



# K

## KINGFISHER

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHER | ARMIDA MADNGISA & WWW.NATURE-MYVIEW.COM

At least 120 kingfisher species are known around the world. The majority is found on the continents of Asia, Australia and Africa. In the Americas there are only 6 species.

The Amazon is known for being host to many exotic, wild animals. Jaguars, harpy eagles, hummingbirds and macaws just to mention a few. But unlike the previously mentioned animals, kingfishers are not so abundantly represented in the New World.

In Suriname there are five known residents:

- Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)
- Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazon*)
- Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)
- Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*)
- American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

With a length of 40 cm, the Ringed Kingfisher is considered the largest among these five. The smallest is the American Pygmy Kingfisher with a length of 13 cm. Kingfishers are territorial and are known as true kingfishers, meaning that they solely live of fish and crab. One therefore usually finds them near water. (lakes, streams or in the case of Suriname near rivers)

Kingfishers are easily recognizable by their large head and large pointy bill. They are often seen perched close to the water, usually on a log or between branches hanging over the water. While waiting patiently for their prey to swim by, they often flick their tail and bob their head as if trying to keep their balance.

*Kingfishers are not a threatened species, but they are a rather inconspicuous species.*