

ONCE UPON A TIME IN YOUR FOREST

NUMBER 4



Turtle Race

Everyone for themselves!

This comic was created by the Science and Technology Program at ACEAA-Conservación Amazónica under the research, dissemination and awareness-raising activities that are being carried out in the Northern Bolivian Amazon.

SCRIPT AND ORIGINAL IDEA:

NELLY GUERRA

INDYRA LAFUENTE

GABRIELA AGUIRRE

DANIEL LARREA

NUNO NEGRÕES

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Marcos E. Uzquiano Howard
Head of the Beni Biological
Station Biosphere Reserve

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION:

ARMIN CASTELLÓN

COLORING ASSISTANT:

NICOLE MOLLEDA

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

LAUREN DEVILLA



LEGAL DEPOSIT:

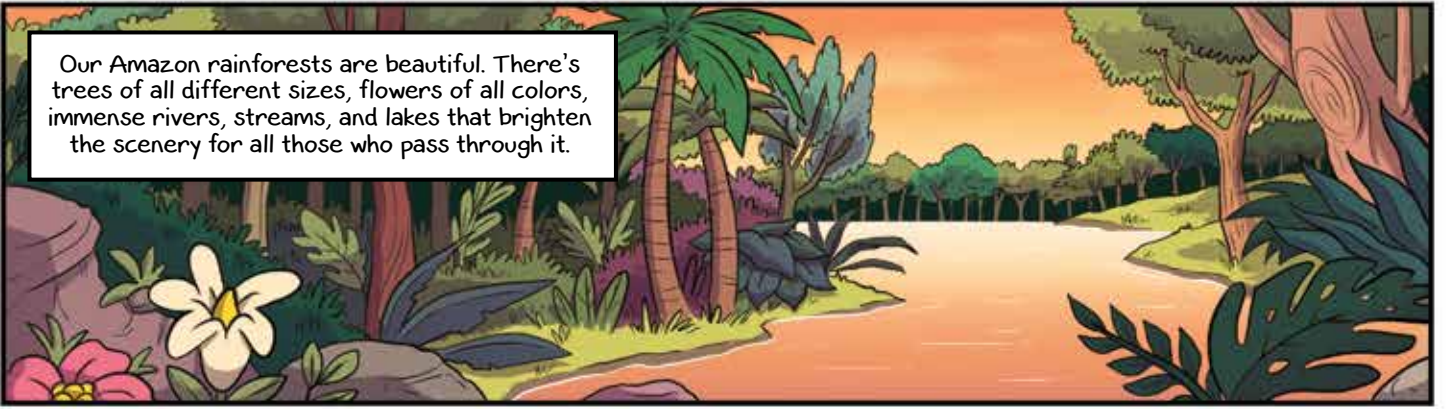
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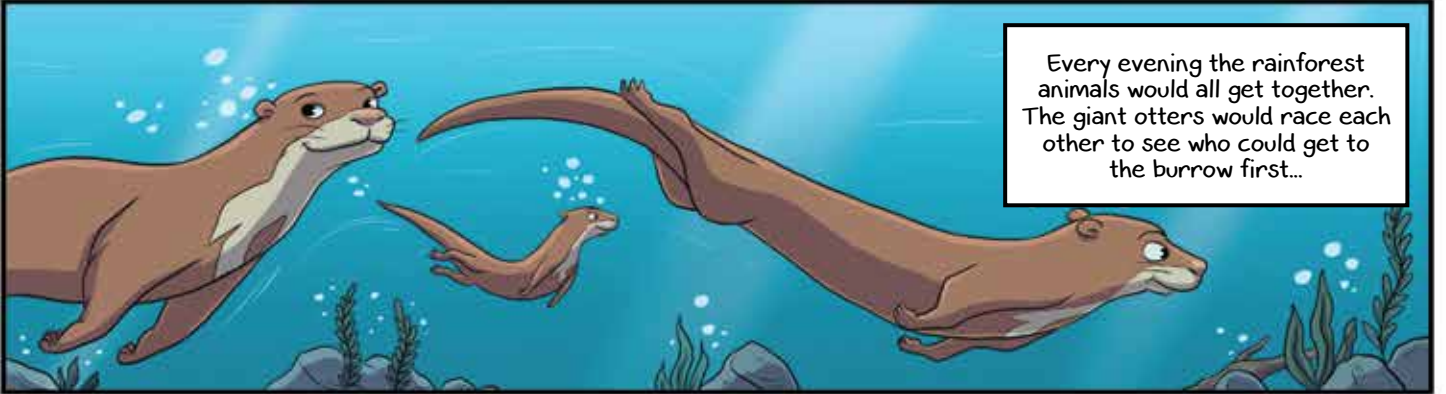
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Bolivia

Our Amazon rainforests are beautiful. There's trees of all different sizes, flowers of all colors, immense rivers, streams, and lakes that brighten the scenery for all those who pass through it.



Every evening the rainforest animals would all get together. The giant otters would race each other to see who could get to the burrow first...



The leaf cutter ants would make a long line to get to their anthill...



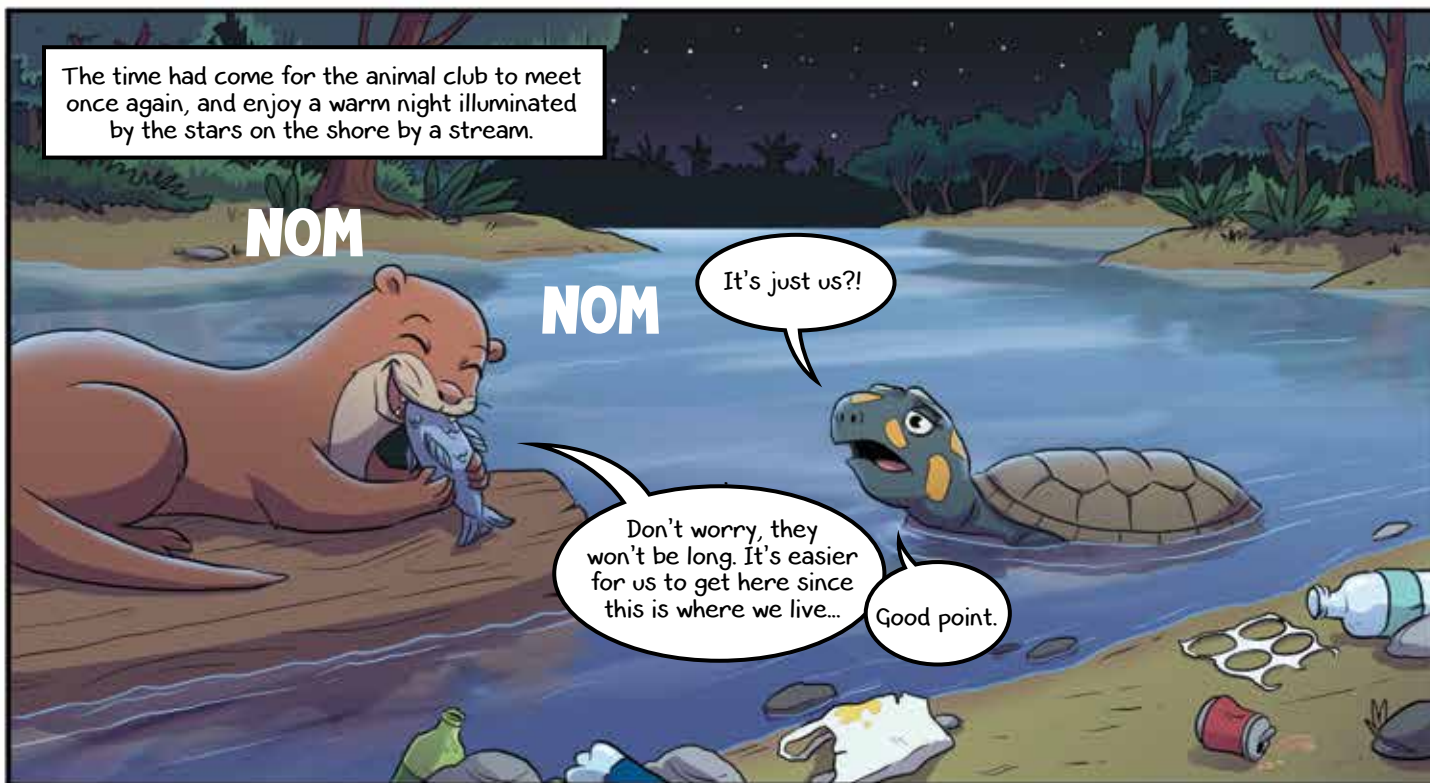
Birds of all colors would cross paths with each other, flying east to west...



And monkeys jumped from one branch to the other, looking for a new destination.



The time had come for the animal club to meet once again, and enjoy a warm night illuminated by the stars on the shore by a stream.



NOM

NOM

It's just us?!

Don't worry, they won't be long. It's easier for us to get here since this is where we live...

Good point.

Stop lying down like a slacker on that log and help me clean up this trash that the humans left. It'll take fifty years to clean it all up myself hehe...



Here come the good times! Here comes the fun! Here comes...ME!



Hello my dear friends! I don't say hello to just anyone because I'm a lazy goose

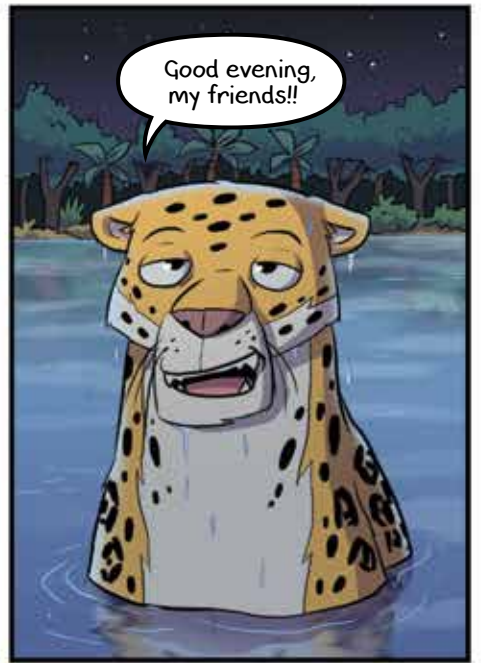
Almost all of us are here, we're only missing our one solitary friend...



Who's that?



Here he comes across the stream! Look who's going for a swim hahaha!



Good evening, my friends!!



I see you look very content, Jaguar. You must have had a good day.



I feel so relaxed, going for a swim after a long, hot day...

Careful with the campfire!

BRRRR!!!



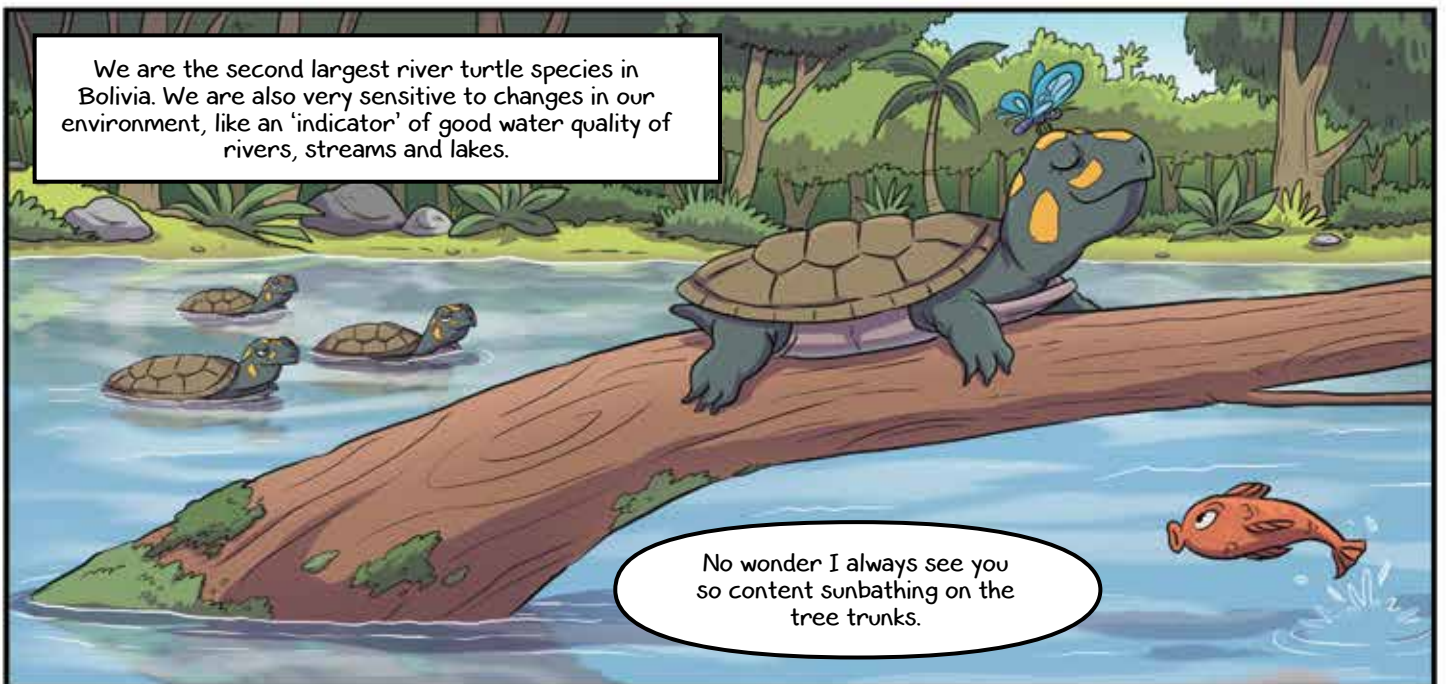
PFSH!

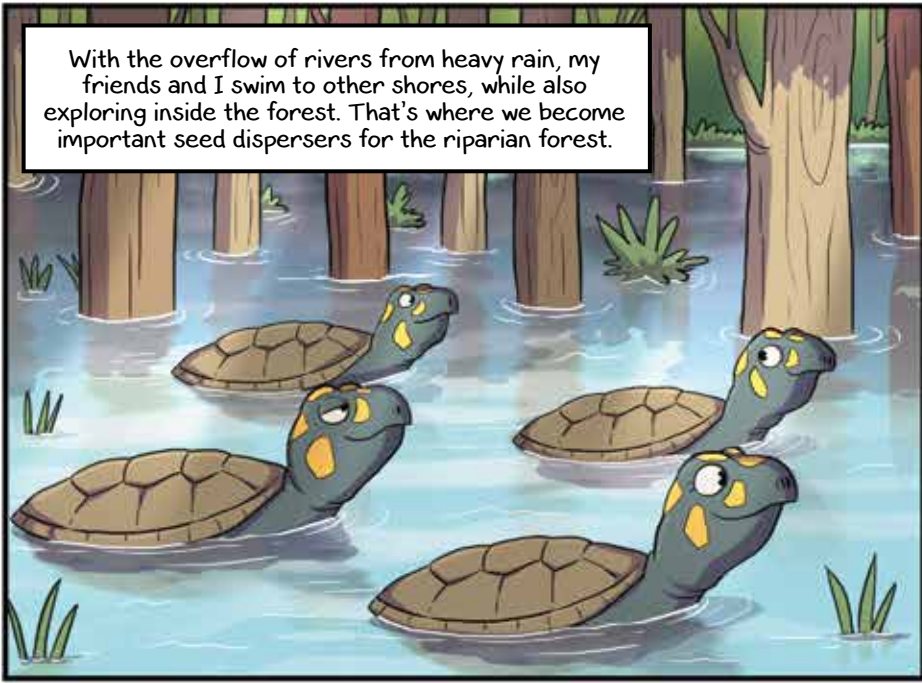
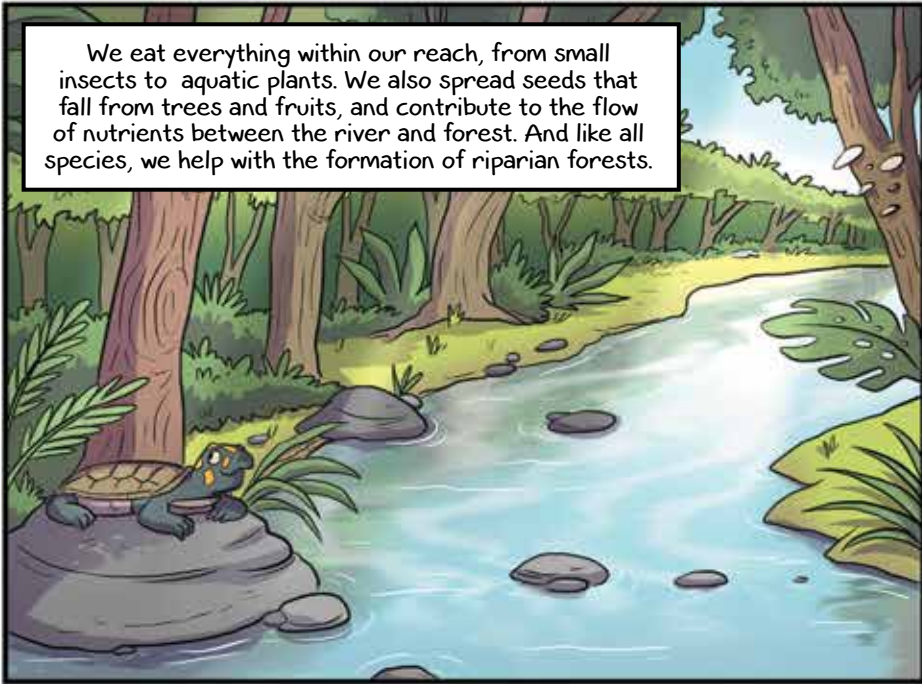


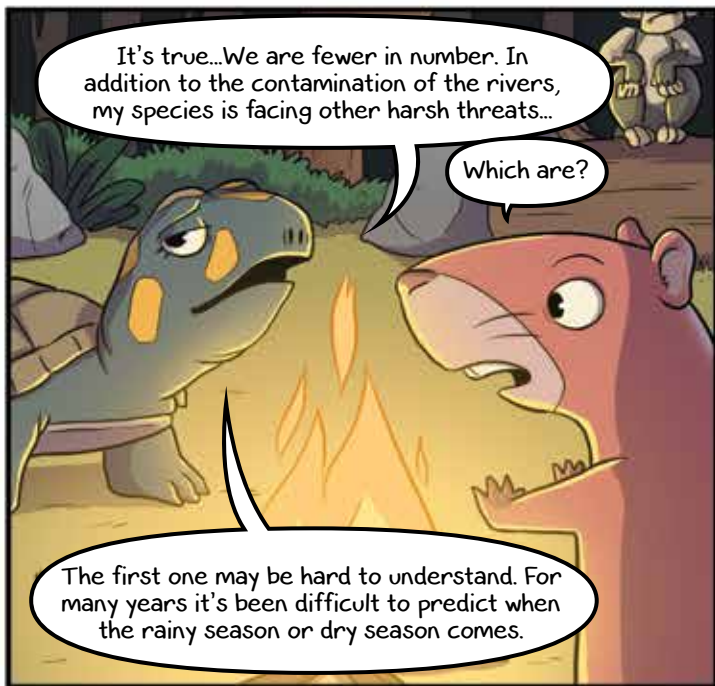
Whoops! Sorry monkey, I'll get you some more branches.

HA HA HA

HA HA HA



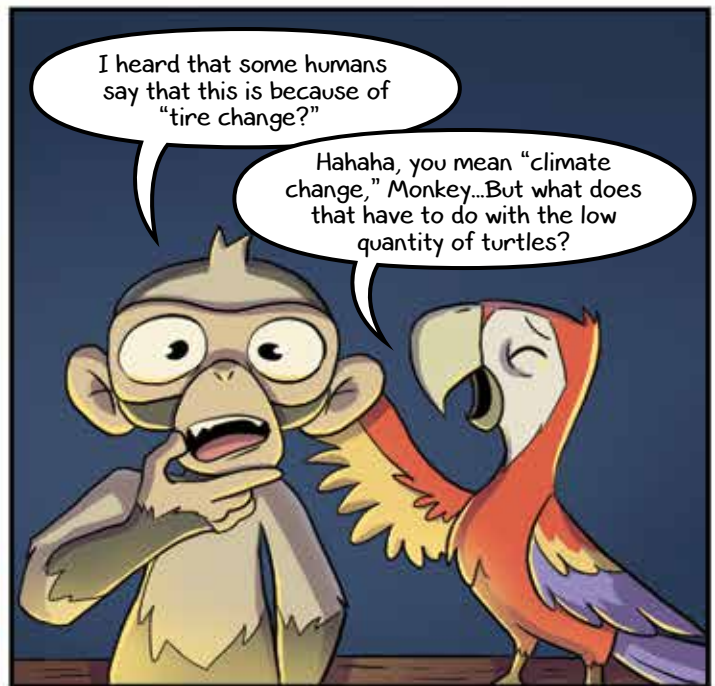




It's true...We are fewer in number. In addition to the contamination of the rivers, my species is facing other harsh threats...

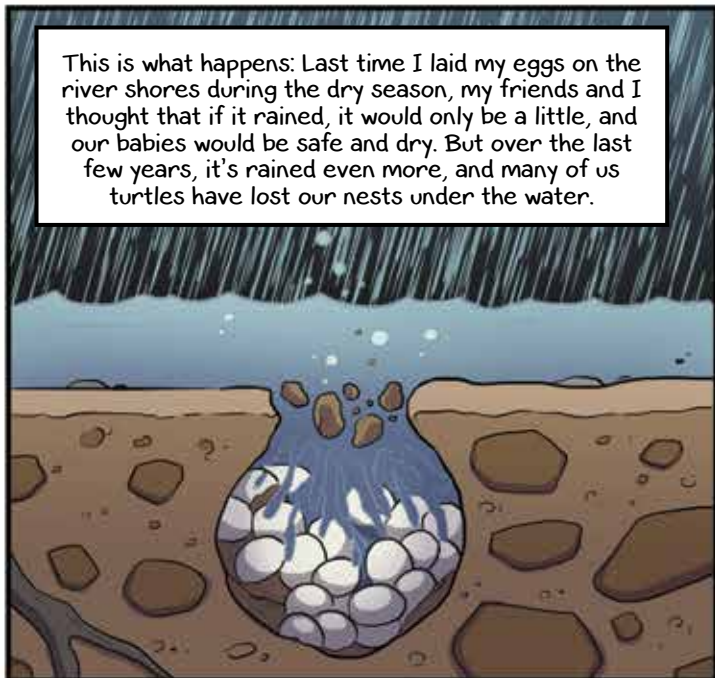
Which are?

The first one may be hard to understand. For many years it's been difficult to predict when the rainy season or dry season comes.



I heard that some humans say that this is because of "tire change?"

Hahaha, you mean "climate change," Monkey...But what does that have to do with the low quantity of turtles?

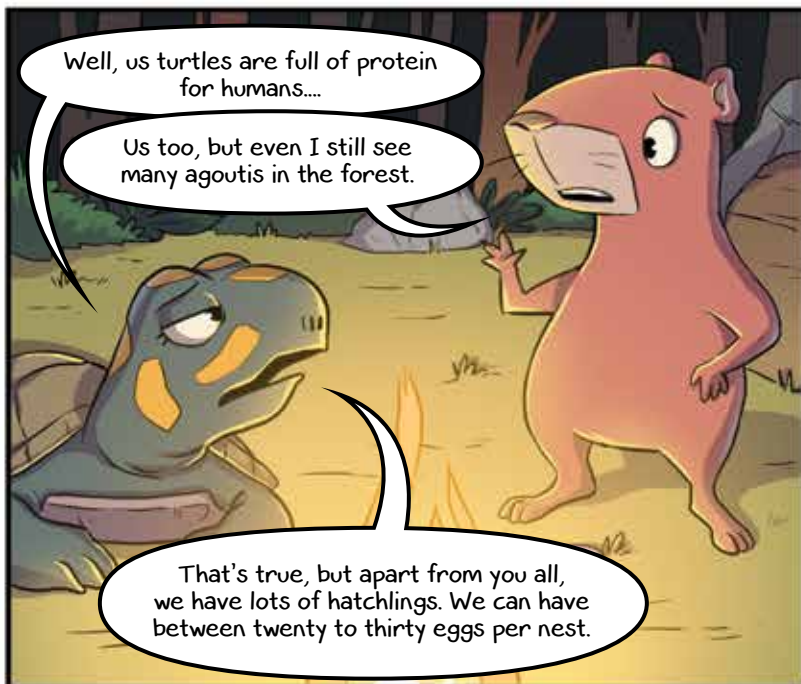


This is what happens: Last time I laid my eggs on the river shores during the dry season, my friends and I thought that if it rained, it would only be a little, and our babies would be safe and dry. But over the last few years, it's rained even more, and many of us turtles have lost our nests under the water.



How sad! Losing all your babies in one day...

And what is the second threat?



Well, us turtles are full of protein for humans...

Us too, but even I still see many agoutis in the forest.

That's true, but apart from you all, we have lots of hatchlings. We can have between twenty to thirty eggs per nest.



...Because we know that only a few will grow up to be adults.

Is it just me or is this story much more tragic than Jaguar's?



And so, when humans come in search of eggs from our nests, it reduces our population even more. And to make things worse, they find all of the eggs on the beaches!



ALL of the eggs from the nest!?! It's like if I ate all the ants, it would give me indigestion.

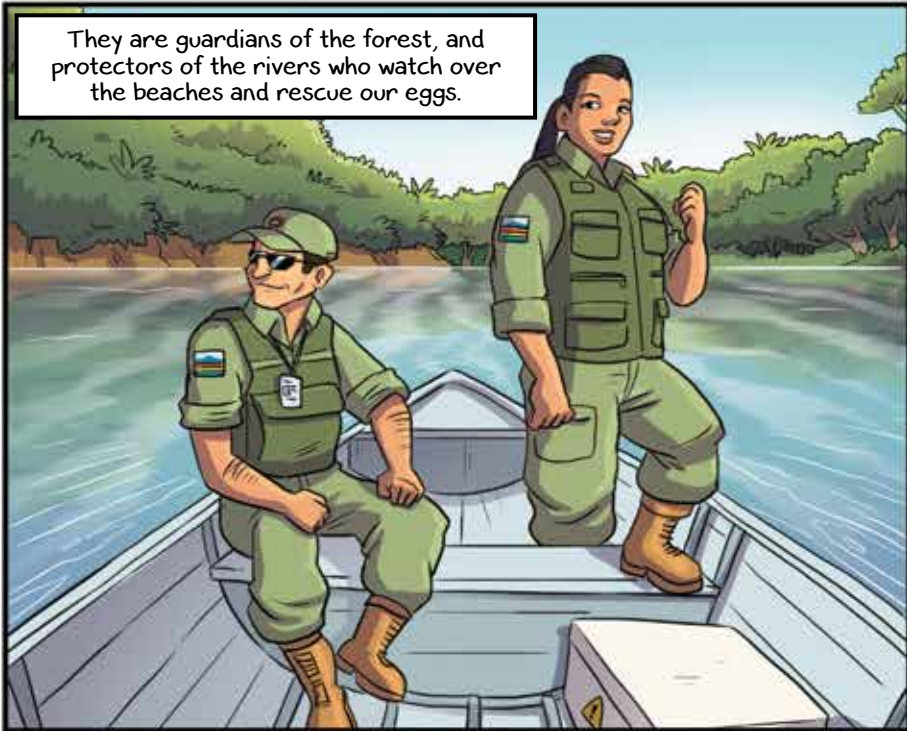


Humans have to understand that we are also part of the forest, and that we want to maintain our natural habitat for our offspring.

But it's not all negative, Jaguar. There are groups of people that exist who are our heroes. There aren't many, but boy are they brave!

Who are they?

The Avengers?



They are guardians of the forest, and protectors of the rivers who watch over the beaches and rescue our eggs.



What do they do with the rescued eggs?

They look after us, and after a while, thousands of turtles are born. Afterwards, they take care of them and ensure they are healthy enough to be released. It's an exciting event for children and adults in the area!



From the moment they are freed into the rivers, it's a fight to survive... Yet here you see me, I'm one of them! "A winner of the race."

Oh my! I've known you since you were so little and I didn't know that you were rescued.

It's a hope of survival for all of those who inhabit the imposing forests of the Bolivian Amazon!



Well, well, let's put our emotions aside! Now I propose to you all a race, and since I am the champion, I have an advantage!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SPLASH!

END



JAGUAR

(Panthera onca)

Of all the animals in this story, I have the most powerful pounce. Some experts say that my name comes from the indigenous

Tupi-Guarani word "Yaguaretê," which means "true fear beast." But don't be afraid, I do not attack humans.



CAPUCHIN MONKEY

(Cebus albifrons)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the one who lives in the largest groups: up to 35 individuals! We all help care for our young and protect them from danger.



ANTEATER

(Myrmecophaga tridactyla)

Of all the mammals in this story, I'm the only one that doesn't have any teeth (neither does the Macaw, but she is a bird). I use my tongue to scoop up termites (and other invertebrates) that I love to devour.



SCARLET MACAW

(Ara macao)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the most colorful. You can see the brilliance of our colors when we fly in pairs or groups. We can also live the longest, up to 50-60 years.



AGOUTI

(Dasyprocta variegata)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the only one who manages to open Brazil nuts. We love to sow its seeds throughout the forest.

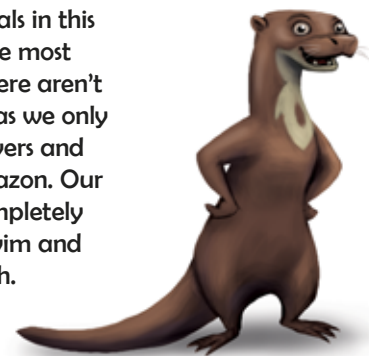
This is the only way new Brazil nut trees grow.



GIANT OTTER

(Pteronura brasiliensis)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the most endangered. There aren't many of us left, as we only live in some rivers and lakes in the Amazon. Our bodies are completely adapted to swim and catch fish.



TAPIR

(Tapirus terrestris)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the largest. Us tapirs can weigh more than 300 kg. Imagine the amount of vegetation we have to eat to maintain this voluminous body!



TURTLE

(Podocnemis unifilis)

Of all the animals in this story, I am the shortest. They call me the river turtle because I live in rivers and lakes in the Amazon. I'm considered endangered due to the exploitation of my eggs. We are easily recognized by the spots on our heads.



Central Office - ACEAA Conservación Amazónica
La Paz, Bolivia.

Location:

- 📍 Calle 16 de Calacoto # 8230
- 📞 Office Tel.:
(+591) 2-2124987
- ✉ info@conservacionamazonica.org.bo

Cobija Office - ACEAA Pando, Bolivia.

- 📍 Location:
Calle Juan Oliveira Barros s/n (a media cuadra de la calle Cataratas)
- 📞 Office Cell:
(+591) 67172203
- ✉ Email:
asistcobija@conservacionamazonica.org.bo

Trinidad Office - ACEAA Beni, Bolivia.

- 📍 Location:
Avenida 6 de Agosto esquina Calle los Macheteros
- 📞 #615
Office Cell:
(+591) 67009214

VISIT US:

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