



Infrastructure and Transport; Topic F: Tourism; Topic G: Institutional, Financial and Legal Strengthening; and Topic H: Emergency Issues.

The agenda of activities for the Forests Sub-topic<sup>1</sup> is included under Topic A of the AECA, and seeks to achieve: *Integrated, integral and sustainable forest governance for the management and conservation of* . This is the main technical instrument directing regional action in forestry. It was drafted jointly with the forest authorities of the Member Countries before being submitted to and adopted by the Foreign Ministers of ACTO Member Countries, and is being fully implemented since the start of activities in March 2011.

This report presented by the PS/ACTO to the General Secretary of the UNFF as input for its 11<sup>th</sup> Session is largely based on the progress and results of the implementation of said agenda.

## **Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFFI Prepa**

and civil society. In total, approximately 1.5 million euros were allocated in the form of non-reimbursable funds from BMZ and DGIS to six pilot and demonstration projects.

- (c) Turning to information, one of ACTO's main roles is to provide a platform for dialogue and the exchange of information among its Member Countries. On this point, the agenda of activities of the Forests Sub-topic includes actions identified by forestry authorities where there is a shared interest in the exchange of information. One of the existing mechanisms is the holding of regional meetings every two years with the top-level forest authorities to assess progress in the implementation of the forest agenda and exchange information on achievements and challenges in the implementation of their respective national forest programmes.

As for education and awareness raising, taking up UNFF's offer, ACTO played an active role in the events of the International Year of Forests in 2011. It drew up and carried out a regional programme of commemorative activities, subsequently compiled in a publication that was presented at a parallel event in the framework of the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The publication can be found at the following link: ([www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info))

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

- At the financial and economic level, one specific challenge is developing suitable methodologies for measuring the actual contribution of the forest sector to the economy of the countries and the recording of this information programme

communities by producing the cacao more efficiently and ecologically, commercializing other non-timber forest products (NTFP), and strengthening the local organizational structure of the participating indigenous communities.

- (c) *Strengthening of border integration between the regions of Acre (Brazil) and Ucayali (Peru-2009)*: The project reinforced the governmental and non-governmental capacities of both

priority is the conducting of a regional study on the productivity of forest management in the extraction, transport and commercialization of timber. Said study should primarily carry out market studies and develop scenario models for forest products.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

One of the challenges of regional cooperation is, through the different mechanisms at its disposal, to help make the forestry sector competitive in terms of the production and commercialization of the goods and services offered by the Amazon forest so as to preclude changes in land use for other productive activities that are in theory more profitable. Efforts should be made to show the true dimension and importance of Amazon forest resources and the Amazon forest itself in terms of: climate stability, the regulation of the water system, soil protection, air quality, and the provision of food, housing, energy and medicine for local population groups, not forgetting the provision of all the products and sub-products currently sold on local, national and international markets. A big challenge is linking markets to promote trade in forest products from manage of legal provenance.

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.

Controlling the contraband of forest products in the Amazon region is a complicated issue. The control mechanisms implemented in the Amazon countries are not effective enough to curb the illegal trade of timber and non



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) *Project for monitoring forest cover in the Amazon region.* This is an initiative seeking to develop and implement participatory forest cover monitoring systems in the Amazon and to consolidate the existing regional coordination platforms for forest management. The main problem identified and tackled by the project is an insufficient and unequal capacity for monitoring deforestation and changes in land use in the Amazon region, which significantly hampers decision-making.

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 project for the institutional strengthening of ACTO Member Countries in ecologically responsible forest management and the conservation of biodiversity in managed Amazon forests* . This recently started project strives to develop and boost technical capacities in the Amazon countries for implementing forest management models and ecologically responsible best practices conducive to the conservation of forests and forest biodiversity. The project should consolidate the inclusion and implementation of guidelines on biodiversity conservation in forest management instruments and promote training for the application of such instruments, while heightening the exchange of information and experiences among Amazon countries. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ITTO are partners in this regional initiative, which has overall financing of approximately US\$ 1.2 million for a 36-month implementation period.
- (b) *Project Support for the trinational programme for the conservation and sustainable development of the corridor formed by the protected natural areas La Paya, Guëppí and Cuyabeno (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador):* Implemented from 2009 to 2012, the project assisted the consolidation of the La Paya-Guëppí-Cuyabeno Management Corridor as a model of the conservation and regional sustainable development of protected areas, under the joint, coordinated management of Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. Joint planning processes were developed and included specific plans for resource management and the regulating of land use in buffer zones. The project facilitated training and the exchange of experiences with a view to sharing technical strengths, optimizing the use of the available resources and cooperating in the field. It boosted joint operating capacities in the protected areas and developed legal and operational instruments, while documenting and systematizing the experience for subsequent dissemination and the inclusion of its products and results in ACTO’s Agenda for Protected Areas.
- (c) *Pilot project Strengthening of border integration in the regions of Acre (Brazil) and Ucayali (Peru).* In addition to what is described in (Section I, Topic A, Question N°2) of this report, this initiative developed and consolidated coordination procedures in an area that encompasses the Sierra del Divisor, an area with one of the highest biodiversity rates in the Amazon, including various conservation units and indigenous lands spanning an overall area of over 2.3 million



The years 2012 and 2014 in particular saw a rise in financial resources and in the percentage of financial contributions from ACTO Member Countries, bringing these up to the same level as the funds from international cooperation. It should also be mentioned that the decision-making bodies of ACTO have adopted a financing strategy to support the cooperation actions envisaged by the organization, including a gradual increase in the contributions of the Member Countries and the involvement of State oil companies to support national initiatives.

2. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

ACTO is leading the preparation of a *regional report on the state of the Amazon forest* with the aim of revealing the size and importance of Amazon forest resources, as well as the use, protection and conservation thereof, to ensure the availability of timely and reliable information for the making and consolidation of public policies on sustainable forest management. This report will make it possible to have more accurate and specific information on the situation of forest resources and to be aware of how currently implemented national and regional measures are contributing to the achievement of the GOFs.

extensive process of consultation and validation, can help assess the contribution of forests to the MDG.

The

1. From the perspective of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process, please provide a general evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the current IAF.

ACTO-driven regional cooperation for the sustainable use and conservation of forests has been, and

of the AHEG1:

- Clarify the functions of regional processes, particularly with regard to the modes of contribution to the Forum.
- Look into the possibility of transcending traditional regional processes to cooperate with other organizations on regional and sub-regional planes (such as ....., including the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization).
-

Furthermore, the advantages and disadvantages of having regional organizations as members of the CPF should be assessed.

-----