The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) is a holistic, globally comparable assessment of all the world’s transboundary waters that recognises the inextricable links between freshwater and coastal marine environment and integrates environmental and socio-economic information to determine the impacts of a broad suite of influences on the world’s aquatic environment.

Broad Transboundary Approach
The GIWA not only assesses the problems caused by human activities manifested by the physical movement of transboundary waters, but also the impacts of other non-hydrological influences that determine how humans use transboundary waters.

Regional Assessment - Global Perspective
The GIWA provides a global perspective of the world’s transboundary waters by assessing 66 regions that encompass all major drainage basins and adjacent large marine ecosystems. The GIWA Assessment of each region incorporates information and expertise from all countries sharing the transboundary water resources.

Global Comparability
In each region, the assessment focuses on 5 broad concerns that are comprised of 22 specific water related issues.

Integration of Information and Ecosystems
The GIWA recognises the inextricable links between freshwater and coastal marine environment and assesses them together as one integrated unit.

Priorities, Root Causes and Options for the Future
The GIWA recognises that the integration of socio-economic and environmental information and expertise is essential to obtain a holistic picture of the interactions between the environmental and societal aspects of transboundary waters.

This Report
This report presents the assessment of the Amazon Basin – the largest basin on the planet and also one of the least understood. Although sparsely inhabited, the Basin is subject to extensive anthropogenic impacts through deforestation, mining, hydropower generation and agricultural activities that all have contributed to considerable changes in aquatic habitats and communities. The root causes of habitat and community modification are identified in the Madeira Basin, shared by Brazil, Bolivia and Peru, and potential policy options are presented.

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