

# SPOTLIGHT ON BRAZIL

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS ~ FEBRUARY 2026



Check out the underlined clickable links to learn more!

## QUICK STATS

- Over \$200k donated to efforts in Brazil
- Aid spread to 3+ species:
  - Fransiscana ([Pontoporia blainvillei](#))
  - Tucuxi ([Sotalia fluviatilis](#))
  - Pink Amazon River Dolphin ([Inia geoffrensis](#))



## A RACE AGAINST THE ODDS

Scientists affiliated with the [Laboratory of Wildlife Comparative Pathology at the University of San Paulo](#) are fighting to strengthen the odds of the Fransiscana

dolphin - a small, coastal cetacean inhabiting the eastern coast of South America. Despite the high calf separation and mortality rates, professional efforts have extended the expected survival of rehabilitated calves from a mere 5 days to a record of 7 months.

In addition to rehabilitation efforts for orphaned calves, scientists in collaboration with Fundação Educacional da Região de Joinville are employing drones to map Fransiscana populations for more informed conservation education and decision-making. [Efforts through Universidade da Região de Joinville](#)

are also aiming to use acoustic alarms to dissuade members from approaching gillnets and continue to analyze bioacoustic data.



## THE SAMPLE LOTTERY

It is close to impossible to collect biopsy samples from the illusive and fragile Tucuxi. Massive [breakthroughs in eDNA](#) (or water sampling) have opened the door for less risky methods for analyzing population structure. The best part? Locals can help collect samples in their own backyard, making conservation a household project.



## LET'S COLLAB

A little information goes a long way. The National Marine Mammal Foundation (NMMF) has [developed a network](#) designed to make veterinary and scientific information regarding Amazon river dolphins more accessible to conservation groups. Dolphin Quest has even offered ultrasound workshops to give

veterinarians practice conducting health assessments on healthy dolphins in preparation for assessing local river dolphin individuals.

