

**South-South Exchange  
Conference on the Conservation  
and Sustainable Use of Forest  
Biodiversity**

**Montreal 8-10 July 2009**



**Flavio Sottomayor**  
Secretary General a.i.

**Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization - ACTO**

# ACTO

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization



The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT): signed on 3/July/1978.

Members: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

Focus: to promote joint actions towards the harmonious development of the Amazon Basin.

**ACTO was established in Brasilia in December 2002, to cope with problems common to the 8 countries.**



Decision making instance: **Ministers of Foreign Affairs**

## **ACTO's sphere of intervention**

1. Political dialogue (multi-thematic, multi-institutional).
2. Support to the preparation and implementation of strategies and regional programs/projects.
3. Implementation of initiatives and projects of supranational character (strategic approach).

## Strategic Plan:

### Sustainable Development of the Amazon Region



#### Strategic Axis

Conservation  
and  
Sustainable  
Use of Nat.  
Resources

Knowledge  
Management  
and  
Technological  
Exchange

Regional  
Integration and  
Competitiveness

Institutional  
Strengthening

## Role of ACTO:

- To facilitate regional political dialogue.
- To contribute for awareness raising of UN processes outcomes: ex. workshops at the regional level.
- To promote and facilitate exchange of information among Member States.
- To facilitate cross-sectorial discussion through its National Permanent Commissions.
- Its activities are based in South-South cooperation and triangular arrangements.
- ACTO's Working Plan already includes issues from UN processes.
- ACTO has already taken steps and made advances in integrating and coordinating efforts aimed at achieving SFM.

# **Actions undertaken by ACTO**

# To slow down the loss of forest

- Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators
- Sustainable forest management mechanisms and instruments
- Regional forest cover monitoring system

## For forest and biodiversity conservation:

- Design a proposal for a Regional Plan for Biodiversity.
- Design a proposal for a Regional Protected Areas Program.
- Design of a science and technology strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Design of a regional cooperation mechanism for the preservation of traditional knowledge
- Design of a regional cooperation mechanism for CITES enforcement.
- Preparing a risk analysis for Amazon biodiversity.
- Producing technical reports: GEOAMAZON

## Regarding means of implementation for SFM

- Financial mechanisms for SFM, including the institutional and legal frameworks
- Demonstration projects: community based sustainable forest management.
- Regional Biotrade Program proposal
- Action Plan for priority Value Chains (Biotrade)

## Supporting regional policy dialogue

- Support to informal dialogue initiatives (Puembo). Among Latin America Countries.
- Support to official dialogue initiatives (COFLAC, Meetings of Ministries)
- Support ACTO countries at UNFF and CDB in order to build up coordinated and common positions.
- Discussion of technical barriers on trade for Amazon biodiversity products.

# Thank you



[www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info)