Every year, during the high-water season, rivers in the Amazon flood thousands of hectares of forests throughout the basin and create one of the most biodiverse and productive ecosystems on the planet: the flooded forest. It is here, in this aquatic jungle, that many important species for Amazonian fisheries, such as the gamitana (*Colossoma macropomum*) and the boquichico (*Prochilodus nigricans*) reproduce and feed. The flooded forest is also where a diversity of valuable fruits such as the aguaje (*Mauritia flexuosa*) and the camu camu (*Myrciaria dubia*) are found. However, this biodiversity is increasingly threatened by climate change, deforestation, and the construction of dams that alter the flood pulse on which this wonderful ecosystem depends.

**Main flooded forests**
- Pacaya-Samiria
- Wetlands of the Negro River
- Mainstem of the Amazon
- Llanos de Moxos

**Main effects of flood pulse alteration**
- Changes in the reproductive behavior of aquatic species
- Changes in fish production
- Changes in vegetation phenological patterns
- Mortality of beach-nesting species
- Altered nutrient deposition in the floodplain

**Pulses of life**
Flooded forests depend on the regularity with which river water overflows during each high-water season, also called the flood pulse. Climate change, deforestation, and the construction of dams are altering these dynamics and consequently, this unique ecosystem.

**Floodplain Forest**

**3-4%**
Of the Amazon Basin is composed of flooded forests.

**500 million**
Kilograms of nutrient-rich sediments are deposited each year from the river into the flooded forest. This material, much of which originates in the Andes, is a critical component supporting the Amazon's biodiversity.

**250,000 km²**
of flooded forests exist in the Amazon.

The aguaje or buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*) is one of the representative species of flooded forest, and its fruits, rich in vitamin A, is one of the most exploited and consumed fruits in the Amazon.