

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/IDB
▪ TC Name:	The Amazonian Nut: Restoring its gigantic potential for forest and biodiversity conservation and income generation in the Amazon Region
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4682
▪ Team Leader/Members:	LEVY, DENISE URIAS (CSD/BNC) Team Leader; MURGUIA BAYSSE, JUAN MANUEL (CSD/RND) Alternate Team Leader; HANSMANN JOHANNA PAOLA; TAKAES SANTOS, INAIE; ADAM MEHL (CSD/ACU); BECKER SECO ROSARIO PAZ (LEG/SGO); CHAVEZ, ELIZABETH (CSD/CSD); SERRAO ACIOLI, ELLEN CRISTINA (CSC/ACU); GALMEZ MARQUEZ, VERONICA (CSC/ACU); ESTRAZULAS DE SOUZA, FRANCISCO HUGO (PTI/TIN)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	31 Jul 2025
▪ Beneficiary:	InterAmerican Development Bank
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$1,000,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSD/BNC - Biodiversity and Natural Capital Unit
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSD/BNC - Biodiversity and Natural Capital Unit
▪ 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:	Regional integration

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this TC is to support the initial development phase of a strategic, coordinated plan between Brazil, Perú and Bolivia to promote the Amazonian nut as a staple of forest standing and socio-economic productivity and well-being, repositioning it in the international and local markets. The Amazonian nut production consists of a wild harvest, currently involving a territory of approximately 58 million hectares, and engaging over 90 thousand people. Due to its biological characteristics, the commercial success of the Amazonian nut directly translates and contributes to biodiversity conservation, to other related sustainable forest value chains and to the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them. This proposal corresponds to a start-up phase for a regional governance plan to identify more targeted interventions within each of the participating countries in a second phase.
- 2.2 The Amazonian (Brazil) nut tree (*Bertholletia excelsa*) is a keystone species in the Amazon rainforest—towering up to 50 meters and living for over 500 years. Each tree contributes significantly to the ecosystem by releasing over 260 gallons of water daily into the atmosphere and playing a vital role in carbon absorption. These trees thrive only in undisturbed forests, where specific large-bodied bees pollinate their flowers. Beyond their ecological impact, the nuts they produce are nutritionally rich and form

the basis for a variety of food and cosmetic products. Economically, Amazon nut extractivism sustains over 90,000 people across Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia and underpins the livelihoods of numerous Indigenous communities, such as the Yawanawá, Chacobo, and Yanomami. These communities have preserved sustainable harvesting traditions—like rotational collection and ecological stewardship—that ensure long-term forest vitality. Seasonal harvesting provides essential income during the rainy months and strengthens community governance through cooperatives and market partnerships.

- 2.3 Despite their long-standing global presence, Amazon nuts occupy less than 1% of the international nut market. Yet, with a trade value of \$350 million in 2021, and Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil leading exports, the sector holds untapped economic potential. Their cultivation links economic development directly to forest preservation, making them a flagship product of Amazon sociobiodiversity. Supporting Amazon nut production not only fortifies environmental resilience but also uplifts Indigenous knowledge, equity, and sustainable development in the region.
- 2.4 The Amazonian nut industry offers a powerful opportunity to connect forest conservation with local development, yet it faces a web of complex challenges. Economically, the industry suffers from inconsistent wild harvests, inadequate infrastructure, and fragmented regional efforts that limit its ability to scale and compete. Environmental pressures, including deforestation, fires, and climate shifts, threaten the very survival of the trees and the ecosystems they sustain. Governance remains a critical gap, with a lack of coordinated strategies and under-resourced institutions slowing progress. On the ground, social concerns are profound—labor exploitation, unfair wages, land disputes, and barriers to market access marginalize the communities that rely on this crop for their livelihoods. Financial support is also scarce, with limited access to credit, low financial literacy, and minimal institutional guidance discouraging sustainable investment. Compounding these issues are market barriers: most consumers are unaware of the Amazon nut's ecological value, and concerns over quality and safety, coupled with strict international standards, make it even harder to build demand.
- 2.5 To turn the tide, this Technical Cooperation proposes a comprehensive response—strengthening regional coordination across the value chain, embedding sustainable practices, supporting financial and technological innovation, and enhancing the well-being of those who harvest and process these nuts. This approach aims to position the Amazonian nut as a leading product in the socio-biodiversity economy, where conservation and livelihoods thrive together.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Support the repositioning of the Amazonian nut in local and international markets.** This component accelerates the case for stronger local and regional action to support the repositioning of the Amazonian Nut in the domestic and global markets. Main activities: (i) Map key actors in Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru across public and private sectors; (ii) Evaluate policies and regulations affecting Amazon nut production and trade; (iii) Organize regional workshops with stakeholders; and (iv) Design a capacity-building program.
- 3.2 **Component II: Knowledge systematization and prioritization of actions.** This component identifies key measures to boost forest protection and socio-economic benefits tied to the Amazonian nut. It analyzes barriers and opportunities, delivers actionable recommendations with a pilot intervention, and outlines a roadmap for national and regional uptake. Focused on building synergies, it draws from existing research to inform strategic, sustainable improvements without duplicating prior efforts.

- 3.3 **Component III: Addressing the Amazonian nut value chain barriers to financial assistance.** This component identifies financial gaps and solutions to scale Amazonian nut production. It includes assessing current funding barriers, exploring tools from finance, insurance, and trade sectors, recommending regulatory changes, and evaluating the investment needed. A regional economic assessment will guide actions in areas with chronic financial challenges and support sustainable value chain growth.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Support the repositioning of the Amazonian nut in local and international markets.	US\$450,000.00	US\$450,000.00
Knowledge systematization and prioritization of actions.	US\$250,000.00	US\$250,000.00
Addressing the Amazonian nut value chain barriers to financial assistance.	US\$300,000.00	US\$300,000.00
Total	US\$1,000,000.00	US\$1,000,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The IDB will be the executing agency for this Technical Cooperation.
- 5.2 The implementation of this Technical Cooperation (TC) by the Bank is both strategic and essential. Despite efforts, no single organization was identified with a consistent operational presence across all three key countries—Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru. The Bank, however, holds a unique comparative advantage in this context: its institutional capacity to operate regionally while engaging directly with national counterparts across government bodies, NGOs, local associations, and scientific institutions. This direct engagement allows the Bank to act as a neutral convener, reducing the risks posed by divergent local interests and power imbalances that might otherwise hinder collective implementation efforts. By fostering inclusive, participatory dialogues, the Bank ensures that a broad spectrum of voices informs the design and execution of this initiative.
- 5.3 Moreover, the Bank's regional scope enables a holistic, integrated approach to the Amazon Nut value chain—incorporating economic, environmental, and social dimensions. This facilitates the development of coordinated policy responses and joint implementation strategies that are not only locally informed but regionally harmonized. In this way, the TC stands to strengthen governance, advance sustainability, and amplify impact across the Amazon basin.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The project faces several risks that could hinder its success. Politically and institutionally, challenges may arise from shifting diplomatic dynamics, inconsistent policy coordination across countries, weak monitoring frameworks, and delays in consortium formation. Economically, the initiative may be impacted by global instability, limited private sector engagement, and volatile nut prices. Socially, risks include low consumer awareness, geographic and logistical difficulties, and unresolved social tensions or inequalities that affect traditional populations. These interconnected

challenges underscore the need for careful planning, inclusive engagement, and robust mechanisms to ensure sustained impact. Let me know if you'd like help outlining mitigation strategies next. The project will establish formal protocols with public, private, and civil society actors across the three countries, supported by experienced executing agencies and IDB participation. National and local governments will be key to sustaining results, while Component I promotes aligned action and market strategies that strengthen the Amazonian nut value chain and its role in protecting sociobiodiversity.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects and the environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, the terms of reference and products of this TC will be consistent with the applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).