

*Regional Webinar organized by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union*

## Forest Degradation in the Amazon



Virtual, June 26, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM BRT

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the webinar.

The event will have simultaneous interpretation between Spanish, English and Portuguese.

## CONTEXT

In 1978, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela signed the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT). This international legal instrument recognizes the transboundary nature of the Amazon.

To facilitate the implementation of the TCA, these same countries established the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO 1998), among others, with the purpose of (i) promoting technical and scientific cooperation, generating sustainable Amazon programs, projects, and initiatives; and (ii) strengthening the institutional capacities of Member Countries through the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Recently, the IV Summit of Presidents of the TCA Party Countries (Belem do Para, Brazil, August 2023) with regard to forest degradation in the ACTO member countries, reaffirmed the urgent need to promote regional cooperation in the fight against deforestation, with the aim of preventing the Amazon from reaching the point of no return, among others by reducing deforestation and forest and soil degradation, forest fires, and the loss of biodiversity, all with the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Strengthen the mapping and monitoring of degraded areas, with the aim of promoting sustainable forest management and contributing to the sustainability, productivity and resilience of local production systems” (Decision No. 54)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra was originally established in 1961 by the members of the European Economic Community (EEC), namely France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, to carry out nuclear research and promote nuclear safety in Europe, and the JRC has since contributed to this objective with its research activities.

Other research topics have also gained momentum. JRC scientists conduct research in many different fields—from the sustainable economy to health and nutrition issues, to energy and sustainable resources (to name just a few)—to provide European Union policymakers with independent, evidence-based advice. Many of the scientific topics at the JRC in Ispra relate to the environment at European and global levels.

## DESCRIPTION

Considering the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Joint Research Center (JRC), both institutions have identified the need to contribute to strengthening understanding of forest degradation, with a special emphasis on Amazonian ecosystems. To this

end, they propose a space for the exchange of information and experiences that promotes the protection of forests and biodiversity, as well as the restoration and recovery of degraded areas.

In this context, the webinar will bring together representatives from Amazon countries and international organizations to discuss and share concepts, tools, experiences, challenges, and other topics related to combating forest degradation. The aim will be to identify concrete measures that contribute to strengthening monitoring and response capacities in the face of forest degradation in the Amazon region.

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

11:00 – 11:10 (5 min/each)	Welcome Remarks	Carlos Salinas – PS/ACTO Environment Coordinator  &  Irene Miguelsanz – European Union Representative
<b>SESSION I. Introduction</b>		
11:10 – 11:20 (10 min)	ACTO Forest Program for the Amazon Basin/Region	Carlos Salinas – PS/ACTO Environment Coordinator
11:20 – 12:00 (40 min)	Forest degradation: concepts and definitions; causes and consequences; and challenges in assessing it	Rene Beuchele – JRC Technical/Scientific Officer
<b>SESSION II. Exchange of experiences and information</b>		
12:00 – 12:40 (40 min)	Definition/concept National Forest Degradation Plan; monitoring mechanisms used; the country's main needs; and opportunities for cooperation regional/international.	Representatives of ACTO Member Countries
<b>SESSION III. Challenges regarding monitoring and evaluation of forest degradation</b>		
12:40-12:48 (8 min)	FAO Representative comment	FAO Representative ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )
12:48-12:56 (8 min)	IUCN Representative comment	IUCN Representative ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )
12:56-13:00 (4 min)	Closure of the webinar	Carlos Salinas – PS/ACTO Environment Coordinator