

Project Update: September 2014

Observations

We have made observations on the Amazon River close to the city of Iquitos with seven outings in September 2014 (2/09 - 6/09 - 9/09 - 12/09 - 17/09 - 23/09 - 24/09). A total of only 16 river dolphins were counted, 12 pink dolphins *Inia geoffrensis* and four grey dolphins *Sotalia fluviatilis* - on 6th, 17th and 23rd we didn't see any dolphins. This low number is probably due to the low water level of the Amazon River, the minimum level being reached around end of September and the dolphins are migrating in other places with more depth. A total of five different volunteers have participated with an average of two per outing, it's difficult to motivate them when there is no dolphin to count!



Education

We have organised 15 presentations in the same primary school (Club Leones Iquitos), with levels 4, 5 and 6, morning and afternoon sessions. A total of 442 children have received a

diploma in September 2014. In total since the beginning of the year we have already reached more than 2000 children, the number we had in 2013.



Meetings

Three weekly meetings were organised, always on a Thursday. An average of eight volunteers were present. There was no meeting the last 2 weeks due to the raft race and personal event.

Conferences

No conference was organised in September due to lack of time (raft race and personal event).

Great River Amazon Raft Race

Solinia had a team (sponsored by World Animal Protection) participating to the Great River Amazon Raft Race on 18th-21st September 2014 - 180 km paddling on the Amazon River from Nauta to Iquitos in 3 days. The previous day, each team had to construct his own raft with wooden logs. Our team was composed by Cédric (Solinia Director), Ney



(Solinia President), Regner (Solinia Boat Motorist) and Reiner. Three volunteers of Solinia (Ginna, Flor and Paola) were also present on the support boat with Roberto from WAP to make communication about river dolphins in the different city and villages (Nauta, Nueva Esperanza, Tamshiyacu, and Nanay). We had prepared a travelling exposition of photos and we have used our existing activities (origami, song, etc.) with the logo of Rufford, it was a very positive experience with children but also with adults. Our team did finish at the second place in the "foreigner" category.

Others

We have received (donation from my ex Company) a new laptop to be used exclusively during the conferences in schools. Also I have finally bought a new Apple Mac, big hole in my personal budget but necessary to continue the good work (accounts, creation of posters, etc.).

I am invited to a big congress in Cartagena (Colombia) the first week of December 2014 to talk about river dolphins and to make a presentation about the work of Solinia in Peru. Hopefully it will give us more visibility and... money!

On 27th September 2014 it was my church wedding with Clarissa, a ceremony under the blessing of the river dolphins!

October 2014

Didn't start very well, Regner our motorist is at the hospital (infection) while the boat is also in bad conditions and the regular big rains do not allow us to continue with the observations.

On 5th October were the regional elections and Fernando Melendez, a big opponent to the actual President of the Loreto Region since 2007 Yvan Vasquez, is elected. So the leaders of the regional offices will probably change in 2015 that means new contacts to be taken by Solinia. But who knows, this change could be positive... wait and see!

