

Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO)
Official Statement for COFO 27th

State of the World's Forest 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future
Rome-Italy

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as an intergovernmental organization made up of the eight Amazonian countries, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, has the mission of promoting regional cooperation and political dialogue in the Amazon. Through joint programs, projects and initiatives, we seek to promote the sustainable development of our Amazon territories, preserving the invaluable biological diversity of this megadiverse ecosystem and its forests.

In this context, ACTO greatly values the importance of the state of the world forest 2024. ACTO, with the collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Amazon Regional Program (PRA) of the German-Dutch cooperation (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ), worked with its Member Countries between 2016 and in 2017 the first "Regional Report on the Situation of Forests in the Amazon Region as of 2015" based on 11 Amazonian variables selected by the Member Countries, with the objective of knowing the state of the Amazon forest in the national and regional context to improve its management and promote the sustainable development. Published in 2018, this first Regional Report was developed using the methodology and data collection of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). The Report provided an overview of forest resources, management, policies and institutions in the Amazon Region, and the main drivers and impacts of forest change.

At the "*IV Summit of Presidents of the States Party of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty*", held in August 2023, the presidents reaffirmed the fundamental role of forest information in promoting development and fighting deforestation and forest degradation. They also recognized the need to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination between the different actors and initiatives involved in forest monitoring and evaluation. Consecutively, the "*XIV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Member Countries*" took place in Brasilia in November 2023, where they prioritized a series of resolutions, among them, RES/MRE ACTO/18 on the Amazon Network of Forest Authorities.

The Amazon Network of Forest Authorities will strengthen the implementation of the ACTO Forest Program and the relevant actions of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, in order to promote conservation, improve sustainable forest management, and restore native vegetation, with safeguards for biodiversity conservation and the promotion of connectivity in forest landscapes. Additionally, to exchange technological advancements, establish sustainable development projects, and promote access to financing for such projects, among other initiatives.

Moreover, ACTO recognizes the changing challenges, which is why the process to update information through the preparation of the Second Regional Report on the Situation of Forests in the Amazon Region by 2025 began, aiming to provide solid and up to date data, essential for informed policymaking and sustainable development in the Amazon Region.

Thank you very much.