



THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

RICH

The extraordinary landscapes of the Brazilian Amazon—from savannas to flooded forests—harbor one of Earth’s richest assortments of wildlife. Residents include thousands of plant species, over a million insect species, more than 700 fish species, 1,000 bird species, and over 300 mammalian species—plus millions of species still unknown to science. The Amazon provides goods such as building supplies and medicines for the entire world.

SUSTAINING

Traditional communities of rubber tappers, river dwellers, fishermen, and Brazil-nut gatherers rely on Amazonian forests for their livelihoods. The cultural survival of Brazil’s Amerindian population—which practices age-old traditions in harmony with nature—depends on the health of the forest environment.

THREATENED

Amazonian forests suffer more deforestation than any other forests on Earth. In 2002 alone, 10,000 square miles were deforested due to logging, ranching, farming, large-scale soy cultivation, and infrastructure development.

Safeguarding the Amazon: Making Conservation History

A momentous undertaking has begun to transform the conservation landscape in the Brazilian Amazon, the planet’s most vital tropical refuge for countless species, vast rivers, and unexplored forests. This effort—the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program—aims to ensure comprehensive protection for 12 percent of the Brazilian Amazon by creating a system of well-managed parks and sustainable natural resource management reserves. The effort presents striking parallels in scope and historical significance to the establishment of the U.S. National Park System and the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System.

Ambitious in Scope and Time Frame

The ARPA system is comparable in purpose to the U.S. National Park System. In 10 years, however, ARPA will encompass an area 50 percent greater than the U.S. National Parks have reached in 130 years, and at a small fraction of the cost. And ARPA will surpass the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System—which has developed over 100 years—in sheer numbers of bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian species protected.

Comparing Three Conservation Models

Some quick facts and figures on each of these world-class conservation models provide a frame of reference for the historic proportions of the ARPA endeavor.

U.S. National Parks System

Purpose: “To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” *1916 Act establishing the National Park Service*

U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System

Purpose: “To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of

America. The National Wildlife Refuge System is the nation’s largest system of lands and waters that are managed primarily for the benefit of wildlife.” *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Amazon Region Protected Areas

Purpose: To protect for future generations the full range of biological and ecological features found in the Brazilian Amazon by creating a system of parks and reserves encompassing some 193,000 square miles of key habitats and unrivaled tropical wilderness. ARPA will anchor the protection of this region’s extraordinary natural wealth and enable future development to meet pressing social needs to proceed on a sound and sustainable footing.



A flambeau butterfly perches on a yacare caiman, one the 700 reptile and amphibian species protected under ARPA. The U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System counts just 250 such species.

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WWF CONTACTS

MATTHEW PERL
matthew.perl@wwfus.org
202-778-9651

MARK HURLEY
mark.hurley@wwfus.org
202-778-9739

CLAUDIO MARETTI
claudio@wwf.org.br
55-61-364-7468

	U.S. National Park System	U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System	Amazon Region Protected Areas
Number of Areas in the System	387 20 categories including parks, monuments, historical and natural areas	538	79 includes 44 new parks, 21 existing parks under improved management, and 14 sustainable use reserves
Area Under Protection	84 million acres	95 million acres	122 million acres
Human Visitors	277 million (recreational visitors, 2002)	40 million (2002)	No official data is kept, but a relatively small number of visitors currently visit the existing Amazonian parks
Wildlife Residents	Protects many ecosystems and habitats containing the greatest natural biodiversity found in the United States. Affords protection for nearly 400 of the 1,800 species identified as threatened or endangered in the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 species of birds • 220 species of mammals • 200 species of fish • 250 species of reptiles and amphibians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 species of birds • 311 species of mammals, including 57 primate species (more than anywhere else) • more than 700 species of freshwater fishes • 713 species of reptiles and amphibians • 1,800 butterfly species (25% of the world's butterfly species)
Annual Budget	\$1.5 billion	\$400 million	\$37 million Estimated annual budget for the next decade
Founded	1872, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming	1903, Pelican Island, Florida	2002, Tumucumaque Mountains National Park, the world's largest park in tropical forests, four times the size of Yellowstone

Comparison of the Amazon Region Protected Areas program and the U.S. national park and wildlife refuge systems reveals ARPA's unprecedented scope. Through strategic use of resources, ARPA aspires to build a system that protects an untold number of species in only 10 years' time.

ARPA

The Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program is knitting together sweeping safeguards for the tropical forests of the Amazon to ensure the survival of some of the Earth's richest biological treasures. A partnership among the Government of Brazil, the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), the German Development Bank (KfW), the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, and WWF, the program is a 10-year effort to bring 12 percent of the Brazilian Amazon under protection and establish a \$220 million trust fund to finance the effective management of protected areas in perpetuity.

World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-293-4800
Fax: 202-293-9211
www.worldwildlife.org



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