**AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (ACTO)**

**Second draft, November 2020**

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

1. **Introduction**
2. 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), of which the Amazon countries of ACTO are members. This report will be aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relating 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, and it will be aligned as much as possible to the CBD's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This report will build on and take into account reports made previously and in progress including official information from Member Countries (MC) such as the sixth National Reports on Biological Diversity to the CBD, among others. 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 Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 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.
3. **Scope, geographical delimitation, utility, assumptions and others**
4. **Scope**
5. The overall scope of regional and subregional assessments of IPBES is to assess the status and trends of biodiversity and contributions of nature to people (environmental functions, environmental/ ecosystem services) and their interrelationships, as well as opportunities and threats that are looming over them, and impacts on the well-being of human beings. Likewise, it takes into account the effectiveness of responses, in particular with respect to the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans developed as part of the CBD. The assessment address the biological diversity and services of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. The evaluation will also be articulated to the process initiated by the countries of the Global Framework for Biological Diversity after 2020 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 particularly 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 in such areas.
8. The evaluation will duly take into account the legal framework of the Member Countries, as well as the use of concepts and terminologies related to biological diversity and contributions of nature to people (environmental functions and environmental/ ecosystem services).
9. **Geographical delimitation**
10. he Amazon Region covers 44% of the land area of South America, containing the largest tropical forest in the world, and is 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.
11. The Amazon areas included in the Amazon Region by country encompass all the Amazon territories according to the own definitions and delimitations of the ACTO’s Member Countries, according to the following detail:

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| *País* | *Departments, provinces or municipalities* |
| Bolivia | It includes the totality of the Department of Pando and the Amazon territories of the departments of La Paz, Beni and Santa Cruz. |
| Brasil | It corresponds to the states of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins, Mato Grueso and Maranhão. |
| Ecuador | It includes the provinces of Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe. |
| Colombia | It includes the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupés, South of Meta and South of Vichada. |
| Guyana | It covers the entire territorial extension of Guyana. |
| Perú | It corresponds to the Amazon departments. |
| Surinam | It covers the entire territorial extension of Surinam. |
| Venezuela | It corresponds to Casiquiare river/ Negro river Basin. |

1. 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.
2. **Utility**
3. This report is strategically useful which is the possibility of providing timely and rigorous information for decision-making, strengthening the science/ policy/ society interface, generated from the participatory contribution of experts from the Amazon Region and with the leadership of the governments of the ACTO’s MC. This report will make it possible to generate recommendations based on scientific evidence to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, in light of the goals and targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that are most relevant to the Region Amazonian. This evaluation will allow the results of the Global and Regional Assessment of the Americas on biological diversity and ecosystem services of the IPBES to be deepened within the Amazon Region, articulating all the information and analysis existing in the ACTO MC on the subject. It will make it possible to give visibility to the work carried out in the region in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and environmental functions, environmental/ecosystem services. In addition, the evaluation will be carried out at an important juncture for the Amazon Region that has to do with the consolidation of a vision of sustainable development of the Amazon that takes into account as a fundamental aspect the issue of biological diversity and contributions of nature to people (environmental functions, ecosystem/ environmental services).
4. **Assumptions**
5. The central assumption is that exist available information for all the Amazon territories of MC of ACTO for carrying out the assessment, and as well as there is exiting information with regards to the knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities. Likewise, in accordance with the IPBES assessment format, the assessment will be developed by experts from the MC, so it is assumed that the MC of the region will have the participation of the experts required to prepare the assessment, including experts in knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities. allowing an equitable distribution of MC’s experts in carrying out the assessment, both in territorial and gender terms. Another fundamental assumption is that there will be a commitment of the governments of the Amazon countries to accompany the entire evaluation process and its approval.
6. **Strategic partnership**
7. 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 assessment. Thus, approximations will be made with the academic sector and specialized regional entities in topics of research and analysis on biological diversity in MC of ACTO. 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 assessment t's results, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). In that directions, coordination will also be made with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Latin America, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), 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 Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and Caribbean (FILAC), 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.
8. **Structure of implementation**
9. The Permanent Secretariat of the OTCA (PS/ACTO) will be in charge of coordinating the evaluation with the support of the Research Institute of Biological Resources Alexander von Humboldt, which will provide technical and scientific advice for the realization of the assessment under the methodological and conceptual principals of IPBES. A Scientific Committee will be set up with the participation of prominent academics from ACTO Member Countries (man and a woman for each ACTO MC) who will accompany and supervise the performance of the evaluation. Likewise, the co-chairs of the assessment, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and reviewing editors will be identified to conduct the evaluation based on the scope of this document. The authors (experts) participate in a personal and voluntary capacity and do not formally represent the institutions or governments that have been able to nominate them.
10. The Scientific Committee and the experts will carry out an independent evaluation, in coordination and with the leading accompaniment of the governments of the Amazonian countries, which will assume an important role in the entire evaluation process, starting with the appointment of the Members of the Scientific Committee. Regarding the scoping document, they will participate in the identification and appointment of the experts who carry out the review of the scoping document, as well as in the review of the scoping document draft and its final approval. Regarding the rapid assessment document, they will participate in the nomination of the experts who participate in the assessment, as well as in the review of the evaluation draft, and in the approval of the final assessment document.
11. **Overview of the chapters**
12. The evaluation report for the Amazon Region will have seven (7) chapters, with the following scope:
13. **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.
14. **Chapter 2. Status, trends and dynamics of biological diversity and environmental functions, ecosystem/environmental services and nature contributions to people.** This chapter will present an assessment of knowledge about past and present trends and as well as future dynamics of biological diversity and ecosystems, as well as their effects on key ecosystem goods and services of the Amazon Region. An identification will be made of the main contributions of environmental functions, ecosystem/emvironmental 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 (territorial, national and regional). An approach will be made to the multiple valuation of ecosystem / environmental services to recognize their contribution to national economies. The main trends future trends taking into account aspects related to the role of biotechnology and bioeconomy in the Amazon future. 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.
15. **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 (habitat conversion, climate change, pollution and introduction of species, among others) and indirect drivers (sociopolitical, economic, technological and cultural, 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.
16. **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 biological diversity, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of genetic resources. Community organizational aspects, decision-making, and intellectual protection measures on traditional knowledge, among others, will be analyzed in a view to strengthen the contribution of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. 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.
17. **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.
18. **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. Their contribution to the fulfillment of the CBD objectives and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework guidelines will be taken into account. Among the main policies to be analyzed, the regularization of land, payment for environmental services, zoning will be taken into account. economic and ecological, as well as inspection, command and control measures. 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.
19. **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.
20. **Process and timetable**
21. The table below proposes a process and timetable for conducting the evaluation.

| **Timeframe** | | **Process and timetable** |
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| 2020 | Fourth quarter | Presentation and approval of the process by the MC (Until the end of November) |
| Constitution of the Scientific Committee of the report, with the participation of prominent academics of the MC (designation via MC and by PS/ACTO) (November 30). |
| Call for experts (includes experts and representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities-IPLCOTC for the revision of the scoping document (December 30). |
|  | First quarter | Virtual meetings of authors for the discussion of the scope document (January 10 to February 31). |
| Approval of the scope document by the experts (March10 ). |
| Translation of the scope document (March 10 to 12). |
| First/ second quarter | External review of the scope document (March 16 to April 5). |
| Second quarter | Adjustment of the scope document with the results of the external review (April 6 to 12). |
| Approval by the governments of the MCs of the scope document (**MC meeting)** (April 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 (April 13, 2020 to May 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 (April 15 to May 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 (May 11 to 24), taking the document of analysis of information gaps. |
| Second/ third/ fourth quarter | The report's co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors prepare an initial draft of the report and a summary for policymakers (May 25-November 25). The authors meet in February (**first meeting**) to further develop the annotated outline and assigned sections and chapters, and again in early July to finalize the report and prepare the summary for policymakers. |
| Third 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 (September 15-17). |
| Fourth quarter | External review of the draft report and summary for policymakers are reviewed by experts, governments and other stakeholders (November 26-January 12). |
| 2022 | First quarter | 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 (January 13-March 7). |
| First/ second quarter | The summary for policy makers is translated into the official languages of ACTO (March 8 to April 5). |
| Second quarter | External review of the final draft of the report and summary for policymakers, which are sent to governments and other stakeholders for final review (April 6 to June 6). |
| Governments send written comments on the summary for policymakers to the secretariat by May 31. |
| The Plenary reviews and accepts the report and approves the summary for policy makers (from June 8 to 10). |