

AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (ACTO)

SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF THE AMAZON REGION

I. Introduction

1. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), in the framework of its Regional Program of Biological Diversity for the Amazon Region, in its current development, considers that is important to carry out a regional report evaluating the situation of the biological diversity and ecosystem services in the Region, taking into account the methodological format of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This report will be aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from the use of genetic resources, as well as the post 2020 Global Biological Diversity Framework of the CBD.

2. This report will build on and take into account reports made previously and in progress. Currently, IPBES has produced a global report and a regional report from the Americas on the subject. In addition, there are other inputs from other national and global initiatives. In Brazil, progress has been made under adaptations of the IPBES format in the preparation of a national report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and reports have also been made on pollinators and landscape restoration under this format. Also, there is an ongoing national report in Colombia. Another regional reporting initiative for the Amazon is also ongoing under the initiative called Amazon Science Panel. In this context, this ACTO initiative promotes the preparation of a regional report on biological diversity and contributions of nature for the people of the Amazon Region, as an important input for ACTO Member Countries to guide their public policy in Amazonian territories based on analyzed and current information.

II. Scope, geographical delimitation, utility, assumptions and others

A. Scope

3. The overall scope of regional and subregional assessments of IPBES is to assess the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interrelationships, the threats that are looming over them and the opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of its components, which have impacts on the well-being of human beings as well as the effectiveness of responses, in particular with respect to the objectives of the CBD, the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and strategies and plans for National Biodiversity Actions developed as part of this Convention. T

4. The assessment will address the biological diversity and services of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems.

5. The evaluation will also be articulated to the outcomes of the negotiation initiated by countries of the post 2020 Global Biological Diversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. The evaluation report for the Amazon Region will be focused on the biological diversity and ecosystem services of the Amazon Region, taking into account that it is a complex and heterogeneous region resulting from various geological, geomorphological, climatological, hydrographic and biological processes, being recognized in the world for its mega-diversity and for its variety of ecosystems, species richness and high endemism, considering that it is one of

the areas with the greatest wealth of biological diversity since it is home to nearly 10% of the world's biological diversity.

7. It is important to mention that the evaluation will take into account the reality of the border areas of the Amazon countries, given that there is an important interaction and relationship between these populations, as well as in terms of social, economic and environmental processes and dynamics.

B. Geographical delimitation

8. The Amazon Region covers 44% of the land area of South America, containing the largest tropical forest in the world and the most extensive hydrographic basin on the planet. The Amazon Region is made up of eight Amazon countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

9. The assessment encompasses the Amazon biome according to the geographical frontiers defined by each of the Amazon countries.

10. Due to the size of the Amazon Region and its varied physiography, the regional evaluation may contemplate other subdivisions of this region, as the authors deem appropriate.

C. Utility

11. This report is strategically useful for the current situation in the Amazon Region, taking into account that the Amazon countries have to advance in the consolidation of territories with sustainable and harmonious development, where nature and biodiversity meet an important role not only for the provision of environmental functions but also for the social and economic development of the local population. Furthermore, this must take place at a juncture where an important social development and growth agenda is underway, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Amazon, important infrastructure deficits still have to be covered, generate sustained income for the population, improve access to basic services, and many other needs related to sustainable development. Thus, the challenge in the Amazon Region continues to be that of promoting environmental and biological diversity management in time to strengthen local economies, reduce gaps in social inequality, and control the illegal use of natural resources. This report may provide important inputs to advance public management at the regional, national, and sub-national levels with a focus on sustainable and harmonious development for the Amazon Region.

D. Assumptions

12. The central assumption for the undertaken of the evaluation report for the Amazon Region is that there is an important amount of scientific and academic knowledge, as well as a systematization of the knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities. In accordance with the IPBES valuation format, the evaluation report will be examined by experts, officials and/or public servants with political responsibility and interested entities, as well as by experts and representatives of indigenous peoples and indigenous communities. Another fundamental assumption to be highlighted is that the analysis process under the IPBES methodology responds to the commitment of the governments of the Amazon countries to accompany the entire evaluation process. This work will be developed in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese and English.

E. Strategic partnership

13. In order to promote synergies, the evaluation for the Amazon Region will be articulated, as far as possible, with similar processes that have been developed in the region, as well as with other initiatives that are ongoing and can contribute to the report. Thus, approximations will be made with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Latin America, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), among others. Likewise, key entities that could provide information, scientific, technical and financial support will be identified, as well as for helping in the dissemination and communication of the report's results. These include, for example, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), the Inter-American Bank Development Bank (IDB), the Amazon Fund BNDES, as well as many other public and private entities in the Amazon countries. It is also worth noting the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to carry out this evaluation in the framework of technical cooperation with ACTO.

F. Structure of implementation

14. The operational structure necessary for the development of the report will basically be as follows. The Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA (PS/ACTO) will be in charge of coordinating the evaluation with the support of a high-level technical team that will enable to carry out the regional evaluation. A Scientific Committee will be set up with the participation of prominent academics from ACTO Member Countries who will accompany and supervise the performance of the evaluation. Likewise, the co-chairs of the report, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and reviewing editors will be identified to conduct the evaluation based on the scope of this document. The authors participate in a personal and voluntary capacity and do not formally represent the institutions or governments that have been able to nominate them.

15. The authors will carry out an independent evaluation with the leading support of the governments of the Amazon countries, which have an important role in the entire evaluation process, through: the appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee; designation of the authors who carry out the formulation of the scope document; external review of the draft scoping document and its final approval; the nomination of 80% of the authors participating in the preparation of the report; participation in the external review of the draft assessment; and approval of the final document of the assessment.

III. Overview of the chapters

16. The evaluation report for the Amazon Region will have seven (7) chapters, with the following scope:

17. **Chapter 1. Introduction and context.** This chapter will present the rationale and importance of the regional evaluation, along with the main questions to be answered in it. Likewise, the relationship of the evaluation with the strategic agenda and ongoing actions of ACTO will be established. An explanation of the IPBES conceptual framework and relevant definitions will also be incorporated. In this chapter, an introduction will be made to the main aspects of the Amazon Region and the units of analysis of the report, highlighting the main aspects of evaluation attention. Finally, the methodological and technical aspects will be introduced, as well as the structure of the report.

18. **Chapter 2. Status, trends and dynamics of biological diversity and ecosystems.** This chapter will present an assessment of knowledge about past and present trends and future dynamics of biological diversity and ecosystems, as well as their effects on key ecosystem goods and services identified. The main contributions of environmental functions/ ecosystem

services /contributions of nature for people will be identified, and how their changes are affecting quality of life and socio-economic development in different areas (local, sub-national, national and regional). The available forecasts regarding current trends will also be outlined. This chapter will develop the analysis under the focus of sustainable development, recognizing the complementarity between the social, economic, environmental, and cultural spheres that interact and form the complexity of the Amazon Region, as well as the multiple values and knowledge systems, including that of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities.

19. Chapter 3. Drivers of threats, losses, opportunities and transformation of nature.

This chapter will identify and analyze, through a systemic analysis, the drivers of threat, losses, opportunities and transformation of nature and the main connections with social, cultural, political, and economic variables that allow evaluating regional challenges. According to the IPBES conceptual framework, direct drivers (habitat conversion, climate change, pollution and species invasion, among others) and indirect drivers (socio-political, economic, technological and cultural aspects, among others) are considered as dynamic elements that are part of a network of interdependent variables. This chapter will also incorporate an approach to knowledge about the resilience thresholds of ecosystems and the approach of the Amazon Region in achieving the Aichi and SDG goals of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

20. Chapter 4. Dialogue of knowledge, traditional knowledge and biodiversity.

This chapter seeks to examine the concepts of biodiversity and environmental services from the perspectives of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities in the Amazon Region. As part of the analysis, indigenous, peasant, native, Afro-descendant, and other knowledge systems will be reviewed in actions related to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the just and equitable participation in the benefits resulting of the utilization of genetic resources. On the other hand, a synthesis of the threats to knowledge will be presented from a perspective of multiple environmental, economic and social pressures. An evaluation will be made of the experience and response of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities regarding the management of biological diversity and ecosystems.

21. Chapter 5. Interactions between nature and society in the present and future: the path to sustainable development.

It comprises a systematic and comprehensive analysis regarding the set of flows and interactions between nature and society based on the analysis of the previous chapters, using modeling and scenarios developed for the Amazon Region. In particular, it examines the future trends of biodiversity and the drivers and what their meaning is in the usual scenario and in the context of a transformative change towards sustainable and harmonious development in the Amazon Region. Integrated analyzes will be included at different scales, and different ways to achieve sustainable development, identifying the trajectories of different indirect drivers.

22. Chapter 6. Policies, institutions and governance at different scales and sectors.

This chapter aims to analyze how policies, regulations and initiatives have been interacting and mediating the relationships between biodiversity and the contributions of nature to society in the Amazon Region. Different options and policy tools will be presented for decision-makers at the regional, national and sub-national levels, in response to what was stated in the previous chapter on the horizon of sustainable development for the Amazon Region, the fulfillment of the objectives of the CBD and the goals of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Conservation Framework. The enabling environments and constraints with respect to policy adoption, the experience gained in the region, and in particular the existing solutions and methods to ensure success will also be identified.

23. Chapter 7. Conclusions and recommendations.

Based on what was presented in the previous chapters, and with special attention to the scenarios analyzed in the previous chapter,

the main conclusions and recommendations for the integrated management of biodiversity and its ecosystem services will be presented in this chapter, as a contribution to policy-makers. of decisions, with a regional management focus. Key and short messages will be launched to serve for decision making. Finally, the information gaps identified in the evaluation will be identified.

IV. Process and timetable

24. The table below proposes a process and timetable for conducting the evaluation.

Timeframe		Process and timetable
2020	Third quarter	Approval of the process and of the draft scoping document by the MC (September 10)
		Constitution of the Scientific Committee of the report, with the participation of prominent academics of the MC (designation via MC and by PS/ACTO) (September 20).
	Fourth quarter	The PS/ACTO draws up, with the support of the Scientific Committee for the report, a proposal of the scoping document (October 15).
		Call for experts (includes experts and representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities-IPLCOTC for the revision of the scoping document (October 30).
		Virtual meetings of authors for the discussion of the scope document (October 30 to November 31). Approval of the scope document by the experts (10 December). Translation of the scope document (December 10 to 12).
		External review of the scope document (December 16 to January 5).
First quarter	Adjustment of the scope document with the results of the external review (January 6 to 12).	
	Approval by the governments of the MCs of the scope document (MC meeting) (January 14 to 16).	
	The Scientific Committee of the report with the participation of the authors in charge of the elaboration of the scoping document carry out a review of the existing advances (Evaluation of the Americas, Brazil and Colombia, and progress of the Amazon Science Panel) and elaborates a document for the analysis of the information gaps that must be covered by the evaluation (January 13, 2020 to February 10, 2021).	
	PS/ACTO calls on governments and other actors for nomination of experts (co-chairs of the report, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and reviewing editors) to conduct the evaluation based on the results of the scoping document approved by the governments (January 15 to February 10, 2021). The members of the group of experts of the scope document in case they want to continue in the process must submit their candidacy again.	
	The Scientific Committee via e-mail and VC selects the co-chairs of the report, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and reviewing editors using the BIPES selection criteria (February 11 to 24), taking the document of analysis of information gaps.	
First/ second/ third quarter	The report's co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare an initial draft of the report and a summary for policymakers (February 25-August 25). The authors meet in March (first meeting) to further develop the annotated outline and	

Timeframe		Process and timetable
		assigned sections and chapters, and again in early July to finalize the report and prepare the summary for policymakers.
	Second quarter	The co-chairs of the report, coordinating lead authors and lead authors meet with experts and representatives of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities (meeting with IPLCOTC) to share approaches and insights on specific themes of the report (June 15-17).
	Third/ fourth quarter	External review of the draft report and summary for policymakers are reviewed by experts, governments and other stakeholders (August 26-October 12).
		The report's co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, and lead authors review the first draft of the report and the summary for policymakers under the guidance of the review editors and the Scientific Committee. Review authors and editors, with members of the Scientific Committee, meet (second meeting) to prepare the final draft of the report and the summary for policy makers (October 13-December 7).
	Fourth quarter	The summary for policy makers is translated into the official languages of ACTO (December 8 to January 5).
		External review of the final draft of the report and summary for policymakers, which are sent to governments and other stakeholders for final review (January 6 to March 6).
2022	First quarter	Governments send written comments on the summary for policymakers to the secretariat by February 28.
		The Plenary reviews and accepts the report and approves the summary for policy makers (from March 8 to 10).