



ACTO

Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization

Strategic Plan

2004 | 2012





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Amazon Cooperation Treaty
Organization - Permanent Secretariat

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Presentation

Concluded the process of transition from the Pro-Tempore Secretariats of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) to the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which I am very pleased to have taken on, as the first woman, the position of Secretary-General to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), since early May 2004. This role has produced one of the most noticeable inflections in the institutional history of this document, fostering regional cooperation and integration of the Amazon countries, in compliance with the mandates by the Governments of the Country Members.

I feel that the time has arrived for a transformation in the statements and in the vision about a common future, fueled by concrete achievements, in order to improve the quality of life of the people of our nations. This achievement is attained through the sustainable use of a culturally rich and naturally diverse heritage, harboring one of the most important biomes in the world, the geographic heart of the sub-continent: the Amazon region.

The Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia was established in early 2003, with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which generously housed ACTO headquarters temporarily within the Ministry's premises for over a year. ACTO, in congruence with active participation of the diplomatic representations of the Country Members and with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been able to establish an institutional space that was soon recognized by its counterparts as an international organization. The strategic role established between ACTO and the Country Members concerns the mutual interest of the eight nations that share the Amazon region, with the objective of being integrated into the dynamic processes of the Latin-American regional integration, which is now taking place.

Furthermore, the increasing global concern for viable ways of sustainable development and the importance of the Amazon region to humanity, cause ACTO to be a contemporary tool to induce global sustainability, as

well as to serve as a concrete arena for cooperation among the Amazon countries. Moreover, in a more ample context, ACTO leads to strengthening international relations of a South-South nature, with the common thread being the Amazon.

During the few months of its institutional life, the achievements of ACTO Permanent Secretariat in the political, strategic, technical and operational, spheres have intertwined, disclosing the political will of our governments in taking action to reinvigorate the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. This process has been witnessed by the Cooperation Agreements signed, and those under negotiation, with the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies in order to execute important initiatives and tasks towards promoting sustainable development in the Amazon region.

As ACTO has undertaken such a commitment, a fundamental emphasis has been placed on formulating the Strategic Plan for the period 2004 - 2012. The Strategic Plan entails a detailed description comprising observations, suggestions and contributions by the Country Members, International Organizations,



“ The increasing global concern for viable ways of sustainable development and the importance of the Amazon region to humanity cause ACTO to be a contemporary tool to induce global sustainability ”

Rosalía Arteaga Serrano
Secretary-General



technical experts, Civil Society Organizations and local communities, gathered at the 1st International Meeting of the National Permanent Commissions, held on the 1st and 2nd of July 2004, in the city of Brasilia (Brazil).

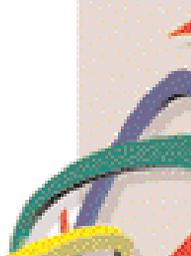
An upgraded version of the Strategic Plan (2004-2012) has been elaborated in order to facilitate the comprehension and appropriation of this planning tool, made available to all Governmental, Non-Governmental and social role players. In it lies a presentation, which expresses the common views about the topics shared by the Amazon countries, as well as the direction to be adopted by ACTO Permanent Secretariat.

The new version of the Strategic Plan (2004-2012), presented by the PS/ACTO at the 12th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA,) and thereby agreed upon at the 8th Meeting of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, proposes the strategic view to guide and build synergies for actions undertaken by both government and ACTO.

The PS/ACTO wishes to express its gratefulness to the international consultants for their contributions to the effort of reflection, which allowed for the preparation of this navigation chart, as well as to valuable cooperation by the Andean Fomentation Corporation (CAF), the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), World Union for Nature Conservation (UICN) and the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ) through the Regional Project on the Conservation of Rain Forestry in the Amazon region, during this initial stage.

Brasilia, October 2004

Rosalía Arteaga Serrano
Secretary-General
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization





Preamble

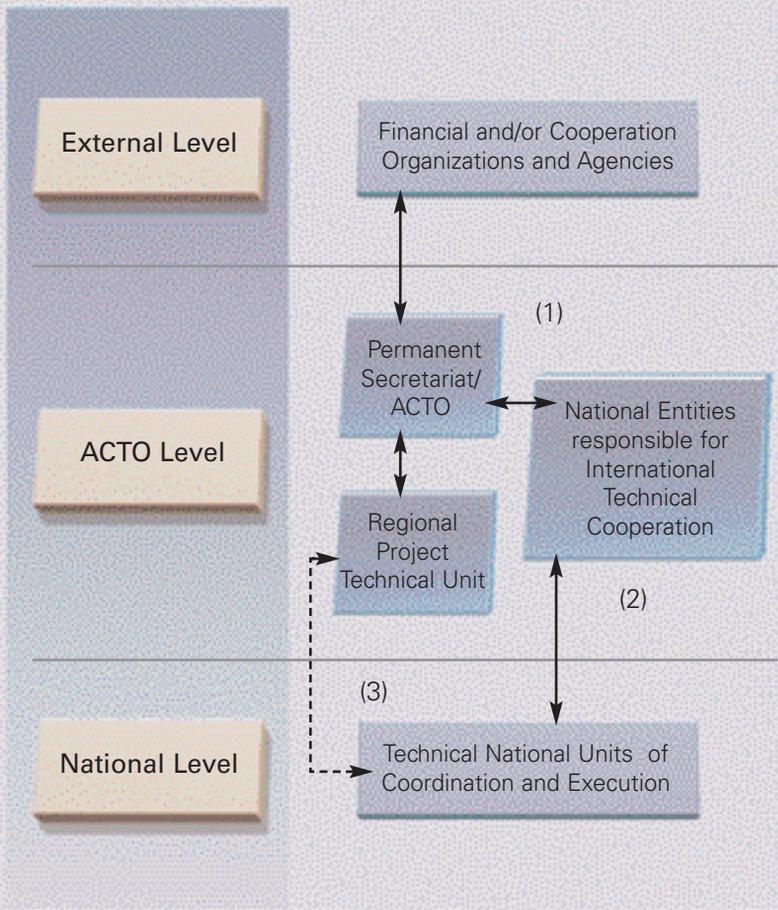
The Strategic Plan described herein is intended to provide insight and guidance to the Permanent Secretariat/Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) in the medium-term of the period 2004-2012, in compliance with the mandate of the government of the Country Members, established at the several levels of decision-making.

In compliance to such a mandate, the PS/ACTO will observe the commitments arising from the relevant multilateral Conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Protection to World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, Climatic Change, Fight against Desertification, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, among others.

The PS/ACTO emerges among other regional organizations that, although holding different missions, are important role players and represent complementary dimensions to achieve the development purposes of the Country Members. Such organizations are CAN, MERCOSUR and CARICOM.

At the operational level, the PS/ACTO works through technical units in order to execute projects and to establish a permanent forum for consultation and coordination between the Country Members. In this way, the PS/ACTO promotes and can facilitate sustainable development projects for the Amazon region, without creating permanent bureaucratic structures, as represented in the flowchart below.

Fluxograma



Note: (1) Organization, Coordination and Approval (2) Consultation and Follow-Up (3) Operational Actions

Within the context of the sustainable development paradigm, the PS/ACTO has a social commitment towards improving the livelihoods of local Amazon populations. This commitment should be attained through the benefits derived from the PS/ACTO's initiatives, in the form of job creation and income generation, as a means to tackle regional poverty to instigate regional integration, in resonance of the United Nations Goals and Objectives of the Millennium.



Introduction

Looking back upon the past 25 years of the existence of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, there is increasing evidence to the relevance of the treaty as a vital tool for the establishment of sustainable development in the Amazon region, in order to meet the demands of local communities by improving their livelihoods. Furthermore, the treaty fosters regional integration and cooperation, which are the key elements to endure the shared challenges of the Amazonian regional development, setting the stage for Latin American integration.

The decision of the Governments of the Country Members to establish the Permanent Secretariat and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Brasilia, definitely installed in March 2003, was oriented to strengthen institutional coordination and provide joint-action to integrate the Amazon region. This represents a unanimous decision on behalf of the eight ACTO Country Members, namely Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, towards prioritizing a regional cooperation mechanism, as well as fostering a common vision to instigate sustainable development in the Amazon.

The increasing relevance of the region within the geopolitical arena; the developed debate on the promotion of the "sustainable development" paradigm; the significant role played by the regional integration process and its economic importance to the international economy of the eight Amazon Countries; the advantageous Governmental and Diplomatic cooperation and effort among the eight Country Members, addressed to achieve equity, satisfactory standards of living and acceptable health standards and social welfare, as an inherent right to the local Amazon populations; the global aspect of environmental protection challenges in the Amazon; as well as the sovereign responsibility of the eight Amazon Country Members, are reasons for which the Country Members wish to reiterate the political will and unrestricted support to carry out the needed efforts to ensure that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty becomes more effective and achieves recognized results.



The value of the PS/ACTO lies in that it is a strategic tool, at the service of the eight Country Members, with the best interest of all members under consideration to foster horizontal cooperation among them, thus favoring institutional exchanges, and greater interaction among the Amazonian countries. The Organization is also used as a forum for decision-making, on issues that may affect Amazon integration, during international agreement negotiations and in the presence of international organizations.

The need for an Organization such as ACTO arose when activists and political players from developed countries became involved in recognizing the global importance of the Amazon, and expressed concern for preserving its biodiversity and ecological wellbeing. However, the Amazon had been and continues to be site for increasing levels of urbanization processes, colonization for farming and expansion of commercial agriculture, among other anthropogenic pressures, all leading to the vast proportion of destruction to the Amazon, witnessed at present. Therefore, the document "ACTO, some key factors in its historic evolution " developed an analysis on the political institutional development of the Treaty, characterizing it in three phases.

The first phase, which the author calls defensive-protectionist (1978-1989), is portrayed by the concern of the eight Country Members in expressing their nation's sovereignty in face of the common patrimony of the Amazon shared by them, as the result of increasing international pressure and intervention. Therefore, within the first phase, the ACT decided to pursue a shift in the political-diplomatic efforts introducing the principle of shared responsibility, making it very clear that the shared responsibility between developed and developing countries is different, in the sense that they are common yet different.

After the Treaty came into effect in 1980, there was a period of inactivity due to the countries' different realities, institutional weakness and scarce social recognition. In addition, the Treaty was inactive due to the failure of the ACT in recognizing the Amazon region as a priority to the sovereign states.

In order to terminate the period of inactivity, a series of steps were undertaken towards developing the operational mechanisms of the Treaty,

¹ Aranibar Quiroga, Antonio, *La OTCA, algunas claves de su evolución histórica*, Consultancy Report, Brasilia, july 2003.



by creating the First Commissions and inducing the establishment of the Association of Amazon Universities (UNAMAZ), as a network to facilitate the exchange of scientific and technological information, which served as a means to train and form post-graduate professionals with proficient background in Amazon knowledge.

The second phase of political strengthening (1989-1994), began with the Meeting of the Presidents of the Amazon Country Members, held in Manaus (Brazil). During the meeting, the Country Members signed an agreement based on principles and objectives established by the Treaty to renew the political will of each Country Member.

The Declaration of the Presidents was the tool of the Treaty that induced a complete political commitment, on behalf of the Country Members. The declaration came hand in hand with the increasing democratization of the Country Members, with the economic integration and political harmonization processes of the Latin America, such as the Andean Community (CAN) and MERCOSUR. In addition, efforts were complemented with discussions and agreements geared towards sustainable development and the respect for Indigenous Amazon rights. These complementing efforts marked the period of full political will to harmonize the Treaty among the governments of Country Members.

The Declaration of the Presidents was the ultimate effort that facilitated a joint participation on behalf of the Country Members, which positioned them as a unified body before the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This turning point set the stage to establish a more equitable environment of dialogue among developed countries and the Country Members.

Phase two was prosperous due to the establishment of the Special Commissions and because the Treaty opened negotiations to international cooperation to develop bilateral and multilateral projects.

The third phase, of institutional development (1994-2002), coincided with the development of the initiative of creating a Permanent Secretariat and its transition to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

The observation of increasing complexity for Amazon Cooperation, and with increasing visibility in the international arena, as witnessed by improved coordination and increasing numbers of activities and projects under execu-



tion, leads to building a consensus amongst the Country Members to establish a Permanent Secretariat (PS) based in Brasilia (Brazil).

The resolutions were agreed upon by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and disclosed the will by the Country Members to strengthen the Treaty and improve its mechanisms to establish the Permanent Secretariat. This gave way to a long-lasting and complex process of intergovernmental communication to conclude the signing of the Treaty Amendment, in 1998. The process culminated in August 2002, when the signatory countries complied with the Deposit of the Amendment Ratification Tool before the Brazilian Government.

At the 7th Meeting of Foreign Ministers, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) in November 2002, the governments reiterated the strategic horizon of the Organization as a privileged tool for political cooperation and harmonization among the members. In addition, they renewed the basic commitments of improving the living standards of the Amazon region inhabitants, under the uncontestable responsibility of each Nation to use its natural resources in a sustainable manner, and also to justly and equitably distribute the benefits derived from such use, being one of the Treaty's pillar objectives.

Furthermore, it provided great importance to the active participation of regional and local players in identifying and developing Amazon cooperation initiatives, which highlights the importance of the role played by the local and Indigenous peoples of the Amazon in sustainable development.

Another strategic definition is the role assigned to each Country Member in the regional integration processes, such as the involvement with the Initiative towards Integrating the South-American Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA), which is encouraged by the ACT.

In sum, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is a vital and dynamic tool with a broad vision in light of the Latin-American integration process, which strengthens governmental executive power by building synergies among the Country Members, with multilateral organizations, international monetary agencies, social movements, the scientific community, productive sectors and civil society, within sovereign right of the Amazon region to pursue sustainable development.



Vision

ACTO is a strengthened organization that is internationally recognized as a regional political forum to contribute towards the integration and sustainable development of the respective Amazon territories of the Country Members. Furthermore, it complements the national managerial efforts, territorial ordering, conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources respecting the national sovereignty of the Country Members, to generate equal benefits to the Country Members and to build better living conditions to the various populations of the nation, particularly local Amazon populations, based on the respect to the inherent rights and wills of civil society as a whole.

Mission

In the framework of the principles established in the Treaty, and in compliance with the mandates to strengthen or build technical and financial mechanisms and tools, as well as shared or complementary policies to establish effective processes of regional integration and sustainable development, fostered by the active participation of the Country Members and regional and local players in outlining and executing various programs and projects, the mission stands in achieving a balanced distribution of benefits generated, thus providing to create synergies that will increase the capacity of negotiation by the Country Members at a global level, in light of topics that relate to the Amazon.

The Challenges of ACTO

The creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with a Permanent Secretariat, is known to have caused a positive effect on facilitating institutional procedures within the scope of the Treaty and in accelerating the decision-making process within the institutional stage of identification, consultation and approval procedures of programs or projects. In so doing, it is capable of entering into its actual execution, evaluation and monitoring. Furthermore, the stage of obtaining financial support and technical cooperation, with a non-existent PS, was known to take from 1 to 3 years, hence the projects would seldom leave the status of Pilot Programs.

Another challenge was to maintain the focus on strategic and programmatic issues as expressed in a "thematic" concept of actions, rather than on a vision of the multifaceted reality of the Amazon region. This, combined with complex decision-making processes, resulted in periods of inactivity that undermined the credibility related to the effectiveness of the Treaty undertakings.

Therefore, the new current challenges of the Amazon region require outlining a Strategic Plan that describes and establishes the major strategic axes, corresponding to the different spheres of decision-making and management in ACTO. This outline serves the purpose of "organizing" and providing "coherence" to the programs and projects that ACTO whether develops or is to develop in the forthcoming years, enabling the establishment of the transverse impacts of the actions performed.

The different dimensions of ACTO mission encompass the array of political-diplomatic, strategic and technical tasks, which in turn correspond to the several spheres of the Treaty, which are to complement one another, in such a way as to grant the achievement of the highest purposes of the Treaty and the Organization.

² Carrera de la Torre, Luis, *Contribuciones para la definición de una propuesta de trabajo para la OTCA, periodo 2003 – 2005*, Brasilia, august 2003.



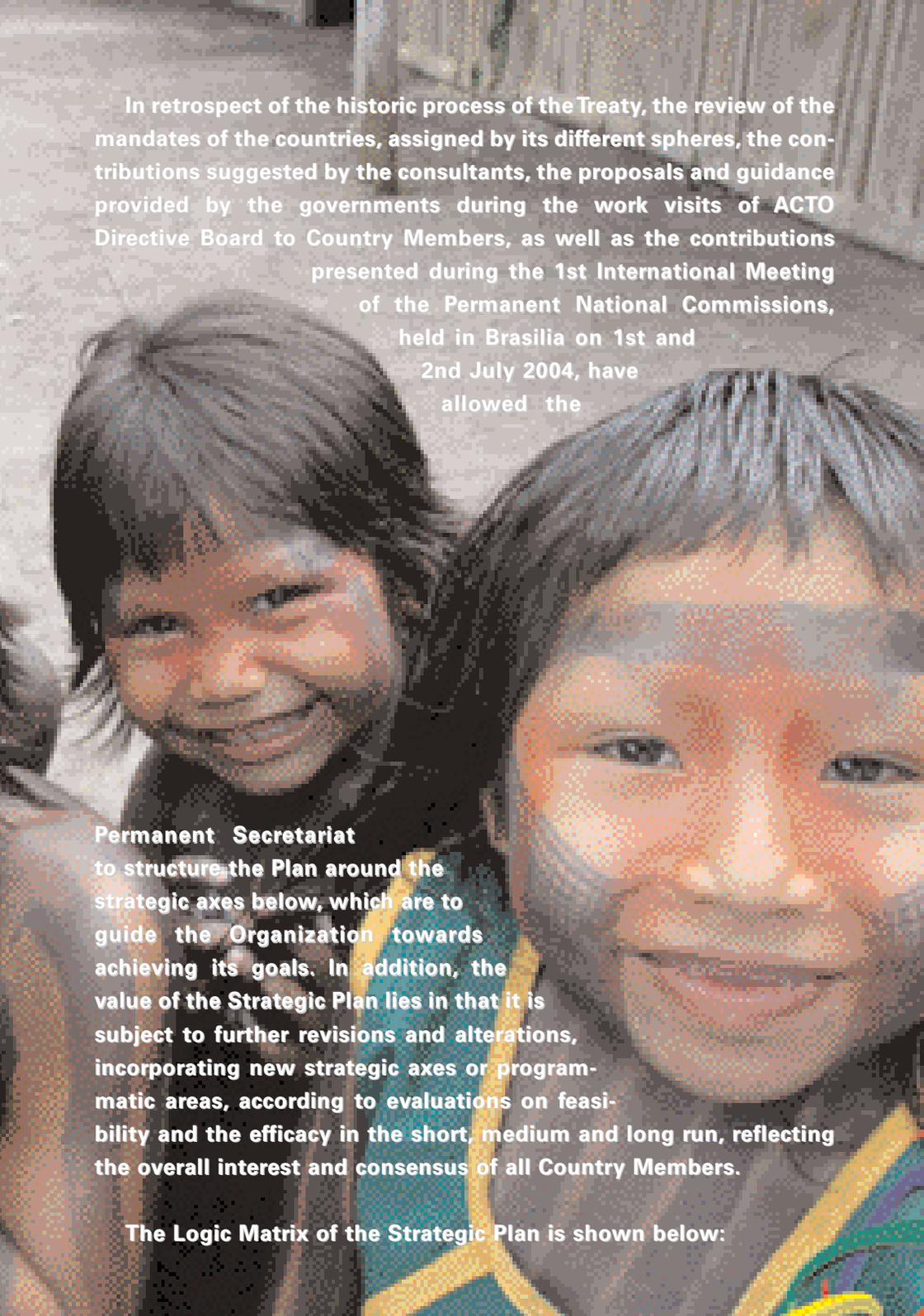
Under the Permanent Secretariat's responsibilities, the matrix below establishes four strategic axes, six programmatic areas of a transverse nature, the operational tools and intervention spaces that synthesize the consensus's achieved, to be the basis for guiding the PS/ACTO.

At the programmatic level, all ACTO actions should have an impact on one or all of the strategic axes, expressing the transverse nature and multi-sectoral treatment that should inspire all the programs and projects. The Plan describes those programs and projects that have already reached a level of identification or development, in compliance with the guidance by several decision-making levels of the Treaty. This results in that, along its implementation, new activities will be incorporated through the Bi-Annual Action Plan. In that sense, the Plan is a guiding tool, a navigation chart, subject to improvements and adjustments, as programs and projects are achieved, resulting from the changes in the political, strategic scope or technical advancement, in such a way as to reflect the interests by the Country Members.





Strategic Axes

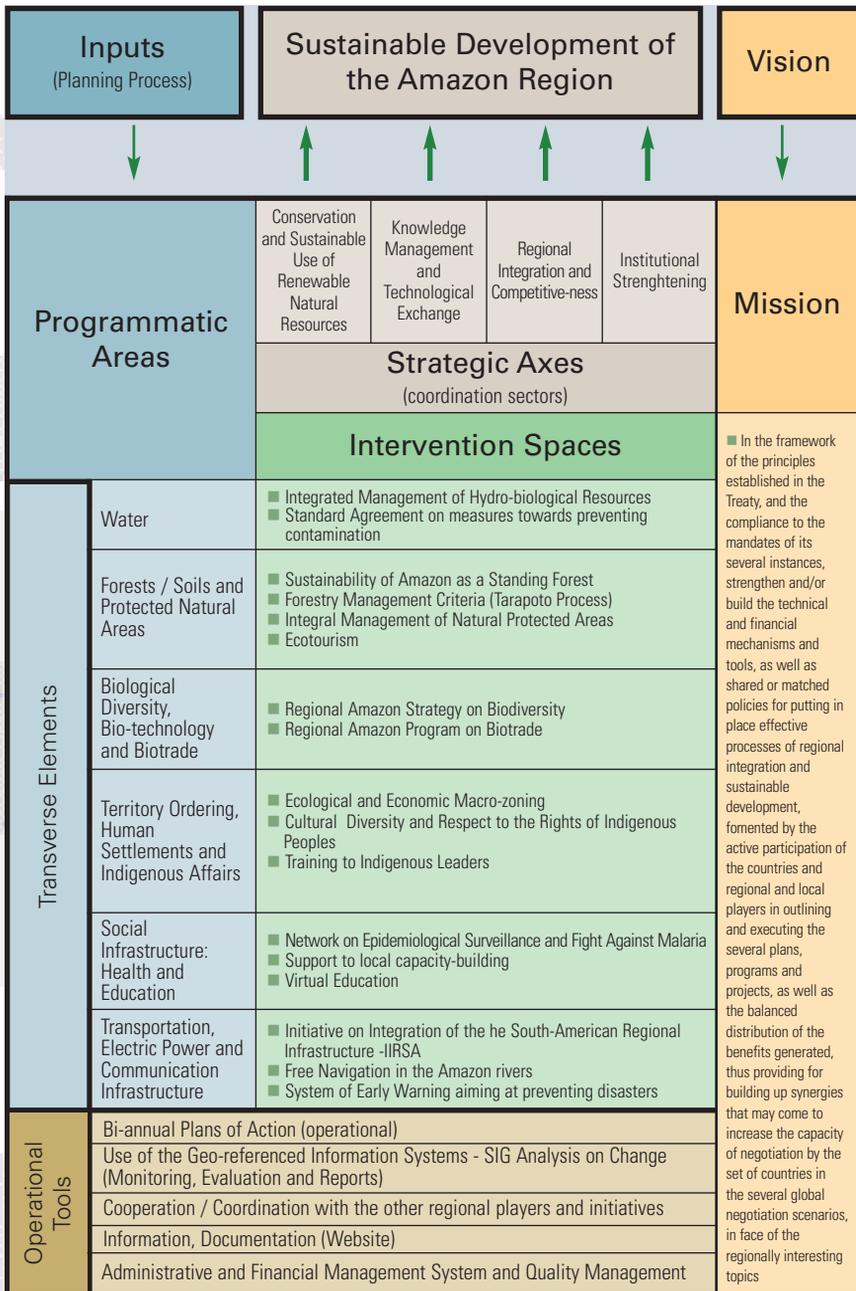
A close-up photograph of two young children, likely of indigenous descent, smiling warmly at the camera. The child on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The child on the right has lighter hair and is wearing a blue and yellow patterned garment. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden structure.

In retrospect of the historic process of the Treaty, the review of the mandates of the countries, assigned by its different spheres, the contributions suggested by the consultants, the proposals and guidance provided by the governments during the work visits of ACTO Directive Board to Country Members, as well as the contributions presented during the 1st International Meeting of the Permanent National Commissions, held in Brasilia on 1st and 2nd July 2004, have allowed the

Permanent Secretariat to structure the Plan around the strategic axes below, which are to guide the Organization towards achieving its goals. In addition, the value of the Strategic Plan lies in that it is subject to further revisions and alterations, incorporating new strategic axes or programmatic areas, according to evaluations on feasibility and the efficacy in the short, medium and long run, reflecting the overall interest and consensus of all Country Members.

The Logic Matrix of the Strategic Plan is shown below:

Logic Matrix of the Strategic Plan





Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Renewable Natural Resources

Undoubtedly, the major challenge faced by the governments of the eight Country Members, and consequently ACTO, is to contribute towards creating economic opportunities for the Amazon populations and the nations as a whole. Hence, it is important to explore and develop sustainable uses of biodiversity and of natural resources of the Amazon region, as a viable mean to stimulate mechanisms that create networks that promote Amazon products within a sustainable framework. These mechanisms are to be compatible with national or sub-regional strategies and policies on biodiversity, to promote economic integration of the region in a sustainable manner.

Therefore the first challenge lies in how to use the ecosystem's natural wealth in a rational way, based on the application of scientific and technological advancements. To develop an alternative technical framework that enables to use the services and products of the Amazon forest in a sustainable way, would allow for changing the current unsustainable use patterns that characterize the Amazon today.

Moreover, it is not only to shift away from the use of traditional models that exploit the natural resources of the Amazon. There must be a focus on management of natural resources and the ecosystem, which could also generate job creation. Furthermore, better technical knowledge would establish viable activities with economic benefits, which allow for replacing current traditional models. These include genetic knowledge, ecotourism, timber and non-timber derivative products with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) certificate, phytotherapeutics, cosmetic and food products, all of which could generate income and permit economic integration of the Amazon region. The latter examples represent market segments with excellent prospects in the short-term (essences, aromas, oils, medicinal herbs, fruit, natural fibers, resins, natu-

ral insecticides, and others). These, as indicated throughout the document, require additional efforts to establish Amazon networks of applied research and bio-prospecting, using the scientific knowledge that exists within the biotechnology centers of the Amazon countries. However, to enable the development of export markets of products with certificate of Amazon origin, it would be necessary to reduce the commercial barriers that impair their access to trade among the Country Members, and with the developed countries, as well as the adoption of measures towards protecting the Amazon genetic resources and the traditional knowledge associated to them.

Similarly, there is also an important underused potential for projects related to the Clean Development Mechanisms agreed on by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

In response, ACTO formulated and decided to adopt a Regional Amazon Strategy on Biodiversity, to build common mechanisms and tools, aiming at establishing sustainable development of the region as well as creating articulated positions before various international forums of negotiation. The strategy is complementary to other sub-regional strategies adopted by the Andean Countries through the Decision 523 of the Andean Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which is focused on the interests of the eight Country Members of ACTO. The Permanent Secretariat expects to undergo progress by consulting the Country Members, through the formulation and construction of consensus reached by the CAN General Secretariat, with which a Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed. Furthermore, the UICN has offered ACTO support for the design and implementation of the Amazon Regional Biodiversity Strategy, basing its efforts on having numerous experience with many countries of the region during the formulation of the National Biodiversity Strategies, and in the UICN's current involvement in development of a South American initiative on biodiversity, coordinated by the Government of Brazil.

Furthermore, it is necessary to work in support of regional and national initiatives focused on modifying the current prevailing standards of use and consumption, based on agro-extractor models of for example the



cattle raising sector, or the implementation of capital-intensive monocultures that seek to rapidly obtain economic benefits, which in turn jeopardize the sustainability of the ecosystems in the long run.

It is necessary to attach special importance to preparing and improving alternatives to illegal crops, which in some countries of the Amazon region have become the main obstacle to attain better standards of living of its populations, and which poses great environmental threat.



Knowledge Management and Technology Transfer

The second strategic axis is closely linked to the previous one and refers to the generation and management of knowledge on the region, to enable to meet the social, political, economic and technological demands of the Amazon Countries.

In the Amazon region, more than 85% of the scientific capacity is concentrated on public universities and national research and innovation centers. Furthermore, the resources allotted by the public sector to innovation and technological development have remained insufficient in face of various national challenges. Moreover, the private sector generally does not invest in the generation of knowledge and innovation.

Due to these reasons, it is essential to stimulate the creation of a communication network to foster an exchange of local knowledge and know-how expertise in the region, to establish common lines of research, to support public policies and, in so doing, witness an improvement to regional competitiveness. The establishment of a network and channel of information and regional knowledge may benefit the Country Members interchangeably, because information exchange will be facilitated, permitting them to complement their lines of expertise.

In this respect it would be necessary to intensify cooperation among the Amazon Countries to exchange human resources and take advantage of the existing skills and knowledge, aiming at generating a portfolio of scientific and technological services supportive to productivity and competitiveness of regional production, and conducive to the creation of new business opportunities.

A prime example of this kind of initiative is the one developed with the Association of Amazon Universities (UNAMAZ) and the Cooperative Program of Research and Technology Transfer for the South-American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), in the fields of their respective institutional expertise.



Amazon Biotechnology Center, in Manaus (Brazil)

There is no doubt that an outstanding role is assigned to the use of information and communications technologies (TICs), so that the "vicious circle" derived from the existing relative regional isolation can be changed into a "virtuous circle" of communication and cooperation in real-time to generate knowledge and technology transfer to the regional development.

On the other hand, it would be essential to recognize the contributions and existing skills originating from traditional knowledge of the local and Indigenous Amazon populations that, for hundreds of years, have developed relevant regional knowledge encompassing many aspects of the local ecosystems and species of the Amazon. This knowledge, as considered by ACTO, is indispensable and is to be taken advantage of within the scope of respecting cross-cultural dialogue and allowing for a commonly agreed intervention in biodiversity and culture, in light of the rights and interest of the people of the Amazon region.



Regional Integration and Competitiveness

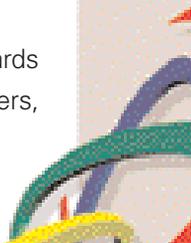
The third strategic line refers to the fact that all processes of knowledge generation; technology transfer and exchange; biodiversity use; and general cooperation among the eight Country Members, are produced within a vast, diverse and complex geographic area, posing great challenges to communication and physical integration.

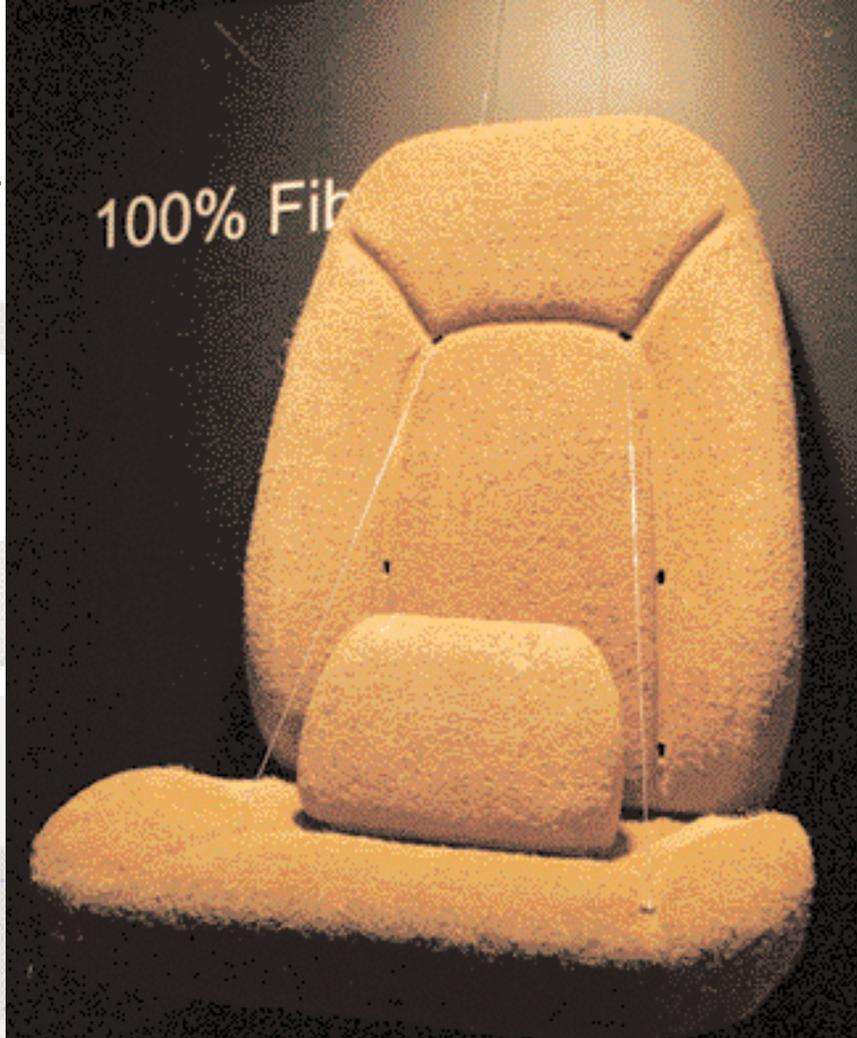
One of the priorities of the eight Country Members is to construct the basis for sustainable development that shall, in the long-term, enable improving social welfare, increasing the integration of region to the national and, hence, to the world economy. Due to this, the Initiative for the Integration of Regional South-American Infrastructure (IIRSA), a noticeable partner to ACTO that is assisting it in achieving the physical integration, launching communication networks and establishing energy sources, hence is permitting the Amazon markets to become integrated to the markets of their own nations.

In this context it would be worthwhile to make reference to the document of the Technical Coordination Committee *IIRSA: SOUTH AMERICA 2020 - A strategic view of physical regional integration* - wherein is stated:

".... one of the most complex challenges to South America in 2020 will be to construct a new paradigm of Amazon development, which in its essence consists of guaranteeing the quality of life to the Amazon populations, while conserving the natural heritage, biological diversity and ancestral cultures. Therefore, the development of the integration infrastructure takes on a wider and more strategic nature. Hence, it demands integrated and simultaneous infrastructure, environmental management and social development actions based on evaluation processes within a strategic scope."

Furthermore, it would be necessary to join forces to progress towards the normative and regulatory convergence of ACTO Country Members,





Natural fiber seat, produced in the Poverty and Environment in the Amazon Program (Poema)

especially in those areas where the consensus towards achieving the prime objectives of the Treaty becomes essential, as a function of the common interest and strategic reach of a wide-ranging regional vision. Therefore, the approval of the General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on the Amazon Rivers becomes of utmost importance to stimulate transport, trade, tourism and integration among ACTO Country Members.



Not only does ACTO find it important to induce physical and economic integration. ACTO works closely towards meeting the following purposes as part of the Strategic Plan.

- **The challenge of water as an element to sustainable development.** Without water, the room for development is impossible, for which it is urgent to define a regional vision and an integrated action for hydrological resources, in which sustainable management of the Amazon basin and cooperation between countries play a leading role.

In fact, one of the main priorities discussed during the preparation meeting to the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat in 2002, was the issue of water resources, which included a proposal to create a Special Commission on Hydrology, Climatology and Water Resource Management ACTO. Currently, ACTO is working on the formulation of a Regional Program of Sustainable Water Resource Management that meets this regional demand.

- **The challenge of intelligent integration into international markets.** The Amazon region should complement the national efforts towards macroeconomic reactivation, through coordinated and regionally convergent economic policies that develop particular actions in the necessary spheres that contribute to the sustainable development of the region. Since the different forms of integration into international markets do hold the same significance in light of sustainable development, it is no wonder that the Amazon region has solely specialized in exporting raw materials, instead of exporting finished goods, such as products based on the advances in biotechnology.
- **The challenge of constructing cooperation tools among national inequalities and asymmetries among Amazon countries.** The Amazon region remains the scenario of noticeable social inequalities that impair development of Amazon nations. That is why the efforts addressed at the meeting of the Objectives of the Millennium

and the Goals for 2015 is applicable to the Amazon region, allowing ACTO to structure efforts in relation with an international agenda of sustainable development.

In addition, it is necessary to recognize the need for strengthening existing tools within and among each Country Member, and to create new communication means enabling national efforts to progress and help overcome asymmetries among ACTO's Country Members.



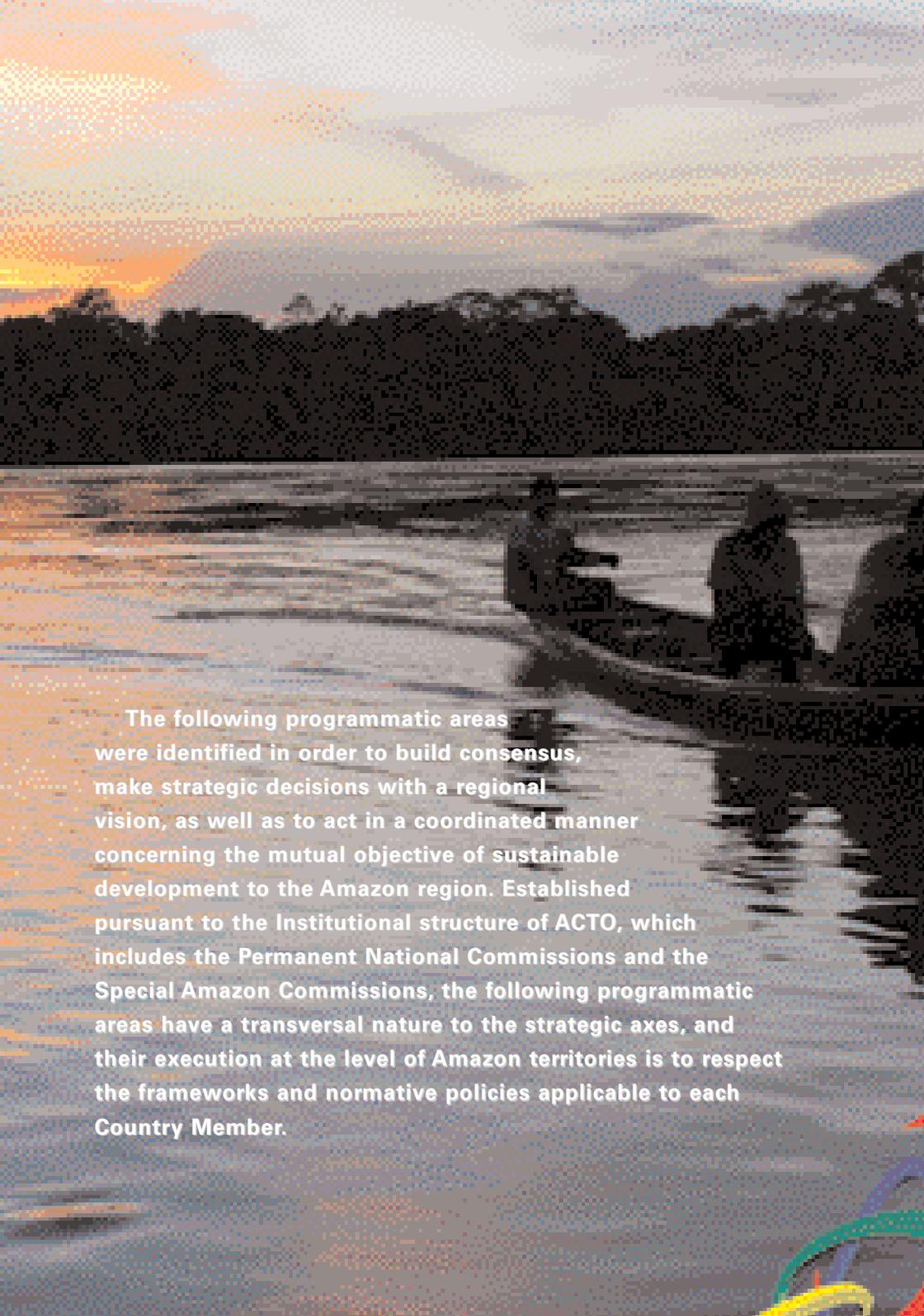
Institutional Strengthening

The last strategic axis concerns the strengthening of the PS/ACTO and the National Permanent Commissions (NPCs). The establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, in replacement to the Pro Tempore Secretariats provides the Organization with an important legal role for both the internal and external coordination actions by ACTO, which demand a new political impulse oriented towards strengthening the Organization structure and the spheres established within the Treaty framework.

The Permanent Secretariat and the Governments of Country Members are striving to become more effective in order to enable the decision-making process to obtain practical results and greater visibility. According to the leadership expected by ACTO, in terms of a strategic vision for sustainable development and Latin American integration, it should be reference to the different players that intervene in the region, by means of programs and/or projects, to the identify synergies for overcoming the restrictions on its implementation, and to achieve higher levels of effectiveness.

The National Permanent Commissions are the inter-institutional arena that executes, at national level, the decisions adopted in the meetings of the Foreign Ministers and the Amazon Cooperation Council. Therefore, the NPCs, jointly with the Special Commissions to the Amazon region, are urged to play a proactive role in formulating the Organization's policies and strategies referring to national and regional priorities on the Amazon sustainable development. For this purpose, priority will be placed on work, with emphasis on the use of new information and communications technologies (please access ACTO website available at www.otca.info and www.otca.org.br), e-mail and videoconferences.

Programmatic Structure of the Plan

A photograph of a sunset over a wide river. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow light, transitioning into a pale blue and white. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a long, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. In the foreground, a dark wooden boat is partially visible, with several people sitting inside. The background shows a dense line of trees and hills under the twilight sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

The following programmatic areas were identified in order to build consensus, make strategic decisions with a regional vision, as well as to act in a coordinated manner concerning the mutual objective of sustainable development to the Amazon region. Established pursuant to the Institutional structure of ACTO, which includes the Permanent National Commissions and the Special Amazon Commissions, the following programmatic areas have a transversal nature to the strategic axes, and their execution at the level of Amazon territories is to respect the frameworks and normative policies applicable to each Country Member.

Water

Despite appearances, freshwater is scarce. It represents only 2.5% of the liquid mass of the planet, having barely 0.01% as potable water. In addition, most of the freshwater is concentrated in the polar icecaps and underground deposits (more than 99.5%), so that only a small fraction runs in the form of rivers, the principal source of utilization by people. Out of the water resources available, 54% is used, given the accelerated demographic growth, its unequal distribution at world level and the unsustainable patterns of use.

In this scenario of global water supply, the Amazon River is the longest, widest and deepest freshwater course, with an approximate discharge of 210,000m³ a second. That is larger than the total discharges of the nine largest rivers on the planet, and accounts for 20% of the total freshwater available. Its hydrological characteristics are unique in the world. The dense vegetation and water volumes that circulate throughout its extensive watershed, comprising more than 1,000 tributaries, produce clouds over the basin, generating high rainfall (the average rainfall fluctuates between 2,500 mm/year in the Eastern area of the upper basin and 3,500-4,000 mm/year in the lower basin) and the release of heat, affecting regional and global climate by means of the tropical circulation.

The major environmental problems that affect the environmental sustainability of this resource can be synthesized as follows :

- Anthropogenic pressure, which contributes to the destruction of fragile ecosystems and the Andean foothills, due to the uncontrolled advance of agricultural and cattle raising frontier.

² See the latest article by **Bertha Becker K.** (Geography Department of UFRJ) *"Inserção da Amazônia na Geopolítica da Água"*. Basic Documents of the International Seminar on Problems of the local and global use of the Amazon water, UFPa, NAEA, Belém, March 2003.

³ Program for the Integrated Management and Sustainable Use of Hydrological Resources of the Amazon Basin, Concept Paper, ACTO - OEA, 2003

⁴ Ibidem



- Deforestation and clearance of the vegetation cover, mainly in the upper basin, causing problems involving the loss and erosion of soils, reduction in biodiversity and silting up of rivers. In the middle and lower basins, the deforestation problems are related to the excessive exploitation of the forest species with higher value, indiscriminate fires and the development of models on soil use that privilege monoculture crops of species with short-term cycles.
- Contamination of water bodies, mainly due to the indiscriminate use of biocides in agriculture; the discharge of solid residues and residual waters from the principal urban centers; the use of chemical precursors in the plantations of illicit crops; the discharge of mercury in gold extraction; or by natural and anthropogenic alterations to the soils; and in certain areas, oil spills due to oil exploration in the Amazon region.

Additionally, there is the high value of the basin as a privileged source for the exploration of fishing resources, representing one of the main sources of food and commercial goods derived from the regional biodiversity. Furthermore, the basin is one of the worlds' navigation arteries used for trade and regional South-American integration.

For these reasons, the formulation and development of a Regional Program for the Integrated Management of Water Resources is of utmost importance to ACTO. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has approved a contribution of US\$700, thousand to this program.

A model of the integral and sustainable management of water resources, such as the one proposed herein, should consider the strong integration between the hydrological resource and the Amazon biome along with anthropogenic activity located at the lower section of the basins, or at the upper Andean-Amazon region. Furthermore, it should consider the strong interaction between the Amazon basin and the Amazon biome, as well as the huge dependence of the lower courses with the anthropogenic activities in the Amazon high Andean basins.

Moreover, it should be based on the knowledge of the practices on water use by the Indigenous populations in the region, and recognize the significance of the role played by women in awareness-building, training



Creek in the Brazilian Amazon

and management for the efficient and sustainable use of the water resource, as suggested in the conclusions approved at the Ordinary General Assembly of the first Brazilian Symposium on Amazon Water Resources, held in Manaus (Brazil), on August 29, 2003.

During the same Assembly the following concrete actions were suggested in the fields of Education, Capacity-Building, Technological Research and Development; Hydro-energetic Aspects; Health and Basic Sanitation; Fishing, Navigation, Productive Activities and Water Uses; and the Indigenous and Traditional Populations of the Amazon region, which are to be properly considered in the Program formulation, after ACTO obtains the funds already requested to The Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Furthermore, the project must highly consider the necessity to meet unsatisfied demands of potable water and basic sanitation provided to local Amazon populations, as an important priority based on the Millennium Goals.



In this respect, the project is seen as a long-term action plan to be gradually developed and implemented in three stages: the first shall address the aspects of strategic planning and institutional strengthening, including the preparation of a cross-border diagnosis at the basin level, and a framework program of strategic actions to be executed at the sub-basin level, which would allow for a response to the major water resources-related environmental problems that affect the region.

During the first stage, pilot projects will be executed in critical areas, and issues such as economic, social and environmental feasibility will be taken into account and registered as a way to obtain information for future reference. A second stage will seek to implement the strategic actions identified and consolidate the institutional strengthening actions already initiated in first stage. The third and last stage will be oriented towards strengthening the sustainability of actions taken, consolidating the integrated and joint management by the Amazon countries.

The total cost of the project will be defined during the preparation stage. However, the cost of the first stage was estimated at US\$23 million, of which US\$10 million correspond to GEF financing, US\$10 million to the counterpart funding by the countries involved, and US\$3 million from other sources, including the Andean Commission of Economic Foment (CAF) as well as other participating agencies.

Forests, Soils and Protected Natural Areas

Although the region harbors one of the largest rainforests, it undergoes a wide range of threats: forest fires, selective extraction, clear-cutting, construction of large infrastructure works, expansion of extensive commercial agriculture, cattle farming activities, capital-intensive monoculture crops, mining and oil prospecting, among others.

In relation to traditional agricultural and cattle farming methods the soil cannot sustain its nutrient levels, because in the natural ecosystem the bulk sum of nutrients available for the soil are comprised within the leaf litter and the above ground biomass. In the natural cycle, when trees die, the remaining vegetation rapidly decomposes and becomes mineralized and is reabsorbed through the roots. There is a highly efficient system that inhibits nutrient loss through leaching, which is comprised by the leaf litter which protects the soil and regenerates nutrient levels.

Unfortunately, traditional models of agriculture and cattle farming have historically characterized the Amazon, and still prevail. This type of land use has proved to be unsustainable since there has been a remarkable transformation from complex diversity of Amazon species converted into monoculture and for grassland for cattle farming .

The consequences of the unsustainable land use in the Amazon region have been translated into serious problems of depletion nutrients, and vast problems of land erosion. Not only does it affect land for cattle farming, the

⁵ The establishment of monoculture crops and of homogeneous ecosystems, not only causes environmental damage but is incompatible with the forest ecosystem, even though it initially appears to be an economic success. Therefore, the interest lies in that compatible levels of economic growth (based on maximizing the production capacity) and sustainable use of the ecosystem are believed to cause complete development of the Amazon region. Hence it is critical to respect the biomes ecological characteristics of the tropical rainforest ecosystems: the complex multi-canopy structure which is the vital to the survival of the vast biodiversity.



problem affects the land used for forestation and reserves. Furthermore, numerous amounts of flora and fauna have gone extinct because of the unmanaged destruction of the ecosystem.

Under these circumstances, the challenge lies in identifying and developing alternative technologies and methods that are feasible, economically competitive and environmentally sustainable, and that would allow for replacing the regional agricultural economy based on traditional crops and subsistence farming, which have low competitiveness in regional and local markets.

The efforts by ACTO Country Members in preparing the inventory and matching research methodologies, as well exchanging information on natural resource research and socio-economic results, besides establishing and coordinating a system for monitoring land use and occupation processes as well as forestry management, would provide a basis to undertake decisions on sustainable development of the region, and for adopting environmental management criteria and policies for the Amazon region and for coordinating and supporting a horizontal cooperation mechanism.

The national and regional efforts of the major agricultural research institutions of the Amazon Countries (INIAs) and the Cooperative Program of Research and Technology Transfer for the South-American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) are oriented in that direction.

Therefore, upon the interaction of PROCITROPICOS, the Amazon Initiative and the National Agricultural Research Institutions (INIAs) with ACTO, the Permanent Secretary expects to agree on a single Regional Agenda for the development of the sector, which is essential for generating jobs and income, and is jointly responsible for the sustainability of regional development.

⁶ (Cooperation Program for Research and the Transfer of Technology to the South-American Tropics). The INIA's of the seven countries in the Amazon basin: EMBRAPA - Brazil, MACIA - Bolivia, CORPOICA - Colombia, INIAP y ECORAE - Ecuador, INIA - Peru, MAAHF - Suriname and INIA - Venezuela, members of ACTO, are institutions faced with the challenge of sustainability in the themes of agriculture, silviculture and pastoral production in relation to the principal ecosystem of the region. This network fostered the need for closer and more effective cooperation, hence created PROCITROPICOS by signing a Cooperation Agreement with the IICA. The first phase of the Program was from 1991 to 1997 and the second phase was from 1998 to this date.

Furthermore, the Amazon region plays an outstanding role in the world water cycle, since one fifth of the planet's freshwater runs through the intricate river system that permeates this ecosystem, and the dynamic water cycle interchange generated by the more than 600 million hectares covered by this complex equatorial tree mass.

The Amazon is therefore crucial to the stability of the regional rainfall dynamics. The destruction of the forest through the method of slash and burn for agricultural exploitation causes fragmentation of the forest masses and makes the ecosystem more vulnerable to fires.

These reasons led the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), as of 2000, to initiate a process that enabled the exclusive trade of tropical timber from planned forest resources organized in a sustainable manner, which culminated in the signing of the International Tropical Timber Convention, in effect since 1994.

Hence, a need arose to establish criteria to define the sustainability (environmental, social and economic), and also to obtain indicators to evaluate and monitor the state of the forests.

Within that framework, in 1995 the First Regional Meeting on Sustainability Criteria and Indicators for the Amazon Forest was held in Tarapoto (Peru), in which the "Tarapoto Proposal" was formulated and adopted, considering 12 sustainability criteria and 77 associated indicators, grouped into three categories: national level, management unit level and services at a global level. The proposal for the 1996-2000 period received valuable contributions in the process of National Consultations, with an active participation of the public and private sectors of ACTO Country Members, allowing to build a consensus at the Second Regional Meeting (Tarapoto, 2001), which

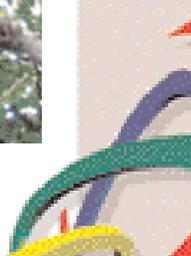
⁷ The Amazon initiative is a "consortium" initially proposed by four National Institutions and various International Agricultural Research Centers (EMBRAPA, CORPOICA, INIA, INIAP, CIAT, ICRAF and CIFOR), with the purpose of formulating policies, developing technologies and institutional innovations capable of mitigating or reverting the negative impacts derived from unsustainable systems of land use.



initiated the Tarapoto Process, upon the approval of 15 indicators corresponding to 8 criteria, with priority 1 for all the Amazon countries, as one of the planning and sustainable development tools for their forests.

For the purpose of validating these 15 indicators in the field, the PS/ACTO signed a Technical Cooperation Program with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on May 25, 2004, through which it received the technical cooperation and financial support amounting to US\$ 400 thousand for executing that stage of the process. The PS/ACTO established the corresponding Regional Technical Unit, and held on July 26 and 27, 2004, the first work meeting with the national coordinators appointed by the governments of the Country Members, which are responsible for the forestry management of the eight Amazon countries.

Mário Oliveira/Agecom Amazonas



This important step is the continuity of a process through which the Country Members pursue adopting mutual regional methodologies to attain sustainable development of the Amazon region.

Therefore, the Tarapoto Process provides additional input and articulates its work with the efforts carried out through the National Forestry Plans (NFPs), which allow for considering environmental goods and services provided by the Amazon forests, as well as allowing the compliance with the commitments arising from international agreements and forums.

Furthermore, it is pertinent for ACTO to consider initiatives in Amazon countries benefiting from the experiences acquired, such as from the Pilot Project of Protection to Brazilian Rainforests, known as Brazil-PPG7, in such a way that efforts carried out could be expanded to the Amazonian biome as a whole, pursuant to the objective of contributing towards the conservation of its natural resources and the promotion of regional sustainable development.

Communication and coordination should be directed to regional or sub-regional forestry networks, which would set the stage for building synergies among the several institutional and social players as well as local communities, in face of the different scenarios of global interest to the Amazonian countries.

The main mechanism for the *in-situ* protection of biodiversity has been, without doubt, the declaration of areas protected by the State, in its most diverse forms (national natural parks, fauna and flora sanctuaries, forestry reserves, biosphere reserves, etc). As stated by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), "the natural and genetic resources that comprise the services that provide the ecosystems with the advantages to generate activities such as sustainable tourism, if properly utilized, could be vital tools to fight poverty."

"The United Nations Report on Protected Areas, 2003", disclosed during recently held Fifth World Parks Congress, in Durban (South Africa) from September 8 to 17, 2003, enlists 14 terrestrial biomes, the territory of which should be protected to an extent of at least 10%. In the Amazon region, over 23% of such areas have been declared protected.



However, the Durban Declaration recognizes that the simple declaration of protected areas is not sufficient to enable them to be really protected, nor to make them a tool of sustainable development involving local communities in the management and benefits, as a form of fighting poverty.

For this purpose it is necessary to count on new paradigms, which will enable the application of an innovating focus, involving the protected areas in broader programs on conservation and development.

In this respect, the Durban Declaration invites government and multilateral organizations to renew their efforts towards expanding and strengthening the systems of protected areas. For that, they are expected to have implemented, as of 2012, integral networks in all eco-regions, with special emphasis on ecosystems that are threatened or insufficiently protected or spatially fragmented. These networks are intended to establishing biological and cultural corridors that facilitate the flow of species, as well as the exchange and revaluation of the traditional knowledge of local populations.

Among the several environmental services and components of a comprehensive management plan of the protected areas, one of the most relevant benefits is the opportunity of developing ecotourism activities, for which the Amazon region has countless attractions that should be able to increase tourist flows much higher than the current levels. The lack of specific policies for the development of the tourism sector and the lack of infrastructure and public services are limiting factors on what could be one of the most dynamic activities in the region.

In ecotourism, cultural tourism, the adventure tourism, all tourism types that lie within the sustainable development principles, the visitors seek for leisure, relaxation and education, by observing, studying and admiring the natural values and cultural spaces related to them. Therefore, these are controlled and guided activities that produce a minimum impact on the natural

⁸ A biome is defined as: "a community of a larger size, classified according to the prevailing vegetation and characterized by the adaptations of the organisms to that particular environment".

ecosystems; it fosters respect for cultural heritage, educates and contributes to environmental awareness among the players involved about the importance and benefits of conserving protected areas, where ecotourism activities take place.

ACTO intends to stimulate tourism plans and projects that promote the values of the Amazon ecosystem, respecting the interests of local populations, the value of traditional communities' cultural heritage, granting their participation in the resulting benefits.

Since a good share of ecotourism activities are carried out in fauna and flora sanctuaries, natural parks, reserves or other legal forms of protected areas of special value, the projects should cooperate with preservation and expansion of the national protected areas systems. Furthermore, they should strengthen their planning and regional management processes, since the establishment of the Protected Nature Areas is the major tool recognized within the sphere of the Biological Biodiversity Convention (CDB) for preserving biodiversity.

Acknowledging the importance of establishing Protected Areas, the PS/ACTO wants to reinitiate a proposal for formulating a Regional Program to the Sustainable Management of the Amazon Protected Areas, which should take off from previous efforts developed by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty from 1993 to 1997, with the technical and financial support of the European Union, supported by the *Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement* (CIRAD). Simultaneously, the PS/ACTO expects to build synergies towards formulating and executing such initiative with other relevant players, such as the World Union for Nature (IUCN) that has committed to support this initiative, and FAO Latin-American Network of Protected Areas.

Additionally, the PS/ACTO has taken the first steps towards developing cooperation links with the Program for Man and Biosphere (MAB) of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which is intended to use the intergovernmental arena to fos-



ter conservation, preservation and expansion of the biosphere reserves, many of which harbor strategic Amazon sub-regions in some of the Country Members, as well as for outlining and executing the Regional Program to the Sustainable Management of the Amazon Protected Areas.



Biological Diversity, Biotechnology and Biotrade

The Amazon region houses one of the most diverse ecosystems on planet Earth. This culprit of biodiversity leads itself to opportunities in sustainable development, such as Biotechnology and Biotrade, which ACTO deems as important. Hence, it is highly relevant to establish channels of production in order to add value to the natural resources of the Amazon region. This can be achieved by innovating and generating knowledge within the public and private sectors, which contain high levels of global economic competitiveness, and by capitalizing the regional comparative advantage, through the existing knowledge and know-how expertise branching out into the development of Biotechnology and Biotrade. Furthermore, this effort can be strengthened and complemented by the know-how and expertise of Indigenous populations and local communities, which in turn would contribute to reaping higher sources of income for the region.

The Amazon biota lends itself to multiple industrial uses and is of great economic interest, being a great economic asset to the eight Country Members. The importance lies in taking advantage of the Amazon's natural resources, within the framework of sustainable use. Therefore, the Country Members should base their efforts on undergoing technological innovation, and applying economic policies and tools that enable achieving high levels of competitiveness in the markets, within the principles of sustainable use.

The biodiversity of the eight Amazon Countries sets them in a privileged economic position, enabling them to reach an adequate level of use of Amazon products and environmental services. For example, landscape attractions for ecotourism, and products derived from bio-prospecting, biochemicals or of a genetic origin, construction materials, basketry materials, essential oils, resins and medicinal extracts are all natural resources located in the Amazon region. These resources could be further explored and considered



for economic development and economic integration of the region. Moreover, there is an increasing demand for products and services derived from biodiversity on the International market, which gives more reason to explore this type of economic alternative.

For example, the market for natural non-timber derived materials is estimated to be US\$60 billion a year (UNCTAD/BIOTRADE, Lyon, 1998). The market for medicinal vegetable extracts was calculated to be US\$16.5 billion for 1997, and the market for pharmaceutical products derived from plants was estimated at US\$30 million (UNCTAD/BIOTRADE, Lyon, 1998). In addition, tourism based on natural environment generates more than US\$260 billion per year (SBSTTA, 1999). The capture and reduction of Greenhouse Effect Gases (GEG) is estimated to have a US\$ 33 billion market (MIT, 1998).

Therefore, ACTO should support mechanisms that encourage investment and trading the biodiversity-based or friendly products and services, towards complying with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) and advance in the Amazonian sustainable development.



In order to execute ACTO's objectives on Biotechnology and Biotrade, the PS/ACTO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD)/Biotrade Initiative, during the 11th Meeting of the Conference held in São Paulo (Brazil) on June 15, 2004, which launched a technical cooperation program addressed to encourage sustainable use of biodiversity of the Amazon region among the eight Country Members. Hence, the promotion of trade and investments on biodiversity-based products and services will complement regional activities at the national level.

The first activity carried out by the UNCTAD/Biotrade Initiative held a workshop with the officers responsible for the National Programs on Biotrade of each Country Member, allowing for the establishment of a common base between the UNCTAD/Biotrade Program and the National efforts under way. In doing so, efforts can be complemented and the integration of the UNCTAD/Biotrade Program with initiatives from civil society organizations, such as *Bolsa Amazônia*, working in several Amazon countries, can be set in place.

Currently, ACTO is avidly working on a Concept Paper in order to obtain the support from important agencies, such as the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the government of the Netherlands, which are key players in contributing to national initiatives.

The first phase of the UNCTAD/Biotrade is comprised of the following items:

- Preview and systematize successful experiences in the sustainable use of biodiversity by Amazon Countries;
- Identify the local, national, regional and international markets that make industrial use of the Amazon products;
- Deepen the economic information available on Amazon products and services;
- Propose and create cooperation tools among the economic players involved, to raise the levels of regional competitiveness;
- Facilitate and stimulate processes involving the local appropriation of cultural knowledge and the biotechnological survey on the Amazon biodiversity.



- Support the implementation of the Local Productive Arrangements (LPAs) that take advantage of technical knowledge and information exchange related to sustainable use of biodiversity.

Other aspects related to the Biotrade of Amazon products calls for attention. This can be expressed in the concern for unbalanced development in biotechnology, when comparing some Amazon countries versus others. Furthermore, the issue of BioSafety and the institutional responsibility on patents are all aspects of Biotrade and Biotechnology that may have negative economic impacts for the eight Country Members, as well as in terms of the ecosystems health. Therefore, ACTO encourages harmonizing bilateral and multilateral actions among the eight Country Members.

Additionally, the PS/ACTO considers highly relevant to create alliances and strengthen technical and legal support towards facing the common threats of bio-piracy, the illegal trade of wild fauna and flora, as well as the protection of rights to intellectual property and patents on names, products and goods of Amazon origin, and the associated traditional knowledge.

Territorial Organization, Human Settlements and Indigenous Issues

The territorial configuration of the Amazon region, as we know it today, is the result of a spatial expression of the political, economic and social processes of our nations that have affected the region, in terms of the increasing urbanization and higher density, due to a wide array of economic activities. This has led to the regional population's resettlement and transformation of their consumption patterns of natural resources, besides the use of the natural resources as a source of waste disposal.

Simultaneously, there has been a shift in the political-administrative processes, where decentralized processes have increasingly transferred greater responsibilities to regional and local governments. In doing so, there has been greater need for the execution of public policies, requiring the incorporation of efficient planning and territorial organization tools that contribute to the balanced development of the regions, physical organization of space and the prevention of and relief of natural disasters, giving priority to the territories with higher social, economic and environmental vulnerability.

In brief, the Territorial Organization is a tool of political, technical and administrative nature, mainly targeted to organizing, harmonizing and managing the occupation and use of space, to contribute towards environmentally sustainable, spatially harmonious and socially equitable human development. In this context it is of great importance to value the development planning dimensions, which used to be unconsidered. The traditionally economicist and sectorial emphasis should be added with the socio-cultural, environmental and spatial dimensions.

Great importance is laid out to the initiatives that address integrated management or urban and industrial wastes management, encouraging the reduction, reutilization and recycling of such wastes, aiming at diminishing the impacts on the surrounding environment and above all the surrounding



watershed, which are their main recipients. Furthermore, the efforts towards increasing the expansion and accessibility of potable water and increasing the access to basic sanitation become a crucial component towards improving the quality of life of the Amazon populations. Hence, the same initiative would support the fight against poverty meeting ACTO's and the Country Members' commitment to satisfy the Goals of the Millennium of the UN.

Therefore, the PS/ACTO is responsible for the development, application and interchange of experiences among the Country Members in the use of tools to achieve the aforementioned activities, jointly with the Country Members' own managerial tools. Such tools are Ecological and Economic Macro-Zoning of the Amazon region, with special concern on the areas of important interest to the governments, for their boundary feature or because they allow for the development of functional axes of ACTO that may lead to regional productivity, integration and equity. Also due to their strategic value for the environmental sustainability of the ecosystems, for which the Higher Education Institutes and the regional research centers play a leading role, as well as the national programs on information and monitoring of the Amazon region, which strongly rely on efficient technologies of geo-referencing and analysis.

One component associated to the territorial organization, concerns the recognition of cultural diversity, which is a product of intricate social relationship patterns undergone in the Amazon region, comprised by a wide array of social groups of different backgrounds, such as peasant population, migrants from other parts of the region or country, Afro-American groups and Indigenous peoples, among others, all of whom are becoming increasingly urbanized.

In relation to the latter social group, besides the respect for Indigenous rights, the Declaration by the Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Countries, made at the 7th Meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) in November 2002, reiterates the mandate of the Presidents since the Manaus (Brazil) Meeting in 1982. The Declaration stressed the central role of the Indigenous peoples in the journey towards sustainable development of the Ama-



zon region. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance of including, in the framework program of ACTO Permanent Secretariat, actions aimed at protecting the traditional knowledge of these peoples on genetic resources, besides promoting sustainable use and trade and consumption of Amazon products and services.

Important experiences in Zoning and Soil Use Planning that have been developed in some Amazon sub-regions, especially in the high basin region of the Negro River, have relied on the broad participation and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous communities. This generation of knowledge has been complemented with the technical support of civil society organizations, and ACTO wishes to expand such experiences to other areas of special interest to the Amazonian Countries.

Furthermore, the PS/ACTO contacted the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), about the convenience of identifying coordination mechanisms to promote plans and programs for environmental conservation, recovery and development of Indigenous technology, health, education, community development and others, meeting the aspirations and needs of the Indigenous populations to participate in the political, economic and social sphere of the respective ACTO Country Members, for which an Agreement of Cooperation is being analyzed.

One of the priorities of the Strategic Plan is to achieve the effective participation of Indigenous populations of each country in the Amazon region in programs that affect and include them. In this respect, it is important to remember that COICA has already closely collaborated with ACT *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in Ecuador (1990-1994).

Currently, COICA has a cooperation program with Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO) to train some of its members. Furthermore, ACTO and FLACSO are considering signing a cooperation agreement that will permit to make this initiative more viable, among others, in order to facilitate the qualification of professionals at the graduate studies level. ACTO intends to expand the scope of educational cooperation to include the universities part of UNAMAZ, aiming at meeting the demand of the Indigenous people by providing them with regional education. In this field of



action, the PS/ACTO will stimulate the formulation of a Regional Program of Training to Indigenous Leaders.

Another vocation of ACTO is that of generating consensus and promoting dialogue between Country Members and Indigenous populations about traditional knowledge. To execute the mandate granted by the governments of the Amazon Countries as an international organization, in order to promote the respect for traditional knowledge and the rights related to the use of the Amazon biodiversity, is another task assigned to ACTO .

ACTO understands that the programs and projects developed and executed under the different programmatic areas of the Strategic Plan have an effect on the Indigenous Amazon communities. For this reason ACTO expresses, in its best way, the concept of transversality that has inspired ACTO's position on this section.

⁹ In that sense, the debate on intellectual property rights and on the protection of biological patents. The rights of the Indigenous peoples and South-American peasants are important based on the foundation that the more important food crops were created in this hemisphere and are currently threatened by "bio-piracy", resulting from the opportunism of certain economic players taking advantage of phylogenetics and biotechnology and the patent of genetic resources. This is not merely an ethical problem about the right to patent life (an issue which many countries, populations and cultures have expressed enormous concern), but in recognition to the contributions made by Indigenous peoples and rural societies. These social actors have provided global knowledge and hence demand a need to protect small producers, such as themselves, from having to pay the cost of recognizing the "royalties" or the property use rights of species that were always part of their environmental and productive surroundings. In brief, the debate should lead to two fundamental issues: the population of countries with a rich heritage of biodiversity such as the Amazon Countries should be the first to benefit and intellectual property rights should stimulate innovation (not only by means of biotechnology) in such a way that the rural innovators benefit and at the same time conservation of the genetic biodiversity is promoted.

Social Infrastructure: Health and Education

Since the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, one of the major concerns of the Amazon countries' governments has been to improve the health conditions of their populations, totaling approximately 23 million people. Consequently, all the efforts contained in the Strategic Plan from the diverse areas of institutional execution have no other purpose but to provide social inclusion, which is a basic condition needed in order to advance in sustainable development.

Over the recent decades, the region has actually undergone profound transformations in its epidemiological, demographic, educational and occupational profiles, due to the convergence of several factors resulting from economic growth and industrialization, migratory processes, increasing urbanization, the emergence of new economic activities and transformation of the agricultural and cattle raising models.

Simultaneously, it can be noted that the social services in these regions are more precarious when compared with other areas of the countries' agricultural frontiers, facing greater incidence of transmittable diseases, nutritional problems and accidents (including regional violence), together with some characteristics of environmental and ethnic-cultural diversity. Consequently, health demands in the Amazon region require different responses, other than the conventional strategies applied in other contexts.

In the case of malaria for example, 85.55% of the reported cases in the Americas correspond to the Amazon countries.

For these reasons, and in compliance with the mandate granted by the governments, ACTO, along with technical support from the WHO/PAHO, is working to improve regional projects: Joint Actions of Cooperation among the Amazonian Countries for Fighting Malaria and Joint Actions of Cooperation among the Amazonian Countries for the Epidemiological Surveillance Network. These contribute to reducing morbi-mortality as a



consequence of improving and expanding coverage and the quality of strategic epidemiological prevention programs, and health services offered to the population in general, as well as the implementation of an early warning system and appropriate treatment.

In addition to these specific initiatives, the PS/ACTO intends to sign a technical and financial standard agreement with WHO General Management, aimed at developing regional initiatives of control, placing attention to other diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis, among other endemic parasite-related diseases. Other possibilities of specific cooperation agreements are being discussed by the PS/ACTO with the Hipólito Unanue Agreement, which would contribute to improving the quality and expansion of basic health services of the region.

Furthermore, in face of the unsustainability of regional development models in the Amazon region, it is necessary to support a mechanism for the transmission of new behavioral guidelines required for a sustainable economic progress model to expand the quality and coverage of educational systems. This implies in contributing towards changing the usual behaviors of local populations, and helping them to internalize more sustainable use patterns, as well as the respect for each other, for differences and, above all, for the right of future generations to enjoy environmental conditions and natural supply at least similar to what is accessible now.

In the Amazon region, knowledge, innovation and technological interchange and generation processes are associated to factors such as market restrictions, the incipient nature of a "business culture" that is not inclined to technological innovation, and is poorly integrated into the globalization process. Henceforth, other limiting factors include the existence of poverty, lack of territorial integration, environmental problems resulting from the prevailing model of natural resource exploitation and budgetary constraints of the public institutions for fomenting a productive economy, resulting in the principal obstacles to becoming a greater regional economic dynamic.

Consequently, it is indispensable to promote scientific research, knowledge generation, technological development and human resources qualification oriented toward seeking for solutions for economic, social, ecologi-





Students from Curillo, Caquetá, Colombia

cal, technological, educational and cultural problems of the Amazon region. This is a sine qua non condition to face the challenge posed by promoting sustainable development. As part of such effort towards achieving social inclusion, ACTO's priority should be assigned to inducing bilingual education, and in so doing respecting and using the diversity of knowledge that make up the cultural mosaic in the Amazon region.

ACTO emphasizes, at all formal and informal levels of the regional educational systems, the need to include a component of environmental education, suitable to local populations, and that educates them on the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity within the scope of the declaration of the "United Nations Decade of Education towards Sustainable Development", going into effect as of January 01, 2005, headed by UNESCO. This implies in promoting education focused on new social

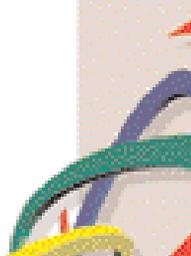


ethics, which value preservation and responsible use of the Amazon natural resources, and stating cross-generation obligations that ground the Treaty's essence, and supports the paradigm of sustainable development.

In facing the need for contribution towards building social capital at the technological, professional and post-graduation levels, and due to the need for achieving greater integration of programs and activities in the area of Science and Technology, the PS/ACTO has intensified contacts with the Higher Education Centers in the region and the Association of Amazon Universities (UNAMAZ), which allow for building a consensual agenda for strengthening higher education.

In this sense, one of the first proposals discussed, initiated by the Center of High Amazon Studies, at the Federal University of Pará, Brazil, concerns the design of a "Virtual Specialization Course in Science and Technology Policy for the Amazon Region". The purpose of this initiative is to promote the qualification and direct or indirect training of educators and other professionals, intending to create a critical mass that can contribute to the formulation of adequate policies for the scientific and technological development of the region, to benefit the Amazon populations.

With the objective of advancing in the preparation process of a conceptual project document for the aforementioned activity, an international workshop was held in the city of Belém, with the participation and support of the United Nations University; the Open University of Catalonia; the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology; the Federal Universities of Pará, Amazonas and Rondônia; the Central University of Venezuela; the National University of Colombia; and the University Gabriel René Moreno of Bolivia. This process should be concluded by the end of the year 2004, to be submitted for consideration to potential sources of cooperation, such as UNESCO or the United Nations University.



Transportation, Energy and Communications Infrastructure

The initiative towards the modernization and development of the South-American regional infrastructure comes from the Summit of South-American Presidents, held in the city of Brasilia (Brazil) from August 30 to September 1, 2000.

The purpose of the Presidential Meeting was to encourage the organization of South-American arena based on geographic contiguity, cultural identity and values shared by South-American countries.

The modernization and development of infrastructure was identified by the Presidents as one of the five major areas to be addressed. In that same meeting, an "Action Plan for the Integration of South-American Infrastructure" prepared by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), was adopted. It contained proposals and suggestions for the expansion and modernization of infrastructure in a 10-year time horizon, identifying twelve integration and development axes and six sectorial processes necessary for optimizing regional competitiveness. The integration and development axes seek to increase economic activity, regional development and physical and economic integration of the neighboring South-American countries.

IIRSA is a multilateral initiative involving twelve South American countries, including the eight ACTO Country Members.

In this respect, the Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, in their VII Meeting, praised the progress achieved within the sphere of the "Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America-IIRSA," according to the provisions in Article X of the Treaty, and reaffirmed the Country Members' commitment toward sustainable development in the implementation of this initiative. They instructed PS/ACTO to promote and implement, in coordination with the IIRSA Executive Committee, IADB and CAF, a work program oriented towards establis-



hing a Transportation Network in the region, with special emphasis on multimodal systems and facilitating the navigation in the Amazon Basin.

Several of the 12 regional integration axes identified, in combination with integrated projects prioritized by each country, deal with the Amazon region in different spaces of bi-national, tri-national or regional interest. The IIRSA initiative constitutes the main tool for planning the physical integration process, where ACTO is to be responsible for cooperating in its development as a regional organization, inducing the compliance to selected protocols of assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts, that pursue respective national norms and international commitments undertaken by Country Members oriented to prevent jeopardizing the environmental sustainability of the regional surroundings.

At the same time, the PS/ACTO is responsible for inducing the initiatives addressed to developing innovative technologies toward generating electric power, by efficiently using alternative resources such as solar, wind energy systems and small-size hydroelectric plants, employing secondary riverbeds.

Operational Tools

OTICA

Organização do Tratado
de Cooperação Amazônica

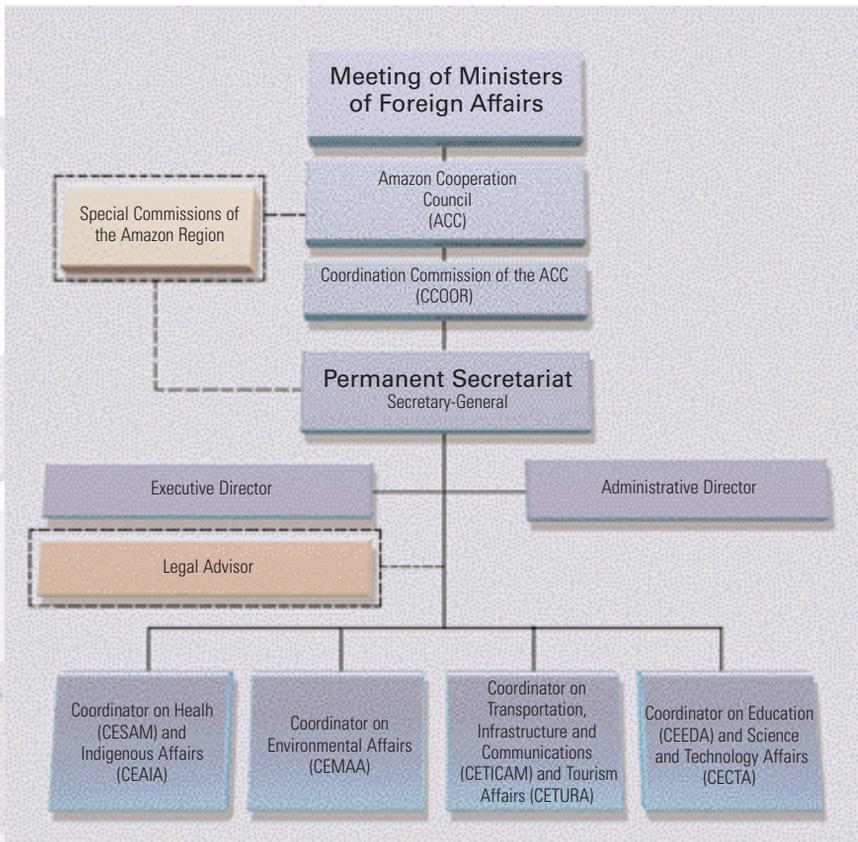


The establishment of the Permanent Secretariat in Brasilia in March 2003 resulted from the decision of the Country Members to concentrate their efforts and experiences to execute the Treaty. This represents an important step forward in the institutional maturity of ACTO.

One of the major institutional missions of the Permanent Secretariat is to increase the potential of Amazon Cooperation, based on the strengthening of each player through Programs and Projects and decisions made at Meetings of Chancellors and the Amazon Cooperation Council.

For this purpose the Permanent Secretariat has planned its activities based on the following institutional structure approved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Structure of the Permanent Secretariat





Bi-Annual Action Plans

The Bi-Annual Action Plan will permit the Organization to rely on an internal planning tool that will guide and inform the Country Members on the actions of the PS/ACTO during the aforementioned period, besides allowing them to evaluate the PS/ACTO's successes. In so doing, the programs, projects and activities under execution will be detailed and henceforth articulated alongside the Strategic Plan. Such activities include the duration, corresponding estimated costs of the programs, project and activities that will be detailed, indicating the potential source of funding and any relevant issues of its execution.

Simultaneously, the projects must inform on the goals that should to be attained, under the Logical Methodology Framework, as well as inform on the indicators and the mechanisms that would be applied to assess the achievement of the goals, as well as indicate external factors that may imply in risk.

As of 2005 the PS/ACTO will present its Bi-Annual Action Plan, where it shall disclose the major advances and successes in enforcing the guidance issued by Amazon Cooperation Commission, such as the Meeting of Chancellors, which are the main issues of interest of the governments taking part at this stage. The Strategic Plan 2004-2012 underwent final approval at the 7th Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council and the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Manaus (Brazil), held on September 13 and 14, 2004.

The PS/ACTO shall publish an Annual Report that provides critical insight on the results of the execution of the Bi-Annual Action Plan, so that it serves the governments of the Country Members to evaluate the success of the Organization, and allows these governments to propose the required changes.

The PS/ACTO will also publish an Annual Report, providing a critical view of the outputs generated by the execution of the Biannual Action Plan, thus allowing Country Members' governments to evaluate the performance of the Organization, and propose any adjustments they consider necessary.

Use of Geo-referenced Information Systems

In order to obtain the best planning tools to strengthen the ability of ACTO to analyze change-processes undergoing in the Amazon, which highly contributes to the decision-making process of Amazon countries' governments, ACTO will coordinate the use of the Geo-referenced Information, Monitoring and Appraisal Systems that have already been developed. This will be coordinated with the support of national and regional agencies such as SIVAM, IIRSA among others.

Moreover, executing the programs and projects presumes the creation of a set of databases available to specialists, experts and institutions linked to sustainable development in the Amazon region, to be made available at ACTO's webpage and other means of communication.



Information, Documentation and Website

The construction of ACTO's webpage has been a priority to the PS/ACTO. It may be accessed at www.otca.info or www.otca.org.br and is a valuable communication, information and interactive tool.

Such a webpage includes detailed information about the Organization's activities at its different spheres such as the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA), Coordination Commission to the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR), the National Permanent Commissions (NPCs) the Special Amazon Commissions and on the various players in the Amazon cooperation. ACTO expects, with support from the Country Members' governments, as well as their staff, researchers and experts who provide services to ACTO, to recover the rich documentary collection that was produced along the Treaty's institutional life, of which the Permanent Secretariat has no hardcopies yet. Therefore, ACTO will be able to rely on the best documentary collection of the Amazon region, which will later on be made available to different public and private users.

As of 2004, the PS has prioritized to provide the media and international press with vital pieces of information on ACTO's activities, whenever needed to be accessed, as a part of its social and political responsibility towards the governments of the Country Members and the Amazon society.

Administrative/Financial Management System and Quality Management

Since 2003, the PS/ACTO has prepared human resources, administration and financial management manuals which were submitted for analysis by the CCOOR, to receive its contributions and observations, so as to come into effect in 2004.

In addition, all the processes and information of administrative and financial nature will be automated in a Work Flow Management system, which is under the final stage of adjustment, assessment and implementation. This is consistent with the principles of transparency that guide the tasks of the PS/ACTO.

The administrative and financial tool would enable the governments to accompany the budgetary operations of ACTO, and the routine reports produced by ACTO Administrative Management, in real-time through remote access to the system, either directly or through their diplomatic representations in Brasilia.

Finally, the PS/ACTO will work on the development of a quality management system, compliant to the international ISO quality control standards.



PS/ACTO Headquarters

The PS/ACTO is moving ahead with the corresponding arrangements with the authorities of the Brazilian government as ACTO host country, to take the necessary steps towards fulfilling parliamentary procedures for the Standard Agreement, and to provide ACTO with its own headquarters.

Financial Resources and Institutional Sustainability

In addition to contributions from the Country Members, ACTO shall pursue other funding sources that ensure the sustainability of its activities and the execution of its programs and projects.

ACTO considers it appropriate to study the several alternatives that may grant its continuation and contribute towards financing programs and projects, within the scope of its strategic purposes. One alternative could be the creation of an Asset Fund to the Organization, or a Financial Fund to the Amazon Sustainable Development, that runs based on a feasibility study which establishes the different political, legal and economic possibilities for its constitution with national contributions, or contributions by other sources, that may grant the development of the requested activities to ACTO and the establishment of accessible and competitive funds available to the Country Members.

Inter-institutional Networks

These networks were not explicitly contemplated in the ACT, but were set up to carry out a few programs and projects and, in other cases, to the permanent coordination of activities at several levels of the Treaty spheres.

UNAMAZ is one of the oldest and soundly institutionalized networks in the region. ACTO will work closely with the association to formulate a regional agenda that comprises projects in the above-mentioned areas.

The PROCITROPICOS actions are focused on the major agro-ecological areas: tropical rainforests, savannas and foothills. In addition, they define the subprograms corresponding to the major demands of each ecosystem where technological development takes place, through a set of closely related actions, aimed at achieving the objectives related to genetic resources, management and preservation of natural resources, dissemination of agricultural information, the rural agroindustry and institutional sustainability.

In addition, in 2002 the Amazon Initiative Organization was set up and was composed of a consortium of several national institutes such as the National Institutions of Agricultural Research (INIAs); the Brazilian Agriculture Research Institute (EMBRAPA); Colombian Agriculture Research Institute (CORPOICA); the National Agriculture Institute of Peru (INIA); the Peruvian Institute of Amazon Research (IIAP); the National Autonomous Research Institute of Agriculture of Ecuador (INIAP); and the international centers of agricultural research, such as the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), which are institutions that together, make part of the Consulting Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The objective of this initiative is to contribute to the formulation of policies and the development of technologies and institutional innovations, capable of mitigating the negative



impacts from unsustainable systems of land use in the Amazon region

It is fundamental to the PS/ACTO that the objectives of this initiative reflect the national priorities of the participating countries, and involve all ACTO Country Members, in order to ensure that the Consortium has the desired regional nature required for the purposes of the governments of the Treaty Country Members.

In this sense, the governments of the Amazon countries, through their Foreign Ministers, granted ACTO the mandate to facilitate the construction of synergies with the different institutional initiatives, which contributes to the sustainable development of the Amazon region. For this purpose, ACTO hopes that the interaction with PROCITROPICOS, the Amazon Initiative Organization and the National Agricultural Research Institutions leads to the preparation of a consensual Regional Agenda that meets our common goals.

Under the same perspective, ACTO, jointly with the UICN, plans to formulate an initiative that is oriented to promote cooperation among the different national players (governmental and non-governmental) and in international cooperation organizations, therefore establishing synergies among the different agendas and interest groups of the Amazon region. The objective of the initiative will be to organize a wider process of regional dialogue and participatory strategic planning, to generate a common agenda for sustainable development. In so doing, what is expected is to strengthen ACTO's leadership role and the National Permanent Commissions before the universal players, both public and private, that intervene in the Amazon and promote joint actions with those actors in the framework of the Strategic Plan.

Finally, the importance of FAO Forestry Commission for Latin America (COFLAC) to the Amazon region should be highlighted, especially in strengthening the National Forestry Programs (NFPs) in terms of their institutional, public and private capabilities; their inter-sectorial and integral nature; the financing based on national funds and the international processes under way. Among the conclusions of the First Amazon Sub-regional Consultation on the Strategies for Strengthening the NFPs, held in Lima (Peru), in July 2003, the need to relate this effort with the regional structure represented

by ACTO was recognized, as well as the need for implementing the Regional Project for "Validation of 15 Priority Sustainability Indicators for the Amazon Forest," due to its strategic importance to the NFPs.

In addition, among the recommendations from the Sub-regional Consultation, it is worth highlighting that related to the need for incorporating Guyana and Suriname into the Amazon Sub-regional Group, with no damage to their participation in the Central American and Caribbean group, given their particular geographic situation.

Henceforth, ACTO Internet site will have links to all Amazon institutional networks in order to facilitate the exchange of information with and among such networks, and disclose its activities and results achieved. Furthermore, ACTO will promote the interchange of information and cooperation with other international organizations on matters related to the needs of the Strategic Plan.



International Cooperation

ACTO encourages the institutional cooperation, not only among Country Members, but also with other countries and with international organizations. After the creation of the Permanent Secretariat, ACTO's strategy has been to promote international cooperation in the widest sense possible, based on an agenda of programs and projects that ensure the cooperation in the commitments undertaken. The adoption of the Strategic Plan should allow for a comprehensive dialogue on cooperation towards sustainable development of the Amazon region, thus allowing facing the demands that are not always met, in terms of efficacy.

ACTO has limited funds, especially in the area of counterpart funds in regional projects. Non-reimbursable international cooperation funds could assist in complementing the existing funds.

Lasting ties with multinational organizations are being sought, such as WHO/PAHO, UNCTAD, PNUMA, UNESCO, FAO, WMO, ASO, CAN, the World Bank, IADB, CAF, the European Union, the national cooperation agencies of Holland, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, Finland and the United States, among others; with multinational initiatives such as the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) and IIRSA; and with national and international non-governmental organizations, such as WWF and UICN.

Since each Country Member maintains its own national policy on international cooperation in the Amazon region, ACTO should attempt to coordinate policies with strategies that avoid conflicts or duplication of efforts. Therefore, an attempt to establish a permanent dialogue between national agencies and international cooperation will be made, in addition to the National Permanent Commissions.



Strengthening of the National Permanent Commissions and Special Commissions of the Amazon Region

Strengthening of the National Permanent Commissions will contribute to the effort of ACTO in enforcing the provisions of the Treaty in the corresponding territories, as well as to the execution of the decisions adopted at the meetings of Chancellors and the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA), or at meetings of the Coordination Commission to the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCOOR). These meetings are established towards facilitating a dialogue arena between the PS/ACTO and Country Members, hence strengthening communication between both. The National Permanent Commissions (NPCs) should promote the active participation of civil society to face the complexity of the challenges of the Amazon region.

The multi-sectorial nature of the NPCs, where the Special Commissions for the Amazon region play an important role in their fields of competence (science and technology, health, environment, indigenous affairs, tourism, education and transport, communications and infrastructure), will enable to undertake the right set of actions in the different strategic axes and transverse elements contemplated in the Strategic Plan, and in the intervention spaces of the PS/ACTO programs to be addressed in a full and complementary manner.

For this purpose, the Permanent Secretariat shall rely on four coordinators appointed by the Governments of ACTO Country Members. Their major duty would be to assist in establishing the transverse impacts of actions taken, and to promote a global and complementary approach of the programs and projects executed by the PS/ACTO.

The table of the composition of the National Permanent Commission of the Country Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is the following:

Composition of the National Permanent Commissions to ACTO

	National Permanent				
	Bolivia	Brazil	Colombia	Ecuador	
Meeting Board	MFA	MFA	MFA	MFA	
Technical Secretariat	VM of International Economic Relations	Division of Meridional America II MFA	Territorial Sovereignty Department MFA	Institute to the Eco-development of Ecuadorian Amazon Region	
Science and Technology	VM Higher Education, S&T	S&T Ministry	Colombian Institute to S&T Development	National S&T Secretariat	
Health	VM on Health	Ministry of Health	M. of Social Protection	M. of Health	
Environment	VM. of Sustainable Development; VM. of Natural Resources and Environment	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development	Ministry of Environment	
Indigenous Affairs	VM of Indigenous Affairs		Ministry of Interior and Justice	One representative of the Indigenous organizations	
Tourism	VM of Tourism	Ministry of Sports and Tourism	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism	Ministry of Tourism	
Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure	VM of Transportation	M. of Transportation; M. of Communications; M. of Development and Foreign Trade	Ministry of Transportation	M. of Public Civil Works	
Education	VM of Education	M. of Education	M. of National Education	Ministry of Education	
Social Society			Represented by an representative of the Amazon region, appointed by the MFA	Representative of Mayors, Governors and agricultural centers	
Other Members of the NPCs	VM. of Governmental Coordination; VM of Planning; VM. of Agriculture and Cattle Farming and Fishery; VM of Defense	Ministry of Planning, Organization and Management; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Defense and Chief Staff of the Presidency of the Republic	Colombian Institute of Amazonian Researches; National Department of Planning; Ministry of National Defense	Ministry of National Defense; Ministry of Agriculture and Petro-Ecuador; Commission on Amazonian Affairs of the National Congress	

Permanent National Commissions of the Countries Members to ACTO

and of the Special Commissions of the Amazon Region



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Commissions (NPCs)

	Guyana	Peru	Suriname	Venezuela
	MFA	MFA	MFA	MFA
	MFA	Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon region	MFA	General Direction of the International Policy MFA
	Institute of Science and Applied Technologies	National Council of S&T		National Council on Scientific and Technological Researches
	M. of Health	M. of Health	M. of Health	M. of Sanity and Social Assistance
	National Geological Commission	National Council of Environment and National Institute of Natural Resources	Ministry of Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources
	Ministry of American-Indigenous Affairs	CONAPA	Ministry of Regional Development	Ministry of Education and Culture. Indigenous Affairs Department
	Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Foreign Trade	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism	Ministry of Transportation, Communications and Tourism	Ministry of Production and Trade; VM of Tourism
	M. of Public Civil Works and Communications	Ministry of Transportation and Communications	Ministry of Transportation and Communications and Tourism	M. of Development; M. of Transportation and Communications
	M. of Education and Univ. of Guyana	M. of Education; Agrarian University La Molina	M. of Education and Community Development; Univ. of Suriname	M. of Education
	Univ. of Guyana	Agrarian Univ. La Molina	Univ. of Suriname	
	Ministry of Agriculture; Armed Forces; National Office of Statistics	M. of Defense; M. of Integration and International Commercial Negotiations; M. of Women and Human Development	M. of Agriculture, Animal and Fishery Production; M. of Public Civil Works	MFA; M. of Economy; M. of Defense; M. of Agriculture and Farming; M. of Justice; M. of Energy and Mines, Central Bureau of Coordination and Planning of the Presidency of the Republic; Venezuelan Corporation of Guyana

Where: M: Ministry; VM: Vice-Ministry; S & T: Science and Technology; MFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Annex

Resolution n.
RES/VIII MRE-ACTO/02

CONSIDERING the initiative by the Permanent Secretariat of endowing the Organization with a Strategic Plan, conceived as a document mutually agreed upon concerning the national policies of the Country Members towards the Sustainable and Integral Development of the Amazon region, and a navigation chart to the forthcoming years, ensuring its political, technical and financial feasibility;

RECOGNIZING the Organization's Strategic Plan as a tool with long-term scope, to provide guidance to the tasks of its Permanent Secretariat in the formulation, execution and follow-up of feasible projects, programs and initiatives in the regional scope, maintaining the practice of dialogue and consultation to the Country Members, as the major way for advancing the purposes of the Organization;





NOTING with satisfaction the successful results of the First International Meeting of the Permanent National Commissions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, held in Brasilia on 1 and 2 July 2004, wherein the representatives of the Country Members and the major actors of international organizations, civil society and researchers involved in the Amazon issues have discussed and enriched, with their contributions, the provisional wording of ACTO Strategic Plan;

HAVING the XII Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council reviewed the consensual version of the Organization Strategic Plan (2004-2012), prepared and submitted by ACTO Permanent Secretariat, which comprises the said contributions;

DECIDE:

APPROVE the Strategic Plan of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization for the period 2004-2012, as an open document to permanent up-dating and contributions of the State Members;

Signed in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on the fourteenth day of the month of September 2004.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
Permanent Secretariat

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