



GREEN LEAF

EPA Marks its 20th Anniversary with New and Bigger World Environment Day Activities

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June 05, is World Environment Day (WED). It is also the day on which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1996, 20 years ago. The EPA celebrated its two decades of existence with new and bigger activities for WED.

WED 2016 celebrations focused on four main activities all aligned to the theme *“Fight against illegal trade in wildlife,”* adapted from the international WED theme *“Go wild for Life.”*

National Youth Forum

Zeroing in on the fact that half of our nation’s population is under 25 years, a National Youth Forum, the first of its kind, was organized. It targeted secondary schools from across the country and provided them with the opportunity to deliberate on the WED 2016. Cognizant

that youths are tomorrow’s leaders and the ones who will inherit the environment left by today’s world, the main objective of the Forum was to have a youth-led interpretation of the issue of illegal wildlife trade.

The Forum took place on June 03, 2016, at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre (ACCC) engaging an audience of about 300 persons. Hon. Raphael Trotman, Minister of MNR, addressed the Forum and stayed for the its entire duration. Dr Ramdass, Executive Director of the EPA, also shared insights into illegal wildlife trade and efforts being made internationally and locally to address the issue.

However, the main focus was on the youths - their voices and ideas which they articulated in dance, song, drama and power point presentations. The ACCC was alive with youthful energy and enthusiasm as clad in their unique school uniforms, youths swarmed the halls and filled the seats of the Centre. The Forum was a success not only for the EPA, but also for the youths and our wildlife whether sea-turtles, jungle cats or exotic orchids.

Hinterland Youth Seminar

Continuing its youth focus for WED, the EPA in collaboration with Iwokrama, conducted a Hinterland Youth Seminar at the Iwokrama Research Centre, in Region 9. The objective of the Seminar was to provide the scope for hinterland youths from the various Wildlife Clubs of the North Rupununi to examine the 2016 WED theme, hence raising the profile of WED in hinterland settings. As such, on June 04, 2016, the youths converged to deliver presentations, engage in discussions and nature walk in the forests.

The EPA intend to continue its efforts to provide youths with the opportunity to develop consciousness of their role and potential in environmental management and conservation.

Editorial Note

June 05, 2016, marked a significant milestone in the history of the EPA. It was not only the celebration of the largest global environmental observance, World Environment Day, but coincidentally, also the commemoration of EPA’s 20th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1996, the EPA has transitioned to be multifaceted in its approach to environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources. The past 20 years were not void of challenges, however, with a cadre of dedicated staff and competent leadership, the EPA remained resilient as it penetrated barriers and conquered new grounds. It expanded from less than 10 staff in 1996, to over 100 employees in 2016. With a growing demand for its services and an increase in the scope and reach of its work, the EPA added 2 new technical Divisions. These four Divisions target key aspects of its mandate including, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, Environmental Permitting, Biodiversity Management and Education, Information and Training. Over the years, the EPA has successfully developed several regulations and is implementing them to better execute it work. Further, the EPA has led the process towards the development of several national strategies and action plans, particularly for the management of biodiversity. Of note, is that the EPA was instrumental in advancing the process for the establishment of protected areas (now being managed by the Protected Areas Commission) though its implementation of the German funded KfW Guyana Protected Areas Project (Phases 1 and 2). The EPA is the national focal point for three Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and as such leads the process for the meeting of related national obligations.

In the next decade the EPA anticipates that it will restructure and expand to meet new and increasing demands to ensure that it delivers on its mandate.

EPA Marks its 20th Anniversary cont'd

Community Clean-ups

The EPA organised two community clean-ups as part of its 20th Anniversary activities. Two publicly used areas which appeared to be illegal dumpsites, one in Annandale and the other in Haslington, ECD, were chosen. On June 04, 2016, community volunteers and EPA staff turned up at both areas to be part of the exercise. A collaborative effort with the NDCs in the two areas saw significant haulage of solid waste from these areas, which resulted in them returning to good aesthetics. As part of this exercise, the EPA also donated a total of thirty (30) bins, 15 each, to the respective NDCs. The clean-ups emphasised community involvement and attracted approximately 50 persons from each community who joined the EPA staff to make a change in their communities.

Dinner and Award Ceremony

On June 05, 2016, the EPA held its Dinner and Award Ceremony at the Savannah Suite, Pegasus Hotel. It was an occasion to celebrate its achievements and also to recognise and honour hardworking and dedicated staff, as well as recognize the efforts of other sectors in environmental management.



It was an elegant event, that was well attended. Among the guests were the Hon. Prime Minister Moses Nagamotoo, Hon. Minister Raphael Trotman and several members of the Diplomatic Corps. To underscore the purpose of it all, attendees listened to a brief chronicle of the EPA, during its 20 year journey by Dr Ramdass, and a feature address by guest speaker, Dr Allison Stoll, and Chairman of the EPA Board. But it was not all speeches, the audience were also treated to a song by local celebrity Jackie Jaxx and a nature dance by a local group.

But the highlight of the evening was most certainly the awards. Among the categories of awards were EPA staff awards for long service and congeniality; sector agencies awards for demonstrating environmental leadership and pioneering; corporate awards for good environmental sustainability practices and media awards for coverage of environmental issues.

The evening's mood was one of celebration and acknowledgement of the EPA's valuable contributions towards environmental conservation, management and the sustainable use of our resources. 20 years since its emergence, the EPA's work continues, and as our country eyes new horizons, its work must continue to meet new demands.



Annandale: Before Clean-up After Clean-up

EPA engages the public at Guyexpo 2016

Visitors expressing interest in educational materials on display



The EPA was a part of Guyana's premier exposition and trade fair, GuyExpo, during May 12 - 15, 2016. Capitalizing on the influx of visitors to the Expo, the EPA took the opportunity to interact with them to raise awareness on the environment, particularly, issues such as climate change, environmental conservation, waste management and wildlife protection. Visitors were engaged via two games which enticed them with prizes for participation. It was a fun method of conveying information

of various issues. Visitors generally were eager to learn about the EPA and about the importance of their environment and the actions they can take to protect it.

Patrons receiving instructions on how to play the Spin the Wheel



Litter Prevention Programme Continues to Expand

The EPA is expanding the operations of the Litter Prevention Programme to the other parts of the country. In April, 2016, the Programme turned its attention to the newly established town of Bartica, Region 07. There, meetings were held with officials from the Bartica Mayor and Town Council along with other stakeholders in a bid to bolster their capacity to deal with solid waste management issues. Dumping of garbage in the Essequibo River; illegal dumpsites, and derelict vehicles along roadways were issues of concern to the Town Council. During the visit to Bartica, the EPA's team conducted



Interacting with a shop owner

Dumpsite investigation



investigations on dumpsites, issuing Clean-up orders to defaulters and interacting with and educating residents of Bartica. A community walk-through allowed the team to interface with residents to make them aware of the Litter Prevention Regulations and to mount posters. The visit resulted in collaboration between the EPA and the local organs in Bartica to address some of the environmental issues.

Environmental Authorisations

The Environmental Management Permitting Division (EMPD) grants Environmental Authorisation for various projects submitted to the Agency. This is done after a site visit is conducted to assess the potential or current environmental impact of the project. Large projects are usually required to submit an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Noise permits for various events and operations are also granted by the Agency.

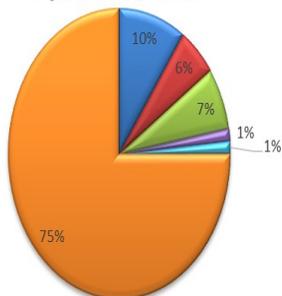
A total of ninety-two (92) Applications for Environmental Authorisation were received for the period April to June, 2016. Nineteen (19) of the Applications were for New Projects, eleven (11) for Existing Projects, six (6) for Renewals, two (2) for Long-Term Noise Permits, and fifty-four (54) Applications for Short-Term Noise Permits.

The Division conducted ten (10) site visits for New Projects, nine (9) site visits for Existing Operations, fourteen (14) for Renewal of project and one (1) for Variance of Environmental Authorisation.

The Agency granted seventy-two (72) Environmental Authorisations during this period. Seven (7) Environmental Permits, four (4) Operation Permits, five (5) for Renewals of Environmental Authorisation, one (1) Letter of Authorisation, one (1) Transfer of Authorisation and fifty-four (54) Short-Term Noise Permits were granted.

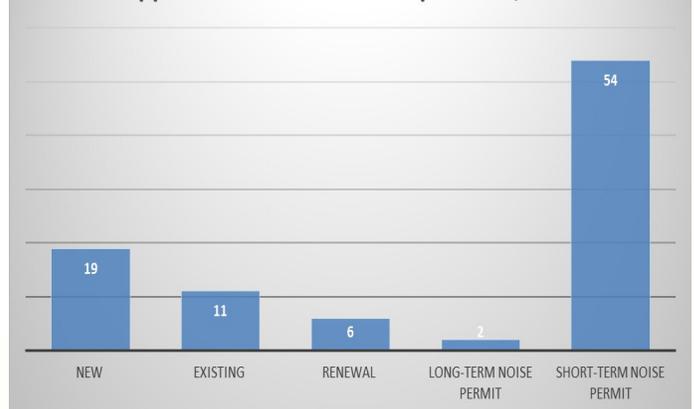
The Division continues to process the other applications received during this period to determine whether these projects will be required to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or prepare an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Types of Environmental Authorisations Granted for April-June, 2016



Environmental Permit Operation Permit Renewal
 Letter of Authorisation Transfer (Letter of Authorisation) Short-Term Noise Permit

Applications Received for April-June, 2016



Trash to Fashion



EPA brought to life its 2nd 'Trash to Fashion' event on May 10, 2016 in the newly commissioned town of Bartica, Region 07, at the Leanna's Kiddies Park. The Fashion Show was the culmination of a series of training workshops done during February to May, 2016, which exposed students to techniques such as *papier mache*, among others, to upcycle waste materials into fashionable pieces. The fashion show provided the scope for students to showcase pieces they created utilising the upcycling techniques they learned. The aim of the workshops and the Show was to stimulate critical thinking in addressing the waste management issue, whether at school, work or community. Seven (7) Primary Schools: Karrau; Kartabo; Batavia; Two Miles; Agatash; St Anthony's; and, St John the Baptist participated in the Show, along with Three Miles; and, Bartica Secondary schools. Together, these schools fielded a total of eighteen (18) attractive fashion pieces, ranging from bridal gowns to casual wear.

Rain? No worries! Dress for Prom created by Three Miles Secondary of Plastic Bags only



Prizes were awarded for Most Creative, Most Marketable and the People's Choice (WOW) for the Primary schools and Most Marketable for the Secondary level. The team of judges included Ms Sharifah Razack, Director of EIT-EPA,

Ms Vanessa Williams—Youth Coach at United States Agency for International Development, Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment Project, and Mrs Ellen Odwin, Headteacher of Ellen's Pre-Nursery.

This event was the first of its kind in Bartica and was well received by the approximately 100 persons present. All eyes were on stage as the students displayed their stylish and creative pieces.

Batavia Primary took away the prize for both the Most Marketable and the People's Choice (WOW), St Anthony's Primary the prize for Most Creative, and Bartica Secondary the prize for Most Marketable.

Model from Ellen's Pre-Nursery in her toilet roll outfit



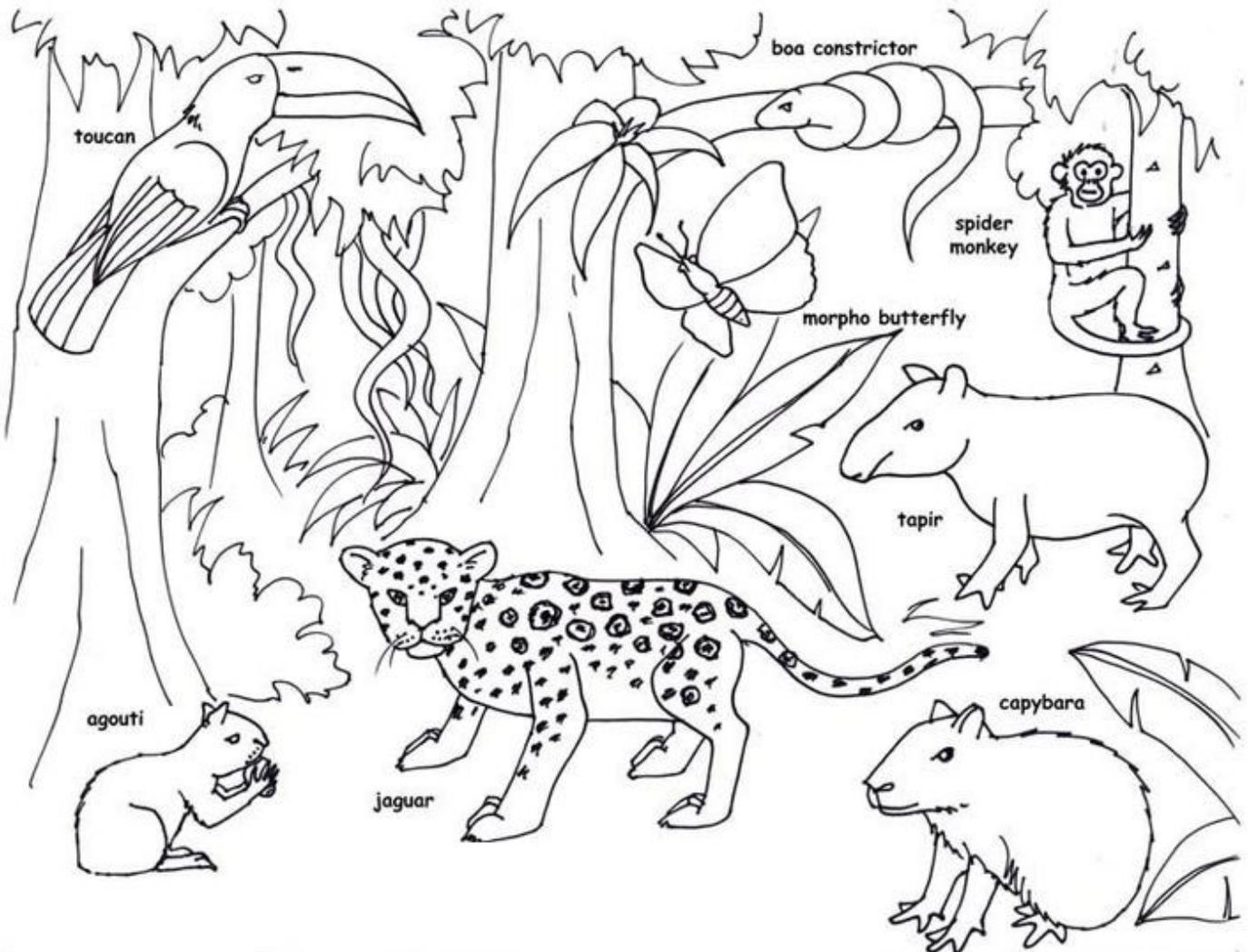
Kids Corner

GO WILD FOR LIFE!!!

Wildlife is very important to us as humans. So important, in fact, that some try to exploit these benefits through illegal means. Doing so, however, has a negative impact on numerous species of wild plants and animals. The World Environment Day theme this year, 'Go Wild for Life' encourages us to pool our actions in a bid to protect the species that are under threat. As a child, you can do your own research to find out how you can help; you can also help to spread awareness about this issue.

Right: Connect the dots to identify a common animal that is traded illegally.

Bottom: Colour the Tropical Wildlife Scene.



Building Staff Capacity

To effectively execute its mandate, the Agency recruits staff to fill vacant positions as they arise. During the second quarter of 2016, five (5) young professionals joined the EPA:

- Dwayne Bancroft, Environmental Officer II, EMCD
- Surendra Boodhoo, Finance Officer
- Niketa Chintaman, Administrative Assistant
- Ladonna Kissoon, Environmental Officer II, EMCD
- Urmila Singh, Executive Assistant, EMPD

A number of staff also attended workshops and meetings to enhance their technical skills to better contribute to the work of the Agency. These included:

- Ms. Latoya Farinha, Environmental Officer II, EMPD, attended a consultation on Restoring the Scrap Metal Trade which was organised by the Ministry of Business on April 15,

2016.

- Mr. Ronn Sullivan, Environmental Officer II, Mr. Junior Toney, Environmental Officer I, EMPD and Ms. Felicia Adams, Senior Environmental Officer, EMCD attended a four (4) day Workshop on Environment, Community, Health and Safety of Neglected Development Minerals which was organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources during April 18-21, 2016.
- Ms. Jewell-Ann Harry, Human Resources Assistant, ADMIN attended a symposium on Workplace Stress which was organised by the Ministry of Social Protection on April 27, 2016.
- Ms. Diana Fernandes attended the Inception Workshop of the Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean Sub-Region Project held in Trinidad and Tobago during the period April 24 to 27, 2016 at the Hilton.

EPA officers benefit from training in monitoring gold mining operations

The Government of Guyana through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing a Medium Sized Project (MSP) with the objective of strengthening monitoring and implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices in Guyana's gold mining sub-sector to reduce biodiversity loss and maintain ecosystem functionality.

This GEF MSP, the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Project, supports Strategic Objective 7 of Guyana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2020) which is to "*Improve substantially biodiversity monitoring at the national level and within key productive sectors as well as the private sector.*" A key component of achieving this objective is through enhanced monitoring and enforcement of Environmental Regulations and Codes of Practices. It is with this focus in mind, the EPA has secured the services of a consultancy firm to undertake a capacity building workshop to strengthen the capacity of its Field Officers to facilitate greater oversight and

monitoring of gold mining operations.

The training is one in a series of similar trainings facilitated under the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Project and was undertaken during April 28-30, 2016. Selected field officers from the Education, Information & Training Division (EITD), Environmental Management (Permitting) Division (EMPD), Environmental Management (Compliance and Enforcement) Division (EMCD) and Biodiversity Management Division (BMD) participated in the workshop. The training was structured to meet five (5) main objectives:

- To provide an overview of the gold mining sector in Guyana and impacts on the environment;
- To outline key Laws, Regulations, Guidelines and Codes of Practice for the Gold Mining Sector;
- To discuss current Monitoring and Enforcement of the Gold Mining Sector;
- To discuss Approaches to Monitoring Gold Mining Operations; and
- To present, review and discuss the Checklist as a key monitoring tool.

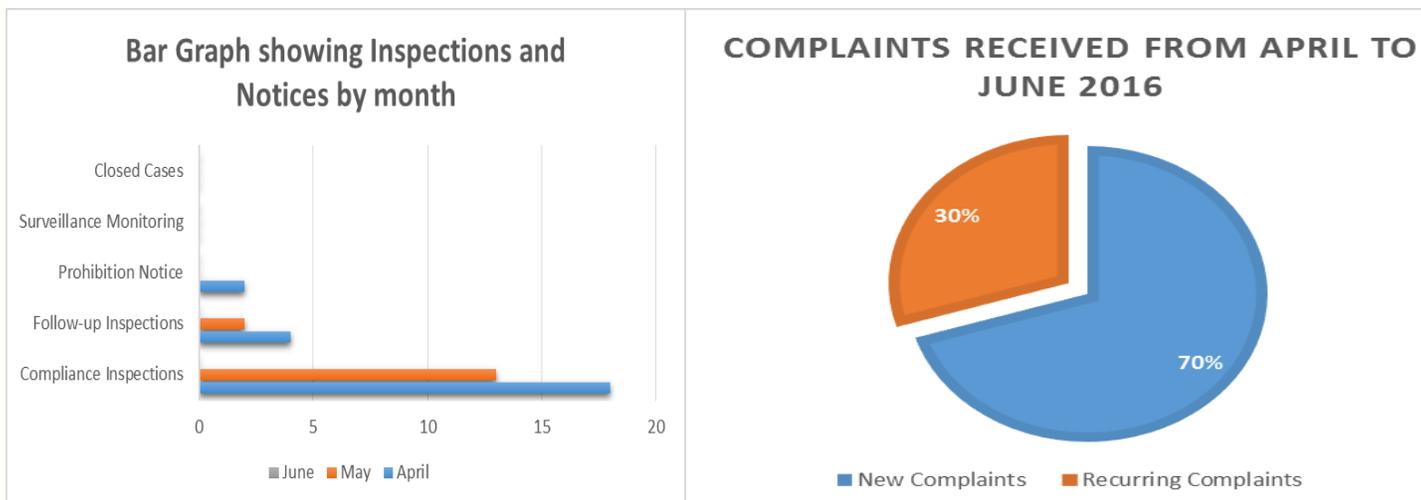
The training sought to make EPA's field officers more knowledgeable on the gold mining sector, its impacts on the environment, and the regulatory framework in order to be better prepared to monitor and oversee gold mining operations.



Complaints and Response Management

The Environmental Compliance Division (EMCD) received a total of forty-nine (49) complaints for the period April to June. Thirty-three (33) new complaints and sixteen (16) recurring complaints were received. In relation to this, the Division conducted thirty-one (31) Compliance Inspections and six (6) Follow-up complaint inspections. Also, two (2) Prohibition Notices were issued for the quarter.

Of the new complaints, fourteen (14) were received in April, (13) in May, and (6) in June, in relation to dust, noise, odour and smoke nuisances.



Upcoming Activities

The EPA initiates and undertakes activities on a continuous basis to pursue its mandate.. Having successfully achieved the set goals for the second quarter of the year, planning and coordination have already begun towards its planned objectives for the next quarter.

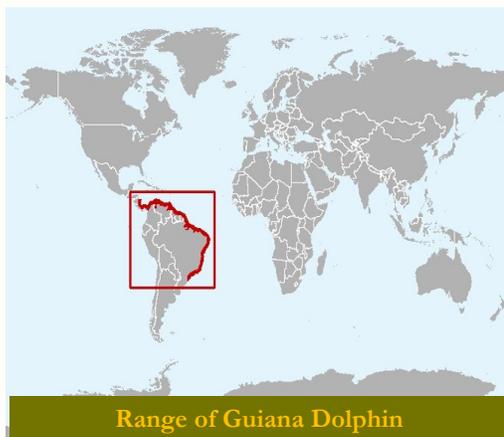


Activities scheduled for July - September, 2016, include the following:

Activity	Theme	Target Group	Date
Environmental Clubs Visit	Establishing and sustaining an Environmental Club	Primary and Secondary Schools in Regions 04, 05, 06 and 10	July
Climate Change Outreach	Climate Change and Women	Women's Groups	July
Honorary Litter Wardens Training		RDCs in Region 10	July
Mining Exhibition	TBA	General public	August
International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united	Primary and Secondary Schools	September 16
International Coastal Cleanup		Environmental Clubs, NGOs	September 17

WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Guiana Dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*)



This is a species of dolphin found in the coastal waters to the north and east of South America, and east of Central America. Its native countries are Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; French Guiana; Guyana; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; and Venezuela. It belongs to the same family as the oceanic dolphin.

Appearance

Guiana dolphins look similar to the bottlenose dolphin; however, it is smaller, just about 7 ft in length (210 cm). It is light to bluish grey on its back and sides and light gray on the “belly” or ventral side. The dorsal fin is typically slightly hooked, with a triangular shape and the beak is well-defined and of moderate length.

Habitat

It prefers estuaries, bays, and other shallow, sheltered warm coastal waters around the eastern and northern South American coast.

Diet

Guiana dolphins consume a wide variety of marine and estuarine species such as deep and shallow water fish, squids, shrimp and crab. Feeding occurs both individually and in large groups.

Reproduction and nesting

Males reach sexual maturity at about seven years and females at between 5-8 years. There is no marked seasonality; calves are produced year-round with gestation being about a year. The breeding system is promiscuous, and females older than 25 years do not reproduce. It has been observed that dolphins live between 29 – 30 years.

Interesting Fact

Guiana dolphins are known to practice infanticide in order to get females. Such a case was witnessed in 2006, by researchers from Chile and Brazil when a group of six male adults separated a mother from her calf, four then keeping her at bay, while the other two adults *harassed* the calf (held it under water, then threw it into the air and held it under water again). Researchers spotted the mother again in a few days, but not her calf. Since females become sexually receptive within a few days of losing a calf, and the group of attacking males was sexually interested in the female, it is possible that the infanticide occurred for this reason.

Conservation

Sotalia species is listed in Appendix I of CITES and *S. guianensis* is listed in Appendix II of CMS. The species is legally protected in most of its range countries.

THE GREEN LEAF

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This publication is intended to promote awareness on the work of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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About Our Logo...

Our logo is the Passion Fruit leaf. Yellow Passion Fruit (*Passiflora edulis flavicarpa*) is native to the Amazon. The passion fruit plant produces beautiful flowers and a sweet - tart fruit. It was named by the Spanish missionaries in South America. Passion Fruit is widely grown throughout the tropics and subtropics. The leaves are used in traditional medicine to settle edgy nerves. They are also used for colic, diarrhea, dysentery and insomnia.

