plans to ensure the financial sustainability of protected areas and promote joint monitoring and control. Finally, it will include coordinated wildlife control operations.

Strategic partners

The project is jointly executed by Patrimonio Natural, Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas de Colombia and the *Unidad Administrativa Especial del Sistema de Parques Nacionales Naturales* (Directorate of National Natural Parks) – Colombia; Fondo Peruano para la Áreas Naturales Protegidas (PROFONAMPE) and the *Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas del Perú* – SERNANP (National Service of Natural Protected Areas) – Perú and the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment – Ecuador.

Funding

Project cost by source: Amazon Regional Program DGIS/BMZ/GIZ: EUR 450.000; Andean Community: EUR 99.000; and; National Protected Areas Authorities: EUR 22.000.

Cooperation opportunities

The project strengthens regional transboundary protected areas and creates a regional network among governmental institutions of the three countries. Promotes the participation of the National Protected Areas authorities of the three countries and its co-management model and consultative mechanism which includes different stakeholders like the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization-ACTO and the Andean Community (CAN). Regarding the international framework, the project contributes to the implementation of the Protected Areas Work Program of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

ACTO – Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

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Strengthening value chains of Amazonian natural products through sustainable management in Shuar communities in Traskutukú, Morona Santiago province, Ecuador and PALSAMAD Producers in Madre de Dios, Peru

Promoting sustainable productive alternatives in the Amazon for indigenous peoples

The rich and diverse biological resources of the Amazon region represent an opportunity for local communities to generate income through alternative production of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for special markets that recognize the value of biodiversity and fair social production. Hence, local communities can sell their production to these markets as a way to further achieve their development in a sustainable manner. At the same time, due to the nature of the NTFP involved in the activities, these markets present new options to increase participation of local and indigenous communities in the value chain and value-adding processing.



Guilherme Macedo

Objective

To improve the income of Ecuadorian Shuar Transkutukú Indigenous Communities and Peruvian producers in Madre de Dios, through an ecological production and the trade of their products.

Activities

The main activities of the project are: (i) to increase the ecological production of national cacao in the indigenous communities; (ii) to improve the production and commercialization system of the products derived from sustainable use of biodiversity; and (iii) to strengthen the local organizational structure of the indigenous communities involved.



Guilherme Macedo

Strategic partners

The Chankuap Foundation works with 140 Shuar Indigenous families, supporting them in the use of local plant species to increase production, improve land use and species diversification through traditional practices in the context of organic production and fair sharing of sale income.

Funding

Project cost by source: Amazon Regional Program DGIS/BMZ/GIZ: Euro 109 thousand; Chankuap Foundation: Euro 24.5 thousand, communities involved: Euro 12.4 thousand.

Cooperation opportunities

The region still faces constraints that hinder the access to these markets. The main handicap of those involved in production and trade of Amazon NTFP, from indigenous associations to private-sector enterprises, is the lack of market information and market access due to the difficulty to obtain information on appropriate processing technologies for their products.

Organizations working in this context can help improve access to national and/or international markets for producers of the Amazon region and at the same time provide guidance on increasing added value for their agricultural and forest products.



Guilherme Macedo

Acre-Ucayali Project

Strengthening transboundary integration

The project is located in the geographic region of Sierra del Divisor, characterized by a vast biological, geomorphic and cultural diversity. It is the only mountainous region in an area of low jungle. The area is inhabited by Isconahua indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation and still presents endemic species of flora and fauna. Sierra del Divisor is one of the most biodiverse regions of the Amazon. It incorporates the micro watershed of the Abujao River in the Sierra del Divisor Reserved Zone of the Ucayali and Loreto departments in Peru, and the micro watershed of the Juruá River in the area formed by the Serra do Divisor National Park, the Alto Juruá Extractive Reserve and the Kampa-Kaxinawá-Ashaninka Indigenous Lands in Acre state, Brazil. Its protected forests extend across 2.3 million hectares.

Despite its importance, the region faces environmental problems caused by illegal fishing and hunting, illegal logging and illegal trade in timber and other biodiversity products that endanger protected areas and indigenous lands located in frontier zones.



Objective

The project aims to contribute to coordinated management of wildlife resources in areas of high sociocultural and environmental interest along the Ucayali (Peru) and Acre (Brazil) border area by strengthening the Acre-Ucayali Transboundary Integration Forum (FIFAU) and other binational coordination spaces.

Specific objectives

1. Improve capacities and promote binational action to monitor and control wildlife.
2. Support the functioning of the Acre-Ucayali Transboundary Integration Forum (FIFAU) and its thematic commissions, promoting dialogue and institutional coordination in the region.
3. Design and implement demonstration activities related to sustainable use of wildlife by local communities.

Project activities and actions

1. Develop and implement mechanisms for monitoring, control and surveillance of wild fauna and flora:

Actions developed under this activity are related to institutionally strengthening the subnational control entities of Ucayali and Acre, and developing capacity in indigenous communities for managing natural resources. They can be summarized as: (i) developing and implementing mechanisms for monitoring, control and surveillance of wild fauna and flora; (ii) sharing experience in forest monitoring and control; (iii) equipping checkpoints between both regions; (iv) providing advisory services to implement land use plans; and (v) establishing forest nurseries, implementing agroforestry systems and recovering degraded areas.

2. Promoting binational coordination through the Acre-Ucayali Transboundary Integration Forum:

Under this activity, action is being taken to promote interinstitutional dialogue between governmental authorities of the state of Acre, regional government of Ucayali, civil-society organizations, academic institutions, representatives of the private sector, indigenous communities and other social groups to discuss the integration process between both regions, with emphasis on discussions related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, protection of indigenous peoples and sustainable economic development in the region.

3. Promoting sustainable use of wildlife resources:

Aiming to foster conservation of natural resources and provide economically sustainable alternatives to the social groups that inhabit this frontier zone, the project is developing pilot actions for management and use of wild fauna and flora resources. Particularly important among them are: (i) preparing management plans and business

plans to market palm fruits and leaves; (ii) preparing management plans to manage and breed fish and turtles; (iii) training local promoters to manage natural resources identified as promising; and (iv) sharing experience in managing wildlife resources in both regions.

Strategic Partners

Regional Government of Ucayali and Acre State Government, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs through their border divisions. NGO Pronaturaleza in Ucayali and SOS Amazonia in Acre as the executing entities, supported by the National University of Ucayali and the NGO Comisión Pró-Indio. BMZ/DGIS/GIZ Amazon Regional Program as the project's main source of funding.

Funding

Project cost by source: Amazon Regional Program: EUR 755 thousand; ProNaturaleza: USD 117 thousand; SOS Amazonia: USD 154 thousand.

Cooperation Opportunities

- ✓ It is worth noting that the project began its activities in 2009 and is currently in its final stage of execution. In view of its results, the project beneficiaries and a number of strategic partners are interested in extending the project through a second stage.
- ✓ ACTO hopes to continue promoting the development of coordinated conservation and management models for natural resources in frontier zones between two or more Amazon countries and is open to new partners that are interested in strengthening the Acre-Ucayali project and/or developing new initiatives.



Foto: Pronaturaleza

Monitoring Deforestation, Logging and Land use Change in the Pan Amazonian Forest

With estimations and reliable data about deforestation and forest degradation in the Amazon Region, the Project will allow ACTO Member Countries to count with “real time” information to help in their decision making processes. The project will also contribute in improving the knowledge of the sector; the interchange of new technologies; prioritize action lines in regional cooperation; share experiences; and strengthen forest legislation.



Objective

Since for the moment the capacity to monitor deforestation, land use change and logging in the Amazon Region is insufficient and varies from country to country, the main objective of the PANAMAZON II Project is to support all ACTO Member Countries in the development of a national monitoring system to promote increasing governance in the Amazon Region.

The main objectives to be reached in each ACTO Member Country are:

1. Develop a National Monitoring Plan for Amazon Forest Cover and install an operational infrastructure of Observation Rooms for forest cover following methodological guidelines and regional standardized procedures.
2. Disseminate and promote the assimilation of remote sensing technologies for monitoring deforestation and changes in land use.
3. Ensure the existence and adequate operation infrastructure for the effective adoption of monitoring technologies for deforestation and changes in land use in the Amazon region.
4. Contribute to the design and implementation of forest policies, oriented to diminish the deforestation rates in the Amazon region and in territorial planning.

Activities / Actions

The Project counts with three components with its respective activities in order to build capacities at country level to monitor deforestation, land use change and forest extraction in the Amazon region as a fundamental tool to better the governance in the Amazon.

Component 1: National Monitoring Plans of Forest Cover

- Activity 1.1. Installation of National and Regional Coordination Units.
- Activity 1.2. Workshop on methodological orientation and strategic coordination.
- Activity 1.3. Participatory preparation and validation of National Plans.

Component 2: Implementation of National Monitoring Systems

- Activity 2.1. Institutional capacity building and training.
- Activity 2.2. Accompanying regional and promoting exchange.
- Activity 2.3. Full operation of the Observatory Rooms.

Component 3: Performance of forum for the exchange and coordination of the Project

- Activity 3.1. Participatory planning and management agenda Logistics Forum.



Strategic Partners / Investments

- The Project is a product of ACTO Member Countries efforts and for its implementation through ACTO/PS, counts with the help and cooperation of the following organizations:
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
 - National Space Research Institute (INPE)
 - Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)
 - Ministry of Environment of Brazil (MMA)
 - Cooperation of the Netherlands for Development (DGIS)
 - German Development Cooperation (BMZ/GIZ)

Financing Source	Contribution In US\$
ITTO	1.124.784
ACTO	1.389.600
ACTO Member Countries	3.748.400
TOTAL	6.262.784

The Project will be executed in a time span of approximately three years.

Cooperation Opportunities – Financing

The Project responds to the political mandate given by ACTO Member Countries to the Permanente Secretariat of the Organization in order to intensify its efforts in the search of alternatives of a coordinated regional system that will allow *“the identification of actions to reduce and monitor deforestation”*. To that extent, additional complementary financing is been negotiated with the Bank of Economic and Social Development of Brazil – BNDES through a proposal presented to its Fondo Amazonia.

Platform for Cooperation in the Environmental Area

(Integrated Information System, IIS)

Dynamic processes, as evidenced in the Amazon continental, have global impact. Knowing and disseminating them to the world, requires an updated and efficient information platform, to contribute in the definition of public policies and actions to be develop in the region, as well as to the definition and implementation of the Observatory of the Amazon, as a permanent forum with emphasis on the study of Amazon Biodiversity.

Objective

Creating a Platform for Cooperation in the Environmental Area (Integrated Information System, IIS) to access data and services regarding actions that affect the development of the Amazon Basin, providing relevant information sources of the Member Countries developing a Resource Data Center (RDC) to store, organize and categorize data and information on different topics that link database by subject, catalog metadata, models and user interface within a Geographic Information System.

Activities

Developing an Information Platform in three stages: design, construction and operation and maintenance of the project. Currently we are analyzing characteristics of Member Countries databases and other sources, for selection and use in feeding IIS, identifying the functions of the Resource Data Center (RDC) and preparing the mapping of the architecture of the project.

Strategic Partners

So far it has secured the cooperation of the project "Sustainable Integrated Management and Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin, considering climate variability and climate change" (GEF Project) through the Integrated Information System subproject, whose objective is to design and implement a database



regarding, among other things, water quality and potential sources of contamination in the Amazon basin. There is also the cooperation of the IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement). It also expects to have the support of UNESCO's Office (Brasilia) and it is also expected have the cooperation of GIZ trough the Amazon Regional Program.

Amount of Funding

The GEF (Global Environmental Facility) contributes to the activities of the subproject, with contributions of \$ 340,000, which are prioritized to define the layout and architecture of the scheme of

the system. The IRD, as a collaborating institution for the GEF Project, will provide an amount in kind, estimated at \$ 400,000, which will be used to advise on the design and structuring of computerized schemes, necessary for the project architecture.

Opportunities for Cooperation

Intensify cooperation activities in the areas of innovation, science and technology, to develop a Platform for Cooperation in the Environmental Area (Integrated Information System, SII). It will also contribute to establish regional indicators to facilitate research on the Amazon by national and regional institutions, and promote the inclusion of ancestral knowledge and community practices and local indigenous peoples. In that context, the PS / ACTO was given the mandate to proceed

with the implementation of the “Observatory of the Amazon”, permanent forum to meet institutions and authorities on the subject, with emphasis on the study of Amazonian Biodiversity.

Opportunities offered to new members

Represents a unique opportunity for the creation and implementation of a platform for managing understandable information resources, collects information on specific topics, providing access to centralized information, and considers the Amazon as a single entity, facilitates better exchange of information, allowing communities, countries and the world, to achieve benefits of information through the IIS, increases the capacity of the PS / ACTO to strengthen and develop regional projects.



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Regional Amazon University

Structuring an academic center for training human resources to promote regional knowledge through academic and research programs, to contribute to social development in the context of cultural diversity valorization and conservation of biodiversity of the Amazon region.

Objective

Formation of human resources to contribute to regional economic integration and progressive development of science and technology in the region. The Regional Amazon University will promote academic exchange between universities and research centers in the Amazon, developing research programs in areas of mutual interests of countries in the region, with emphasis on natural resources (biodiversity), social and economic

studies in strategic themes for the development and the regional integration.

Activities

The XI Meeting of Foreign Ministers adopted the "Commitment of Manaus", where they decided to establish a special commission, composed of delegates of the top higher education agencies of ACTO Member Countries to study the initiative and propose innovative ways for its eventual



implementation. It is estimated that the 1st meeting of the group of experts who will discuss this proposal, will be held by the end of July this year.

Strategic Partners

Currently it has the support of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Member Countries, which have instructed to advance in the analysis of alternatives for the establishment of the Regional Amazon University. A regional dialogue of representatives of higher education institutions of the Member Countries is being promoted to propose a structured plan, which defines and articulates the conformation of the participating institutions.

Funding

The initiative is supported by the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), through the Amazon Regional Program that supports the opening of regional dialogue which generates proposals and analytical documents required to carry out the process. The amount needed to finance all the activities related to the creation and organization of the Regional Amazon University has not yet been defined by ACTO Member Countries.

Cooperation opportunities

The Regional Amazon University will be an intergovernmental academic and research institution attached to ACTO, oriented by the importance of research and knowledge



management on natural resources and biodiversity of the Amazon, for sustainable development of the region. The institution will contribute to the promotion of a program of academic mobility among institutions (students and teachers) of the Amazon region through a regional exchange program to strengthen cooperation in science and education between ACTO Member Countries.

ACTO is open to partnerships with institutions interested to participate or contribute in this educational initiative, considering the regional needs for knowledge developing regarding natural and social sciences and the development of appropriate technologies and innovation to the Amazon.

Regional Program

“Environmental Health Surveillance System in the Amazon Region”

Non Refundable Technical Cooperation IDB

No.RG-T1275 – ATN/OC-10774-RG

At present, there is a clear asymmetry in the ability to monitor, treat and prevent health damage that may occur due to environment-related diseases in the population of the Countries that form the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT). The Environmental Health Surveillance Program (EHSP) is part of the process agreed between the 8 countries of ACT to establish a baseline that allows organizing the structures of surveillance in several areas of environmental health to generate tools and relevant information for adoption of policies by decision makers.

Objective

Adopt an agreed operational and instrumental framework of indicators and strategies for the institutionalization of the Amazonian Environmental Health Surveillance System, allowing regulators to take steps to know the identification of risk factors and actions to their vigilance, in order to facilitate prevention, protection, adaptation and mitigation against disruption, pollution and environmental damage that affect human health.

The work will be developed based on the identification of needs within countries, to establish a baseline for the region on which to build a toolbox in Environmental Health, in which the countries can manage different activities aimed at the national and local Governmental levels in the management, supervision and training of community workers.



Areas of work

- **WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**
Water for human consumption
Basic environmental sanitation
- **CHEMICALS AND DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES:**
Pesticides
Mercury
Air quality
- **CLIMATE EXTREMES**
Vector-borne diseases
Emergencies and disasters

Activities

- Establish the basis for policy making in environmental health within countries.
- Strengthening the Surveillance Systems of the Member Countries (MC).
- Institutional and Technical Strengthening of MC.
- Production of dynamic and adapted tools of Surveillance in Environmental Health to the regional needs and of each country as manuals, guides, laboratory techniques and protocols.
- Training of quick response teams.
- Education and training of community workers.

Strategic Partners

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO / WHO).
- Ministry of Health of Brazil – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz).

Other institutions that support the Program

- Association of Amazonian Universities (Unamaz).
- Spanish Society of Environmental Health (SESA).
- Ministries and National Institutes of Health of the Member Countries of the Treaty.

Amount of Funding

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Non-refundable Technical Cooperation of U.S. 1,000,000 dollars.

ACTO and Member Countries: Non-monetary counterpart of U.S. 750,000 dollars.



Investment opportunities and initiatives support

The program makes available to other entities that are not part of the program, the systems implemented in the Pilot Border points under the Program and monitoring devices designed for Environmental Health, particularly in the toolbox which will be:

- Forum to participate in each of the priority issues.
- Surveillance Tools in Environmental Health.
- Results of the surveillance by indicators.
- Guides, manuals, protocols and standardized laboratory techniques to work in the Amazon Region.
- Results of the environmental health surveillance in the Amazon countries.
- Database of courses, training and high-level studies in health issues offered by Amazon Countries and organizations that are working in the program.

Coordination of activities

The program provides a possibility to coordinate actions and initiatives within the Pilot Points in prior thematic areas and creates a database on the current status of the Amazonian environmental health, as well as strategies for implementing basic health activities for the population living in this region.

This program gives the opportunity to work between public and / or private institutions in groups of research and development on the environmental health issues in the Amazon.

Pan Amazonic Network of Science, Technology and Innovation In Health

The high rate of socio-economic problems in the Amazon region generates a health profile that places it as one of the regions with the greatest adversity and vulnerability. That is why one of the priorities of the countries of the Amazon is to link the development and health issues in their strategic agendas.

From there arises the necessity to form a network that from the joint efforts of educational institutions, research and management for the production and development of strategic inputs and new technologies to combat common diseases in the region.



Vision

The Pan-Amazonian Network of CT&IS is intended to strengthen and support development policies for Science, Technology and Innovation in Health, with the aim of improving the health and life of the local population in the Amazon, and contribute

to human and sustainable development of the Amazon Region (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela), from the ecosystematic, political, cultural, economic and social inclusion perspectives.

Mission

The Network will encourage and contribute to the implementation of regional integration policies in the Amazon for development and use of scientific and technological research, innovative products and processes, health equity generation of technical skills to problems and regional, national and global challenges.

General Objective

Encourage and support the strengthening and development of national and regional capacities for research, technology and innovation in health to contribute to the improvement of health conditions and life of the local population in the Amazon.

Areas of work

- Innovation & Intellectual Property
- Study of Neglected Diseases in the Amazon
- Tele-health
- Knowledge Management
- Health & Environment
- Research on Amazon Health Care System and Service
- Interculturality



Activities

The Network conducts its activities through Working Groups, focused on development of each of the Areas of Work. Each group has a facilitator who establishes the relationship with the whole Network, through the Executive Secretariat, currently in charge of the Coordination of Health of ACTO.

Institutions

- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).
- Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO).
- Association of Amazonian Universities (Unamaz).
- Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz).

Other institutions that support the Network

- Ministries of Health of the 8 Amazonian countries;
- Research institutions;
- Andean Health Organization-ORAS.

Amount of Funding

Fiocruz: TC41 of the Ministry of Health of Brazil: U.S. 100,000 dollars.

Investment opportunities and initiatives support

The Pan-Amazonian Network for Science, Technology and Innovation in Health provides Official entities engaged in activities related to the Amazon, research and innovation centers and researchers dedicated to issues related to the lines of work, the possibility of knowledge exchange and of broadening the horizons of the work filed within the Amazon region, taking advantage of strengths and synergies of the participating entities.

Coordination of activities

As a cooperative network among institutions, it seeks to articulate activities on the fundamental prioritized issues with entities such as:

- Government, especially the Ministries of Health and Ministries of Foreign Affairs;
- Research and technological development institutions;
- Universities;
- Non-Governmental Organizations;
- International Organizations;
- Civil Society Organizations.

Coordination of Indigenous Affairs

Indigenous issues are highly relevant in the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda.

The Agenda comprises three sub-themes:

- Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact;
- Protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities;
- Lands and Territories of Indigenous and others tribal communities.

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.



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).

Activities undertaken with indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact

The purpose of this sub-theme is to contribute to the protection of isolated and in initial contact indigenous peoples, through the definition of effective policies and actions agreed between the governments, peoples and indigenous organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with experience in the subject.

Ongoing: Development of a Strategic Framework for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and in initial contact, to coordinate and link the countries where indigenous peoples live in isolation and initial contact to safeguard their physical and cultural integrity.

Activities in the Protection of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and other tribal communities

This sub-theme is conducted through two specific lines of action, by strengthening national mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, and building regional knowledge on national mechanisms of free, prior and informed.

- Strengthening of national mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity.

Such strengthening will be done through a workplan for the ACTO, which is achieved through the exchange of experiences among countries in the region, training and dissemination of relevant information.

The goal is to strengthen the capacities of Member Countries of ACTO to protect traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity. That includes the fight against piracy of traditional knowledge associated with biological resources, mechanisms for registration of traditional knowledge and control of access to traditional knowledge.

- Construction of regional knowledge on national mechanisms of free, prior and informed.

Coordination of Indigenous Affairs of ACTO is developing a process of building regional knowledge on national mechanisms of free, prior and informed consultation. The strengthening or implementation of national mechanisms for consultation with indigenous and tribal peoples is related to the guidelines of the UN, the ILO Convention 169 and the Convention on Biological Diversity CBD, so that the ACTO follows the norms of the Conventions and international forums on indigenous rights.

Activities on Land and Indigenous Territories and other tribal communities

ACTO is promoting regional knowledge on ways of demarcation and protection of indigenous lands and territories, as well as access to the legislation of the Member Countries relating to indigenous peoples, including land legislation.

The exchange is done through specific meetings and the website of ACTO, with videos regarding the active participation of indigenous peoples in official processes of protection and demarcation of their lands. The same website will have a link to query a database on available legislation related indigenous people from the eight ACTO countries. The legislation texts will be organized thematically.

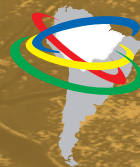
Strategic Partners

- Representatives of indigenous peoples.
- Chancelleries and Ministries responsible for implementing consultation processes of the Member Countries of ACTO.
- Government organizations of Member Countries responsible for the topic
- Regional Amazon Program/GIZ;
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Cooperation opportunities

ACTO is open to new partners interested in developing the theme of protection of traditional knowledge to the eight Amazon countries, following the guidelines of the Nagoya.

As the implementation of free, prior and informed consult to Amazonian populations (indigenous peoples and tribal communities), is a challenge in its multiple dimensions (procedures, logistics, language ability of those responsible for processes, data quality assurance and indigenous participation), ACTO is interested in expanding the technical and support network in order to create a regional program to strengthen countries capacities in consultation processes.



ACTO

Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization

Program “Strategic framework for developing a regional agenda for protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and Initial Contact”

Objectives

The Program aims to help protect indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and initial contact by defining effective policies and consensual actions between governments, indigenous organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with experience on the topic.

The strategic framework for the protection includes the following components:

Component 1. Inter-institutional Regional Coordination Mechanism

This component seeks to support the creation of entities to protect indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact at the national and regional Amazonian levels.



Foto: Gleison Miranda/Funai



Foto: D. Cortijo/Survival/Divulgação



Foto: Gleison Miranda/Funai

Component 2. Regional Guidelines for a Concerted Strategic Framework

Commitments by all the countries on measures to strengthen their own regulatory frameworks in the region.

Component 3. Regional Action Plan

This component will produce a regional action plan concerted by the countries as well as a national action plans.

Component 4. Regional Health Strategy

This component will generate a technical health care standard to protect indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact, including essential contingency plans. It will also drive the formulation of a regional strategic framework and the creation of specialized medical teams to offer health care in situations of contact within each country.

Component 5. Sustainability Tools for the Regional Strategic Framework

To make sure that the Strategic Framework is implemented and remains sustainable this component will strengthen and improve capacities in Participant Countries and social groups in transboundary communities, especially indigenous groups, to carry out the necessary protection and surveillance activities, by:

- (i) deepening knowledge on indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact, their rights and territories in each country;
- (ii) training relevant actors in specific protection methodologies;

- (iii) developing a communication and information exchange strategy to raise society's awareness and facilitate regional monitoring.

Expected program results

This operation is expected to generate the following end products: a) the establishment of Working Groups on Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact and b) a Strategic framework for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact containing:

- (i) a document of consensus guidelines for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and the commitment of Member Countries to work in their incorporation into domestic legal frameworks;
- (ii) a Regional Action Plan validated by the Participating Countries to understand the issues of territorial protection, access control and health services appropriate to the situation of isolation;
- (iii) a technical standard of health care and health strategy agreed between countries and the creation of specialized medical equipment for indigenous peoples in isolation.

Strategic Partners

Inter – American Development Bank (IDB).

Cooperation opportunities

ACTO is open to new partners interested in supporting activities related to the mentioned components.



Foto: Gabriela Galli/Survival/Divulgação

Regional Tourism Observatory for the Amazon

An observatory is an integrated system of tourism information that centralizes studies, research and indicators for the continuous follow up of activities which are related to the productive chain of tourism and which have to be permanently updated. It is an important tool to support the decision-making process occurring in the public sector. As an integrated system, it has to be sustained by the participation of different wings of the government, the private sector and other actors in tourism development. It should integrate institutions of education, research and capacity building in the tourism observatory, all of which will play a fundamental role in the generation, organization, systematization of dates and information.

Objective

To create a system of tourism information which contains a data base on the state of tourism flows in the Member Countries and develops a follow-up methodology through the use of studies and applied research, conducted in key areas identified, by the countries of the Treaty.

Activities

Incorporate the Amazon countries in the process of sustainable tourism development in the region and establish for the public sector a base to support decision-making related to tourism policy in the public sector, who at once will evaluate the relevance of such information to the private sector and generate data related to the tourism product in the Amazon and indicate the major market segments and areas of potential. It will be necessary to research and to analyze environmental, cultural and economic impacts which are related to tourism especially in the local communities.



Strategic Partners

The UN-WTO (World Tourism Organization) shows interest in introducing in the Amazon Region a model of a tourism observatory which embraces a region of 8 Member Countries. The interest is that through the monitoring system which the Observatory makes possible, governments can maintain continuous communication of important data and updates about tourism activity, which in many cases can yield integrated actions among the countries, as well as the adoption of programs and the definition of specific objectives for the development of tourism.

Finance

Actually the member countries are in the process of evaluating the proposals of models to implement a regional tourism observatory in the Amazon. On the basis of these results they can look for different opportunities of financing. It is anticipated that existing infrastructure will be used to reduce the costs for this project.

Opportunities for new partners

It is proposed the creation of Management Tourism Nuclei (MTN) to coordinate the activities of the observatory in each country and to integrate them into the existing national committees. The MTN should be formed and structured in each country by the representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, private sector, NGOs and educational institutions related to tourism.



Integrated Tourism Circuits

The 3 integrated circuits prioritized by ACTO are pilot projects to initiate a process of development. Every circuit is a strategic alliance with different tourism actors in the field of tourism, nature and culture which are concentrating their efforts to operate and to market products that are competitive which satisfy criteria of socio-economic, environmental and commercial sustainability in their diverse manifestations.

In this context and together with the main actors of the Amazon countries they defined 3 integrated tourism circuits:

- The Amazon-Andes-Pacific Route / Brazil – Bolivia – Ecuador – Peru
- The Amazon-Caribbean Trail / Guyana – Suriname – Brazil
- The Amazon-Water Route / Brazil- Bolivia – Colombia -Ecuador – Peru

Objective

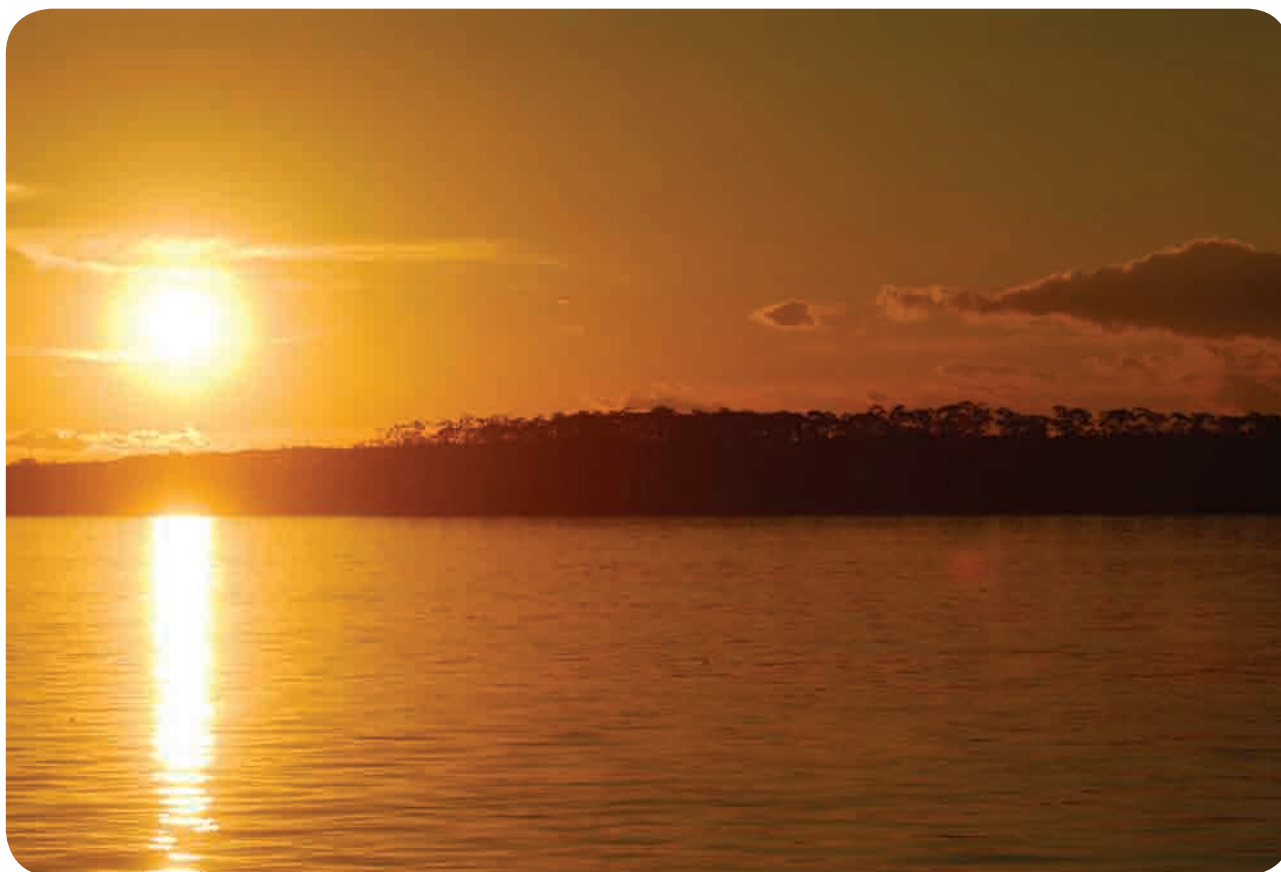
Promote the protection of the Amazon through integrated tourism circuits as a new product with high quality standards and responsibility in environmental, social and cultural aspects and promoting at the international level the sustainable development of the Amazon.

Activities

The principal activity is the construction of a Circuit Manual which is conceived as an element of specific communication oriented to the promotion of defined tourism products,

with uniform information, organized and agreed and capable of periodic updating. The Manual of the circuit is a useful tool to facilitate the process of guidance and information to operators (local, national and international) and other stakeholders. It seeks to increase the visibility and attractiveness of the circuit as part of the Geo-Destination Amazonia, besides being a bridge of connection between the generators of a particular offer and the market demand. It allows end user to understand and interpret fully the offer from the comprehensive display of the destination.





Strategic partners

Strategic partners are the Ministries of Tourism in each amazon country and other Ministries which are related to tourism, forming part of the tourism productive chain such as Environment, Health, Transport, Culture and Foreign Affairs.

Finance

Currently, there is the support of the Regional Program for the Amazon for International Cooperation for the opening of the regional

dialogue and the preparation of documents which are generated in the respective meetings and discussions on this theme. The actual sum needed to finance these activities is yet to be defined by the Member Countries.

Opportunities for new partners

International NGOs have shown their interest in the theme of integrated circuits. They can contribute to the development of criteria and standards for sustainability

Environmentally Sustainable Community-Based Tourism Sales Text

Community-based Tourism is that form of tourism where the natural, cultural and/or historical and other resources present in that community are developed and marketed with the aim of generating tourism revenues for the benefit of the community. In the Amazon region where many indigenous and rural communities face hardships and are challenged to identify sustainable modes of economic development, community-based tourism offers a possible solution especially to those communities that possess the appropriate natural and cultural resources on which to base tourism activity.

Objective

To support the Member Countries in the development of environmentally sustainable community-based tourism guided by jointly agreed principles aimed at optimizing the benefits for the communities of the region and by an exchange of experiences and best practices.

Activities in the Short Term

1. Identification of an appropriate Pilot-community
2. An inventory of the community-based tourism product
3. Identification of the principal internal and external actors in the tourism enterprise
4. Elaboration of a community vision of its tourism future in the short, medium and long terms.
5. Proposal of Lines of action necessary to realize that vision.

Strategic Partners

In this initiative the strategic partners are the tourism authorities in the Countries involved, the members of the community who are the owners of the community resources and the business sector who would provide the services.



Finance

A regional quantum will be decided after the compilation of the data relevant to the development and marketing of the tourism product.

Opportunities for new Partners

Opportunities exist for new partners to contribute to the rendering of technical support, capacity building or the strengthening of marketing capability in the pilot communities identified.