

**SHARING THE PLANET**  
Fourth Grade

**Endangered Animals at  
the Colombian Pacific Ocean**

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## ABSTRACT

Our PYP Exhibition project is intended to make people conscious about how world's biodiversity is being affected by the extinction of species and by those that are in the process of disappearing. This happens with many marine animals that inhabit the Colombian Pacific coast. The main reason for this situation is us, human beings, as they are generators of pollution and bad fishing practices. In this document we will talk about five marine animals that we consider to be very important to the marine ecosystem and that are in danger of extinction: the common coastal dolphin, the hawksbill turtle, the humpback whale, the manatee, and the yellowfin tuna.

The damage that has been done to the fauna around the world, and to the marine animals of the Colombian Pacific coast, is of great concern to us. People must know what is happening to raise awareness and find solutions to this serious problem. Only by gaining awareness we can make humans react and take action to avoid this global calamity.

## INTRODUCTION

Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, surrounded by two oceans, crossed by great rivers and beautiful mountains and with an enormous ethnic diversity. However, the fauna of Colombia, in general, has been devastated. Monkeys, birds, and native reptiles are in danger of extinction and in constant decline.

It is important to understand the difference between endangered animals and extinct species. Extinction of a particular animal occurs when there are no more individuals of that species alive anywhere in the world: the species has died out. Endangered animals are animals still alive that are at risk of extinction.

Coastal Common Dolphins, Humpback Whales, Yellowfin Tunas, Hawksbill Turtles, and Manatees are animals in the Pacific Ocean whose population have been declining and are the ones we are focusing and studying in our research.

Except for natural phenomena man is responsible for the disappearance of animals. It is necessary and urgent to take immediate action because otherwise we are condemned to continue seeing how species continue to decline and even disappear.

## ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Below, we will review four species of animals that are on the way of extinction: Coastal common dolphin, hawksbill turtle, yellowfin tuna, humpback whale and manatee. Each species will be described in terms of characteristics, habitat, nutrition and why they are endangered animals.

### COSTAL COMMON DOLPHIN



**IMAGE 1**

The dolphins belong to a group of marine mammals called cetaceans. They are found in the coastal areas of the warm and temperate tropical oceans. This includes much of western South America, central California to central Mexico and coastal Peru. Where the greatest dolphin sightings have been achieved in Colombia is in Bahía Solano (Chocó), in the Pacific Ocean and in the Gulf of Urabá and Santa Marta, in the Caribbean Sea.

Pacific dolphins prefer deep waters away from the coast, but during the winter months they migrate to the waters near the coast, they have developed the ability to explore and exploit the ocean's depths; in fact, a wild common dolphin, dives to a depth of 260 m. The common coastal dolphin eats octopus, squid, and small fish such as sardines. But they do eat shrimp or crabs.

In addition, it is one of the smallest dolphins. When it is adult, it measures 1.9 and 2.5 m. They exhibit complex methods of communication and echolocation making squeaks, buzzes, whistles, and clicks that can be heard from miles away.

They must protect themselves from dangerous animals like sharks, killer whales, and other enemies. But these animals are not their greatest enemies. Man is its greatest enemy. They are dying from the pollution of the seas due to garbage, plastic, chemical agents, and other wastes as well as the improper use of nets in fishing. They are endangered but they are not extinct.

## HAWKSBILL TURTLE



**IMAGE 2**

Hawksbill turtles are not as big as other turtles. The hawksbill turtles are critically endangered because of pollution, throwing plastic bags to the ocean and the turtles are getting trapped into the plastic, or for using their shells to make hooks or bags. They are dying because we are throwing trash into the ocean.

The Hawksbill turtles are found in the tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans in the countries of the northern Gulf of Mexico, the Greater and Lesser Antilles and across Central America to the south to Brazil. They prefer not to live in the deep waters because of the food these turtles like.

They are omnivores, that means that they eat little fish, but they also eat plants from the sea. The hawksbill turtle is classified as "critically endangered" by the International Union for

Conservation of Nature. The secretly fishing of eggs in the nesting sites and the use of the shell to make handicrafts, lens frames, combs, and other objects is one of the biggest reasons for the turtles to be endangered.

## **YELLOWFIN TUNA**

The yellowfin tuna is a type of fish that live in que tropical and subtropical water. Its characteristics are a dark blue or a gray color on its back, a silvery or silvery yellowish belly, and as the name suggest a yellow fin. Yellowfin tunas are known to be highly migratory, with individuals making long migrations every year, these migrations likely correspond with their spawning behavior and with their food needs.

The habitat of the yellowfin tuna is distributed in tropical, and subtropical waters everywhere except the Mediterranean Sea. Its predators are naturally sharking, seabirds, blue and black marlins, and swordfish, but now the human being is the most common predator because of the industrial fishing. The yellowfin tuna does live in the Colombia ocean in its bout oceans. literature on the subject shows that it is throughout the Colombian Pacific. however, there are some specific references Choco wax, Bahía Solano. The alimentation of the Yellowfin tuna consists of mollusks, crustaceans, and other fish. One interesting fact is that is one of the fastest fish going 45 miles per hour (75 kilometer's/h).

## **HUMPBACK WHALES**

The Humpback whales is a specie cetacean and mammal. They have a unique shape. The males create a complex song which can last from 10 minutes to 20 minutes. The Humpback whale live on all ocean in the world. They go the poles to eat and, they come back again.

The humpback whale eats small fish's and krill. The humpback whale migrates to 25.000 km every year. In summer they go to the polar waters to feed and then migrate to more tropical waters to mate and have their babies. The coasts of the Colombian Pacific are a strategic place for humpback whales to mate, give birth to their young and raise their calves. Bahia Malaga, Gorgona, Utria, Juan Chaco, Bahia Solano, Nuqui are some of the places where they can be seen. They seek the waters of our Pacific for its temperature of 25 degrees and for the tranquility of its waters free of boats. Colombia is one of the 87 countries in the world that offers whale watching as a tourist attraction.

The Humpback whale has been an object of hunter; its population is reduced by 90%. The cues of life of extinction are the overfishing, they get locked in the nets, knocks on boats and underwater noise. It is one of the species most threatened by commercial hunting even though its hunting was prohibited in 1963.

## MANATEE

Manatees are marine mammals, there are three manatee species that inhabit in the Caribbean Sea and in the Pacific Ocean. A manatee can measure between 2.5 and 4.5 meters and can weigh between 200 and 600 kilos. They are almost 100% herbivores: they eat semi-aquatic's and aquatic's plants. But some They are in danger of extinction because they are killed by motorboats, and they are being hunted for wet their skin and sell it for much money, and they habitat is the Pacific Colombia's coast zone and live in Florida (USA), from the Mexican Caribbean, interest fact: Manatee is also called Sea cow because they body is like cows, and they order is siren, they are protected by some associations. Save the Manatee Club's mission is to protect manatee zones.



IMAGE 3



## **ACTION**

Our action is about presenting a video showing a video to show our investigation topic. Then, a Kahoot will be played, and the winner will get a special prize to recall the endangered animals. The questions of our Kahoot are these ones: 1. Is the Common Coastal Dolphin one of the largest dolphins? 2. Why do people kill the Hawksbill Turtles? 3. How can we help the Humpback Whales? 4. What is the difference between the Yellowfin Tuna and the other tunas? 5. Why are the Manatees endangered? 6. How can we help the animals of the ocean? The end of our action is to run a contest which is to send a photo of the recycle spot at home.

## **CONCLUSION**

For some species, time on planet Earth is running out. Humans are the biggest threat to the survival of endangered species with hunting, habitat destruction and the effects of climate change causing many of the problems. When a species is classified as endangered, governments and international organizations can and must work to protect it. Laws can and should limit hunting and habitat destruction for the species. We must all do our part.

## TABLE OF IMAGES

**IMAGE 1:** <https://www.google.com/search?q=delfin&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwic4aPGh-rwAhVieDABHbg-B4QQ2->

**IMAGE 2:**

**IMAGE3:** [https://www.google.com/search?q=YELLOWFIN+TUNA+&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUK EwjRi6i\\_jurwAhWxnoQIHWpkBkUQ2-](https://www.google.com/search?q=YELLOWFIN+TUNA+&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUK EwjRi6i_jurwAhWxnoQIHWpkBkUQ2-)

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