

River dolphin rescue operation

Tefé, Brazil



Aiuká

Consultoria em Soluções Ambientais

In partnership with



Rescue operation

The dry season is part of Amazonian Environmental cycle, but due the current historical drought, some of the shallow and even deeper areas reached a temperature of 39C -102F. On 3 September, pink dolphins (*Inia geophrensis*) and Tucuxi (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) began to show up dead in the region of lake Tefé, Peak records were on September 28th ,with 70 dead animals, with the total of 154 found in total until September...At this time the Mamirauá Institute came into contact with NGO Yaqu Pacha, who promptly asked for help from its partners, bring together a network of volunteers to add to the local operations. Yaqu Pacha, in partnership with Aiuka, NMMF and IFAW, immediately placed a team on the 16th in Tefé.

Follows an overview and some actions of these teams.

The team

Yaqu Pacha in partnership with Aiuká

- Rodolfo Silva
- Waleska Gravena

International Fund for Animal Welfare (ifaw)

- Sarah Sharp
- Kira Kasper

National Marine Mammal Foundation

- Forrest Gomez
- Jammy Eichman
- Eric Franks





Reception of the IFAW & NMMF Teams – 03:35h



Team preparing for departure to Tefé –
Departure from the hotel at 11:15am



Travel with two hired vehicles and arrival at the Aeroclube de Manaus.



Introducing local veterinarian Waleska Gravena to the team - Departure to Tefé 13:00



Departure from Manaus, with an extreme drought in the region, also with a lot of haze/smoke due to the existing fires within 100 km of the city of Manaus.



First images of the Tefé region, extremely dry and with few water resources for animals.

Arrival in Tefé



Reception of the teams by the Command and first meeting to learn about the teams present and the actions that were being carried out.



Output for recognition of existing structures and those assembled by the operation coordination.



Structure set up for collecting biological material (Tent on the left) and documentation of organization of the collected material (Tent on the right) where the process was explained by the responsible team.



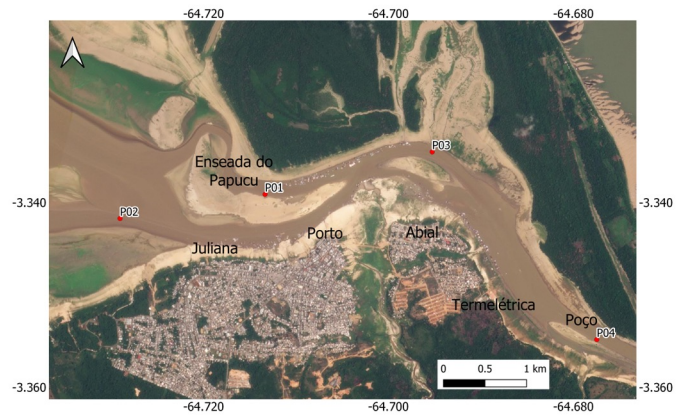
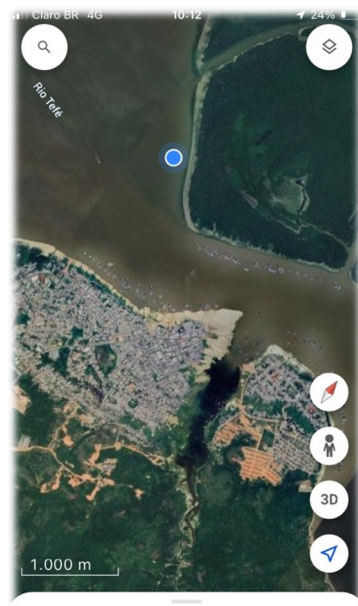
Base set up for possible reception of live animals, also a place to maintain equipment for monitoring the area.



Presentation of the area of greatest impact - Enseada de Papucu - where most of the dead animals were found.



Initial briefing for our team, daily monitoring, and departure to the monitored area



It is important to highlight the difference between the flooded area and the current one, with sand banks.



Barrier made with closing stakes, obstructing the passage of porpoises towards shallow waters.



Fixed monitoring points for porpoises, in the cove region.



Return to port, end of monitoring.

Enseada Papucu - Tefé



Papucu Cove- Tefé



10/18/2023

Hukilau técnica



Hukilau technique being explained and used on site by the IFAW team, supervised by the leader of the Marine Aquatic Mammal research group at the Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development.

10/21/2023



Training of rescue and treatment protocols, including novel Technologies and equipment

10/25/2023

Team training in capture simulation



Boto-vermelho (*Inia geoffrensis*)



M o n i t o r i n g

Tucuxis (*Sotalia fluviatilis*)



Future actions planned

- At moment, only the live animal monitoring and carcass survey is in place
- Animal rescue and translocation will only happen in cases of clear distress or evident risk
- Throughout the event management, multiple personnel and partners worked towards creating a protocol for rescue, treatment and translocation of animals to be applied if needed be.



Special thanks to all partners!



Instituto de Desenvolvimento
Sustentável Mamirauá

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Sanidad Animal
y Seguridad Alimentaria



PLANETE
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