

2024
2026

Work Plan

AMAZON NETWORK OF WATER AUTHORITIES





**Work Plan
of the Amazon Network
of Water Authorities
(ANWA)**

ANWA / Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation
2nd ANWA Meeting, October 4th, 2024





INDEX

Background	6
Methodological proposal for the Work Plan	8
Technical criteria	8
Steps for Developing the Work Plan	9
Work Plan for the First Period of Operation of the ANWA (2024-2026)	10
Work Schedule	15
Next steps	20

Background

The Amazon Basin Project - *Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change* is an initiative of the Member Countries of ACTO, implemented by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), acting as the Implementing Agency, and funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The main objective of the project is to strengthen Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), including the source-to-sea approach, enhancing the capacities of Amazonian communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change, systematizing and generating relevant information for coordinated decision-making. Additionally, the project provides ecological, social, and economic benefits, contributing to the Amazon countries' fulfillment of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other multilateral agenda targets. The project is implemented within the framework of four components:

- 1) Innovative governance model for community-to-government Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin
- 2) Building community resilience and protecting aquatic ecosystems to address the effects of climate variability and change in the Amazon Basin
- 3) Integrated indicator-based environmental monitoring and reporting in response to indicators from relevant International Conventions and Agreements
- 4) Comprehensive model to monitor, evaluate, and communicate the progress of the overall implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Within the context of Component I, the project supports basin countries in strengthening their institutional and policy frameworks and in building an innovative community-to-government governance model for the basin to ensure participatory, efficient, and effective water governance, improving ecosystem health and human well-being.

In this regard, and recognizing the importance of strengthening governance of the Amazon Basin/region in response to specific socio-economic and environmental challenges, including those of the 2030 Agenda and the mandates established at the IV Meeting of Presidents of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held in Belém (PA, Brazil), on August 8–9, 2023, the ACTO Amazon Network of Water Authorities (ANWA) was created on August 6, 2023, as part of the preparatory process for the Belém Summit.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in their RES/XIV MRE-ACTO/19, confirmed the establishment of the Amazon Network of Water Authorities of ACTO Member Countries (ANWA) for cooperation in the sustainable management of water resources in the region, with the aim of enabling Member Countries to establish regional protocols for monitoring, cooperation, and mutual support in the management of Amazonian water resources for revitalization, conservation, and protection of water sources, including criteria and parameters for water quality and quantity. ANWA will also support the implementation of regional projects and initiatives on surface and groundwater management, cooperative and sustainable water resources planning, including transboundary waters, as well as the progressive strengthening of technical, technological, and institutional capacities, technological innovation, and intercultural dialogue, according to national circumstances, including the political, social, and cultural commitments of each country.

Additionally, the XIV Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ACTO Member Countries resolved to instruct the Permanent Secretariat to convene, in the first half of 2024, the First Meeting of the Amazon Network of Water Authorities (ANWA), with the objective of approving its rules of procedure, developing a work plan, and establishing a timeline to guide the implementation of its objectives, among other matters.

Attentive to the mandates of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their XIV Meeting, and recognizing the importance of strengthening the governance of the world's largest river basin and addressing the specific socio-economic and environmental challenges of the region, including those of the 2030 Agenda signed by Member Countries, the Amazon Water Authorities held a First Workshop during the preparatory process for the Belém Summit, where the ANWA Rules of Procedure proposal was developed. In the Second Workshop, held in December 2023, the requested adjustments to the proposed Rules of Procedure were made, and a process was established for incorporating final adjustments in preparation for the First Meeting of the Amazon Network of Water Authorities – ANWA, scheduled for April 17–18, 2024.

As part of this first meeting, the ANWA installation was planned, along with the adjusted text of the Regulations for its operation and the preparation of the Work Plan, including the proposal (see Table 1) and the initial schedule of activities and meetings for the 2024–2026 period. Additionally, the Technical Panel was established, which, according to its mandate, will support ANWA in developing the Work Plan and preparing all activities and meetings to be defined within the given period. The Schedule of Activities (Table 2) presented at the end was adjusted during the Technical Support Panel (TSP) meeting held on July 17, 2024.

Methodological proposal for the Work Plan

The methodology for the elaboration of the Work Plan proposes 4 technical criteria and 5 logical steps.

TECHNICAL CRITERIA

Criterion 1. Advancing the objectives of the ANWA Regulations. The ANWA Regulations define 17 objectives, which were established by the Amazonian Presidents (Belém Declaration) and ratified by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in their XIV meeting (Chapter 2, Article 2). To evaluate progress in ANWA's operation, it is proposed to use the agreed-upon objectives in the regulations and develop specific products and activities. However, ANWA may introduce new objectives and activities as deemed necessary

Criterion 2. Establish a targeting strategy. The Work Plan proposes prioritizing objectives to focus and concentrate the efforts of the Water Authorities and the Technical Panel on specific topics. This approach will allow for the evaluation of progress and activities, ensuring impactful results while working under a results-based management framework aligned with ANWA's vision.

Criterion 3. Acting as a catalyst for actions. Activities should have the role of “umbrella or driving activities” that stimulate the development of new actions/products or contribute to achieving other objectives.

Criterion 4. Completing and strengthening ongoing regional actions within ACTO. The activities to be implemented should provide continuity and completion to ACTO's ongoing efforts within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) in a strategic manner.

STEPS FOR DEVELOPING THE WORK PLAN

Based on the proposed criteria, the following steps have been outlined for the development of the Work Plan:

Step 1. Prioritization of objectives. Through an analysis that aligns the proposed criteria with ACTO's ongoing activities requiring coordination, four objectives have been identified to advance during ANWA's initial period, ensuring impactful results:

Objective I. Promote regional cooperation for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Region/Basin, including South-South Cooperation, to strengthen capacities, transfer technologies, provide professional training, and exchange experiences—at the community level and within the scientific field—while respecting the national legislation of the Member Countries.

Objective II. Encourage the search for and mobilization of non-reimbursable financial resources to support the sustainability of water management initiatives and institutions, including ACTO.

Objective III. Support ACTO's objectives in implementing the Strategic Action Program (SAP), ensuring its institutional sustainability.

Objective X. Establish regional protocols for hydrological and water quality monitoring.

Step 2. Identification of high-impact products and regional interests for each prioritized objective. Key products from different ACTO projects have been identified, with concrete proposals that ANWA will review, analyze, and contribute to defining an implementation strategy.

Steps 3 & 4. Development of activities and definition of responsibilities for each product. Taking into account the functions and responsibilities of ANWA's various bodies, a series of activity proposals have been prepared to ensure the achievement of the Products during ANWA's first year of operation.

Step 5. Preparation of a work schedule.

Step 6. ANWA approves and adopts the document by consensus and assigns the Secretariat the task of communicating progress to ACTO.

Work Plan for the First Period of Operation of the ANWA (2024-2026)

The table presents the main planned activities and the designated responsible parties for the development of the key topics or identified products, in accordance with the prioritized objectives. Naturally, the Work Plan is dynamic and may be reviewed and adjusted after the first year of its implementation, or whenever RADA deems it appropriate.

OBJECTIVE I. Promote regional cooperation for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the countries of the Amazon Region/ Basin, including South-South Cooperation, to strengthen capacities, transfer technologies, provide professional training, and facilitate experience exchange—both at the community level and within the scientific domain—while respecting the national legislations of the Member Countries.	
MAIN PRODUCT IDENTIFIED I. Amazon Capacity Building Plan for Integral Water Management	
JUSTIFICATION The Regional Capacity Building Plan compiles and systematizes all the training demands identified by the Member Countries (MCs) during various National Workshops. The Plan aims to establish a training portfolio covering multiple aspects that strengthen IWRM at both national and regional levels, including gender equality. Its approval will enable ANWA and ACTO to proceed with implementation and seek funding from various partners, including South-South Cooperation. Some program initiatives can be launched immediately based on available programs or adapted in collaboration with the countries. However, a significant portion of the programs will depend on ANWA/ACTO securing support and funding from external agencies for full implementation.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES 1) Share the document (TSP) and prioritize the topics/courses indicated by the technicians who participated in the National Implementation Workshops of the SAP, as well as those proposed by the Member Countries and ACTO. A specifically designed questionnaire will be sent to the participants of the First Meeting of ANWA for their prioritization. 2) Conduct a desk review of the Capacity Building Plan proposal by the ANWA Secretariat. 3) Hold two meetings with the Technical Panel to refine the Capacity Building Plan proposal and guide the implementation process. 4) Organize a meeting in which the Presidency, with the support of the ANWA Secretariat, presents the Capacity Building Plan to the Water Authorities. During this meeting, the next steps for the implementation of the Program, the mapping, and the roadmap for securing funding and planning donor roundtables will be defined.	RESPONSILITIES • Submission of documents and questionnaire: ANWA Secretariat to the Authorities, Technical Panel, and ANWA Presidency • Preparation of the document and consolidation of the Capacity Building Plan proposal: ANWA Secretariat • Technical Review and Consolidation: ANWA Technical Panel • Presentation of the Capacity Building Plan: ANWA Presidency and Authorities

OBJECTIVE X. Establish regional protocols for hydrological and water quality monitoring.	
MAIN PRODUCT IDENTIFIED II. Quality and quantity monitoring protocols adopted in the Amazon Hydrological Network (AHN) and Water Quality Network (WQN)	
JUSTIFICATION The PS/ACTO has officially presented four protocols to the Member Countries (MC) related to surface water quality and quantity monitoring for the AHN and WQN. In addition to setting standards for the operation of regional networks, these protocols will support MCs in improving, modernizing, and strengthening their monitoring systems. The MCs have requested that the substantive review take place within the framework of ANWA. Additionally, they have called for a process to review and follow-up the networks to ensure their continuous updating. ANWA will play a leading role in reviewing and recommending the adoption and initial implementation of the protocols. Furthermore, the adopted protocols will serve as key instruments for ANWA and PS/ACTO to seek funding for their full implementation.	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES 1) The ANWA Technical Panel, with the support of the Secretariat, will hold a meeting to present the protocols in detail and their connection with the AHN and WQN Networks, as well as the Integrated Water Resources Management Platform (IWRMP). 2) Upon request from the countries or at the discretion of the Secretariat, bilateral meetings will be held to gather feedback and concerns regarding each document. 3) The Secretariat will consolidate comments and contributions from the meetings with the countries, circulate a second version of the protocols. 4) Update the AHN and WQN Monitoring Networks. 5) The Technical Panel will hold working sessions to finalize the documents (at least one session per document). 6) The Presidency, with the support of the Secretariat, will circulate the consolidated version of the documents and propose their discussion at the next ANWA meeting. 7) ANWA will approve and adopt the documents and instruct the Secretariat to report progress to ACTO. 8) At the same time, an implementation plan for the protocols will be developed, along with a proposal for the development/improvement of the ANH and WQN Networks (optimization of sampling points, technological aspects, etc.). 9) A Regional Event for the Presentation of the Protocols will be held by the ANWA Presidency.	RESPONSILITIES • Technical Meetings: ANWA Technical Panel and Secretariat • Desk Review: ANWA Secretariat • Consolidation of Protocols: ANWA Technical Panel and Secretariat • Adoption of Protocols: ANWA • Preparation of the Implementation Plan and Development Plan for RHA/RCA: ANWA Technical Panel and Secretariat • Presentation of the Protocols: ANWA Presidency and Secretariat

OBJECTIVE II.

Promote the search for and mobilization of non-reimbursable financial resources to support the sustainability of water management initiatives and institutions, including ACTO.

MAIN PRODUCT IDENTIFIED

III. Exchange of experiences and financing strategies for IWRM

JUSTIFICATION

There are various financial sustainability experiences related to IWRM in different countries that can be shared as references for Member Countries (MCs) to improve their own management systems. Likewise, international funds are available to support the development of IWRM at both the national and regional levels. These funds periodically update their strategies and access formats, which should be well understood by all MCs.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 1) Technical meeting to present workshop proposals with the Technical Panel and ANWA Secretariat.
- 2) Desk review and technical enhancement of the proposals by the ANWA Secretariat.
- 3) Workshop on financial sustainability experiences for IWRM in different countries.
- 4) Workshop on priority financing topics in collaboration with international agencies operating in the region.
- 5) Meetings to prepare funding proposals for activities outlined in the Work Plan (e.g., Capacity Building Plan, Protocols, Financing Mechanism, and Coordination Mechanism). During these meetings, steps for program implementation, funding strategy mapping, and donor roundtable planning will be defined.

RESPONSILITIES

- Call for and chair meetings:
ANWA Presidency
- Document preparation and consolidation of the Plan:
ANWA Secretariat
- Technical Review:
ANWA Technical Support Panel
- Preparation of funding proposals for the Work Plan
- Final consolidation meeting with ANWA Authorities

OBJECTIVE III.

Support the fulfillment of ACTO’s objectives in the implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP), including its institutional sustainability.

MAIN PRODUCT IDENTIFIED

IV. Establishment of the Permanent Regional Coordination Mechanism for IWRM within the framework of ANWA/ACTO

JUSTIFICATION

ANWA serves as the core of the permanent coordination Mechanism within the ACTO framework. This Mechanism will support Member Countries (MCs) and the region in overcoming the identified barriers and challenges to advancing IWRM. The Mechanism will be structured and presented in a White Paper to be developed. Additionally, it will include a financial sustainability strategy, which—beyond planned fundraising efforts—aims to enhance ACTO’s capacity to pool resources and improve financing for the conservation of the Amazon Basin and the coordination of IWRM.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 1) Presentation meeting on the Mechanism proposal and the White Paper, defining the methodology for review and adjustments.
- 2) Desk review and technical enhancement of the Mechanism and the White Paper.
- 3) Eight technical meetings with countries to integrate national information (National Action Plan – NAP for SAP implementation, among others).
- 4) Meetings and desk work for the consolidation of the Mechanism and White Paper proposals.
- 5) Presentation meeting of the Mechanism and White Paper to Water Authorities to receive recommendations for adjustments and plan for approval within ACTO.
- 6) Presentation of the White Paper by ANWA at the relevant ACTO approval levels, if required.
- 7) Editing and publication of the White Paper.

RESPONSILITIES

- Meetings:
ANWA Presidency, Technical Panel, and Secretariat
- Preparation of the Mechanism and White Paper:
ANWA Secretariat
- Technical review and support:
ANWA Technical Panel
- Presentation of the White Paper to ANWA:
ANWA Presidency
- Presentation of the Mechanism to ACTO instances
- Editing and publication:
ANWA Presidency and Secretariat



Work Schedule

The ANWA Work Plan will be structured in accordance with the strategic points defined by the Water Authorities and developed with the support of the Technical Panel and the technicians involved in each of the Member Countries (MCs). The suggested planning period is two years, with annual reviews, considering the term of office established by each country. The Technical Panel will maintain constant coordination with national authorities and ACTO, in its role as the Permanent Secretariat of ANWA. The meetings initially planned for the first period are outlined below.

- a) **1st ANWA Meeting**
Installation, Regulations, and 2024/2026 Work Plan: April 17-18, 2024
- b) **Preparatory Meetings for the Work of the Technical Support Panel (Online)**
Supporting the development of the Work Plan structure and immediate activities (Capacity Building Plan and AHN/WQN Monitoring Protocols): June – September 2024.
- c) **2nd ANWA Meeting (Online)**
Approval of the Work Plan Proposal and other matters: Second half of 2024 (proposal to be reviewed by the Technical Support Panel – TSP, in a meeting scheduled for October 2024).
- d) Dates may be adjusted based on the availability of those involved in each case.
- e) **Other Meetings**
To be defined by the ANWA/ACTO Presidency and National Authorities, in coordination with key partners.

Below is the activity schedule for each of the main planned products (Capacity Building Plan, AHN/WQN Monitoring Protocols, Exchange of Experiences and Financing Strategies, and IWRM Coordination Mechanism). The preliminary participants considered for each planned activity are also indicated.

TECHNICAL PANEL MEETINGS FOR THE CONSIDERED PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES		MONTH (PERIOD 2024-2026) Times to be determined (11:30 AM, GMT-3)											OBSERVATIONS
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
I. AMAZONIAN CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN FOR IWRM													
1	Sharing the document (TSP) and prioritizing/selecting topics/courses to be included in the Capacity Building Plan proposal with ANWA members		x	-	-								Secretariat to send and await responses to the questionnaire from participants of the 1st ANWA Meeting
2	Technical review of the Capacity Building Plan proposal			-	-								ANWA/ACTO Secretariat
3	Two virtual meetings of the Technical Panel to adjust the Capacity Building Plan proposal			-	-								Second meeting to be evaluated with the Technical Panel
4	Presentation of the Capacity Building Plan proposal to the Water Authorities: Definition of steps for implementation, funding roadmap, and donor roundtable planning					-	-						Virtual ANWA meeting convened by the Presidency with Secretariat support (date to be defined)
II. ADOPTION OF WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY MONITORING PROTOCOLS													
1	Technical Panel meeting to present protocols and their link to AHN and WQN Networks and the Integrated Water Resources Management Platform (IWRMP)			x									Meeting with UNCPS for general presentation (Sep). Technical Panel and ANWA Secretariat meetings (include MCs comments).
2	At the request of the countries or if deemed necessary by the Secretariat, a round of bilateral meetings will be held to gather perceptions and concerns related to each document.			-	-								Dates defined by the Technical Panel and Secretariat
3	Cabinet work by the Secretariat, consolidating comments and contributions from meetings with the countries, and circulating a second version of the protocols.				-	-							Sent by the ANWA Secretariat
4	Update of the AHN and WQN Monitoring Networks.				-	-	-						The ANWA Secretariat prepares the meeting dynamics
5	Working sessions of the Technical Panel for the consolidation of documents (at least one session per document).				-	-							The Technical Panel and the ANWA Secretariat evaluate and confirm the dates
6	The Presidency, with the support of the Secretariat, circulates the consolidated version of the documents, proposing their discussion at the next ANWA meeting.					-	-						Presidency and ANWA Secretariat
7	ANWA approves and adopts the document, tasking the Secretariat with communicating progress to ACTO.					-	-						ANWA date to be defined
8	Simultaneously, an implementation plan for the Protocols and an initial proposal for the development/improvement of the AHN and WQN Networks (optimization of sampling points, technological aspects, etc.) are prepared.				-	-	-						Technical Panel and ANWA Secretariat
9	Regional Activity for the Presentation of the Protocols by the ANWA Presidency.						-	-					To be defined between the Presidency and the ANWA Secretariat
<p><i>Legend of symbols of the schedule activities:</i></p> <p>- planned;</p> <p>X done.</p> <p>OBS 1: The activities prior to the approval of the Work Plan were scheduled during the 1st ANWA Meeting.</p> <p>OBS 2: ANWA meetings are planned for the development of certain products, and the agendas may include various topics as agreed upon by the ANWA Presidency/Secretariat and Member Countries.</p>													

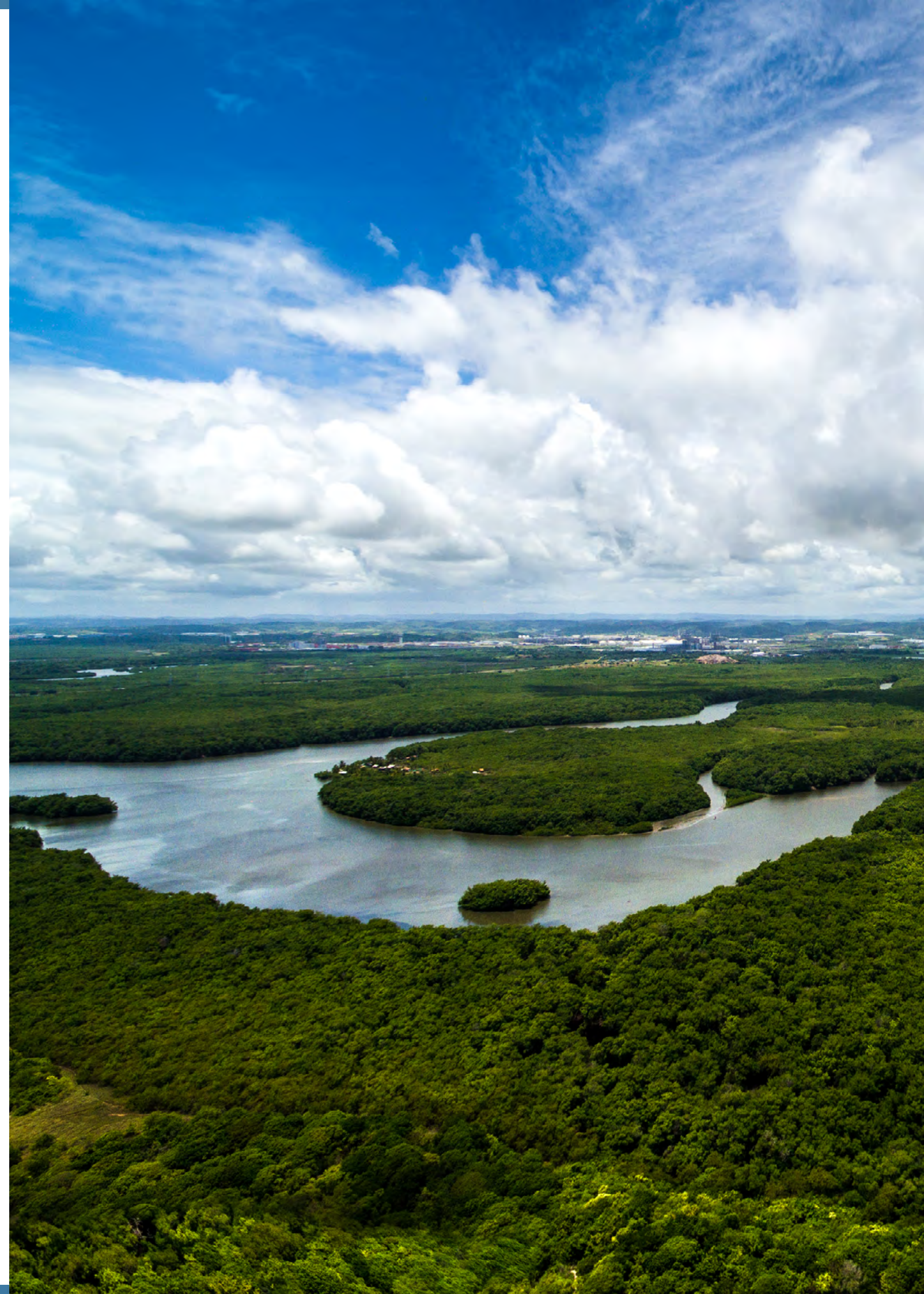
TECHNICAL PANEL MEETINGS FOR THE CONSIDERED PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES		MONTH (PERIOD 2024-2026)											OBSERVATIONS
		Times to be determined (11:30 AM, GMT-3)											
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
III. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR IWRM													
1	Technical meeting to present proposals for IWRM financing workshops					-							Technical Panel and ANWA/ACTO Secretariat
2	Cabinet work to consolidate the proposed workshops					-	-						ANWA Secretariat
3	Implementation of the Workshop on Experience Exchange on Management Sustainability in the Countries						-	-					To be defined together with the Presidency and ANWA Secretariat
4	Implementation of the Workshop on Priority Financing Topics with Agencies Operating in the Region								-				To be defined together with the Presidency and ANWA Secretariat
5	Preparation meetings for financing proposals for the Work Plan activities (e.g., Capacity Building Plan, Protocols, Financing, Coordination Mechanism)									-	-	-	To be defined together with the Technical Panel and ANWA Secretariat
6	Consolidation meeting							-	-				At the next ANWA meeting, date to be defined.
IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR IWRM WITHIN ANWA/ACTO													
1	Technical meeting to present the Mechanism and the structure of the White Paper, defining the methodology for its completion and review					-	-						Technical Panel
2	Cabinet work for technical review and completion of the Mechanism and White Paper structure							-					ANWA Secretariat
3	Cabinet work (8) with countries for technical review and completion of relevant national contributions (PAN and others)						-	-					Dates to be defined between the Technical Panel and ANWA Secretariat
4	Consolidation meetings for the Mechanism and the White Paper							-	-				ANWA Secretariat
5	ANWA meeting for the Presidency, with the support of the Secretariat, to present the White Paper. In this meeting, recommendations for adjustments and validation by ACTO bodies will be received									-	-		ANWA meeting, date to be defined
6	Presentation of the White Paper by the ANWA Presidency at the different ACTO approval levels										-		Presidency and ANWA Secretariat
7	Editing and publication										-		To be defined between the Secretariat and ANWA Presidency.
Legend of symbols of the schedule activities: - planned; X done.													
OBS 1: The activities prior to the approval of the Work Plan were scheduled during the 1 st ANWA Meeting.													
OBS 2: ANWA meetings are planned for the development of certain products, and the agendas may include various topics as agreed upon by the ANWA Presidency/Secretariat and Member Countries.													

Next steps

In accordance with the Memorandum of the 1st Meeting of the Amazon Network of Water Authorities of the ACTO Member Countries (ANWA), held on April 17 and 18, 2024, the Water Authorities entrusted the Technical Support Panel (TSP) with reviewing and adjusting the draft Work Plan presented by the ANWA Secretariat for its subsequent approval in a meeting to be scheduled.

The Memorandum of the 1st ANWA includes a set of guidelines from the Member Countries for the Work Plan development process, which have been preliminarily incorporated into this document. The product and outcome indicators for the activities to be carried out must be included in each of the topics to be considered and approved by ANWA.

To carry out the work, the Technical Panel reviewed the Activity Schedule for the first period (until May 2025) together with the ANWA Secretariat. The adjusted proposal will be presented to the Presidency and ANWA Authorities for their consideration and approval.



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