

Amazon Regional Strategy for a Sustainable Development Economy and Alternative Economies Implementation of ACTO Resolution 23

"Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive, and Innovative Amazon Economy"

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It covers approximately 6.3 million km², contains more than 20% of the world's freshwater flows, regulates South America's water regimes, and is responsible for generating 50% of its own rainfall through evapotranspiration. It is home to nearly 47 million people, including more than 410 indigenous peoples with 300 languages, and is home to 18% of all the world's vascular plant species, 14% of the world's birds, and 9% of the world's mammals.

Faced with this biocultural magnitude, the ACTO member countries recognize that the Amazon region is close to a point of no return. The advance of deforestation, which already affects 17% of the biome and could cross the threshold of 20–25%, along with ecosystem degradation, is compromising critical functions of the forest as a carbon sink. The loss of ecosystem services could translate into more than USD 230 billion in cumulative losses to the regional GDP if decisive action is not taken.

Resolution 23, adopted by consensus at the 14th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, is our collective response. It constitutes a framework for regional cooperation to promote the certification of sustainable products, value ecosystem services, advance science and technology based on respect for traditional knowledge, and strengthen the leadership of forest-dwelling peoples.

This preliminary strategy will enable the activation of innovative sustainable financing mechanisms in the coming years by building capacity at the country level to implement tax incentives and other nature-based financial instruments. It will also facilitate access to differentiated markets through the development of Amazonian seals and regional standards, directly contributing to increasing the share of Sustainable Economies in the region's GDP.

Currently, more than 47% of the Amazon Region is managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities or is located within protected areas. This strategy recognizes their role as pillars of governance, conservation, and restoration, and proposes a new economy that combines traditional knowledge, ancestral wisdom, ethical biotechnology, and sustainable innovation. We are talking about an economy for life and peace, one that addresses challenges such as territorial insecurity, environmental violence, overexploitation of resources, and the loss of social cohesion.

General Objective.

Strengthen and consolidate sustainable alternative Amazonian economies based on the sustainable use of biodiversity and the conservation of ecosystem services, promoting a development model that prioritizes the well-being of Amazonian peoples and environmental protection at the regional level of the eight countries that make up ACTO.

Specific Objectives.

1. Strengthen non-financial services focused on partnerships, value addition, market access, certification, and regulatory harmonization, in order to consolidate sustainable value chains based on Amazonian biodiversity, which promote socioeconomic inclusion, local resilience, and the conservation of the Amazon region.
2. Promote the mobilization of financial resources and the design of positive incentives that foster sustainable economies, recognize and reward positive behaviors in the use and management of natural resources, the conservation and restoration of Amazonian ecosystems, and contribute to improving the livelihoods of the populations living in the region. This mobilization must be accompanied by an

institutional and regulatory architecture that allows for the creation, strengthening, and implementation of effective financial and tax instruments, with a vision shared by the eight ACTO member countries.

3. Promote a regional research, development and innovation (R&D&I) ecosystem that values traditional and scientific knowledge and fosters the development of Amazonian products with high cultural value and economic potential, through participatory and sustainable actions aligned with the region's conservation and sustainable development priorities.

Commitments.

In accordance with the joint work carried out by ACTO member countries within the framework of the technical roundtables of Resolution 23, the following commitments are established. These do not represent parallel or additional agendas, but rather are fully part of the countries' active participation in the implementation of ACTO's current programmatic agenda. Their objective is to operationalize previously agreed-upon priorities, strengthening regional action under the principles of sovereignty, cooperation, and complementarity.

Trade and Markets:

1. *Strengthen public policy instruments in Amazonian countries by promoting technical improvements in trade in goods and services from sustainable economies, and developing the capacities of local actors by improving their relationship with the market.*
2. *Promote the identification, adoption, and scaling up of technical improvements in policies to foster sustainable Amazonian entrepreneurship, fostering more integrated and transformative regional action.*
3. *Promote responsible consumption of Amazonian products through the design, strengthening, and adoption of certification seals that guarantee sustainable practices throughout the value chain, and facilitate their integration into differentiated, traceable, and competitive markets aligned with the principles of environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and territorial development.*
4. *Design and implement a regional strategy for commercial intelligence and positioning of Amazonian products at the local, national, and international levels, which promotes public-private, mixed, and private partnerships aimed at strengthening the value chains of sustainable Amazonian economies.*

Sustainable Finance and Incentives:

5. *Implement a phased program to strengthen technical capacities, legal frameworks, and institutional readiness in member countries to facilitate the adaptation, design, and implementation of positive incentives and financial mechanisms associated with sustainable economies and ecosystem service management . This program should prioritize national assessments to identify gaps in fiscal, financial, and regulatory frameworks and provide targeted capacity building and technical assistance accordingly.*
6. *Develop and implement a regional strategy that supports countries in adopting best practices and establishing enabling legal and institutional frameworks for the management and design of financial and tax instruments linked to sustainable resource mobilization. This strategy should include country-specific support, ensuring readiness to implement instruments such as sustainable bonds, biodiversity credits, debt-for-nature swaps, and results-based payments, in accordance with national contexts and priorities.*

Science and Knowledge :

7. *Develop a management model that improves governance for science, technology, and innovation in the Amazon region. This model, while fully respecting the collective rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, guides research processes and their outcomes, strengthening knowledge sovereignty and cooperation.*

8. Promote the development of research and innovations that identify, enhance, and project the biocultural heritage of the Amazon, generating applicable knowledge and technologies with the potential for regional scaling, under the principles of equity, cultural relevance, and sustainability.

9. Strengthen/improve regional and national policies related to the transmission, application, and protection of traditional knowledge in synergy with the results of research and innovation, ensuring the social appropriation of knowledge, intergenerational equity, and the conservation of cultural and ecological diversity.

Strategic Alignment.

The strategic actions developed within this initiative contribute directly to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 17 by promoting sustainable practices, creating decent jobs, valuing traditional knowledge, and fostering partnerships for the endogenous and inclusive development of the Amazon region.

They are also aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly targets 9, 10, 14, 19, 20, and 22 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, by strengthening public policies that recognize the value of biocultural heritage, promote the sustainable use of biodiversity, and mobilize resources for its conservation.

These actions are also consistent with the political commitments made in the Belém Declaration, which seek to consolidate a shared regional vision for the protection of the Amazon Region, with environmental justice, equity and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities through resolutions RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/02, RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/11, RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/13, RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/16, RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/17 and RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/27.

Call to action:

This strategy, the result of political and technical consensus among the eight member countries, represents a historic opportunity to transform the destiny of the planet's most biodiverse region . Its implementation will consolidate a new economy based on sustainability, equity, and regional cooperation, with tangible impacts in the short and medium term:

- Increase the share of Sustainable Economies in regional GDP by valorizing products from Sustainable Economies, ecosystem services , traditional knowledge and ancestral knowledge (CITL).
- Mobilize resources and implement positive incentives that increase the area under conservation and sustainable use.
- Reduce the pressure from extractive activities and strengthen the climate resilience of the Amazon region . Achieving net-zero deforestation by 2030 would prevent the emission of 670 MtCO₂e per year , protecting essential services such as water cycle regulation and carbon capture, which are key to mitigating global warming below 1.5°C.
- Guarantee the well-being of more than 47 million people, including nearly 2.2 million Indigenous people from 410 indigenous communities, who are the primary guardians of the Amazon.

ANNEX 1: WORK PLAN.

Strategy 1: Promote business models that align the visions of Amazonian inhabitants with the market in a sustainable, inclusive, and efficient manner.				SCHEDULE (Semesters)							
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
Environmental: Conservation of biocultural heritage through its recognition in regulatory frameworks. Environmental: Strengthening the sustainable use of biodiversity as the basis of local economic models. Environmental: Reducing pressure on ecosystems by promoting sustainable community business models. Socioeconomic: Effective inclusion of indigenous and local communities in productive development policies. Socioeconomic: Recognition and strengthening of collective rights and their own governance systems. Socioeconomic: Creating economic opportunities through the valorization of traditional practices.	Component 1.1: Linking the <u>attributes</u> of the region's communities with market aspects.	1. <i>Strengthen public policy instruments in Amazonian countries by promoting technical improvements in trade in sustainable goods and services, and developing the capacities of local actors by improving their relationship with the market.</i>	1.1 Identification of regulatory frameworks and gaps with community systems.								
			1.2. Development of a regional proposal for technical assistance and capacity building to close gaps in the countries.								
			1.3 Identification of representative organizations/companies for consultation and recommendations.								
			1.4. Comparative studies and recommendations of regulatory-technical improvements and policy instruments at the country level to strengthen business models of traditional organizations.								
Environmental: Integration of sustainability criteria into the design phase of bio-entrepreneurship support policies . Environmental: Strengthening productive initiatives that prioritize the sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity. Socioeconomic: Strengthening entrepreneurial capacities in Amazonian communities. Socioeconomic: Generation of employment	bio-entrepreneurship incubators and accelerators and collaborative platforms for <u>value addition</u> and specialized capacity development.	2. <i>Promote the identification, adoption, and scaling up of technical improvements in policies to foster sustainable Amazonian entrepreneurship, fostering more integrated and transformative regional action.</i>	2.1 Systematization of existing experiences, methodologies, actors and capacities at the level of incubation/acceleration policy instruments in the countries.								
			2.2 Identification of actors linked to the entrepreneurship incubation and acceleration ecosystem at the country and regional levels.								

Strategy 2: Consolidate strategic alliances for the commercial positioning of sustainable Amazonian products in local, regional and international markets				SCHEDULE (semesters)							
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
Environmental: Incentives for sustainable production practices through environmental seals and standards. Environmental: Reduction of the environmental impact of unsustainable practices. Environmental: Promotion of value chains that foster biodiversity conservation. Socioeconomic: Greater access to high-value markets for differentiated products. Socioeconomic: Inclusion of small producers and communities in sustainable value schemes. Socioeconomic: Income improvements through incentives linked to good practices.	Component 2.1. Promoting a regional seal based on national experiences with seals or initiatives, as well as promoting responsible consumption.	3. <i>Promote responsible consumption of Amazonian products through the design, strengthening, and adoption of certification seals that guarantee sustainable practices throughout the value chain. Likewise, facilitate their insertion into differentiated, traceable, and competitive markets aligned with the principles of environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and territorial development.</i>	4.1 Technical review of responsible consumption seals and strategies at the country level.								
			4.2 Identification of common criteria, good practices, gaps or elements for improvement at the regional and national levels.								
			4.3 Mapping of key actors for local and regional implementation of improvement elements at the level of responsible consumption seals and programs.								
			4.4 Development of a proposal for technical guidelines to strengthen public policies at the level of their national seals.								
			4.5 Development of a regional technical proposal to promote responsible consumption of sustainable Amazonian products/services with local, regional, and international impact.								
			4.6 Monitoring and evaluation of the implemented technical proposals.								
			4.7 Evaluation of the technical and economic viability of an Amazon regional seal.								
Environmental: Promoting the sustainable use of native species and biodiversity-derived products.	Component 2.2: Development of <u>prospecting</u>		5.1 Identification of priority Amazonian products with market potential.								

Environmental: Reducing pressure on resources through responsible marketing. Environmental: Incentivizing low-emission and regenerative production systems. Socioeconomic: Strengthening sustainable value chains with an intercultural approach. Socioeconomic: Generating income and jobs in local communities. Socioeconomic: Increasing responsible investment in Amazonian products.	and access to local, regional and international markets.	4. Design and <i>implement a regional strategy for commercial intelligence and positioning of Amazonian products that promotes public-private, mixed, and private partnerships aimed at strengthening the value chains of sustainable Amazonian economies.</i>	5.2 The development of commercial intelligence studies, analysis of consumer trends and characterization of demand for products derived from biodiversity. 5.3 Promoting a regional strategy for participation in trade fairs, business meetings, and trade missions. 5.4 Monitoring the commercial and territorial impact through the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA).									
Strategy 3: Governance of incentives for the recognition of environmental and ecosystem services/functions .				SCHEDULE (semesters)								
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	
Environmental: Improved application of sustainability principles in public policy. Environmental: Better implementation of environmental policies; adoption of ecosystem approaches . Environmental: Reduced deforestation Environmental: Mitigation of climate risks. Environmental: Economic valuation of ecosystem services (e.g., carbon, water). Environmental: Identification of negative incentives. Socioeconomic: Improved regulatory environment; inclusion of traditional knowledge; legal security for sustainable investments. Socioeconomic: Increased technical capacity	1. Regulatory and programmatic harmonization in terms of incentives, including the consideration of traditional knowledge and expertise.	5. <i>Implement a phased program to strengthen technical capacities, legal frameworks, and institutional readiness in Amazonian countries to facilitate the adaptation, design, and implementation of positive incentives and financial mechanisms associated with sustainable economies and ecosystem service management . This program should prioritize national assessments to identify gaps in fiscal, financial, and</i>	Activity 1.1. Country-level mapping of: policy instruments, information management, and instruments/ tools linked to Sustainable Economies and incentives (e.g., taxonomies, bonds, payments for results, and carbon capture). Activity 1.2: Identification of gaps, good practices and replicability mechanisms at the country level that are scalable at the country level.									

			Activity 3.4 Implementation of replicable monitoring pilots in different countries.										
Strategy 4: Instrumental development of positive incentives for the recognition of environmental and ecosystem services/functions .				SCHEDULE (seme stres)									
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8		
Environmental: Increased financing for the conservation, restoration, and protection of critical ecosystem services (water, carbon, biodiversity). Environmental: Conservation of primary forests and threatened species. Environmental: CO2 sequestration. Socioeconomic: Expanded access to sustainable international financing sources. Socioeconomic: Improved local income and employment in sustainable value chains. Socioeconomic: Income from environmental services.	4. Technical assistance to improve the Strategic Mobilization of Resources for Sustainable Amazon Financing.	<i>6. Develop and implement a regional strategy that supports countries in adopting best practices and establishing enabling legal and institutional frameworks for the management and design of financial and tax instruments linked to sustainable resource mobilization. This strategy should include country-specific support, ensuring readiness to implement instruments such as sustainable bonds, biodiversity credits, debt-for-nature swaps, and results-based payments, in accordance with national contexts and priorities.</i>	Activity 1.1. Country-level mapping of: policy instruments, information management, and instruments/tools linked to Sustainable Economies and incentives linked to financial and tax instruments and carbon capture.										
			Activity 1.2: Identification of gaps, good practices and replicability mechanisms at the country level that are scalable at the country level.										
			Activity 4.1 Establishing alliances with Networks, Organizations, institutions, through the SP/OTCA.										
			Activity 4.2: Establish and implement a regional Technical Assistance (TA) program at the ACTO level that allows countries to harmonize, implement or strengthen the defined instruments.										
Strategy 5: Building a model for bringing science closer to traditional knowledge				SCHEDULE (semesters)									
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8		

Strategy 7: Conservation of biocultural landscapes by recognizing and valuing traditional knowledge				SCHEDULE (semesters)							
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
<p>Environmental: Revaluation of indigenous traditional and local knowledge (ITLK) as a tool for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience .</p> <p>Environmental: Strengthening biocultural landscapes as integrated systems for conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Environmental: Strengthening intergenerational transmission processes .</p> <p>Socioeconomic: Empowerment of indigenous scholars, women and youth as actors in science and policy.</p> <p>Socioeconomic: Strengthening cognitive sovereignty, epistemic equity and intercultural governance.</p> <p>Socioeconomic: Increasing the participation of indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities in science and conservation policies.</p>	<p>Component 7: Transmission of research results and innovations to indigenous peoples, traditional and local communities, considering the cultural particularities of each of them.</p>	<p>9. Strengthened/improved regional and national policies related to the transmission, application, and protection of traditional knowledge in synergy with the results of research and innovation, ensuring the social appropriation of knowledge, intergenerational equity, and the conservation of cultural and ecological diversity.</p>	7.1 Identification of good practices for the return and appropriation of knowledge (Exchange of experiences) from research.								
			7.2 Evaluation of methodologies and recommendations at the public policy level to strengthen mechanisms for transmitting results, sharing benefits, and protecting knowledge.								
	<p>Component 8: Establish public policies with a gender and intergenerational focus.</p>		8.1 Develop regional guidelines for inclusive public policies in STI.								