

Scoping document

Rapid assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the amazon region

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) under its Amazonian Biodiversity Program, currently underway, attaches great significance to carrying out a regional assessment report about the status of biological diversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon Region, under the methodology of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), of which the Amazonian countries of ACTO are part. This report is aimed at supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) objectives related to biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from the use of genetic resources. It will be aligned, where possible, with the CBD's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework considering previous and in-progress reports, including official information from the Member Countries (MC) such as the sixth National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity CBD, among others. Currently, IPBES¹, has produced a global and a regional report of the Americas on the subject, in addition to other inputs from other national and global initiatives. Brazil has succeeded in preparing a national report on biodiversity and ecosystem services with adaptations of the IPBES format, along with reports about pollinators and landscape restoration under this same format. Likewise, a National Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Colombia and another regional reporting initiative for the Amazon by the Amazon Science Panel are also underway. In this context, this initiative of the ACTO promotes the preparation of a regional report on biological diversity and contributions of nature for the people of the Amazon Region, as an important input for the ACTO Member Countries to guide the public policies applied in the Amazonian territories that are based on analyzed and current information, in accordance with their respective internal legal and administrative regulations.

1. Related topics about IPBES and its conceptual framework: <https://www.ipbes.net/>



II. SCOPE, GEOGRAPHIC DELIMITATION, UTILITY, ASSUMPTIONS, AND OTHERS

A. SCOPE

The overall scope of the regional/subregional assessments is to² assess the status and trends regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services³ and their interlinkages, opportunities, and the effectiveness of responses to threats to them and impacts on human well-being; including the effectiveness of responses particularly related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, along with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans developed under the CBD. The assessments address biological diversity and terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystem services. It will also be linked to the process initiated by the countries of the Post-2020 Global Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the implementation of the programs and projects related to biodiversity within the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda – ASCA.

The assessment report for the Amazon Region will focus on biodiversity and environmental/ecosystem services, considering the Region's cultural diversity, its complexity and heterogeneity due to the various geological, geomorphological, climatological, hydrographic, and biological processes. Also, its global prominence will be taken into consideration owing to its megadiversity, multiculturalism, and for its variety of ecosystems, species richness and high endemism, since it is one of the areas with the greatest biodiversity wealth and home of about 10% of the world's biological diversity.

It is worth mentioning that the assessment will include, particularly, the realities of the boundary areas of the Amazonian countries, including the neighboring Protected Areas and other conservation units and border development and integration zones, as there is an important interaction and relationship among these populations, as well as the processes and social, cultural, economic, and environmental dynamics in these areas.

The assessment shall take due account of the Member Countries' legal frameworks, as well as the use of concepts and terminologies related to biological diversity.

2. A key objective of the IPBES Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessments is to "Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services".

3. The overall scope of the IPBES (IPBES/3/6/Add.1) regional assessments is to "assess the status and trends regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services and threats to them on human well-being

B. GEOGRAPHIC DELIMITATION

The Amazon Region covers 44% of the land area of South America, it contains the largest tropical forest in the world, and is the largest hydrographic basin on the planet. The Amazon Region is made up of eight Amazonian countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The areas per country included in the Amazon Region comprise all the Amazonian territories according to the definitions and delimitations of the ACTO Member Countries, in accordance with the following chart:

Country	Departments, provinces, or municipalities
Bolivia	It comprises the entire Department of Pando and the Amazonian territories of the Department of La Paz, Beni, and Santa Cruz.
Brazil	It comprises all the States of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins, Mato Grosso and Maranhão.
Ecuador	It comprises the Provinces of Sucumbíos, Orellana, Napo, Pastaza, Morona Santiago y Zamora Chinchipe.
Colombia	It comprises the Departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainia, Guaviare, Putumayo, Vaupés, Sur del Meta, Sur de Vichada, Cuenca Oriental de Nariño, and Cauca.
Guyana	It covers the entire territorial extension of Guyana.
Peru	It comprises the Amazonian departments.
Suriname	It covers the entire territorial extension of Suriname.
Venezuela	It corresponds to the Rio Casiquiare/Rio Negro Basin.

Due to the size of the Amazon Region and its varied physiography, the regional assessment may consider other subdivisions according to the authors definitions.

C. UTILITY

This report offers the strategic utility to provide timely and rigorous information for decision-making, strengthening the science / policy / society interface from the participatory contribution of experts from the Amazon Region and with the sovereign participation of the ACTO MC in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which determines that “the Contracting parties declare that the exclusive use and utilization of natural resources within their respective territories is an right inherent in the sovereignty of each State and that the exercise of this right shall not be subject of any restrictions other than those arising from International Law”. The report will provide recommendations based on scientific evidence to contribute to the conservation and sustainable

use of the biodiversity components in light of the three CBD⁴ objectives and the future agreement of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This evaluation will allow the strengthening of the results of the IPBES Global and Regional Assessment report of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Americas within the Amazon Region, linking all the existing information and analysis in the ACTO MC on the subject. It will provide visibility to the work carried out in the region within the framework of the implementation of the three CBD objective. In addition, the evaluation will be carried out at an important juncture for the Amazon Region which is the consolidation of a vision of sustainable Amazonian development where biodiversity is essential as well as nature benefits to people (environmental functions, ecosystems/environmental services).

D. ASSUMPTIONS

The main assumption is that there is information available for the Amazonian territories of the ACTO MC to carry out the evaluation, in addition to information on the knowledge and wisdoms of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities. Likewise, in accordance with the IPBES evaluation format, experts are required to prepare the assessment, therefore, the participation of experts from the MC of the region is expected, including those experts in knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities, based on an equitable distribution of experts, both in terms of territory and gender. Another fundamental assumption is the commitment of the governments of the Amazonian countries to accompany the entire assessment process and its subsequent approval⁵.

E. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

To promote synergies and to the extent possible, the assessment for the Amazon Region will be coordinated with similar processes that have been developed in the region, as well as with other ongoing initiatives that may contribute to the study. Also, to the extent possible, approaches with the private sector will be promoted, in addition to alliances with the academic sector and regional specialized institutes in research and analysis on biological diversity in the ACTO Member Countries. Key entities will be identified to provide information, scientific, technical and financial support, as well as to assist in the dissemination and communication of the assessment's results, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). In this direction, coordination will also take place with other entities such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Organization (UN- MA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank

4. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

5. According to the Work Plan the group of experts will deepen in the scope document's assumptions.

(WB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), the Fund for the Amazon BNDES, as well as many other public and private entities of the Amazonian countries. It is worth mentioning the financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) to carry out this evaluation within the framework of a technical cooperation with ACTO.

F. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Permanent Secretariat of ACTO (PS/ACTO) will oversee coordinating the assessment with the support of the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute. This Institute will provide technical and scientific advice to carry out the assessment under the methodological and conceptual principles of IPBES. For this purpose, a Scientific Committee will be constituted by prominent academics from ACTO Member Countries (one man and one woman for each ACTO MC), who will follow and supervise the evaluation. Likewise, the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and review editors will be identified to conduct the assessment based on this scoping document. The authors (experts) participate in a personal and voluntary capacity; hence, they will not formally represent the institutions or governments that have nominated them.

Following the process and work schedule, and the IPBES methodology, the Member States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization will participate in the preparation and approval of the documents that are developed within the framework of the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Services Ecosystems of the Amazon Region. The Scientific Committee and the experts will carry out an independent assessment, in coordination and with the leading accompaniment of the governments of the Amazonian Countries. The Countries will assume an important role in the entire evaluation process, starting with the appointment of the Committee's members. Regarding the scoping document, they will participate in the identification and appointment of experts who will carry out the review of the draft scoping document and its final approval. Concerning the rapid assessment document, they nominate the experts that will participate in the evaluation, the review of the draft assessment, in the acceptance of the assessment's technical document, and in the approval of the summary for decision-makers by the Member States.

III. CHAPTERS OUTLINE

The assessment report for the Amazon Region will have seven (7) chapters, with the following scope:

Chapter 1. Introduction and context. This chapter will present the justification and importance of the regional evaluation, together with the main questions that must be answered. Likewise, the relationship between this assessment and the ACTO's strategic agenda and ongoing actions will be established. An explanation of the IPBES conceptual framework and relevant definitions will also be included. In this chapter, the main aspects of the Amazon Region and the units of analysis of the report will be presented, highlighting the main aspects of the assessment. Finally, the methodological and technical aspects will be presented, as well as the structure of the report. The geographical scope of the rapid assessment will be determined according to the Amazonian territories and the definitions and delimitations established by the Member Countries of ACTO, in accordance with point B paragraph 7 of this document.

Chapter 2. Status, trends and dynamics of biodiversity and environmental functions and ecosystem/environmental services⁶. This chapter will assess the past and current trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems and their impact on the key ecosystem goods and services of the Amazon Region. The main benefits will be identified of environmental functions, ecosystem/environmental services, and the impacts of the quality of life and socio-economic development in different areas (territorial, national, and regional). An approach will be made to the multiple assessment of ecosystem/environmental services to recognize their contribution to national economies. The main future trends and prospective analysis will be outlined, considering the aspects related to the role of biotechnology and bioeconomy in the future of the Amazon and how the populations of the region can benefit from it. In this chapter an assessment will be performed focused on sustainable development, recognizing the complementarity between the social, economic, environmental, and cultural spheres that interact and form the complexity of the Amazon Region, as well as the multiple values and knowledge systems, including indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities.

Chapter 3. Drivers of threats, losses, opportunities, and transformation of nature. In this chapter, a systemic analysis will be made to identify and analyze the status, drivers of threat, losses, opportunities, and transformation of biodiversity, including protected natural areas and main connections with social, cultural, political, and economic variables, which allow evaluating regional challenges as well as identifying species in real threat situation within these protected areas. According to the IPBES conceptual framework, the direct drivers (habitat conversion, climate change, pollution, and species introduction, among others such as biopiracy) and indirect drivers (socio-political, demographic, economic, technological, and cultural aspects, among others) are considered dynamic elements of a network of interdependent variables. This chapter will also address knowledge about the thresholds of ecosystem resilience and the achievement of the Aichi and SDG targets of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

6. In the conceptual framework of IPBES that will guide the analyses reference is made to ecosystems and contributions to nature benefits to people

Chapter 4. Dialogue of wisdom and traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity. This chapter seeks to examine the concepts of biodiversity and environmental services from the perspectives and context of indigenous peoples, local and other tribal communities in the Amazon Region. The knowledge and wisdom systems of indigenous peoples, peasant, native, Afro-descendant, and others, will be taken into account in actions related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the use of the traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, in accordance with current national legislation on MC. Community organization aspects, decision-making, management models and intellectual protection measures on traditional knowledge, among others, will be analyzed, with a view to strengthening the contribution of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities to the knowledge of use and benefits of biodiversity components. On the other hand, a synthesis of the threats to knowledge and wisdom will be presented from a perspective of multiple environmental, economic, and social pressures. An evaluation will be conducted related to the experience and response of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other tribal communities on the management of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Chapter 5. Interactions between nature and society in the present and future: the path to sustainable development. It comprises a systematic, holistic, and comprehensive analysis of the set of flows and interactions between nature and society based on the analysis of the previous chapters, with models and scenarios developed for the Amazon Region. It particularly examines future trends in biodiversity and drivers, along with the meaning of these trends in the usual scenario and within the framework of a transformation towards sustainable and harmonious development of the Amazon Region. Integrated analysis will be included at various scales, multi-level (local, sub-national, national, and regional) and different ways to achieve sustainable development, identifying the trajectories of different indirect drivers.

Chapter 6. Policies, institutions, and governance at different scales and sectors. This chapter aims to analyze the interaction and mediation of policies, laws and initiatives in relation with the relationships between biodiversity and the benefits of nature to society in the Amazon Region. Different options and recommendations will be provided to policy makers at the regional, national, and subnational levels in response to what was stated in the previous chapter related to the horizon of sustainable development for the Amazon Region. The contribution to the fulfillment of the CBD objectives and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework guidelines will be considered. Among the main policies to be analyzed are land regularization, payment for environmental services, economic and ecological zoning, as well as inspection, command, and control measures. The enabling environments and constraints regarding the adoption of policies, the experience acquired in the region and, in particular, the solutions and existing methods to ensure success will also be determined.

Chapter 7. Conclusions and recommendations. From the chapters presented, and specifically the scenarios analyzed in the previous chapter, this chapter will present the main conclusions and recommendations for the integrated management of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as a contribution to policy makers, with a focus on regional management, and recommendations for financing and financial sustainability arising from the scoping assessment. Key and short messages will be launched for decision making. Finally, the information gaps identified in the assessment will be identified.

IV. PROCESS AND WORKING SCHEDULE

The table below proposes the assessment process and working schedule.

Year	Quarter	Process and Schedule
2021	1st	Presentation and approval of the process by the MC (January 2021)
		Constitution of the Report's Scientific Committee, with the participation of official representatives and prominent academics of the Member Countries (designation by the MC and the PS/ACTO February 2021)
		The PS/ACTO calls upon the governments to nominate experts that will be the authors (report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and review editors) of the assessment, that will be carried out based on the results of the scoping document approved by the governments (includes experts and representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and other tribal communities-IPLC and OTC for the revision of the scoping document (February 2021)
	2nd	Author selection process by the PS/ACTO and the Scientific Committee (February - March 2021)
		Virtual meetings of authors to discuss the scoping document (March 2021)
		External review of the scoping document (March and April 2021; Adjustment of the scoping document with the results of the external review (April 23, 2021); Approval of the scoping document by the authors, the official representatives of the Member countries and the Scientific Committee (March 2021)
		Translation of the scoping document (March 2021)
	2nd	The Scientific Committee along with the authors will carry out a review of the existing advances and prepare a document analyzing the information gaps that must be covered in the assessment (April - May 2021)
	2nd, 3rd & 4th	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, and other lead authors will prepare an initial draft report and summary for policy makers (May - November 2021)
		Report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, official representatives of the Member Countries will meet with experts and representatives of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities (delegated by the MC) to share information and insights on specific topics related to the report (September 2021)
4th & 1st/2022	External review by experts and official representatives of the Member Countries of the draft report and summary for policy makers (November 2021 - January 2022)	

Year	Quarter	Process and Schedule
2022	1st	The report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, official Member Countries' representatives, and other lead authors will review the first draft of the report and the summary for policy makers under the guidance of the review editors and the Scientific Committee. Review authors and editors, with members of the Scientific Committee, will meet (second meeting) to prepare the reports' final draft and the summary for policy makers (January - March 2022)
	1st & 2nd	The summary for policy makers is translated into the official languages of ACTO (March April 2022)
	2nd	External review of the reports' final draft and the summary for policy makers. These documents are sent to governments for final review (April - June 2022)
		<p>Governments forward the written comments on the summary for policy makers to the PS/ACTO (April - June 2022)</p> <p>The MC in a meeting summoned for this purpose by the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, will review and approve the report and approve the summary for decision makers (in June 2022)</p>

