



Dourada (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional Action Plan for Migratory Amazonian Catfish

Large migratory catfish of the Amazon Basin, in particular dourada (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*) and piramutaba (*B. vaillantii*), depend on river connectivity at the basin scale to complete their transboundary migrations.

These species face increasing pressures from hydropower dams, alluvial mining with mercury contamination, overfishing, and the degradation of riparian ecosystems, with direct impacts on biodiversity, food security, and the livelihoods of millions of people.

The inclusion of these species in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), approved at COP14 (2024), recognized the need for international cooperation for their conservation and sustainable use. Authorities from six Amazonian countries, under the leadership of the Government of Brazil, co-designed the **Regional Action Plan for Migratory Amazonian Catfish** as a strategic instrument to translate this commitment into coordinated actions at the basin scale.

The Plan was developed through an intergovernmental and participatory process between 2024 and 2025, with the involvement of authorities from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, as well as grassroots organizations, academia, civil society organizations, and international cooperation partners.

The Government of Brazil submitted the document to the CMS Secretariat in October 2025 for consideration at COP15 (Campo Grande, March 2026).

WHY THIS PLAN MATTERS

Regional action for migratory species:

Amazonian catfish depend on river connectivity at the basin scale. The Plan translates their inclusion in CMS Appendix II into concrete, regionally coordinated actions implemented across countries.

Political consensus with an integrated approach:

The Plan brings together habitat conservation, fisheries management, sustainable value chains, and regulatory harmonization. Its strength is grounded in the leadership of the Government of Brazil and in an intergovernmental, participatory process involving six Amazonian countries, civil society, and academia.

A roadmap for action:

The Plan provides a clear framework for implementation, monitoring, and resource mobilization, delivering benefits that extend beyond biodiversity and strengthen food security, livelihoods, and regional cooperation.

Review the Action Plan here

<https://hov.to/39789aga>



Strategic Objectives of the Action Plan

The Plan proposes a coherent regional framework, with a multi-species approach, and seeks to achieve five strategic objectives:

- 1 Conserve critical habitats and river connectivity** by identifying and maintaining key migratory corridors and addressing the impacts of existing and planned infrastructure.
- 2 Strengthen the scientific and local knowledge base** through basin-scale coordinated research and monitoring, integrating the knowledge of fishing communities to support adaptive management.
- 3 Promote sustainable value chains** by encouraging responsible fisheries management practices, **adding value to products**, and diversifying local economies within the framework of the Amazon bioeconomy.
- 4 Harmonize policies and regulatory frameworks** by aligning fisheries regulations and sectoral policies across countries to support the conservation of migratory species.
- 5 Strengthen institutional cooperation and implementation mechanisms** through intergovernmental coordination, resource mobilization, and the effective participation of local and Indigenous communities.

Why the Plan Matters

The adoption of the Regional Action Plan at CMS COP15 will contribute to:

- Operationalizing the commitments undertaken under CMS Appendix II;
- Strengthening regional cooperation for transboundary migratory species;
- Contributing to global biodiversity goals, ecological connectivity, and the sustainable use of aquatic resources.

The Plan provides a clear and widely agreed commitments and implement coordinated actions, from local territories to the Amazon Basin as a whole.

Priority Next Steps

- Advance the approval of the Regional Action Plan for Migratory Amazonian Catfish at CMS COP15;
- Promote the commitment of Amazon Basin countries to establish a regional coordination mechanism;
- Mobilize financial and technical resources;
- Integrate the Plan's recommendations into national policies and local plans;
- Implement continuous monitoring and evaluation.

The adoption and effective implementation of this Regional Action Plan are essential to conserve large migratory catfish, maintain Amazon Basin connectivity, and strengthen the region's food, cultural, and economic security, in line with the principles and objectives of the Convention on Migratory Species.

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