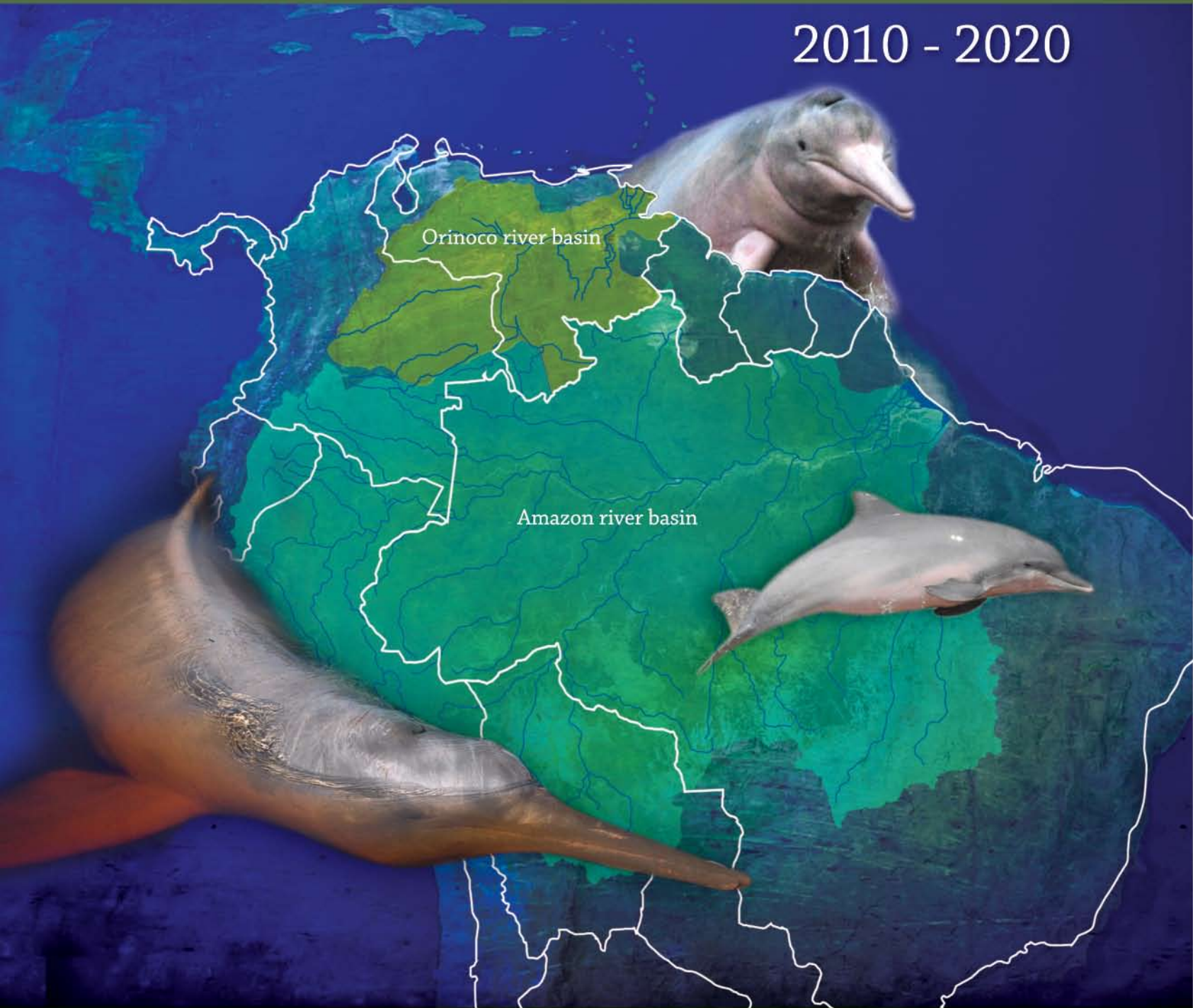


The Action Plan for South American River Dolphins

2010 - 2020



Fernando Trujillo, Enrique Crespo, Paul Van Damme & José Saulo Usma



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**Fernando Trujillo, Enrique Crespo,
Paul André van Damme and José Saulo Usma**

WWF - Fundación Omacha - WCS - WDCS - Solamac



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Foreword

This Action Plan represents a consensus of a river dolphin group of specialists all around South America. It concerns about the status of the currently recognized river dolphin species (*Inia geoffrensis*, *Inia boliviensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*), threats to their survival, and measures needed to better understand and address those threats.

The main body of the Action Plan comes from the discussions carried out in a meeting carried out in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 2008 with the important objective of evaluating the status of the populations of the River Dolphins in their distribution countries and to build an Action Plan to guarantee their survival. It must be said that the objectives were achieved. More than 40 river dolphin biologists and government officers from Amazonian countries discussed and designed the Action Plan for river dolphins in the Amazon and Orinoco River Basins. This is probably one of the most important facts, that is was mainly carried out by South American cetologists and ecologists, with the support of local, national and international organizations.

Getting to this meeting in Bolivia took a long time and the effort of many people. The background for these objectives was set up a few decades ago when a River Dolphin Workshop was organized in the People's Republic of China in 1986. For the first time a general view of what was going on in Amazonia was given to the scientific community and the general public. This important workshop produced a very important report and associated publications. The set of priorities given there were incorporated two years later to the first version of the Action Plan for Cetacean Conservation compiled by William Perrin (Perrin, 1988). After that, many meetings were organized in different parts of the world in order to get a deep insight of the

situation, the conservation of these particular species, which were believed to be the most impacted by human activities. The Action Plan was reviewed by IUCN in 1994 (Reeves & Leatherwood, 1994) and again in 2003 (Reeves *et al.* 2003) always putting emphasis in coastal small cetaceans and river dolphins.

The Action Plan for the Conservation of River Dolphins in South America is divided in several chapters containing the status of the species, with associated papers summarizing the information for each country, the summary and evaluation of threats, the role of protected areas for river dolphin conservation, a summary of the abundance estimations of river dolphin in South America between 2006 and 2009, and the Action plan itself with a special body of legislation and policy, communications, administration and institutional strengthen and education and community participation. Finally there are recommendations for research, education and conservation for these species.

All this means a very important effort of many people. I am proud that this was an initiative when Fernando Trujillo was President of SOLAMAC (2006-2008) and that together with him we could set a policy of medium term to the society. I hope that this is a very interesting and exiting example of long term policies to carry out in the future.



Enrique A. Crespo, Ph.D.
President of SOLAMAC 2008-2010
IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group
South American Coordinator



Chapter 5
The Action Plan for River Dolphins
in South America



The Action Plan for River Dolphins in South America

Fernando Trujillo, Enrique Crespo, Paul Van Damme, Vera Da Silva, Saulo Usma, Enzo Aliaga, Catalina Gómez-Salazar, Marcela Portocarrero, Esteban Suárez, Carlos A. Lasso, Arnaldo Ferrer & Jaime Bolaños

To build the action plan, an international workshop was carried out at the city of Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia between the 21 and 23th of April 2008. Approximately 42 researchers and representatives from Governments of nine countries actively participated in the workshop. Initially, Dr. Enrique Crespo, Chairman of the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN for Latinamerica presented an overview of the status of river dolphins. Following this, each country (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil) made presentations of the status and conservations of theses species. Additionally, four presentations were made by experts on phylogeography and taxonomic status of river

dolphins, Geographic Information System analysis of distribution, threats and research initiatives, Abundance estimation and, fisheries and conflicts in the Amazon River Basin.

After the background about river dolphins and their habitats, working groups were established to identify objectives and goals for five strategic lines (Figure 20):

- Scientific Research and Conservation
- Legislation and Policy
- Communications
- Administration and Institutional strengthening
- Education and community participation

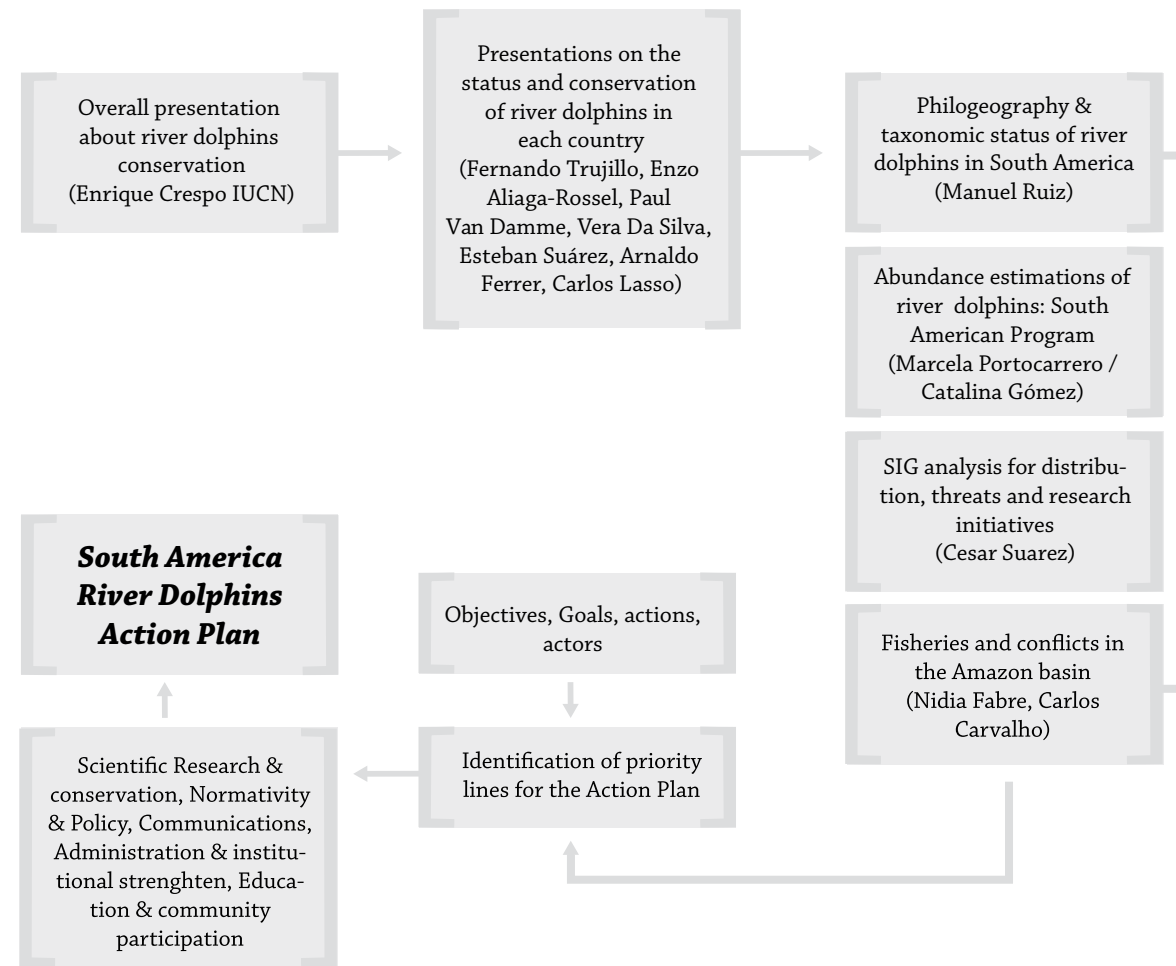


Figure 20. Formulation of the Action Plan for River Dolphins in South America.

Level of priority to conduct the actions proposed in every Strategic Line

Priority	
Very high priority	
High priority	
Medium priority	
Low Priority	

Table 33. Strategic line 1. Scientific research and monitoring.

To create and consolidate scientific knowledge to conserve and manage the populations of river dolphins and their ecosystems in South America.

Goals	Strategic goals	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia	Level of priority	
To plan and conduct research contributing to the conservation of river dolphins	Fisheries and river dolphins	Identification of geographic areas where interactions occur							5	
		Identification and analysis of different types of human-dolphin interactions							5	
	Taxonomy and genetics	Development of a conceptual model of human-dolphin interaction							1	
		Definition of molecular taxonomy of <i>Inia</i> (Upper Orinoco, Tocantins)							3	
		Definition of molecular taxonomy of <i>Inia</i> (Madeira)							3	
		Evaluation of molecular taxonomy of <i>Sotalia</i> (Amazon Delta, River Orinoco)								1
		Population genetics of river dolphins at fine geographic scale (Ecuador, upper Caquetá-Japurá, Tapajós, Irénez)								3

Goals	Strategic goals	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia	Level of priority	
To plan and conduct research contributing to the conservation of river dolphins	Population dynamics	Relative abundance estimations							6	
		Estimation of population parameters of river dolphins							4	
		Study of river dolphin population structure							4	
	Evaluation of trophic ecology and limnology	Evaluation of fish community structure, fish population dynamics and (or) and specific fish stocks in key areas								3
		Feeding ecology of dolphins using isotopes								1
		Development of trophic models in key areas								1
	Ecosystem alterations and habitat loss	Assessment of boat traffic effects on river dolphins								3
		Evaluation of changes in fluvial dynamics and its effect on river dolphins and fish								2
		Biomagnification and bioaccumulation of pollutants								3
		Water quality evaluation (continuous sampling)								1
		Habitat loss evaluation focused on deforestation, mining and agroforestry								2
		Evaluation of the impact of habitat loss on river biodiversity								2

Goals	Strategic goals	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia	Level of priority	
To plan and conduct research contributing to the conservation of river dolphins	Ecosystem alterations and habitat loss	Effects of global climatic changes on Amazonian aquatic ecosystems and on traditional local communities							3	
		Efficiency of river dolphins as bio-indicators							2	
		Impact of cultural and social changes on the perception about freshwater biodiversity use and conservation							3	
To implement at least one conservation program in each country according their respective research priorities	Local knowledge	Evaluate the influence and effect of the implementation of sustainable economic alternatives on social, economic and environmental dynamics							2	
		To study sustainable economic alternatives with local communities (craft carving, tourism)							2	
	Responsible tourism	To set up, implement and encourage responsible dolphin watching programs								3
		Evaluation of social and economic benefits of responsible tourism								2
		Collection of a data base on experiences with responsible tourism							1	

Goals	Strategic goals	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia	Level of priority
To implement at least one conservation program in each country according their respective research priorities	Geographic Information System	Identification of priority areas for research and conservation							3
		Population viability analysis (PVA)							1
	Environmental modeling	Tropho-dynamic models							1
		Fishery management plans in key areas for river dolphins							4
	Fisheries management	Regulation/ban mota fishery							4
		Development of alternative baits for the mota fishery							2
		Development of alternative fishing techniques with low or no interaction with dolphins							1
		Development of an aquaculture program for the mota fish in geographic areas with conflicts							3
	Impact of human activities on aquatic ecosystems	Co-management of lakes and river ecosystems							1
		Evaluation of river dolphin populations in habitats with different degrees of alteration (mining, dams, water ways)							2
Ecosystem restoration in priority areas for conservation								1	
Inclusion of river dolphins in environmental impact studies								4	

Table 34. Strategic line 2. Legislation and policy.

To establish and to consolidate a regional policy for the conservation of the species and their ecosystems, harmonizing legal instruments and frameworks from each country.

Goals	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve protective legislation in each country taking into account the regional legal frameworks	Articulation of regional policies and enforcement of international agreements about aquatic ecosystems, endangered species and freshwater resources.	Workshops and technical-political national and bilateral meetings						
		Binational agendas. The application of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), OTCA, CMS to solve specific problems such as the mota fishery and the mercury effect						
To improve legislative in each country taking into account the regional legal frameworks	Formulation of national plans for the conservation of river dolphin or the inclusion of the species within freshwater management plans	Evaluation of demands and possibilities to articulate legal instruments for border areas						
		Articulation of national policies and agreements in border areas						
		Sistemization and comparison of legal instruments specially fisheries legislation						
		To include river dolphins in the terms of references for the design and implementation of management Plans in Protected areas						



Goals	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve protective legislation in each country taking into account the regional legal frameworks	Formulation of national plans for the conservation of river dolphin or the inclusion of the species within freshwater management plans	Inclusion of river dolphins in the reference terms of the Ministry of Environment - MAVDT, Action Plans for River Dolphins To include river dolphins in environmental impact assessments for development projects (hydrocarbons, hydroways, so on) To include river dolphins in Fisheries agreements and Plans						
To improve and support the Agencies in charge of the enforcement of environmental policies to assist them to accomplish their functions properly.	Update, control and enforcement of legal frameworks (Freshwater ecosystems and resources)	National Action Plan for River Dolphins Conservation. Tri-Annual Regional Action Plans (Environmental Authorities) To submit legislation and legal instruments to the government, parliament and Ministry authorities						



Goals	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve and support the Agencies in charge of the enforcement of environmental policies to assist them to accomplish their functions properly.	Update, control and enforcement of legal frameworks (Freshwater ecosystems and resources)	Update and modification of the legal and legislative framework in each country, according to regional conservation priorities of river dolphins and their ecosystems. Analysis of the legal frameworks in each country and of the signed International Agreements . National Policy on Wetlands, Tri-Annual Action Plans of the Environmental Authorities, Departmental Land Use Plans. To strengthen environmental entities (environmental nurseries) Expansion of actions of control and surveillance To strengthen public instruments for law enforcement, legislation, disclosure and education						

Goals	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve and support the Agencies in charge of the enforcement of environmental policies to assist them to accomplish their functions properly.	Update, control and enforcement of legal frameworks (Freshwater ecosystems and resources)	To implement legislation and law enforcement in each country Modification of legislation of EIA studies To strengthen public instruments for law enforcement, legislation, publicity and education						
	Stakeholders Network improvement	Meetings and Workshops with administrative entities (National Natural parks - Inparques) To present scientific arguments to PRODUCE and INRENA to include them within Management Plans for Protected Areas. To check and set up Management Plans in collaboration with the CMA and technicians Workshops with the Fisheries Authority - ICA and fishermen's associations. To participate in workshops and meetings on fisheries and aquaculture.						

Goals	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve and support the Agencies in charge of the enforcement of environmental policies to assist them to accomplish their functions properly.	Stakeholders Network improvement	Meetings between Enterprises and the Ministry of Environment. CMA participation in the formulation of reference terms, roles, definition, etc						
	Strengthen connections between countries within South America and with Asia	Multilateral meetings among south american and asian countries Workshops with the public administrators, strengthening existing agreements To subscribe and adhere to international agreements and regional treaties that promote the conservation of river dolphins To work together in the acquisition of funding for river dolphins conservation						

Table 35. Strategic line 3. Communications.

For 2012, the communication strategy of river dolphin conservation will be through a regional network and will position the river dolphin as an emblematic species and thus diminish their threats through the education of the public opinion and decision makers.

Goal	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve methods of communication and the dissemination of information among researchers and the general public	Strengthening of lines of communication and the diffusion of information	To develop a communication strategy for the conservation of river dolphins and an inter-institutional plan for its implementation						
		Distribution of the results of scientific investigations involving tourism enterprises						
		Diffusion of the economic benefits from tourism activities using dolphins as an attraction.						
		To encourage local participants to feel closer to the resource						
		To create a network to share available information about this topic, and to select a network manager						
		Discussion groups, frequent progress reports						
		To create inter-institutional forums to socialize and share experiences, data bases and to collaborate in management strategies						

Goal	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve methods of communication and the dissemination of information among researchers and the general public	Strengthening of lines of communication and the diffusion of information	To develop mechanisms of communication between involved institutions.						
		Campaigns to prize the dolphin as a tourist attraction						
		To produce didactic material for public discussion						
		Implementation of interpretative centers, fairs and workshops						
		To plan trips for journalists to areas of distribution of dolphins and educate them about their biology and conservation						
		To generate synergies for the development of publicity campaigns. Ex. The Week of the Dolphin or the International Day of Freshwater cetaceans						
		Publicity campaigns to the general population about the dolphin as a flagship species						

Goal	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To involve the general public in the conservation of river dolphins and their habitats	<p>Use of communication strategies to allow the general public to get closer to the river dolphins and their habitats</p>	Publication of educational brochures, radio programs, fairs, workshops to involve local participants in conservation strategies.						
		<p>To develop promotional material to support project presentations about dolphin conservation in their areas of distribution</p> <p>To develop regional and local campaigns about indirect threats: fisheries, mining, oil, agrochemical pollution, industrial wastes, deforestation, and infrastructure developments</p>						
To find support in the media for the conservation work in order to diminish threats to the species and their habitats	<p>Communication as a tool to diminish threats</p>	To develop regional and local campaigns about direct impacts such as incidental catches, negative interaction with fisheries, use of dolphins as bait, and navigation						
		Organization of excursions for current and potential donors						
	<p>Fundraising</p>	To use media strategies to get funding for the species						

Table 36. Strategic line 4. Administration and institutional strengthening.

To constitute an integrated and transnational administration system for the conservation of aquatic ecosystems, considering river dolphins as flagship species and contemplating strategies for the strengthening of stakeholders involved in the conservation and use of aquatic resources.

Goal	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To improve the administration of financial resources, especially directed at river dolphins	<p>Improvement of the administration of fund</p>	To articulate within the framework of international convention agreements (CMS, OTCA, CBD, etc.) the approval of the present Action Plan						
		<p>To create a regional fund to support conservation initiatives aiming at the protection of river dolphins</p> <p>To systematize projects and funded programs</p>						
To strengthen stakeholders in conducting and managing programs and conservation projects at a local level	<p>Bring together decision makers and local stakeholders, focusing on freshwater resource users</p>	To inform and educate the general public on the importance of river dolphin conservation						
		Building local and governmental capacity						
		To identify leaders in each country to influence conservation policies						
		To integrate the private sector in management strategies (ecotourism, industry, enterprises)						

Goal	Strategic lines	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To strengthen stakeholders in conducting and managing programs and conservation projects at a local level	Bring together decision makers and local stakeholders, focusing on freshwater resource users	To identify and map co-management strategies						
To create tools to improve administration and management at a continental and national level	Integrate conservation strategies among research teams in different South American countries	Regional GIS, bank of projects Participative instruments of integrated use, using river dolphins as a flagship migratory species						
To share management experiences and public policies between the countries involved.	Involvement and inclusion of international experiences	To integrate National Action Plans Binational, transnational and intercontinental meetings to present lessons learned, progress evaluation and to discuss indicators						

Table 37. Strategic line 5. Education and community participation.

To change attitudes towards the conservation of the river dolphins and the aquatic ecosystems, through environmental education and the promotion of effective community participation in sustainable management initiatives that guarantee collective benefits.

Goals	Strategiese	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To promote and strengthen environmental education programs for the conservation of river dolphins according to the needs and problems in each country	Improvement of current and proposed educational programs	To diagnose the current educational programs and perceptions of local people about the species and their ecosystems in their area of distribution						
		To conduct training workshops related to aquatic ecosystems and river dolphins, especially for people interested in environmental education and school teachers in the region						
		To create and maintain a supporting network among countries in order to share experiences, technology and information about the species and their ecosystem						
		To construct environmental interpretation centers to strengthen current knowledge in countries where actual and potential conservation problems exist						

Goals	Strategiese	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To promote and strengthen environmental education programs for the conservation of river dolphins according to the needs and problems in each country	Improvement of current and proposed educational programs	To start initiatives that validate cultural traditions and knowledge related to the proper use of aquatic resources						
To involve local communities in the development and implementation of strategies for conservation of river dolphins	Working together with local communities to strengthen educational strategies	To establish environmental education strategies with the natives for each locale To inform and promote any initiative that directly involves local communities and their territory To strengthen the capacity among local people to monitor and control the species and their ecosystems To support common initiatives to mitigate problems associated with the conservation of river dolphins and their ecosystems						



Goals	Strategiese	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To involve local communities in the development and implementation of strategies for conservation of river dolphins	Working together with local communities to strengthen educational strategies	To implement environmental education projects linked to community development processes and productive initiatives (tourism, handicrafts, food processing, etc)						
To guarantee the participation of governmental and non-governmental institutions in programs of conservation for river dolphins	Involvement of all stakeholders in educational programs	To identify institutions that are currently conducting operations to protect river dolphins and their ecosystems and to involve them in the strategy To engage the participation of the Government (Environmental and Agriculture ministries, national parks, etc) in the construction and implementation of conservation strategies						
To ensure that educational programs and community participation have financial sustainability and appropriate personnel at least until 2020	Funding	To identify potential and actual sources of funding to ensure the continuation of the environmental education strategy.						



Goals	Strategiese	Priority Actions	Venezuela	Peru	Colombia	Ecuador	Brazil	Bolivia
To ensure that educational programs and community participation have financial sustainability and appropriate personnel at least until 2020	Funding	To identify professional and volunteering personnel to ensure the continuity of the environmental education strategy						
		To initiate publicity campaigns and international promotion emphasizing the importance of the species and their ecosystem to get financial help						
		To identify an image and slogan to strengthen the conservation strategy at the national and international level and to procure financial and personnel resources						



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INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED - Brief Summary

WWF - World Wide Fund For Nature

Is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations founded on the 11th of September 1961. WWF as a global organization acts locally through a network of over 90 offices in over 40 countries around the world which vary in their degree of autonomy.

Its mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conducting three main actions:

1. Conserving the world's biological diversity.

2. Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
3. promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

www.panda.org

Fundación Omacha

Is a Colombian Non Governmental Organization, with no lucrative goals and dedicated to the research and conservation of natural resources focused on the aquatic ecosystems. Omacha's job is based on the integration of the biological knowledge

generated by its researchers and the cultural knowledge of local communities. Most of the species with which the Foundation works are under a threatened category. Omacha's Action Plan involves three main lines of action: Biological and Ecological Research, Social encouragement and support to productive projects and Environmental Education and disclosure.

www.omacha.org

SOLAMAC - Sociedad Latino Americana de Especialistas en Mamíferos Acuáticos

The Latin American Society on Aquatic Mammals, was founded on the 28th of October 1994. The Society has a scientific character and it does not follow lucrative goals. Its objectives are: 1. To promote the scientific research on different species of aquatic mammals in Latin America. 2. To spread scientific knowledge about the different species of aquatic mammals, through the release of an informative bulletin, scientific meetings and in the future a Scientific Journal. 3. To give scientific opinion when it is necessary and to advise on topics related to these species and the environmental problems affecting the region. 4. To promote the knowledge about aquatic mammals in the mainstream of all South American countries and finally to be a space to reflect on the ethic and cultural aspects involved in the conservation of aquatic mammals.

www.solamac.org

WDCS the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

It is the world's most active charity dedicated to the conservation and welfare of all whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Established in 1987, WDCS is staffed by over 70 people, along with many volunteers, located in its offices in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Germany, the UK and the US. This team of people is dedicated and determined to do their best for the animals and proud of the fact that WDCS's operating costs are kept to a minimum. The money raised is spent on urgent conservation, research and education projects that really do make a difference to the daily lives and long-term security of thousands of whales, dolphins and porpoises around the world.

WDCS work is divided into three main areas:

1. WDCS shared purpose and compassion defends these remarkable animals against many dangers - whaling, dolphin hunts, fisheries bycatch, captivity, chemical and noise pollution, climate change and ship strikes. This Institution brings individuals and groups together to create strong local, national and international campaigns to stop these threats. It also engages with international conventions, national governments, other conservation organizations and local communities.
2. WDCS recognizes the needs of individual animals, as well as groups of whales and dolphins. Working with local communities, defend the animals at risk and the places and conditions they need to survive.

This year alone they have been funding 32 conservation and science projects, spanning 25 countries. On an international scale, determination and diplomacy creates agreements between governments which can address multiple threats and protect species across their entire ranges. 'Action Plans' to address the threats ensure these agreements make a real difference.

3. Through the media, events, exhibitions, visitor centres, websites and more, WDCS spreads the word about the need to protect these incredible animals. And with offices worldwide and an international network of consultants and projects this Foundation's reach is truly global. Locally, education and awareness-raising initiatives range from talking to school children to training educators and whale-watch operators.

www.wdcs.org

WCS - The Wildlife Conservation Society

Founded in 1895, has the clear mission to save wildlife and wild places across the globe. Our story began in the early 1900's when we successfully helped the American bison recover on the Western Plains. With a commitment to protect 25 percent of the world's biodiversity, this institution addresses four of the biggest issues facing wildlife and wild places: climate change; natural resource exploitation; the connection between wildlife health and human health; and the sustainable development of human livelihoods. WCS currently manages about 500 conservation projects in more than 60 countries. While taking on these issues, they also manage more than 200 million acres of protected lands around the world, with more than 200 scientists as staff.

www.wcs.org

FAUNAGUA

Is a Bolivian Association created in 2004 as a Non Governmental Organization with no lucrative goals. Since it was founded, Faunagua has been conducting projects orientated to development within the general framework of the conservation and management of freshwater

recourses and wetlands of Bolivia. Faunagua seeks the following objectives:

1. To promote the reconciliation between conservation and development through the sustainable, social, economic and ecologic management of freshwater resources.
2. To promote the access and sustainable use of the freshwater and fish resources with equity, justice and social involvement.
3. To consider the water as a common resource and a social right to overcome poverty.
4. To respect the local knowledge, its structures, dynamics, social rhythms and customs.

www.faanagua.org

Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales

Is a Venezuelan Institution with no lucrative goals and dedicated to grant technical education to develop scientific research related to the natural and social sciences of Venezuela and to transfer to local communities and related, the necessary tools to conduct extension and production programmes that promote its self-development.

www.fundacionlasalle.org.ve

The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)

Is a UK registered charity offering a range of Awards and grants to outstanding nature conservationists around the world. WFN locates and recognizes some of the world's most dynamic conservation leaders and support projects founded on good science, community involvement and pragmatism.

Through a process of reference, application and interview, WFN identifies effective national and regional conservation leaders and celebrates them through Whitley Awards, now amongst the most high profile of conservation prizes. Of the Whitley Award winners selected each year, one recipient goes on to also win the prestigious Gold Award, worth an additional £30,000.

WFN aims to provide support throughout the career path of a conservationist. As part of the Whitley Award application process, we offer Associate Awards - small to medium sized grants of up to £10,000 - to team leaders who, though not yet advanced enough to win a full Whitley Award, show outstanding promise.

www.whitleyaward.org

INPA Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia or National Institute of Amazonian Research (Brazil)

Was created in 1952 and implemented in 1954. This Institute has been conducting scientific research on the environment and the life conditions of the Amazon Region to promote humane welfare and its sustainable socio economic development. Currently, the INPA is a worldwide reference in Tropical Biology.

It is part of the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. This Institute's mission is to generate and spread knowledge and technology and to train human resources for the regional development.

To reach this goal, the Institute conducts research on the following areas: Botanic, Aquatic Biology, Ecology, Aquaculture, Food Technology, Health Sciences, Forest's Products, Natural Products, Entomology, Agronomic

Sciences, Climate and aquatic resources and Human and Social Sciences.

www.inpa.gov.br

IUCN/SCG - the International Union for Conservation of Nature/Cetacean Specialist Group

The IUCN, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

IUCN's work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland.

Since the 1960s, the **Cetacean Specialist Group** (CSG) has played a major role in identifying problems of conservation of the world's dolphins, whales and porpoises, and brokering approaches to their solution. Some progress has been made in cetacean conservation, but grave threats to the continued existence of many species still exist and some are worsening. The global situation is outlined in *Dolphins, Whales and Porpoises: 2002-2010 Conservation Action*

Plan for the World's Cetaceans produced by the group in 2003 and published by SSC (Species Survival Commission). This provides scientific information about the current status of cetaceans worldwide; identifies threats to their survival, and recommends specific conservation actions.

Providing expert advice for science-based conservation, the Group has made a substantial contribution towards establishing and promoting critical priorities. It is proud

of its achievements but also recognizes that its role is really only the first step, and that cetacean conservation depends on the efforts of governments, NGOs, and local communities to take the conservation process to the next level of saving species and populations. Collaborations between the CSG and other groups are essential if progress is to be made. The Group has over 75 members worldwide contributing significant experience and expertise to the growing pool of knowledge about cetaceans.



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