



South-South Cooperation for Biodiversity in Brazil

Contents

Introduction	2
Bilateral cooperation	2
South American cooperation	3
Brazilian Cooperation Agency	3
Group of Likeminded Megadiverse Countries	3
Agreement of the Lusophone Countries.....	4
Dialogue Forum India-Brazil-South Africa.....	4
Brazil-Africa Transatlantic Commission	4
Capacity.....	4

Introduction

The following information was taken primarily from Brazil's third report¹ and fourth report². During the latest decades, Brazil implemented, with the other developing countries, broad technical cooperation agreements which directly or indirectly affect the capacity of the recipient country to reach the MDGs. Several programs are being executed through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency [ABC – Agência Brasileira de Cooperação] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, applying Brazilian technologies and funds and, in some cases, such as for International Technical Cooperation, executed in partnership with developed countries and international agencies such as UNDP. This growing cooperation also includes regional integration themes, such as joint initiatives of the Mercosul countries in the discussion and elaboration of actions dealing with issues such as customs, agriculture, environment, technical regulations, statistics, and institutional strengthening. The conduction of the Meeting for Identification of Themes on Biodiversity for Cooperation and Interchange among South American Countries is an example of this. The institutions responsible for biodiversity management in the developing countries require strengthening, which represents a difficulty in the establishment of South-South cooperation.

Bilateral cooperation

Brazil is a part of several bilateral cooperation agreements.

Argentina: Agreement for the Conservation of the South Atlantic Natural Resources, signed between Brazil and Argentina in Buenos Aires, on 29 December 1967. Decree-Law 454, of 04 Feb. 1969

Bolivia: Agreement for the Control, Preservation and Conservation of Natural Resources along the Brazil-Bolivia Border - Brasília, 15 August 1990, Legislative Decree 91, of 18 December 1992, and Decree 3026, of 13 April 1999

Colombia: Agreement for the Conservation of the Fauna and Flora within the Amazon Region - Bogotá, 20 June 1973, Legislative Decree no 72 of 03 December 1973 and Decree no 78017 of 12 July 1976; Agreement on Animal Health Control at the Border Region - Bogotá, 16 July 1985, Legislative Decree 7 of 21 May 1990 and Decree 3422 of 20 April 2000

Ecuador: Complementary Amendment to the Basic Technical Cooperation Agreement of 09 Feb. 1982, for the Implementation of the Project: Conservation and Sustainable Development at the Sangay National Park - Quito, 08 Oct. 1999, D.O.U section I, no 227, 29 Nov. 1999

¹ Brazil (2005). Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ministry of the Environment, September 2005, 350 pp.

² Brazil (2010). Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Office of the National Program for Biodiversity Conservation, Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests, Ministry of the Environment, COP-10 Special Edition, October 2010, 286 pp.

Guiana: Amazonian Cooperation Agreement - Brasília, 05 October 1982; Legislative Decree 32 of 09 December 1985, and Decree 92931 of 17 July 1986

Paraguay: Agreement for the Conservation of the Aquatic Fauna of the Border Rivers - Brasília, 01 September 1994, Legislative Decree 138 of 10 November 1995, and Decree 1806 of 06 February 1996; Additive Protocol to the Agreement for the Conservation of the Aquatic Fauna of the Border Rivers/Brasília, 19 May 1999, Legislative Decree 33 of 10 April 2002, and Decree 4256 of 03 June 2002.

Peru: Agreement for the Conservation of the Flora and Fauna of the Amazon Region of Brazil and Peru - Lima, 07 Nov. 1975; Legislative Decree 39 of 17 May 1976, and Decree 78802 of 23 November 1976; Protocol for the Implementation of a Forest Fire Prevention and Control System - Lima, 25 Aug. 2003, D.O.U. No. 33 of 17 Feb. 2004

Uruguay: Fisheries and Preservation of Living Resources Agreement - Montevideo, 12 Dec. 1968. Decree-Law 412 of 09 Jan. 1969.

South American cooperation

Brazil organized two regional meetings for South American countries: one in 2003 on the status of National Biodiversity Strategies, and a workshop in 2008 on capacity building for NBSAPs and biodiversity mainstreaming. However, south-south collaboration is still very limited. International agreements exist and are in force to allow collaboration among countries in South America in the environmental sector, although this is usually not the focus of the agreements. Brazil participates in three of these agreements: Mercosul, which is primarily a market/economy mechanism, under which environmental issues still have limited space. The Organization of the Treaty for the Conservation of the Amazon (OTCA) limits its work to the international Amazon Region and, even though its focus is Amazon conservation, it does not have a structured long term agenda for the environment. The Comunidade Sul-Americana de Nações (CASA), signed in 2004, is a political agreement among South American countries to integrate actions of the political, social, economic, environmental and infrastructure sectors among countries, but environmental issues are not yet present in the agenda. None of these agreements is focused in environmental issues and there is also no regional treaty or agency in South America for the environment, and no supporting mechanism for collaboration in this sector.

Brazilian Cooperation Agency

In Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosts the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC). Its small team supports initial contacts between Brazil and other countries and assists in the coordination of specific international projects, but its limited budget does not allow continued support for international collaboration.

Group of Likeminded Megadiverse Countries

In the broader international arena, Brazil is involved in the Group of Likeminded Megadiverse Countries (17 countries), with the mandate to work on common biodiversity issues and which follows several

international processes and agreements (including the CBD) and is currently focusing discussion in ABS issues.

Agreement of the Lusophone Countries

The Agreement of the Lusophone Countries has a primarily cultural agenda. It includes, to some extent, an environmental agenda

Dialogue Forum India-Brazil-South Africa

The Memorandum of Understanding among the Members of the Dialogue Forum India-Brazil-South Africa has a strategic collaboration agenda. It include, to some extent, an environmental agenda

Brazil-Africa Transatlantic Commission

Brazil and Africa initiated South-South collaboration through the Brazil-Africa Transatlantic Commission, which presented in January 2010 the data collected during its first expedition (October-December 2009) on board the *Cruzeiro do Sul* research vessel, exploring the Atlantic Ocean between Brazil, South Africa and Namibia. The highest marine concentration of CO₂ originating from human activities is located in the Atlantic Ocean. This research vessel allows the study of interactions among biological, chemical and physical processes and their relation to climate change in the South Atlantic. The first expedition, with the Brazilian team, collected data on temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, as well as suspended nutrients and other materials. Beginning in the second semester of 2010, in addition to the Brazil-Africa Commission activities research teams will have 80 days per year on board the *Cruzeiro do Sul* for marine research activities. Candidate projects will be evaluated by a managing committee with representatives from the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Brazilian Navy.

Capacity

Environmental agencies are notoriously understaffed in most South American countries resulting in overloaded technical teams, which have no time to dedicate to international collaboration. There is also very limited funding to support this type of work. The greatest limitation for stronger South-South collaboration is three-fold: the lack of a regional environmental agenda; the lack of agencies to intermediate collaborative work; and the lack of financial mechanisms to support cooperation actions, including increased and continuous installed capacity.