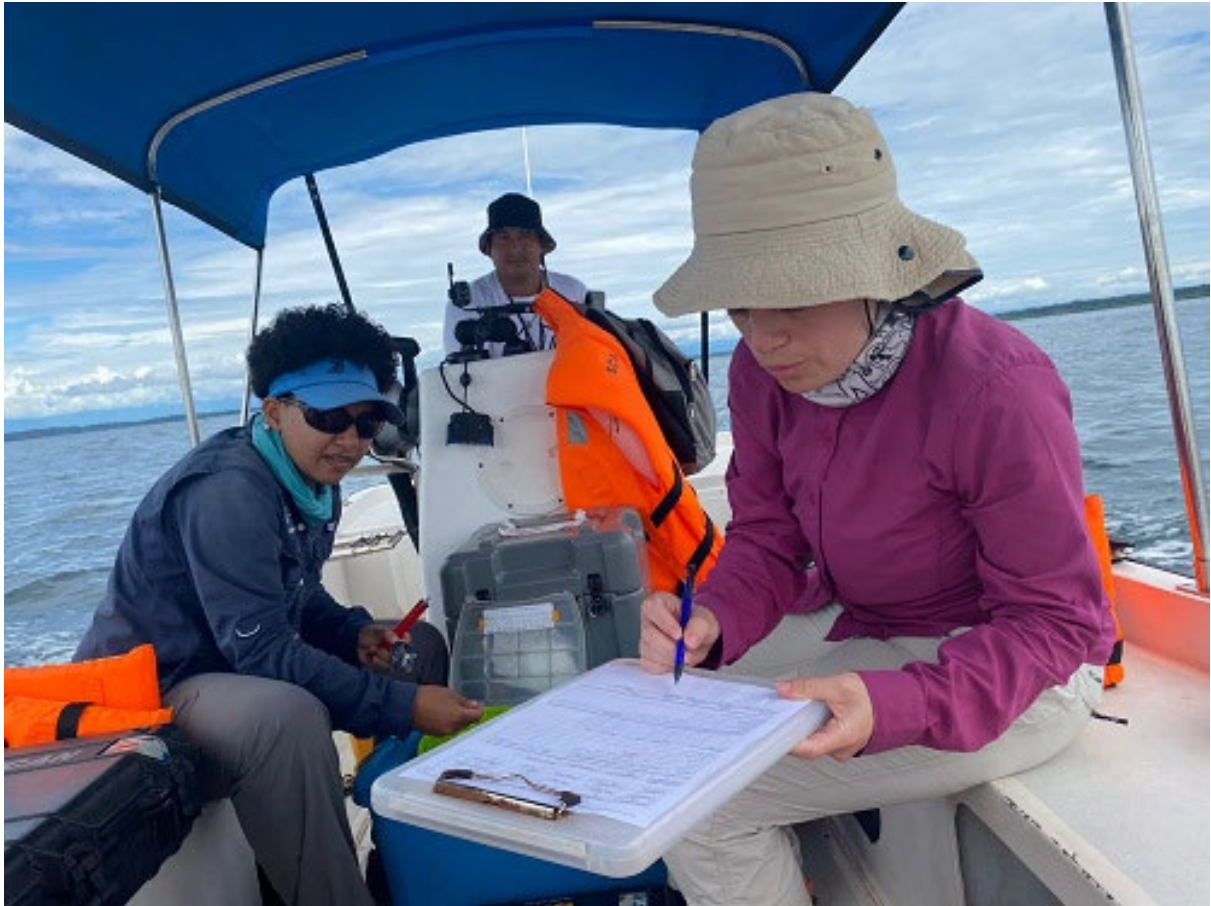


Project Update: October 2022

Thanks to support from The Rufford Foundation, the last fieldwork was conducted between June and July 2022. To date and since we started in 2012, we have collected 102 dolphin tissue samples within the Archipelago of Bocas del Toro-BDT. Because most samples had been collected within the archipelago, during this fieldwork sample collection was focused mainly in the outermost area, in Cayo Zapatilla, Chiriquí Lagoon, and Changuinola coast. Thus, we hope to confirm if offshore dolphins found in these areas are different to the ones from the BDT dolphin population, or if they are maintaining genetic connectivity between the archipelago with other areas in the Caribbean. Particularly in Changuinola coast, an area located bordering Panama, a group of around 12 bottlenose dolphins were observed interacting with two Guiana dolphins (*Sotalia guianensis*). These bottlenose dolphins may belong to the Gandoca-Manzanillo population in Costa Rica. Therefore, it is highly possible that these animals may confirm the potential genetic connectivity between BDT and Costa Rica.



Researchers Dalia Barragán and Betzi Pérez in Bocas del Toro. © Ana Endara / STRI.



Researchers working in the field. © Mandli Rege-Colt.



A Guiana dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*) sighted in Changuinola. © Betzi Pérez.



Offshore bottlenose dolphins observed in Changuinola. © Betzi Pérez.



Interview with one researcher during fieldwork. © Mandi Rege-Colt.