The main challenges are the destruction of natural environments and unsustainable practices such as deforestation, pollution and overfishing, which affect the turtle populations. The main areas of intervention are promotion of sustainable practices, such as protected areas, and the development of local communities. The Action Plan for Amazon River Turtle Conservation has long been presenting efforts to protect some of these species. The nesting areas monitoring, together with nests and hatchling management of *P. expansa*, *P. unifilis* and *P. sextuberculata* of these species showed large fluctuation in the number of nests monitored during the nesting process of the Giant South American River Turtle females nesting. The conservation actions implemented by the Brazilian government have been supported by various institutions and partner organizations. The main adversities to the populations of these turtles arise from inadequate areas, which have been magnified by human intervention, for example, fires; floodplain and riparian forest deforestation, among others, fires; floodplain and riparian forest deforestation, watercourse contamination; backfill and compaction of areas for road and other public works, among others. The main areas of intervention are:

- Promotion of sustainable practices such as protected areas and the development of local communities.
- Habitat restoration and protection.
- Monitoring of nesting areas and hatchling management.
- Research and management of federal protected areas.

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- Promotion of sustainable practices such as protected areas, and the development of local communities.
- Habitat restoration and protection.
- Monitoring of nesting areas and hatchling management.
- Research and management of federal protected areas.

Specific Objective 1. Adequacy of legal frameworks related to husbandry marketing and management of community-based Amazon Turtle.

Specific Objective 2. Increase the information on the exploitation of species of Amazon Turtles.

Specific Objective 3. Increase the information on the exploitation of species of Amazon Turtles.

Specific Objective 4. Increase the information on the exploitation of species of Amazon Turtles.

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Specific Objective 29. Increase the information on the exploitation of species of Amazon Turtles.

Specific Objective 30. Increase the information on the exploitation of species of Amazon Turtles.
**SUMMARY**

The Giant South America River Turtle is the largest species of the ge-}

**Action Plan**

**Target Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxonomic group</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Target Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chelonoidis denticulata</td>
<td>West Spiny Amazon River Turtle</td>
<td>Podocnemis expansa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelonoidis carbonaria</td>
<td>South America River Turtle</td>
<td>Podocnemis sextuberculata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrynops tuberosus</td>
<td>Black-chinned Amazon River Turtle</td>
<td>Mesoclemmys nasuta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinosternon scorpioides</td>
<td>Spotted Amazon River Turtle</td>
<td>Mesoclemmys gibba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podocnemis unifilis</td>
<td>Giant South American River Turtle</td>
<td>Podocnemis erythrocephala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podocnemis sextuberculata</td>
<td>Red-Headed Amazon River Turtle</td>
<td>Podocnemis sextuberculata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Benefits**

- **Economic benefits**
  - **Local**
    - Direct, indirect and induced benefits to local communities and tourists.
  - **Regional**
    - Contribution to the economy of the region through travel.
- **Social benefits**
  - **Local**
    - Improved quality of life, increased awareness and participation.
  - **Regional**
    - Increased cultural exchanges and tourism development.

**Threats**

- **Illegal trade**
  - Healthcare sectors.
  - **Environmental**
    - Habitat loss and degradation.
    - Climate change.
    - **Human activities**
      - Habitat loss and degradation.
      - Climate change.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Enhancement of awareness and education programs.**
- **Conservation efforts**
  - **Local**
    - Implementation of co-management programs.
  - **Regional**
    - Strengthening of international cooperation.
- **Monitoring and research**
  - **Local**
    - Establishment of community-based conservation initiatives.
  - **Regional**
    - Coordination of research projects.
**Summary**

Amazon Action Plan for Amazon River Turtle Conservation

**Target Species**

**Endangered Species**

- *Podocnemis expansa* (Giant South America River Turtle)
- *Podocnemis unifilis* (Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys raniceps* (Red-headed Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys gibba* (Six-tubercled Amazon River Turtle)
- *Chelidae* (Yellow-sphere Amazon River Turtle)

**Vulnerable Species**

- *Podocnemis dumerilii*
- *Podocnemis expansa* (Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys nasuta* (Six-tubercled Amazon River Turtle)
- *Chelidae* (Yellow-sphere Amazon River Turtle)

**Least Concern**

- *Podocnemis unifilis* (Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys nasuta* (Six-tubercled Amazon River Turtle)
- *Chelidae* (Yellow-sphere Amazon River Turtle)

**Data Deficient**

- *Podocnemis sextuberculata*
- *Podocnemis dumerilii*
- *Podocnemis unifilis* (Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys nasuta* (Six-tubercled Amazon River Turtle)
- *Chelidae* (Yellow-sphere Amazon River Turtle)

**Notes**

- The action plan was developed for *Podocnemis expansa* and *Podocnemis unifilis* based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.
- The plan outlines actions to prevent and reduce poaching, improve monitoring, and increase awareness about turtle conservation.
- The plan also includes measures to reduce by-catch and habitat loss, and to improve management practices.
- The plan is intended to be implemented by local communities, research institutions, and government agencies.

**Action Plan**

1. **Prevention**
   - Increase awareness among local communities about the importance of turtle conservation.
   - Implement by-law restrictions on turtle hunting.

2. **Monitoring**
   - Establishing a monitoring network to track turtle populations and by-catch occurrence.

3. **Restoration**
   - Reintroduction of extirpated species to suitable habitats.
   - Restoration of degraded habitats to improve turtle populations.

4. **Co-management**
   - Collaborations with local communities and government agencies to implement conservation strategies.

**Threats**

- Habitat loss
- Poaching
- By-catch
- Pollution

**References**

- Schneider, R. (1783) *mata-matá*
- Peters, J. (1870) *cágado-de-barbicha*
- Schweigger, F. (1812) *cágado-de-poças-da-floresta*
- Linnaeus, C. (1766) *jabuti-amarelo, jabuti-tinga*
- Cornalia, J. (1849) *iaçá, pitiú, cambéua*
- Spix, E. (1824) *irapuca, calalumã*
- Schneider, R. (1792) *jabuti-machado*

**Acknowledgments**

- The team appreciates the financial support provided by the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Appendix**

- *Podocnemis expansa* (Giant South America River Turtle)
- *Podocnemis unifilis* (Yellow-spotted Amazon River Turtle)
- *Mesoclemmys nasuta* (Six-tubercled Amazon River Turtle)

**Figure 1**

Map showing the geographical distribution of the Amazon river basin.
In the tropical rainforest of the Amazon Basin, a community of people is gathered around a large turtle. The turtle, a Podocnemis expansa, is a large river turtle known for its distinctive shell markings. The people are engaged in a traditional ceremony, celebrating the importance of these magnificent creatures to their culture. The turtle is a symbol of strength and resilience, a testament to the biodiversity that thrives in the Amazon. Despite the challenges faced by this species, the people remain committed to its preservation, recognizing the vital role it plays in the ecosystem and their way of life. 

The Podocnemis expansa, commonly known as the Black-spotted River Turtle, is one of several species of freshwater turtles found in the Amazon Basin. These turtles are highly valued for their cultural and economic significance. The black-spotted species is particularly threatened by habitat loss, pollution, and overexploitation. Conservation efforts are underway to address these challenges and ensure the long-term survival of this iconic species and others like it. The community around the turtle is a reflection of the ongoing efforts to balance the needs of people and the environment, sustaining the rich biodiversity of the Amazon for generations to come.
The Amazon River is one of the most important areas in the world for biodiversity, housing 10% of the world’s biodiversity, and being responsible for 60% of the world’s oxygen production. Conservation of the Amazon River is crucial today in regard to the sustainable use and dilemmas internationally affronting tropical forests. Hence, the conservation status evaluation process, coordinated by the ICMBio, becomes urgent.

### Action Plan for Amazon River Turtle Conservation

**SUMMARY**

The species access to such areas are limited due to the threats they face from egg collectors, poachers, and traffickers who benefit from the consumption of leathery green turtle meat. This meat is in high demand in Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese markets, where it is transformed into traditional medicinal products and served as a delicacy. In local communities, turtle meat is considered a delicacy and is frequently consumed.

**Target Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxonomic group</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Nesting Site</th>
<th>Breeding Cycle</th>
<th>Eggs</th>
<th>Incubation Period</th>
<th>Nesting Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Podocnemididae</td>
<td>Podocnemis expansa</td>
<td>Sandy and muddy river banks</td>
<td>Sandy and muddy river banks</td>
<td>Single annual breeding cycle</td>
<td>6 to 39 eggs</td>
<td>36 to 45 days</td>
<td>45 to 87 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Podocnemis sextuberculata</td>
<td>Sandy and muddy river banks</td>
<td>Sandy and muddy river banks</td>
<td>Single annual breeding cycle</td>
<td>6 to 39 eggs</td>
<td>36 to 45 days</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mesoclemmys nasuta</td>
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<td>Single annual breeding cycle</td>
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The Yellow-spotted River Turtle is the most common species found in the Amazon, as it is present in various countries in the Amazon basin. It is also the species most frequently observed in the Amazon, especially in Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. Studies have shown that the population of Giant South America Turtle is declining, and it is classified as “Vulnerable to Extinction – VU” by the IUCN. The Big-Headed Side Neck Turtle is also classified as “Vulnerable to Extinction – VU” by the IUCN.

**THREATS**

The main threats faced by these species are habitat loss, pollution, and poaching. The Green Sea Turtle is threatened by habitat loss due to the conversion of coastal areas for agriculture and urbanization. The leatherback turtle is threatened by habitat loss due to the construction of roads and development projects. The Olive Ridley is threatened by habitat loss due to the construction of offshore oil platforms and the development of tourism projects.

**CONCLUSION**

The conservation of Amazon River Turtles is crucial for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecological processes in the Amazon basin. The establishment of protected areas and the implementation of conservation strategies are essential to ensure the long-term survival of these species and their ecosystems.
The main adversities to the populations of these turtles arise from in-
spires generation, legal and illegal hunting of animals, harvest of
shell and meat and, as a consequence, the fragmentation of habitats
caused by habitat loss and habitat modification, as well as the
removal of rivers and dams in the Amazon River basin that
are sources of shelter and food during the flood season; canali-
ization of rivers through historical, diverse and severe habitat
modification, standing water with and without vegetation and
the introduction of invasive species into the native habitat.

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ization of rivers through historical, diverse and severe habitat
modification, standing water with and without vegetation and
the introduction of invasive species into the native habitat.
**Action Plan for Amazon River Turtle Conservation**

A severe decline in the number of Giant South American River Turtle was observed in the states of North and Midwest regions of Brazil. It’s important to point out that this conservation action is based on a well-structured plan, which, after years of implementation, has contributed to the conservation and recovery of these species. The nesting areas monitoring, together with nests and hatchlings’ samples in most locations, showed large fluctuation in the number of nests monitored each year. The main challenge is to maintain this trend and manage these areas sustainably.

**Specific Objective 1. Adequacy of legal frameworks related to husbandry marketing and management of community-based Amazon Turtles.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nº</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal on regulation of protection and husbandry of Amazon Turtles in community bases.</td>
<td>20.000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal to include the provision of environmental compensation/conversion of penalties focused on the PQA.</td>
<td>0,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal for regulate the vessels flow together with the relevant authorities and agencies as to mitigate the impacts on the target species of the PAN.</td>
<td>200.000,00</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Conduct studies to evaluate the effect of vessels flow, of different sizes, on the behavior of target species of the PAN in critical areas.</td>
<td>300.000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
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</tr>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>500.000,00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Systematize data from reproductive management and population monitoring of Amazon Turtles (Siquelônios).</td>
<td>100.000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Perform biennial national evaluation meetings of the conservation management and population monitoring of Amazon Turtles practices.</td>
<td>500.000,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific Objective 2. Generation of information to assess the population status of the target species and species classified as data deficient (DD) in the PAN.**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Elaborate a diagnose of the tourism impact to support the authorities responsible for regulating these activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Elaborate a Monitoring and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians/RAN.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conduct research for the recovery and conservation of their populations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Establish a plan for the severe decline in the number of Giant South American River Turtle in the states of North and Midwest regions of Brazil.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Elaborate proposal for regulate the vessels flow together with the relevant authorities and agencies as to mitigate the impacts on the target species of the PAN.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Perform biennial national evaluation meetings of the conservation management and population monitoring of Amazon Turtles practices.</td>
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**Specific Objective 3. Elaborate and execute a surveillance plan for Amazon Turtles.**

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<td>Elaborate and execute a surveillance plan for Amazon Turtles.</td>
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**Specific Objective 4. Standardize the Amazon Turtles in situ management methodology.**

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**Specific Objective 5. Perform biennial national evaluation meetings of the conservation management and population monitoring of Amazon Turtles practices.**

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**Specific Objective 6. Establish a network of cooperation to protect the Amazon Turtles, integrating all the actors who support and potential collaborators of the PAN.**

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**Specific Objective 7. Support the implementation of participatory protocol of Amazon Turtles population monitoring with sustainable use potential.**

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<td>Conduct studies to evaluate the effect of vessels flow, of different sizes, on the behavior of target species of the PAN in critical areas.</td>
<td>300.000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
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<td>50.000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Support the implementation of participatory protocol of Amazon Turtles population monitoring with sustainable use potential.</td>
<td>500.000,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific Objective 8. Conservation and recovery of reproductive and feeding habitats necessary for the life cycle of the target species of the PAN.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nº</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal on regulation of protection and husbandry of Amazon Turtles in community bases.</td>
<td>20.000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal to include the provision of environmental compensation/conversion of penalties focused on the PQA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Elaborate proposal for regulate the vessels flow together with the relevant authorities and agencies as to mitigate the impacts on the target species of the PAN.</td>
<td>200.000,00</td>
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**Executive Summary of the Brazilian Action Plan for Amazon River Turtle Conservation**

The Brazilian Action Plan for Conservation of Amazon River Turtles (PQA) aims to protect and conserve Amazon River Turtles, which are a keystone species in the Amazonian ecosystem. The plan is a result of collaboration between Brazilian federal agencies, state environmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The PQA focuses on conservation management, research, and management of national protected areas.

The PQA executive units are located in the states of Amazonas, Goias, Mato Grosso, Pará, Tocantins, and Mato Grosso do Sul. These units are responsible for the conservation of Amazon River Turtles, which are a priority species for conservation in Brazil.

The PQA covers a total area of 1.2 million km², which is equivalent to 9% of Brazil’s total area. The plan includes seven specific objectives, which are focused on conservation management, research, and management of national protected areas.

The objectives include:

1. **Evaluation and implementation of experimental community systems of sustainable use.**

2. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for housing and marketing of species of Amazon Turtles.**

3. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for the conservation and management of national protected areas.**

4. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for the conservation and management of national protected areas.**

5. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for the conservation and management of national protected areas.**

6. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for the conservation and management of national protected areas.**

7. **Evaluation and implementation of community systems for the conservation and management of national protected areas.**

The PQA is coordinated by the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA) and the National Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio). The plan is also supported by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) and the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI).

The PQA is funded by the Brazilian government and international donors, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank. The budget for the PQA is estimated at $100 million, with $50 million for conservation management, $20 million for research, and $30 million for monitoring and evaluation.

The PQA is guided by the principles of biodiversity conservation, community participation, and sustainable use. The plan is designed to address the main threats to Amazon River Turtles, such as habitat loss, pollution, and overfishing.

In conclusion, the Brazilian Action Plan for Conservation of Amazon River Turtles is a comprehensive plan that aims to protect and conserve Amazon River Turtles in Brazil. The plan is focused on conservation management, research, and management of national protected areas, and it is supported by the Brazilian government and international donors.