Tagging of River Dolphins
Term of Reference

A consultant veterinarian will be engaged under the project ‘Tagging River Dolphins’ funded through the Freshwater Innovation Fund. Satellite tags will be placed on the dorsal fin of the three rescued dolphins in January 2022. This project will help in understanding the movement of dolphins, ranging patterns, possibly monitoring differences between the behaviour of males and females and habitat use. If the tags last longer than we can also observe behaviour in different seasons; dry vs wet.

Duties of the veterinarian

- Provide veterinary support to the WWF-Pakistan team in placing the satellite tags on Indus River dolphins by ensuring that the process causes least discomfort and stress to the dolphins.
- Administer local anesthesia and make piercing in the dorsal fin for the pin of the satellite tags.
- Monitor breathing and heart rate during the process and prepare to handle emergencies.
- The veterinarian will prepare to handle any critical situation while in Sukkur and handle any unpredictable emergency where the help can save lives of dolphins during rescues.
- Veterinarian will be responsible for arranging all the drugs and equipment needed for the purpose.

Duration of the assignment is from 10 to 15 days. Departure for Sukkur is a day before opening of irrigation canals i.e., 5th of Jan 2022. WWF-Pakistan will cover the field expenses, travel, lodging.

WWF-Pakistan will arrange a call with the team that tagged over 30 Amazon River dolphins and it will help in understanding the procedure and learn from the experience.

Due to the sensitive nature of the expedition and agreement with a production house no content, information and pictures can be posted or social media or shared at any other platform.