**PROPOSAL OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM**

**OF THE AMAZON REGION**

**(Second draft: July, 2020)**

**Compiled document**

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**(COMPILED DOCUMENTS WITH COMENTS FROM**

**BRASIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PERU AND PS)**

**WITH COMMENTS FROM:**

* Brazil, sent by email to the SP / OTCA of Gabriela Guimaraes Gazzinelli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated September 23, 2020 (4:20 pm).
* Ecuador through note No. 4-3-146 / BRA / 2020 of September 25, 2020. Includes additional comments from Ecuador. Note No 4-3-0158 / BRA / 2020 of October 5, 2020.
* Colombia. Email to the SP / ACTO of Yessica Vanesa Diaz Granados, Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated April 21 (7:24 pm) that attaches the Document: Proposal for Regional Program for Biological Diversity in the Amazon Region. Ministry of Foreign Relations-SINA Entities.
* Peru. Note No. 5-2-Q / 105 dated September 4, 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 / ecosystem [(EC) environmental] services / 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 [(PE) 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 [(PE) 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 articulation of the management of biodiversity with [(EC) ecosystem approaches for the contribution ~~the approach~~] of sustainable development, taking into account the important link that exists between the social, economic and environmental aspects in the territories of the Amazon countries.

b) Public management [(EC) and the role of other sectors (private, communities, academia and civil society] on issues of biological diversity that considers the particularities of the Amazon region and the potential of its biodiversity and contributes to promoting the added value of the products that come from it, also considering the complexity of sustainable management of [(PE) the components of] biodiversity in this region.

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

d) 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.

e) The creation and/or strengthening of national and regional [(EC) 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.

f) The need to achieve the integration of environmental functions/ecosystem [(EC) environmental] services in different sectors to reverse the main causes of loss of biodiversity and deterioration of ecosystems.

g) The need to have sufficient financial resources for the adequate fulfillment of the national commitments [(EC) assumed in the context] of the CBD.

h [(EC) Promote actions to impulse the participation of the population and of the different actors in the processes of conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon Region].

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

[(PE) The potential of biodiversity, present in the Amazon region, should be an opportunity for sustainable development, to reduce the inequality gap in health and education, and promote sustainable and environmentally responsible employment in the population].

[(PE) The challenges of the Amazon region are aimed at recognizing and highlighting the connections between biodiversity, society and the economy. As foreseen in the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda, it is necessary to promote the sustainable use and recovery of ecosystems and species under threat or pressured by international trade].

The Program is focused on [(EC fulfilling the objectives of conservation, sustainable use and distribution of benefits generated by diversity, in line with the objectives of the CDB and contributing to the goal ~~creating conditions for the implementation~~] of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and particularly of 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.

[(EC) NOTE. Review since it speaks of meeting objectives and then an article VII is cited] The Program will enable the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) to be met, particularly its Article VII, 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. The Member Countries, in the context of this article, decided: “*i) Promote scientific research and the exchange of information [(EC) knowledge and experiences,] 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 in areas related to the preservation, conservation, restoration and [(EC) **Improve redaction** sustainable use of natural resources and biological diversity, knowledge management and information exchange, and indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities].

The Program is based on 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.

Likewise, 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 [(PE) the components] of biological diversity.

[(PE) Together with agricultural practices and the use of forest products, hunting and fishing are the most frequent sources of protein in the diets of rural communities in the Amazon, which is reflected in local economic dynamics and its determining relevance for food security].

[(PE) In this sense, the magnitude of the contribution of "bushmeat" to welfare conditions is still unknown in many countries, both in terms of its dietary contributions, and in the costs avoided in providing protein to farmers. rural inhabitants. Documented cases show that at least 80% of the protein consumed in Amazonian communities is from bushmeat, mainly from mammals, achieving the minimum nutritional requirements defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO].

[(PE) The use of biodiversity as a source of well-being for local communities through the provision of food, has an implicit concern related to the sustainability of their practices, animal health and public health. Currently, it is estimated that in different markets with forest products mainly mammals and reptiles protected by the CITES Convention are sold. Likewise, it is pertinent to indicate that, in December 2019, human cases of pneumonia of unknown origin were reported in China, which has a coronavirus (CoV) or “COVID-19 virus” as the causative agent. Since then, almost every country in the world has reported human cases and the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Currently available information suggests that the COVID-19 virus is of animal origin].

[(PE) In this scenario of emerging diseases, it is relevant to recognize the need to address with greater relevance the impact of the use of wild fauna for human consumption purposes, in order to know the health status and epidemiological implications of meat from forest consumed by man in order to achieve comprehensive management of biodiversity in the different territorial contexts of our Amazon countries].

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

Strengthen the capacities at the regional and national level of ACTO Member Countries to improve the conservation and sustainable use of [(PE) the components] of biological diversity, 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. [(CO) Design and formulation of activities whose purpose is to improve the living conditions of the Amazon region].

[(CO) NOTE. Duplication of functions and efforts should be avoided, therefore, the document's methodology should be strengthened and focus the general objective and centralize the specific objectives, so that in this way its purpose is not dispersed and does not hinder its implementation and its financing amounts as also costs for monitoring and evaluation] [(CO) In the process of identifying common objectives for each member country, care should be taken not to repeat the work that has already been done in the CBD negotiating bodies to avoid duplication and unnecessary wear and tear].

1. **Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of the Program are as follows:

1. [(EC) NOTE. It is not clear how these ties in with the assessment of the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services proposed under ACTO]. Improve regional information and knowledge on the status, threats and trends of biological diversity, and its potential for sustainable use in the Amazon Region/Basin, taking into account scientific knowledge [(EC) NOTE. Consider other types of knowledge such as bio-enterprises] and other knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities. [(EC) Does it refer to generating a greater quantity / quality of information or, in turn, increasing its availability?]

[(PE) a.1) Promote and strengthen spaces for the exchange of information and scientific development in the Amazon areas in matters of biodiversity, health, among others] [(BR) regularization of land, payment for environmental services, economic zoning and ecological, bioeconomy, and inspection, command and control actions].

b) [(EC) NOTE. Improve the wording, it is not clear what the implementation refers to] Consolidate regional implementation mechanisms and instruments to improve access to information, exchange of experiences, monitoring, and dissemination of models, actions, and initiatives on the conservation and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin.

c) Strengthen the capacities of the Amazon countries in the implementation of national actions to advance the conservation and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity on the basis of regional cooperation and supported by strengthening the interface between science and policy public. [(EC) NOTE. Take care that essential actors for the implementation of policies are not left out].

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 [(PE) the components of] biological diversity. [(EC) NOTE. Take care that essential actors for the implementation of policies are not left out].

[(PE) d.bis) Promote bio and eco-businesses with distribution of benefits in the value chain, equitable sharing of benefits for the sustainable / sustainable use of the components of biodiversity].

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 [(PE) 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.

(CO) The program responds to Objective 2 of the AECA: Promote the preservation, conservation and responsible use of natural resources and biological diversity in relation to all its issues] (NOTE CO. The current proposal seems to respond only to the issue of diversity biological and within this only to activities 24, 26 and 27].

[(CO) NOTE. The initiative proposed by ACTO (Regional Biodiversity Program) should start on the basis of these experiences and those carried out at the national level by all member countries (MC), focusing and responding to the needs of the MC in terms of solving the neck bottle and solve the challenges towards the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable / sustainable development of the region, identified by each PM. The ACTO's mandate to coordinate actions and promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences and knowledge should be used.] [(CO) An intervention program should be designed at the national level, but with a regional impact and scope to which all PM contributes to and benefits all MC (the conservation of the biome, the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of climate and environmental services for the entire planet) rather than a regional program with national impact].

[(CO) NOTE. It is suggested: a) Starting from what exists, so as not to repeat actions already taken. Therefore, inventory, baseline and diagnosis issues cannot be the central object of management, but must be a central and necessary input to determine gaps and bottlenecks, define priorities and strengthen capacities; b) Synergy and complementarity with related initiatives (underway or planned) that are being carried out in the region by ACTO Countries (independently or bilaterally), OGG or international cooperation; c) Macro regional vision. In this same context of synergies and collaborative work, the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) could be consulted on the related actions that are being carried out from this instance of regional integration, in such a way that an added value can be given from a perspective of Andean Amazon regional ecosystem connectivity.]

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/ ecosystem [(EC) environmental] services/ 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 [(EC) NOTE. Clarify the term "knowledge gaps"] 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 will also advance in the consolidation of regional implementation mechanisms and instruments that strengthen the management capacity of the Amazon countries on issues of conservation and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] 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. [(EC) In particular, it is considered to strengthen the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous communities over traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity; among them, prior informed consent, mutually agreed conditions and fair and equitable distribution of benefits, important pillars in any negotiation process for access to biodiversity resources and associated intangible assets].

[(BR) The program is aimed at deepening knowledge, development and exchange of experiences on prioritized national issues and their link with biodiversity management, such as land regularization, payment for environmental services, economic and ecological zoning, bioeconomy, and inspection, command and control actions].

[(EC) the program recognizes that national needs and priorities on this basis advance in the prioritization of mechanisms, instruments and actions of a regional nature that contribute to the development of a shared regional effort for the management of biological diversity and environmental functions, eco-systemic services, and nature's contributions to people]. 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 will allow consolidating national technical capacities to achieve [(EC) its ~~national~~ goals] in conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity. [(EC) NOTE. Review the wording Thus, the program will allow the promotion of concrete cooperation actions at the national and local level in the PMs that have a national impact]. Thus, the program will promote concrete cooperation actions at the national and local levels in the MC that would have a national impact. 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. Likewise, actions will be established to advance with the MC in the identification, evaluation, training and putting into operation of financial mechanisms to contribute [(EC) with ~~financial~~] resources to the achievement of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity and environmental functions/ ecosystem [(EC) environmental] services/ 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 [(PE) the components of] biological diversity in the Amazon Region/Basin. [(EC) NOTE. Does this instance consider the issue of fires?].

[(CO) NOTE. It must establish the needs to be intervened by identifying which are the common and priority problems of each of the 8 countries in terms of biodiversity and, based on this, build a program with clear components such as activities, schedules, costs and means of financing]. [(CO) The proposal sets as expected outputs some supremely ambitious results and does not specify the activities (or costs, times or responsible parties) to achieve them.] [(CO) The Proposal needs methodological and planning adjustments that the make them consistent, workable and useful].

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, RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

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.***

Expected result: Access to information [(EC) NOTE. Take into account the interdisciplinarity of this component (economic, environmental, social, among others)] and the capacity of ACTO MC in political and technical decision-making on conservation, [(PE) recovery] restoration and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity in the Amazon have been strengthened [(PE) including threatened species having a national and international category approach-IUCN), based on scientific, governmental information , and of the various knowledge systems [(PE) traditional for the conservation of diversity and the sustainable use of its components and for the sustainable livelihoods of these communities], including the scientific knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities. [(EC) The report will be prepared with the participation of experts in different fields as well as the focal points of the national entities of the countries before ACTO].

[(NOTE CO. It is important to mention that according to the experience with the Global Assessment of IPBES, it is necessary to take into account a broad vision of the baselines (main objection of countries like Brazil to this assessment); National Evaluation of IPBES (still under construction), it is necessary to take into consideration all the analysis and previous studies carried out by each and every one of the official institutions of each country that have carried out evaluations of this type, so that it can build on the work On this issue, it is necessary to evaluate the implications of generating an IPBES Amazon Regional Platform in the framework of the plenary meeting (What is it for? How does it work? etc.)] [(CO) The importance of this Evaluation lies in the possibilities of providing timely and rigorous information for decision-making, strengthening the science / policy / society interface, generated from a participatory process that accommodates s different knowledge systems, among others].

Outcomes:

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 contributions of nature under the conceptual and methodological format of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 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 ecosystem [(EC) environmental] 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, the Program will promote the preparation of a regional report on biological diversity and contributions of nature to people of the Amazon Region/Basin, as an important input for the MC to guide their public policy action in the Amazon territories on the information presented in a systematic and organized way.

[(PE) 2) Establish a communication strategy that allows disseminating the progress and results of the PM and ACTO at different scales].

1. ***Component 2. Regional mechanisms and instruments to support the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity.***

Expected result: The mechanisms and instruments, which the MC consider important and effective, have been strengthened to support information management, exchange [(EC) Exchange of information, experiences, transfer of knowledge or technology?], training, and adaptation for the replicability of experiences, and monitoring, in relation to conservation and sustainable use of [(PE) the components] biological diversity. [(PE) based on national information systems on the biodiversity of MC, as well as control and surveillance especially in wild flora and fauna] [(EC) promoting the construction of regional protocols that allow establishing 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].

[(CO) NOTE. There are aspects proposed such as the strengthening of regional structures such as the Network of Research Centers and the Amazon Regional Observatory that deserve to be evaluated (in terms of relevance, importance and impact) and agreed upon a priori before committing to reinforce them with scarce human and financial resources. before growing needs and urgencies].

Outcomes:

*1) Management of knowledge and information on biological diversity.* ACTO is strengthening 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 platform will be compatible and will be articulated with the existing ones of the CBD and will take into account such international standards for its operation. [(EC) What standards are you referring to?].

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. [(EC) Take into account the standardization of information. The same language must be spoken in terms of variables. The information must be representative]. Biodiversity indicators compatible [(EC) NOTE. Harmonized? Homogenized?] 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 the sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity.* The Program will support giving visibility to the successful experiences linked to the sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biological diversity, including the addition of value in Amazonian products. In particular, the establishment of an Amazon Regional Forum will be promoted for initiatives by micro, small and medium-sized companies linked to the use of natural products from the Amazon, promoting the linkages between producers [(PE) in situ and ex situ biodiversity managers] and buyers of Amazon biodiversity products [(EC) with particular interest in indigenous and local communities of ACTO Member Countries]. In this context, the development of a training initiative for young entrepreneurs in partnership with academia and industry will be promoted. The creation of a catalog of Amazonian products and the opening of a window for the promotion of Amazonian products on the ACTO website are also foreseen, based on the existing information already produced by the MC and the work of their National Trade and Export Agencies.
3. ***Component 3. Strengthening national capacities for the management of biological diversity with regional impact.***

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

[(CO) NOTE. An element of scaling up of good practices on biological diversity and contributions of nature for people should be proposed, which may be in line with the work that we have been developing on mechanisms that could be implemented to generate learning processes / technology transfer between the ACTO countries to contribute to conserve and improve the sustainable / sustainable use of biological diversity, focused on improving the productivity, sustainability and resilience of these ecosystems and ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of benefits. This could be interesting to specify high-impact actions and not only those related to diagnoses and analysis].

[(CO) NOTE. It is proposed to prioritize actions that (i) reinforce the knowledge base of the biome in all its aspects through state-of-the-art methodologies and technologies (eg, remote sensors that are increasingly accurate in space and time) to carry out socio-ecological expeditions of great impact and in "bankable" times and costs and (ii) that take advantage of this knowledge to develop in a context of value chain and bioprospecting strategy (with defined and clear protocols) new products and derivatives of biodiversity to improve well-being in a sustainable way of the Amazonian inhabitants and communities].

Outcomes:

1. *Development of national and local 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: management of genetic resources, management of economic and environmental accounts, improvement of productivity and sustainable use of [(PE) the components of] biodiversity, forest restoration, [(BR) land regularization, payment for environmental services, economic and ecological zoning, bioeconomy, and command and control inspection actions,] development of value-adding chains for the products of biodiversity and development of new products, change in patterns of production and consumption, gender and inclusion of women, among others to be prioritized by the ACTO 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.
2. *Management of [(EC) traditional knowledge associated with] 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 [(EC) Takes into account the promotion and strengthening of local enterprises of indigenous 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, [(EC) training in financial economics, economic income generation and now, investment and investment plans] and improving the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities in the Participatory Mechanism of IPBES.
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 [(EC) and other forms of conservation and management of ecosystems beyond national borders], in articulation with other conservation measures, oriented to the protection of biological diversity and the sustainable development of local populations that inhabit them [(EC) as well as the contribution of biodiversity in key issues such as the health and well-being of the population, security and food and water sovereignty]. 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. [(EC) NOTE. Do you consider community boundaries?].

*4) 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 [(PE) the components of] biological diversity, and protection of environmental functions/ecosystem [(PE) environmental] 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 [(PE) 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.

1. ***Component 4.*** ***Strategic planning and institutional strengthening at the regional level.***

Expected result: The strategic planning and regional technical capacity of the PS/ACTO to support MC in the management of biological diversity has been strengthened. [(EC) It is suggested to take into account the need for mechanisms that allow these initiatives to be landed in the MC, internally and thus guarantee their sustainability / sustainability].

Outcomes:

1. *Strengthening of the PS/ACTO as a regional technical entity specialized in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of [(PE) 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 [(PE) 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) Strategy and Regional Action Plan for Biological Diversity.* Within the framework of the Program, the formulation of a Strategy and a Regional Action Plan on Biological Diversity for the Amazon will be carried out, based on the aggregation of the NBSAP [(PE) in accordance with the strategies and action plans of MC]. This will help to consolidate the approaches and actions that the countries are developing in the Amazon Region/Basin for the achievement of the global commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable development.

[(CO). NOTE. It is not understood whether it is proposed to make a Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as an additional planning instrument to the Regional Biodiversity Program. It is important to review if we are going to invest more time and resources in agreeing on new strategies and specific action plans for the region, when in the post 2020 global framework we are already generating concrete SMART-type goals with indicators to be measurable, which could be applied to the region].

**(PS) V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM**

[(PE). NOTE The duration of the program is not known. (SP) The program will have a referential duration until 2030, which coincides with the period of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development].

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)