

## ACTION PLAN OF THE LETICIA PACT FOR THE AMAZON

**Axis I: Reforestation, conservation, sustainable use of forests and biodiversity and promotion of bioeconomy (Mandates 1, 5, 8, 9 and 10).**

***Mandate 1: Strengthen coordinated action for forest and biodiversity assessment, as well as to fight against deforestation and forest degradation, based on national policies and their respective regulatory frameworks.***

1. Develop and exchange strategies for the use, management and sustainable use of products from forest biodiversity, for the generation of benefits to local populations that inhabit forest ecosystems.
2. Identify and promote value chains for trade in the Amazon, such as free zones or other mechanisms, including the network of exchange of experiences with the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact.
3. Implement a program to strengthen technical capacities to monitor the surface of the forest and deforestation and forest and soil degradation, including the generation and analysis of satellite images for monitoring the Amazon region, and other methodologies.
4. Establish a permanent dialogue between the competent authorities of the countries to access greater benefits with respect to the payment for results programs and other non-market-based mechanisms and approaches, within the framework of the Leticia Pact.
5. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in activities related to the planning of the territory and its integral management.

***Mandate 5: Specify accelerated restoration, rehabilitation, and reforestation initiatives in areas degraded by forest fires illegal activities, including, illegal extraction of minerals, with the goal of impact mitigation, recovery of species, and ecosystem functionality.***

1. Implement disaster risk management based on knowledge of ecosystems and communities to prevent these dangers in the Amazon, as well as prioritize areas of intervention at national level, exchange experiences and work on a portfolio on risk reduction measures.
2. Promote and implement at the regional level initiatives for the restoration of degraded areas with emphasis on the Amazonian ecosystem, such as the 20X20 initiative.
3. Improve restoration, rehabilitation and reforestation through agroforestry and ecological restoration systems to attract economic opportunities and benefits to local populations.
4. Share technologies and experiences for forest recovery, ecological restoration of ecosystems and degraded areas within and outside national protected areas to formulate projects that contribute to ecosystem connectivity, while respecting national sovereignty.
5. Launch awareness and education campaigns for the promotion of restoration that includes all the actors involved, with the aim of recovering ecosystems affected by fires, and by mining and illegal logging, among other factors.

***Mandate 8: Promote initiatives for connectivity of priority ecosystems and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation through sustainable use, restoration, and landscape management, respecting national sovereignty***

1. Design and characterize ecosystem connectivity spaces (protected areas) that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially of emblematic and priority species at the Amazon level and that have national action plans or management instruments for their implementation according to their national priorities and legislations.

**Mandate 9.** *Exchange and implement experiences in the management of the systems of protected areas of the Amazon countries at regional, national and subnational levels for their effective management and for the benefit of the local populations, through the promotion of the development of conservation and sustainable use of programs and projects.*

1. Develop programs for the generation of sustainable ecotourism in protected natural areas, with the participation of indigenous peoples, local populations and private initiative as a conservation and sustainable development strategy.
2. Strengthen the different regional cooperation platforms of which the countries of the Leticia Pact are part to develop capacities and exchange of experiences in natural protected areas and other conservation modalities on issues of effective management, threats and pressures, governance, representativeness, ecosystem services and functions, forest fires, good practices and border conservation spaces.
3. Strengthen collaborative management initiatives between adjacent protected natural areas in border areas of the Amazon region, based on successful experiences.

***Mandate 10. Strengthen the mechanisms that support and promote the sustainable use of forests, sustainable productive systems, responsible consumption and production patterns that promote value chains and other sustainable production approaches, including, those based on biodiversity.***

1. Promote consumption, sustainable production, awareness as the efficiency in the use of materials, water and energy and the integral management of residues and waste such as plastic and other materials.
2. Promote innovative ventures and the management of value chains free of illegal logging and not allowed land use change.
3. Strengthen the Regional Observatory of the Amazon (ROA) as a mechanism to support Amazonian countries in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and territory, including zoning and territorial planning programs and projects, management of fisheries resources in the Amazon, management of communal territories and territories (untitled) for ancestral uses by local communities and indigenous peoples, under life plans and resource management plans.
4. Promote alliances and agreements that allow training, advice, research, development, use and clean technology transfer in the processes of transformation of forest products and biodiversity, particularly to local actors and communities.
5. Articulate research centers to exchange experiences and carry out joint actions for sustainable forest management, the development of wildlife management plans, and / or the implementation of agroforestry production systems that contribute to the competitiveness of value chains, as well as the generation of technical bases of restoration, recovery and ecological rehabilitation.
6. Strengthen and consolidate productive organizations and develop business strategies for the sustainable commercialization of forest products.

**Axis 2: Amazon Security (Mandates 2, 3 y 4).**

**Mandato 2. Establish regional cooperation mechanisms and the exchange of information allowing to combat illegal activities threatening the conservation of the Amazon región**

1. Strengthen national capacities and work closely to enhance coordination mechanisms between national authorities responsible for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of illegal activities and environmental crimes, including the exchange, where possible, in an immediate virtual way, of information on transnational criminal organizations.
2. Respond without delay and under the principles of legality, promptness, opportunity and good faith, requests for cooperation from justice operators to investigate and prosecute crimes against illegal mining, illegal crops, illegal logging, illicit trafficking of flora and fauna and their repatriation, biopiracy and other crimes related to the environment in the Amazon region.
3. In order to combat illegal activities in the Amazon, promote alternative economic ventures and processes such as the zoning and regulation of legal forestry activities and the formalization of mining activities in the region under sustainability criteria, and respecting environmental legislation of the countries.

**Mandate 3:** *Create the Amazon Network for Natural Disaster Cooperation among the region's Emergency Operations Centers to coordinate and articulate national systems of disaster prevention and management in order to effectively address emergencies of regional impact, such as large forest fires scale.*

1. Develop all phases and protocols of the Amazon Network for Natural Disaster Cooperation among the Emergency Operations Centers of the signatory counties of the Leticia Pact within two years.

**Mandate 4.** *Exchange and implement experiences to the comprehensive management of fires, encouraging the development of policies, instruments and technical actions, based on the prevention of forest fires, the promotion of alternatives to the use of fires in the rural areas and the strengthen of technical, scientific and institutional capabilities.*

1. In order to promote activities in favor of the protection, conservation and sustainable use of natural heritage and its landscapes, to prevent and mitigate forest fires, periodic events and campaigns will be carried out to increase awareness and training in the prevention of local populations and indigenous peoples about the alternatives and the controlled use of fire, as well as sharing results and good practices in projects concerning the integral management of fire.
2. Promote the creation of the Technical Working Group on Integral Fire Management, composed and coordinated by the competent national technical entities.



**Axis III: Information and knowledge management and reports (Mandates 6 and 7, 13 and 14).**

**Mandato 6.** *Increase efforts associated with monitoring forest cover and other strategic ecosystems in the region in order to have periodic reports, in particular, regarding the generation of an early deforestation and degradation alert system to act with a preventive approach.*

**Mandate 7.** *Exchange information to improve the monitoring capabilities of climate, biodiversity, water, and hydrobiological resources of the region under a watershed approach, and based in communities.*

1. Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the competent institutions of the Leticia Pact signatory countries, including satellite imaging agencies, to deepen and improve knowledge, management, monitoring, early warnings and national and regional report (s) of Amazonian forests; forest fires; territorial zoning and land use change; the measurement of carbon stocks; water and hydrobiological resources; biodiversity and ecosystems of the Amazonian biome; the weather; pollution (heavy metals); and, others that require the conservation, bioeconomy and sustainable development of the Amazon Basin, for which purpose they will collaborate in strengthening national capacities and strive to achieve the interoperability of national information systems in such fields in the shortest possible time.
2. Exchange reports on Amazonian environmental science giving priority to variables related to hydrography, climatology, biodiversity, carbon stocks, and other related, with a view to strengthening methodologies and data comparability in the region.
3. Improve coordination and cooperation between water agencies and committees for the comprehensive management of water resources and the conservation of key ecosystems for water regulation.

**Mandato 13.** *Promote research, technological development, technology transfer, and knowledge management processes with the purpose of guiding the adequate decision-making and promoting the development of sustainable environmental, social and economic entrepreneurship.*

**Mandate 14.** *Develop and articulate between the Amazon countries education and awareness-raising activities on the role and function of the Amazon, the main challenges and threats it faces for its conservation, the sustainable use of forests, the protection of traditional knowledge of the communities that inhabit it, and disaster risk scenarios for strengthening the resilience of Amazonian populations.*

1. Promote greater cooperation, preferably in the form of networks, between research centers and the academic and scientific community (Academic and Research Group of the Amazon) that has as a priority the study for the conservation and sustainable development of the biodiversity of the Amazon, and that combines ancestral knowledge and traditional knowledge. Likewise, position the Academic and Research Group of the Leticia Pact signatory countries as a recognized world reference based on scientific and objective evidence regarding the state of situation, endogenous and exogenous vulnerabilities, challenges and national and global benefits offered by the Amazon for the sustainable development of the member countries of the Leticia Pact and for the purposes of the relevant United Nations Conventions.
2. To request the Network of Amazonian Research Centers (NARC) and the Amazonian Universities, the generation of relevant information to guide and advise the decision-making of subnational governments of the Amazon area in bioeconomy, circular economy and sustainable development, and other environmental issues, according to the priorities of the Amazonian countries.
3. Develop environmental education plans with emphasis on the sustainable management of Amazonian ecosystems and the valorization of traditional knowledge and the role of women. For that purpose, they undertake to exchange their experiences and good national and sub-national practices in this matter so that the interested countries can replicate them.
4. Develop scientific research and technological development from by-products derived from processes of transformation of biodiversity, in order to promote the competitiveness of value chains and the economic and environmental sustainability of organizations, companies and enterprises.
5. Promote the exchange of local experiences of sustainable consumption and production, in order to identify and promote the capacities of local communities in the development of enterprises in accordance with their lifestyles and in harmony with nature.

6. In compliance with SDG 9, achieve the widest digital and telephone connectivity in the geographical area that covers the Amazon region of the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact.

***Eje IV: Empowerment of women and indigenous peoples (Mandates 11 y 12).***

**Mandate 11.** *Promote joint action aimed to the empowerment of women inhabiting the amazon region to encourage their active participation in the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon region*

**Mandate 12.** *Strengthen the capacities and participation of indigenous and tribal peoples, and local communities in the sustainable development of the Amazon region, acknowledging their fundamental role in the conservation of the region.*

1. Promote the participation of women in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs aimed at the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon, including its important role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
2. Strengthen statistical systems with a gender approach that allow the design of gender indicators linked to forest and biodiversity management in order to identify, on the one hand, the impacts of environmental changes on women, and on the other, identify the necessary measures to strengthen their participation in the conservation and construction of sustainable development in the Amazon.
3. Create and / or expand a network of Amazonian women entrepreneurs in order to exchange experiences and good practices in innovative ventures that contribute to value Amazon products, generating sustainable development alternatives and stimulating public-private partnerships that strengthen these initiatives.
4. Formulate and implement programs and projects aimed at enabling indigenous peoples to make sustainable and collective use of the forest and biodiversity, taking into account their particular characteristics (linguistic, cultural, organizational, socio-economic), as well as obtaining the benefits that correspond to them for the use of genetic resources and their traditional knowledge.
5. Share experiences of territorial and environmental management models of indigenous territories, in accordance with the respective legislation of each country signatory of the Leticia Pact.
6. Strengthen programs and projects for the development and revitalization of indigenous Amazonian languages in vulnerable situations.
7. Strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples and local communities, with an emphasis on women, in disaster risk management actions.

**V: Financing and international cooperation (Mandates 15 y 16).**

**Mandato 15.** *Work together to strengthen the programs and financial mechanisms, reiterate the commitments made by countries in these scenarios, mobilize public and private resources, including the multilateral banks, as appropriate, for the implementation of this Pact.*

**Mandato 16.** *Promptly move forward in the formulation of the second phase of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program under the Global Environmental Facility.*

1. Design initiatives that include two or more signatory countries of the Leticia Pact aimed at the implementation of one or more of the mandates of the Pact in order to present and promote them before the financial mechanisms.
2. Map and share existing bilateral and multilateral international cooperation offers for the implementation of one or more of the mandates of the Pact.
3. Work on the initiative of the Amazon Sustainable Development and Bioeconomy Fund, to be administered by the Inter-American Development Bank, with a focus on the participation of the private sector in the development of the region.
4. Take with satisfaction the decision of the European Union to scale up its financing and cooperation to the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact, through Euroclima+, for which purpose the national focal points are encouraged to coordinate common actions before the European Commission and promote projects based on their national priorities, preferably of regional scope.
5. Hold a joint high-level event with the international community, including environmental financial mechanisms, to substantially increase financing for conservation, bioeconomy, circular economy and sustainable use of the Amazon according to the national priorities of the countries signatories of the Leticia Pact.
6. Carry out joint efforts with multilateral banks and the private sector to contribute financially to the implementation of this Action Plan under the different modalities offered by the Paris Agreement and the national legislations of the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact
7. Calling attention to the international community as a whole that the Amazon has been strongly and negatively impacted by climate change whose primary origin is not in the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact and that consequently the respect and compliance of the financial commitments of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change and its Paris Agreement, as well as with the principles of the 1992 Rio Summit, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibility
8. Promote greater use of payment for results of REDD + activities for forest financing.

9. Instruct the respective national authorities designated before the Green Climate Fund to coordinate with the purpose of achieving a better representation and participation of the signatory countries of the Leticia Pact in decision-making.
10. Adopt and implement the roadmap for the formulation of the second phase of the Sustainable Amazonian Landscapes Program and present the project proposal to the Global Environment Facility in April 2020.

## **Follow-up actions**

1. Disseminate nationally and internationally the Leticia Pact and its Plan of Action.
2. Designate Focal Points for monitoring the implementation of this Action Plan and share information on possibilities of cooperation and financing.
3. Request our representatives to the IDB Board of Directors to work on the design of the Amazon Sustainable Development and Bioeconomy Fund.
4. Request the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to jointly coordinate the call agreed upon in the actions of the mandate 15.
5. The Environment Ministers agreed to hold an upcoming meeting during 2020 to review the implementation of the Leticia Pact Action Plan.