

Supplementary material from:

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Supplementary Material 1

Interview guide

Presentation and informed consent

(Say hello and ask about time availability), then: We are part of the work team of the Project to Evaluate the Strategy for the conservation of the manatee in the Río Dulce National Park. I am conducting interviews in collaboration with the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), about local knowledge on the conservation status of the manatee, aimed at users of the Río Dulce. If you agree, I would like to ask you a few questions. You are free to answer or not, and if you have any concerns, do not hesitate to let us know. Your name and personal information will not be disclosed, we will only record it to follow up on some responses in the analysis stage. If you agree, we will invite you to the presentation of the results. Likewise, if you agree, we will take some notes, audio recordings and photographs.

Interview data

Date:

Location:

Interview number:

Identification of the person interviewed.

Name:

Phone:

Age:

Sex:

M:

F:

Place of birth:

Place of residence:

Time living in the region (years):

How often do you visit the Río Dulce?

Schooling level:

Occupation:

Do you carry out any activities in the Río Dulce? Specify:

Manatee Distribution

1. Have you observed manatees? Yes ___ / No ___

If you have observed them, in what situation? (Alive, wounded, dead).

If you have observed them dead, do you know the causes of death? (fishing net, boat collision, stranded, poaching, others, does not know).

2. Mention where in the river you have observed adult manatees.

3. Have you observed manatee calves? Yes ___ / No ___

In what part of the river have you observed them? Comment.

Mortality and risks

4. Comparing the situation 10 years ago with the current one, are there more manatees now, are there fewer, hasn't it changed, don't you know?

What do you think was the main cause of the (decrease/increase or maintenance)? (e.g., poaching, entanglement with fishing nets, boat collision, water pollution, loss of habitat, more protected areas, improvements in water quality, more control and surveillance by environmental authorities, etc.)

5. What do you think are the main threats for manatees today within the RDNP?

6. When was the last time you heard of a manatee being hunted? (This year, last year, more than two years ago, exact date or approximate date)

7. Have you found dead manatees in the area? Yes / No __
How many times in the year?

If you have found dead manatees, please describe:

Date (dd/mm/yy)	Place	Sex (female, male, indeterminate)	Age group (calf, juvenile, adult) / Size (meters)	Death cause	Decomposition status (fresh, moderate, advanced)	It was attended by CONAP? Y/N

8. Do you know of any case of a manatee that was hit by a motorized boat? Describe.

How many boat collision accidents with manatees occur each year near the community?

9. Do you carry out any procedures when you find dead manatees in the area? Describe: (communication with park rangers or with some authority's institutions, burial of corpse, recovery of bones, others):

Conservation

10. Comment on the importance of the manatee for the region and for your community.

11. Do you agree that the manatee should be a protected species? / Could you tell me why you think the manatee and its habitat should be conserved?

Others

12. Do you want to add anything else?

13. Do you want to ask us something?

Closing of the interview

Thank people for their time and responses and end the interview.

Supplementary Material 2

Participatory mapping guide

Time	Activity	Materials
10 min	Presentation and informed consent	
20 min	Presentation of the participants	
60 min	Participatory mapping	Satellite image of the Río Dulce National Park. Stickers and markers to indicate places of interest.
20 min	Coffee break	
10 min	Conclusions	
<p>Presentation and informed consent:</p> <p>Good morning, we are the consulting team (mention our names). We are currently carrying out a study related to the evaluation of the national strategy for the conservation of manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus manatus</i>) in the Río Dulce National Park. Thank you for coming here and participating in this workshop, the aim of this activity is to identify where you have sighted manatees, where you have seen them feeding and other important aspects related to the manatee, and this protected area. For this, we will use participatory mapping (show map). As its name indicates, among all the participants we will discuss these points.</p> <p>If you do not feel comfortable with any of the questions or dynamics, do not wish to respond or we are not clear enough, please let us know. All information collected will be anonymous and will be used for the purposes of the study. If you allow us, we will take notes, audio recordings and some photographs.</p>		
<p>Participatory mapping:</p> <p>We present the satellite map of the Río Dulce National Park region. We ask the following questions to discuss (we use stickers as symbols to identify the points being discussed and locate them on the map):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you recognize the location of the place where we meet today? - Could you locate the places where manatees are usually sighted? - Places where you have sighted manatee calves? - Could you locate places where you have sighted manatees feeding? Or areas with grasses and submerged vegetation as potential feeding sites? - Could you indicate the places where manatees have been reported hit by motorboats? - Could you locate sites where anthropogenic activities are carried out that threaten the manatee population? E.g., Poaching, presence of trawl nets, habitat deterioration (water pollution, removal of aquatic grasses, presence of livestock on the banks, human settlements, presence of extensive crops) - Do you recognize any place where a manatee stranding or death for undetermined reasons has occurred? 		