



Cooperation in Action for the **Amazon Waters**

The joint work of the countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) to ensure a sustainable future for the largest river basin in the world and its peoples



From Present to Future

A Strategy for the Sustainability of the Amazon Basin

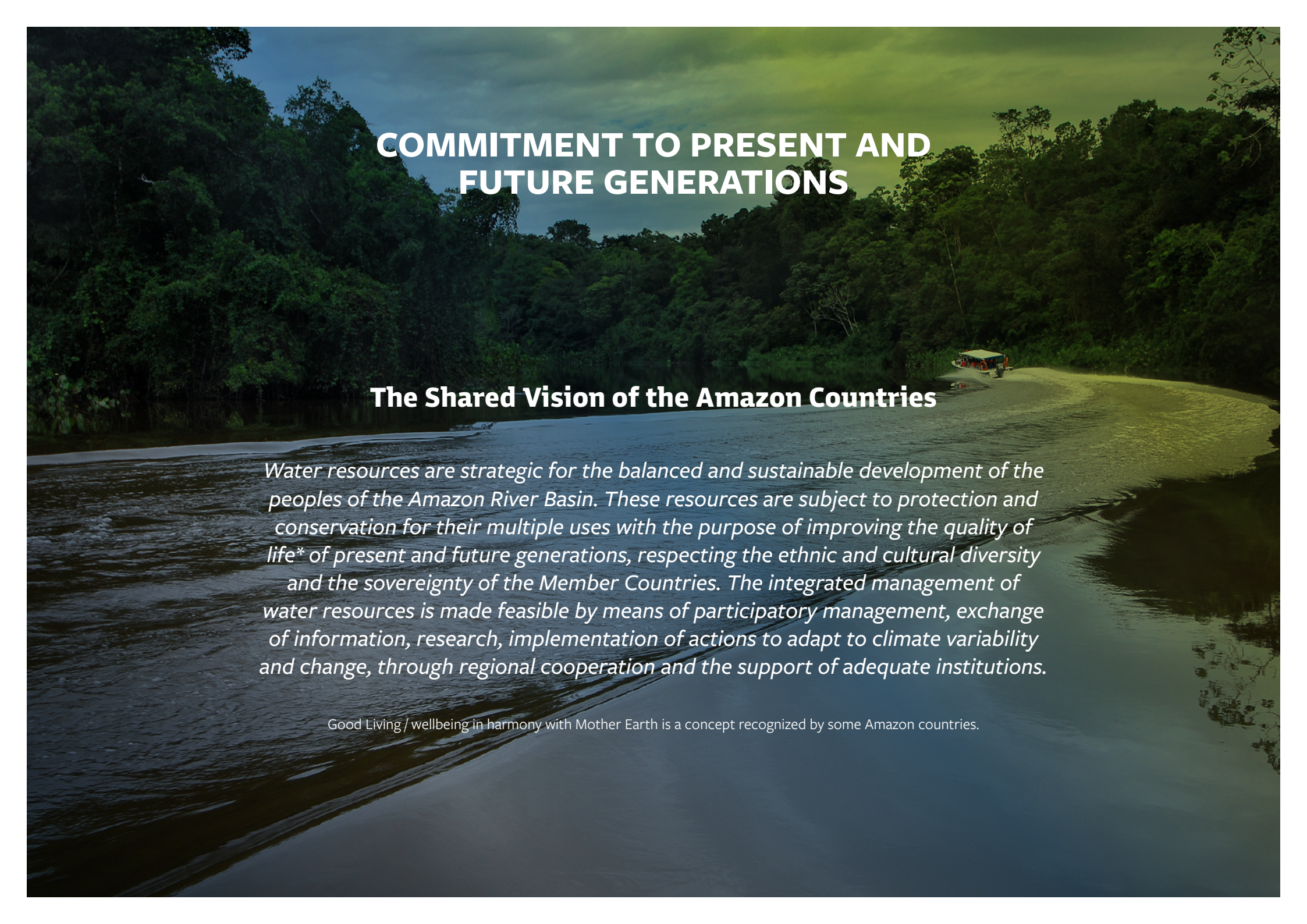
In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with a view to the 2030 Agenda, the Amazonian countries have developed the Strategic Action Program for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Amazon Basin (SAP).

Through a platform for political and technical dialogue provided by ACTO, 19 Strategic Actions were defined to ensure the protection of the world's largest river basin and the water security of its populations, considering the impacts of climate change.

The consolidation of the SAP is the result of a collective process that involved both cooperation among Amazonian countries and dialogue with society, with the aim of aligning the Strategic Actions with local needs and ensuring the long-term sustainability of integrated water resources management in the region. This effort resulted in the creation of a Shared Vision for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin. In addition, a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was developed to identify nine priority transboundary issues, ensuring an integrated and participatory approach to the protection of water resources in the region.

More information on the Strategic Action Programme:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/programa-de-acciones-estrategicas/>





COMMITMENT TO PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Shared Vision of the Amazon Countries

Water resources are strategic for the balanced and sustainable development of the peoples of the Amazon River Basin. These resources are subject to protection and conservation for their multiple uses with the purpose of improving the quality of life of present and future generations, respecting the ethnic and cultural diversity and the sovereignty of the Member Countries. The integrated management of water resources is made feasible by means of participatory management, exchange of information, research, implementation of actions to adapt to climate variability and change, through regional cooperation and the support of adequate institutions.*

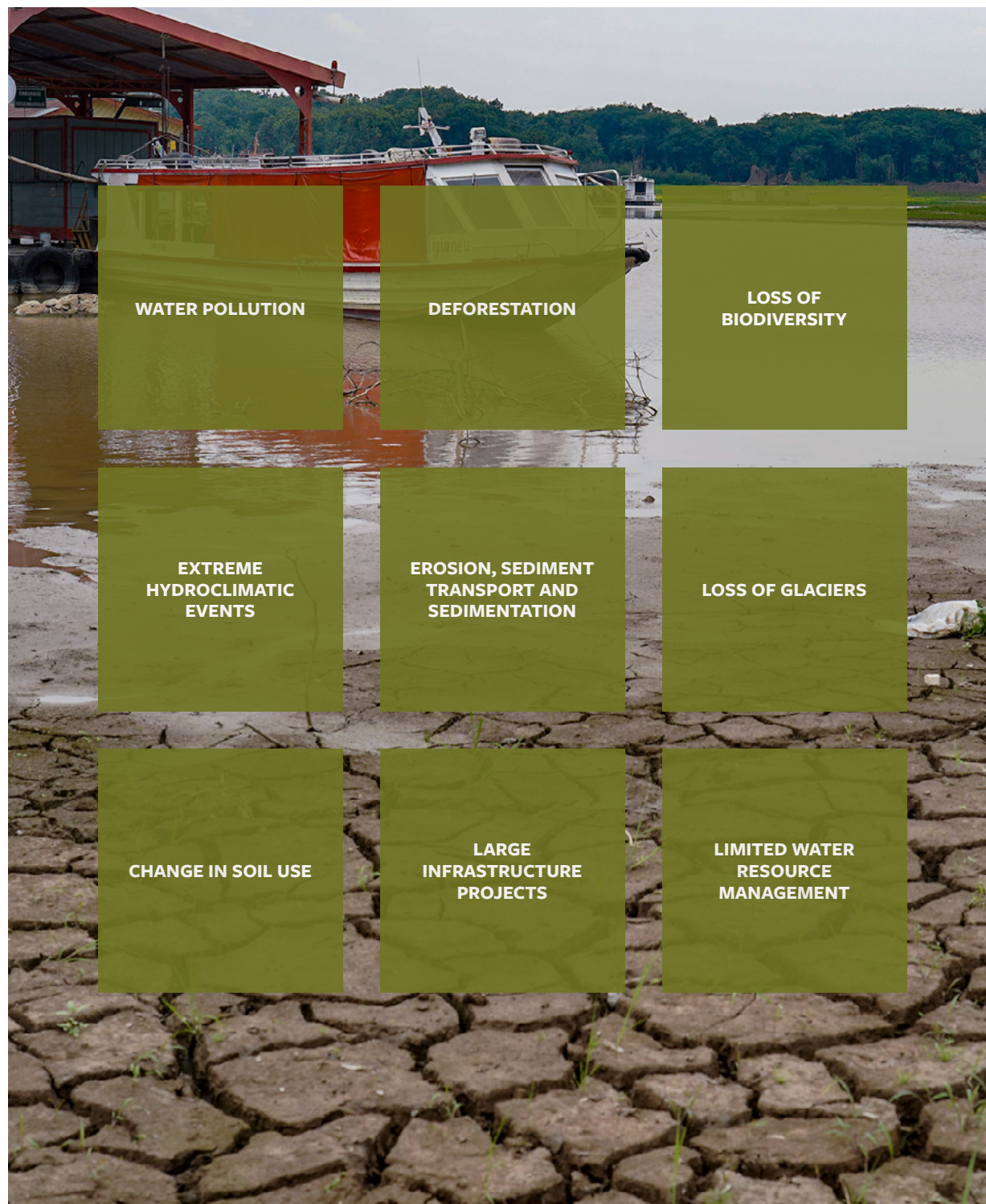
Good Living / wellbeing in harmony with Mother Earth is a concept recognized by some Amazon countries.

KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

Nine Regional Priority Transboundary Problems

The Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Amazon Basin is a milestone in the cooperation among ACTO Member Countries. Developed between 2013 and 2016 with broad social and institutional participation, this process laid the groundwork for the Strategic Action Programme for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Amazon Basin (SAP), assessed national water management policies, and promoted regional articulation.

The TDA identified nine regional Priority Transboundary Problems:



For more details, visit the link:

<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/programa-de-acciones-estrategicas/adt/>

THREE KEY STRATEGIES FOR EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT

To address the Nine Priority Regional Transboundary Problems and their root causes, the SAP includes 19 strategic actions, structured into three Strategic Response Lines.

These actions aim to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks in the countries, improve technical and technological capacities, enhance monitoring and knowledge management at national and regional levels, and increase the resilience of people and ecosystems to climate change impacts.

More information on the Strategic Actions:

<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/programa-de-acciones-estrategicas/acciones-estrategicas/>

STRATEGIC RESPONSE LINE #1

Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin by equipping national institutions and ACTO with adequate infrastructure and human resources to tackle water pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, erosion, and land use changes.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE LINE #2

Adaptation to climate variability and change, focusing on strengthening the response capacity of national and local institutions to extreme hydroclimatic events and glacier loss.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE LINE #3

Knowledge Management to raise awareness about the importance of natural resources, especially water, and their sustainable use.



The Amazon Basin Project

IMPLEMENTING THE SAP

Cooperation in Progress

Since 2021, the Amazon Basin Project has supported countries in implementing the SAP for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) of the Amazon Basin, considering the impacts of climate change, with strategic actions in three key areas to benefit 7.8 million people.



STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

- Creation of the Permanent Regional Coordination Mechanism for IWRM
- Development of National Action Plans
- IWRM training
- Gender mainstreaming training in water management
- Technical exchange between Amazon countries

1,400

people trained, including professionals and local community members

ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Implementation of Early Warning Systems for extreme events
- Protection of groundwater sources
- Application of innovative incentive mechanisms for water management
- Implementation of nature-based solutions
- Alternative water supply solutions in the Andes

7.8 million

people benefited

PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

- Implementation of water quantity and quality monitoring networks
- Glacier monitoring to assess the effects of climate change on water supply

600 million hectares

covered by an integrated environmental monitoring system

More information on the Amazon Basin Project:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org>



7.8 MILLONES
de personas beneficiadas



00:00 / 01:21



RADA

PERMANENT COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR IWRM

A milestone in transboundary cooperation for the Amazon waters

In 2023, during the Amazon Summit in Belém (Brazil), presidents and authorities from Amazonian countries created the **Amazon Water Authorities Network (ANWA)**, marking the beginning of a new era in transboundary water governance. ANWA is one of the commitments of the **Belém Declaration** – the common agenda for Amazon cooperation – and aims to strengthen the shared management of the Amazon Basin.

Operating within the Amazon Basin Project, ANWA has provided a **permanent coordination space** among water authorities from the eight Amazonian countries since its establishment in 2024. Its 2024–2026 work plan includes the adoption of regional protocols for **water quantity and quality monitoring, information exchange, and institutional strengthening**. One of its main priorities is to reinforce the **Amazon Hydrological Network** and the **Water Quality Network**, two regional monitoring systems that support Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin.

By adopting coordinated and solidarity-based action, the Amazonian countries reaffirm their shared responsibility for one of the planet's most vital ecosystems.

To learn more about RADA, click here:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/rada>



RADA



Creation of ANWA during the Amazon Summit



Amazon Summit in Belém (Brazil)



Official installation of ANWA in Brasília

WATER MONITORING NETWORKS

Data Generation and Integration for Sustainable Water Management

The Amazon Basin Project is consolidating a **Regional Integrated Information Platform** on Integrated Water Resources Management, which will bring together data from the Amazon Hydrological Network (AHR) and the Water Quality Network (WQN). This tool will strengthen basin monitoring by enabling the analysis of key variables for water management.

The two networks operate within the Amazon Regional Observatory (ARO) - ACTO's Reference Center for Information on the Amazon — with data collected from 547 hydrometeorological stations, generating harmonized, validated, and systematic regional information on the quality of surface water in the basin, river levels, flow, temperature, pH, and turbidity, among other indicators.

The integration of these networks enables a more accurate diagnosis of water conditions and supports the development of policies for the conservation and sustainable use of resources.

Discover more about the **Regional Integrated Information Platform on Integrated Water Resources Management** by clicking here.
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/monitoreo-ambiental-y-de-los-recursos-hidricos/>



Explore the ARO through this link:
<https://oraotca.org/>

REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF MERCURY POLLUTION

Building a Water Mapping and Monitoring System in the Amazon

The Amazon Basin Project is creating a regional overview of mercury pollution in the waters of the Amazon Basin. The goal is to identify the most affected areas and establish a database for continuous monitoring.

With collaboration among countries in the region, the project seeks to implement actions to mitigate pollution and improve the management of shared water resources.

In addition, the overview will serve as a strategic tool to better understand pollution patterns and enable the implementation of effective public policies. Through this regional approach, governments will be able to make more informed decisions regarding resource management and the protection of vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

Discover more about the **Regional Overview of Mercury Pollution** by clicking here:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/estudio-proporcionara-una-vision-regional-de-la-situacion-de-la-contaminacion-por-mercurio-en-la-cuenca-del-amazonas/>

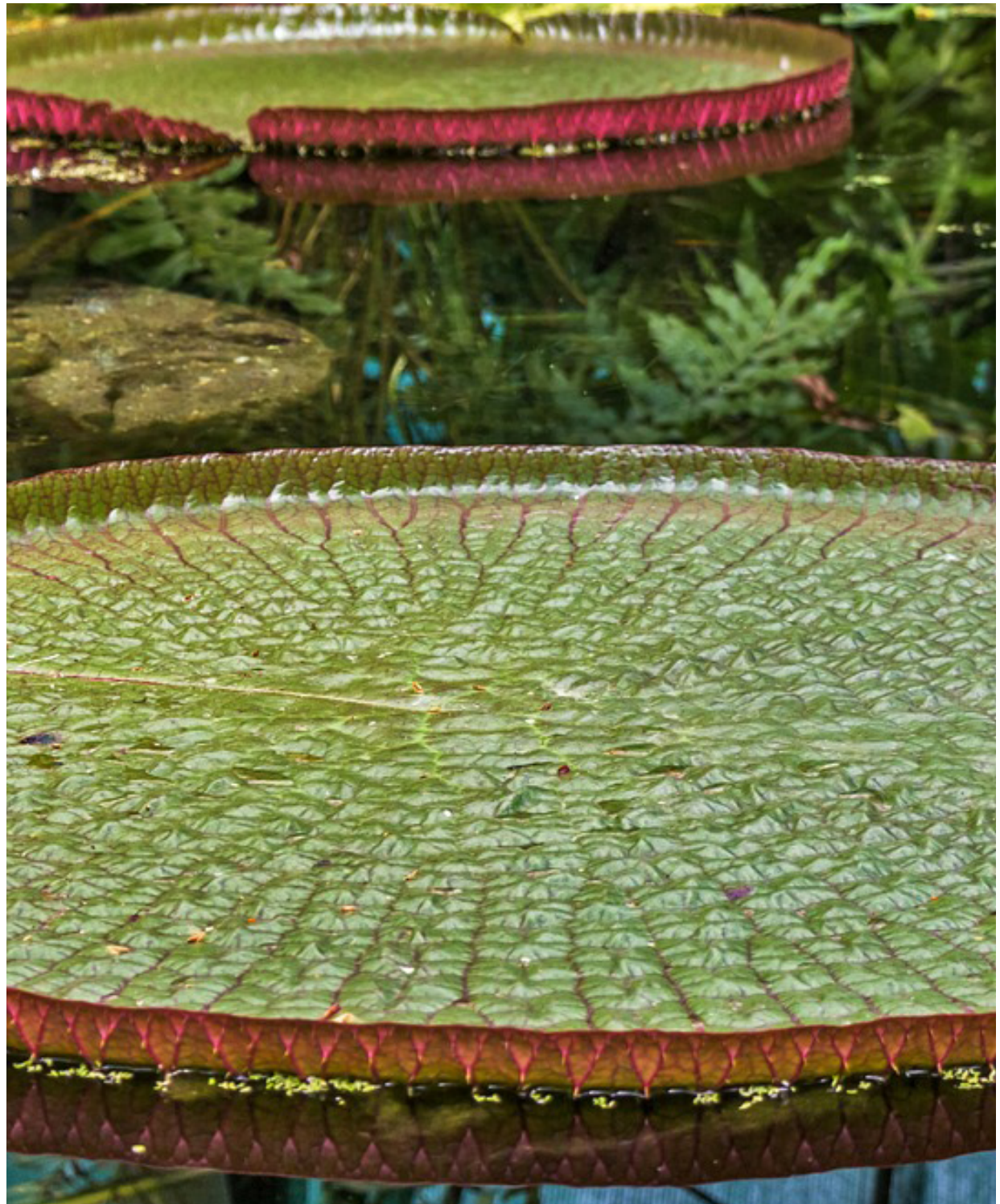


NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

Each Country's Commitment to Water Management and Conservation

The National Action Plans (NAPs) will be developed under the Amazon Basin Project (ABP) to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Actions in each of the eight Amazonian countries. These documents will align with national policies, regulations, and legal frameworks, within the broader context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), taking into account local specificities and national priorities.

The NAPs will enable countries to set clear implementation routes for the Strategic Actions, identify synergies with other national and regional programs, and ensure the sustainability of results achieved. The elaboration of the NAPs will also encourage the active participation of key stakeholders, such as local communities, civil society, and academia, promoting inclusive and effective governance.



EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL EXPERIENCES

Promoting Cooperation and Mutual Learning Among Amazonian Countries

The Amazon Basin Project promotes the exchange of technical experiences among countries in the region, enabling the transfer of knowledge and best practices for efficient water resource management. These initiatives seek to strengthen regional cooperation by promoting the implementation of joint solutions adapted to the local realities of each country.

Through workshops, technical visits, and regular meetings, experts and technicians from different countries share lessons learned, innovative methodologies, and successful results in integrated water resource management. This approach contributes to the harmonization of public policies and the creation of collaborative networks among Amazonian nations.

The exchange not only improves national capacities but also promotes a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing common challenges in the basin. By learning from each other's experiences, countries reinforce their commitment to natural resource conservation and water security in the Amazon region.



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Strategic Training to Improve Governance in the Amazon Basin

With the goal of improving integrated water resource management in the region, the Amazon Basin Project conducts training sessions that address various aspects of water governance. One of the key initiatives is the **Source to Sea** training series, which fosters a comprehensive understanding of the water cycle in the Amazon Basin—from the Andean source to its mouth in the Atlantic Ocean. These sessions aim to enhance the technical capacities of participants to implement sustainable solutions that benefit both people and Amazonian ecosystems.

The trainings cover a range of key water governance topics, and technical staff from the eight Amazonian countries receive specialized training to optimize water resource management. In addition to strengthening regional cooperation, these initiatives promote the exchange of best practices and collaborative work among countries to tackle shared environmental challenges.

Through these efforts, the project seeks to achieve more efficient and equitable water management in the Amazon Basin, improving the resilience of local communities and fostering international cooperation for a more sustainable future.



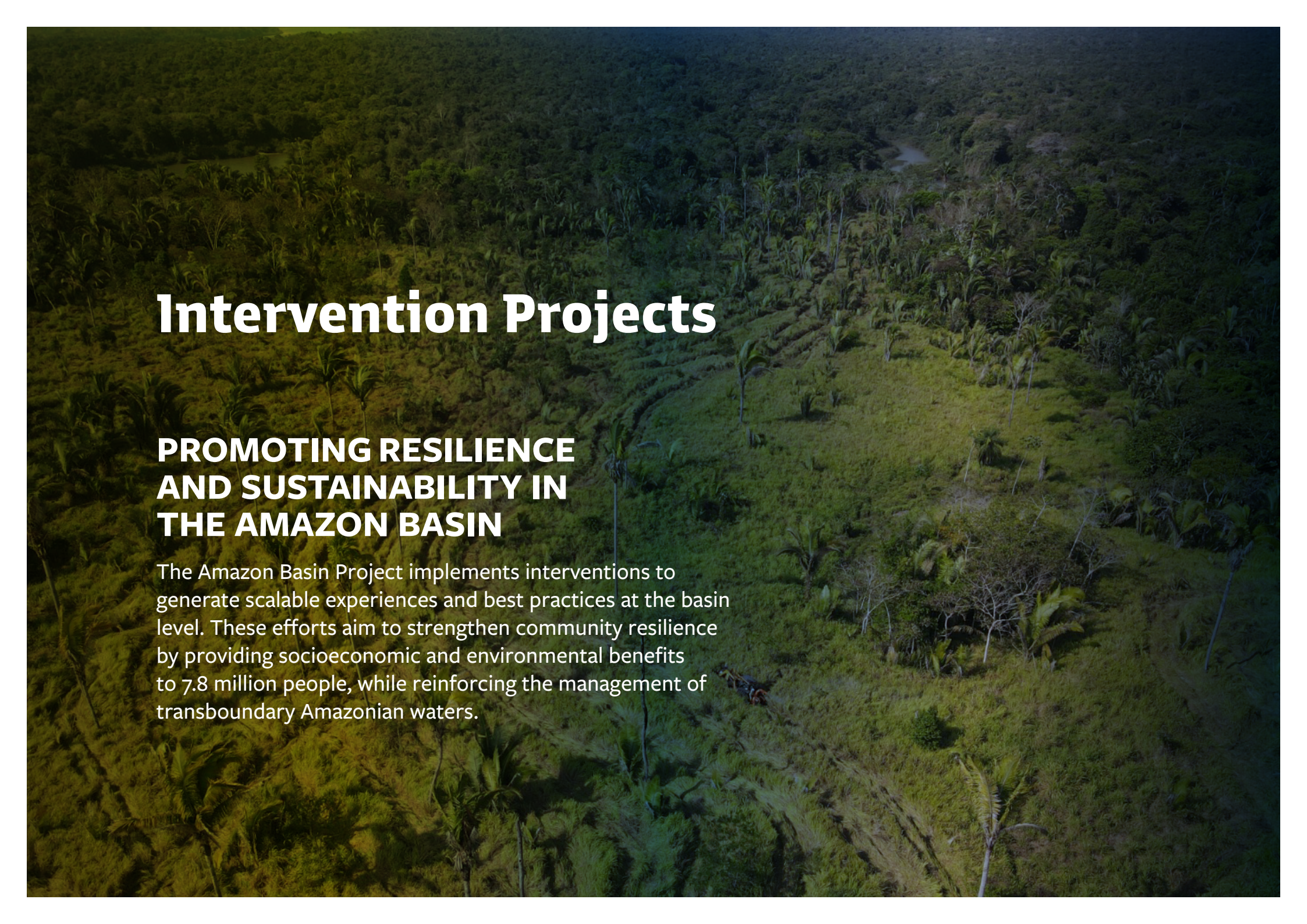
GENDER EQUITY IN WATER GOVERNANCE

Empowering Women's Participation in Decision-Making Spaces

The Amazon Basin Project promotes gender equity in water resource management to ensure the active participation of women in decision-making and water governance. To this end, training sessions are conducted with institutions and local communities, aiming to mainstream gender approaches into water-related plans, programs, and public policies.

The strategy is based on a participatory approach, engaging various stakeholders—especially beneficiaries—while emphasizing women's voices. This allows initiatives to be co-designed and co-implemented in the territories, ensuring more inclusive and sustainable solutions. Additionally, the project supports the collection of gender-disaggregated data to strengthen evidence-based decision-making.





Intervention Projects

PROMOTING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AMAZON BASIN

The Amazon Basin Project implements interventions to generate scalable experiences and best practices at the basin level. These efforts aim to strengthen community resilience by providing socioeconomic and environmental benefits to 7.8 million people, while reinforcing the management of transboundary Amazonian waters.

FINANCING MECHANISMS

Innovative Incentive-Based Financing Mechanisms for IWRM

FOREST SEED CHAIN

This intervention combines income generation in traditional communities with the restoration of degraded areas in the Brazilian Amazon.

This initiative strengthens the collection and commercialization of native seeds in the Terra do Meio region of Pará, promoting ecological restoration of degraded areas along the Xingu and Iriri rivers. By structuring a productive chain of native seeds that benefits traditional and Indigenous communities, the intervention contributes to environmental recovery, reinforces local autonomy, and values traditional knowledge.

Discover more innovative financing initiatives at this link:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/area-de-intervencion/mecanismos-de-financiamiento/>



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Measures to Protect Communities and Coastal Ecosystems from Sediment, Droughts, Floods, Wave Damage, and Sea Level Rise

BLUE FORESTS FOR A BLUE ECONOMY

Mangrove restoration in Suriname through a nature-based solution delivers socio-environmental benefits to coastal communities

The Amazon Basin Project, in collaboration with the Surinamese government, is implementing a mangrove restoration process on the northern coast of Paramaribo using natural infrastructure. Through financial incentives—especially targeting women in local communities—the initiative seeks to restore these vital ecosystems, protect the coastal zone, and promote a sustainable economy to support communities that depend on mangroves.

Learn about other nature-based solution examples here:

<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/area-de-intervencion/soluciones-basadas-en-la-naturaleza/>



EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Operational Forecasting and Early Warning Systems Designed to Respond to Extreme Hydroclimatic Events

TRINATIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS)

Flood and Drought Prevention in the Tri-border Amazon Region Between Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru

The Trinational Early Warning System will strengthen the response capacity to floods and droughts in the transboundary region between Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru. Designed to monitor the Madeira, Upper Purus, and Upper Juruá river basins, it will integrate real-time hydrometeorological data, enabling early alerts and coordinated actions among the three countries. In addition to reducing risks for local communities, this intervention will enhance water planning and reinforce regional cooperation in managing shared water resources.

To learn more about Early Warning Systems under the Amazon Basin Project, visit this page:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/area-de-intervencion/sistemas-de-alerta-temprana/>



GLACIAL WATERS

Efficient Water Use and Alternative Supply Solutions in Andean Communities Affected by Glacier Loss

PRESERVE THE ANDES, PROTECT THE AMAZON

Management to Address Glacier Retreat and Protect Shared Waters

The Amazon Basin Project is implementing innovative water management solutions to address the effects of glacier retreat in the Andean region. In Bolivia, glaciological and hydrometeorological monitoring of the glaciers that supply La Paz and El Alto will help develop strategies for more efficient water use, benefiting 2.6 million people. In Peru, the installation of monitoring stations in the Vilcanota and Carabaya mountain ranges will strengthen the resilience of more than 250,000 people in response to glacier loss. These interventions will not only ensure water supply in the Andes but also protect the Amazon Basin, mitigating reduced river flows from glacier-fed sources—which could decrease water flow by up to 20%, intensifying droughts and floods.

For more details on these interventions, click here:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/area-de-intervencion/aguas-glaciares/>



GROUNDWATER

Protecting Groundwater Sources to Reduce Flood-Related Contamination in Urban Centers

WATER SECURITY AT THE BRAZIL-COLOMBIA BORDER

Joint Actions to Improve Water Quality in Leticia and Tabatinga

A study conducted between 2022 and 2023 is the main outcome of the intervention at the Brazil-Colombia border, revealing that over 70% of the 68 monitored wells in the twin cities of Leticia and Tabatinga do not meet the standards for human consumption. In response, intergovernmental cooperation between Brazil and Colombia is advancing with actions to expand basic sanitation coverage and strengthen groundwater monitoring. Additionally, community participation will be key to reducing contamination and ensuring water security in the region.

For more examples of groundwater protection interventions in the Amazon Basin, click here:
<https://aguasamazonicas.otca.org/area-de-intervencion/aguas-subterraneas/>





WE ARE THE AMAZON

Our Waters Move and Connect Us

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