

Vision Amazonas • GEFAM Sub-Project I.1

Vision Amazonas is the initial sub-project of GEFAM, that proposes the use of a multi-stakeholder scenario methodology in the Amazon River Basin in order to (i) understand the problems, needs, and aspirations of Basin stakeholders in relation to integrated water resources management, (ii) identify key forces and build future development scenarios for the Amazon Basin, and (iii) formulate a shared vision for the water resources of the Amazon Basin. Vision Amazonas will serve as a basis for GEFAM to develop a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and a Strategic Action Program (TDA-SAPⁱ) and will also be used as input to develop a communication and a financial strategyⁱⁱ.

Vision Amazonas using scenario planning has been motivated by the need to:

- Deal with the region's extreme level of complexity coupled to a speedy rate of change in an uncertain environment.
- Minimize the risks associated with deforestation, climate variability and conflicts regarding the use of water and natural resources.
- Credibly start a multi-stakeholder process capable of actively engaging the eight governments, the private sector, academia and civil society in the formulation of a SAP.
- Foster a common identity in a region witnessing socio-economic exponential growth and migratory flows from various origins, all happening at a time when the social, political and educational structures in place are extremely weak.
- Develop a powerful communication tool that can be understood and used by all stakeholders.

Vision Amazonas Goal is to:

- Launch an in-depth study of the Amazon society (basin interviews) in order to understand the needs and aspirations of the society, including relevant opinion leaders and major political and economic actors.
- Develop a set of scenario stories in order to increase the Basin constituencies' understanding of key driving forces and possible alternative futures of the region.
- Build a shared, committed to Vision of the Basin's future to serve as a framework for the SAP decision-making process and policy development.
- Bring greater environmental awareness and engagement of Basin stakeholders, increased commitment to environmental and sustainable development planning, increased environmental innovation, as well as new economic opportunities and sources of financing.
- Create the adequate societal environment required to support the implementation of an integrated management of transboundary water resources in the Basin.

ⁱ The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis - Strategic Action Program - TDA-SAP is a UNEP developed resource assessment methodology based on technical and scientific identification of causal chain relations of critical hydro-environmental problems in river basins –from their physical, socio-economic, legal and politico-institutional aspects.

ⁱⁱ SP III.4: **Communication, Outreach and Finance** sub-project document is included in GEFAM Full-Size Project Document.