



The Amazon:

A living being
in danger

Every two minutes, one hectare of forest burns in the Amazon

while species we don't even know about are lost. If the point of no return — **20% deforestation** — is reached, up to 60% of the Amazon rainforest could disappear and there would be no way to recover it due to deforestation, forest fires and climate change. This is already happening in the Amazon hotspots.



Faced with the urgent need to protect the Amazon, the eight Amazonian countries — Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela — that are part of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (**OTCA**) agreed to carry out a crucial study to conserve the biodiversity and ecosystems of this region: home to nearly 50 million people.



Who helped conduct this **key** **study?**

Nearly 120 researchers and authors from indigenous peoples voluntarily joined together to create the first **Rapid Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region** to show the critical situation facing the Amazon and to find immediate solutions in this immense region of nearly **8 million km²**, which has been protected for centuries, thanks to some **500 indigenous peoples**.



Why is the Amazon **important** for the region and the world?



Contains the greatest biodiversity on the planet: it is home to more than 60,000 species of fauna and flora, including 15% of the world's freshwater fish.



Provides freshwater for the Earth: The Amazon River, more than 7,000 kilometers long, generates 20% of the planet's freshwater, influencing the oceans and the global climate.



The Amazon is vital for life: it conserves the largest carbon reservoir on the planet, which helps reduce greenhouse gases, key to combating climate change.



Bolivia



Brazil



Colombia



Ecuador



Guayana



Peru



Suriname



Venezuela



What do **Amazon ecosystems** do for the planet?

The Amazon encompasses a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The tropical rainforest of more than **6 million km²** removes pollutants from the air and regulates the regional and global climate. **600 billion trees** release **1,000 litres of water** into the atmosphere to create flying rivers or streams of water vapor that travel long distances influencing rainfall as far away from the rainforest as Argentina and Paraguay.



What can **we do?**

The Amazon has **2,130 municipalities**. Let's start by supporting local programs to protect the Amazon and learn from indigenous peoples. Learn about the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services of the Amazon Basin/Region. Explore this biological and cultural treasure at: **otca.info**



The **Amazon**,
the world's most species-rich epicenter under



Tree species:
10,071



Plant species:
7,000-15,000



Reptile species:
more than 273



Insect species:
8,042
of which 3,000
are endemic



threat



Mammal species:
425



Fish species:
2,716
62.5% of which
are endemic



Species of spiders:
1,036



Species of amphibians:
more than 200



More than half of all species described in the Amazon may be threatened with extinction by mid-century. Threats: Deforestation, fires, climate change and illegal trade in species, which facilitates the transmission of diseases from animals to humans, endangering public health. Source: ACTO, 2023.



Species of fungi:
between 84,000
and 140,000



OTCA Address

SEPN 510 Bloco A, 3rd Floor

CEP:70750-521 Asa Norte,

Brasília/DF - Brazil.

+55 (61) 3248-4119



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