I. Introduction

International regimes are a “set of principles, norms and rules, either formal or informal, around which expectations of actors converge in a given issue area of international relations”.

Global and regional regimes can play a key role on the international environmental governance addressing issues such as deforestation and biodiversity.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is a regional regime focus on promoting sustainable development in the Amazon region.

II. Objective

Determine the influence of the international environmental agenda, and the actors involved on it, in the institutional design and forest policy of ACTO.

III. Methodology

- Five key variables of the institutional design were assessed: membership rules, scope of issues covered, centralization of tasks; rules of controlling; and flexibility of arrangements.
- The forest policy analysis was developed using three criterion: policy goals; policy instruments; and precise settings of these instruments.

IV. Results

Institutional design

- Its degree of formalization have been increasing significantly over time.
- Its evolution have been catalyzed for three impulses driven by the interest to present a solid image of the regime in international events (Fig. 1).

Forest policy

- Cover a large number of issues.
- Depends on projects financed by int. donors (such as GIZ, DGIS, and ITTO) to achieve its goals.
- Lack of regulatory, (des)incentive, and informational instruments.

Fig 1. Milestones in the evolution of the institutional design and forest policy of ACTO

V. Conclusions

- For decades, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty have been a dead letter regime (non-regime) that informally intended to function as a placeholder to avoid another meaningful regulation of the issue area of “Use and conservation of the Amazon”.
- Today, ACTO is a highly formalized regime which has developed a weak forest policy, customized by external actors, and whose main informal goal is to attract funds from external sources through the legitimacy provided by its member states.