

The Western Amazon, key to the Amazon Basin

How can we protect river connectivity?

- Strengthen Indigenous and local riverine leadership to co-design and co-manage fluvial reserves and other effective management measures.
- Moratorium on dams
- Use river connectivity as an object of conservation and consideration in infrastructure development plans
- Use this baseline to assess progress

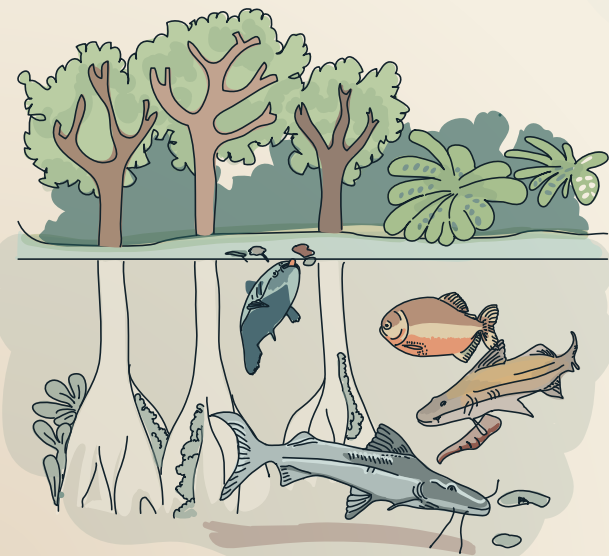


Human populations

27.7 million people live in the Western Amazon (58% of the whole population in the Amazon!)

Rivers are a source of nutrition and income (via fisheries and agriculture), a way to navigate and communicate between human settlements, the basis for the worldviews of numerous Indigenous groups, and a rhythm that organizes social activities, such as festivals, celebrations, and even school.

Aquatic ecosystem connectivity is central to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience in the Amazon.



Freshwater biota

74% of Amazonian fish inhabit Western Amazon rivers (1,868 species)

Western Amazon rivers are essential migratory corridors for at least 76 fish species.

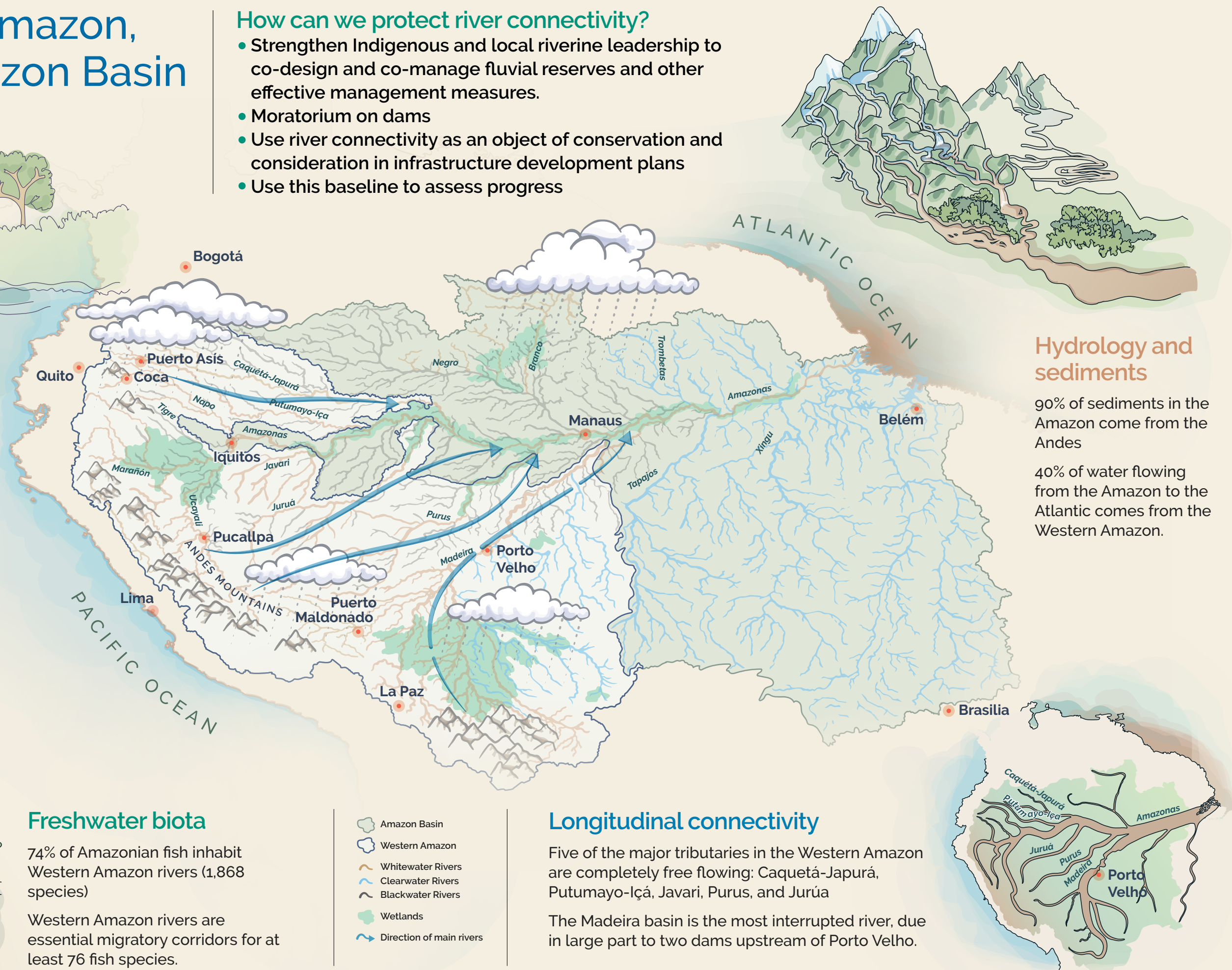
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- Amazon Basin
- Western Amazon
- Whitewater Rivers
- Clearwater Rivers
- Blackwater Rivers
- Wetlands
- Direction of main rivers

Longitudinal connectivity

Five of the major tributaries in the Western Amazon are completely free flowing: Caquetá-Japurá, Putumayo-Içá, Javari, Purus, and Jurúa

The Madeira basin is the most interrupted river, due in large part to two dams upstream of Porto Velho.



Hydrology and sediments

90% of sediments in the Amazon come from the Andes

40% of water flowing from the Amazon to the Atlantic comes from the Western Amazon.