



BIOAMAZON PROJECT

Conservation of species threatened
by unsustainable trade



ACTO

Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization

EDITION N.15, November-December 2022



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**ACTO receives status of
Permanent Observer at the
UN General Assembly**

**Increases the number
of tree species listed
on CITES**

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.



Bolivia



Brazil



Colombia



Ecuador



Guyana



Peru



Suriname



Venezuela

Dear readers,

Another intense year comes to an end and it is with satisfaction that the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (SP/ACTO) presents to you the main actions carried out in November and December.

We were successful in participating in the 19th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in November in Panama City, and in the 15th Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in December, in Montreal, Canada. The parallel events held by ACTO were privileged spaces to provide transparency to our actions and dialogue with participants.

At CITES COP 19, we presented our work with Amazonian countries for the protection of Amazonian tree species, the Regional Amazonian Observatory and the Technical Report on Illegal Trafficking in Five Species from Appendix I of CITES Emblematics for the Amazon Region. At CBD COP 15, we discussed the global importance of the Amazon, with the pre-launch of the results of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon.

In this newsletter no. 18 we also share that the UN General Assembly granted the status of Permanent Observer to ACTO, in addition to the news about the institution's participation in several international events.

Finally, we wish you happy holidays and a very successful 2023.

Good reading.

Alexandra Moreira

Secretary General

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

ACTO receives status of Permanent Observer at the UN General Assembly



Today, December 7, the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution [A/77/439](#), which grants the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) the status of Permanent Observer enabling it to participate in the sessions and proceedings of the General Assembly.

This resolution was presented and promoted by Bolivia and co-sponsored by the other Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela). It recognizes and values ACTO as the only formally constituted intergovernmental organization whose mission is to promote sustainable development through cooperation in the regional dimension of the Amazon. It also recognizes the Organization's impeccable history of more than 20 years in the formulation and execution of programs and projects, within the framework of its Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda.

The status of Permanent Observer will enable ACTO to interact more with other public and private actor

ACTO holds a side event at COP 15: The global importance of the Amazon

As part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in Montreal, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), through the BIOMAZ project, held, on Thursday (12/8), the side event of the pre-launch of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Region.

The hybrid event, which had more than 100 participants, was opened by the General Secretariat of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira and moderated by researcher Rodrigo Moreno, of the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, partner of ACTO.



FOTOS: BANCO DE IMAGENS/OTCA

Alexandra Moreira, ACTO's General Secretary, speaks at a side event at the CBD COP 15

The agenda of the event was composed of an opening panel that was attended by the president of the Intergovernmental Platform Science-Policy on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Ana Maria Hernández; the director of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador Leonardo Athayde; of the strategic coordinator of the Scientific Panel by Amazonia (SDSN), Emma Torres and; of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Jillian Campbell.

At the time, the General Secretariat of the ACTO highlighted the importance of the Evaluation for the Amazon region. "This Evaluation is a demonstration of ACTO's commitment to the search for and promotion of an alternative development model that preserves the standing forest, conserving biodiversity while generating socio-economic and development opportunities for its inhabitants." He also said that cli-



mate change negatively affects the Amazon, where three-quarters are losing their resilience to these impacts, diminishing the benefits people receive from nature.”

The head of the Brazilian delegation, Ambassador Athayde, reiterated the role of the ACTO in coordinating actions for the good management of Amazonian biodiversity.

Forming the high-level panel for the pre-launch of the Evaluation, Emma Torres congratulated ACTO and stressed the importance of joint efforts for the region.

In the following panel, the preliminary results of the Evaluation among them, analyses on biodiversity, the economy and society of the Amazon region were presented by the co-president of the Rapid Assessment, Sandra Acebey.

In the second block, representatives of the Member States and scientists carried out reflections on the Evaluation and its preliminary results and on the next steps and measures to be taken. This block was attended by the Director General of Geopolitics of Living and Well-being and Foreign Policy of the Vice-Presidency of Bolivia, Diego Pacheco; scientist Braulio Dias, the Scientific Panel for the Amazon (SDSN) and others.

Soon after, questions were opened from the public in order to discuss and bring more dialogue to the event and answer questions about the Evaluation process and its findings.

Increases the number of tree species listed on CITES



FOTOS: BANCO DE IMAGENS/OTCA

Ivonne Higuero, General Secretary of CITES, at an ACTO side event in CITES COP19

More than 150 tree species have been included in Appendix II, with more than 80% of these species being endemic to the Americas.

"As you know, the effective implementation of CITES contributes to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the world's forests and genetic resources. After a long time without including timber trees in CITES, now this has increased a lot and this is noticeable in the species that were included in this COP 19 meeting. We saw the inclusion of more than 150 tree species in Annex II, and 80% of these species are endemic of the Americas".

With this statement, Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), opened the event Tree Species: With the support of ACTO, Amazonian countries coordinate efforts for the implementation of CITES, held by ACTO on November 22, at the 19th Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Higuero highlighted that the big job is the one that comes after listing the species in the Appendices of the Convention. Countries will have to strengthen regional cooperation in terms of knowledge and mobilization of financial resources, for example, in addition to generating information for the future formulation of Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) and legal procurement.

"I congratulate ACTO's leadership in anticipating these needs and collaborating with all countries in the Amazon Region so that, on the day these new lists come into

force, their implementation will be smooth and without complications. The work ACTO is doing now will bring many benefits," concluded the Secretary General.

The event promoted by ACTO discussed the implementation of CITES aimed especially at Amazonian tree species. ACTO's cooperation experience with the Amazonian countries was shared to strengthen the regional governance structure with the participation of CITES Authorities and Forestry Authorities.

Director Carlos Salinas presented the Forestry Program, the Biological Diversity Program, as well as the Forest Module that is being developed for the Amazon Regional Observatory. Salinas highlighted the work of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization with member countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

"There is a fact that is rarely mentioned is that around 48 million people live in the Amazon, in different cities where the population is concentrated, but also the riverside people and the Indigenous Peoples, in a varied and rich multiculturalism. The Amazon rainforest determines climatic and ecological processes necessary for the stability of global environmental mechanisms. For this reason, the crucial role of forests in the fight against climate change is recognized. In reality, everything is interrelated – biodiversity, climate change, ecosystems, population. The Amazon needs a harmonious balance between all the components that make it up", said Salinas.



Carlos Salinas, ACTO's Director

Then, Cesar Beltetón highlighted ACTO's actions since 2020 to strengthen the capacities of CITES Administrative and Scientific Authorities and Forestry Authorities of ACTO Member Countries in the development of Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) of *Cedrela* spp. and the main tools available for the formulation of NDFs aimed at other tree species.

The ACTO/CITES specialist mentioned the promotion of the exchange of experiences and capabilities among the Amazonian countries in relation to neotropical tree spe-

cies, with emphasis on the application of traceability and chain of custody systems, which reinforce transparency and sustainable trade in timber species; the elaboration of materials for identification and training in the different methods existing in the Amazon Region, emphasizing those that can be easily used by the authorities.

César Belteton mentioned the proposal for a Regional Action Plan for the implementation of Cedar in Appendix II of CITES, carried out within the scope of the Bioamazon Project. "For this, needs and actions to be developed in terms of NDF and relevant success stories for the management of timber species in ACTO Member Countries were identified", he said.



César Belteton, CITES/ACTO specialist

Representing Peru, the Director of Conservation of Ecosystems and Species of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru, Fabiola Nuñez, thanked the opportunity to participate in the event at CITES COP19 and presented the structure of CITES in Peru, with a Working Group that articulates the actions of different Peruvian institutions.



Fabiola Nuñez, Director of Conservation of Ecosystems and Species of the Ministry of the Environment of Peru

Representando o Equador, David Veintimilla, Especialista em Biodiversidade e Ponto Focal da CITES no Ministério do Meio Ambiente, Água e Transição Ecológica do Equa-

dor (MAATE), apresentou as experiências na implementação da CITES para espécies arbóreas no Equador no âmbito da contribuição do Projeto Bioamazônia da OTCA. “Com o apoio do Projeto Bioamazônia, foi desenvolvido um curso online sobre o contexto da CITES, o que são os Anexos, etc. Até hoje já capacitamos mais de 150 funcionários”, disse Veintimilla.



David Veintimilla, Biodiversity Specialist and CITES Focal Point at the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador

Representing Ecuador, David Veintimilla, Specialist in Biodiversity and Focal Point of CITES at the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE), presented the experiences in the implementation of CITES for tree species in Ecuador in the context of the contribution of the Bioamazon Project. “With the support of the Bioamazon Project, an online course was developed on the context of CITES, what the Annexes are, etc. To date, we have trained more than 150 employees,” said Veintimilla.

Kanako Ishii, representative of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) spoke about the experiences in the production of inventories, CITES courses and case studies carried out by the institution that has 12 projects in its CITES Program.



Kanako Ishii, representative of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Margarita África Clemente Muñoz, a CITES specialist with extensive experience in tree species, commented that in the first CITES Conferences in which she participated, there was a lot of discussion about orchids. “Now, tree species are included, which have increased a lot. It is very important that intergovernmental institutions, such as ACTO, offer support to Member Countries to develop their capabilities”, she concluded.



Margarita Africa Clemente Muñoz, CITES specialist

The recording of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/ZUDJruB9QQM>

The technical report on the illegal trade of five Amazonian species listed in CITES was released

The study was carried out within the scope of the ACTO Amazon Regional Observatory.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization presented the potential and results of the Amazon Regional Observatory at a parallel event held during the 19th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

At the event held on November 24, in Panama City, the technical report “Illegal Wildlife Trade of Five Prioritized Species of Appendix I of CITES Emblematic for the Amazon Region” was launched.

Natalia Méndez, ACTO consultant on illegal trafficking, presented the main results of the consultation. The five CITES Appendix I species prioritized in this work were: *Panthera onca*; *Ara macao*; *Leopardus pardalis*; *Harpy harpyja*; and *Leopardus wiedii*.

A geographic dashboard and viewer was also developed, available at <https://orao-tca.org/cites/reportes/trafico/dashboard/>



FOTOS: BANCO DE IMAGENS/OTCA

ACTO Side Event Participants at CITES COP 19



The Technical Report on Illegal Wildlife Trade of Five Prioritized Species of Appendix I of CITES Emblematic for the Amazon Region is available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

Discussion

In the first segment of the event, the Head of the Legal Unit of CITES, Juan Carlos Vásquez, on behalf of the Secretary General of CITES, thanked ACTO's presence at the CoP19, presenting its work in the Amazon. "We believe it is very important to reflect on the ecosystem approach to species, which is an opportunity for us to work together on the theme. The Observatory is very important for developing regional capacity and can be an important partner as another center for scientific production," he said.

For Mauro Ruffino, coordinator of the Bioamazon Project and the Amazon Regional Observatory, this was an opportunity to present the Organization's actions to the international community as tools for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Endangered Fauna and Flora Species in the Amazon.

Ruffino highlighted some results achieved by the Bioamazon Project, such as 18 national management programs implemented; 18 species in management programs; a proposal of species/genus to be listed on CITES Appendix II developed and approved.

Under Component 1 – National and regional information and knowledge management systems – the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO) was implemented. The capacity of 13 national institutions and 15 national systems of Member Countries was also strengthened.

In Component 2, the results were two countries (Brazil and Venezuela) with functioning electronic authorization systems and six countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname) with systems in the validation and testing phase.

In Component 3, 21 sustainable management and traceability initiatives of Amazonian species were carried out and four national commercial chains equipped and monitored with facilities, traceability tools and training.

Mauro Ruffino also presented the Amazon Regional Observatory and its Modules. He highlighted the CITES Module and the support of the Amazonian Countries for the development of ARO, as well as the financial support of KfW.

Amazon Countries

Representing Brazil, the Director of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama), João Pessoa, presented Brazil's advances and successful experiences in the implementation of CITES within the scope of the Bioamazon Project and the Amazon Regional Observatory. Pessoa highlighted the studies on *Potamotrygon* sp. which allowed Brazil to submit to CITES the proposal for the inclusion of freshwater stingray species in Appendix II of CITES, approved at COP19.

Carliz Díaz, General Director of the Ministry of Biological Diversity of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC) mentioned the purchase of equipment and the studies carried out in Venezuela for the implementation of CITES, highlighting the Management Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Continental Turtles in the State of Amazonas, which received support from the Bioamazon Project.

Closure

In the third segment of the side event, Daniel Wolf, from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, was impressed with ACTO's commitment and the development of activities in the Amazon. "I think the Amazon Regional Observatory can be very useful for sharing results," he said.

Florian Arneth, KfW's Tropical Forest Portfolio Manager, participated through a video in which he highlighted that ACTO, as a regional organization of the Amazonian Countries, has enormous potential to contribute to the achievement of important common objectives. "The Amazon Regional Observatory constitutes an important tool to implement digital solutions that strengthen the management of the Member Countries", he stated.





FOTOS: BANCO DE IMAGENES/OTCA

Mauro Ruffino, coordinator of the Bioamazon Project and the Amazon Regional Observatory, at the LifeWatch event

ACTO will implement the Amazon Node in GBIF

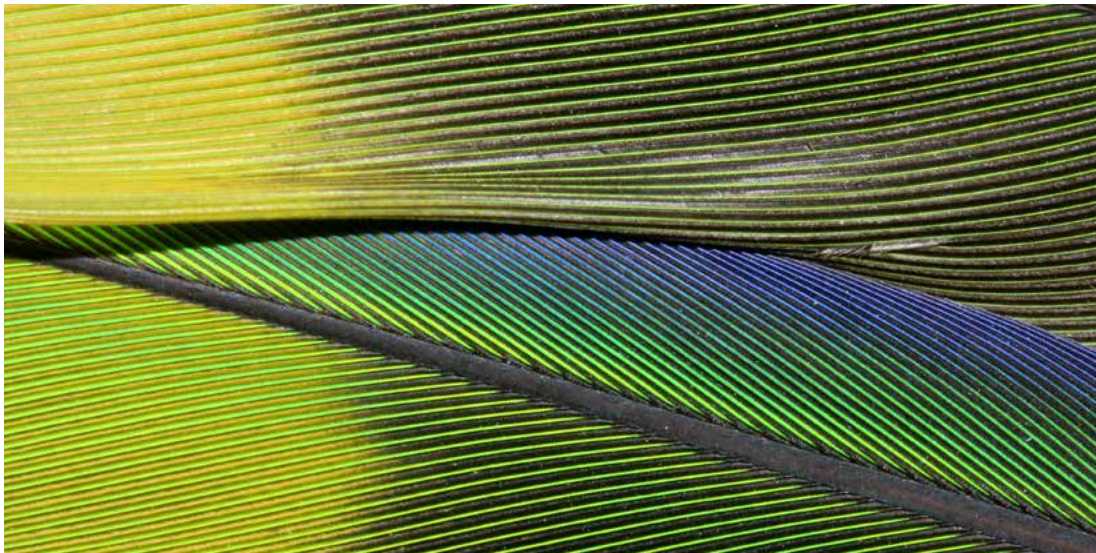
The coordinator of the Amazon Regional Observatory, Mauro Ruffino, presented the ARO functionalities at the LifeWatch ERIC and GBIF event, which took place from November 14th to 18th in Seville, Spain.

The main objective of the LifeWatch ERIC and GBIF meeting was to bring together the coordinators of national biodiversity information networks and work together to promote collaboration between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives from several countries, including Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, participated.

ACTO is a participating member of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in sharing biodiversity data was signed in 2021.

Among ACTO/ARO's priorities is the implementation of the Amazon Node, which provides information on Member Countries that are not part of GBIF, in addition to promoting the exchange of data with the initiative.

Digital solutions for biodiversity conservation



On behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Mauro Ruffino presented the Amazon Regional Observatory in the webinar *The Twin Transition: Digitization and Climate Change*, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Embassies of Denmark in Latin America, on the 6th of December.

Giving an overview of the Observatory, Ruffino highlighted how ACTO is supporting Amazonian countries to improve or develop their biodiversity systems and digital infrastructure. The ORA coordinator also explained how the Climate Change Module will be developed.

The event aimed to discuss the digital transition for policy implementation. Representatives from the Danish government's technology and environment agencies, the United Nations Environment Program and cBrain shared their views on the importance of digital in accelerating solutions to the impact of climate change.

Among the good practice cases presented is the case of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, which handles thousands of CITES permit applications (mainly for imports) every year. The solution replaced manual annual report accounting with a fully digital end-to-end solution. In addition, integration with the CITES database was established, thus ensuring that the self-service is always up to date with the list of species.

An adapted version of this digital solution is being implemented with the Guiana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC) in South America to comply with the CITES Convention and protect the biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest. Licensed exporters are assigned annual quotas and register their exports on a case-by-case basis. The system monitors the total quota and is integrated with a regional database of the Regional Observatory of the Amazon (ARO), which maintains a specific record of biodiversity projects and activities in the Amazon.

The course for young indigenous people in the defense of Amazonian territories is launched

The Executive Director of ACTO, Ambassador Carlos Alfredo Lazary participated today, October 28, in the virtual launching ceremony of the course “Capacity Building in Territorial Defense and Sustainable Environmental Management for Indigenous Youth of the Amazon Basin”.



This initiative is promoted by an inter-institutional alliance between the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Conservation International (CI) and the University Rey Juan Carlos de España.

The opening of the event was conducted by the Vice Chancellor of Bolivia and President of the Board of Directors of FILAC, Freddy Mamani, who welcomed all participants and students. “This course is intended precisely to strengthen the leadership skills of young women and men in the Amazon region to assume the defense of their territories and to lead sustainable environmental management processes in their communities, in their villages,” said Mamani.

This training is intended to strengthen the capacities of 80 indigenous youth from 8 countries of the Amazon Basin in aspects related to territorial defense, sustaina-

ble development management and, in particular, the conservation of their current resources, with a focus on Full Life and Good Living – Living Well. The course is scheduled to start on November 14, under the virtual modality and will last ten weeks.

During his speech, ACTO's Executive Director highlighted the activities carried out in the field of the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation and in initial contact in the Amazon region (PIACI), in which several actions were implemented through projects financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in addition to activities related to climate change and traditional knowledge.

Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of the use of natural resources through sustainable economic activities and biodiversity products. This is an opportunity, above all, for young indigenous people to benefit from the advantages of forest and biodiversity products in the region and contribute to improving the living conditions of indigenous communities.

On the other hand, he said that the fusion of digital technologies with the different knowledge systems in the Amazon region provides an opportunity to showcase the various successful actions related to climate change, in particular the good practices of the Amazonian indigenous peoples.

Finally, Lazary referred to the Amazon Regional Observatory housing the Indigenous Peoples Module, in addition to the modules and platform containing the themes of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, such as Biodiversity, CITES, Forests, Water Resources, among others under planning.



Project Biomaz and the private sector held a webinar on the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity in the Amazon Region

Last Friday (4), ACTO, under the Biomaz project, held an online seminar, with the participation of the private and business sector, in order to discuss the inputs of the Evaluation of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Region.

Webinar
 Conversatorio con el sector privado acerca de la Evaluación Rápida de la Diversidad Biológica y Servicios Ecosistémicos en la Cuenca/Región Amazónica

Fecha: 04/11/2022
 Horario: 4:00 - 6:30 (Brasilia)

Logos: BIOMAZ, OTCA, cooperación alemana, giz, HUMBOLDT

The Webinar aimed to present evaluation inputs to the private sector in furtherance of showing opportunities and giving directions to decision makers to contribute to sustainable management, as well as receiving exchanges and knowledge from organizations in the productive sector.

Ambassador Carlos Lazary, Executive Director of ACTO, was responsible for the opening of the event: "ACTO is interested in increasing its socialization with key actors in the Amazon territory, in this case, with the productive sectors, which make direct use of biodiversity."

The meeting considered the capabilities of the productive sector and the possibility of working together with the contributions of the evaluation, as well as presentations by companies about their work in the Region.

From the Humboldt Institute, Deputy Director of Investigations Gisele Didier also participated in the opening: "It is a pleasure to be part of this process and to work with ACTO, GIZ and all the actors who were present in this process. We hope to have a fruitful afternoon and a better future for this important region shared by all."

Some organizations in the productive sector also participated. Augusto Correa, of Partners for the Amazon (PPA) commented that the private sector is not able to guarantee all social and environmental transformation alone and reinforced the importance of collaborative work.

Another important participation was that of Natura. Raoni Silva commented on the importance of promoting sustainable development and the potential for innovation in the Amazon Region, still valuing traditional and cultural knowledge of the Region.

From Bolivia, the company focused on Brazilian nuts, Tahuamanu, was also present at the event. Surprising data were presented to understand the size of the business in the Region. There are 30.000 families participating in the chestnut harvest and in Bolivia alone, 28 tons of the product are exported per year.

Two great Brazilian researchers were also involved: Braulio Dias and Carlos Joly. Carlos spoke about conservation and the private sector: "We need to understand the dependencies that the private sector has on Biodiversity in many of its activities, I believe, therefore, that we are at a favorable time, and we should look to the future with hope, but this will depend a lot on how much funding countries can provide and how much the private sector can contribute to biodiversity conservation".

Similarly, Braulio also brought his contributions: "The productive systems of the Amazon need a better organization through cooperatives and associations, in addition, we should note the need for training for the entrepreneurial spirit, people from the Amazon Region itself and especially young people can receive training so that they are new entrepreneurs, we have potential and I believe that the area deserves more attention".

The closure of the event was held by the Secretary-General of ACTO, Alexandra Moreira: "The private sector is contributing and has an important effort the products of this sector. They are important because of the socioeconomic impact they generate within our Amazon Region. It is very important to listen to these contributions."

If you want to see all the content of the Webinar, the recording is available on the YouTube page of the Humboldt Institute. To access, please click here.

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the recording is available on the YouTube page of the Humboldt Institute. To access, please click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHmhFJqd-ZR8>

Indigenous Peoples' contributions to the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement



Participants of the event on progress and challenges of the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in climate policies under the Paris Agreement

On Saturday, November 12, the project implemented by ACTO for the creation of the Amazon Indigenous Peoples Platform was presented at the session on *“Progress and challenges of the incorporation of indigenous peoples in climate policies in the region, within the framework of the Paris Agreement”* held at the Euroclima pavilion in Sharm el Sheikh-Egypt, venue of the COP27, which, according to its Presidency, should be remembered as the “Implementation COP”.

This initiative to promote the Amazon Indigenous Peoples Platform responds to the strategic position of the Amazon for the planet owing to its great biocultural wealth, where more than 400 indigenous peoples live and whose knowledge and practices are central to addressing the impacts of climate change. These impacts are being experienced with increasing intensity, particularly by indigenous peoples.

The project coordinator, Elvira Gutierrez, pointed out that this Amazon Platform will be the first regional initiative of its kind worldwide, thanks to the commitment of ACTO Member Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, who are determined to move towards the operationalization of paragraph 16 of Decision 2CP/24 of the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC), to increase the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples, facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in terms of a comprehensive and integrated mitigation and adaptation at the regional level. She also mentioned that Indigenous Peoples' knowledge has at the core of their actions, the care of Life and Mother Earth, therefore, it should be integrated into climate action and policies.

Other speakers from different public agencies from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama also participated in the event, highlighting with concrete examples, how to integrate this knowledge into public policies on climate change. Leticia Cruells from Argentina, referred to the importance of having specific spaces, through intercultural dialogues, with indigenous peoples, while Sandra Akemi Kishi, Regional Prosecutor in the Federal Public Ministry of Brazil, referred to how indigenous peoples are the ones who most protect nature and, at the same time, the ones who suffer the most from the effects of climate change. Finally, the Colombian panelist, Angélica María Mosquera, climate change advisor in her country, referred to the fact that adaptation projects require vulnerability analysis to identify the best measures and that these should include both ancestral and scientific knowledge.

Alejandra Loria, from the National Commission for Biodiversity Management of Costa Rica; anthropologist in charge of sociocultural, indigenous and gender issues and focal point for Article 8j of the Convention on Biological Diversity, stressed that public policies must be designed in a participatory manner and that the conservation vision of indigenous peoples must be strengthened.

Maribel Pinto, from Panama's Ministry of the Environment and head of the Adaptation Department of the Climate Change Directorate, highlighted the value of meeting with each community to learn about their activities and about the climate change impacts that affect them the most, with the purpose of finding appropriate solutions.

The event was moderated by Onel Masardurle, vice-chair of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (LCIPP), who gave a motivating and comprehensive presentation on LCIPP in the framework of the UNFCCC. Walter Gutierrez, GRULAC representative to the FWG, highlighted the importance of articulating both the actions of indigenous peoples and governmental actions in order to be effective against climate change, as well as the need to operationalize the decisions of the Paris Agreement at the regional and national levels at which the impacts of climate change are felt. Finally, he referred to the fact that this activity contributes to activity 5 of the Second Work Plan of the FWG.

Doctors, nurses and health technicians participate in ACTO mission in Bolivia



Members of the technical mission to the region of Madidi, Bolivia, together with the team of doctors from the Hospital San Buenaventura met today, 12/14, at the surveillance and control post in El Bala to plan a visit to the Torewa community, where they live families of the Tacana, Mosekene, T'simane peoples and settlers.

As part of the planned activities, the medical team will provide comprehensive care to the local population, including the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 in indigenous communities. The focus of the actions will be to start the process of immunizing children with vaccines that are part of the Unified Health System (SUS) in Bolivia.

It is the first time that a team of physicians from various specialties, led by the director of Hospital San Buenaventura, Dr. Santos Gutiérrez, visits this community, supported by the Contingency Plan for Health Protection for Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and Initial Contact (ACTO/PAHO/IDB).



The visit to the Torewa community will also include radio installation technicians and rangers from the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNAP) who provide protection services to the Madidi National Park. This activity shows the inter-institutional articulation necessary to provide coordinated assistance to the health situations of indigenous peoples adjacent to conservation units.



Indigenous peoples of Madidi receive comprehensive health care and radio installation for early warning and coping with epidemics



As part of ACTO's technical mission in the Madidi Region, Bolivia, the San Buenaventura Hospital technical team, made up of doctors, nurses and technicians, provided comprehensive health, dental and vaccination services in the Torewa community.

To reach the community, mission members and the medical team traveled more than three hours by boat on the Beni River and more than an hour of walking through the forest to the community of Torewa, in the Parque Nacional del Madidi (PNM), department of La Paz.

For medical care, mothers and fathers from the Mosekene, T'simane, Lecos, Quechua and Aymara groups lined up and enrolled in a community school, where the consultations took place.

Comprehensive health care, dental care and vaccination activities were coordinated by the director of Hospital San Buenaventura, Dr. Santos Gutierrez. These professionals are part of the Unified Health System (SUS) in Bolivia.



During the consultations, the doctors verified the main ailments manifested by the patients, namely the children, who attended the vast majority.

Oral health care was carried out by dentist Xiomara Sarmiento together with technicians, where they carried out basic examinations and provided guidance to families.





Continuing the activities of this ACTO mission, within the scope of the Contingency Plan Project for the Protection of the Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and in Initial Contact (ACTO/PAHO/BID), radiotelephony equipment was installed in the Torewa community, to contribute and integrate the indigenous communities of Madidi National Park into the early warning network to fight Covid-19 and to deal with outbreaks of new infectious diseases and epidemics.

The technical mission concluded its activities with the installation of another radio equipment in the community of Villa Fátima in the municipality of Tacana, located 6 hours from San Buenaventura.

Finally, validation of the data presented in the diagnosis prepared by ACTO consultants was achieved, the interaction between health processes and the environment is increasingly important, as any disturbance in nature leads to health problems and many cases in zoonotic diseases that must be avoided. In any case, the role of traditional medicine is fundamental in the health of the local population due to the knowledge of the context and the limited access to health services in the region. For this reason, an integral process of territorial planning and actions for the benefit of indigenous communities becomes preponderant.

ARO Section

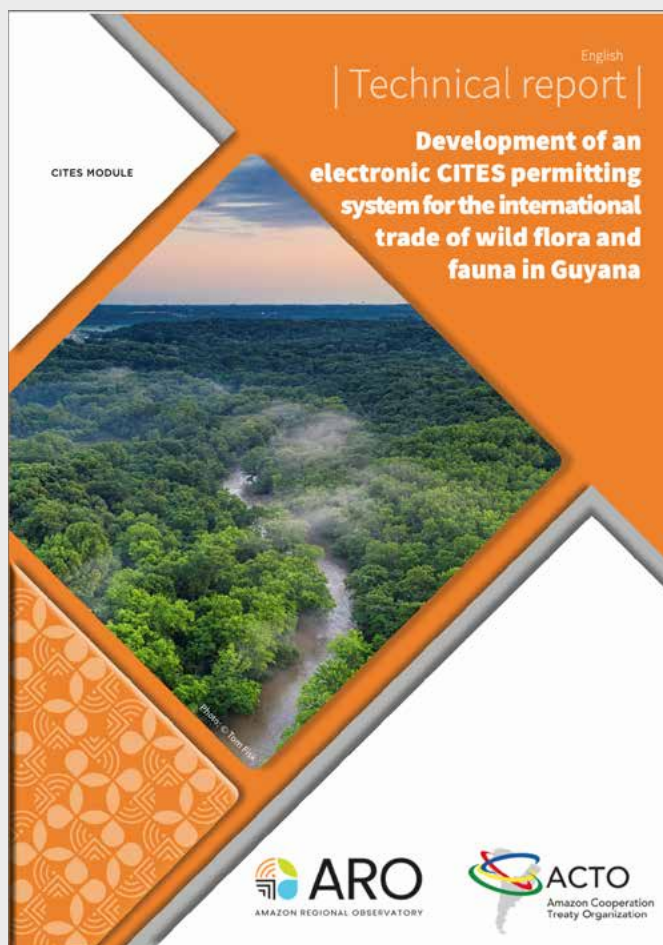


Guiana

In the CITES Module of the Amazon Regional Observatory you can find Technical Reports with the results of the consultancies developed in the scope of the Bioamazon Project.

Technical Report

Development of an electronic CITES permitting system for the international trade of wild flora and fauna in Guyana



You can download the English version: https://oraotca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ACTO_ARO_GY_Development-of-an-electronic-CITES-permitting-system-for-Guyana_Final1.pdf

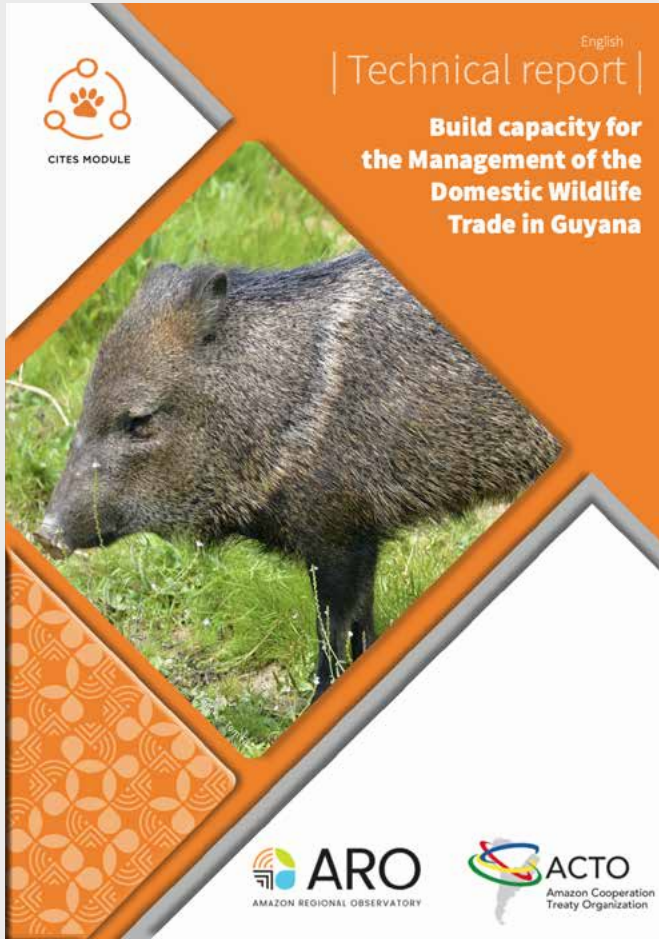
ARO Section



Guiana

Technical Report

Build capacity for the Management of the Domestic Wildlife Trade in Guyana



You can download the English version here

https://oraotca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ACTO_ARO_GY_Build-capacity-for-the-Management-of-the-Domestic-Wildlife-Trade_Final1.pdf



CITES MODULE



AMAZON REGIONAL OBSERVATORY

ARO

Invitation for external experts to comment on the summary for decision making document of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity in the Amazon Basin



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Organização do Tratado
de Cooperação Amazônica

Convite para comentários
ao resumo para tomadores de decisão da
Avaliação Rápida Sobre Biodiversidade e
Serviços Ecossistêmicos Região Amazônica

- 15 - 22 de dezembro de 2022 -

Invitation for external experts to comment on the summary for decision making document of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), through the BIOMAZ Project, makes available the Summary for Decision Making Document of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region for external comments.

This Rapid Assessment follows the conceptual and methodological framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – IPBES and seeks to assess the knowledge of biological diversity and ecosystem services, considering all the aspects involved and approaching the biophysical, economic, social and cultural perspectives, in order to strengthen the science-policy interface and promote the conservation and sustainable use and management of

biodiversity for the human well-being. It was developed by a group of 118 experts on the subject and from the Region, taking into account all the guidelines indicated in the Scope Document, which is the roadmap to develop the Assessment and which was approved by the ACTO Member Countries.

Following the IPBES methodology, the objective of this phase is to make the Summary for Decision Making available to all interested parties, in order to receive comments and opinions from experts, to strengthen and amplify the information in this Document.

In this sense, we kindly ask and count on the necessary collaboration of all the interested parties, to comment and contribute on this Document. *We would like to also inform that the Summary for Decision Makers will be available online for comments from December 15th to December 22nd of 2022.*

To request the Summary for Decision Making, access the link below where you will be redirected to fill in your personal information in a form. The Rapid Assessment Technical Support Team will personally send you the necessary documentation to the indicated email address, along with additional instructions to include your comments and submitting them.



Formulario de Acceso / Login Form / Formulario para Logar

[Español]

Formulario de acceso al documento de la Evaluación Rápida de la Diversidad Biológica y Servicios Ecosistémicos de la Cuenca/Región Amazónica.

Para acceder al Documento, incluya sus datos en el siguiente formulario. Esta información sólo servirá para identificar los comentarios que se incluirán en esta etapa de revisión pública.

[Português]

Formulário de acesso ao documento da Avaliação Rápida e Serviços Ecosistêmicos da Bacia/Região Amazônica.

Para acessar ao Documento, pedimos que inclua suas informações no formulário a seguir. Essas informações servirão unicamente para a identificação dos comentário a serem incluídos nessa etapa de revisão pública.

[English]

Form to login the Rapid Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Amazon Basin/Region document.



Presentation of the proposal for the Indigenous Peoples Module of the Amazon Regional Observatory to Member Countries

With welcoming remarks, the Executive Director of ACTO, Ambassador Carlos Lazary, inaugurated the workshop for the creation of the *Indigenous Peoples Module* of the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO). The event brought together representatives of foreign ministries, ministries of indigenous affairs and indigenous health, and other institutions of ACTO Member Countries.

The purpose of this meeting was to present to ACTO Member Countries the preliminary proposal of the thematic lines of work defined for the content development of the Indigenous Peoples' Module, with the aim of identifying complementary or new thematic lines, as well as identifying the institutional sources or managers of information for each topic.

During the workshop, participants acknowledged the work of ACTO and the significant contribution from this effort focused on the health of Indigenous Peoples and expressed great interest in the inclusion of the issue of climate change.

This first stage within the development of the Indigenous Peoples Module will contribute to the creation of a regional border cooperation structure for Amazonian countries on health and Indigenous Peoples issues, with emphasis on Indigenous Peoples in Isolation in Initial Contact (PIACI). This will allow the exchange of information and data in order to address the threats and epidemics in the region, inclu-

ding the Covid-19 pandemic and other emerging and endemic tropical diseases that affect these populations, based on a respectful attitude towards the concepts of their own and traditional medicine. This module presents in its first level of information the following topics:

- Amazonian Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous Peoples in isolation and in initial contact
- Culture, knowledge, history
- Health
- Climate and environment
- Actors related to Indigenous Peoples and territories
- Spatial information on indigenous peoples and territories
- Legal instruments
- Documentary and multimedia content



The next phase of the module will include resilience to climate change of Indigenous Peoples, among others. At the end of the meeting, the countries committed to providing content and contributing through forms capable of enriching the topics of interest to indigenous affairs and health institutions.

Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO)

Its vision is to be an Amazon Information Reference Center and a permanent Virtual Forum that fosters the flow and exchange of information among institutions, government authorities, the scientific community, academia and the civil society of the Amazonian countries.

The second phase of ARO implementation will improve the functionalities of the modules developed in the first phase, such as the CITES and Geomazon modules and new thematic areas.

The Indigenous Peoples Module is being developed within the framework of the activities of the Regional Contingency Plan for the Protection of Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact (ACTO/PAHO/IDB).

Video



CITES COP 19

The videos of the two ACTO side events at the CITES COP 19 are available on the ACTO Channel on YouTube:

Tree Species: <https://youtu.be/-3h5gMGM9jg>

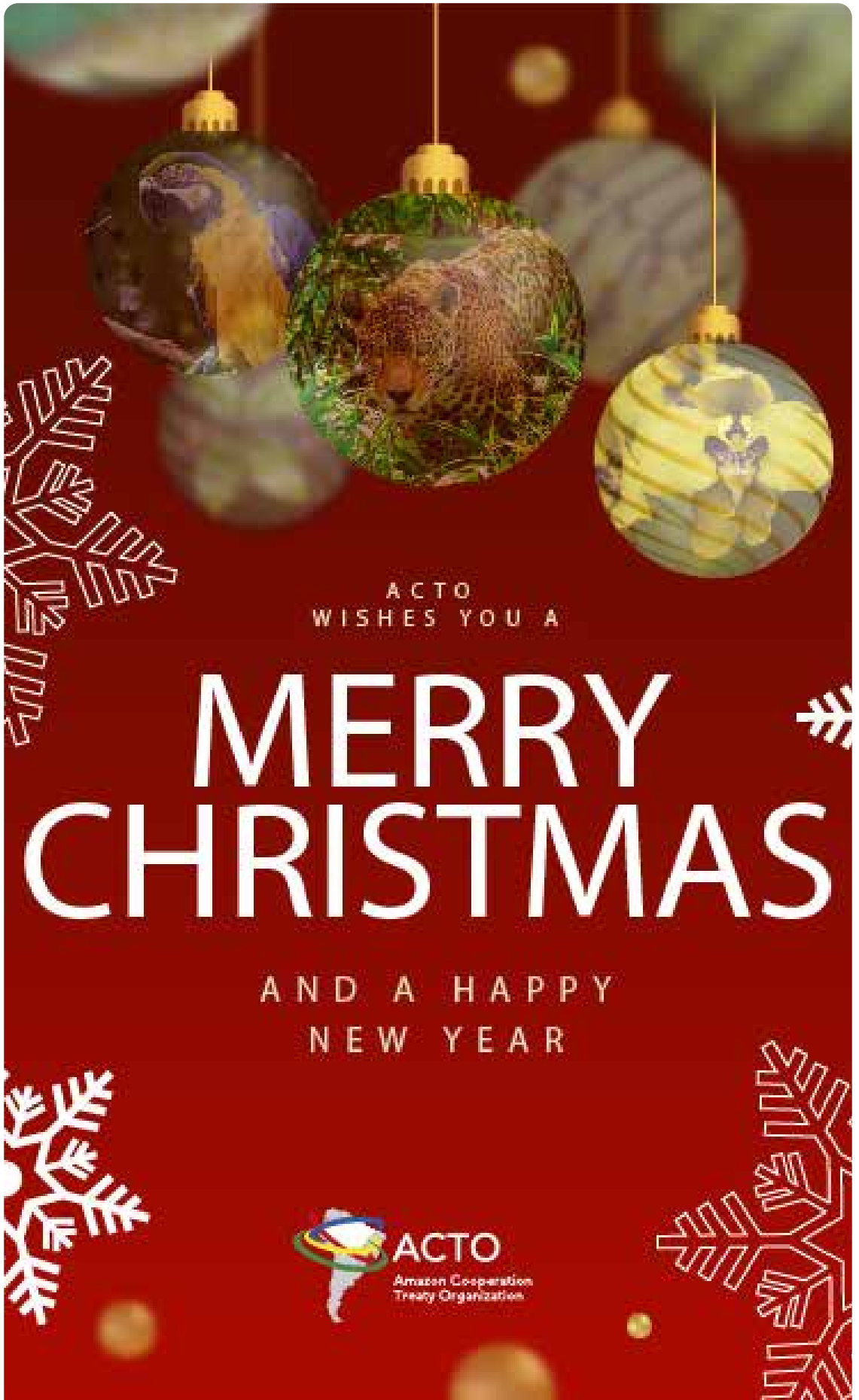
Amazon Regional Observatory: <https://youtu.be/CJP1rjY1VuQ>

Publications

The Bioamazon Newsletter, #17, in PDF format,
is available on this link

http://otca.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022_ACTO_Bioamazon_NEWSLETTER-017_ENG.pdf





ACTO
WISHES YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



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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