

- PROJETO - UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV) FOR SURVEYING RIVER DOLPHINS IN THE AMAZON

Tropilunch

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WWF-Brasil

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:45 – 1:45

GRINTER 376

SUMMARY

In the Brazilian Amazon, river dolphins have been threatened by infrastructure projects, illegal harvesting and incidental captures in fishing nets. However, there is a scarce understanding about the two species occurring in Brazil, undermining the designing of sound conservation plans. Our study evaluated the effectiveness of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to optimize data collection in population studies of river dolphins. Preliminary results have shown this technology has great potential to support population studies on river dolphins, but requires improvements on the range of detection, flight duration, and development of an algorithm to provide animals' automated detection.

BIO

Marcelo has been working with biodiversity conservation for the last 17 years. His first research project was on big carnivores in the Iguazu National Park. He then started to focus on habitat conservation approaches, working for five years on the developing management projects for protected areas in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, Caatinga and Cerrado. He has also worked on developing approaches on how to integrate conservation with social and economic development in the landscape. He has won the Google Social Impact Challenge Brazil - 2016, with a project using technology and a citizen science to fight Zika and Dengue fever. Leading the *ecodrones* project, he has started cooperation with many institutions towards the use of drones for wildlife monitoring and protected areas management.



Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @t 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376. Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on [TCD's YouTube Channel](#).