

Project Update: July 2016

This follow-up project aims to empower local tourist guides and artisans in Yarinacocha lagoon, by training and improving their guide services by developing a tourism circuit centered in the biodiversity of the area. We had a second visit in June 2016 where project activities continued.

Activities to date:

- a. Tourism circuit

The aim of the project is to train and educate 15 tourist boat operators and five artisans. In June 2016 we had a second meeting with approximately 10 boat operators to introduce the project and its aims. We also discussed the schedule of the following presentations and the commitment boat operators must have with the programme. We agreed that boat operators that attended to all presentations would be given a certification and would be presented on the project's website.

We have identified three artisans that have committed to be part of the project. We had meetings to discuss possible designs related to the project. We came up with two initial designs (Figure 1), made of recycled wood, one of a river dolphin and also an Amazon manatee.



Figure 1. Dolphins carved by artisans in Yarinacocha for this project

- b. Valuation of Ecosystem services

We have designed the survey and tested it out with tourists in Yarinacocha. We found that tourists were hesitant to give out economic information, possibly because they were scared that

it was a security threat while in Yarinacocha. We will try again during our next trip in August 2016, to give a longer introduction to the project and hand out sticker pamphlets as a souvenir or gift for participating in the project. We expect to have at least 10 surveys on the third trip of the project.

c. Outreach activities

We had three presentations on river dolphin conservation in Peru. The first (Figure 2-3) was in the public school of the San Francisco native community where we discussed interesting facts of river dolphins, cut and build two aquatic mammal figures. Each child was given a project hat. The same presentation was given in a private school in Pucallpa city, Ucayali with high-school seniors. A total of 45 students learned about river dolphin conservation.

The third presentation was with government officials. We presented results from the first Rufford project and preliminary activities of this project in a two-day workshop focusing on river dolphin and Amazon manatee conservation in Peru. This workshop had 40 attendees.



Figure 2 and 3. Children from the San Francisco Native community elementary school cutting and building their river mammal cut-outs.



Figure 4 and 5. Presentation at Sollertia School in Pucallpa, Ucayali