

Project Update: December 2015

Conferences started in April 2015 with a visit in Puerto Nariño, a small village on the Amazon River at the frontier between Peru and Colombia. We have met volunteers from a Colombian Foundation called Natütama, which has a lot of expertise in environmental education, and we have shared our experience and activities. Since then we have continued our own conferences in the primary schools of Iquitos but also in some communities like Independencia and Tamshiyacu (both on the Amazon River). Till now (November 2015) we have visited 17 schools with a total of 1871 children.

Concerning the observations Solinia still use the existing developed field methodologies with the same route described in the first Rufford Small Grant Final Report. We organise two fieldtrips per week every Thursday and Saturday from 7am till 11am. Compared to last year the average of sightings of pink dolphin is more (39 vs. 32 per month) while much less for the grey dolphin (19 vs. 46 per month). Especially we can observe that the Boto is attracted by the beaches along the islands during the dry season (August-November) while the Tucuxi prefer deeper water level.

In October 2015, in collaboration with the Omacha Foundation (Colombia), we have organised several workshops in Iquitos. One was with tourism agencies like the Boulevard Association and other lodges to develop more river dolphin watching, teaching them basic knowledge about river dolphins' biology and behaviour and to develop guidance for a well-managed dolphin watching. Also the Tourism Department (DIRCETURA) of the Regional Government was present as well as iPeru, the National Tourism Agency. Another workshop was organised with local fishermen social agencies in collaboration with the Fisheries Department (DIREPRO) of the Regional Government and another one with craftsmen.

The national Action Plan is also on-going, we have actively participated to a new workshop in August 2015 in Iquitos and a final meeting is planned in March 2016 to finalise the document.



