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**ACTO/ITTO  
CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE  
AMAZON FOREST**

**(A joint publication between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty  
Organization and the International Tropical Timber  
Organization)**

## **ACTO/ITTO**

# **CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE AMAZON FOREST**

ITTO Policy Development Series N° XXX

# **ACTO/ITTO CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE AMAZON FOREST**

A joint publication between the Amazon Cooperation  
Treaty Organization and the International Tropical  
Timber Organization

## **ACTO/ITTO Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest**

A collaboration between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the International Tropical Timber Organization

The **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)** is an intergovernmental body which comprises eight countries from the Amazon Basin: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The Permanent Secretariat of OTCA (PS/ACTO) was established at the end of 2002 to provide a platform for the political dialogue and regional cooperation base on the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA), signed in 1978.

The Strategic Agenda for Amazon Cooperation, approved at the 10th Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers in 2010, is the instrument guiding the implementation of activities of ACTO, for the short, medium and long term; the Strategic Agenda includes the vision, mission and strategic objectives of ACTO based on two crosscutting axes (conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources and sustainable development). It establishes the role and action guidelines of the PS, ACTO's own project cycle and the institutional structure to manage the Agenda and the various finance modalities considered.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** is an intergovernmental organization promoting sustainable development through the sustainable management, use and conservation of tropical forests. It has 56 member governments (and the European Community), which collectively represent 90% of the world tropical timber trade and about 80% of the world's tropical forests.

ITTO has developed a series of internationally agreed policy documents for achieving sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists tropical member countries to adapt these to local circumstances and to implement them in the field. In addition, ITTO collects, analyses and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber and facilitates the development of value-added, forest-based industries at both the community and industrial scales. The Organization has provided about US\$240 million in grants to fund more than 400 projects aimed at promoting sustainable forest management, conservation and sustainable forest use in its member countries. At any one time it employs, through its project program, about 500 field staff in the tropics.

### **Cover photos**

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## Acronyms

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
ACT	Amazon Cooperation Treaty
C&I	Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability

## Foreword

The criteria and indicators (C&I) of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) was published first in 1992 as Criteria for evaluation of sustainable management of tropical forests. This document was revised in 1998 to take into account that the large number of developments in the field of ITTO and at the international level that happened after the celebration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, including publication by ITTO of a set of policy guidelines on relevant issues and the development of parallel processes of C & I for temperate and boreal forests.

In the framework of the 39th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council, it was requested to the Executive Director of the Organization to implement and / or facilitate the implementation of approved activities under the Biennial Work Program 2006-2007, among which include the conduct a regional workshop to harmonize the C & I of ITTO and the Tarapoto Process, continuing to monitor progress in implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and taking steps to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between member countries of the ITTO and ACTO on C & I and related topics.

The Criteria and Indicators of Tarapoto were defined within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT). The ACT was signed by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela in 1978 to foster regional cooperation for sustainable development. The process of developing the C&I, launched in 1995 and completed in 2001, realized extensive national and regional consultations. In that year, member countries of ACTO selected 15 priority indicators for assessing sustainable forest management among the 77 available. In 2004, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with the support of United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), started the validation of the selected indicators to study the feasibility of implementation.

After a consultation process, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) in November 2010, during the Tenth Meeting of Ministries of Foreign Affairs approved the new Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda. In March 2011, during the Meeting of Forestry Authorities of the Member Countries of ACTO, implementation tools were identified all the activities of sub-topics of forests. Among them, for short-term activities, it was suggested that criteria and indicators of ACTO (Tarapoto) and ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) should be presented, discussed and evaluated in a "Regional Meeting of the Member Countries of ACTO".

In Lima, 21 March 2012, in the II Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of the ACTO, in reference to the Harmonization Project and validation of criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management by Tarapoto and ITTO, was ratified the Regional Meeting on Harmonization of criteria and indicators of ACTO and ITTO that has occurred from 8 to 10 May 2012 in Paramaribo, Suriname.

The Meeting held in Paramaribo from 8 to 10 May 2012, fostered the dialogue between the ACTO Member Countries and promoted an exchange of views and national and international experiences in relation to the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and in particular about the proposal to harmonize these systems, containing: 4 principles, 10 criteria and 34 indicators. The Paramaribo Meeting concluded: the results are sent to the foreign ministries of the member countries to discretion of the competent authorities, highlighting the effort preparation a first draft of harmonization of C&I, prepared by experts of the Member Countries, to continue until June 2013; countries to take the necessary provisions to allow to continue the process of implementing the harmonized C&I ACTO/ITTO regional tool to promote the Sustainable Forest Management.

In El Coca, Ecuador, May 2012, during the XII Meeting of Foreign Ministers of ACTO, in the Declaration of Coca, highlighted the progress of programs and projects, among them that of "Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest". In the focus to boost the necessary measures to effectively provide a greater dynamism to the process of approval and implementation of projects of

regional cooperation.

In the city of Puyo, Ecuador, on March 13, 2014, during the I Meeting of the Steering Committee of the project "Building Capacity for ACTO Member Countries in Ecologically Responsible Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Managed Forests of the Amazon (ITTO-CBD-ACTO), the Delegations of Member Countries concluded the following: accept the version developed by the group of experts of the Member Countries, in bases of the document that was indicated in the Regional Meeting of Paramaribo (2012), containing **9 criteria and 34 indicators**; recommend to include the specific applicability of concepts and appropriate to the different situations of the Member Countries in the Strategy Document that will be developed in the future to help in the process of understanding the Criteria and Indicator.

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## Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest

### **Criterion 1 Health and Vitality of forests**

- Indicator 1.1 Presence of pests and diseases
- Indicator 1.2 Area affected by forest fires
- Indicator 1.3 Area affected by natural disasters
- Indicator 1.4 Areas/surfaces affected by pests and diseases

### **Criterion 2 Production functions, biomass and carbon**

- Indicator 2.1 Growing stock of all species

It is important to note that in this harmonization process the Member Countries highlighted the different political-environmental views and strengthened the need for a Strategic Document that establishes some terms, concepts and definitions; as well as standardize how should report each of the harmonized indicators. For this, it is necessary to define in the Indicator 2.1 the term "Growing stock", as well as standardize how to report this indicator.

- Indicator 2.2 Above and below-ground biomass and your respective carbon equivalencies

In a Strategic Document will be defined the terms presents in this Indicator, as well as will be indicated and shared a methodology already exists between the ACTO Member Countries with the focus to standardize the information to be generated.

### **Criterion 3 Land use planning**

- Indicator 3.1 Area covered by land use

Necessary to define the term "land use"

- Indicator 3.2 Deforestation and degradation areas

Necessary to define the term "degradation" and describe what are the cases that will frame as such.

- Indicator 3.3 Forest areas to protect soil, water and biodiversity

- Indicator 3.4 Strategies to control deforestation and degradation of natural forests

### **Criterion 4 Political, legal and institutional framework**

- Indicator 4.1 Forest law, legal, administrative and political framework for sustainable forest management

Indicator 4.2 Existence of entity or institution engaged Forestry Administration.

Indicator 4.3 Existence of economic instruments and quantification of funding for the forest sector and investments in the sector

Necessary to define the term "economic instruments"

Indicator 4.4 Presence or absence of incentives for sustainable forest management and/or conservation

It's necessary highlight the difference between incentives for conservation and incentives for sustainable forest management.

Indicator 4.5 Participation and compliance in international conventions under of the policies of each country

Define which of conventions should be reported and strengthen which these conventions should be especially of Amazon Biome.

#### **Criterion 5 Technological and scientific development**

Indicator 5.1 Universities, institutions or higher learning institutions, forestry technical schools, forest research and technological development centers

Indicator 5.2 Products/areas of research and forest technological development

#### **Criterion 6 Forest management plans**

Indicator 6.1 Surface area and percentage of forests under permanent production (in level of country and biome)

Indicator 6.2 Existence of national regulatory standards for sustainable forest management

Indicator 6.3 Control of national sanctions for sustainable forest management

Indicator 6.4 Surface area and percentage (in level of country, biome and forests under permanent production) of forests under sustainable forest management plans

Indicator 6.5 Systems and/or mechanisms for monitoring and control of sustainable forest management plans

Indicator 6.6 Systems to control logging, transport, processing and trade in forest products

Indicator 6.7 Volume or quantity of forest products availed from managed forests

Indicator 6.8 Volume, quantity and value of processed products, originating from managed forests.

#### **Criterion 7 Conservation of biological diversity**

Indicator 7.1 Surface and percentage (in level of country and biome) of natural protected areas

Indicator 7.2 Conservation state of ecosystems in natural protected areas

The officials' delegates from Peru mentioned that they already have a methodology document in their country to define this "Conservation State". Therefore, to standardize this indicator, will be shared this methodology to all ACTO Member Countries. This methodology should be added to the Strategic Document for the implementation of harmonized C&I.

Indicator 7.3 Conservation measures of biodiversity, water cycles and environmental functions

### **Criterion 8 Forest access mechanisms, ancestral rights and consultation with communities**

Indicator 8.1 Land use plan and regulations for forest management and use

It is necessary to define the terms present in this Indicator to standardize the information to be generated.

Indicator 8.2 Participation of indigenous and local populations in forest management

In the process of understanding of the C&I will be clarified how to measure this participation in forest management.

Indicator 8.3 Land tenure and access to forest resources and technological development

In a Strategic Document will be clarified how to report this indicator.

Indicator 8.4 Coordination, consultation and conflict resolution mechanisms with civil society

### **Criterion 9 Socio-economic benefits derived from SFM**

Indicator 9.1 Percentage or value of Forest sector participation (forestry activities, timber extraction, transportation and related activities) in national GDP, in local currency

It is necessary to define that the forest sector participation in GDP will be related to the Amazon Biome.

Indicator 9.2 Income level and working conditions of forest workers (workers, technicians and professionals) for management units

Indicator 9.3 Traditional uses of forest resources by communities.

This indicator was highlighted as difficult to measure by the ACTO Member Countries. It's necessary an extensive discussion to know how to report this.

Indicator 9.4 Socio-economic benefits (income and services) of sustainable management of forest resources, in the welfare and prosperity of the communities



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