



REPORT ABOUT THE PROPOSAL OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2020 CONTINGENCY

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The goals proposed during the contingency in the last 6 months of 2020 were:

1. Add an interactive session on our page www.proyectosotalia.org aimed at educators and children so that they can carry out activities related to the aquatic mammals of Lake Maracaibo: The Guiana dolphin and manatee.

Status: Currently on the proyectosotalia.org website is available for free download the primer / coloring *Un Viaje al Lago de Maracaibo*, a story about the Guiana dolphins and manatees.

In addition, a manatee infographic was developed that is available in digital format on our page.

2. Maintain the dissemination on social networks and continue to collect data from the observation and stranding reports with the support people in the field on the lake (Fishermen who continue to work).

Status: For social networks, a campaign was started *Wanted Manatee* (Image 1). In order to obtain information from inhabitants of the shore of Lake Maracaibo on the observations of this species and any relevant data that would allow us to identify a priori where there are remaining populations of this species.

It was disseminated through all the social networks of the Proyecto Sotalia, and the activity continues.

A total of 37 people have contacted from September 19 to November 15. Some of these contacts have been fishermen who provided us with valuable information, such as points of decline in the observation of manatees, data on hunting in the past and present of this species. Identification of areas of loss of mangrove forests, an essential ecosystem for manatees in the lake.

Additionally, some provided data on Guiana dolphin, which have been incorporated into our database regarding the bycatch, capture and consumption of this dolphin.

Some communities contacted are waiting for our visit to receive talks and discuss joint activities for the conservation of these species and their environment.



Image 1. Information search campaign through social media about manatee observations in Maracaibo Lake with the support of citizen science.

About local support from fishermen in specific locations, thanks to their active participation we were able to report 4 manatee sightings in the south of the lake (2 en August, 1 September, 1 October) and observation of Guiana dolphins. They reported of 3 bycatch events of the Guiana dolphin in the south of the lake and exploitation of the animals was confirmed.

3. Primer / story: a trip around Lake Maracaibo (Un viaje al lago de Maracaibo), to be distributed at the beginning of the following school year with content on the lake's aquatic mammals (Manatee and Guiana dolphin), importance and threats. This material will be for children of 5th and 6th grade (9-11 years old) of basic education in the main school of Puerto Concha, south of the lake. Teachers may distribute it and indicate activities via distance learning as part of their academic training.

Status: It has already been designed (Image 2), 100 copies have been printed and will be delivered to the school: Escuela Bolivariana Tito Salas, the first week of December. The content of the story is focused on highlighting the importance of these two species of aquatic mammals, their description and threats. They are explained about the risks of consuming dolphin meat and are informed about the existence of laws that prohibit the hunting and commercialization of manatees and dolphins.

In addition, a final section of didactic activities was added to reaffirm the reading and knowledge acquired in the story. The future idea of this work is to make a greater number of prints and distribute it in other schools in the coastal areas of the lake, mainly in those where the conflict of capture, hunting and consumption has been identified.

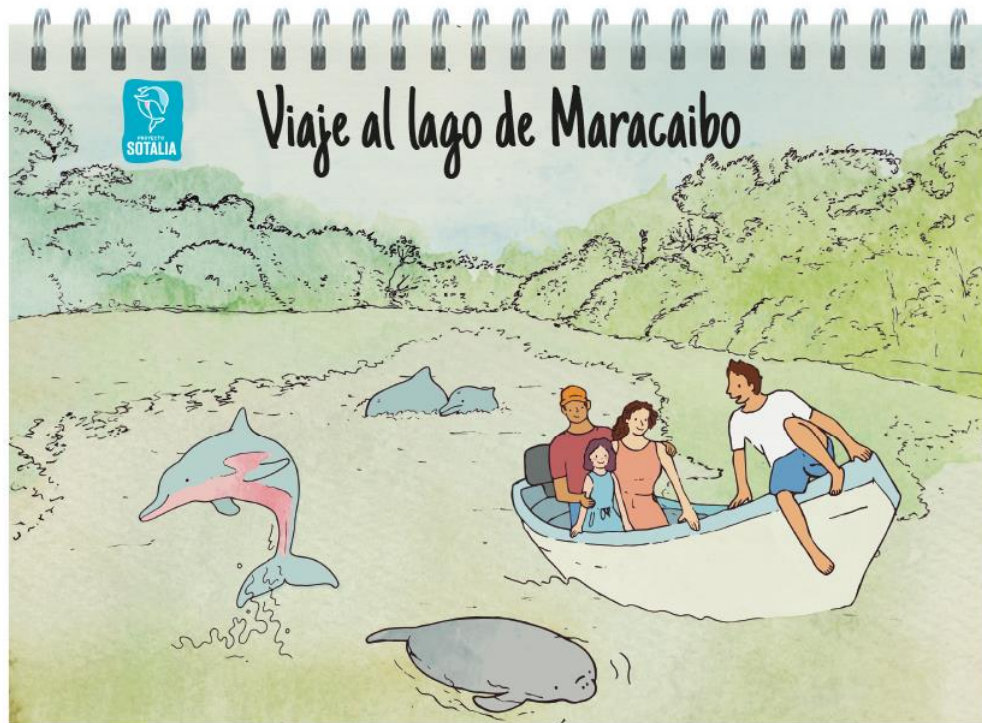


Image 2. Primer/story about Guiana dolphin and manatee in the lake Maracaibo System.

4. Large infographic prints of *Sotalia guianensis* 120x80 cm to be placed in the main fishing ports in the south of the lake, with contact details for the reports.

Status: They were printed and will be sent along with the primers to the South of the lake.

5. Preparation, printing and distribution of consultation guide with information about manatee, Guiana dolphins and their ecosystem. Aimed at upper 7th, 8th and 9th grade students (11-14 years old), project area staff, community leaders and interested teachers.

Status: It is 60% complete. The editorial review and layout process should be completed by the end of the current month. In December the file should be already in proof of galley, and then its printing.