

Institutional Cooperation in the Amazon for Facing Common Environmental Challenges - ACTO's role.

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Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization - ACTO





ACTO

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed on 3 July **1978** by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, aimed at promoting joint actions towards the harmonious development of the Amazon Basin.



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



ACTO's Competitive Advantages

- Its structure naturally leads to the consensus and solution of problems shared by all the Amazon countries
- Capacity to look at the the entire basin, since ACTO has a mandate from the sovereign States which share the Amazon
- Condition of proposing solution to problems which cannot be dealt with by the Amazon countries individually
- To promote efforts aimed at joining various national players in the struggle toward the sustainable use of the natural resources of the Amazon
- Principle of the regional cooperation and solidarity

ACTO's Strategic Plan



our Strategic Plan defines basic guidelines for the development of the Amazonian sustainability, which embraces consultation with the civil society and its participation

Strategic Plan:



Sustainable Development of the Amazon Region



**Planning
Process**

Strategic Axis

Conservation
and
Sustainable
Use of Nat.
Resources

Knowledge
Management
and
Technological
Exchange

Regional
Integration
and
Competitive
ness

Institutional
Strengthening

**Programmatic
Areas**

- ✓ Water
- ✓ Forests, Soils, Protected Natural Areas
- ✓ Biological Diversity, Bio-technology, Biotrade
- ✓ Territory Ordering, Human Settlements and Indigenous Affairs
- ✓ Social Infrastructure: Health and Education
- ✓ Transportation, Electric Power and Communication Infrastructure



ACTO works to overcome the sustainable development challenges concerning many issues, with especial emphasis to:

1. management of water resources and climate changes;
2. control of mercury contamination;
3. conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
4. forestry sustainable management;



1 - *ACTO's* direct actions in the management of water resources



Main Problems related to the use of hydrological resources and of the soil in the Amazon

- Impacts of climate variation - droughts and floods
- Lack of basic sanitation and its relation to illnesses of hydrological transmission
- Uncontrolled use of underground water
- Irrational exploitation of water resources
- Environmental impacts of hydroelectric production
- Heavy metal pollution
- River navigation impacts
- Impacts of deforestation
- Impacts of crude oil exploitation



Goal

The goal of this project is to strengthen the institutional framework for planning and executing, in a coordinated and coherent manner, activities for the protection and sustainable management of the land and water resources of the Amazon River Basin





The importance of the project

The project started in October 2005 is supported by the Global Environmental Facilities (**GEF**), the United Nations Environmental Program (**UNEP** which works as GEF implementing organization) and the Organization of American States (**OAS**).

ACTO and **OAS** are responsible for the shared execution of the project and its direction at regional level. The initiative is of major relevance to the Amazon region since it shall prepare a program of strategic actions to water management, based on a consensual view shared by the basin's countries.



Components of the Project

Component I

Strengthening of basin wide cooperation capacity for integrated hydro-climate management

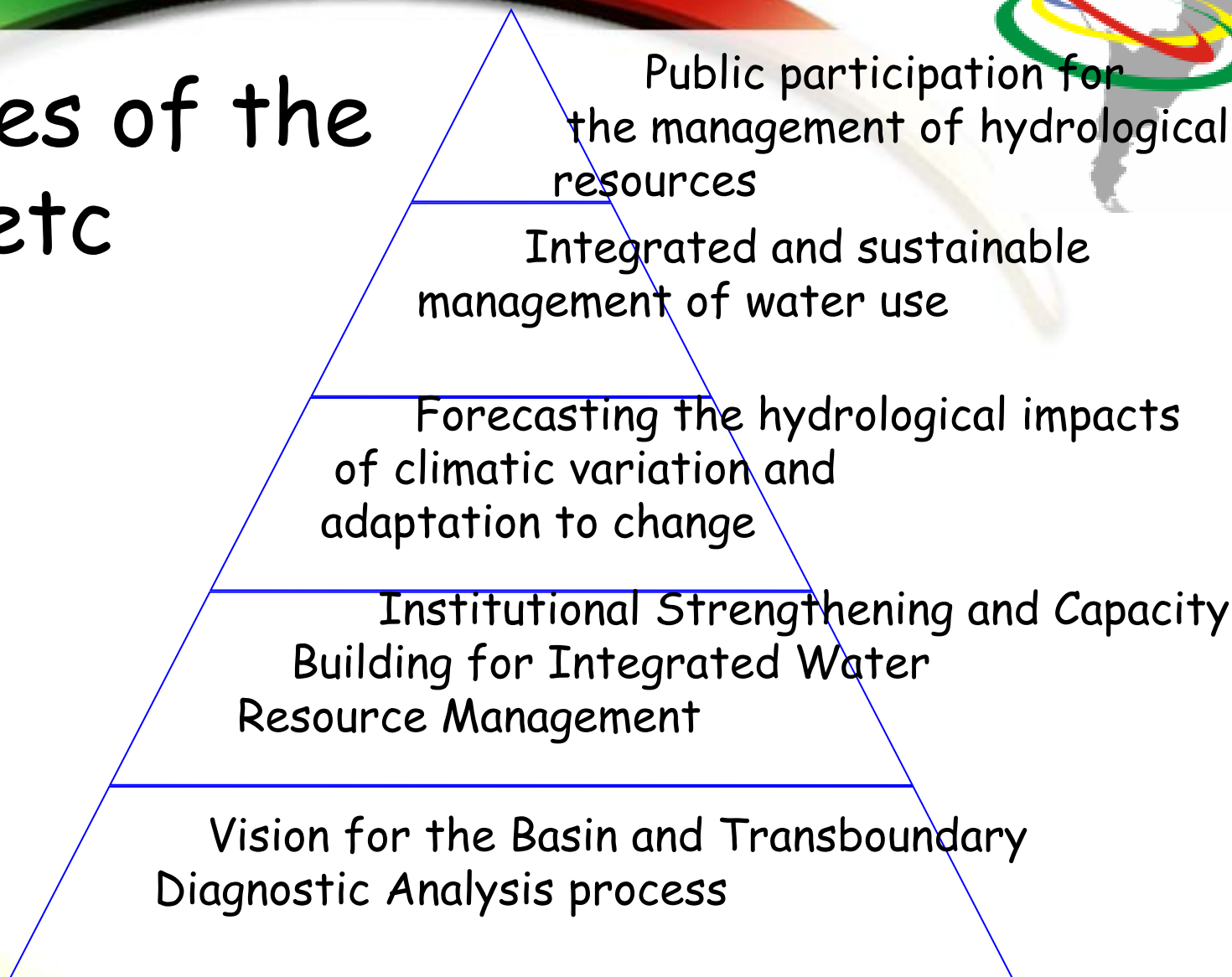
Component II

Development of planning instruments:
Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis -TDA and
Strategic Action Plan - SAP

Component III

Monitoring and Evaluation

Phases of the project





The Project also deals with Climate Changes:

- Importance of the Amazon Basin to Global Climate Changes;
- Impacts of Global Climate Changes in the Amazon Basin and its social and economic consequences;
- Monitoring system to follow the impacts of climate changes in the Amazon;
- Create forecast mechanisms to predict draughts and floods.



2. *ACTO's* direct actions in the Control of Mercury Contamination



Regional Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Mercury Contamination of the Amazon Ecosystems

- Being built since 2005
- Aims at integrating national efforts of the Amazon countries to face a common challenge
- The proposal elaboration had the support of the HUB of the US Government
- The proposal is in process of consultations by ACTO's Member States.

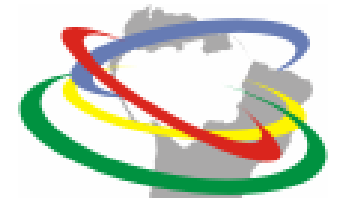


Partnership between ACTO and OAS

- A workshop is scheduled for the first semester of 2007
- Experts will discuss the situation of mercury contamination in the Amazon
- Presentation of well-succeeded experiences



3. ACTO's direct actions for the Sustainable Use of the Amazonian Biodiversity



Program “Strengthening of Joint Regional Management for the Sustainable Use of Amazonian Biodiversity”

Joint program by ACTO and Inter-American Development Bank

Purpose: Coordinating and inducing knowledge about the regional biodiversity in the Amazon, and its potential uses, supporting tasks on conservation and sustainable use that require transboundary cooperation, besides benefiting all countries part of the Amazon basin.



Program Components

- Formulation of a strategic framework and regional action plan on biodiversity.
- Strengthening the capacity of coordinating the applied research and generate public information for regional access.
- Strengthening the coordination capacity and supporting conservation-oriented actions in priority areas.



BioTrade Programme in the Amazon

ACTO and the UNCTAD BIOTRADE Initiative have joined forces to establish a regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon to promote the sustainable use of its biodiversity through trade and investment. Possible areas of action could include the improvement of regional policy and legal frameworks or regional trade promotion.



4. ACTO's direct actions for the Sustainable Management of Forests



ACTO's Mains Initiatives in the Sustainable Management of Forests

- a. ACTO has a Forest Program which integrates various initiatives, some of them launched recently and other inherited from the Pro-tempore Secretariat.
- b. Adoption of Regional Indicators of the Sustainability of the Amazon Forest, which reflect the vision of ACTO's Member States about the theme.
- c. Adoption of instruments of recognition for forest management.



- d. Elaboration of a common regional agenda for the forestry sector, integrating initiatives and discussions from international forums, such as ITTO
- e. Search for consensus in the discussions at the United Nations Forum on Forests.
- f. Elaboration of a proposal of a regional strategy for financing the forestry sector;
- g. For those initiatives ACTO has counted on the support of FAO, ITTO, GTZ, the World Bank, and the Brazilian Agency of Cooperation.



"Mankind has become so much one family that we cannot insure our own prosperity except by insuring that of everyone else"

Bertrand Russell

"Joint undertakings stand a better chance / When they benefit both sides"

Euripides

"A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in a bundle"

Japanese proverb



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