

Date of submission: September 30, 2012

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## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10

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### **Introduction:**

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is an intergovernmental body which comprises eight countries from the Amazon Basin: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The Permanent Secretariat of OTCA (PS/ACTO) was established at the end of 2002 to provide a platform for the political dialogue and regional cooperation base on the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA), signed in 1978.

The Member Countries of ACTO, at the 10th Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers held in the city of Lima in November 2010, approved the new Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation, which thematic content is the result of an important effort of dialogue and regional coordination, including a commitment for the execution of the programs, projects and activities identified in the consultation process with the Member Countries.

Within the frame of the Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation, the agenda of activities of the sub theme: Forests<sup>1</sup>, the main technical instrument to orient the regional action, was built jointly with the forestry authorities of the Member Countries, submitted and adopted at the decision level of ACTO and since the month of March 2011 is being fully implemented. It is mainly on the basis of the progress and results of the implementation of said agenda that PS/ACTO presents to the General Secretariat of UNFF this information as an input for the deliberations at the 10th Session of UNFF.

### **Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”**

#### **A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument**

##### ***1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your organization to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).***

ACTO facilitates the Amazon Region level processes of cooperation among its Member Countries, having developed, among other instruments such as the implementation of pilot/demonstration with the purpose of: (i) promoting the sustainable development of the regions with emphasis in the improvement of the life quality of local communities; (ii) generating inputs for the national and regional political dialog with emphasis in the practice of the cooperation processes; (iii) recording and disseminating the lessons, results and impacts learned; (iv) evaluating the possibility of replication of initiatives; and (v) becoming concrete instruments for the action of regional cooperation on forests.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda of activities of Sub theme Forests ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

The initiatives and projects being implemented by PS/ACTO with the support of the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ) are:

- a. *Pilot Project “Sustainable forest handling in native forests and legal timber marketing chains in the Center-South of Equatorial Amazon”*: based on the concept of community forestry management, the project implemented between 2007 and 2010, generated experiences and elements that can be part of a community forest management model, because essentially promoted the development of local capacities for forestry handling and the trading of legal timber, the improvement of the application of the forestry regimen and the development of financial and legal instruments for the management of forests<sup>2</sup>.
- b. *Pilot Project “Strengthening of the value chains of natural products from the Amazon through the sustainable handling of the communities of Shuar of Transkutukú, Province of Morona-Santiago, Ecuador associated to PALMASAD of producer in Madre de Dios, Peru”*, this Project has been promoting the production and trading of non-timber forestry products (NTFP) and its objective is to increase the income of the Shuar communities through the increase in the ecological cocoa production, the production and trading of other (NTFP) and the strengthening of the local organizational structure of the indigenous communities.

In the Amazon region, in terms of community-based forest handling there are still challenges in the generation of long term social, environmental and economic benefits which may assure a real contribution to the development of the rural area.

- c. *International Year of Forests (2011)*. ACTO meeting invitation from UNFF, have actively participated in the celebrations of the International Year of Forests 2011; was developed and implemented a regional agenda of commemorative activities which are compiled in a publication presented during a side event at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “Rio+20”. The publication is available at the following link: ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

**2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.**

The efforts being developed by ACTO at the regional level from the economic, social and environmental points of view are particularly described in items (A.1 a and b); (B 1.GOF1 a and b) of this report.

**3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.**

ACTO has been developing, jointly with the Secretariat of CITES and the Regional Amazon Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ), the regional project: “*Granting of Electronic Permissions CITES in the Member Countries of ACTO*”. This Project, which implementation in the initial stage promotes the regional cooperation through the interchange of technology, within the South-South Cooperation, for the development of systems for the granting of electronic permissions which will facilitate, in a fast, secure and transparent way the issuance of permissions for exportation and importation of wild flora and fauna products which are under the risk of extinction within CITES.

**4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.**

The control of illegal commerce of forest products in the Amazon region is complex; the control mechanisms implemented in the Amazon countries are not sufficiently effective to reduce the illegal timber trade or other non-timber forest products (NTFP), particularly in the borderline areas. As a result of this situation, ACTO has been contributing to the strengthening of the capacity of forest

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<sup>2</sup> Publication of results and experiences of the pilot project ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

authorities of its Member Countries combating the trade of forest products and the illegal cutting of timber. The initiatives and Projects that PS/ACTO has been implementing within the theme are:

- a. *Regional Project "Electronic identification key of timber and spectroscopy method of infrared light"*: this Project is being promoted and developed at a pilot phase by the Brazilian Forestry Service (SFB) and the Research Institute SINCHI of Colombia to be implemented at the regional level. The Project shall allow: (i) the development of a regional electronic key for identification of Amazon timbers which will assist the control agents with the correct identification of forestry species; and (ii) the development of a database that will allow through the infrared light spectroscopy the differentiation of apparently similar forestry species.
- b. *"Regional office on control mechanisms of origin and tracking of timber in the Amazon countries"*: an event held in February of 2012 which included the dissemination of different experiences and progress of the Amazon countries in the control of the illegal cutting of timber, the control of the origin and general tracking of the productive chain. The office also allowed the interchange of information on other control mechanisms of origin using genetic and isotopic methodologies and promoted the cooperation and the planning of joint activities to neutralize the illegal cutting at border regions.

**5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.**

- a. *Regional Project "Institutional strengthening of the Member Countries of ACTO in the Economically Responsible Forestry Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Handled Amazon Forest"*: an initiative at the consultation stage with the Member Countries of ACTO. The proposal aims to improve the conservation of biodiversity in reinforcing the environmental directives in the handled forests in the Amazon region. It is expected a financial contribution from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for the implementation of the Project.
- b. *Regional Project "Monitoring of Deforestation – Amazon Fund"*. ACTO is seeking complimentary financial support to the Amazon Fund of Brazil to strengthen the initiatives that the Member Countries of ACTO have been developing in the monitoring of deforestation through the Project described in item (B.1.GOF1.a) of the present report.

**6. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on the implementation of the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development.**

- a. *"Accountability of the forest sector in the national accounts"*: this initiative seeks the incorporation of the forest sector in the national statistics through the establishment of satellite forest accounts which will evaluate economic, social and environmental variables of forests and will incorporate them in the national statistics enabling the measurement of the effective contribution of forests to the national economies. This initiative is developed in coordination with the regional office of FAO in Chile.

**B. Progress towards GOFs**

**1. Please describe actions taken by your organization and/or by other public and private organizations (e.g., government, NGOs, private sector, etc.) in your region/subregion to help achieve the following:**

SP/OTCA is developing at the regional level initiatives and projects which are lined up and contribute to the achievement of the four world objectives on forests. These are:

*GOF1, "Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation"*

- a. *Regional Project “Monitoring of Deforestation, Forest Use and of Changes in the Use of Land in the Pan Amazon Forests”*. The objective of the Project is to give support to the Member; (iii) the development and application of monitoring systems of deforestation and national monitoring plans of the forest cover, with focus and consideration of a common regional methodology, and of follow up of changes in the use of land. The results achieved after 20 months from the implementation are: (i) building of an institutional structure at the regional and national level responsible for the implementation of the project in each Member Country, (ii) more than 45 experts qualified in the use of monitoring systems developed by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE); (iii) installation, equipping and operation of 7 national observation rooms in the Member Countries;(iv) dialogue forums and continuous advisory carried out between the institutions responsible for the Project in the countries. On the other hand, it is expected that until the first quarter of 2013 the 7 national monitoring plans of deforestation are elaborated.

This Project was launched and officially presented at a side event during the 9th Session of FNUB and has the financial support from ITTO and the cooperation of the Governments of Germany (BMZ) and The Netherlands (DGIS). For the 10th session of the Forum, the Project expects to present a concrete result at the regional level, the product of the work of the national observation rooms of the Member Countries of ACTO.

- b. *“Elements to operationalize the negotiation of an agreement of cooperation to combat forest fires at the borders of the Member Countries of ACTO”*: it is an initiative that aims at the construction of a protocol of performance at the regional level regarding combat and control of forest fires. This instrument, which is currently in the consultation stage with the Member Countries, will promote the establishment of mechanisms for coordination and joint work between two or more institutions responsible for combating and controlling forest fires at borderlines. This instrument will also facilitate, in the event of fires at borderlines, the development of actions among brigades, the access of materials, tools and equipment and will promote the mutual and efficient cooperation, thus contributing to the reduction of a loss of forest cover and the degradation of the Amazon forests.
- c. *Regional Project “Harmonization of criteria and indicators (C&I) of sustainable forest management”*: both the C&I of Tarapoto and the C&I of MFS of ITTO were formed through a wide process of consultations with the several segments of the Amazon society, have served as the basis for the development of common a political view regarding forest management and has also oriented the development of a common view orienting the participation of the Amazon countries in the discussions of UNFF. This new Project seeks the uniformity of the C&I of sustainable handling of forests in order to raise the profile of its use in the region, to facilitate its full adoption and to consolidate the joint effort between ITTO and ACTO.

*GOF2, “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”*

OTCA is contributing to the attainment of this objective through the support to the implementation of the pilot projects described in item (A.1. a and b) of the present report, including:

- a. *Pilot Project “Strengthening of the borderline integration between the regions of Acre (Brazil) –Ucayali (Peru)”*:the project, implemented between 2009 and 2012, sought to strengthen the government and non-government initiatives and capabilities for the in the borderline between the State of Acre (Brazil) and the Department of Ucayali (Peru); coordinated action and cooperation for the sustainable development. The project contributed to the shared management of borderline areas, of hard access, of high ecological interest and promoted the coordinated action for the monitoring and environmental control, facilitated the local institutional coordination, developed actions of sustainable use of the non-timber forest resources by the indigenous communities and other local communities thus generating inputs

for the sub regional dialogue at the formal interaction in the process of dialogue between Peru and Brazil.

- b. *Pilot Project “Development of the Cosmetic Productive Chain, from the Carayarú (Arrabidaea Chica) Natural Pigments and Veé (Palicourea triphylla D.C.) in the Municipality of Mitú, Department of Vaupés, Colombia”*: the Project is oriented to the incubation of a agricultura and livestock society of transformation called “Cosmetic Society of Vaupés SAT”, an indigenous-type organization, established to produce, transform and trade cosmetics based in wild and domesticated plants with the traditional use like “Carayurú and Veé”, two of its most developed productive chains.

*GOF3, “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”*

- a. *“Regional Plan of Action for the Amazon Biodiversity”: a program of Protected Areas*<sup>3</sup>. The proposal of the Regional Plan of Action for the Amazon Biodiversity and its program of Protected Areas formed by ACTO had the objective of contributing to the development of a common view, the practice of the management of the protected areas at the regional level, with emphasis in the protected areas in the borderline zones and conservation corridors including more than one country. The approved Program of Protected Areas seeks to develop coordination mechanisms and technical and financial instruments to complement the management of the National Systems of Protected Areas and to promote the joint action within a regional focus for the conservation of biodiversity. When implemented, it will allow to complement the national efforts in the area of management of protected Amazon areas as instruments for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable development and social inclusion, and will facilitate the construction of common positions at international scenarios.
- b. *Pilot Project “Support to the tri nation program of conservation and sustainable development of the corridor of the natural areas protected La Paya, Guëppí y Cuyabeno (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador)*: the projected implemented between 2009 and 2012 contributed to the consolidation of the Management Corridor La Paya-Gueppi-Cuyabeno as a model of conservation and regional sustainable development in the protected areas, through the joint management and the coordinated handling between Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. The Project developed processes of joint planning, including specific resources handling plans, as well as the ruling of the use of absorption zones, facilitated capacitating and interchange of experiences oriented to share technical strengths, optimize the use of resources available and the cooperation in the area. The Project fortified the capabilities of joint operation among the protected areas, including the development of legal and operative instruments and the documentation and systemization of the experience for its later dissemination, and the incorporation of its products and results in the Program of Protected Areas of ACTO.
- c. *Pilot Project “Strengthening of the borderline integration between the regions of Acre (Brazil) – Ucayali (Peru)*: in addition to the contents described in item (B.1.GOF2.a) of the present document, this initiative developed and consolidated coordination procedures in an area which includes the Sierra del Divisor which is one of the regions with greatest biodiversity in the Amazon, including several conservation units which include a total extension of more than 2,3 million of hectares of protected forest.

*GOF4, “Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM”*

The Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, which operates with contributions from its Member Countries, has in the period 2010-2012 the important support of several cooperating parties among which stand out the Regional Amazon Program which has the financial support from the Governments of the

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<sup>3</sup> This Regional Plan of Action for the Amazon Biodiversity, which has been completed, was one of the componentes of the current Strategic Agenda of Amazon Cooperation -AECA.

Netherlands (DGIS) and Germany (BMZ), channeled through the Agency of International Cooperation for Development (GIZ); from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), from German Bank of Development (KfW), the Bank of Inter American Development (IDB), the United Nations Program for the Environment (UNEP), the Fund for the World Environment (GEF) of the International Organization of Tropical Timbers (ITTO) and the United Nations Organization for Agriculture and Food (FAO). The cooperation relations are guided by the Guidelines for International Cooperation regarding, principles adopted by the countries of ACTO, in addition to taking into account relevant aspects of the guidelines for the Official Development Assistance of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expressed in Paris and Accra Declarations. The fields of cooperation are defined by the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda of ACTO.

**2. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.**

See Statement from Ministries of the Environment of the Member Countries of ACTO: ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

**C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

**1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your region that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs?**

- a. The ACTO initiatives that contribute directly to the achievement of Goal No. 1 of Objective 7 of MDG are: (i) *Regional Project "Monitoring of afforestation, forest use and changes in the use of soil at the pan Amazon forest"*; (ii) *the initiative of negotiation of an agreement for the cooperation in the combat of borderline forest fires between the Member Countries of ACTO; both described in item (B.1.GOF1. a and b) of this report..*
- b. The ACTO initiatives that contribute directly to the achievement of Goal No. 2 of Objective 7 of MDG are: (i) *Regional project "Granting of Electronic Permissions CITES in the Member Countries of ACTO"*; (ii) *Pilot project "Support to the tri nation conservation program and sustainable development of the corridor of natural areas protected La Paya, Guëppí and Cuyabeno (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador); both described in items (A.3 and B.1.GOF3.b) respectively.*
- c. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

In the "*Tarapoto Process*" on *Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest* a set of indicators was defined prioritized by the Member Countries of ACTO. These indicators, a product of a wide process of consultation and validation, may assist in evaluating the contribution of forests to MDG.

The 15 Prioritized Tarapoto indicators are:

1. Policies and legal milestone for the environment ordering through the ecological and economic zoning .
2. Extension of the areas by type of forests in the categories of conservation areas, in relation to the total area of forests.
3. Conservation rate of the forest cover for other purposes.
4. Quantity and quality of technologies adequate to the handling of sustainable production.
5. Investment in research, education and technology transfer.
6. Quantity and quality of projects of research and sustainable development in progress.
7. Plan for forest handling approved by the competent authority;
8. Periodicity of the evaluation of the fulfillment of the handling plan and average percentage of fulfillment.
9. Level of use of environmentally healthy technologies.
10. Proportion of areas of environmental protection compared to the areas of permanent production.
11. Measures for the protection of the water beds for forestry activity.
12. Number of direct and indirect jobs and level of income.
13. Contribution to the conservation of biological diversity.

14. Contribution to the maintenance of values and cultural diversity and knowledge of the indigenous and local populations,
15. Contribution to the economy, health, cultural, science and recreation,

d. Please provide additional information specific to your regional/sub regional on MDG forest-related work.

See Statement from Ministries of the Environment of the Member Countries of ACTO about Rio+20: ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

## **Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships**

### **1. Please provide examples of how your region or sub-region is engaged in facilitating cooperation in sustainable forest management? These may include North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.**

Every initiative developed by ACTO on the forest issue for especially in the area of South-South Cooperation. As a forum for dialogue and interchange, ACTO promotes the cooperation among the Amazon countries, in this landmark, an emblematic initiative is the regional Project “*Monitoring of afforestation, forest use and changes in the use of soil in the pan Amazon forest*” which promotes the dialogue, the interchange of knowledge and the development of capabilities and the technologic transfer among the Country Members.

### **2. What advances has your organization made in such areas of cooperation?**

Advances have been made particularly in the area of South-South Cooperation. The ACTO actions derive from agreements between the Member Countries who face similar development challenges and satisfy demands o benefits in conditions of reciprocity which has facilitated to PS/ACTO the identification of common needs and enabled the development of work agendas in the ambit of regional dialogue, the technical cooperation and the strengthening of capabilities improving the effectiveness of the cooperation provided for by this organization.

PS/ACTO is oriented by its decision instances to the identification of opportunities related to the triangular cooperation as a cooperation mechanism.

### **3. In which areas would your organization like to see stronger international cooperation?**

ACTO, besides working in the environment area, develops its cooperation activities in other areas such as health, education, transportation, power, tourism, indigenous matters and science and technology, where a set of initiatives and projects is developed to contribute to the regional Amazon development but which certainly are not enough to its full scope, which requires their strengthening with the support of international cooperation.

### **4. Please describe any joint activity relevant to the Forum’s work undertaken with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)<sup>4</sup> and/or involving major stakeholders?**

- a. *Regional Project “Monitoring of afforestation, forest use and changes in the use of soil in the Pan-Amazon forest”* : the project is implemented within the Program REDDES of ITTO and is also financed by the ministries of cooperation of Germany (BMZ) and The Netherlands (DGIS), through the Regional Amazon Program (PRA).
- b. *Regional Project “Harmonization of Criteria and Indicators of Tarapoto and ITTO* (see description in item B.1.GOF1.c of the present report)
- c. *Regional Project “Institutional Strengthening of the Member Countries of ACTO in the Ecologically Responsible Forest Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Handle*

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<sup>4</sup> List the names of CPF member organizations

*Forests of the Amazon*": it is a project that counts with the collaboration of CDB and ITTO. (see description in item A.5 of the present report).

- d. Jointly with GEF and UNEP, ACTO implements the regional Project *"Integrated and sustainable handling of Borderline Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin, Considering the Climate Feasibility and the Climate Changes"*,

It is under the consultation stage of the Member Countries of ACTO memoranda of understanding for the cooperation and coordinated Works with FAO and UICN.

**5. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on successful cooperation and partnerships, including those with the private sector and other civil society organizations (also known as major groups).**

In the following already described Projects work has been done or is being done with the civil society and the private sector: (i) *Sustainable Forest Handling in Native Forests and Trading Chains of Legal Timber in the Center-South of the Equatorial Amazon*; (ii) *Strengthening of the Acre-Ucayali Borderline Integration*; (iii) *Tri nation Program of Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Corridor of the Protected Natural Areas La Paya, Guëppí and Cuyabeno (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador)*; (iv) *"Development of the Cosmetic Productive Chain, from Natral Carayarú (Arrabidaea Chica) Pigments and Veé (Palicourea triphylla D.C) in the Municipality of Mitú, Department of Vaupés"*, (v) *Strengthening of the value chains of natural products of the Amazon through the sustainable handling in the Shuar del Transkutukú communities, Province of Morona-Santiago and in association with PALMASAD of producers in Madre de Dios, Peru"*.

**6. Please list (or, if available, provide link to the relevant webpage) the member countries and organizations with whom you work on sustainable forest management issues.**

- Ministry of the Environment and Waters of Bolivia: <http://www.mmaya.gob.bo/>
- Ministry of the Environment of Brazil: <http://www.mma.gov.br/>
- Ministry of the Sustainable Environment of Colombia: <http://www.minambiente.gov.co/portal/default.aspx>
- Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador: <http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/>
- Forest Commission of Guyana: <http://www.forestry.gov.gy/>
- Ministry of the Environment of Peru: <http://www.minam.gob.pe/>
- Ministry of Agriculture of Peru: <http://www.minag.gob.pe/portal/>
- Foundation for the Forest Management and Control of Suriname: <http://sbbsur.org/>
- Ministry of the Popular Power the for Environment of Venezuela: <http://www.minamb.gob.ve/>