



# Influence of the international environmental agenda on the regional governance of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO/OTCA)



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## 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.

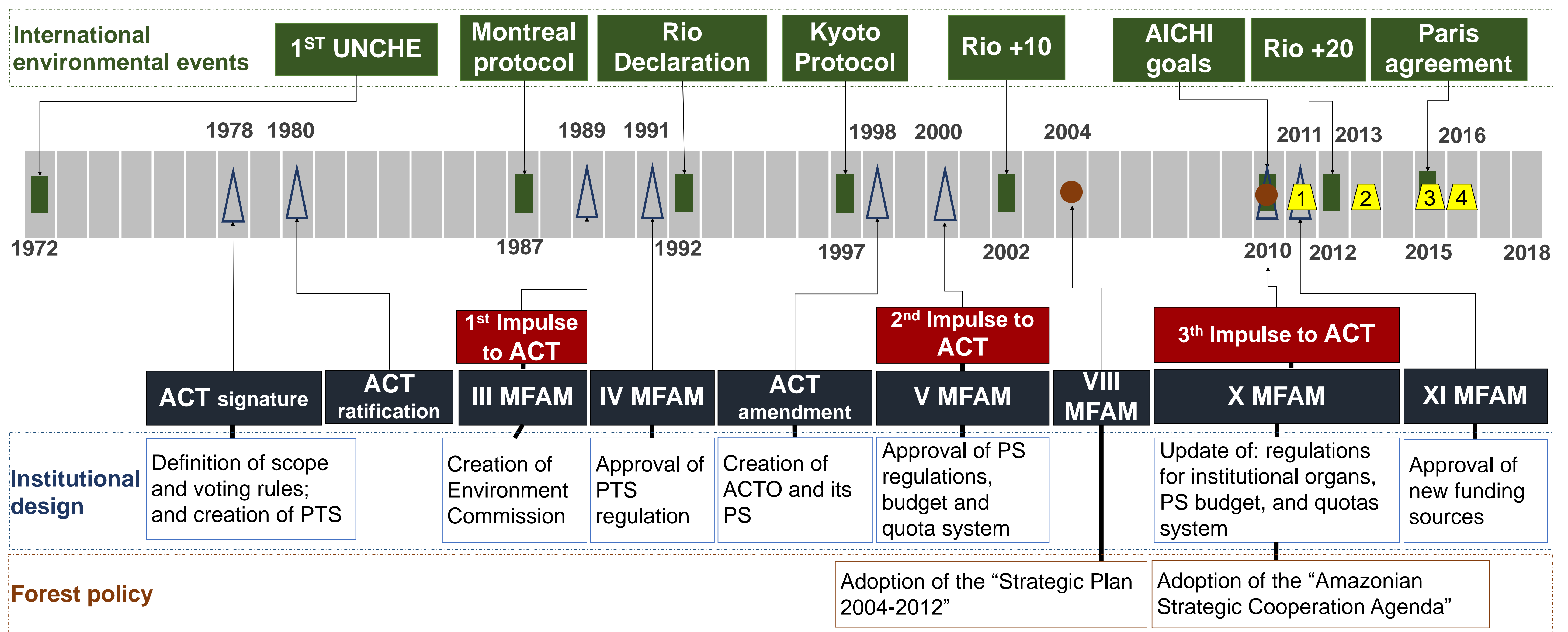
## IV. Results

### 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.



- Main forestry projects
- 1 Monitoring of Deforestation, Forest Use and Changes in Land Use in the Pan Amazonian
  - 2 Monitoring of Forest Coverage in the Amazon Region
  - 3 Building Capacities of ACTO Member Countries in Ecologically Responsible Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Managed Forests of the Amazon
  - 4 Bio Amazonia Project - Conservation of species threatened by unsustainable trade

Acronyms: UNCHE=UN Conference on the Human Environment ACT=Amazon Cooperation Treaty/ MFAM=Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers/ PTS=Pro Tempore Secretariat/ PS=Permanent Secretariat

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.



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