

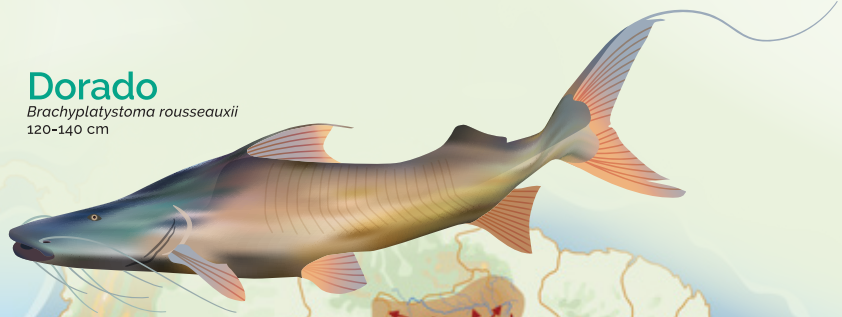
Migratory fish: jewels of nature

Migratory Species and Conservation

The dorado (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and piramutaba (*Brachyplatystoma vaillantii* - also known as manitoa), migratory giants catfishes of the Amazon, are not just species of immense ecological importance but also act as sentinels of connectivity within this vast and intricate aquatic landscape.

Dorado

Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii
120-140 cm

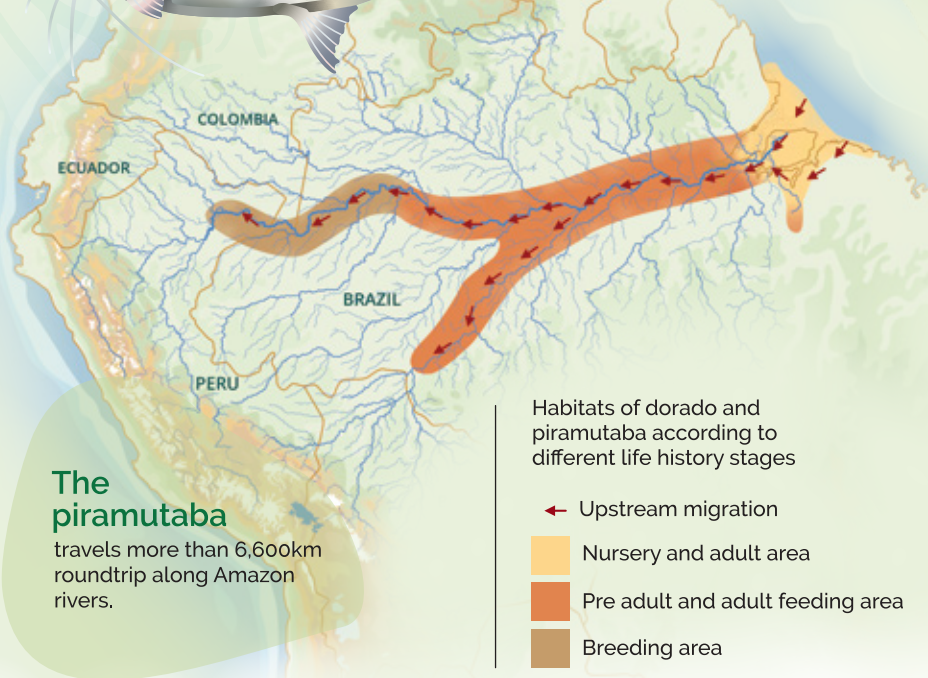


The dorado

travels more than 11,000km roundtrip connecting the Andes piedmont with the estuary in the Atlantic Ocean.

Piramutaba





Brachyplatystoma vaillantii
40-100 cm



The piramutaba

travels more than 6,600km roundtrip along Amazon rivers.

Habitats of dorado and piramutaba according to different life history stages

-  Upstream migration
-  Nursery and adult area
-  Pre adult and adult feeding area
-  Breeding area

The dorado undertakes an extraordinary migration, covering more than 11,000 km from the Andes to the Atlantic and back. It represents the world's largest continental water migration, and its home range includes portions of various Amazon countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Similarly, the piramutaba undertakes extensive migrations (ca. 6,300 km roundtrip), indicating the health and connectivity of Amazonian aquatic ecosystems (Barthem et al., 2017; Goulding et al., 2019).

Amazon Basin Overview

The Amazon Basin is Earth's largest river basin, encompassing an area larger than the continental US. It boasts unparalleled biodiversity, housing over 2,500 fish species, and supports 47 million residents, including about 1.5 million Indigenous people. The Basin's significance lies not just in its lush rainforests but in its expansive aquatic ecosystems, covering 14% of the Basin, vital for biodiversity, fisheries, transportation, and sustaining Amazonian Peoples.

The Amazon's forests and freshwater systems are crucial for global climate regulation!

Aquatic Ecosystems' Importance

The future of the Amazon hinges on conserving its aquatic ecosystems. These systems, including rivers, lakes, and flooded forests, sustain fisheries, provide transport networks, and crucially contribute to the lives of Amazonian residents.

Challenges and Solutions

The dorado and the piramutaba face pressures from habitat destruction and degradation by

ill-planned infrastructure, deforestation, alluvial gold mining, and from overfishing. To protect these species, sustainable management measures and habitat conservation are vital. Collaboration among governments, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and the private sector is key to implementing long-term socioeconomic and environmental solutions.

International Cooperation

The proposal to include these iconic species in Appendix II of CMS is rooted in their significance as indicators of ecosystem health and their critical contribution to the well-being of Amazon Peoples and urban inhabitants. Data on their extensive migrations serves as a compelling argument for their inclusion, emphasizing their pivotal role to flagging the way for migrations and preserving the broader connectivity of the Amazonian aquatic environments.

The long-term conservation of migratory species and their habitats requires collective efforts and partnerships across borders and involving diverse stakeholders, guaranteeing the sovereignty of nations and the fundamental rights of Amazon Peoples.



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