

Protection of biodiversity



PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

G4-DMA | G4-EN12

The investments and programs that we conduct to promote the conservation of biodiversity in the areas surrounding our reservoirs contribute to the sustainable development of the region, in addition to complying with legal demands related to concession of assets and permitting processes. The results achieved help us subsidize public policies to protect the country's natural resources, creating value for society and, especially, for the communities where our assets are located.

Part of the Wildlife Monitoring and Conservation Program, the management project for the species *onça pintada* (puma) in the Tietê River Basin, conducted since 2013, is one of the projects that allow for evaluation of the impacts of human activity on animal conditions and habitat. The initiative is carried out in partnership with the Pro-Carnivores Institute and, by means of "camera traps" and use of radio-collars, the species and its adaptation to the environment are monitored.

We also invest in preservation of aquatic fauna in the places where our reservoirs are located. These actions are aimed at keeping fish stocks and benefiting the communities that develop economic activities associated with fishing in the rivers and reservoirs.

Our Fishing Management Program promotes restocking of rivers with fingerlings of fish species such as *piracanjuba*, which is an endangered

species. Fingerlings are bred in tanks at the Promissão and Barra Bonita plants, where they simulate the piracema phenomenon to stimulate breeding. When they reach the appropriate size to protect themselves from predators, they are released in the rivers.

In 2016, scientific studies demonstrated the efficacy of the Management Program. Researchers from the Maringá State University and the Londrina State University identified that adult fish captured last year have the same genetic composition of the fingerlings released in 2013, proving that the fish bred in tanks were able to develop in river basins.

In partnership with two universities in São Paulo (USP and UNESP), we started a new project that aims to preserve the gulper catfish, a fish species that is also endangered. Called "Barriga de Aluguel" (Surrogate Womb), the idea behind this initiative is to create biotechnology techniques to generate offspring with preserved genetic features from a fertilized egg from another non-endangered species – the *mandi-guaçu*. With this pioneering initiative in Brazil, we seek to restock the Tietê and Pardo river basins.

These projects for the recovery of aquatic species are developed with Research and Development (R&D) resources in compliance with the guidelines established by ANEEL. In 2016, we invested a total of BRL 1.44 million in environmental

protection actions. In field surveys conducted in the same year in the reservoir areas, we identified eight endangered species classified by IBAMA (Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) as vulnerable. **G4-EN14**

