

Project Update: January 2017

Acoustic and visual surveys of humpback whales were conducted from July to September 2016, in the Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve. We observed 434 whale groups during transects conducted from Quingue in the centre of the marine Reserve (see map Fig. 1). We performed ad hoc recordings at each survey where we reported whale presence, spatial location and environmental parameters, such as sea surface, cloud cover and wave height. We collected 96 acoustic samples with 10 to 45 minutes recordings.

We organised a Humpback Whale Festival at the local community of Caimito and Quingue where we distributed education material, such as posters and presented humpback whale puppetry shows for the kids. For school children, painting activities and a beach clean-up was organized by CETACEA team. Overall, 50 people participated in these events (Fig. 2 and 3). As part of a training programme to enhance local capacity for students, a "humpback whale song workshop: coding and analysis" was conducted in cooperation with the bioacoustics expert Dr Ellen C. Garland (University of St. Andrews). The workshop was held for biologists from Peru, Colombia and Ecuador in order to establish a bioacoustics network in South America (Fig. 4).



Fig 1. Acoustic and visual monitoring of humpback whales off the Galera-San Francisco Marine Reserve, Esmeraldas. Fig 2. Minga "beach clean-up" carried out by the CETACEA team, at Caimito and Quingue communities.



Fig 3. Painting activities with kids from Caimito and Quingue communities. Fig 4. "Humpback whale song workshop: coding and analysis" addressed to young researchers from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru (Southeastern Pacific region).