



Newsletter

# ACTO

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

Year II – Nr. 7 – December 2005/February 2006



# Youth Expedition

**ACTO organizes scientific-educational trip with 45 students through the Amazon**



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# Letter

## by the Secretary-General



*The frequency of meetings held by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Country Members to several topics, since the original mandate of the Treaty signed in 1978 - reaffirmed by the amendment to the Treaty, which created the Permanent Secretariat - and during the latest meetings of Chancellors, both of Manaus and the most recent held in Iquitos, reveals the importance given by the countries to this regional organization, resulting from the geographic existence of a water basin and the biome it sustains.*

*The regular meetings and the diversity of topics approached pose to us, as Permanent Secretariat, a major challenge. This challenge is increased even more by the countries' demand, at the general level of their governments and at local spheres, which feel the need of interacting with this thriving and renewed organization.*

*Among the meetings that ACTO has organized or participated, the one held in Lima, convened by Peru, was outstanding through a mechanism known as the Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA). This meeting was aimed at working on the proposal of an "Amazonian Chart" that, similarly to the "Democratic Chart" of the OAS, has been converted into a sort of renewal of vows, ideals and principles, respect to a treaty that has more than 1/4 of century of existence and that clearly needs to be consonant not only with the new times we are living in this new century, but also with the fact that the Treaty, without losing its validity, became an Organization and rests on such a body as the Permanent Secretariat.*

*Within this context, the Amazonian Chart emerges in response to a need for reaffirming its principles, building a bridge to the new realities disclosed by its Country Members. The meeting held in Lima contributed towards clarifying the criteria and meeting consensus aimed at having the Chart signed, in a near future, by the highest officers of the Country Members.*

*In its turn, the Permanent Secretariat presents in this Newsletter very brief summaries of its dense agenda and reports on several projects it is developing.*

*The Newsletter became one of the most legitimate ways to disseminate the PS/ACTO work and receive contributions from its Country Members.*

Rosalía Arteaga Serrano

## Interview

# Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Oscar Maúrtua de Romaña

**“The Amazon region is part of the Peruvian State territory and is of crucial importance.”**

### How would you briefly define the current situation of the Peruvian Amazon region?

The Amazon region is viewed as one of the geographic regions endowed with high natural scientific, social-cultural and economic potential to the countries that share it. Furthermore, it is outstanding for its important natural and cultural assets.

The Peruvian Amazon region rests on a surface of about 720 thousand square kilometers, accounting for 60% of the national territory, holding huge productive potential in the fields of forestry, agriculture and cattle farming, fishery, wild flora and fauna, mining and hydrocarbon, among others. This potential should be used in a rational and sustainable way, in tune with the traditional knowledge and populations existing in the region.

### To which extent is the Amazon region important to Peru and to the external policy of the country?

The Amazon region is part of the Peruvian State territory and is of crucial importance. Its relevance rests on the fact that it houses representative samples of most of the regional and global biological diversity (potential that qualifies Peru as a country of mega-biodiversity) and that it contributes to the global climatic regulation.

The Peruvian foreign policy tries to provide privileged cooperation that assists in achieving the Amazon sustainable development, reducing the local populations' vulnerability, ensuring its integral defense and, in general, all aspects related to the Amazonian development.

### There are serious problems threatening the Amazon Region. Which is the responsibility of Peru, the Amazon Countries and the International Community concerning this region, one of the wealthiest on Earth?

The Peruvian responsibility in what concerns the Amazon region is focused on the need of concretizing the sustainable development process in said region. This responsibility is shared by the Amazonian countries, based on their respective national policies, mainly aimed at:

- Reaching sustainable growth rates and, thus, improving the population's quality of life.
- Breaking the cycle of poverty - environmental degradation.
- Simultaneously facing three critical issues:
  - Opening access to land;
  - Low income entailed by the traditional agriculture and cattle farming activity; and,
  - Poor quality of transportation infrastructure quality and rural electric power supply.

### What should be done to ensure that the Amazonian wealth benefits local populations, among the less favored ones in our countries?

The broad Peruvian Amazon region, crossed by the plentiful Amazon River, could be divided into two different zones: the high forest, over 700 meters above sea level, which has a sub-tropical and mild climate; and the low forest (below 700 meters above sea level). Its natural and landscape richness are inputs to promote tourism in the region, as well as the development of related economic activities, such as agroforestry, manufactured production, trade, etc., the practice of which directly benefits local populations.

Furthermore, the distribution of these benefits among local populations shall allow to change the notion of inexhaustible nature of the Amazonian resources towards their rational use (field of social and private action) conserving them for generations to come.

### To which extent is it important to coordinate regional policies to the Amazon region, and which would be ACTO's role in that context?

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is of utmost relevance since it praises the conditions of its Country Members as Andean-Amazonian countries, actively participating in the international environmental agenda, notably in aspects related to water and forestry resources, wetlands, biological diversity, climatic changes, dangerous waste, organic and chemical contaminants.

Thus, the coordination of regional policies, where ACTO serves as a facilitator and

Peruvian Chancellery



an articulator, should assist in converting our Amazonian environmental and strategic income into a tool for the region's sustainable development, thus contributing to improve the quality of life of local populations.

### Which is the importance of ACTO and the Amazon region in the process of integration of South America and in the building of the South-American Nations Community?

Peru agrees on the willingness expressed by the Amazonian countries in the sense of strengthening bonds between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the regional rooms of integration and cooperation, as are the Andean Community (CAN), South America's Common Market (MERCOSUR), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Latin America Integration Association (ALADI) and the Fund for Conservation of the Plata Basin (FONPLATA) and contribute towards building the South-American Community of Nations.

## Meeting

# The Amazon Cooperation Council discusses project of Amazonian Chart

**High officers of the Country Members worked on document that will renew the commitment towards the region's present and future**

The Extraordinary Meeting of Amazon Cooperation Council (CCA) was held on February 20 and 21, in Lima. ACTO Secretary-General and the Executive Director, as well as high officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ACTO Country Members, have worked on reviewing the "Amazonian Chart" project, presented by the government of Peru and submitted to the consideration of the remainder governments in the region.

ACTO Permanent Secretariat believes that the results of those two days of work at the Peruvian Chancellery premises were extremely positive, since they disclosed the countries' willingness in the seek for consensus on the Amazon region. A new meeting of the CCA was scheduled to the first half of this year.

During the CCA opening session, the

meeting Chairperson and Sub-Secretary of Multilateral Affairs of the Peruvian Chancellery, Ambassador Antonio García Revilla, emphasized the importance of strengthening the spirit and the principles that have fostered the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) as room for cooperation, bringing about new elements that reflect the reality and challenges posed by the current international agenda, i.e., South-American integration, social participation, physical integration, biodiversity preservation, forest sustainable management, among others.

According to García Revilla, the countries should sign a political tool in this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACT, reaffirming and advocating for the sovereignty of the Amazonian countries.



The Amazonian Chart will renew, within the current regional and global context, the commitment towards the region's present and future, as taken on by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname y Venezuela, when they signed the ACT in 1978.

## Workshop on analysis and planning

ACTO Permanent Secretariat held an internal workshop on analysis and planning in Brasílian on February 8 and 9, aiming at reaching a clear and consensual view on the Organization's strategic objectives.

The workshop reviewed the contribu-

tion provided by ongoing projects and those under elaboration to the strategic objectives and programmatic areas of the 2004 - 2012 Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the participants have defined goals and/or outputs expected to be

achieved by December 2006, pursuant to the strategic axes and programmatic areas established in said Plan.

The event was organized in two parts. The first one was of informative nature, and rested on presentations of relevant topics related to ACTO political view and orientation. The second phase, composed of participatory work developed in the form of workshops, analyzed the contributions provided by the projects, and the definition of expected goals and/or outputs until December 2006.

The workshop identified three lines of action: political dialogue, development of regional initiatives and projects, and institutional strengthening of the ACTO.

The workshop rested on the technical and financial support of the Project on the Amazonian Rainforest Conservation (GTZ Amazon).





## Project Starts

# Biodiversity Project starts

## The first meeting of national coordinators to establish a work plan will be held in Brasilia

The project "Strengthening the Joint Regional Management for the Sustainable Use of the Amazonian Biodiversity" started to be executed in February. The first meeting of National Coordinators will be held on the first half of 2006, at ACTO Permanent Secretariat premises, aimed at coordinating the work plan with ACTO Country Members.

The project stems from a technical assistance agreement signed between ACTO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on July 25, 2005. After hiring the coordination technical team, in December, and after ACTO complied with the initial agreements set forth therein, IADB provided to the Organization resources to execute the

activities. The project shall last 42 months and cost US\$ 2.4 million, of which the IADB will finance US\$ 1.9 million.

The coordinators' work meeting will adjust the terms of reference to consultancy services to be developed, and will review the proposed work plan. After the workshop, an event to start up the project will be held in Brasilia, with the participation of ACTO Country Members and other organizations that will be involved in the activities execution.

ACTO believes it is necessary to develop joint efforts to respond to challenges posed to the Amazon region, which harbors the hugest biological diversity worldwide. In this sense, the eight Country Members assigned to ACTO the

mandate of pursuing regional focus on biodiversity management.

By: Henry Mario Galvis Quintero – Inst. Cultura Caquetá



# Integrated Management of Water Resources project defines new actions

The National Coordinators of the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin Project (Project GEF Amazonas ACTO/UNEP/OAS) met on February 15 and 16, at ACTO premises. This was the first meeting of coordinators from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela since the project started, in October 2005.

The project technical unit and national coordinators - officers from water authorities in each country - have debated issues related to the five lines of action of the project, which are: shared strategic vision on the Amazonas River basin; prognostic on hydrologic impacts by global climatic changes and adjustments to climatic changes; institutional strengthening;

integrated water management; and public participation. During the meeting, the national coordinators have decided on further actions to be developed by the project.

The next stage is hiring consultants who will develop works on specific topics of each line of action. Furthermore, the national coordinators will identify, in each country, important actors in the Amazon Basin - research institutions, Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations and civil society representatives - to cooperate and foster the project development.

The meeting was followed by the Second Meeting of the Project Steering Committee, which is composed by representatives from ACTO, UNEP/GEF and OAS, on February 17. During the meeting, the technical unit presented the Operational

Plan and Operational Guide, produced over the three first months of work, and that were reviewed during the meeting of coordinators. Such documents describe the project, identify its lines of action, provide a time framework to activities and explain administrative procedures.

The GEF Amazonas Project is supported by the Global Environment Facilities (GEF), of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, which is GEF implementing organization) and the Organization of American States (OAS, the international executing organization). ACTO is responsible, at regional level, for the project leadership. The initiative is of utmost importance to the Amazon region, since it shall prepare a program of strategic water management actions, based on a consensual view of the basin's countries.

## Expedition

# A trip to the heart of South America: 45 students cross the Amazonian region along 34 days

Students of the eight Country Members and from the French Guyana, together with their teachers, have the opportunity to thoroughly know the Amazon. This trip begins in Quito and ends in Brasilia.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) will take 45 students from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela and also from French Guyana to follow the same route of the expedition commanded by the Spanish Francisco de Orellana along the Amazon river, in 1541 and 1542. The project "Getting to Know the Amazon – ACTO and the Youth – in the Footsteps of Orellana" initiates the trip on the next June 24 in Quito, Ecuador, and ends on the July 27, in Brasilia.

The expedition, joined by 27 professors and professionals of the most various areas, will cross the road traveled by the Spanish explorer, from the Ecuadorian capital to Belém do Pará, Brazil. Besides Ecuador and Brazil, they will pass by Peru and Colombia.

5 and 18 years old students from public and private educational institutions which are attending intermediate educational level in 2006 are able to participate. In order to be selected, the candidate should elaborate a composition on a subject related to the Amazon and suggested by the educational institution. The five best works of each country will be selected by the respective

Ministry of Education.

The objective of ACTO is to provide a human experience on the Amazon for the youngsters so that they will be able to know it closely, understand its problems and become involved with the future of the region. The lessons learned will be very useful in future tasks to those youngsters, who are potential community leaders, business men and women, governors, technicians, public officers, among others.

The expedition will have on a daily basis seminars and conversations on matters like history of the region, its occupation, current problems of rural and urban population, the specificity of the Indigenous and riparian communities, ecological issues, culminating with discussions on the sustainability alternatives of the Amazon region.

Aldenir Paraguassú, Executive Coordinator of the expedition and Sustainable Development and Eco-tourism Consultant of ACTO, explains that the students will use computer softwares in which they will be able to include their impressions on the trip. The students will also have notebooks to make remarks and equipment for image production, in ad-

dition to a library with books and videos about the Amazon. He says: "These will be the scenes that will provoke the students' curiosity. And for everything observed by them, there will always be a specialist to consult and to respond to their questions".

At the end of the trip, all material produced by the students and professors will be converted into products such as video clips, television programs, CD-ROMs, books, articles etc. "According to the material produced we shall envisage the universe of products that we will have, but those are only some we foresee now", emphasizes Paraguassú.

### The route

Francisco de Orellana was the first navigator to cross the river which was denominated by him the Amazon, in reference to a town of warrior women known as Amazons, as he described at that time. The expedition coordinated by ACTO will pass by places visited by the Spanish.

The trip begins with a great celebration in Quito, from where the travelers start off by highway to Orellana Port, in Ecuador; from there, the trip follows by boat until Manaus, in the Brazilian State of Amazon. During this trip the travelers will know Tena, Nuevo Rocafuerte and Panacocha, in Ecuador.

When entering Peru, they will pass by Iquitos, Angosteros and Cabalococha.

In Colombia, the group of travelers will visit the city of Leticia and will enter Brazilian territory via Tabatinga. Soon, the route will be Tefé, Coari, Amaturá, Santo Antonio do Içá, Jutai, Fonte Boa, Uairini, Alvarães, Codajás, Anori, Manacapuru, Iranduba and Manaus.

From there, students, professors, scientists and ACTO team leave using the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) airplanes to Belém, Tucuruí and Carajás, in the State of Pará, to finalize the trip in Brasilia.

Throughout the trip, the students will have medical care, food and lodging support, in addition to all didactic material and clothes offered by the organization.



# 5 youngsters will ays

professors and scientists, will  
ends in Brasilia



## How to participate

Educational institutions must register in the Ministry of Education of each country in order to enable their students to participate in the project selection. Every educational institution will have to create a professors' council to judge the works which, obligatorily, must be produced in classroom with professor supervision. The main subject of writings will be the Amazon.

Works selected by the schools will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education of the respective country which will choose the five best writings of the country and will send them to ACTO, enclosing the following documents: photocopy of identity card, complete medical record, parents' or legal representative's authorization with public notarized signature; the name of the educational institution, principal and teacher who took part in the project, specifying the function of each of them.

For specific information, please contact the Ministry of Education of your country.



Contries	Adress
Brazil	Ministério da Educação, Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bl. L, anexo II - Brasília DF.
Bolivia	Ministerio de Educación - Pasaje Esmeralda, 4 (Av. Arce) La Paz - Bolivia.
Colombia	Ministerio de Educación Nacional - Centro Administrativo Nacional - CAN - Bogotá- Colombia
Ecuador	Ministerio de Educación Cultura, Deporte y Recreación - San Salvador E6-49 y Eloy Alfaro - Quito - Ecuador.
Guyana	Ministry of Education - 26 Brickdam Pallard Place, Georgetown, Guyana.
Peru	Alta Dirección del Ministerio de Educación - Van de Verde 160, San Borja Lima-Perú.
Suriname	Ministry of Education and Community Development Indira dhi web 575 - Wanica-Suriname.
Venezuela	Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deportes - Esquina de Sales - Edificio Sede - Caracas-Venezuela.
French Guyana *	Académie de la Guyane Receptorat: BP 9281,97392- Cayenne - Cedex 2

\* French Guyana shares the Amazonian biome

Further information at: [www.otca.info](http://www.otca.info)  
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## Workshop

# The GEO report to the Amazon region is prepared

## Experts meet in Lima to discuss project that will evaluate the environment status in the region

For the very first time, the Amazon region will have a GEO (Global Environmental Outlook) Report. To start the elaboration of this project, representatives of several sectors and countries have attended the Technical Committee Meeting, held from February 27 to 28.

The workshop, held in Lima, aimed at discussing and adjusting the GEO methodology, debating and agreeing on the area of study, identifying key topics to be approached in the report, identifying actors who will participate in the process, information sources and alignments to elaborate an impacting strategy.

GEO is a methodology developed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) which analyzes the environment "status", including pressures over it and impacts perceived, responses in terms of management and environmental policies, likely consequences entailed by the measures adopted in the present, and an evaluation on likely future scenarios. The process provides valuable, accurate and practical tools to generate environmental public policies.

The Director of UNEP Regional Office to Latin America and the Caribbean, Ricardo Sánchez Sosa, and ACTO Secretary-General, Rosalía Arteaga, have made presentations during the meeting. The President of the National Environment

Council of Peru (CONAM), Carlos Loret de Mola, has also attended the meeting.

The report shall provide a platform to coordinate the existing data and information, thus ensuring a process that involves scientific community, national and local decision-makers and community-based organizations.

ACTO believes that GEO may become a valuable reference to the Country Members' environment management, besides contributing towards strengthening the regional cooperation process. Furthermore, it may assist the integration process in general within the scope of the South-American Community of Nations.

GEO Report to the Amazon region shall be one of the major outputs of the joint work developed by ACTO and UNEP, which started in December 2005. It will attach emphasis to the process and role that the project may play in providing a view on the Amazon region and identify the steps required to revert the standards of rainforest destruction and deforestation.

In the second half of May the first workshop will be held. Regional development actors will be invited and trained and will provide suggestions to define the document structure. The University of Pacific lends technical support to the project.

### Interview/Benjamín Marticorena Castillo\*



#### Which is the relevance of science and technology to the future of the Amazon region?

The Amazon forest stands for a biological, geological and climatic space whose survival and good use depend on a sound knowledge on its complexity. Therefore, science and technology are fundamental tools to develop it.

#### In your opinion, which are the major challenges currently posed to science and technology in the Amazon region?

The major challenge is to increase the Amazonian contribution to human economics, particularly that of its inhabitants, keeping its natural resources diversity by conserving its reproduction cycles. It shall serve to sustain a growing population that includes native and urban communities, and to strengthen cooperation and mutual knowledge about the Amazonian countries' populations. The Amazon region is urged to become a factor of powerful regional integration.

#### Which were the main conclusions achieved in the Amazonian Scientific Symposium, held in Iquitos from February 2 to 4?

The first conclusion is to strengthen the scientific and technological cooperation actions

## Activities

### What we have done

#### Latin-American Cooperation

ACTO Executive Director, Francisco Ruiz, participated in the Meeting of National Coordinators of the Latin-American Network of Technical Cooperation in National Parks, other protected areas and wild flora and fauna (Redparques) and in the Seminar / Workshop on Decentralization of Gov-

ernmental Management of Protected Areas, from December 4 to 9, in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia).

#### CGIAR

ACTO Secretary-General, Rosalía Arteaga, talked about the Inter-Institutional Andes-Amazon Platform, in a session of speeches organized by the Amazonian Initiative (AI), during the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), from December 5 to 9, in Marrakech (Morocco).

#### Ecotourism and Sustainability Award

Rosalía Arteaga was granted the 4<sup>th</sup> Eco-

tourism and Sustainability Award by the Revista Ecoturismo in the category of International Sustainability. The award ceremony was held in Brasilia, on December 12.

#### Environmental public policies

Francisco Ruiz attended the international seminar on environmental public policies in the Latin America, organized by the Latin-American College of Social Science (FLACSO) in Brasilia, from December 13 to 16.

#### 35 years of INPI

The Executive Director delivered a speech on the Amazonian regional perspective in the seminar



## Integration

# Symposium promotes scientific cooperation

## Participants of meeting in Iquitos identified three high-priority areas of joint work

specifically oriented to the region. The Symposium of Iquitos provided room to recognize - as had already been done in previous meetings held in Leticia and Manaus in September 2004 - the different areas of shared interest in the field of science and technology. Since these fields are extremely varied and abundant, the Symposium decided to attach priority to the first stage of cooperation work in three intervention areas: 1) better knowledge on biodiversity (to which was commended to INPA and to the Goeldi Museum (Brazil) an proposal of action), 2) water resources and soil management (which is to be prepared by a project by the SINCHI Institute of Colombia) and a consensual work plan on Amazonian aquiculture (which is to be proposed by IIAP, Peru).

**The Symposium participants have agreed on the need of fostering and strengthening scientific cooperation in the Amazon region. Which would be the next steps in this sense, and how important would be ACTO role in this process?**

After being interchanged and discussed by the participants, in a first approximation through the network, the three proposals presented shall be submitted in a meeting to be held as soon as possible in Manaus. INPA - the biggest institute of Amazonian research - will host us to gather the proposals in the three aforementioned spheres and formulate a comprehensive cooperation program, which may be partially financed by the Country Members and partially financed by international organizations which could analyze our consensual initiative. ACTO, which is achieving such successful outputs in the Amazonian integration and development, is a core institutions to develop this and other ambitious projects on scientific and social cooperation in our shared region.

\*President of the Peruvian National Council to Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (Concytec)

The First Amazonian Scientific Symposium brought together experts in Amazonian researches between the February 2 and 4 in Iquitos (Peru). The meeting was an opportunity to know main research subjects and advances that Amazonian countries have achieved in the area. During the meeting, more than 20 proposals were made on themes such as biodiversity, disaster prevention, ecology and sustainable development.

Participants identified the research networks composed by researchers from the eight countries of the Continental Amazon and indicated the guidelines for the research cooperation in the region. The three high-priority subjects established are biodiversity and biotechnologies; water and soil management; aquiculture and pisciculture. The idea is to formulate a project about the selected subjects which will be joint-financed by the countries or by stakeholders. This project development will be discussed in a following meeting in Manaus (Brazil), and in thematic forums held periodically.

In addition, participants confirmed the urgency to organize and to have common actions, like the creation of a decentralized and accessible informa-

tion network, and a common program of doctorate in Amazonian studies on subjects such as forests, biotechnology, public health and territorial organization. The researchers also agreed on the necessity to establish a forum to discuss the alignment of science and technology national rules for the Amazonian region

Among other researchers, four worldwide recognized specialists participated in the symposium: Antonio Brack, Jukka Salo, Wolfgang Junk and Christine Paddock.

The symposium is the third meeting on science and technology organized by ACTO. In September 2004, the International Forum on Management of Technological Knowledge was held in Leticia, with the Colombian Institute for Science and Technology Development (Colciencias). In August 2005, the first Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Science and Technology was held jointly with Concytec, in Lima. Beyond that, the first Work Meeting of Strategic Regional Action CYTED-ACTO in the Amazon region is scheduled to March, in Sao Paulo, and the Second International Forum on Knowledge Management and Technological Exchange in the Amazon, in June, in Florence, Colombia.

"The integration of industrial property in economic and social policies", on December 15 and 16, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The event celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI).

### Visit of Governor of Vaupés

The Governor of the Department of Vaupés (in the Colombian Amazon region), Wilson Ladino Vigoya, visited the premises of ACTO Permanent Secretariat on December 23.

### Meetings with Authorities from Peru and Ecuador

ACTO's consultant on Culture, Sustainability and Identity Affairs, Ione Carvalho, traveled to

Ecuador and Peru in February, to organize and advertise the youth expedition. In Ecuador, she paid a visit to the Minister of Tourism, Maria Isabel Salvador; to the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Diego Ribadeneira and to Quito Mayor, Paco Moncayo. In Peru, she met with the Minister of Education, Javier Soto Nadal; the President of the Regional Government, Robinson Rivadeneira; and Iquitos Mayor, Juan Carlos del Águila Cárdenas, among other authorities.

### Presidential mandate transfer in Bolivia

Rosalía Arteaga participated in the ceremony where the President elected in Bolivia, Evo Morales, took office, in January 22, in La Paz.

### Tourism

The Coordinator of ACTO Youth Expedition, Aldeir Paraguassú, met with the Brazilian Minister of Tourism a.i., Márcio Favilla Lucca de Paula, on January 25. The meeting stood for the first approximation between ACTO and the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism.

### Meeting with Paratur President

Aiming at reaffirming ACTO support to the third edition of the International Tourism Fair of the Amazon Region (FITA), the president of the Tourism Company of the State of Para (Paratur), Adenauer Góes, met Rosalía Arteaga on January 26, at the PS/ACTO premises.

## Challenge

# To preserve the Amazon is a joint task, concludes Eco-dialogue

**Event held in Iquitos generated a space for exchanging experiences and approaches that lead towards the region's sustainable development**

The First Amazon Ecodialogue and 6<sup>th</sup> National Ecodialogue congregated more than 700 people from Peru and the world in Iquitos, in the Peruvian Amazon, from February 22 to 24.

The Director for Latin America of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ricardo Sánchez, the Secretary-General of ACTO, Rosalía Arteaga; and the Brazilian Minister of Environment, Marina Silva, participated in the meeting.

Ecodialogue's main objectives are the creation of a shared vision and national agenda, as well as the appraisal of challenges and benefits provided by the environmental policy and management in Peru.

For that reason, the event was an opportunity to reaffirm the commitments with the solution of Peru's environmental problematic, generating a scope to share experiences and approaches leading towards sustainable development.

During the inaugural ceremony, Minister

Conam



Marina Silva emphasized the necessity to subscribe agreements on environmental cooperation, considering that the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon will only be able to maintain one common biodiversity preservation strategy. This pending agenda between both countries - she quoted - includes the coordination of legislations related to subjects as water caring, forest reserve, soil caring, antidepredation policies, among others.

In his closing speech, the President of the Environment National Council (CONAM), Carlos Loret de Mola, affirmed that the EcoDialogue has allowed the creation of consensus on the environmental issue in the country. He says: "If there are reforms without consensus there is also the risk of advance and retrocession which generate bad indicators to all actors".

Sánchez, from UNEP, said that the change of the present economic model applied in most countries of the world is necessary, in favor of "not affecting nor losing as fast our natural resources". The high officer brought up that the present liberal model "has not managed to solve poverty, housing or water problems that affect the countries". "This it is the moment for governments to orient their economic strategies to preserve biodiversity guaranteeing their populations' quality of life", he emphasizes.

Conam



Minister Marina Silva, from Brazil; Dennis del Castillo, IAP President; and Rosalía Arteaga, from OTCA

During the meeting's second day, Rosalía Arteaga dealt with the subject of Hidric Resources and Water Management in Amazon; the Secretary-General spoke about the Project GEF-Amazon ACTO/ UNEP/ OAS, initiated in October 2005. She explained that the initiative, of enormous importance for the region, has the objective to elaborate a program of strategic actions for water management, based in a common vision among the countries of the river basin.

The event was organized by CONAM, with the support of the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute - PARI.

■ Source: Conam Press Office

## Activities

### What we have done

#### Senators

The Secretary-General, jointly with the Administrative Director - Flavio Sottomayor - and the Chief of Cabinet met together with the Senator of the State of Amazonas, Jefferson Péres, on January 26 and with Senator Marco Maciel on the 31st of

that month. ACTO is waiting for the enactment of its Basic Agreement by the Brazilian Senate.

#### Visit of CAF representative

The new representative of the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) in Brazil and former Minister of Sustainable Development of Bolivia, Moira Paz Estensoro, paid a visit to PS/ACTO premises in Brasilia on January 27. Estensoro and Rosalía Arteaga reaffirmed the closer ties between CAF and ACTO.

#### Meeting with the Peruvian Chancellor

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Oscar Maúrtua received Rosalía Arteaga at the Peruvian chancellery premises, on February 7.

#### Sanitary Surveillance

ACTO Health Coordinator, Jannette Aguirre, represented the Organization at the 1st International Meeting on Strategies to the Integrated Strengthening of Sanitary Surveillance Actions at Border Areas, from February 1 to 3, in Salvador (Brazil).

#### SEAS-Guyane

The new facilities of the project "SEAS-Guyane - Satellite-based Monitoring of the Amazonian En-



## International Negotiation

# ACTO in the UN Forum on Forests

## Quantified and temporary measures are not an answer to the challenge of forests sustainable development, considers the Organization

As per the second consecutive year, ACTO has marked its presence in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held between 13 and 24 February in New York. During the event's sixth session, the Organization's Secretary-General, Rosalía Arteaga, emphasized that ACTO Country Members recognize the commitment of States with the implementation of actions that contribute with the sustainable forest management, stressing the Forum importance as basic instance to prioritize and to implement concrete actions.

In her speech, Arteaga reaffirmed the commitment of the eight countries with sustainable development for the Amazon region and the management of its forests, "so as to contribute with the social and economical development in its nations and to improve life condition of their populations".

The Country Members still recognized the importance of consensus achieved in the creation of regional indicators for the Amazonian forests sustainability ("Tarapoto Process"), as they reflect the interpretation on this concept itself, explains Arteaga.

The validation process and its importance for the orientation of public policies are also of great value, according to her, as well as the efforts for the use of technologies that Country Members apply to monitor the forest covering and intra-regional cooperation in the adoption of techniques of low impact

forest management.

ACTO Secretary-General also affirmed that, for ACTO Country Members, the adoption of specific quantified and temporary measures are not the proper answer to conservation challenge, all types of development and sustainable management of forests. "Additionally, we consider important the prioritization and the conceptual development of social aspects related subjects, traditional knowledge pertinent to sustainable forest management, financing and ways of implementation, capacity building, technology transfer, among others", she also affirmed.

All those subjects had been discussed

by ACTO and the Heads of Delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela in video-conference carried through 9 February.

In the sixth session of the UN Forum on Forests, the participant countries had not defined a specific mechanism for financing, such as the Forest Fund. The meeting emphasized, however, the importance of concrete efforts for the implementation of means with the purpose to destine financial resources to support developing countries to reach global objectives for the forests.

ACTO considers that more investments and financing for the region are necessary.

Mario Oliveira/Agecom Amazonas



environment " were opened on February 7, in Cayenne (French Guyana). The Chief of Cabinet of ACTO Permanent Secretariat, Belisário Arce, represented the Organization in the event.

### Celebration

ACTO was represented in the celebration of the 464<sup>th</sup> anniversary of discovery of the Amazonas River, as well as in the event 2006 Napo Integration and Competitiveness, held in Tena, Ecuadorian Amazon region. ACTO Secretary-General talked about the challenges posed by the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin in ACTO, at the auditorium of the provincial government of Tena, on February 6.

### Meetings with Ecorae

From February 13 to 17 was held a cycle of meetings with representatives of the Institute to Amazonian Regional Eco-development (Ecorae) at PS/ACTO. It aimed at discussing topics of interest to the region and interchange information and knowledge.

### Amazonian Pediatrics Forum

Jannette Aguirre attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Amazonian Pediatrics Forum "Childhood and Adolescence Situation - Strategies with the Context of the Millennium Goals", from February 15 to 17, in Brasilia (Brazil).

### Message to the Governor of ACRE

On February 24, ACTO Secretary-General forwarded a message to the Governor of the Brazilian State of Acre Jorge Viana, regretting the damages caused by the floods that affected the state.

## Amazonian Countries

# Peruvian Amazon

The Peruvian Amazon is part of the Continental Amazon, which is shared by Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

In Peru, the region assembles a mosaic of ecosystems associated to the Andes mountain system which houses the spring of those rivers that flow into the Amazonas.

According to ecological criteria, the Peruvian Amazon has 739,399 Km<sup>2</sup> in length (equivalent to 16% of the Peruvian area) or, if measured by hydrographic criteria, 951,591 Km<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to 74% of the Peruvian area). It borders to Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil and Bolivia.

Sixteen departments are integrally or partially comprised by the Peruvian Amazon region: Loreto, Ucayali, San Martín, Madre de Dios, Amazonas, Huánuco, Cajamarca, La Libertad, Pasco, Cusco, Ayacucho, Junín, Huancavelica, Puno, Piura and Apurímac.

The regional Amazonian production stands for only 9% of the Peruvian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), based on extractivism activities (50%), trade and services (33%) and processing activities with manufacture and construction (17%).

The main extractivism activities are exploitation of non-renewable natural resources such as oil, natural gas and alluvial gold, where the selective forestry extraction, fishery and non-wood products have less significant participation.

Regional production led to the deforestation of 9 million hectares of Amazonian forests. The Peruvian Amazon is divided into three sub-regions:

- Low forest: up to 500 meters above sea level, with warm and humid climate and almost plain reliefs, with some few elevations. This sub-region is found at the North and Central regions of Peru, and South as well.
- High forest: from 500 to 1,900 meters above sea level, with warm and humid climate, strong rains from November to April and dry season during the remainder months of the year. Very crisp relief.
- Forest eyebrow: from 1,900 to 3,800 meters above sea level, high precipitation levels, hilly relief and narrow valleys.

■ Source: *Estrategia Regional de la Diversidad Biológica Amazónica*, Technical Document nr. 1, Series IIAP-Biodamaz, Iquitos, Peru  
www.iiap.org.pe  
www.siamazonia.org.pe



Pacaya – Samiria National Reserve, Loreto

## Indigenous population

The Peruvian Amazon is inhabited by near 300 thousand natives. According to the specialist Antonio Brack, they belong to 42 ethnic groups, with unique culture, economic and political characteristics. According to data from the Native Communities Information System of the Peruvian Amazon (Sicna), there are 59 ethnic groups pertaining to 12 linguistic families.

The Amazonian Indigenous population is exposed to serious and permanent pressures applied by national society's expansion. In the last six decades, eleven Amazonian ethnic groups pertaining to seven linguistic families have been extinguished - either physically or culturally.

There are other 18 groups or sub-groups in extinction danger because they count on less than 225 members. They run the risk of extinction in a reasonable short term (in one or two generations). Those peoples are: Chamicuro, Ocaína, Huachipaire, Sapiteri, Pukieri, and, probably, Isconahua; among them, some are not yet known or, in other words, have not being part of an ethnographic research or at least recorded in a Census, as they are in isolation condition. This is the case of the following peoples and respective estimates of isolated inhabitants: Mashco-Piros (100 people),

the Chitonahua (50 people), and Maxonahua and Morunahua (100 people each).

The Peruvian Amazonian natives, organized in "native communities", have legal existence, are legal people and their land property is imprescriptible. In the last four decades, Indigenous towns have organized themselves. At the present, there are 50 ethnic or inter-ethnic federations united in regional and affiliated organizations at the national level.

Lands accredited by the Peruvian State to 935 of 1450 indigenous communities from the Peruvian Amazon (of which 1145 have been registered) attain almost 7.3 million hectares, which represents 10% of the region territory. This extent will be increased in the future.

■ Sources: *Amazonia Peruana: Comunidades Indígenas, Conocimientos y Tierras Tituladas* - Atlas and database coordinated by Antonio Brack and *Sistema de Información sobre Comunidades Nativas de la Amazonia Peruana* (Sicna).



## Peru, a biodiverse country

The geographic and environmental conditions have led to huge biological diversity, high endemism rate and richness of genetic resources and knowledge on their priceless use in the Peruvian Amazon.

It is mainly thanks to the Amazon forests that Peru is ranked among the 12 most megadiverse countries worldwide. For species diversity, it is well ranked at global level in what regards birds, amphibians, mammals and moths, among others (see the table below).

Peruvian diversity of species at global scale	
Species	Peru
Mammals	6
Birds	2
Reptiles	8
Amphibians	7
Moths	8

Source: Recommendations to the 2001-2010 ACTO Strategic Plan, June 2004

Pictures by: Promperú



A Shipibo-Conibo child, in Ucayali