



**INTERNATIONAL COURSE:
Conservation of Biodiversity
through Ecologically
Responsible Forest
Management in the
Productive Forests of the
Amazon**



PROYECTO
"Building capacities of OTCA
member countries in
ecologically responsible forest
management and conservation
of biodiversity in managed
forests of the Amazon
(ITTO/CBD/ACTO)"



1. INTRODUCTION

Unsustainable forest activities, both of timber and non-timber resources, as well as other human pressures that affect forests, can cause their degradation and cause irreversible losses in biodiversity, threatening the livelihoods of the populations that depend of their goods and services (SCBD 2009).

The disordered exploitation of tropical forests is often cited as one of the main threats to biodiversity, however there is sufficient evidence to suggest that, through good forest management practice, forests used for wood production can be an important resource for the conservation of biodiversity (ITTO/IUCN, 2009).

Despite the vast expanse of Amazonian forest that the Member Countries (MC) of the Amazon Treaty (OTCA) have together (approximately 5.4 million km²), there is a high concern for the permanence of these forests in the long term due to its constant annual reduction, which reached a rate of 0.28% (1.6 million hectares) during the period 2000-2015 (OTCA, 2018).

In this framework, the project "Building capacities of OTCA member countries in ecologically responsible forest management and conservation of biodiversity in managed forests of the Amazon (ITTO/CBD/ACTO)" has designed a training course, by means of an exercise of participatory construction with forest and biodiversity specialists of the MCs, taking as main input the results of Phase I of the Project, corresponding to the National Assessment of the Forest Management Situation.

With the implementation of this course, which is pilot, begins with the MCs a process of development and strengthening of the technical capacity necessary for implementation and improvement of forest management models and ecologically responsible practices, with territorial management approach, which favor the conservation of the forests and their biodiversity, as well as the maintenance of the livelihoods of the local and indigenous communities of the Amazon, thus fulfilling the central objective of the project.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The course is aimed at forestry professionals from the eight OTCA Member Countries (MCs), who act mainly in the field, in government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and academia and in private companies, and who are involved in different activities of forest management, especially those involving community participation.

The course is designed under the modality of an intensive training, with a total duration of eleven days including the time of trips and of approximately 70% of the time in the field practices, which will allow the participants to experience the practice of the conservation of biodiversity in the forest management activities, from a local Amazonian reality with a regional perspective. For this purpose, the course will be implemented in coordination with three forestry training centers, which have a recognized trajectory in the Amazon Region, called in the context of the project Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE) in, which were selected from more than 20 institutions (centers and universities) of the eight OTCA member countries.

The curricular program of the course is designed having into account the UNESCO (2017) recommendations related to the learning objectives needed to achieve the SDG, the commitments of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the ITTO/IUCN (2009) guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in

tropical timber production forests. In addition, the program includes experiencing the content with practical and real examples through visits to logging sites, forest carbon research areas, forest tree reproduction gardens, etc. The exchange of experiences will also be enriched with the participation of different invited local experts, through forums and debates on the topics addressed.

Three courses will be executed, one in cooperation with each REC, which will welcome the participants under the logic of groups, according to criteria that seek to take advantage of the similarities in the forest management systems implemented in the countries, the common language, aspects of extension of the territory and biogeographical. The chart below shows institutions that will be partners in the implementation of the course:

Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE)	Group	Country	Language of teaching
Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana (IIAP) Location: Iquitos – Perú http://www.iiap.org.pe/web/	1	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela	Spanish
Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) Location: Georgetown – Guyana http://ftcigy.com/staffing/	2	Guyana, Suriname	English
Instituto Floresta Tropical (IFT) Location: Pará – Brasil http://ift.org.br/quem-somos/equipe/	3	Brazil	Portuguese

Although each RCE has as its focus a group of participants, with the aim of guaranteeing the exchange of knowledge and experiences among participants of all the MCs, each RCE will receive approximately a 50% combination of participants from the other two groups, for which there will be simultaneous translation for the theoretical lessons.

3. OBJECTIVE

To know and use responsible practices for Sustainable Forest Management, through the use of integrating concepts, tools and appropriate technologies for an ecologically responsible management that guarantees the conservation of the biodiversity of the production forests of the Amazon.

4. CONTENT

The course is composed of five modules, one introductory and four technical, which will address various topics within the following main subjects:

- Introductory Module: Current regional situation of biodiversity conservation in the framework of forest management (Results of the Phase I project).
- Module I: Policy Instruments for Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Amazon Region.
- Module II: Fundamentals for the integration of biodiversity in the Sustainable Forest Management of the Amazonian forests.
- Module III: Planning of Sustainable Forest Management and Integration of Biodiversity
- Module IV: Good Practices for Sustainable Forest Management.

5. EXPECTED BENEFITS

At the end of the training the participants will have acquired and/or strengthened their knowledge in different aspects such as:

- a. The current situation of the sector and the forest management of the eight member countries of the ACTO.
- b. The ITTO-IUCN guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests.
- c. The main terms and concepts related to biodiversity and the sustainable use of the forest, as well as the importance of integrating the biodiversity dimension in forest management in Amazonia.
- d. The importance of forest management and the comprehension of the legal means for the sustainable use of the forest, with a view to the conservation of biodiversity and the well-being of local populations.
- e. The techniques for the correct planning of the use of suitable areas for forest management, including the use of advanced technologies, such as remote sensors and drones.
- f. The application of reduced impact techniques for forest management.
- g. The use of monitoring techniques and tools to learn about the condition of the forest and its biodiversity, within the framework of adaptive management.

In order to consolidate the knowledge received, participants will be evaluated before, during and after the training.

6. METHODOLOGY

The five modules that make up the course have been designed to be taught using the methodological approach of non-formal **adult education**, with the application of participatory methods, which starts from the recognition and valuation of previous experiences of participants and allows learning new knowledge and experiences through **learning by doing**.

In addition, the use of different methods and participatory techniques (which include various pedagogical resources and field practices) will allow participants to acquire new knowledge, enhancing know-how, thus promoting a change of vision oriented towards leadership (creation of local talents), which will be reflected in the ability to replicate the new knowledge and experiences gained with colleagues and project's stakeholders, leading to the expansion of the knowledge base on the subject in the region.

7. INSTRUCTORS AND/OR COLLABORATORS

The staff of instructors of the course will be composed of the project specialists and the specialists of the three institutions (REC) that participate in the implementation of the three courses. The project specialists work in the following areas: i) Sustainable Forest Management (Mr. Christian Velasco), ii) Conservation Planning and Environmental Education for the Sustainable Development (Mrs. Claudia Núñez), iii) Monitoring and Conservation of Biodiversity (Ms. Catherine Gamba Trimiño). Each specialist has more than 10 years of experience in processes of capacity building of different interest groups, related to sustainable management of natural resources of the Amazon region. The list of specialists of each REC can be known by directly accessing the institutional web page.

8. TARGET GROUP AND ELIGIBILITY

The course is aimed at professionals from the eight member countries of ACTO who work in different forest management activities, preferably in the field, and who have the capability to replicate the knowledge acquired in their immediate work environment.

In this way, the following profiles that can be beneficiaries of the training have been identified:

1. Technical staff and managers¹ of the Forest/Environmental Authority that develop forest extension activities.
2. Technical staff from NGOs and forestry companies participating governmental initiatives and/or programs that work in the field with communities that carry out sustainable forest management.
3. Professionals of higher education centers, who act as teachers or researchers, within the courses of forest engineering.
4. Forest managers².

The requirements that must be met by those interested in participating in the course are:

- Be currently engaged in a governmental institution, or private organization that participates in an initiative or governmental program, within one of the four professional profiles indicated above.
- Have the institutional support to participate in the course.
- Have graduation or experience in the area of forestry or related sciences
- Good command of the language of the country where course will take place (see item 2).
- Have good motivation and good physical health³ that allow you to actively participate⁴ in field practices.

9. APPLICATION AND PARTICIPANTS SELECTION

The participants will be selected by a committee that will be made up of officials of the Regional Coordination of the Project and the Environment Coordination of the PS/ACTO. The selection will be made based on the review and analysis of the applications received within the foreseen term, considering as main criteria the position and functions currently performed, and the years of professional experience in forest management activities.

The application will consist of the following documents:

- a. Application form properly filled-in (annex)
- b. Letter of support and/or institutional authorization for participating in the course, including a statement of commitment to replicate the course in his work, signed by the competent authority
- c. Personal motivation letter (1 page maximum)
- d. Updated CV (3 pages maximum)

¹ According to the definition of the United Nations for the term Sustainable Forest Management, managers are the professionals who act managing and/or developing actions that aim to maintain and improve the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

² People belonging to the communities or external to them, who are responsible for the implementation of on-site activities of the Community Forest Management Plans.

³ Not have a medical diagnosis of allergies to insect bites, pollen or other agents of natural forests, which in field conditions can intensify and put health at risk.

⁴ Due to the additional physical effort that visits and field practices can represent, in the case of women who are pregnant, it is highly advisable to consult the doctor in advance to learn about the limitations that may exist and receive the respective advice.

Participants who are selected will receive an invitation letter from the PS/ACTO, with administrative and logistical information about the course.

The deadline for sending applications is **August 27, 2018**. The applications should be sent to Mr. Nilson Nogueira, administrative - financial project official to the e-mail: nilson.nogueira@otca.org.br, with copy to: astridclaudia.nunez@gmail.com

10. COSTS

The costs of participation will be funded with resources of the project, which covers the following items:

- International airfare, roundtrip, economy class from the country of residence
- Airport transfer (airport - REC - airport) and in the city transfers
- Hotel accomodation
- Meals
- Training materials and certificate
- Medical insurance in the host country

Participants must purchase an international travel insurance of their preference. Some international credit card operators already have this insurance, as part of their benefit policy, it is recommended to verify this information in advance.

11. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

There will be a maximum of 24 participants per RCE, with the exception of the Guyana REC (FTCI) that will receive 25 participants. The number of places available by RCE and by country is shown below:

Countries	REC 1 - IIAP	REC 2 - IFT	REC 3 - FTCI	TOTAL
	Iquitos - Peru	Belem - Brazil	Georgetown - Guyana	
Group I				
Bolivia	3	2	1	6
Colombia	3	2	1	6
Ecuador	3	2	1	6
Peru	8	2	1	11
Venezuela	3	2	1	6
	20	10	5	35
Group II				
Guyana	1	1	10	12
Suriname	1	1	7	9
	2	2	17	21
Group III				
Brazil	2	12	3	17
TOTAL	24	24	25	17

The host country (in bold) of the RCE receives an additional number of slots for the lowest cost that involves the participation of local professionals.

12. LOCATION AND TIMING

Each course will have a specific place and date for its realization, as shown in the following table:

Course	Headquarters	Date
1	Instituto Floresta Tropical (IFT) Pará, Brazil	20 to 30 September 2018
2	Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonía Peruana (IIAP) Iquitos, Peru	10 to 20 October 2018
3	Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) Georgetown, Guyana	24 October to 03 November 2018

13. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applicants selected to participate in the course must necessarily have the yellow fever vaccine, and prove it by presenting the respective international certificate. In case of not having the vaccine yet, it is necessary to take it at least 20 days before the beginning of the course, since it needs an incubation period of at least 10 days, according to the international health regulations.

14. CONTACT

For additional information about the course, the requirements and/or the application procedure, please contact Mr. Vicente Guadalupe, Regional Project Coordinator, at e-mail: vicente.guadalupe@otca.org.br