



ACTO

Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization

AMAZON

Cooperation

INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING AND
INTEGRATED ACTION

MANAGEMENT 2023



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CARLOS LAZARY
Executive Director



ALEXANDRA MOREIRA
Secretary General



CARLOS SALINAS
Administrative Director



EDITORIAL

This publication chronicles the conclusion of the period of our management at the head of the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, which began in 2019. The year 2023 was marked by the renewal of the guidelines of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which, on its 45th anniversary, was revitalized by the Belém Declaration.

The persevering work towards the viability and strengthening of the Organization reached an unprecedented milestone with the Summit of Presidents of ACTO Member Countries on August 9 in Belém do Pará, Brazil, which recognizes this path of institutional strengthening.

We are seriously working with ambition on the execution and implementation of new projects, we are intensifying our dialogue with member countries and partner institutions, and we are guided by a constructive and positive agenda.

We overcame the initial challenges; we remained active and diligent during the COVID-19 pandemic and guided the work of the Permanent Secretariat to take ACTO on a path of strong institutionality. We are sure that the results obtained at the regional level by ACTO are additional to those obtained by the Treaty Member Countries.

We share with satisfaction the achievements obtained during the period in which we had the honorable mission of assuming the Permanent Secretariat. We thank the entire staff of the Permanent Secretariat, the cooperators and partners and, above all, we thank the Member Countries for their trust and support. We wish great success to the new management that the Permanent Secretariat will assume from 2024.



The Amazon:

Multisectoral Sustainable
Development



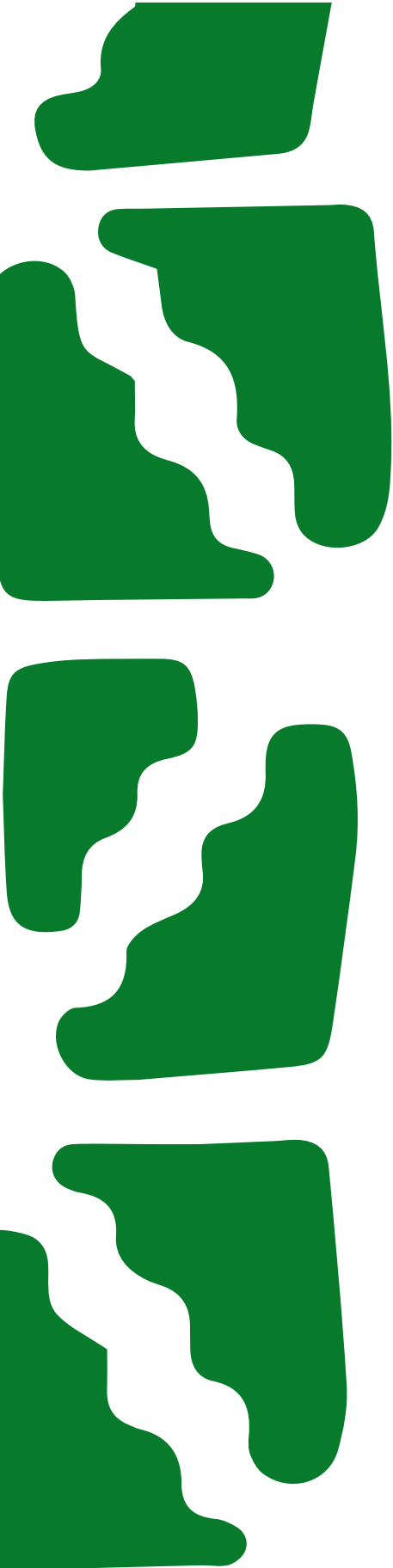
It is essential to understand the Amazon in its widest dimension, as a biome of complex interconnections that requires management measures at the cross-border, multisectoral and multilevel levels. In addition, it faces a number of threats that endanger his integrity.

Sustainable development requires action beyond administrative borders. To conduct development from the perspective of the multiscale, which integrates

social, environmental, economic and cultural perspectives and takes into account climate issues, is a way to promote a holistic and integrated vision for the territory.

The Amazon region is made up of more than 7 million km² which represent 6% of the surface of planet Earth. It is a transboundary biome that spans eight countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela - reaching more than the 40% of the





surface of South America.

The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, with an immense variety of flora and fauna species that make the region an important global center of biological diversity. In addition, it is an important area of endemism - with species that exist only in this biome - which is considered an important genetic reserve for the development of humanity.

The more than a thousand tributaries that join the Amazon River along its 6,900 km of extension forming the Amazon Basin, create a formidable set of rivers and water flows that contribute 20% of all the fresh water that reaches the oceans. The Amazonian Hydrological Cycle feeds a complex system of aquifers and groundwater whose extension is estimated at almost 4 million km².

In addition to being the largest watershed in the world, the Amazon produces a unique hydrological mechanism, known as 'flying rivers'. Through it, part of the rainwater that falls on the region returns to the atmosphere and is moved by wind currents that distribute moisture to the American continent. Scientists estimate that the so-called flying rivers carry about 20 billion tons of water by air per day, 3 tons more than the amount of water in the Amazon River.

As well as providing important ecosystem services, the hydrological and biodiversity dynamics of the region contribute to regulating the climate of the region and the planet, through processes of evapotranspiration and carbon absorption, which accentuates the relevance of the Amazon in a global and contemporary perspective of climate change.

Moreover, the Amazon is much more than a physical environment.

Its innumerable landscapes, which are modified throughout the territory accompanying the course of the river that rises in the Andes Mountains and flows into the Atlantic Ocean, host a wealth of people, with immense cultural, social, political and economic diversity, formed by human groups of varied ethnic origins, home to more than 50 million inhabitants.

Despite all its immensity, strength and power, the Amazon is vulnerable to human action and the effects it produces. The region has been susceptible to deforestation, illegal logging, land use changes such as agriculture and mining, burning, wildlife trafficking and extreme weather events.

The eight Amazonian countries have carried out important actions to prevent and combat biodiversity loss, to strengthen conservation and stimulate the sustainable use of forests, to preserve and protect water and their peoples. Each of them acts in response to national needs and in accordance with their commitments together with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

In this sense, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) contributes to a regional action of the eight Countries and we are proud of the results of our work for the region and of the credibility we have gained along with important actors working together for the Amazon.

Get to know the Amazon better through its impressive figures!



POPULATION AND CULTURE

50 million of inhabitants

420 indigenous peoples, speaking more than

370 languages



More than 7 million km²



ENDEMIC SPECIES

WHICH ONLY EXIST IN THE AMAZON

30 thousand species of plants

3 thousand species of fish

384 species of amphibians

550 species of reptiles

950 species of birds

350 species of mammals

57 species of primates



25 thousand km of navigable rivers

More than a 1 thousand tributaries reach the 6,900 km of extension of the Amazon River

20% of all the fresh water that reaches the oceans comes from the Amazon Basin

That 20% becomes 70% of fresh water supply in South America

20 billion tons of water travel down the flying rivers from the Amazon basin

The Amazon River advances

200 km towards the Atlantic Ocean





Amazon Summit



The Belém Declaration constitutes a strategic mandate for ACTO

The Summit of Presidents of the eight Amazonian countries discussed priorities, the importance of regional results for national scope and established a Declaration that strengthens regional cooperation for the Amazon.

The Amazon Summit renews its political will for the region and strengthens it as a provider of solutions and opportunities

On August 8 and 9, 2023, Belém do Pará, Brazil, hosted the Summit of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. During the meeting, which mobilized the heads of state of the eight Amazonian countries to renew regional commitments, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) played a strategic and substantial role in the dialogues and in shaping the Belém Declaration, a document that established a renewed regional agenda and consolidated the Organization's role in regional integration.

With new and broader guidelines and a pragmatic approach, the Declaration of Belém promotes the work of ACTO, which in turn implies strengthening national, binational and trinational action among member countries, including more action in border areas.

In addition, the Declaration reinforces, strengthens and modernizes ACTO's institutionality and governance to the extent that it updates the organization's own mandates and encourages it to use new management and consolidation tools.



The Belém Declaration, composed of 113 cross-cutting objectives and principles, includes topics such as:

- Institutional strengthening of ACTO
- Amazonian cities
- The Amazon Parliament
- Science, education and innovation: knowledge and entrepreneurship in the Amazon
- Monitoring and cooperation in water resources management
- Climate change
- Protection of forests, Amazonian coastal areas, vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity
- Police, judicial and intelligence cooperation in the fight against illegal activities, including environmental crimes
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Economics for sustainable development
- Health
- Food and nutrition security and sovereignty
- Social protection



“ACTO is the only intergovernmental coordination body of the eight Amazonian countries for the joint development of projects and actions that produce equitable and beneficial results for the Amazonian countries, due to its institutionality, its extensive knowledge of the region and the relevant experience of its Permanent Secretariat in the coordination of dialogue and in the execution of development cooperation initiatives”

“This Declaration with new guidelines, not only encourages ACTO, but also each of the governments of the countries so that they strengthen themselves, at the national level, respecting their Amazonian territories, especially in the border areas, revitalizing the agendas of binational and trinational cooperation. I want to express our gratitude for the proposal to attend to ACTO to reinforce, strengthen and modernize the institution and governance”, thanks made by the Secretary General of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira, to the heads of State present at the Amazon Summit.

Get to know in full the Belém Declaration, signed by the leaders of ACTO States parties on August 9, 2023.



ACT

45th anniversary of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and 21 years of ACTO

A historic milestone in regional cooperation for the protection, preservation and sustainable development of the Amazon, strengthened by ACTO

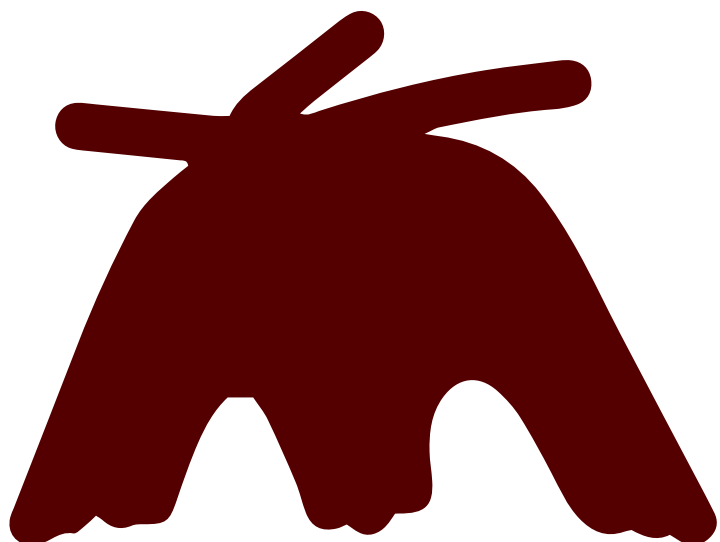
On July 3, 2023, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela celebrated the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT), a historic milestone in regional cooperation for the protection, preservation and sustainable development of the Amazon region.

The signing of the Treaty is the result of intense diplomatic work to sign the commitment to cooperation between the countries, as a tool for convergence and strengthening of public policies of the Member Countries oriented towards the region, always respecting national sovereignty.

The ACT established the proposal of “harmonious development”, in line with the thesis of balancing development with ecology, established at the First United Nations Conference on the Environment (Stockholm-72) and anticipating the concept of “sustainable development” established in 1987 by the Brundtland Report, which means an innovative form of cooperation since the beginning of its history.

The Treaty, which established a permanent mechanism for diversified and growing cooperation for the Amazon Basin region, was composed of five fundamental principles:

- 1 The exclusive competence of the countries of the region in the development and protection of the Amazon
- 2 The national sovereignty in the use and preservation of natural resources and the consequent absolute priority of internal effort in the development policy of the Amazonian areas of each State
- 3 Regional cooperation as a way to facilitate the achievement of these objectives
- 4 The balance and harmony between development and ecological protection
- 5 The absolute equality between all Member Countries

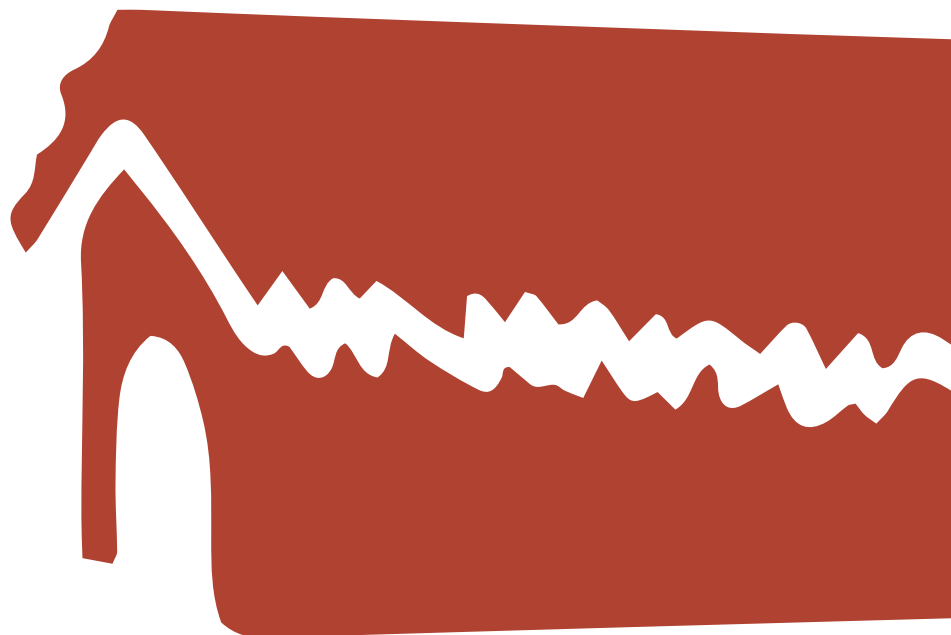
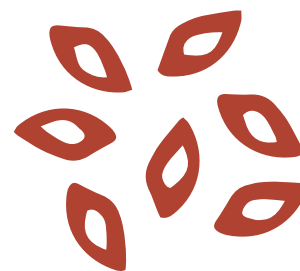


With the passage of time, in a context of strengthening global discussions on the environment and greater visibility of the Amazon, the ATT experienced a boost. The proposal for the construction of a permanent Intergovernmental entity dedicated to the implementation of the Treaty and its objectives was strengthened.

In 1998, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) was born, which celebrates 25 years of activities on December 14, 2023. In 2002, the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO was established, with headquarters in Brasilia.

The ACTO, through its Permanent Secretariat, works based on the ACT guidelines to promote the integrated and sustainable development of the Amazon territories. Its action is guided by strategic axes that

reflect the needs and priorities of the eight countries of the region, both in infrastructure actions and in development projects, mainly in technical-scientific cooperation.



The ceremony celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Treaty was attended by the Brazil's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, the main Brazilian articulator of the signing of the Treaty, the ambassador of Colombia to Brazil and president of the Coordination Commission of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR), Guillermo Rivera, the president director of the National Water and Basic Sanitation Agency (ANA, Brazil), Veronica Sanchez, the director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), Ruy Pereira, Senator Nelsinho Trad, president of the Amazonian Parliament, ambassadors and diplomats of the Member Countries and other countries, and representatives of international cooperation, received by the directors of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira, secretary general, Ambassador Carlos Lazary, executive director and Carlos Salinas, administrative director.





Management

Persevering work to consolidate the institutions and make ACTO more visible

The current Directorate of the Permanent Secretariat concludes its mandate in January 2024, with its work centered on strengthening of cooperation among Member Countries, alignment with the international sustainable development agenda, the expansion of the portfolio of projects and cooperators and the strengthening of the functioning of the Organization.

Overview

A close-up photograph of a crocodile's head resting on a rock in shallow water. The water is clear and shows ripples, reflecting the light. The crocodile's head is dark and textured, with its eye visible. The rock is dark and has some lichen or algae on it. The overall scene is natural and serene.

Building and working for the sustainable development of the Amazon Biome, seeking greater environmental balance and social equity



Cooperation between **eight Amazonian countries**

More than **30 global partners**

Four macro action programs dedicated to forests, biodiversity, international cooperation, fires and health.

More than 20 projects on natural resources, sociological issues, health, knowledge and technology, climate change and indigenous peoples.

Creation and implementation of the **Amazon Regional Observatory**

Governance of ACTO: maturity

The current directorate of ACTO Permanent Secretariat focuses on promoting maturity and strengthening its identity

In 25 years of activity, ACTO has obtained many achievements, the result of the intense cooperation between the Member Countries and ACTO Permanent Secretariat. This year we are celebrating achievements that represent the institutional maturity built in the Organization.

The current directorate of ACTO Permanent Secretariat, whose term began in 2019 and ends in January 2024, has been dedicated to strengthening the identity of the Organization and enhancing its leading role in the global scenario of sustainable development.

By choosing to promote a pragmatic, operational, scientific and proactive approach, the Permanent Secretariat has broadened the ambition of the commitments and activities of ACTO towards the promotion of greater harmonious, integrated and sustainable development for the region, with greater implementation of the work in the Amazon territory and greater promotion for the region.

The centrality of ACTO as an interlocutor on the Amazon allowed the Organization to assume an important role in the political event, the most significant borderline for the region was the signing of the Belém Declaration, signed by the presidents of the eight ACTO Member Countries during the Amazon Summit, held in Belém, in August 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS MANAGEMENT

- **Strategic management**
- **Intense cooperation between member countries and the Permanent Secretariat**
- **Central role as interlocutor in the Amazon**
- **Resumption of meetings of the Amazon Cooperation Council (ACC)**
- **XIV Meeting of ACTO Foreign Ministers, after six years**
- **Active participation in drafting and negotiating the Belem Declaration**
- **Significant expansion of strategic partners**
- **Expansion and increase in project portfolio**
- **Negotiating and securing new funding for project implementation**
- **Participation in international and regional forums**
- **First Rapid Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region under the IPBES methodology**
- **Approval and implementation of the ACTO Programs: ACTO Forestry Program for the Amazon Basin and Region, Biodiversity Program for the Amazon Basin/Region and Strategic Actions Program for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Amazon Basin (PAE).**
- **Construction, implementation and constant updating of the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA) and the Situation Room.**
- **Construction of the new ACTO headquarters and obtaining an additional floor for its expansion**
- **Co-organization of international events with strategic partners and international cooperation partners**

Expansion of cooperators

Expansion of technical and financial cooperation for sustainable development in the Amazon region

Cooperation is the basis of our history. The credibility and prominence of ACTO provided growth and strengthening of technical and financial cooperation with relevant actors on the global stage in the issues in which ACTO acts.

Cooperation agreements and Memorandum

- MapBiomass Support Institute (IAMap)
- Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)
- Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Projects being implemented in 2023:

- Bioamazon Project: Regional Project for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Species Threatened by Trade (KfW, German Cooperation)
- Amazonas Project: (Phase II) Regional Action in the Area of Water Resources (ANA Brazil, ABC, MRE, CPRM)
- Support for the implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation (ABC, MRE)
- Amazon Basin Project: Implementation of the Strategic Action Program in the Amazon River Basin considering Climate Variability and Change (GEF, UN Environment)
- Contingency Plan for the Protection of the Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact - PIACI (IDB)
- Biomaz Project: Support for the implementation of the ACTO Biodiversity Program within the CBD in Latin America (BMZ, GIZ)
- Forestry Program for the Amazon Basin and Region (ABC, MRE)
- Development of a Hydrological Platform and a

Simulation Model of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus for the Amazon Basin (COWI, TNC)

- Preparation of the PIF project: Towards a Better Understanding of the Amazon Aquifer Systems for their Protection and Sustainable Management (IDB, UNEP)
- Preparation of the project for the GCF phase: Improving climate resilience by increasing water security in the Amazon Basin (IDB)
- Improvements to the Amazon Regional Observatory (KfW, ANA Brasil, ABC, MRE)
- Regional overview of mercury contamination in the Amazon Basin
- Strengthening and expansion of the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA) in the areas of Climate Change, Forests and Biodiversity (CAF)
- Amazon Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities within the framework of ACTO (Euroclima+, ECLAC, GIZ, AECID)
- Study on sociodemographic inequality gaps in the Amazon region: proposal of indicators for their visibility (ABC, ACTO, ECLAC)
- Cross-border Regional Action Plan on Drinking Water, Basic Sanitation and Solid Waste Management (IDB)

New projects (2024):

- Sustainable Amazon Management Activity (USAID)
- New technical cooperation (IDB) - ORA approach
- Technical Cooperation Project with ACTO for Integrated Fire Management in the Amazon Basin/ Region (GIZ)
- Towards a better understanding of Amazon aquifer systems for their protection and sustainable management (IDB, UNEP)
- Amazonia + (Italian Cooperation)
- Regional Forests and Climate Change Project (BNDES Amazon Fund)
- Phase 2: Improving climate resilience by increasing water security in the Amazon Basin (IDB, GCF)
- Technical Assistance: ORA, Forests and Gap Studies (World Bank)

Dialogue and visibility

Strengthening ACTO's role with the main players on the regional and global sustainable development scene

ACTO had a prominent presence at more than 70 high-level international events throughout 2023. These events addressed a variety of critical issues, including sustainable development, water resource management, biodiversity conservation, environmental and climate finance, forest fire prevention, climate change, as well as the dissemination of scientific information on the Amazon.

Participating in and organizing events is essential for publicizing ACTO's initiatives and seeking strategic alliances and greater investments to give visibility to the Amazon Region and its urgent needs, as well as for positioning the Organization.

ACTO participates in the United Nations Conference on Water

The first time ACTO sat in a UN assembly was during the United Nations Water Conference 2023, which took place in March 2023 in New York, introducing itself as an observer to the UN General Assembly.

In addition to having a seat in the main programming of the Conference, ACTO in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the National Water Agency (ANA - Brazil) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized the side event "Transboundary Cooperation and Science for the Sustainable Management of Amazonian Waters" in the context of the United Nations Conference on Water 2023.



United Nations Conference on Climate Change - COP 28

The Secretary General of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira, was a prominent panelist at a side event during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in Dubai. Her intervention, held virtually on December 2, focused on "Progress in building the Platform of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon within the framework of ACTO as a contribution to compliance with the Paris Agreement".

During her participation, the Secretary General pointed out that ACTO is currently immersed in the creation of the first platform at the level of the eight Amazonian countries. This platform seeks to recognize the value of the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples in climate action.



Fundamental progress for the Amazon: ACTO and IDB sign letter of intent at European meeting

On September 15, OTCA Secretary General Alexandra Moreira took part in a meeting of ministers and representatives of Amazonian countries, European partners and international organizations in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, where the “Amazonia Forever” program was presented. The event was co-chaired by the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Ilan Goldfajn, and by the First Vice-President and Minister of Economy of the Government of Spain, Nadia Calviño, and was held within the framework of the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Union (ECOFIN).

On the occasion, ACTO and the IDB signed a Letter of Intent with the aim of strengthening environmental protection, ACTO’s institutional structure, promoting sustainable cities, protecting water resources and supporting scientific, technological and innovative development in the Amazon region.

EU-CELAC Business Roundtable in Brussels

On July 17, ACTO Secretary General Alexandra Moreira took part in the EU-CELAC Business Roundtable in Brussels, focusing on sustainable and inclusive economic integration. Investment opportunities were discussed in sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, decarbonization, infrastructure, connectivity and sustainable finance. The Secretary General stressed the importance of understanding the Amazon from a holistic perspective, highlighting its economic and environmental potential. She emphasized the need for development that meets the social and economic needs of the Amazonian population while preserving the forest and biodiversity. He also encouraged companies to invest in Amazonian socio-biodiversity in international markets and in the region’s green infrastructure.

Some events where ACTO was present in 2023

- Regional Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Technical Table on Forest Fires
- UN Water Conference
- RIOC Sustainability in Good Governance of Groundwater Resources (side event)
- Groundwater: An invisible cross-sectorial fundament for Implementation of Water Action Agenda (Side event GEF)
- From goals to results: the scenario of water resources and sanitation in Brazil (Side Event ANA)
- Global Facility for Transboundary Water Cooperation (World Bank)
- Actionable Scientific Research and Information for the Amazonia and Tropical Forests (scooping Workshop)
- Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- Improving climate resilience by increasing water security in the Amazon Basin
- IV Meeting of Experts on Fire
- 8th International Wildland Fire Conference
- 7th Meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Adaptation
- International Forum on the Amazon
- V Meeting of Forest Authorities
- Scientific Technical Meeting in Leticia
- EU-LAC Business Round Table
- 33rd Meeting of the Forestry Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (COFLAC)
- Science by and for the Amazon (IANAS and ABC)
- The Amazon Summit
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES10)
- The Amazon and New Economies International Conference (IBRAM)
- Meeting of jaguar range States (CITES)
- National Workshop of the Strategic Actions Program: Ecuador
- National Workshop of the Strategic Actions Program: Peru
- Summit of the Three Basins of Biodiversity and Tropical Forests
- Meeting of the Standing Conference (CITES77)
- United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28)
- Task Force Nexus
- Aracaju Forum (WAITING)



Financial Management

Increased effectiveness in financial
management and consolidation of
the sustainability of ACTO

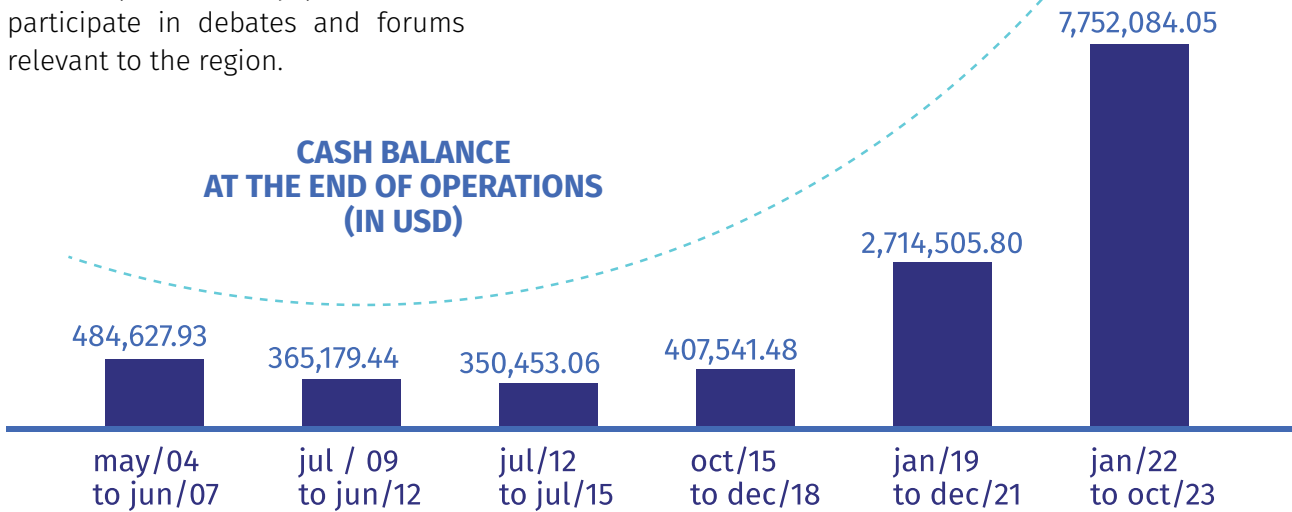


The sustainability of the institution and budgetary recovery were the principles that guided the performance of the 2019-2023 management of the Permanent Secretariat. The year 2023 shows that there have been positive results in this regard, guaranteeing a structure so that the organization can expand its activities, promote greater coordination with cooperators, stay present, and participate in debates and forums relevant to the region.

At the end of the current management, there was a budgetary recovery, with the increase in revenues and the diversification of financing, as well as a better effectiveness in the realization of expenses, with a greater efficiency in the execution of projects and optimization of operational costs. The graphs on the following pages show some relevant results.



CASH BALANCE AT THE END OF OPERATIONS (IN USD)

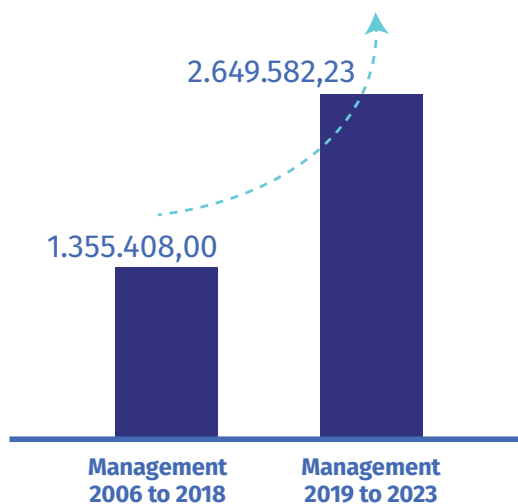


EXPANDED CASH BALANCE

The balance of income and expenses, the diversification of income and the procedures of management and a rigorous austerity plan have allowed to expand the cash balance of ACTO sixteen times in the last almost two decades.

Con una economía Inteligente y eficiente de ejecución, la OTCA ha moldado su sostenibilidad financiera en 2023

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF QUOTAS RECEIVED FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES



INCREASE IN THE RECEIPT OF QUOTAS FROM ACTO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

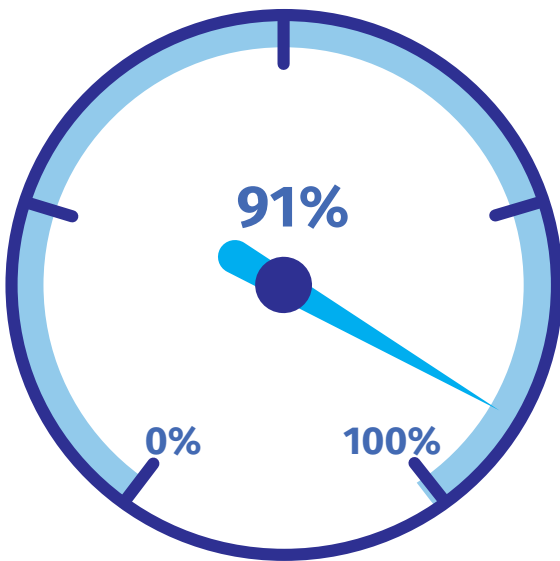
The current management has increased the average amount of fees paid by Member Countries by 95% compared to the previous period. The amount was more than USD 2.7 million.

SEED CAPITAL

Considering Resolution RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/02, adopted at the XIV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and in accordance with the Declaration of the IV Meeting of the Presidents of the States Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, adopted in Belém-Brazil on August 8, 2023, ACTO should create its own financial mechanism for Amazonian cooperation, which will enable non-reimbursable financial resources to be raised and capitalized from various sources, including voluntary contributions from States Parties and resources from international cooperation, development banks and other donors.

The aim of the mechanism will be to finance projects, programs, studies and other initiatives at national and regional level, as well as the monitoring activities of the Amazon Regional Observatory. The construction of its own financial mechanism is an urgent next step for ACTO and, to this end, the current Board of Directors has set aside USD 5.5 million as seed money.

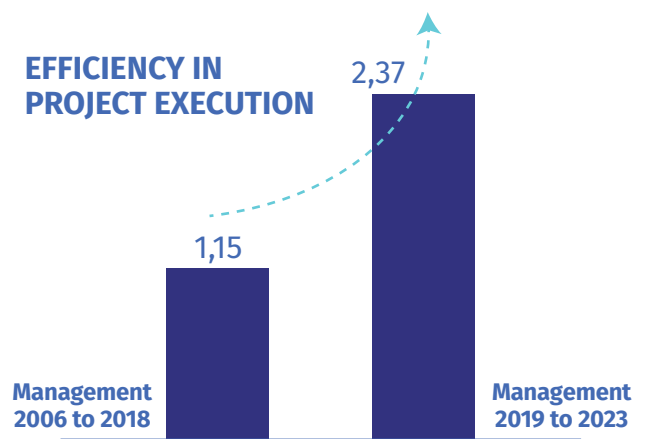
COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS BETWEEN THE PERIODS 2006-20018 AND 2023-2024



This is the percentage increase in the number of projects underway in 2023 and early 2024. Compared to the 2006-2018 period.



EFFICIENCY IN PROJECT EXECUTION



For every USD 1 of ACTO operating expenditure, administrations from 2006 to 2018 managed to execute an average of USD 1.15 in projects, while the current administration managed to execute USD 2.37. This shows that the current management has needed less OTCA funding costs to execute more project resources.

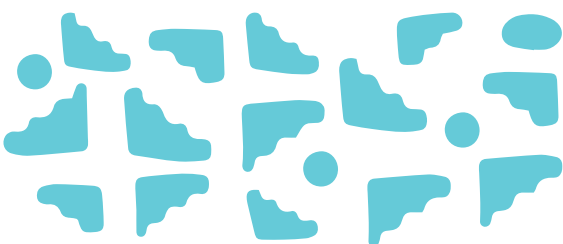
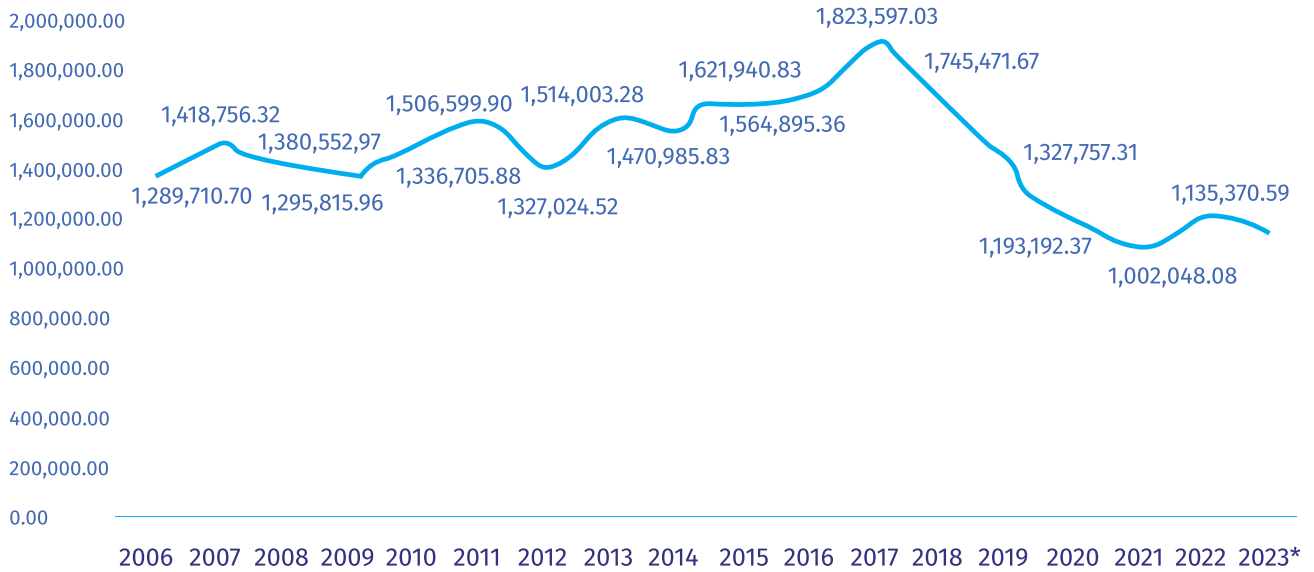
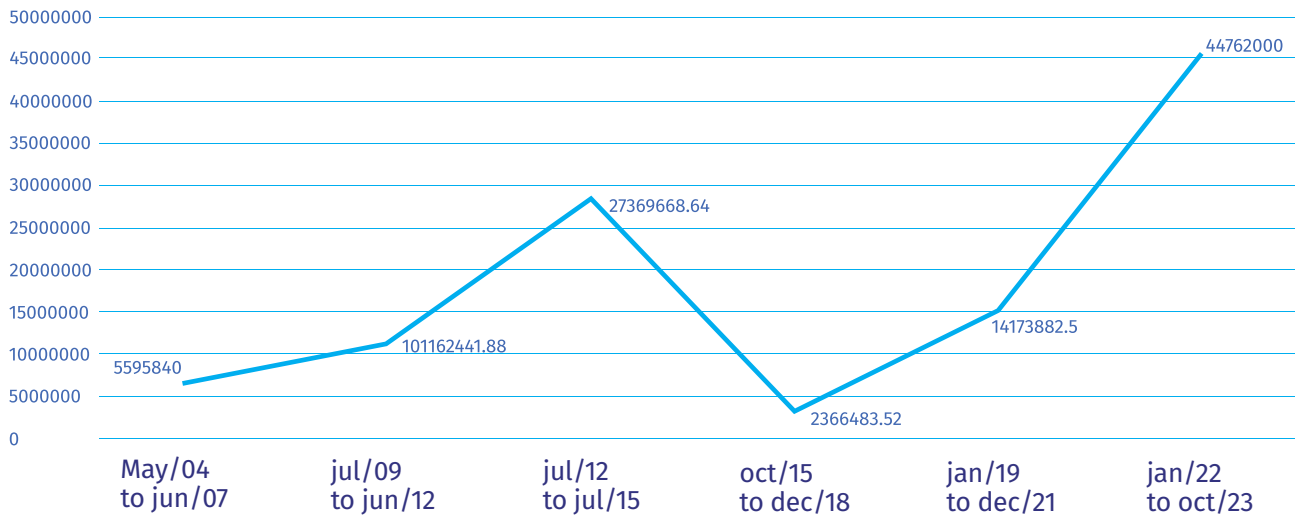


CHART OF ACTO OPERATING EXPENSES FROM OWN RESOURCES



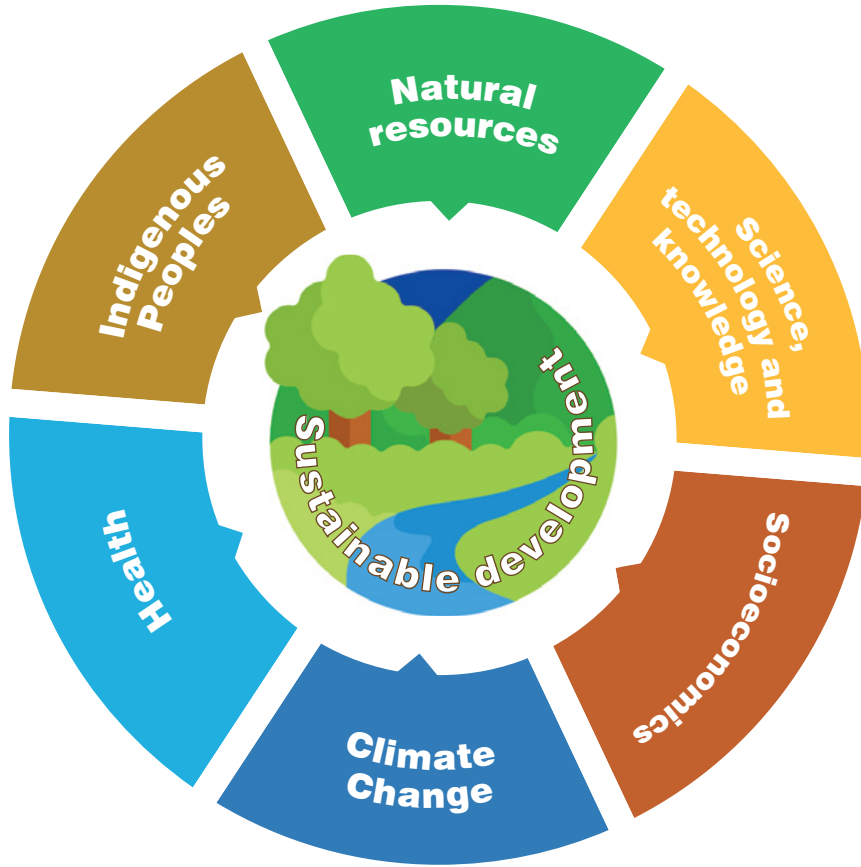
Expenses updated to October 30, 2023

TOTAL ACCUMULATED RESOURCES MANAGED BY PROJECTS AND NEGOTIATED (USD)



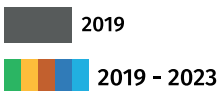
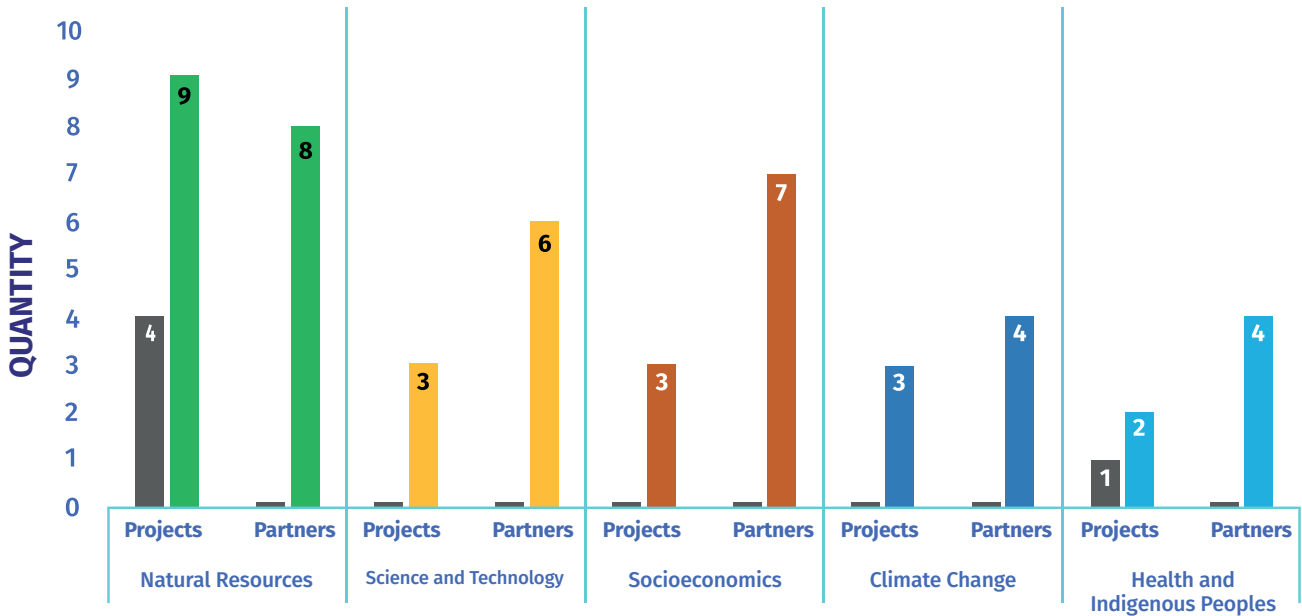


**Projects
Completed**

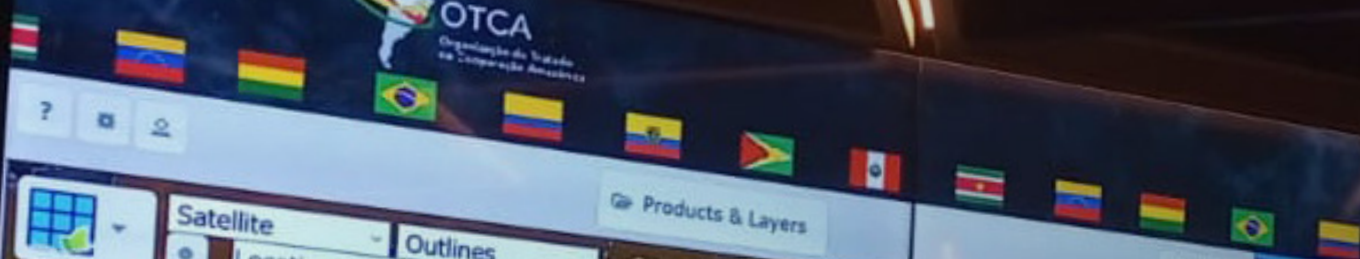


Total in 2019	
Projects being completed and received for implementation - Projects received	5

Total in 2019-2023	
Projects under implementation and set for execution in 2024	20
Partnerships (MoU) - opportunities for collaboration	29



STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS VS WORK AREA



Satellite

Outlines

Location Search

Products & Layers



2023-02-01 17:00hrs
x:6, y:10, z:4

Share

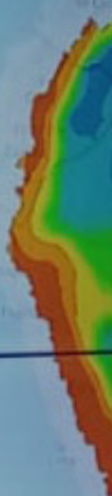
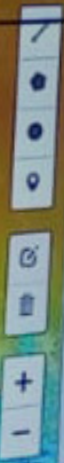
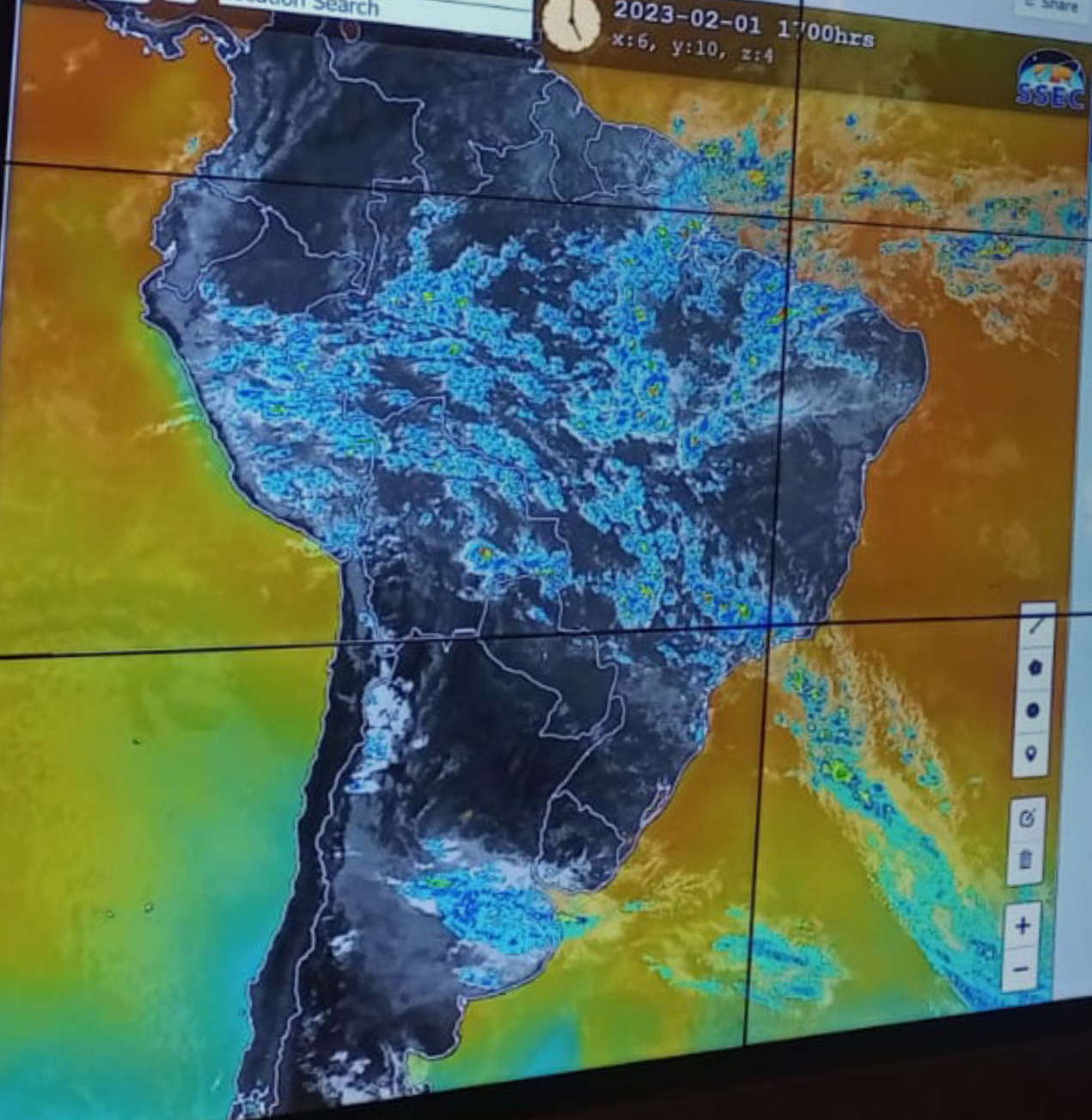


Meteorologi

← →

Gmail

ORA



ARO



Amazon Regional Observatory

Reference center for regional scientific-technological information provides products and services that collaborate with Member Countries at national and subnational level, with real-time monitoring, early warning and analytical information, consolidate itself as a vehicle for technology transfer



Amazon Regional Observatory

During 2023, the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA) reached significant milestones in its consolidation as a source of specialized information on the Amazon Region. Firstly, it is worth highlighting the fire event monitoring services, which were developed thanks to the support of the Management and Operational Center of the Amazon Protection System (CENSIPAM/Brazil), the National Institute for Space Research (INPE/Brazil) and the European Union, as well as Member Countries.

In June 2023, with the support of CENSIPAM, a near real-time fire event monitoring service was implemented, updated every two hours. This service covers the Amazon territories of the eight member countries and integrates forecast information from INPE (conditions favorable to fire events, humidity, precipitation and temperature), NASA hot spots (Aqua, NOAA, SNPP and Terra satellites) and INPE.

This service has enabled the creation and dissemination of a daily fire event monitoring bulletin, with a special focus on cross-border events. Likewise, a weekly report is produced focusing on the Amazon Trapezium, the MAP Zone (the triple border of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia, the Madre de Dios Zone, Acre and Pando) and the border axis between Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela, including detailed information on states or provinces with a high incidence of fire events. In addition, reports are generated on fire events in Bolivia and related droughts in 14 Amazonian cities, taking into account the extreme weather conditions affecting the region in 2023.

Among the new modules

developed is the Water Resources Module, which provides cartographic information on the state of water bodies in the Amazon, including details on illegal mining and the presence of mercury in these territories. The MSME Module has also been developed, with the aim of promoting production chains related to Amazonian biodiversity products, currently with six active production chains. These include *Arapaima Gigas* (paiche, pirarucu), *Bertholletia excelsa* (chestnut), *Copaifera langsdorffii* (copaiba), *Euterpe oleracea* (açai), *Mauritia Fleuxosa* (aguaje, royal palm) and species of the genus *Potamotrygon* (freshwater rays).

During 2023, other initiatives were also carried out. These include the start of the development of the control panel linked to the results of the study entitled “Support for the identification of sociodemographic inequality gaps in the Amazon Region: proposal of indicators for their visibility”. This project was implemented under the Framework Cooperation Agreement between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO. This dashboard identifies measurable socio-demographic indicators in the territories that make up the Amazon Region, serving as the basis for the creation of the matrix of social inequalities of the Amazon population, with a focus on the ACTO Member Countries.

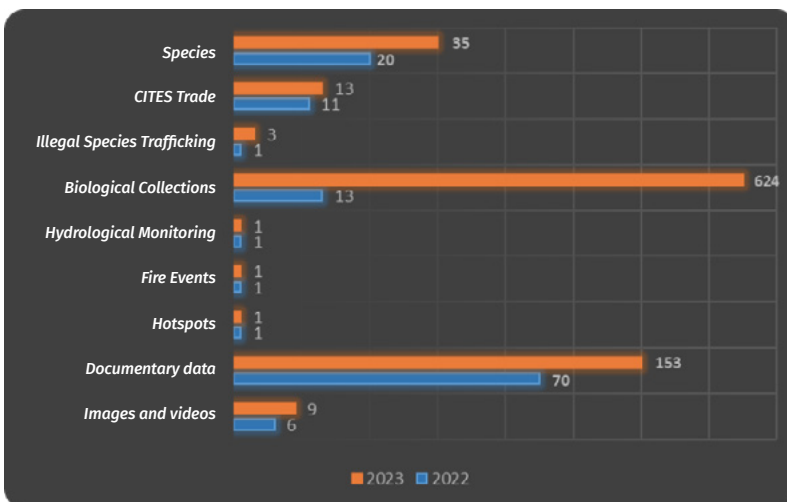
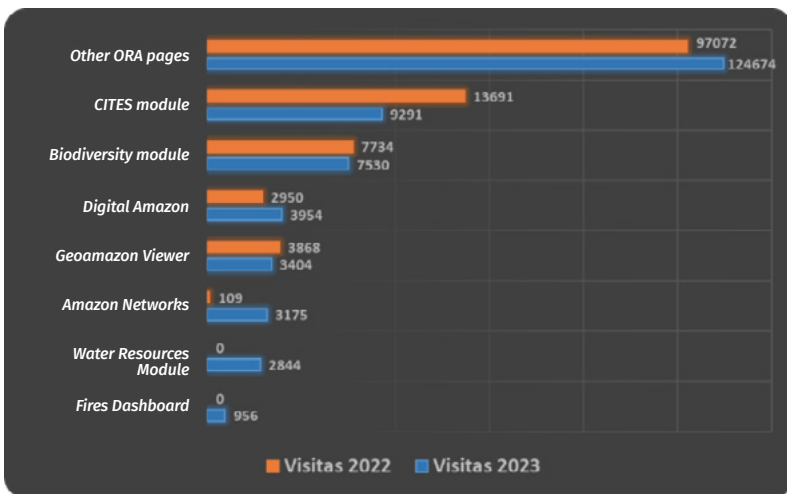
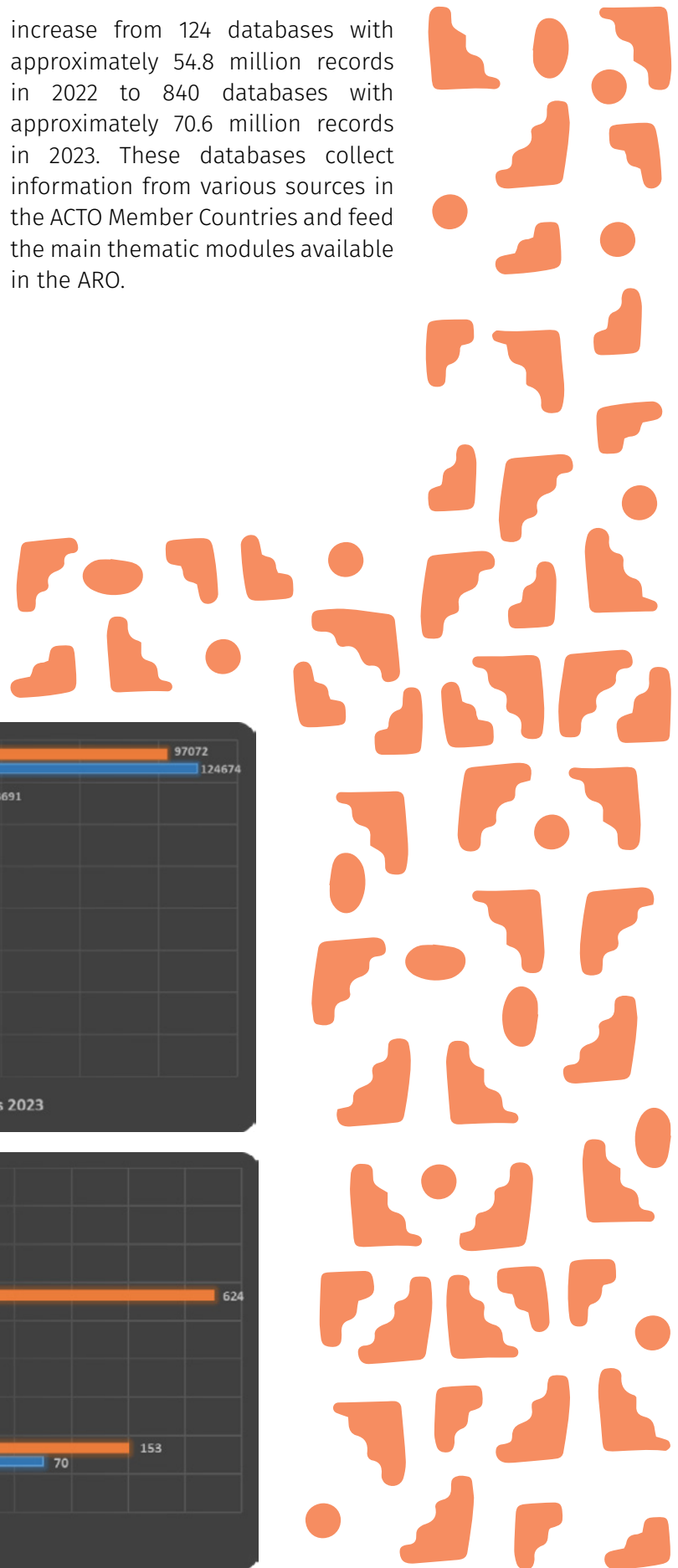
At the same time, in mid-2023, processes were initiated through technical meetings to start developing the Indigenous Platform. The main objective of this platform is to house relevant information on the knowledge, culture and wisdom of indigenous peoples. In addition, work was carried out on



the Indigenous Peoples Module, which includes panels with basic information on 361 Amazonian peoples, along with visualizations of 3,700 communities. During the same period, the database of institutions (with 454 records) and researchers (with 175 records from the eight Member Countries) was developed for RedCIA, laying the foundations for the future development of this module as a platform for exchange and collaboration between actors in the scientific sector in the Amazon. In addition, the implementation of the Climate Change Module has begun, which will contain crucial information on the sources of emissions that contribute to global warming.

On the other hand, during 2023, the ARO achieved a remarkable

increase from 124 databases with approximately 54.8 million records in 2022 to 840 databases with approximately 70.6 million records in 2023. These databases collect information from various sources in the ACTO Member Countries and feed the main thematic modules available in the ARO.





Cooperation for
**the protection
of forests**

ACTO participates as an observer of the meetings of the Forestry Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (COFLAC), a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA), through the integration of technology and data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE, Brazil) and the Management and Operational Center of the Amazon Protection System (CENSIPAM, Brazil), allows Member Countries to generate diagnoses and forecasts, as well as plan field actions. The Observatory, which provides valuable information to countries, including alerts on floods, droughts and fires, has the main objective of providing essential information to guide public policies and support decision-making in line with the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon.

A study on Socio-demographic Inequality Gaps in the Amazon Region generated a diagnosis of the socioeconomic situation of the territories, comparing it with the general data of each country. Although they are considered as middle-income countries, the Amazon territories require specific measures and differentiated investment to promote the socio-economic development of the region.

The Fifth Meeting of Forestry Authorities from ACTO Member Countries was held on June 21 in Quito, Ecuador, with the aim of resuming regional dialogue on forestry actions. The aim was to define and prioritize short-, medium- and long-term actions within the framework of the ACTO Forest Programme. It was also proposed to promote dialogue with organizations such as COFLAC, FAO COFO and UNFF. The importance of strengthening capacities to face the global challenges of the forest and biodiversity in the Amazon Region was emphasized.



A toucan bird with a large, colorful beak is perched on a mossy branch in a lush green forest. The bird has dark blue and black feathers with a yellow ring around its eye. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

Cooperation for **the conservation of biological diversity**

The Biological Diversity Program for the Amazon Basin and Region of ACTO is a strategic regional framework for the coordinated management of biodiversity. It contributes to the countries of the region achieving the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In December 2023, ACTO officially published the “Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services of the Amazon Basin/Region”, which is the first sub-regional assessment at a global level that follows the methodology and conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Scientific-Normative Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). More than 118 independent authors from the Amazon countries, including indigenous experts, took part in the preparation, guided by a Scientific Committee made up of experts from the ACTO Member Countries.



ACTO Permanent Secretariat participated for the first time in the inaugural and high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15/CBD) presenting the strategic regional framework.

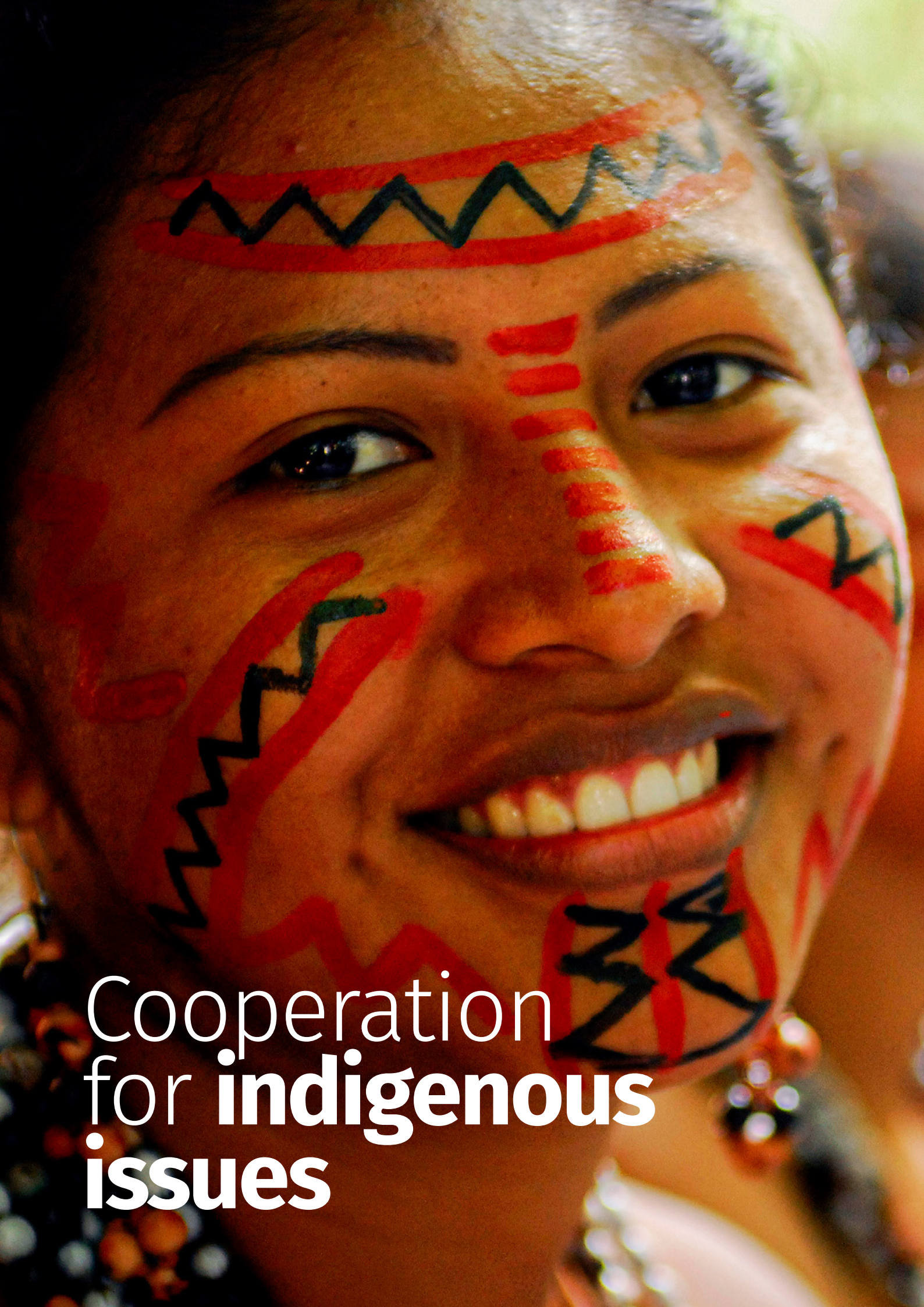
ACTO has regained its position as a strategic actor in global forums, especially at the CBD COP, with invitations for its participation in the high-level segments. In this context, a decision was adopted at the CBD COP15 that highlights the role of ARO in providing information and data for biodiversity conservation.

The Biomaz project is a technical cooperation funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the GIZ. ACTO member countries have a regional strategic framework for the coordinated management of biological diversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon region.

ACTO’s Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region is presented during the Amazon Dialogues of the IV Amazon Presidents’ Summit, during the meeting “Connecting science, politics and society as an input for decision-making: Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services of the Amazon Basin/Region. The Summary for Decision Makers was highlighted as a strategic input that provides relevant, timely and rigorous information for decision-making and generation of public policies for the Amazon.

ACTO and its Member Countries have access in ARO to more than 120 successful biodiversity management experiences and a publication with 35 good practices and solutions for biodiversity management and ecosystem services available on the website of ACTO Biodiversity Program.





Cooperation
for **indigenous**
issues

The Amazon Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is being developed by ACTO. The platform will allow the exchange of knowledge and good practices of indigenous peoples on climate change and the formulation of a regional strategy.

Also on the indigenous issue, ACTO implemented a Contingency Plan for the Protection of Health in Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and in Initial Contact to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and other tropical diseases.



ACTO collaborated in the articulated health action in border territories, reinforcing the synergies between the Member Countries to promote primary care and high complexity care in six border territories.

To contribute to early warning systems and strengthen mechanisms used by indigenous peoples in the region, ACTO contributed with the donation of equipment for indigenous territories. The action was carried out after consultation with indigenous peoples. For some territories, according to the preference of the groups, radio equipment was donated and for others, where the Internet is already used, photovoltaic panels were donated to replace diesel generators.

A virtual monitoring system of the epidemiological situation in the indigenous communities near the territories inhabited by the indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact (PIACI) was established.

The network of specialists, technicians and consultants in the protection of PIACI in the Amazon region has been consolidated.



Cooperation for the **Protection** of Water Resources

ACTO promotes the strengthening of the integrated management of the water resources of the Amazon, which affect the health of the ecosystem and the well-being of the entire population, in addition to being climate modulators.

10 strategic actions were prioritized by the Member Countries for immediate implementation

The Atlas of Hydroclimatic Vulnerability carried out by ACTO generated 60 thematic maps and formed the basis for ARO thematic module

Groundwater in the Amazon Basin plays an important role in hydrological and ecological cycles and influences rainforest ecosystems and climate variability, particularly during the dry season. ACTO will initiate a study to increase knowledge about the aquifers of the region.

ACTO is developing a cross-border strategic plan based on the needs for access to drinking water, basic sanitation and solid waste management in the region. The plan will be based on a diagnosis of the conditions and capacities of the member countries and an analysis of the availability and quality of surface and groundwater.

The Amazon Aquifer System Project will be the largest donation ever obtained by ACTO, estimated at USD 15 million. The investment preparation project was approved by the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) Council and is now moving on to the Project Preparation Grant (SPP) stage to consolidate financial support.

The project aims to improve knowledge of the Amazon Aquifer System (SAA) in order to strengthen regional governance and groundwater management for its protection, sustainable use, improved water security and ecosystem resilience in the Amazon region. It will be possible to improve technical-scientific knowledge, establish protocols for the use of aquifers, create replicable and scalable pilot experiences, generate mobilization to prevent contamination of recharge areas, establish an institutional framework between the countries, as well as raise awareness and communicate with the population.



The Atlas of Mercury Pollution in the Amazon Basin is being developed. The study on the Panorama of Mercury in the Amazon Basin, which also foresees the creation of a Mercury Calculator, a tool for assessing the losses caused by mercury – used in illegal gold mining in the Amazon region – in relation to water pollution and human health. The study will also propose, in partnership with the National Mining Agency (ANM - Brazil), sustainable alternatives to replace mercury for legalized actions and develop an existing technology that recovers 98% of the mercury left in the water by mining. The objective of the study is to establish a monitoring system and standardize the way of collection, treatment, transportation and analysis of samples with minimum parameters in order to generate reports on the status of mercury pollution in the region. It will allow to demonstrate the feasibility of using other sustainable materials to replace mercury, considering the cost-benefit analysis.

The Amazon Network of Water Directors (RADA) was established, formed by the authorities responsible for the management of water resources of ACTO Member Countries. As a permanent mechanism, the RADA strengthens cooperation in the management of water resources, makes it possible to identify and implement joint regional initiatives in surface and groundwater and to make progress on the issue of water monitoring in the basin, establishing common parameters.

Within the framework of international cooperation, ACTO actively collaborates with various agencies, such as the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD), NASA and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Within the framework of the Amazon Basin Project, a call for proposals was launched to update the Atlas of Hydroclimatic Vulnerability of the Amazon Region on a scale of 1:1.000.000. The first edition of this atlas was launched in 2021, with the active collaboration of the International El Niño Research Center (CIIFEN). The fundamental objective of this initiative and its updating process is to contribute effectively to reducing socio-economic and environmental impacts, thus establishing a solid basis for formulating policies aimed at sustainable development, especially in the face of new global climate scenarios.



Integrated fire management

Fighting forest fires through fire management, fire ecology and fire culture.

Forest fires in the Amazon represent an invaluable loss of natural resources and biodiversity. They greatly affect social conditions, especially health, and economic conditions, in addition to aggravating global warming.

To be effective, integrated fire management must be permanent and occur in an articulated way between countries. For nature - even if we talk about harmful actions - political borders do not matter.

In order to establish a joint action, considering the need to protect natural ecosystems and promote socio-economic development through integrated fire management and forest fire risk management, the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty established the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance for Integrated Fire Management among ACTO Member Countries (MoU MIF).

The MIF MoU was presented at the regional and international level in August with the aim of discussing its implementation with ACTO Member Countries, to learn about the various activities being developed in the region by different organizations and entities specialized in the area and to advance in the implementation of regional actions related to integrated fire management.

The Memorandum is of special importance for regional cooperation because it facilitates the implementation, information and participation in the realization of the agreed intentions. The Member Countries established the following strategies:

- Adaptive management, research and transfer of information and knowledge for integrated fire management and forest fire risk management
- Promotion and implementation of the Regional Program of Learning, Training, Exchange of Experiences and Innovation in Integrated Fire Management in the Amazon Region under the coordination and management of the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, within the scope of the Amazon Network in Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF). The Program has the participation of public, private and academic entities and interested civil society organizations, in order to reach common guidelines for integrated fire management in the Amazonian territories
- The establishment of the Amazon Network on Integrated Fire Management (RAMIF), formed by the eight Member Countries of ACTO, currently in process, as well as a Technical Working Group as a member of the Network.
- The effective understanding of the ecological, social, cultural and economic role of fire and the analysis of the possible positive and negative effects derived from the use of fire
- Development and implementation of appropriate policies and actions, promoting safe and effective mechanisms for the use and regulation of fire
- Strengthening fire management preparedness at all levels, including traditional uses, prescribed or controlled burning and forest fire management, building on existing regional initiatives in this regard

The representatives of the 8 countries that make up ACTO finalized the Terms of Reference with the details of how the RAMIF - Amazon Network of Integral Fire Management will work, during the first Regional Workshop of the Amazon Network of Integral Fire Management, which was held between December 13 and 15. A new technical cooperation project was formalized with the GIZ, the objective of which is to support ACTO member States in the implementation of integrated fire management measures for three years.

Integrated fire management is a comprehensive, holistic or completely unified approach to addressing fire-related problems, considering biological, environmental, cultural, social, economic and political interactions, and assuming that fire can generate positive and negative effects for ecosystem conservation and sustainable development. Integrated fire management includes fire management, fire ecology and fire culture.



Urgent Implementation of the Belem Declaration

The Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) meeting represents the highest decision-making authority in the governance structure of the Organization. The ACTO, created with the aim of promoting cooperation and sustainable development in the Amazon region, finds in this meeting a crucial space for making decisions and articulating strategies that directly affect the Member Countries, the future of the Amazon region and its global impact.

After a six-year break, this meeting of ACTO's highest decision-making body resumed on November 23, 2023 to take decisions and determine new mandates for ACTO, which are included in the Belem Declaration and which generate momentum and, in turn, an update of the common cooperation agenda between the 8 countries, with a vision and action more adapted to the new regional and global realities, to guarantee the conservation, protection and

sustainable management of the Amazon.

Prior to the XIV Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO, held in November 2023, there was an extensive negotiation process at ACTO headquarters, where 29 resolutions were discussed and approved in the 6 thematic areas of ACTO: i) Natural Resources; ii) Science, Technology and Knowledge; iii) Socioeconomics; iv) Climate Change; v) Health; vi) Indigenous Peoples.

Through the 29 resolutions, the member countries committed themselves to taking action to protect the biome and the basin, promote social inclusion, foster science, technology and innovation, stimulate the local economy, with due respect for indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities, including their ancestral knowledge and promoting their presence in the countries' public policies, among other stipulations.



XIV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty approves 29 resolutions

At the XIV Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in November 2023 at ACTO headquarters, 29 resolutions were approved that prioritize the implementation of the presidential mandates of the Belém Declaration.

The meeting was chaired by Brazil's Foreign Minister, Mauro Vieira, making this meeting the driving force and the one that defines the priority in implementing the actions determined by the presidents in Belém do Pará, just two months before the ministerial meeting.

The eight countries pledged to give high priority to implementing the actions, especially in the areas of:

- Presidents' Meeting
- Financial Mechanism
- Amazonian Parliament (Parlamaz)
- Institutionalization of the ARO
- Strengthening the SP/OTCA
- Human rights defenders
- Amazonian Indigenous Peoples Mechanism and Forum of Indigenous Peoples and Local and Traditional Communities
- Special Commission on Epidemiological Surveillance, Public Security and Transnational Crimes
- Focal Point Group for South-South Cooperation
- Promoting Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Security in the Amazon Region
- Amazon Diplomacy Course for Young Diplomats from ACTO Member Countries
- Amazon Innovation and Technology Dissemination Network
- Rural Women's Module of the Amazon Regional Observatory
- Amazon Cities Forum
- Creation of the Intergovernmental Technical-Scientific Panel for Amazonia
- Creation of the Working Group on Integration and Harmonization of National Access and Benefit Sharing Systems (ABS)
- Network of Amazonian Authorities: Water Resources (RADA) and Forestry (RAFO)
- Recognition of Amazonian cultures
- Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation (AECA)
- Joint Amazon Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated Sustainable Forest Management (JAMIF)
- Economics for sustainable development
- Forest fires
- Regional strategy and humanitarian assistance in the face of the risks posed by the El Niño phenomenon
- Re-establishment of the Dialogue and Cooperation Mechanism
- Joint Amazon Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Forest Management
- South-South Cooperation for Technical-Scientific Exchange between the Secretariats of the Three Basins (Amazon-Congo-Borneo-Mekong)

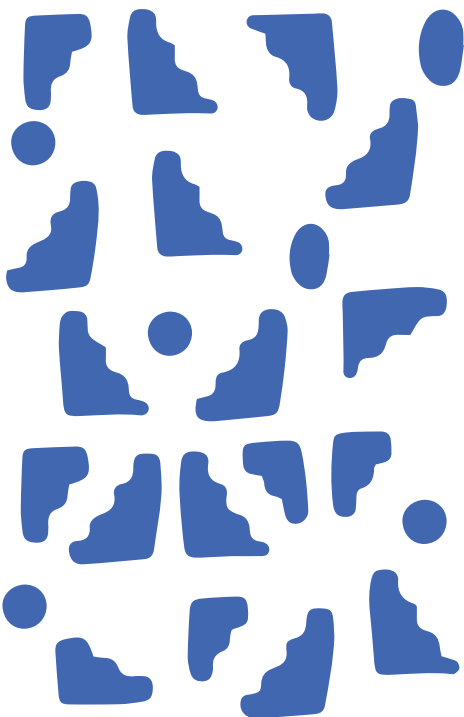


The delegations were led, respectively, by Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Mark Anthony Phillips, Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; María Nela Prada Tejada, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Albert Ramdim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname; Yván Gil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Elizabeth Taylor Jay, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; Carlos Alberto Velástegui, Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador in Brazil; Rómulo Acurio Traverso, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was represented by the Secretary General, Alexandra Moreira, the Executive Director, Ambassador Carlos Lazary, and the Administrative Director, Engineer Carlos Salinas.

Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council

The Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA), composed of high-level diplomatic representatives of the member countries of the Treaty, was held on November 20 and 21. It dealt with resolutions, the management report of the Permanent Secretariat, the presentation of the budgets for the 2024 management, the proposed agenda for the 2024 management, the proposed agenda for the XIV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the reading of the Minutes of the XXIII Meeting of the CCA.



Implementation started without wasting time

The ACTO Permanent Secretariat is already moving ahead with the implementation of the new mandates. The current Board of the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, understanding the urgency of implementing the actions arising from the Presidential Declaration of Belém, as well as from the XIV Meeting of Foreign Ministers, has begun implementing actions to fulfill these mandates.

With this step, the Permanent Secretariat reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of these mandates, working closely with Member Countries and stakeholders to promote sustainable development and the preservation of the Amazon.

These new mandates represent a comprehensive approach to addressing

the priority challenges of the Amazon Region, highlighting the importance of cooperation and institutional strengthening as key elements in achieving sustainable development.

Under these mandates, bodies have been established comprising Working Groups, Mechanisms, Commissions, Observatories and Networks, each with specific objectives and priorities for different timeframes.

The creation of these structures aims to facilitate the effective implementation of the proposed measures, thus promoting a more coordinated and effective approach to achieving common objectives in the Amazon Region.



TECHNICAL DATASHEET

ORGANIZATION OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY MANAGEMENT 2019-2023

María Alexandra Moreira López

Secretary General

Carlos Alfredo Lazary Teixeira

Executive Director

Carlos Armando Salinas Montes

Administrative Director

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Camyla Ferreira – Junior Technical Assistant

Ana Neiva – Junior Executive Assistant

Marcio Alves Cabral – Controller

Mauricio Casimiro – Financial Assistant

Claudia Colomo – Technical Consultant

Cristian Ruiz – Assistant Consultant

Érica Pereira da Silva – Personnel Department Assistant

Caio Martins – Accounting

Leonardo Batista Rodrigues –Administrative Assistant

Thiago Amaral – IT Technician

Ahhyeon Yu – Communication Intern

Renato Barbosa – Receptionist

Francisco Salles de Almeida – Driver

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Leles Saravia - Consultant for the implementation of ARO

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Amazonas Project: Regional Action in the Area of Water Resources

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Diego Silva - Technical Analyst - Situation Room of the Amazon Regional Observatory – ARO

Ingrid Peixoto, Geoprocessing Analyst

Amazon Basin Project: Implementation of the Strategic Actions Program (PAE)

María Apostolova - Coordinator (until January 30, 2022)

Fernando Cisneros - Technical Advisor (until January 30, 2022)

Janet Herrera Maldonado - Administrative Assistant

Nina Caldas, Communication Consultant

Paulo Cavalcanti, Administrative and Financial Officer

“Support for the Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Amazonian Cooperation project (AECA)

Margarita Medina, coordinator

Biomaz Project: Implementation of ACTO Biological Diversity Program

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 Natalia Méndez - Technical Consultant
 Braulio Dias - Consultant

Technical Cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Glen Hearn - Consultant
 Stephan Von Borries - Consultant
 Guillermo León - Consultant (Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste / executed by WSP)

Contingency Plan for the Protection of the Health of Indigenous Peoples project

Carlos Macedo - Coordinator

Studies of Socio-Economic Gaps

Margarita Medina, Consultant
 Claudia Colomo, Consultant



AMAZON COOPERATION INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND INTEGRATED ACTION MANAGEMENT 2023

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