

## Project Update: June 2014

### Observations

More river dolphins were observed this month with the decreasing water level of the Amazon River. We have made observations on the Amazon River close to the city of Iquitos with eight outings in June 2014 (7/06 - 8/06 - 15/06 - 17/06 - 21/06 - 22/06 - 28/06 - 29/06), a total of 122 river dolphins were counted, 53 pink dolphins *Inia geoffrensis* and 69 grey dolphins *Sotalia fluviatilis*. A total of 18 different volunteers have participated with an average of five per outing.



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### Education

We have organised nine presentations in two primary schools (Mariscal Caceres and Cesar Vallejo), with levels 4, 5 and 6 but also on initiative of Solinia and in collaboration with the CREA we have organised an event with children in a local clinic "Hogar Clinica San Juan de Dios". A total of 257 children have received a diploma in June 2014. The children have always a lot of questions about river dolphins, the older ones (level 6) especially about the reproduction and we have now better prepared the answers with slides.



### Meetings

Weekly meetings were organised every Thursday with an average of eight volunteers per session. We have now our library with maps and books about dolphins, environment conservation and others subjects. During the last meeting we have discussed about the dynamic of the river and the impact on the local wildlife.

### Conferences

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014, Francisco Rozas Valverde (Peru), Director of the CENDIPP, "Centro de Investigación y Promoción Popular" did a lecture about the ornamental fishes in the Loreto Region. With a total of 25 participants, mainly young students from the Regional Amazon University UNAP. Francisco has received a t-shirt and we have organised a nice after-event with free alcohol drinks and snacks. No idea yet for the next conference.

### Others - bad news...

Our laptop is broken. As it's an Apple product it's impossible to fix it here in Iquitos. For the conferences in schools we are using laptops of volunteers but there is also an impact on the daily work (spreadsheets with presences, dolphin's data, accounting, etc.) and we are searching money to buy a new one... really not easy...

### Volunteers

In May 2014 three volunteers had "resigned" to join a temporary mission (wildlife monitoring) in other parts of Peru with a big company paying big salaries. In June 2014 three others have joined a local association for a 2 months mission in the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve. Of course very good for their experience but very annoying for Solinia.