



Matavén River

Report card

2016



Characteristics of the Matavén River Basin

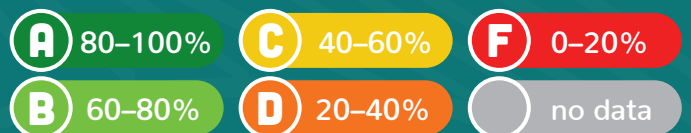
The Matavén River, located in Vichada Department, is a small tributary of the Orinoco that originates in the low plain forests of the transitional Amazon biome and stretches 630 km in length. It is the least transformed of all sub-basins with only 1,173 ha (1%) of the basin impacted by human activities. The Matavén basin is dominated by tropical rainforests, but also includes other ecosystem types such as flooded forests and flooded savannas. The main threat to the basin is growing exploitation of natural resources through activities such as hunting and overfishing.

The Matavén has the **best health** in the **Orinoco**

The Matavén River Basin received an overall A grade (87%), the highest of all the sub-basins within the Colombian portion of Orinoco River Basin. Of the eight indicators assessed, all were excellent (>80%) except for human nutrition (53%) which despite its moderate score was still the best score for this indicator in the Orinoco River Basin. Perfect scores were achieved for risks to water quality, water supply and demand, natural land cover, and mining in sensitive ecosystems. Though this basin received exceptional grades, there are major data gaps that need to be filled. Currently IDEAM's National Network Monitoring has not water quality monitoring sites for the river. Additionally, no biodiversity data was available for this version of the report card, making this a priority area of research for future report cards.



What do the scores mean?



Matawén communities establish **Jungle Reserve** to **safeguard their future**

The expansive Matawén Jungle Indigenous Reserve covers 1,051,320 ha and is mostly inhabited by indigenous people from the Cubeo, Curripaco, Piapoco, Piaroa, Puinave, and Sikuaní ethnic groups. The livelihoods of the indigenous peoples of this reserve are subsistence hunting and fishing as well as gathering plants for medicine. Since they rely on the jungle for these resources, they are working hard to protect it.

In 2003, these groups came together to form the Matawén Jungle Indigenous Reserve, where they joined together their individual reserves to safeguard their culture and traditions, and to protect the “Heart of Health” of the Matawén Jungle. In addition to joining their reserves, they formed a legal organization (ACATISEMA), to represent them as they work with external organizations to protect the biodiversity of this region.

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The Matawén sub-basin supports many species like jaguars.

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An indigenous village in the Matawén.

A need to **know more**

The **extensive biological diversity** found in the basin demands **significant investments in biodiversity assessments and monitoring** to supplement important yet fragmented biodiversity records. Additionally, information is needed on the state of river-related cultural values, and water quality data in order to include these indicators in subsequent report cards.

VALUES

BIODIVERSITY



WATER



PEOPLE & CULTURE



FUTURE INDICATORS

MAMMAL RICHNESS



FLORA RICHNESS



FISH RICHNESS



RIVER DOLPHINS



WATER QUALITY INDEX



INDIGENOUS AREAS

