

Project Update: February 2014

Observations

We have started the observations on the Amazon River close to the city of Iquitos with four outings (2nd, 8th, 15th and 17th February 2014), a total of 32 river dolphins were counted on 3 days (no data on 2nd February; only a preparation outing), mainly grey dolphins *Sotalia fluviatilis* (27). A total of 13 different volunteers have participated till now. Next outing is planned this for 21st February then we will try to keep at least two outings per week.

February is a month to test several routes and methodologies for the project and to create a good data sheet with all collected information. Attached a recent photograph taken during an outing.

Meetings

Weekly meetings are ongoing (28th January 10th and 17th February 2014) to discuss about the observations and to prepare the education program that will start mid-March (we are currently in a holiday period and schools are closed). We are also discussing about miscellaneous topics (logo for the tee-shirt, next motto, etc.). Next meeting on 24th February will be dedicated only to the education activities.

Conferences

On 28th February 2014 - Mr Bruno Antoine (France), Director of the Peruvian NGO Amazon CARES (Comunidad para Animales Rescate Educación & Salud) - "Captivity of wild animals and domestic animals, myth and reality behind the mirror!?"

On 14th March 2014 - Ir David Bonnet (USA), Underwater Acoustic Specialist - "*Inia geoffrensis*, evolution, the threats, the existing technics to record them and theories about their sounds".

Others

The SERNANP, the Regional Service in charge of the maintenance of the national reserve, has asked Solinia to participate actively to the activities for the 42nd birthday of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. We will be present at several activities including the procession in the centre of the city of Iquitos on 23rd February 2014. Some volunteers will be invited to meet the children in a village at the border of the Reserve.

Solinia is in contact with the Natutama Foundation in Columbia to make exchange of education activities and ideas by sending volunteers from Iquitos to Puerto Nariño and vice versa. Should be during Q2 2014 if we can find sponsors.

