

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/CAN - Andean Group
▪ TC Name:	Science, Technology and Innovation to Protect the Biodiversity of the Amazon Basin
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4005
▪ Team Leader/Members:	ANTA, RAFAEL (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; VARGAS CUEVAS, FERNANDO ESTEBAN (IFD/CTI) Alternate Team Leader; HENRIQUEZ LEBLANC, PAULINE (IFD/CTI); CRESPI, GUSTAVO ATILIO (IFD/CTI); WATSON, GREGORY (CSD/CCS); SANTA PENA, CAMILO ANDRES (CSD/CCS); DEBADE, XAVIER YVES (CSD/CCS); HENNESSEY, MICHAEL P. (IFD/CTI); MENDOZA BENAVENTE, HORACIO (LEG/SGO); LESENFANTS, YVES; GENESIS MORALES (IFD/CTI); SANDRA LOPEZ (IFD/CTI); TAPIA ALBA, MAURICIO (VPS/ESG)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	14 Oct 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	Research institutions and firms from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$1,500,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	30 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/CTI - Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/CTI - Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and innovation ; Environmental sustainability

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this technical cooperation is to contribute to protect the Amazon through (i) biodiversity research aimed at discovering properties of commercial value in nature, and (ii) the incubation of science-based startups that use or transform renewable resources into bio-based products in a sustainable fashion. Discoveries arising from biodiversity research may be used by firms to develop new or better bio-based products, who together with the incubated startups will be candidates to apply to innovation and bioeconomy funding programs, some of which supported by IDB investment programs , and to become suppliers of value chains.
- 2.2 It is urgent and imperative to protect the Amazon biome, while making this protection compatible with sustainable economic development and the well-being of its population, and science, technology and innovation can contribute to this challenge. Discoveries of biochemical, molecular and genetic properties of commercial value in species, and its use in the development of innovative bio-based products may lead to the protection of the ecosystems that host those species and benefit its communities

through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements and employment opportunities.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Research on Biodiversity for the Amazon Conservation.** The objectives of this component are to promote (i) bioprospecting, understood as scientific research on the properties of species as natural sources for small molecules and macromolecules, and biochemical and genetic information, and (ii) research for the transformation of organic materials, that could be developed into commercially valuable products, creating jobs and contributing to the conservation of the forest that hosts those species or organic materials.
- 3.2 **Component II: Incubation of Science-based Startups.** The objective of this component is to support the incubation of startups that develop innovations in goods, services, or processes, based on the sustainable use or transformation of Amazon renewable resources, contributing to restore or protect its biodiversity. The component may support the incubation of two different types of entrepreneurial initiatives: Early-stage Startups and Transformation of Scientific Research into Startups.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Research on Biodiversity for the Amazon Conservation	US\$500,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$500,000.00
Incubation of Science-based Startups	US\$1,000,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$1,000,000.00
Total	US\$1,500,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$1,500,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The execution will be carried out by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI). The Bank will hire individual consultants (subject matter experts) and/or firms in accordance with the Bank's procurement policies and procedures.
- 5.2 This project is designed to help the Bank research how scientific and technological innovation can contribute to the protection of the Amazon, and produce and disseminate the knowledge that can guide future public policies in beneficiary countries. Given the taxonomy and the regional nature of this project, none of the beneficiary countries has the incentives to execute the project for the four countries, and the Bank is in the best position to execute it. In doing so, it will position the institution as a technical leader in this subject and strengthen its dialogue with the countries.
- 5.3 As an experimental project that aims to create evidence and demonstration effect to inform future policy making for the conservation of biodiversity and promotion of the bioeconomy, it is critical that institutions responsible for environmental policy, researching on Amazon biodiversity, issuing of permits for access to genetic and biological resources, promoting technological innovation and entrepreneurship, and for the national bioeconomy strategy in the beneficiary countries, get involved in this project since its definition and take ownership. These institutions may contribute to the project by sharing their knowledge and experience in the design of activities (including cultural and social nuances of local communities in each geography), helping disseminate the competitive calls, suggesting experts to join the evaluation

committees, and identifying key local actors (public, private, academic and/or community organization) that may contribute to the success of supported projects and incubated startups. At the same time, these institutions will benefit from the project by getting direct access to the results and lessons learned.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The team doesn't anticipate major risks that could jeopardize the execution of this TC but a few issues could affect the achievement of the project objectives in the estimated disbursement period of 30 months, inherent to the dynamics of the processes for issuing permits for: (i) access to genetic resources (needed in projects supported by component 1), and (ii) access to biological resources (may be needed in startups supported by component 2, depending on their targeted TR level). These processes are different in each country, with different response times and more or less clarity and predictability, depending on the case. During the detailed design of this technical cooperation, the project team will analyze existing processes for issuing permits, response times and risks of delays, in order to review the timing of the action plan and design mitigation measures for risks of delays

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".