



## **ACT-Europe**

### **Workplan 2020-2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) was founded in 1996. ACT is a non-profit organization that partners with indigenous and other local communities to protect South American tropical forests and strengthen traditional culture. The ACT headquarters office (ACT-US) was founded in 1996 and incorporated in 1998; ACT-US is based in Virginia, USA. Currently, ACT concentrates its work in the northeast Amazon and in the northwest Amazon. As ACT is a strongly field-based organisation, it has field offices—being either an affiliate or a subsidiary of ACT-US—in Brazil, Suriname and Colombia.

## ACT-Europe

The Dutch-registered Stichting Amazon Conservation Team Europe (ACT-Europe) works to enhance fundraising opportunities for ACT as a whole, while also providing expert counsel. The body has an expansive and ambitious vision, guided by a long-term plan for European fundraising and strategic positioning. The organization has a Management Board and a Supervisory Board comprised of individuals from different European countries, and has an office in Amsterdam (headquarters) and an office in Brussels, Belgium. The Foundation's objectives are to support ACT's programs in the Amazon and raise awareness of ACT's mission within the European community. ACT-Europe is an ACT-US affiliate.

## TERM

This workplan covers the term 2020–2023, describing the main goals of ACT-Europe and its activities, operations and funding.

## MISSION, VISION AND STRATEGY

### Mission

The Amazon Conservation Team partners with indigenous and other local communities to protect tropical forests and strengthen traditional culture.

### Vision

ACT sees a future where healthy tropical forests and thriving local communities exist in harmonious relationship with each other, contributing to the well-being of the planet.

### Strategy

ACT believes that the survival of the forest depends on the fate of its guardians. Therefore, the organization protects both. For a forest to survive and thrive, it needs biological diversity, clean and abundant water, and large stretches of connected lands. For the guardians to be healthy, they need not only basic things such as food, water, and medicine, but also security and stability. Self-determination and strong traditional cultures allow forest people to flourish and protect their lands.

ACT asks its partners what they want, what they need, and what they envision for their future. They identify which lands are most important to them, and they tell ACT what they need to protect these areas.

ACT has three main strategies which work towards their vision: Land: safeguarding the forests and all that is in them; Livelihood: sustaining the lives of local people; and Governance: strengthening cultures and communities self-determination.

## STRATEGY AND MAIN GOALS OF ACT-EUROPE

The ACT-Europe strategy is to support the ACT-wide strategy, with a primary objective to fundraise for the ACT field programs. Therefore, ACT-Europe's main activities consist of creating visibility for ACT in Europe and fundraising for ACT with the help of this visibility.

ACT-Europe's primary goals for the coming years are the following:

- To raise additional funding in European countries for the ACT field programs
- To increase ACT's visibility in Europe by means such as launching an ACT-Europe website, press outreach, and giving presentations before key audiences.
- To identify additional ACT-Europe Supervisory Board member candidates from major European funder countries.

## CURRENT SITUATION

ACT-Europe was established in 2008 as a Foundation in the Netherlands in order to fundraise for ACT's field activities. In February 2017, ACT-US hired a consultant to seek opportunities for improved fundraising in Europe. ACT-Europe is registered in the Netherlands as a separate entity within the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and is ANBI-registered. It has both a Supervisory Board and a Management Board, as per the Statutes amended in 2019.

From 2017 to 2020, ACT-Europe's main activities have been the following:

- To reform the ACT-Europe Board into a Supervisory Board with new members from different European countries and maintain regular ACT-Europe Board meetings (three times per year).
- To revise the ACT-Europe Statutes in order to allow for broader fundraising outside the Netherlands and to be in line with generally accepted practices of good governance.
- To prepare project proposals in close collaboration with ACT-US and the ACT field offices.
- To fundraise in countries outside the Netherlands in close collaboration with ACT-US and the ACT field offices. This has included visits to Sweden, Norway, France, Switzerland, Germany and the UK.
- To establish an ACT-Europe office in Amsterdam and Brussels and recruit an assistant for ACT-Europe.
- To strengthen ACT-Europe's relationship with ACT-US staff and other ACT staff, in order to work more efficiently together in fundraising.
- To increase ACT's visibility in Europe by becoming an IUCN member, creating an ACT-Europe brochure, and working on a separate ACT-Europe website.

To date, ACT-Europe has obtained a four-year grant from the Dutch foundation DOB Ecology, covering four countries: Suriname, Guyana, Brazil and French Guiana. The funds were committed to ACT-US directly, with ACT-Europe operating as a liaison; the contract was signed between DOB Ecology and ACT-US.

## WORKPLAN 2020-2023

Following the recommendations of the 2019 ACT-Europe Supervisory Board meetings and the vision of the ACT leadership, the main mandate of ACT-Europe in 2020 and beyond is to increase the **visibility** of ACT in Europe, continue **fundraising**, and **enlarge the ACT-Europe Supervisory Board**. In alignment with the ACT Strategic Plan, primary ACT-Europe **objectives** for the term 2020-2023 will be the following:

- Increasing the visibility of ACT in Europe, with a special emphasis on the Netherlands.
- Obtaining two or more multi-year grants for ACT directly committed to ACT-US or one of its field offices or committed to ACT-Europe to finance activities of ACT.
- Enlarging the ACT-Europe Supervisory Board by adding one or two members from key countries.

Additionally, the ACT-Europe Director will support the implementation of the DOB Ecology grant in the Guianas under the guidance of ACT-US and the ACT Northeast Amazon Director.

Through the acquisition of a large grant from a Dutch Foundation (DOB Ecology) in September 2019, and thanks to the efforts of the ACT-Europe Supervisory Board President and the ACT President as well as the many visits of the ACT-Europe Executive Director, ACT's name is become increasingly familiar in the Netherlands at the level of funders and key NGOs.

Over the past three years, multiple visits were organized by the ACT-Europe Director to foundations, NGOs and government officials in Norway, France, the UK, Sweden and Switzerland. Key events in Brussels at the EU and of the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) were attended.

### Increase visibility

Over the last two years, ACT has been promoted in several European countries by the ACT-Europe Director with the help of the ACT-Europe Supervisory Board President and other Supervisory Board members, the ACT President and ACT-US staff through meetings with key funders and NGOs in different European countries. All trips and meetings were recorded in trip reports with detailed information for ACT knowledge-building and follow-up. Trips for ACT visibility and fundraising often have been combined with the search for new ACT-Europe Supervisory Board candidates.

In order to increase visibility over the next three years, the following activities will be carried out:

- Drafting of a communications strategy for ACT-Europe, together with ACT-US.
- Ensuring the ACT-Europe website is launched and regularly updated.
- Finalizing and printing an ACT-Europe brochure.
- Attendance at events and conferences.
- Conducting a more active search for journalists and media who cover conservation, indigenous peoples, the Amazon, climate change, and related topics, and deliver presentations and speeches.
- Organizing meetings for the ACT-Europe Director and ACT President with key European funders in order to increase ACT's visibility and identify ACT-Europe Supervisory Board candidates.
- With the help of ACT-US, targeting selected social media with a special focus on the Netherlands.

### Fundraising

ACT-Europe will further explore funding sources in different countries with an emphasis on the following activities:

- Preparing project proposals for governmental agencies, foundations and specific calls for proposals, in close collaboration with ACT-US development team.
- Preparing trips to Germany and Sweden to meet key funders
- Continuing fundraising in the Netherlands, France, the UK, and Switzerland, and at the EU level.
- Conducting trips to Norway if deemed appropriate.

### ACT-Europe Supervisory Board

Over the past two years, an ACT-Europe Supervisory Board was formed, consisting of five members to date. The ACT-Europe Statutes were amended in 2019, specifying a limit of nine members, meaning that four additional members can join the Board. The following activities are proposed for ACT-Europe staff with respect to the ACT-Europe Supervisory Board for 2020-2023:

- Seek Supervisory Board member candidates in Germany and Sweden/Norway during trips for fundraising, and propose these candidates for approval to the ACT-Europe Board and ACT-US.
- Prepare the agenda for the three ACT-Europe Supervisory Board meetings annually.
- Organize the Board meetings and draft and distribute the meeting minutes.

### Strategic support to the DOB Ecology project in the Guianas and the Amazon region

In past years, in the position of ACT-US consultant, the ACT-Europe Director visited Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana several times in order to assist the ACT-Suriname office (now the ACT Northeast Amazon office) in the preparation of project proposals, in particular that for the foundation DOB Ecology. On the request of the ACT Northeast Amazon Director, the ACT-Europe Director gives strategic support to the implementation of the DOB Ecology-funded project in Guyana and French Guiana.

## ORGANIZATION

*Official Name:* Stichting Amazon Conservation Team Europe

*Kvk number:* 27320193

*RSIN number:* 819516314

*ANBI status:* Yes

*Official address in the Netherlands:*

Plantage Middenlaan 2 K / 1018DD Amsterdam

*Email address:* [info@acteurope.org](mailto:info@acteurope.org) / *Website:* [www.acteurope.org](http://www.acteurope.org)

## SUPERVISORY BOARD

ACT-Europe's leadership consists of conservation professionals and other experts whose experience will bolster ACT's field operations. Efforts are underway to increase the Supervisory Board's size and country representation. The current Supervisory Board members, with their positions, are the following:

- Johan van de Gronden, Chair
- Annemarie Mijnsbergen, General Board Member
- Gilles Kleitz, General Board Member
- Sandra Charity, General Board Member
- Mark Plotkin, General Board Member and ACT-US President

## EMPLOYEES

Two consultants currently work for ACT: Dominiek Plouvier, Director, Management Board of ACT-Europe; and Sanne Olthof, Assistant. To date, ACT-Europe has no volunteers.

## FINANCES

ACT-Europe has no capital and income of its own, and therefore no funds in its books to date. Since ACT-Europe's objective is to raise funds for ACT field programs, all European grant funding received to date has been disbursed directly to ACT-US.

ACT-US currently contracts the ACT-Europe Director and Assistant as consultants and pays for their expenses directly. The budget available from ACT-US for work conducted in Europe is determined at the beginning of each year and approved by the ACT-US Board of Directors. ACT-Europe Supervisory Board members do not receive remuneration.

A full financial overview of recent years can be found in the Financial Report.

## FUNDRAISING

ACT-Europe has acquired one project funding grant for ACT from a European source. The Dutch foundation DOB Ecology is funding a four-year ACT transboundary project with activities in Suriname, Brazil, French Guiana and Guyana.