

# 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 km<sup>2</sup>, 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 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 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.**

<p>and income through sustainable entrepreneurship.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Improving access to markets for value-added Amazonian products.</p>		<p>2.3. Establish technical proposals/criteria for improvement and commitments to strengthen policy instruments for the promotion of Amazonian bioentrepreneurs .</p> <p>2.4 Specialized Technical Assistance for the implementation of improvements at the country and regional levels.</p> <p>2.5 Implementation of institutional improvements and improvements at the level of national policy instruments (plans, programs, projects) aimed at strengthening the national and regional incubation and acceleration ecosystem.</p>				
<p><b>Environmental:</b> Incentives for responsible production practices by reducing regulatory barriers to marketing.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Reduction of negative externalities resulting from informal trade.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Increased competitiveness of Amazonian products in differentiated markets.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Increased community income through fairer marketing conditions.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Promotion of ethical and value-added trade from Amazonian territories.</p>	<p>Component 1.3: Promote <u>public policies</u> to reduce barriers and gaps in the trade of Amazonian products at the regional level.</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>3.1 Regional diagnosis of regulatory and trade barriers and identification and prioritization of the main restrictions to be addressed.</p>	<p>3.2 Identification of actors with technical skills and capabilities.</p>	<p>3.3 Establishment of a consensual regional framework to mitigate the main restrictions on trade in goods and services from the Amazon.</p>	



<p><b>Environmental:</b> Reducing pressure on resources through responsible marketing.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Incentivizing low-emission and regenerative production systems.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Strengthening sustainable value chains with an intercultural approach.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Generating income and jobs in local communities.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Increasing responsible investment in Amazonian products.</p>	<p>and access to local, regional and international markets.</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>5.2 The development of commercial intelligence studies, analysis of consumer trends and characterization of demand for products derived from biodiversity.</p>	
		<p>5.3 Promoting a regional strategy for participation in trade fairs, business meetings, and trade missions.</p>	<p>5.4 Monitoring the commercial and territorial impact through the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA).</p>	

<p>in public and community sectors.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Greater inclusion in financing.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Improved results-based management.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Greater credibility with donors and financial stakeholders.</p>	<p>2. Strengthening institutional and technical capacities.</p>	<p><i>regulatory frameworks, and provide targeted capacity building and technical assistance accordingly.</i></p>	<p>Activity 2.1: Design and implement a regional curriculum <b>agreed</b> upon at the level of the ACTO countries on Sustainable economies linked to sustainable finance and positive incentives.</p>	
	<p>3. Infrastructure for monitoring and control.</p>		<p>Activity 2.2: Structure and implement a regional capacity-building program through the various governance mechanisms of the countries to standardize criteria and implement methodologies.</p> <p>Activity 3.1: Support ACTO in recommending homogeneous criteria in countries at the level of specific national accounts, allowing for the measurement and evaluation of contributions at the level of Sustainable Economies.</p> <p>Activity 3.2: Through SP/ACTO, establish alliances with private actors, universities, institutions to prioritize and select platforms/methodologies at the country and regional level related to incentive monitoring and control.</p> <p>Activity 3.3 Recommend minimum indicators/criteria for the integration of national and regional information systems that complement the contributions of countries in the areas of application.</p>	

			Activity 3.4 Implementation of replicable monitoring pilots in different countries.								
<b>Strategy 4: Instrumental development of positive incentives for the recognition of environmental and ecosystem services/functions .</b>								<b>SCHEDULE (seme stres)</b>			
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
<b>Environmental:</b> Increased financing for the conservation, restoration, and protection of critical ecosystem services (water, carbon, biodiversity). <b>Environmental:</b> Conservation of primary forests and threatened species. <b>Environmental:</b> CO2 sequestration. <b>Socioeconomic:</b> Expanded access to sustainable international financing sources. <b>Socioeconomic:</b> Improved local income and employment in sustainable value chains. <b>Socioeconomic:</b> Income from environmental services.	<b>4. Technical assistance to improve the Strategic Mobilization of Resources for Sustainable Amazon Financing.</b>	<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.								
<b>Strategy 5: Building a model for bringing science closer to traditional knowledge</b>								<b>SCHEDULE (semesters)</b>			
Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8

<p><b>Environmental:</b> Conservation and transmission of traditional ecological knowledge as a key tool for sustainable biodiversity management.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Protection of biocultural landscapes by strengthening partnerships between science and Indigenous peoples.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Improving the traceability and ethical use of genetic resources and associated knowledge.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Effective inclusion of Indigenous peoples, women, and youth in the knowledge value chain.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Capacity building for an economy based on traditional knowledge and ethical biotechnology.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Improving access to knowledge-based benefits through regional policies, protocols, and legal mechanisms.</p>	<p>Component 1: Mechanisms for recognizing rights and benefits on innovations</p>	<p>This component is related to RES/XIV MRE-OTCA/17, it is an input element for component 1.2.</p>							
	<p>Component 2: Governance model for research</p>	<p><i>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, local communities, and other traditional communities, guides research processes and their outcomes, strengthening knowledge sovereignty and cooperation.</i></p>	<p>Activity 2.1 Diagnosis and review of existing regulatory frameworks and identified good practices.</p>						
	<p>Component 3: Strengthen an existing database that enables knowledge management (e.g., Global Biodiversity Information Facilities GBIF)</p>		<p>Activity 2.2: Consultation, dialogue and participatory construction of the management model for the development of joint research/innovations.</p>						
	<p>Component 4: Establish mechanisms for disseminating/publishing science</p>		<p>Activity 2.3: Technical and legal validation of the management model, including collaborative mechanisms in research that strengthen the link between culture and nature.</p>						

**Strategy 6: Funding research for R&D&I development in the Amazon region**

**SCHEDULE (semesters)**

Environmental and socioeconomic benefits	Line of action	Alignment result	Proposal of Activities	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8
--	----------------	------------------	------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

<p><b>Environmental:</b> Identification of nature-based solutions for the conservation of Amazonian ecosystems and landscapes.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Development of bioproducts , clean technologies and ecosystem services that reduce pressure on resources.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Promotion of sustainable practices aligned with comprehensive land management.</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Generation of employment and local bio-entrepreneurship .</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Inclusion of indigenous peoples and communities in the value chain of Sustainable Economies .</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic:</b> Identification of active compounds from native species with high commercial potential</p>	<p>Component 5: Identification of potential areas of knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Meeting the global demand for sustainable products.</li> <li>ii. Adding value to local products with cultural and economic value.</li> <li>iii. Diversifying high-value Amazonian products.</li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Activity 5.1: Initial definition of strategic research thematic areas and mapping of actors.</p>				
	<p>Component 6: Selection and implementation of regional research/innovations to be funded.</p>		<p>Activity 5.2: Structured consultation with indigenous peoples, local communities and nationalities (feeds off of Activity 2.3).</p>	<p>Activity 5.3: Validation of research priorities.</p>	<p>Activity 5.4: Preparation of the Regional Map of Amazonian Research Priorities.</p>	<p>Activity 6.1: Design and implement regional R&amp;D&amp;I calls , aligned with the priority map (Component 2.1).</p>	<p>Activity 6.2: Establish sustainable and collaborative financial mechanisms (trusts, public-private-community co-financing, international cooperation), in coordination with the ACTO Financial Mechanism.</p>
				<p>Activity 6.3: Develop and implement regional systems for tracking, monitoring, evaluation and systematization of results.</p>			
				<p>Activity 6.4: Strengthen/ complement institutional, technical and community capacities for the management and execution of R&amp;D&amp;I projects in Amazonian contexts (through training programs, technical assistance, virtual knowledge platforms and open innovation networks).</p>			

