**PROPOSAL OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM**

**OF THE AMAZON REGION**

**(Third draft: November, 2020)**

1. **PROGRAM JUSTIFICATION**
2. **Context and regional challenges**

The Amazon comprises 44% of the surface of South America, it is home to the largest contiguous rain forest in the world, it is the most important source of fresh water in South America, and it is one of the most important biodiversity scenarios of the world, providing multiple environmental functions, environmental/ecosystem services and contributions of nature for people, which are crucial for the survival, well-being and development of the inhabitants of the region and of the Amazon countries. In turn, the Amazon Region has a population of around 40 million inhabitants and is home to more than 400 indigenous peoples, presenting a rich biological and cultural diversity.

The Amazon is recognized for being a complex and heterogeneous region resulting from various geological, geomorphological, climatological, hydrographic and biological processes, standing out worldwide for its variety of ecosystems, species richness and high endemism. It is considered one of the areas with the greatest wealth of biological diversity in the world, with the richest diversity of birds, freshwater fish, primates and butterflies. It is estimated that the Amazon is home to about 10% of known biological diversity, including elements from 56 eco-regions of internationally important ecological systems[[1]](#footnote-1), 6 natural world heritage sites, and more than 10 endemic bird areas. The region is considered the world's last refuge for threatened species such as harpy eagles and pink river dolphins and is habitat for a significant group of known species on the planet. More than 14,000 species of flowering plants from the low and humid forests of the Amazon Region are known[[2]](#footnote-2) (corresponding to only about 3.6% of the known world flora), not including the areas of montane, savanna and moor forests. We know, however, that the total flora of the Amazon is still poorly scientifically known and recent studies estimate that the total tree species in the low and humid forests of the Amazon should reach between 14,000 and 17,000 species[[3]](#footnote-3) (approximately 20% of the world total), well above the approximately 6,700 tree species currently known. It also encompasses a great richness of species in what refers to continental fish, however, the knowledge of the ichthyofauna is still incomplete. It is estimated that there are between 2,200 and 3,000 species of freshwater fish throughout the Amazon, although there are still many species without formal descriptions that are erroneously included under a common name[[4]](#footnote-4).

Amazon countries have to advance in the consolidation of territories with sustainable and harmonious development, where nature and biodiversity play an important role not only for the provision of environmental functions but also for the social and economic development of the local population. Furthermore, there is the need to take into account that in the Amazon there is an ongoing social and economic agenda that has not ended. In the Amazon, important infrastructure deficits still have to be covered, generate sustained income for the population, improve access to basic public 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.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which gives rise to the constitution of ACTO, establishes in its first article that: “*The Contracting Parties agree to carry out joint efforts and actions to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories, so that these actions together can produce equitable and mutually beneficial results, as well as for the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rational use of the natural resources of those territories*”. In this context, the ACTO Member Countries-MC have made national progress on biodiversity conservation goals and within the ACTO framework have promoted regional efforts for the protection and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity in a sustainable development context, strengthening their capacities to fulfill the commitments agreed in the Convention on Biological Diversity-CBD. It is necessary to continue strengthening regional cooperation actions for the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, strengthening and expanding previous experiences and initiatives that have been successful, both by the MC and by the ACTO in the regional scope.

There are several elements that must be taken into account by a Biological Diversity Program of the Amazon Region/Basin, the most important of which are the following:

a) The contribution of the management of biodiversity with an exosystemic approach to the sustainable development, taking into account the important link and connection that exists between the biodiversity, society and economy in the Amazon countries.

b) The strengthening of multiple actors (public private, communities, academic, cooperation entities and civil society) on issues of biological diversity, taking into account the particularities of the Amazon Region and the potential of its biodiversity and the need of promoting the added value of the products that come from it, and also the complexity of sustainable management of the components of biodiversity in this region.

c) The potential of biodiversity present in the Amazon Region must constitute an opportunity for sustainable development, focused on reducing the gaps in income inequality, health and education, among others, promoting sustainable employment, environmentally responsible practices of the population, and the recovery of ecosystems and species under threat or pressured by international trade.

d) Strengthening the capacity of the ACTO MC in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the commitments of the CBD and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

e) The need to strengthen cross-border coordination and cooperation between the different Amazon countries, particularly in the area of ​​management and monitoring of biological diversity and the contributions of nature to people.

f) The creation and/or strengthening of regional, national and territorial capacities in biodiversity management issues through the development of implementation mechanisms and instruments, which allow identifying, systematizing and disseminating the successful initiatives and experiences of the ACTO MC on biological diversity.

g) The need to achieve the integration of environmental function and environmental/ecosystem services in different sectors to reverse the main causes of loss of biodiversity and deterioration of ecosystems.

h) The need to have sufficient financial resources for the adequate fulfillment of the national commitments in the frame of the CBD.

i) The promotion of actions to promote the participation of the different actors and the general population in the processes of conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon Region, considering the promotion of biotrade and eco-businesses with distribution of benefits in the value chain, promoting the equitable distribution of the benefits that result from the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity.

1. **The Program in the global, regional and national context**

The Program is focused to comply with the objectives related to the conservation and sustainable / sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, as well as the distribution of the benefits generated by it, in line with creating conditions for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity ( CBD), of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly with the Sustainable Development Goals related to biological diversity, and strengthening national capacities to advance in the implementation of the commitments agreed in the framework of the CBD and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Likewise, the Program is oriented to facilitate the achievement of the mandates established in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) to be met, which refers to the need for the use of the flora and fauna of the Amazon to be rationally planned, in order to maintain the ecological balance of the region and preserve the species. In particular the Article VII of the ACT makes reference to: “*i) Promote scientific research and the exchange of information and technical personnel among the competent entities of the respective countries in order to expand knowledge about the resources of the flora and fauna of its Amazon territories and to prevent and control diseases in those territories; and ii) Establish a regular system for the adequate exchange of information on the conservation measures that each State has adopted or is adopting in its Amazon territories, which will be the subject of an annual report presented by each country* ”.

 The Program will support the ACTO MC in the implementation of the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA), which is being updated, particularly regarding the Objective 2 of the ASCA: to promote the conservation and responsible use of natural resources of biological diversity. In this framework, it will focus on strengthening the work of ACTO through the following central aspects:

* Improved knowledge and information on biological diversity in the Amazon Region.
* Strengthening at the regional level of knowledge management, monitoring, and exchange of experiences and initiatives on public policies and good practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
* Strengthening of national and territorial capacities for the conservation and sustainable / sustainable use of the components of biological diversity with a regional impact approach.
* Strategic planning and institutional strengthening of ACTO.

In this context, the work carried out by ACTO will continue to be strengthened in the following aspects:

* Strengthening of national systems of protected areas in coordination with other effective area-based conservation measures.
* Sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade, with an emphasis on adding value.
* Management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade.
* Research, technology and innovation in Amazonian biodiversity.

It also considers expanding the work of ACTO to new topics related to the management of biological diversity, such as, among others:

* Strengthening the protection and conservation of biological diversity and the management of species of wild flora and fauna, with emphasis on threatened and endemic species, so that the collection, trade, distribution and use of wild species is done in a sustainable way.
* Promotion and strengthening of the prevention, control, monitoring and eradication of invasive species.
* Development of the innovative potential of the bioeconomy through the strengthening of the sustainable use of biodiversity through new technologies.
* Improvement of the sustainable use of biological diversity associated with the development of productive activities and eco-businesses.
* Strengthening of measures and instruments for the management of biological diversity in a context of sustainable development.
* Strengthening the connection between biodiversity, food and health.

The Program takes into account the important experience of ACTO in strengthening the management of biodiversity in the Amazon Region/Basin, which has to do with the implementation of regional and thematic forums for dialogue, the development of strategic agendas and regional programs for cooperation in sustainable development, the establishment of information and monitoring systems, and the creation of regional institutional networks for the management of natural resources, among others.

The Program intends not to repeat actions already carried out by the MC and should be based in all cases on the experiences developed and advanced at the national level by the MC, focusing and responding to their needs in terms of solving bottlenecks and solving problems and challenges towards the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity identified by each MC, promoting their regional replicability based on regional coordination and the exchange of knowledge and experiences. It is also intended to promote synergy and complementarity with related initiatives (underway or planned) in the Amazon Region that are being managed by ACTO MC (independently or bilaterally) or by international cooperation in coordination with MC. It will also promote the participation of multiple actors (public, private, communities, academia, cooperation entities and civil society) in actions in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Amazon Region.

In this context, the Program is based both on the development of regional instruments that support the regional coordination and articulation of national experiences, promoting the development of regional services and products, as well as on the strengthening of national actions with impact and regional scope. As appropriate, connections and articulations will also be established with other regional integration and cooperation organizations.

There are several ACTO actions currently underway that may be strengthened and articulated within the framework of this Program. The Bioamazonía regional project aims to improve monitoring and regulation of international trade in wild fauna and flora and to support the development of a regional information and knowledge management system, as well as the introduction of a system of electronic permits for trade in species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). A CITES module is also underway at the Amazon Regional Observatory-ARO that will allow regional monitoring of threatened species of flora and fauna. ACTO has also carried out monitoring actions on deforestation, which has become a successful example for the harmonization of methodological approaches, the reduction of regional asymmetries and the formulation of forest policies by the Member Countries’ organizations.

It is also important to note that all ACTO MC have National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) articulated with the objectives of the CBD and the Aichi Targets, and are committed to building the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The NBSAP shape an Amazon region with a diversity of efforts in different areas (regional, national, sub-national and local) to achieve the objectives and goals of the CBD, and having an enormous commitment towards conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.

1. **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**
2. **General objective**

Having a framework document from the ACTO Member Countries that establishes the results and strategic actions to strengthen the capacities at the regional and national level of ACTO Member Countries oriented to improve the conservation and sustainable use of the components biological diversity with impact in the enhancement of the living conditions of the population of the Amazon region. This will be undertaken within the framework of the definitions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, contributing to the achievement of the harmonious development of the Amazon Region/Basin, to the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as to the objectives and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. **Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of the Program are as follows:

a) Develop an assessment on biodiversity and environmental/ecosystem services to improve regional information and knowledge on the status, threats, opportunities and trends of biological diversity, and its potential for sustainable use in the Amazon Region/Basin, taking into account scientific knowledge and other knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities, including bio-knowledge.

b) Consolidate regional implementation mechanisms and instruments of regional scope to allow improving access to information, monitoring, exchange of experiences and initiatives on the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin.

c) Strengthen the capacities of the group of actors of the Amazon countries (public, private, communities, academic, cooperation entities and civil society) in the implementation of national actions to advance the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity on the basis of regional cooperation and supported by strengthening the interface between science and policy public.

d) Contribute to the strengthening of regional strategic planning and cooperation and the consolidation of regional technical capacities focused on the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, taking into account the diversity of actors of the Amazon region.

1. **PROGRAM SCOPE**

The Program will be implemented within the framework of coordination and cooperation among ACTO Member Countries on issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the priorities determined by the MC. The Program recognizes national needs and priorities, and on that basis, it advances in prioritizing regional mechanisms, instruments and actions that contribute to the development of a shared regional effort for the management of biological diversity and environmental functions and environmental/ ecosystem services, and contributions of nature to people.

The Program is aimed at advancing the systematization of scientific information and knowledge and other knowledge systems on biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin, particularly of indigenous peoples and local knowledge, under the methodological format of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This process will allow the preparation of coordinated regional evaluations, the identification of knowledge gaps in key knowledge topics on biological diversity and the articulation with scientific promotion agencies, in addition to allowing better decision-making and guiding more effectively the development of policies, strategies, plans, programs. and projects on biological diversity in ACTO Member Countries. The Program will also advance the development of tools for the systematization of scientific knowledge and other knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, and support for decision-making. It is also hoped that this information can support the processes of mainstreaming the issue of biological diversity to the different sectors of public management of the MC and advance in intersectoral approaches.

The program recognizes that in the Amazon Region it is necessary to advance in the development of mechanisms, instruments and actions that contribute to the development of a shared regional effort for the management of biological diversity in conservation issues and sustainable use of the components of the biological diversity. Of particular importance is the identification of models, initiatives and actions developed by the countries, within the framework of the implementation of their NBSAP. Mechanisms will be established to carry out the recording of experiences, information exchange, development of indicators and regional monitoring, and knowledge management on biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin. This will support the replication and multiplication of successful national processes in the regional sphere of ACTO, and of other countries and regions of the world, thus complying with the principles of the ACT. Thus, the MC will strengthen regional mechanisms and instruments to facilitate their contribution to international commitments on biological diversity.

The Program will support the strengthening of national MC actions, strengthening the development of projects, policies and instruments at different national and local scales, which can have a regional impact. This will allow consolidating national technical capacities to achieve countries’ goals in conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. These actions will be disseminated at the level of the ACTO MC, allowing them to gain scale in the area of ​​the Amazon Region through processes of dissemination and exchange of experiences and good practices. In turn, this will make it possible to streamline regional cooperation processes between ACTO MC. The transfer of knowledge and experiences from other countries of the world on the subject will also be promoted. It will also support the strengthening of processes for managing biological diversity in protected areas, as well as in indigenous peoples, local communities, and tribal communities, and the relationship between biodiversity, food and health, among other topics.

In particular, it is considered to strengthen the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples over traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity; among them, prior informed consent, mutually agreed conditions and fair and equitable distribution of benefits, as n important pillars in any negotiation process for access to biodiversity resources and related intangible assets.

Likewise, actions will be established to advance with the MC in the identification, evaluation, training and putting into operation of financial mechanisms to contribute with resources to the achievement of conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and environmental functions, environmental/ ecosystem services, and contributions of nature to people.

The Program will strengthen regional capacities in strategic planning on biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin, promoting regional dialogues for the formulation of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Diversity. Likewise, the Program will strengthen the capacity of the PS/ACTO as a technical entity of regional cooperation for advice, support and technical assistance to the processes of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin.

Thus, as a whole, the Program will make it possible to contribute from the national and regional level to the fulfillment of the objectives and commitments established by the ACTO MC in the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. **COMPONENTS, OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

The Program is structured in four components that are presented below. In turn, each component identifies one or more products.

1. ***Component 1: Regional scientific analysis of the state, trends and causes of the loss of biodiversity and deterioration of environmental functions / ecosystem services / contributions of nature to people in the Amazon, as well as advances in restoration and sustainability in the uses of biodiversity.***

Outcome: Access to information and the capacity of ACTO MC in political and technical decision-making on conservation, recuperation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity in the Amazon have been strengthened, including threaten species, with an interdisciplinary approach, based on scientific, governmental information , and of the various knowledge systems, including the scientific knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities, regarding the conservation of diversity and the sustainable use of its components and for the sustainable livelihoods of these populations.

Strategic actions:

1. *Regional report on biological diversity and contributions of nature to people of the Amazon Region/Basin.* Includes the preparation of a regional report on biological diversity and its relationship with the environmental functions, environmental/ecosystem services, and contributions of nature under the conceptual and methodological format of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). It will take into account broadly the previous analysis and studies undertaken by official institutions of each country. IPBES, where the ACTO MC are participating, has produced a regional report for the Americas, a global report and thematic reports in biodiversity, with advances in the systematization of scientific information and other knowledge systems. The report on the Amazon will have more detail in the analysis of information relevant to the MC, and may include other inputs from national and global initiatives. Brazil has advanced under adaptations of the IPBES format in the preparation of national reports on biodiversity and environmental/ ecosystem services, and a report from Colombia is in progress. Another regional reporting initiative for the Amazon is also ongoing (e.g. Science Panel for the Amazon/SDSN). In this context, timely and rigorous information can be provided for decision-making by strengthening the science / politics / society interface.
2. ***Component 2. Regional mechanisms and instruments to support the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.***

Outcome: The mechanisms and instruments, which the MC consider important and effective, have been strengthened to support information management, monitoring, exchange of experiences, knowledge and/or technologies exchange, training, and replicability of actions, and monitoring, in relation to conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. All of this will be done on the basis of the national biodiversity information and control and surveillance systems, especially in wild flora and fauna, existing in the MC. The construction of regional protocols will also be promoted to establish the parameters for the management and use of information that contributes to public policy decision-making, considering regional and national objectives, and considering the regulations of each country.

Strategic actions:

*1) Management of knowledge and information on biological diversity.* ACTO is moving forward the consolidation of the Amazon Regional Observatory-ARO as a platform to develop processes of documentation, systematization, analysis and exchange of experiences among the MC, and with other countries and regions of the world. In this context, the identification, documentation (including lessons learned), systematization, and dissemination of information on models, initiatives and successful actions and innovative practices for managing biodiversity in the Amazon will be promoted, fostering regionally shared transformative change actions. This initiative will articulate national systems on biological diversity and other relevant issues in a regional platform. Likewise, the experiences and initiatives developed in the region by academic entities, international cooperation and others in progress in the Amazon Region will be linked, in coordination with the MC, promoting synergy and complementarity between the regional initiatives that are being carried out in the region by the ACTO MC.

1. *Regional monitoring on biological diversity.* The Program will also support the development of a regional monitoring module on biological diversity linked to the ARO, based on the information existing in the national systems that the MC possess, taking into account standardization and representativeness of information. Biodiversity indicators harmonization among the MC will also be discussed for the development of regional monitoring, aligned with the indicators of the CBD and the SDGs, as well as instruments and methodologies for sharing information. With this informatic module, the Program will support the regional and national monitoring on the fulfillment of the MC goals in relation to the commitments of the CBD, the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through consolidating information and databases, preparing reports, and promoting regional dialogues on the status and trends of biological diversity in the Amazon. In this way, practical tools can be generated to improve the positioning of the MC regarding their efforts in the management of biological diversity.
2. *Promotion of process of systematization of good practices and solutions for the management of de biological diversity and environmental/ ecosystem services.* The Program will support giving visibility to the successful experiences linked to learning initiatives, solutions and/ or approaches to the management of biological diversity in the MC, which make it possible to make visible the advantages and added value of a regional approach within the framework of ACTO. In this way, the identification, selection and systematization based on a conceptual and methodological approach shared with the MC will be promoted. Likewise, these experiences will be disseminated at national, regional and global levels, promoting their replicability at the regional level as appropriate.
3. ***Component 3. Strengthening national capacities for the management of biological diversity with regional impact.***

Outcome: The experiences and capacities of ACTO Member Countries have been strengthened to meet the challenges of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity within the framework of the CBD, and through them, the actors at the local level, as a fundamental part of the planning process for the territorial development of the Amazon Region.

Strategic actions:

1. *Development of national and territorial actions for the management of biological diversity towards transformative change.* The Program recognizes the different needs and priorities of the MC, and following a prioritization process, actions will be identified to strengthen national capacities in the management of biological diversity. In this sense, support to the MC is foreseen in the management of national and local capacity development projects, the holding of regional dialogues, training courses, processes of horizontal exchange of experiences, and technical assistance, on regionally prioritized topics. Among the topics to be worked on are referentially the following:
* Protection and conservation of biological diversity and the management of species of wild flora and fauna, with emphasis on threatened and endemic species.
* Promotion and strengthening of the prevention, control, monitoring and eradication of invasive species.
* Biodiversity in the context of the bioeconomy.
* Strengthening of measures and instruments for the management of biological diversity in a context of sustainable development, such as: land regularization, payment for environmental services, economic and ecological zoning, inspection and control actions, among others.
* Management of genetic resources.
* Gender and inclusion of women in the management of the biological diversity.
* Other topics prioritized by MC.

 Based on national experiences, it will be promoted to gain regional scale with the diffusion and exchanges of good practices and processes of learning and technology transfer in the regional sphere through ACTO. Synergies and complementarities will also be established with other initiatives already advanced (ongoing and planned) that are being developed by academic actors, international cooperation and others, in coordination with the ACTO MC, avoiding duplication of functions and efforts.

1. *Promotion of the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity*. It is related to the promotion of sustainable use through regional actions that favor investments and trade in products derived from the biodiversity of the MC of ACTO, including the management and sustainable production of species of wild fauna and flora, with emphasis on the addition of value in the country of origin and on the fair and equitable distribution of benefits, prioritizing the development of local economies and food security. In particular, the establishment of an Amazon Regional Forum of initiatives of micro, small and medium-sized companies related to the use of natural products of the Amazon will be promoted, enhancing the encounter between producers (in situ and ex situ managers of biodiversity) and buyers of Amazonian products based on biodiversity, with particular interest in indigenous and local communities of the MC. In this context, the development of a training initiative for young entrepreneurs in partnership with academia and industry will be promoted. It is also foreseen the elaboration of a catalog of Amazonian products and the opening of a window to promote Amazonian products on the ACTO website, based on the existing information already produced by the MC and the work of their National Agencies of Trade and Export.
2. *Management of traditional knowledge associated to the biological diversity in indigenous peoples, local communities and tribal communities.* The program will promote articulated work at the ACTO MC level to launch CBD initiatives in relation to indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities. It takes into account the promotion and strengthening of local enterprises of indigenous peoples and local communities of the Amazon Region. Special attention will be paid to the issues of fair and equitable benefit sharing, community protocols, strengthening of traditional and local knowledge systems, intellectual property on traditional knowledge. The development of training processes in financial economics, income generation and investment plans will also be considered. Likewise, the improvement of the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and tribal communities in the Participatory Mechanism of IPBES will be considered.
3. *Strengthening of management processes in protected areas and other conservation measures.* It has to do with the development of national and regional actions for the strengthening of the national systems of protected areas, and other forms of conservation and management of ecosystems beyond the national frontiers, in articulation with other conservation measures, oriented to the protection of biological diversity and the sustainable development of local populations that inhabit them. Experiences will be shared in establishing surveillance and control systems, including the possibility of their articulation and elaboration of joint norms, with emphasis on protected areas in border regions.
4. *Management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade.* Its purpose is to strengthen, from a regional perspective, the institutional and technical capacity of the ACTO MC on issues related to the management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade, in particular of the species included in CITES. Progress will be made in strengthening national and regional interoperable information systems related to the management, monitoring and control of CITES species or other wild fauna and flora threatened by trade in the Amazon Region, as well as in the development of mechanisms, systems or national processes for the issuance of electronic permits, harmonized with the CITES guidelines and others that the MPs consider pertinent.
5. *Biodiversity, food and health.* In the Amazon Region, agricultural practices and the use of forest products, bushmeat hunting and fishing are the most frequent sources of protein in the diets of indigenous peoples and local communities, contributing substantially to food security and adequate nutrition of the population. Actions will be promoted to strengthen the use of biodiversity as a source of well-being for indigenous peoples and local communities through the provision of local food and by strengthening the existing links between biodiversity, food and public health. It will also be important to strengthen research in relation to the relationships between emerging diseases and the impact of the use of wildlife for human consumption, promoting the use of biodiversity taking into account its sanitary and epidemiological implications.
6. *Identification and analysis of options for financial mechanisms and instruments.* The Program will facilitate the identification, evaluation and regional analysis of financial mechanisms and instruments that have been developed in the area of ​​MC at the Amazon regional level and in other countries of the world, on conservation, restoration, sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and protection of environmental functions and environmental/ecosystem services. The feasibility of developing training processes to apply these mechanisms and instruments at different scales and with different actors will be analyzed, as well as their potential impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. For this purpose, exchanges will be promoted to strengthen experience-based learning among ACTO MC and with other countries. Likewise, the Program will be able to support the identification of greater sources of financing for regional initiatives at the Amazon Basin level, including the widest variety of options.
7. ***Component 4.*** ***Strategic planning and institutional strengthening of ACTO.***

Outcome: The strategic planning and regional technical capacity of the PS/ACTO to support MC in the management of biological diversity has been strengthened.

Strategic actions:

1. *Strengthening of the PS/ACTO as a regional technical entity specialized in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.* The PS/ACTO will strengthen its technical profile in the formulation, management of regional financing, and execution of regional projects related to the management and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. Through the strengthening of the technical team of the PS/ACTO, specialized advice will be provided to the MC in the development of national capacities, promoting a greater balance between the Amazonian countries in this area.

*2) Updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.* Within the framework of the Program, the support to the updating of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) of the ACTO MC will be carried out, with respect to the objectives of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, promoting the identification of common regional aspects to be strengthened in the Program implementation processes. The development of regional dialogues and exchanges on effective and gender-sensitive implementation approaches and measures will also be promoted, in order to contribute to achieving the objectives of the CBD's Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework in the national contexts of the MC.

1. **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

The program lasts until 2030, coinciding with the period of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the updated proposal of the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA).

This program will be implemented progressively according to the prioritization of strategic actions of the ACTO MC, for which a proposal for an implementation framework of prioritized actions will be prepared, which includes a capacity development strategy for effective national implementation, a resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the prioritized regional strategies, and a communication strategy.

1. Eco-regiones. Global 200. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cardoso, Domingos et al., 2017. Amazon plant diversity revealed by a taxonomically verified species list. PNAS 114(40): 10695–10700. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ter Steege, Hans et al., 2020. Biased-corrected richness estimates for the Amazonian tree flora. Scientific Reports 10: 10130, 13p. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Albert & Reis, 201b en Alho, 2104/OTCA/GEF/ PNUMA; Chaves, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)