



## 1. Background

Between 2022 and 2025, through a co-constructive dialogue process, the Colombian, Ecuadorian and Peruvian Ministries of Environment, together with Euroclima implementing agencies, The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID, for its acronym in Spanish) in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Expertise France (French Public Agency for Technical Cooperation of the AFD Group) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, designed joint strategies to implement the prioritized actions of the Leticia Pact Action Plan. These strategies were adapted to their national contexts to strengthen environmental public policy. This regional action was implemented in three key intervention areas:



i. Conservation, sustainable use of forests and biodiversity, and promotion of bioeconomy and restoration;



ii. Empowerment of women and indigenous people;



iii. Knowledge management.



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## 2. Initiatives



### 2.1. Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Amazonian Forests

This action, implemented by Expertise France, focused on strengthening strategies for the sustainable management of biodiversity in Amazonian forests. To this end, a regional diagnosis was conducted on legislation, public policies and experiences in the border area between Putumayo (Colombia), Sucumbíos (Ecuador) and Loreto (Peru). With this analysis, and through tri-national workshops, a joint work route was defined for the sustainable use of biodiversity in the Amazonian border area. These spaces were useful for the exchange of Indigenous traditional knowledge on sustainable biodiversity management. As part of this action, a comparative analysis of labels, seals and brands associated with Amazonian biodiversity services and products was also conducted, exploring their viability to harmonize and strengthen value chains. Finally, a pilot experience of bi-national cooperation between Colombia and Peru was developed to analyze payment for ecosystem services tools. This includes the Payment for Hydrological Environmental Services scheme in Colombia, and the Ecosystem Services Compensation Mechanism in Peru (MERESE, for its acronym in Spanish). Their application in the Putumayo River basin was evaluated, and the lessons learned were shared with all three countries.



### 2.2. Community Protocols for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge Safeguards

Through this action, implemented by Expertise France, the national and sub-national regulations of the three countries were analyzed regarding the fair and equitable distribution of benefits derived from access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Additionally, the processes for developing and implementing community protocols for the use of natural resources were analyzed. This led to the creation of guidelines for formulating and applying these protocols within the framework of the Nagoya Protocol. The results of these activities were validated in tri-national workshops, where work routes, strategies, and mechanisms for protecting indigenous traditional knowledge were defined. A diagnosis was also conducted in each country to characterize indigenous communities' livelihoods. These assessments were shared through national workshops and a tri-national workshop, where their consistency with the regulations, guidelines, policies, and traditional practices related to the use of biodiversity in the three countries was analyzed.



### 2.3. Strengthening Management Instruments to Promote Amazonian Enterprises

In this action, implemented by GIZ, the needs of Amazonian entrepreneurship were identified to enhance their market access opportunities. In Peru and Ecuador, GIZ also supported training events for Amazonian entrepreneurs on the legal requirements for certifications and seals developed by the Ministries of Environment. In Colombia, a pre-feasibility project was designed to scale up green businesses. Based on these experiences, and as a result of the exchange of experiences between public officials from all three countries, a proposal for a trans-boundary cooperation body was designed among the three countries. Inspired by Colombia's Ventanillas Verdes initiative, this proposal aims to address common border challenges by providing legal, administrative, and logistical advisory support to Amazonian entrepreneurship. Finally, as part of their collaborative effort, the countries acknowledge the importance of investing in strengthening Amazonian entrepreneurship as a powerful strategy to promote the responsible use of natural resources, boost local economies, and preserve Amazonian ecosystems. To this end, the shared coordination and advisory structure, established through this regional initiative could serve as a key tool for promoting the Amazonian bioeconomy.



## 2.4. Promoting Networks for Female Entrepreneurs

This action, implemented by AECID and conducted by IUCN, focused on creating and expanding networks for the exchange of good practices between innovative entrepreneurship that add value to Amazonian products. This process also implied the creation of public-private alliances to strengthen these initiatives. For this purpose, a diagnosis of bio-entrepreneurships led by indigenous women was conducted, analyzing their strengths and weaknesses. Improvement and comprehensive strengthening plans were also developed to support the growth of these bio-entrepreneurships, along with the design of a sustainable management model and statutes for networks of indigenous women entrepreneurs. Additionally, training programs on entrepreneurship were implemented, focusing on local, national, and international commercialization.



## 2.5. Capacity Building for Indigenous Peoples in Climate Risk Management

This action, implemented by AECID and conducted by IUCN, aimed to enhance resilience and adaptation from Local Governments and indigenous communities to climate change and disaster risk, through capacity building with an inter-sectional approach. To achieve this, a climate and disaster risk diagnosis was conducted to prioritize Amazonian governments and local communities. Moreover, training sessions and workshops for exchange and learning were designed between Amazonian local governments and communities, prioritized on climate change adaptation and disaster risks.



## 2.6. Tools for the Restoration of Degraded Areas in the Amazon Region

This action, implemented by GIZ, aimed to strengthen methodologies and protocols to mobilize restoration actions in degraded areas of the Amazon region. In Colombia, a community- and participatory-based restoration proposal was designed with indigenous population, aligned with Colombia's 2022-2026 National Development Plan. In Ecuador, following the guidelines of 2019-2030 National Forest Restoration Plan, a methodology for identifying potential restoration areas was developed, with a pilot project in the territory of the Rukullacta Kichwa Peoples territory (PKR, for its acronym in Spanish), in Napo province. In Peru, maps of land ecosystems and degraded areas were designed for the Amazon region of Loreto. These maps serve as technical instruments for territorial planning in the region. They were approved by Regional Ordinance in 2024, enabling the Subnational Government of Loreto to mobilize public investment funds for implementing restoration actions.



## 2.7. Interoperability for Biodiversity Information Management

This action, implemented by GIZ, analyzed technical, legal and IT conditions of public institutions that manage biodiversity data to enhance their capacity for efficient and standardized information sharing. In Peru and Ecuador, actions were taken to update national biodiversity catalogs based on identified gaps. These initiatives for effective information management influence informed decision-making for the design of public policies, maximizing their impact on the goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at both national and international levels. These actions contribute to the information management goal of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2022), which aims to "make the best data, information and knowledge available to decision-makers, professionals, and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity".





### 3. Conclusions and Lessons Learned

The Amazonian ecosystem, shared by eight countries including Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, is a trans-boundary ecosystem of great global relevance. The implementation of this regional initiative has highlighted that these countries face common challenges, such as strengthening regulatory frameworks, technical and institutional capacities, and financing mechanisms. These actions are essential for ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, the conservation of biodiversity, and the improvement of livelihoods for Amazonian communities.

In this context, the challenges for achieving sustainable development in the Amazonian region highlight the need for a regional approach that facilitates collaboration and a comprehensive approach to these issues. Co-constructive tri-national dialogues between the governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, along with the implementing agencies, have been a key factor in the success of this initiative. This has enabled the identification and implementation of complementary activities in the three countries, considering their similarities and differences, as well as their shared visions for solutions and potential synergies in addressing multiple cross-border and national challenges related to biodiversity management and sustainable use.

The implementation of this regional action demonstrated that a multi-level approach and a comparative policy analysis has the potential to strengthen governance processes, fostering alignment between public policies and local and regional needs. For instance, the comparative analysis of public policies between Colombia, Ecuador and Peru on degraded areas, strengthening of bio-businesses, the implementation of payment for ecosystem services tools, and the sustainable management of biodiversity. In addition, the preparation of sub-national levels tools, including support for the formulation and update of the local climate change plan in Moyobamba province, as well as the methodology for identifying potential restoration areas through a pilot project in the territory in Ecuador.

Overall, this Euroclima regional action has identified key work areas that contribute to the preservation of socio-biodiversity, and the fight against climate change in the Amazonia. Therefore, it is essential to continue these initiatives, particularly in the trans-boundary region, as they align with the political priorities between Latin America and the European Union.

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