BIOAMAZON NEWSLETTER

BIOAMAZON PROJECT

Conservation of species threatened by unsustainable trade

ACTO

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

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ACTO will participate at the CITES CoP 19

Delegation of ACTO in a mission trip to Peru

This is the Bioamazon Project Newsletter, of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). It is published every two months to disseminate the actions and results of the Project and its partners.

BIOAMAZON PROJECT
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ACTO
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

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Implemented by: KFW

Dear readers,

We invite you to discover some of the latest news from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) in the months of July and August.

On July 3, the 44th anniversary of the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA) was celebrated. In these four decades, the TCA has remained current, allowing the advances of the substantive sustainable development agenda and the various transversal values, such as the centrality of the human being, to be easily incorporated. The sovereign autonomy of the eight Member Countries coexists perfectly with a modern and broad cooperation agenda, which allows ACTO to work on all thematic pillars, such as climate change, forests, biodiversity, indigenous peoples, health, among others.

In August, we were pleased to see the approval of the two proposals for side events that we made to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which will hold its 19th Conference of the Parties from 14 to 25 November, in Panama.

Another very important activity was the presentation of the "Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region". The webinar was held within the framework of the socialization strategy of this study, which had the contribution of more than 100 experts, scientists and academics from the eight ACTO Member Countries.

And as part of our work to coordinate actions with Amazonian countries, official visits were made to Peru, Colombia and Suriname.

You can read these and other news in this 16th edition of the ACTO newsletter.

Good reading.

Alexandra Moreira

Secretary General
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

ACTO will participate at the CITES CoP 19

Two side-events proposed by ACTO approved by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Nineteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP 19/CITES) will be held in Panama City, Panama, on November. The ACTO requested its participation as an Observer Organization in the event. Two side events were proposed and approved by the Convention.

The event *Tree species: Amazonian countries with the support of ACTO coordinate efforts for the implementation of CITES* will be held on November 22. The event aims to present the proposal for the Amazonian Regional Action Plan for the implementation of CITES aimed at tree species, as well as to share the experience of ACTO, and of the Member Countries, in the strengthening of the regional governance structure with the participation of CITES Authorities and Forest Authorities.

The theme *Implementation and results of the Amazon Regional Observatory: effective tools for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Endangered Fauna and Flora Species in the Amazon Region* will be presented on November 24.

This event ambitions to disseminate the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO) to the international community, along with its objectives, vision and mission, its services and tools for strengthening Amazon information management, -with emphasis on the CITES Module as an effective tool to support the implementation of CITES and with emphasis on the cooperation opportunities with the ARO in its different working topics-; it also aims to present the results of the Bioamazon Project as support to the Amazonian countries in the implementation of CITES.

Both events seek to publicize the relevance of the cooperation and articulation work that the eight Member Countries – all signatories of CITES – carry out through the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization to contribute to the regional vision and implementation of CITES in the Amazon Region.

About CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between Governments. CITES regulates international trade in over 38,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment.

CITES is composed of 184 Parties, including States and regional economic integration organizations. The eight countries that share the Amazon region – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela- are included in this number which are also part of the ACTO.

According to the Convention's communiqué, CITES Parties submitted proposals to consider stricter trade regulations for nearly 600 species of animals and plants, which are believed to be under increasing threat of extinction due to international trade. In what is perceived as a barometer of the global state of wildlife, less restrictive trade regulations are recommended for only 9 species.

There are proposals to examine regulations on rhinos, elephants, rosewood and other wood species, sharks, orchids, turtles and rhodiol or gold root, for example.

CITES has three Appendices in which species are included according to the needed protection degree in terms of regulating international trade. Listing in Appendix I means that all international trade in specimens of the species concerned is prohibited.

Appendix I means that all international trade in specimens of concerned species is prohibited. Trade of species included in Appendix II is regulated through a permit system. There should be evidence that international trade is sustainable and not detrimental to the survival of species in the wild. Parties may unilaterally request that species be included in Appendix III when they wish to track their international trade and to be able to monitor the effects on the species.

The proposals submitted will be examined at the 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19), from November 14 to 25, in Panama. This will be the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES to be held in Central and South America and the Caribbean since the Convention came into force on July 1, 1975, but it will be the first CoP to take place in the region since 2002.

With information from CITES

ACTO celebrates the 44th anniversary of the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) commemorates today, July 3, the 44th anniversary of the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA).

The Member Countries of the TCA joined their efforts through the ACTO to promote-sustainable, harmonious and inclusive development in the Amazon Region.

The regional dimension has a primordial role in the vision and in the strategies that guide cooperation, to the extent that it adds value and convergence to actions nationals in their Amazonian territories.

In these four decades, the TCA has remained current, allowing it to easily incorporate the advances of the substantive agenda of sustainable development and the various transversal values, such as the centrality of the human being, which confirms the pioneering capacity of its editors.

The sovereign autonomy of the Member Countries coexists perfectly with a modern and broad cooperation agenda, which allows ACTO to work in all the thematic pillars, such as climate change, forests, biodiversity, indigenous peoples, health, among others.

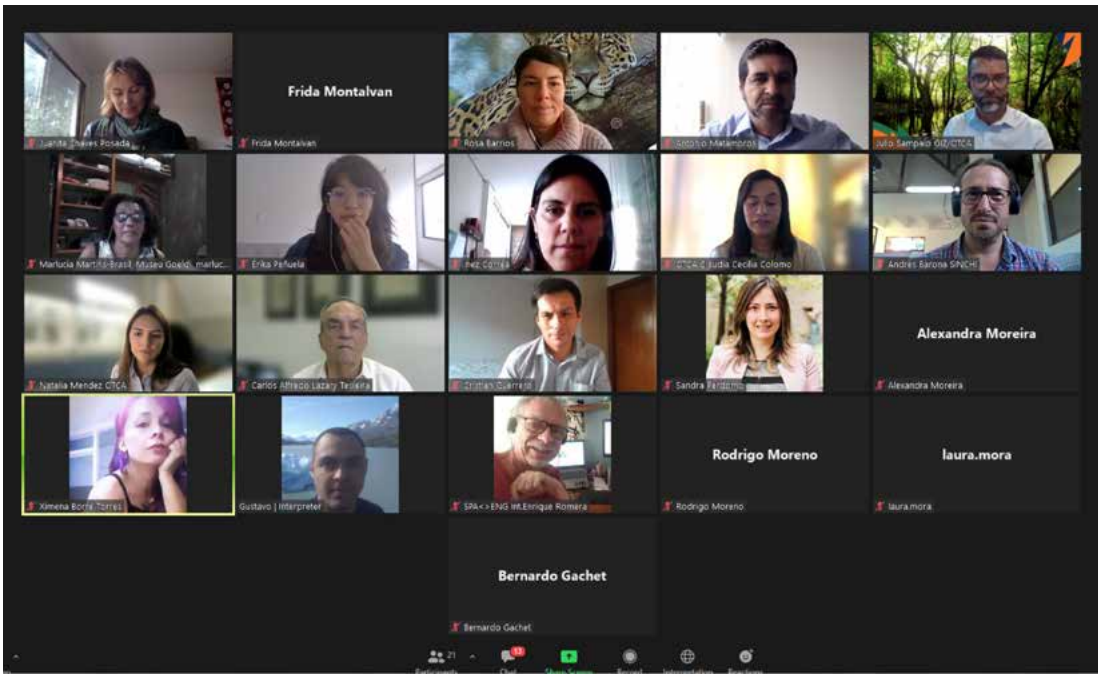
It is about concluding a legal instrument with a vision that ultimately achieves guide sustainable management and economic development that must be managed in the Amazon, shared by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

Inspired by the premises and spirit of the TCA, the current directorate led by the Secretary General, Alexandra Moreira, has been working so that ACTO becomes constitute an operational institution, prioritizing the implementation of actions in field, at the same time that the public policies of the Countries are strengthened Members and responsible institutions, taking into account the need to reduce asymmetries.

In this way, we of the OTCA want to share the joy and commitment to continue working for the Amazon.

ACTO presented the regional scientific study on the biological diversity of the Amazon region to the scientific society

The regional evaluation is carried out under the coordination of ACTO, with the technical and scientific support of the Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicas Alexander von Humboldt of Colombia and with the financial support of the Cooperación Alemana (GIZ).



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The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) presented, in a webinar, to the scientific society, academic institutions, research centers and other organizations that generate information, the process that is being carried out to develop the "Rapid Assessment of the Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region".

This technical study is intended to provide scientific and technical information to decision-makers, to reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and convert this wealth into a potential for sustainable development of the region.

Alexandra Moreira, ACTO´s General Secretary

The regional evaluation is carried out under the coordination of ACTO, with the support technician and scientist at the Alexander Biological Resources Research Institute von Humboldt of Colombia and with the financial support of the German Cooperation (GIZ).

The webinar was carried out as part of the socialization strategy of this study. The opening was made by the General Secretary of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira and by the General Director of the von Humboldt Institute, Hernando García, who gave the welcomed all participants and expressed satisfaction with the development of this important document, with the contribution of more than 100 experts, researchers, scientists and academics, at the level of the 8 ACTO Member Countries, typical of the Amazon region who know the reality.

They also stressed that this evaluation will contribute to delineating better policies and actions that guide governments, multiple actors that take decisions for the Amazon basin and thus achieve the sustainability of the region.

The Technical Support Unit, co-presidents and coordinators of the chapters presented the roadmap; the conceptual framework and methodology of the Platform Intergovernmental Scientific-Policy on Biological Diversity and Services of Ecosystems

Hernando García, General Director of the Von Humboldt Institute

(IPBES), in which the rapid evaluation is carried out; the processes so far achieved and the steps to follow.

Biologist Antonio Matamoros, one of the co-chairs of the evaluation, presented the roadmap detailing the purpose of this document, its scope and content it will have, as well as the guiding questions it intends to answer.

Matamoros explained that this evaluation is not intended to generate information, but to take advantage secondary information that exists at various levels, aspects that have already been generated and through an analysis process that is being developed by the various authors of the document. The purpose is to make available which is the state of the art, what is the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon and generate a regional approximation, in addition to promoting several elements for decision makers.

The researcher Juanita Chávez, from the von Humboldt Institute and member of the Unit Technical, explained the conceptual and methodological framework of IPBES, an intergovernmental body that seeks to strengthen the science-policy interface between biological diversity and ecosystem services, for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, human well-being and sustainable development. So too, his objective which is to establish a bridge between science and the formulation of public policies.

The coordinator of chapter 6 and lawyer Rosa Barros, recounted the entire process that took place carried out in the development of this study, such as the different activities that have been advanced to date.

In the webinar it was reported that the regional evaluation has four products. The first is the scope document or roadmap, which is already ready and defines the actions to be developed in this study process. The second is the document technician, specifically the rapid evaluation, which will have all the technical information and scientific and up-to-date information on the studies that are being developed or have been made in the Amazon region.

The third product will be a summary for decision makers, with language political and easily accepted and with strong messages, which should reach those who they have decision-making power in various aspects in the region.

Also, as something new, the Voices of the Amazon are being included, which is an exercise that is being developed in order to identify and listen to those diverse voices that exist in the Amazon and know well the reality that is lived in the region.

Finally, the next steps to be completed in December were reported. with the launch of the regional evaluation and the presentation of the summary for decision makers.

Suriname receives a visit from the Bioamazon Project team

This was de fifth monitoring visit of the project to an Amazonian country

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ACTO´s Bioamazon Project has invested about 360 thousand dollars in equipment to be used by Surname´s environmental institutions such as the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Suriname, the Herbarium, the National Zoological Collection Suriname, the Permanent Secretary Forest Management, the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control and CITES Scientific Authority. This August, during the visit the Bioamazon Project team paid a visit to Suriname to carry out monitoring activities and a field agenda, the donation of the equipment was formalized, which included computers (desktop and notebooks), servers, printers, photographic trapping cameras, beamers, wifi router drone and a car for field work.

The aim is to contribute to the strengthening of institutions responsible for generating technical-scientific information on biodiversity and CITES species, as well as strengthening the actions of management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade. The donation was possible through the support of the German Development Bank (KFW), the financial partner of ACTO.

"On behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, I want to thank the German Development Bank for the important and significant financial support that make these actions possible and, above all, thank and congratulate all the institutions involved in the implementation of the Bioamazon Project in Suriname for the excellent work, and for the commitment and professionalism", said Mauro Ruffino, Bioamazon Project coordinator.

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Terms of Assignment of Use and Donation of equipment to the various implementing institutions of the Bioamazon Project in Suriname was signed.

New building

There was also an opportunity to inaugurate the new building for CITES Authorities.

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Inauguration of the new building

New building constructed with Bioamazon Project/ACTO support.

Achievements

During the Bioamazon Project workshop held in Paramaribo on August 22th, the implementation of the project in Suriname was evaluated. The main results are:

- a number of purchases have been made of IT equipment, electronic equipment and field equipment for the Ministry of GBB and SBB, ROM, Herbarium and NZCS;
- upgrading SFISS by BASIS is completed;
- the development of an e-permitting and wildlife management system for the Ministry of GBB (licenses department) is finished;
- the link between the Single Window System with LBB's e-permitting system was made;
- a population survey of three parrot species was carried out;
- a legislative review on the implementation of the CITES Convention in Suriname is ongoing.

A workshop was also carried out to present the Amazon Regional Observatory in detail to Suriname´s actors. They were introduced to the conceptual scope, advances and status of data collection, as well as the generation of an agenda for future integration by the institutions of the countries, in addition, to the Amazon Node in the GBIF. It was presented the thematic and integrating modules (Biodiversity, Forests, Water Resources, CITES Species, Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change), the Information Services, access to data (download) and interoperability with the ARO.

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Workshop on the Bioamazon Project and the Amazon Regional Observatory

Field trip

The field trip in Suriname was to experience an inspection of timber transport and timber export by the Control Post of the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) to verify the inspection of timber transport using the Suriname Sustainable Forest Information System (SFISS). The system was developed with ACTO co-financing it through by the Bioamazon Project and the support of the German Development Bank (KfW) to promote sustainable forest management in Suriname.

Inspection of timber transport using the Suriname Sustainable Forest Information System (SFISS)

Birds

The Company "Exotic Fauna NV & Omni Pets", which exports parrots and macaws, and also raises several species of parrots in captivity, was visited. The owner, Mr. Charles Bousaid, explained the process from the production chain to export. The Head Game Warden Permit Section (Captive Breeding), Mr. Raven Kartoikromo, explained the control and enforcement process carried out by the Nature Conservation Division of the Suriname Forest Service of the Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management.

Suriname's wildlife management system will facilitate the process of e-permit CITES for export. The Bioamazon Project financed population study of three species of parrot species that will be the base for non-detriment findings or these species and to allow Suriname to establish a voluntary export quota that will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat.

Suriname's wildlife management system will facilitate the process of e-permit CITES for export

The expansion of the National Herbarium and assignment of equipment are among the contributions of the Bioamazon Project to Colombia

The team of the Project visited Colombia to Exchange information and monitor Project implementation.

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Inauguration of the expansion works of the Colombian Amazonian Herbarium conducted with the support of the ACTO/Bioamazon Project

Between July 25 and 29, the team of the ACTO Bioamazon Project visited Colombia to meet an agenda for information exchange and to monitor the implementation of the project.

Two workshops were held at the Sinchi Institute facilities. The first one was conducted to present to the stakeholders the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO), its conceptual scope, progress and status of data collection, with the aim of promoting an agenda for future integration among the countries' institutions. The second workshop was held to analyze the progress and effectiveness of Project Bioamazon until July 2022 and to identify lessons learned and recommendations to improve the implementation of this project.

Participated in the activities proposed in the agendas, representatives the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), the Sinchi Amazonic Institute of Scientific Research, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (Ideam) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others, which are institutions implementing the Project in Colombia.

Reunião técnica das equipes do Projeto Bioamazônia e Instituto Sinchi

On Tuesday, July 26, a visit was made to the Amazonian Herbarium where technical meetings were held and the inauguration of the expansion of the Herbarium and the signing ceremony of the Term of Assignment of Use of the equipment acquired by the Bioamazon Project took place.

The execution of the Sinchi Institute consists of hiring consultancies for a total of USD 123,645.81 and the purchase of equipment for a total of USD 448,877.48, totaling USD 572,523.29; and the MADS has contracted consultancies for a total of USD 267,362.55.

The General Director of the SINCHI Institute, Luz Marina Mantilla Cárdenas, welcomed the participants, highlighting the good relations that both institutions have maintained over the years in the different initiatives and activities that have been developed jointly. She also highlighted the merits of ACTO, through the Bioamazon Project, for the investments made in support of research.

"Today the Amazon is the focus of attention for its importance, as we are talking about climate stability, climate change and issues associated with producing of relevant information, according to the projects we have had with ACTO. In this sense, it seems very important to us that we understand the role of all the countries in the Bioamazon Project, since we have been looking at these border issues for many years and it is essential that we provide certified information that is statistically standardized and that comes from alliances with other institutions", said Luz Marina Cárdenas.

"The work that has been developed by the SINCHI Institute from the contributions made to the methodologies and monitoring of the information system on biodiversity and CITES species, to support the management and traceability systems of endangered species within the implementation of the Bioamazon Project, has been fundamental for cooperation between the Amazonian countries," said Mauro Ruffino, coordinator of the Bioamazon Project.

Field trip

The ACTO team also visited the headquarters of the SINCHI Institute in Leticia. On-site verification of the equipment purchased by the Project was carried out. The verification procedure was the same as the procedure conducted in Bogota, i.e. random sampling, verification of patrimonial labelling, photographic images, and the list of goods. At this stage, the importance of the acquisition of the electric power generator was highlighted for the maintenance and conservation of the different samples and collections of species, as well as for the development of the activities of the researchers in a climate-controlled environment.

PNN Amacayacu

In July 28, the team visited the field station and Mega Permanent Plot in the Parque Nacional Natural Amacayacu (PNN Natural National Park), located in the triple border Brazil, Colombia and Peru, and the first protected area that was created in the Amazon region of Colombia.

Generador de energía eléctrica para el mantenimiento y conservación de las diferentes muestras y colecciones de especies

This area has more than 5,000 species of plants, and the forest are specific of a region that possess the highest diversity of primates worldwide. The number of bird species is almost a third of the countries' species and the mammals are a little less than half of the country's total species.

The Amazon region has to seasons clearly defined: seasons of high water and seasons of low water. Both condition all natural and human activity. In the region, the volume and level of river water fluctuates drastically during the year. During the month of September (dry season), the riverbanks are bare and, as the rains increase, the water level of the river rises, reaching 10 meters of flooding (during May); in an area of at least 500 meters of floodable forest on the banks of the Amazon is drastically different in these two seasons, therefore, it is necessary to visit the area at least twice in the year for understanding the magnitude of this ecosystem.

The Bioamazon team visited the facilities of the Amacayacu National Natural Park headquarters, where the overnight stay conditions were improved for researchers visiting the Amacayacu Permanent Mega Plot (long-term monitoring of 25ha), where about 140,000 individuals of 1,950 fully identified, mapped and measured plant species are monitored..

CITES species

This monitoring is carried out on 11 species included in the CITES Appendices, including Cedrela odorata, threatened in Colombia and recently included in Appendix II; and several species of the genus Cyathea (Appendix II) and of the genus Zamia (Appendix II). Likewise, the monitoring of the native species of the genus Vanilla (Orchidaceae) present in the Colombian Amazon is carried out by means of biological records.

The importance of monitoring these CITES species lies in the fact that there are new records for Colombia, new species for science, and species that have aromatic fruits with important productive potential in the Amazon Region. Through monitoring, the number of known species for the Colombian Amazon went from 8 to 16 species; additionally,120 specimens of the Vanilla genus were incorporated into the herbarium, making this collection of vanillas the most complete in the Colombian Amazon, and as a CITES species, an important object of monitoring in the region.

Also, the monitoring of *Zamia hymenophyllid*i was carried out in the PNN Amacayacu. In 2019, the monitoring of 278 individuals was completed where information was recorded regarding the spatial location of each individual in the permanent plot (X and Y coordinates), their stem height, number of total leaves, number of new leaves and leaf measurements (petiole, lamina and pinnae). Other species such as *Zamia amazonum, Zamia lecointei, Zamia macrochiera* and *Zamia ulei* have identified natural populations and will be monitored.

The objective of the field visit to this place was to verify in situ, both the use of the different field equipment acquired by the Bioamazon Project, and to learn about the work dynamics of the team of fauna researchers. The researchers Mariela Osorno and Natalia Atuesta, who together with the other scientific collaborators coordinate the work of collecting specimens of amphibians (especially frogs and toads), reptiles (lizards) and small mammals (especially bats) to feed the collections of the Sinchi Institute where in charge of receiving the equipment.

The field scientific collaborators explained about the capture methods used, as well as the labelling and preservation of the specimens collected during field workdays. Likewise, electronic devices were shown to track and capture the singing sounds of large frogs, to know their displacement dynamics and mating habits.

Subsequently, a brief tour was made through the trails where the camera traps are installed to monitor macrofauna, such as felines, armadillos, Anteaters, etc. A demonstration was made of the installation of the camera in the field and the removal of the storage device (SD memory) from the photos taken during the night.

With information from SINCHI Institut.

Delegation of ACTO in a mission trip to Peru

The delegation participated in the II Ordinary Session of the Permanent National Commission of Peru for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (CNPP/ OTCA for its acronym in Spanish). The visits included the Amazon and National Surveillance Center (CEVAN).

Ceremony of signing of the term of assignment of use of equipment acquired by the Bioamazon Project and donated to MINAM, PRODUCE and SERFOR

II Ordinary Session of the Permanent National Commission of Peru for ACTO

The ACTO delegation, composed of the general directorate and representatives of Project Bioamazon, paid an official visit to Peru, between July 17 and 23, to fulfil a work agenda meeting with government institutions that support and implement ACTO projects.

On July 18, the Secretary General, Alexandra Moreira, the Executive Director, Carlos Lazary, the Administrative Director, Carlos Salinas, and the coordinator of the Bioamazon Project, Mauro Ruffino, participated in the II Ordinary Session of the Permanent National Commission of Peru for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (CNPP/OTCA for its acronym in Spanish). The visits included the Amazon and National Surveillance Center (CEVAN), a unit of the Peruvian Air Force (Ministry of Defense), to learn about their work for the protection of the Peruvian Amazon with technology and software related to Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

In turn, the team of the Bioamazon Project held on Tuesday (19) workshops to appraise the implementation of the project and to present the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO) in the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Peru. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) and SERFOR participated in the workshops, which are institutions that are implementing the Bioamazon Project.

Project and Amazon Regional Observatory workshop

The activities included the signing ceremony for the term of assignment of use of the equipment acquired by Bioamazon Project and donated to three Peruvian institutions – MINAM, PRODUCE and SERFOR. The equipment includes Global Positioning Systems (GPS), teleconferencing systems, drones, laptops, printers, desktop computers, servers, among others.

Field trip

The Bioamazon Project team traveled to the city of Iquitos, located in the Peruvian Amazon, to visit the company Raíces Verdes that has a rosewood processing plant (*Aniba rosaeodora*) for obtaining oil extract from the biomass (stem and/or leaves and/or branches).

They also visited the Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP for its acronym in Spanish), an institution that participates in the Amazon Regional Observatory, and the Amazon Rescue Center (CREA for its acronym in Spanish), which received resources in 2021 to expand the tanks for caring manatees rescued from illegal trafficking.

In the Iquitos region, they learned about the facilities and management techniques of the Reptilians Turtles & Tropical Fish EIRL Zoo and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

Manatee recovery tanks at CREA built with support from the Bioamazon/ACTO Project

Pacaya Samira National Reserve

International Day of Indigenous Peoples: the role of indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge

The United Nations (UN) celebrates today, August 9, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The "Working Group for Indigenous People" under the auspices of the UN Commission on Human Rights began in 1982 and was adopted in New York on September 13, 2007 during the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly. This declaration is preceded by the Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Convention 107, which recognize the collective rights of these peoples.

Indigenous women are the pillars of indigenous peoples and play a crucial role in the preservation their languages and the transmission of traditional knowledge, where they play the integral role in their community as guardians of natural resources and defenders of the lands and territories and collective rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

The millenary wisdom of more than 500 indigenous peoples living in the Amazon contributes to the conservation, protection and sustainable use of forests, biodiversity, and specially their value and resilience capacity to climate change impacts.

In line with the mandates of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, which focuses on Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and in Initial Contact, and the value of traditional knowledge, the ACTO celebrates the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, with the commitment to continue efforts and resources to emphasize the invaluable contribution of indigenous peoples to the Amazon biome and to the sustainability of the planet.

In this line, there are several contributions of ACTO, to materialize its commitment to Indigenous Peoples, which include:

The project "Contingency Plans for the Protection of Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and in Initial Contact (PIACI)" to consolidate a cooperative action in the border territories of the Amazon River basin and generate a favorable context to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and the threats of emerging and endemic tropical diseases of highly vulnerable indigenous peoples living in nested areas, with special emphasis on PIACI and surrounding populations.

The Project for the "Creation of an Amazon Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples within the framework of ACTO" implemented with the support of the European Union, through the program EUROCLIMA+ aimed at improving the understanding, particularly, of the decision-makers on the value of indigenous knowledge to address climate change in the Amazon region. In this way, indigenous knowledge and practices may be included in the design of public policies, activities, and projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the ACTO Member Countries.

The Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Region is an instrument developed with the technical support of the Alexander Von Humboldt Biological Research Institute and more than 120 authors ad honorem, including indigenous authors. It is an innovative tool that integrates the indigenous theme transversely throughout the document, and also has a chapter dedicated to this subject which reflects all the voices of the Amazon.

These efforts, along with others, aim to recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge: "Long before the development of modern science, indigenous peoples have developed their ways of knowing how to survive, and also they have their ideas about meanings, purposes and values". As the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples pointed out, the term "scientific knowledge" is also used to emphasize that traditional knowledge is contemporary and dynamic, and of equal value to other types of knowledge (UN, 2022).

The recognition of the value of the biological and cultural diversity of the Amazon and, in particular, the value of indigenous peoples to the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazon forest; health actions to face the emergency of the Covid-19 and the invaluable knowledge of plants for traditional medicine, in addition to the knowledge that contributes resilience to climate change, are important arguments that encourage to continue developing actions towards the inclusion of indigenous peoples in programs and projects that support initiatives devoted to protect their rights, and to improve their participation capacity in all initiatives towards the great global goals that humanity has set with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

IDB Mission meets with international cooperation representatives partners of ACTO

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Complying with the agenda, the mission of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to the ACTO, met with directors and representatives of international cooperation who are partners of ACTO, with the objective of exchanging information on the projects to be submitted by ACTO to the World Environment Fund (FMA) and the Green Climate Fund. ACTO Secretary General, Alexandra Moreira, referring to international cooperation, expressed that each agency is committed to working for the Amazon Region. "We are various actors who are contributing to the public management of this important ecosystem in different ways," she explained.

Moreira also assured that in view of the 48 million people living in the region, the need to implement an agenda with a much more socioeconomic vision is more urgent than ever. She also stated that since 2019, ACTO and the IDB have been managing a portfolio of programs and projects for the implementation of concrete actions for water security, and for the management of water resources in the Amazon region. For his part, the head of the IDB's Water and Sanitation Division, Sergio Campos, explained the projects that will be presented to the GEF and the Green Climate Fund.

The first one refers to the management of the groundwater aquifer system in the Amazon region. It is a study that will reveal the quality, quantity, and conditions of water availability in the aquifer. The second one refers to improving climate resilience and water management in the Amazon basin, which will allow increasing resilience in drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste projects.

Participants:

International cooperation: Jaime Holguín, CAF representative in Brazil; Ana Lobato, Executive Advisor of the Embassy of Japan; Daniela Mota, Specialist Counselor in Environment and Sanitation of the Embassy of the United States; Michael Rosenauer, Director of GIZ in Brazil; Rafael de Gorgolas, Cultural and Cooperation Counselor of the Embassy of Spain, and Cristina Carvalho, Adviser of the European Union.

IDB Mission: Sergio Campos, Chief of the Water and Sanitation Division; Gustavo Méndez, Southern Cone Coordinator of the Water and Sanitation Division; Tiago Pena, Specialist of the Water and Sanitation Division of Brazil; and Luis Pabón, Advisor to the head of the Water and Sanitation Division.

ACTO: Alexandra Moreira, Secretary General; Carlos Alfredo Lazary, Executive Director; and Carlos Salinas, Administrative Director.

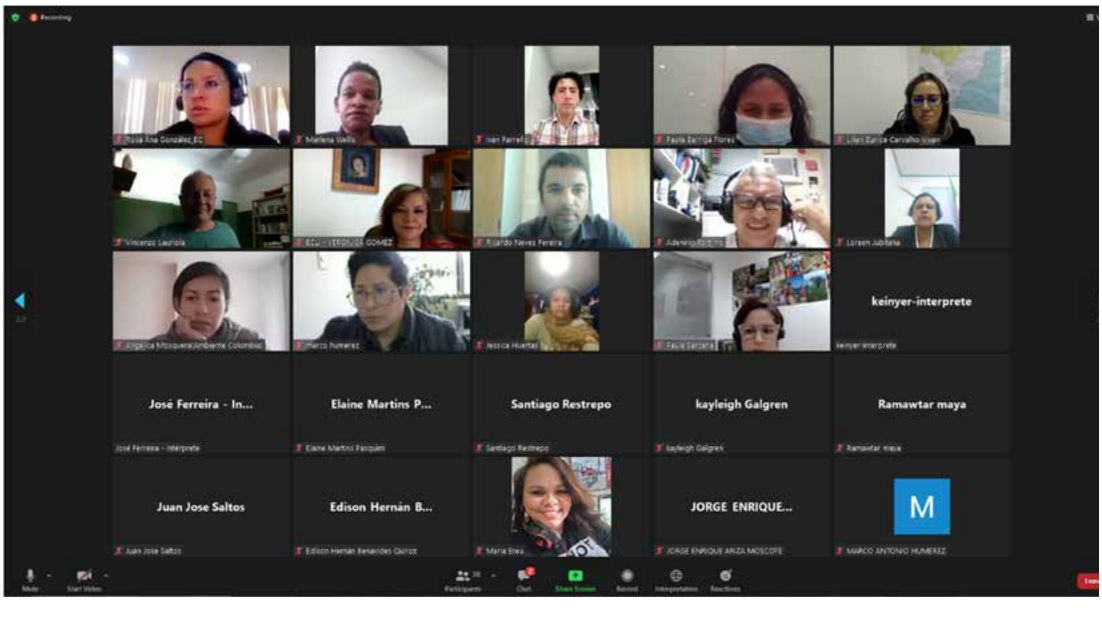
ACTO launches project to create the Amazonian Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) has launched the project to create the Amazonian Regional Platform of Indigenous Peoples, the first regional initiative.

Remotely, about 40 representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, government entities and subject matter experts participated in the first virtual meeting of focal points of the project, where the scope of the initiative was presented in order to define a roadmap for its implementation and the next steps to follow.

This initiative is funded by the European Union through the EUROCLIMA program and implemented by the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Currently, the Amazon is home to more than 420 Indigenous Peoples, representing approximately 10% of the total population of the region. In addition, it has one of the greatest linguistic diversities, with about 370 languages, which highlights the need for



inclusive action by indigenous peoples in the management of climate change, specifically in the Amazon.

The objective of the project is to improve the understanding, particularly by decision-makers, of the value of indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change, so that it can be taken into account in the elaboration of public policies, activities and projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, through the implementation of a space for dialogue of different knowledge systems.

At the opening, the Secretary-General of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira, highlighted: "Today is a special day because we are beginning the implementation of this important project to create the indigenous knowledge platform for climate change, which, together with the Amazon Regional Observatory and other initiatives of ACTO, will contribute to climate action, especially the knowledge, technologies and science that Indigenous Peoples have been developing and that can be used within public policies in our countries, as part of responses to climate change."

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Walter Gutiérrez, titular representative of the group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) before the Facilitator Working Group of the Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, a space created within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a body that inspires regional work in the Amazon. Gutiérrez welcomed the ACTO's initiative in holding these types of regional meetings, as they are an example to promote national and regional action processes for climate empowerment, an experience that will be presented at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP27) in November in Egypt.

The project coordinator, Elvira Gutiérrez, during her presentation, stated that the specific objectives are linked to four areas related to the components of the project. The first is to promote the exchange of knowledge and good practices of indigenous peoples with a focus on climate change; the second is to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to participate in the global climate change agenda through the establishment of the platform; the third one is to promote the design of an Amazonian regional strategy to strengthen resilience and adaptation and mitigation processes, including the important contribution of indigenous peoples' knowledge to addressing climate change. Finally, strengthen the dialogue capacities of multiple actors to articulate public climate policies.

Currently, ACTO is developing actions with Indigenous Peoples, especially in the area of health with the PIACI and, transversally, in the conservation and protection of biodiversity, forests, water management and food security, aspects that together contribute to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the Amazon Region.

Amazon Regional Observatory Annual Report 2021

02 Thematic Modules: CITES and Biodiversity

04 Integrating Modules: Geoamazon, Digital Amazon, Amazonian networks, Our Amazon

466.777,33 USD for the construction of the premises, implementation of the platform web and equipment

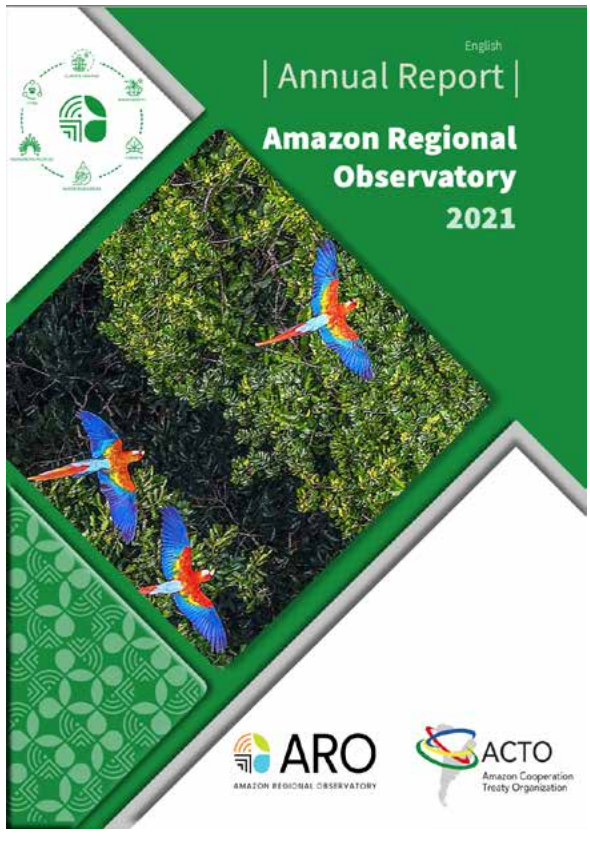
08 Member Countries of ACTO participants: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela

32 National Institutions of the ACTO Member Countries participating

02 International Institutions participating

03 Strategic Partners: Institute of Research for Development (IRD), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), International Office for Water (OiAgua)

KNOW MORE



Ecuador

Biodiversity Data Management for Decision-Making. Information from Centers for Biodiversity of Documentation and Registration In Ecuador

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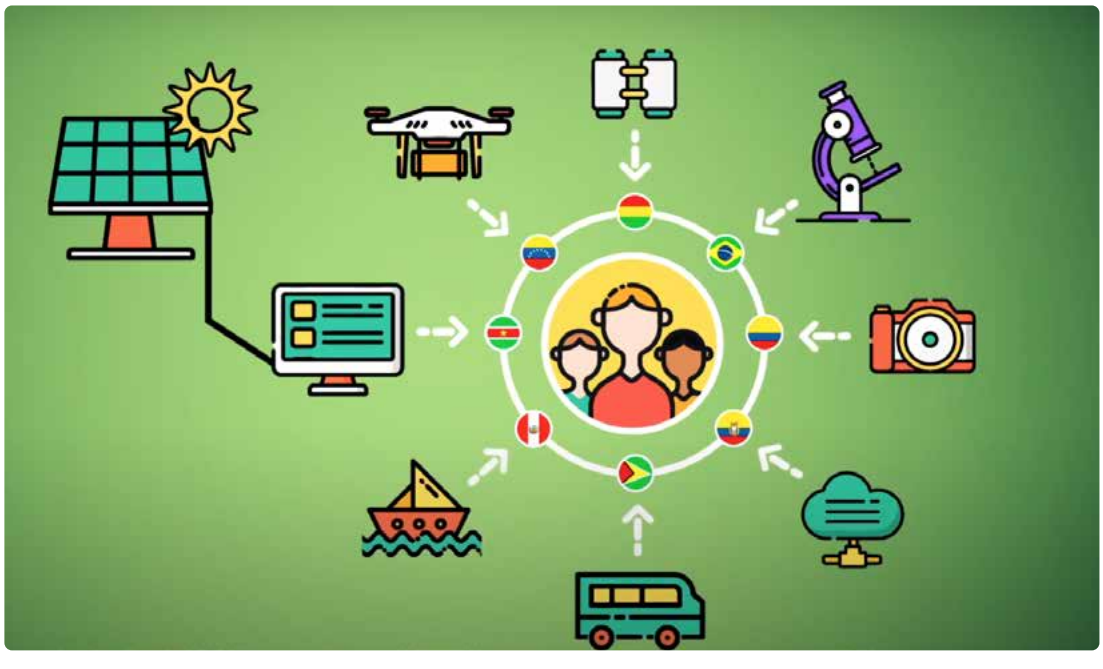

SUMMARY: The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador develops initiatives devoted to strengthening decision-making based on biodiversity data from various national stakeholders. In the initial phase, the information held by the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration is upraised. These centers are categorized in Herbaria, Natural History Museums and Mycotheque. With few exceptions, not only do data management face institutional limitations that may affect data quality, but it is uncommon to share data on biodiversity management with researchers, academia or organizations so that these entities can reuse the information in the production of new biological knowledge that could mainly strengthen the management of the country's natural heritage.

In this regard, the National Environmental Authority promotes initiatives to dynamize data sets and establish spaces to promote visibility of Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration, empower data exchange and create synergies to improve the quality of biodiversity information.

KEY-WORDS: biodiversity data, herbarium, museum, natural history collection, Centers of Biodiversity Documentation and Registration.

Introduction

Within the framework of the Regional Project to manage, monitor and control of wild fauna and flora species threatened by trade - Bioamazon Project, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition promotes initiatives to strengthen data and information management of the country's natural heritage.

Access constraints or the absence of biodiversity data at various management scales interfere with decision-making and environmental policy development; in this sense, in the initial phase of the proposal for data management and exchange, the potential of the information collected in Natural History Museums and Herbaria is evaluated for its importance and as a reference for biodiversity at various scales, from local to national.

Stakeholders

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, through the *Sistema de Información de Biodiversidad del Ecuador SiB-Ec* (Biodiversity Information System) and the Catálogo Nacional de Objetos Biológicos CNOB (National Catalog of Biological Objects), seeks to foster data and information exchange on biodiversity in a broad group of partners ranging from professionals to organizations that generate, process, safeguard or disseminate biodiversity data and/or information.

In Ecuador, 52 Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration of the category Herbarium (flora), Museum of Natural History (flora and fauna) and Mycotheca (fungi) are registered. These are located in 13 of the country's 24 provinces and are distributed in the area of influence of the Amazonian biomes, Chocó, Seco Tropical and Montanos.

Information survey

Surveys were applied to learn about the characteristics of the documentation centers. These were answered by delegates and by the personnel working with the biological collections housed in the institutions.

Herbaria

Herbaria are located in 12 provinces, linked (Figure 1) mainly to universities; the highest concentration is found in the province of Pichincha where Quito, the capital of the country, is situated.

Ecuador's flora wealth is estimated at 17,748 native species (Neill 2012); national herbaria guard 880,079 specimens with associated data corresponding to temporal, spatial, taxonomic, and environmental coverage, among others.

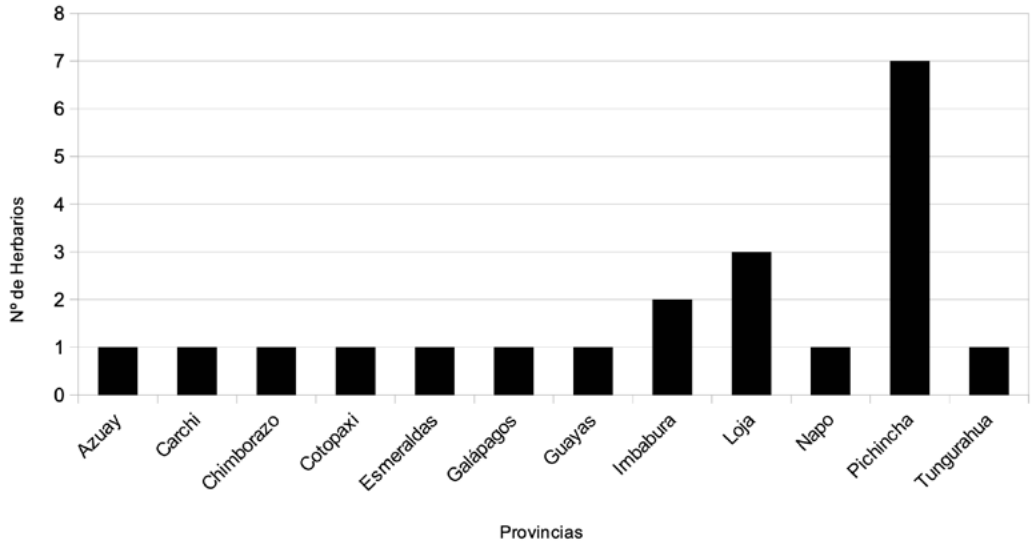

Figure 1. Herbaria by province

Natural History Museums

Natural History Museums contain specimens of invertebrates, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals that can be classified into two types: for exhibition and for research purposes.

In Ecuador it is estimated the number of vertebrate species at 2,794 (Mestanza-Ramón et al. 2020). The Natural History Museums are located in 10 provinces (Figure 2) and house 10,501,737 specimens. The dominant group is that of invertebrates.

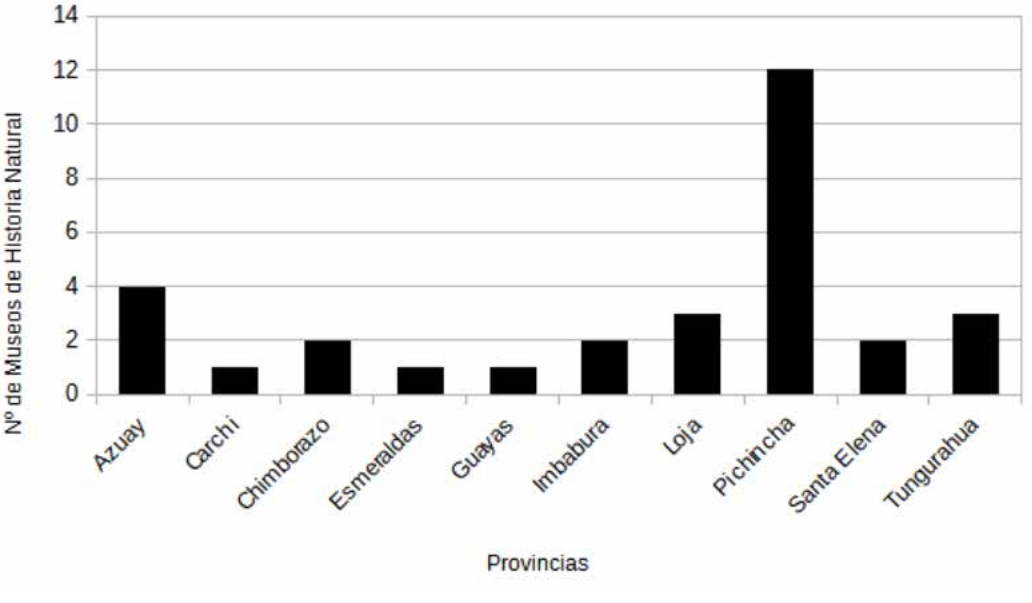

Figure 2. Natural History Museums by province

Mycotheques

Micotheques contain specimens of fungi that are associated with botanical collections. The three collections are located in Pichincha province, two of which are linked to universities and one to the National Institute of Biodiversity. The collections contain 19,492 specimens.

Once the collections are grouped by institution and by artificial biological group, it is observed that fungi and auxiliary collections are represented in 14% of the Museums and Herbariums (9% and 5%), and the Flora and Fauna groups share 86% representativeness (Figure 3).

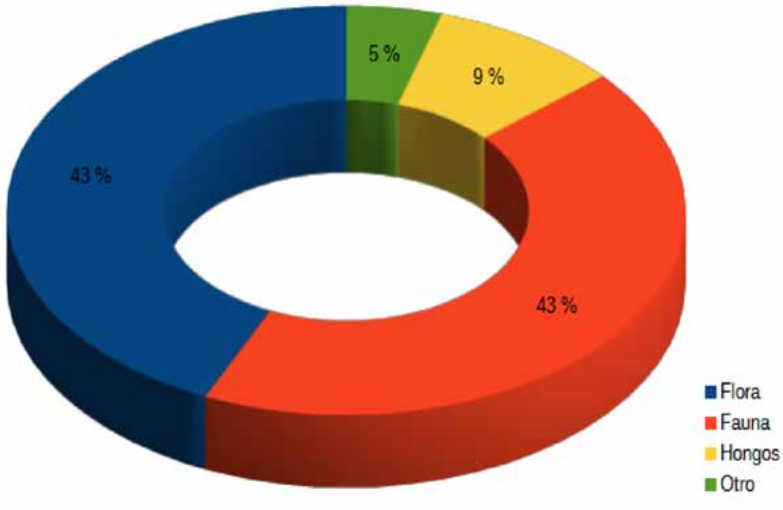

Figure 3. Representation of biological groups in the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration

The national spatial coverage of the biological collections reaches 49% of the Museums and Herbaria; the regional scale owns 28% and 11% of the institutions have a more local theme at the provincial level, and in equal percentage specimens from other countries are represented (Figure 4).

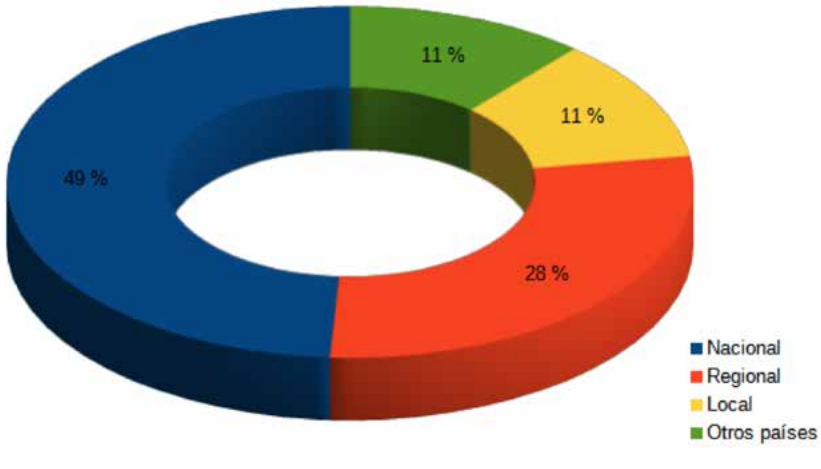

Figure 4. Proportion of the origin of the biological collections of Herbaria and Museums

With regard to institutional capacities, it is noted that the 42 documentation centers that provided information through the survey have limitations in terms of the management of geographical data and databases (Figure 5).

The other 18% of the institutions responded that they have between 80 to 100% of their information digitalized.

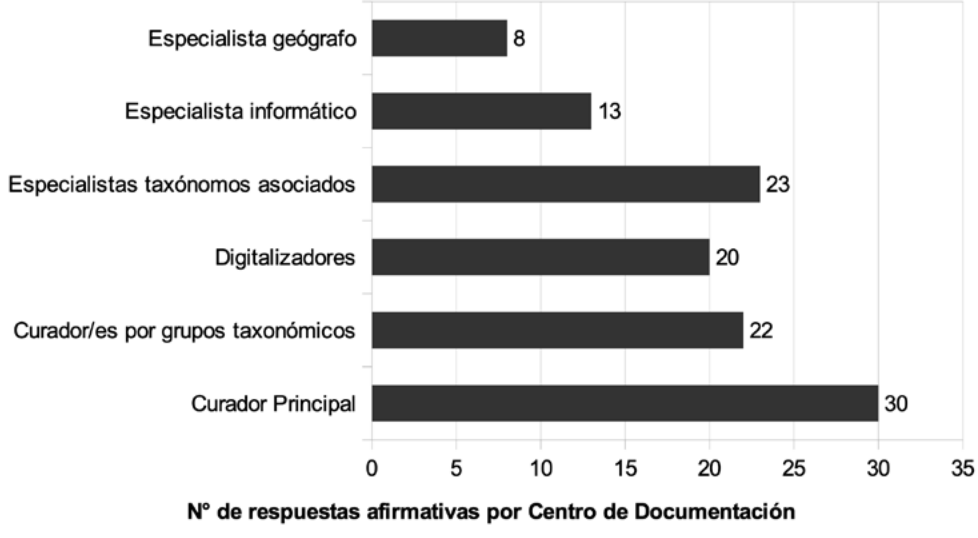

Figure 5: Technical personnel reported by 42 Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration

Information management includes text files to databases designed for biological collections, and the spreadsheets are the most commonly used resource for the digitization process (Figure 6).

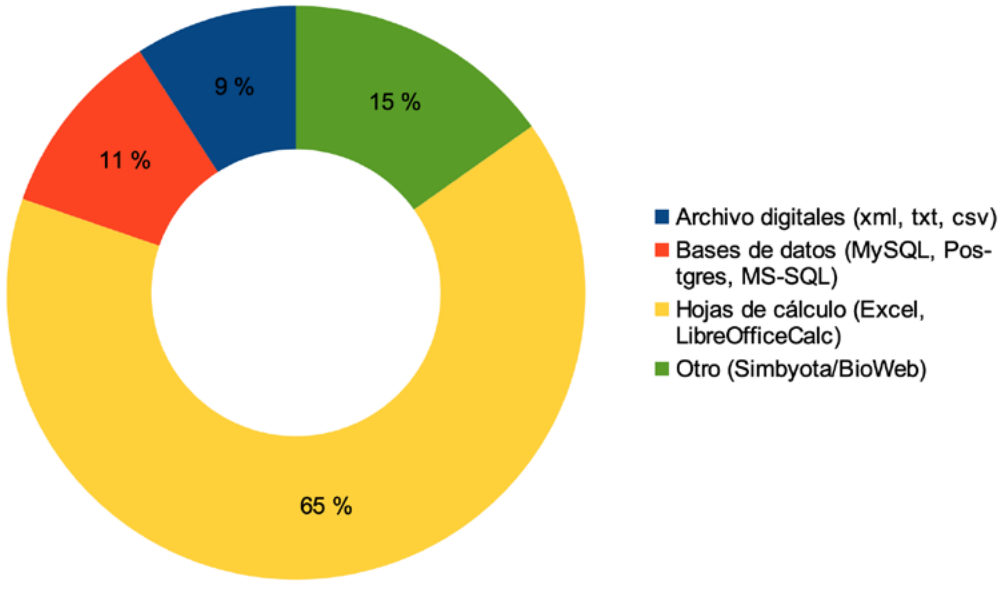

Figure 6. Information management methods in National History Museums and Herbaria

Regarding the perception of the importance of the information they manage, the institutions consider the temporal, geographic and species type information to be more relevant (Figure 7).

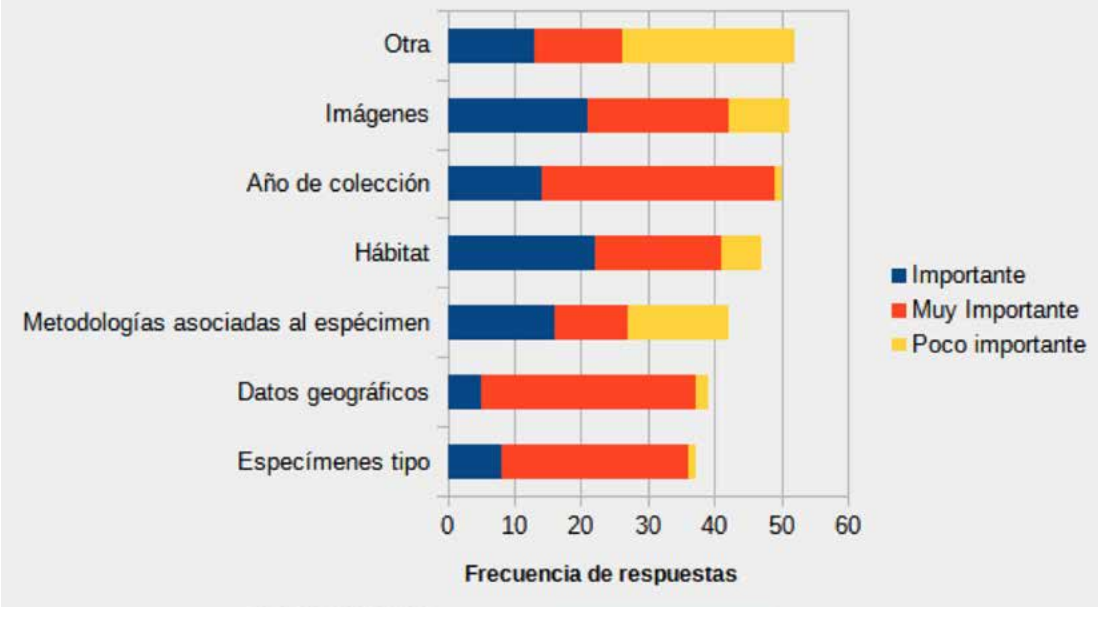

Figure 7. Primary information considered relevant by the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration

The institutions consider the information related to scientific production to be sensitive, and it is available to be shared, together with data on threatened and sensitive species (Figure 8).

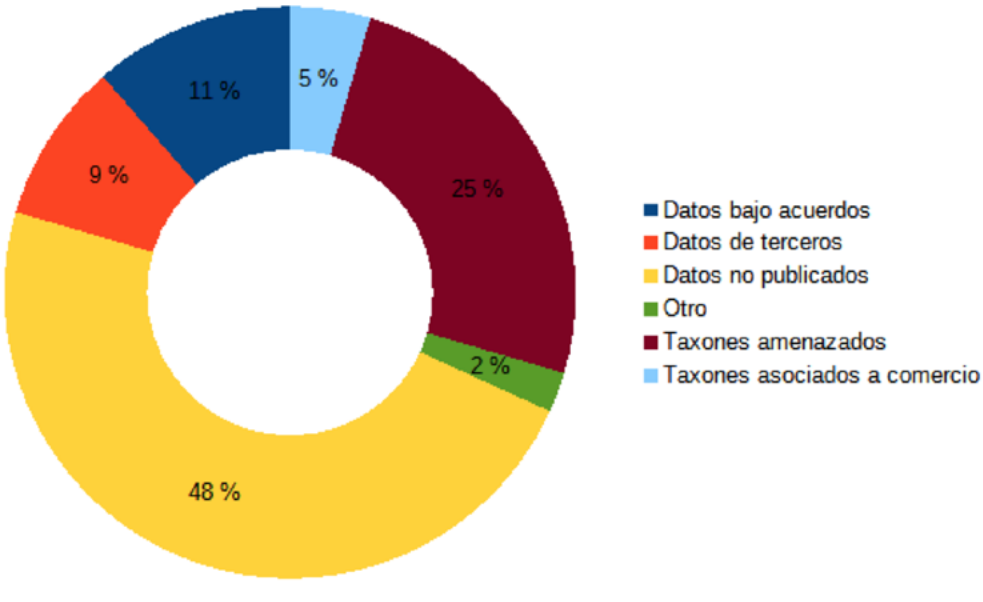

Figure 8. Information considered sensitive

Information management methods from the Centers of Biodiversity Documentation and Registration

Within the framework of capacity building in Biodiversity Documentation and Registration Centers, cycles of meetings were arranged to discuss the importance of improving the quality of institutional data and fostering the spirit of sharing them to generate new knowledge on natural heritage and guide the management of natural resources at various levels.

In this sense, a legal body is created to provide guidelines for the management of data and information on biodiversity through the CNOB catalog, so this information is available with different levels of access and can be used for the benefit of conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, decision-making and generation of public policies.

Forty-two percent of the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration participate in the first phase and, tentatively, share 38,176 data with the Environmental Authority; these data follow a quality control process and are expected to be reused by the national scientific community.

Table 1: Records per type of Center of Biodiversity Documentation and Registration

TYPE OF CENTER OF BIODIVERSITY DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION	N.o DE RECORDS
Herbarium	25.814
Botanical Garden	300
Natural History Museum	12.062

Conclusions

The Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration expressed interest in learning about the National Environmental Authority's initiative and the guidelines for biodiversity data management set out in the National Catalog of Biological Objects.

The country's biological collections house data of greatest amount of diversity and have a national scope. However, there are institutional limitations that were exposed during the discussions. Attention was drawn to the limited number of staff available and the limited time they can devote to improving the quality of the data in the collections, as well as to enhance the use of data in the generation of new knowledge; they identified important aspects such as the need to make visible the work carried out by institutions, and the need to generate spaces for capacity building and synergy between them.

In the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration it is reasonable that doubts arise when considering sharing data, especially due to the use and non- recognition of copyright; it is for this reason that unpublished data are considered

sensitive, and data on threatened species, for example, are then prioritized.

The first call has 42% of the Centers for Biodiversity Documentation and Registration that have welcomed the proposed standardization and will continue to improve the quality of data to be shared, initially, with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition and, in the medium term, with the national scientific community.

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Videos

Regional Biological Diversity Program for the Amazon Basin/ Region

Watch on this link: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NJPMgbKrWM*

Publications

The Bioamazon Newsletter, #15, in PDF format, is availbale

on this link:

http://otca.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022_ACTO_Bioamazon_NEWSLETTER-015_ENG.pdf

Bioamazon Project Annual Report 2021

The documente is available here: http://otca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Annual-Report-2020-of-the-Bioamazon-Project-22-02-2021_ENG.pdf

About the Bioamazon Project

Bioamazon is a **regional project in the ACTO´s framework** that contributes to the conservation of **Amazon Biodiversity**, especially the species included in the CITES Convention.

To this end, it seeks **to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the management, monitoring and control of species of wild fauna and flora threatened by trade** in ACTO member countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

It is part of a Cooperation Agreement between the Federal Government of Germany and ACTO with implementation through the KfW.

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BIOAMAZON PROJECT
Conservation of species threatened by unsustainable trade

ACTO
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by: KFW

Bolivia Brazil Colombia Ecuador Guyana Peru Suriname Venezuela