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POSTER

Rio Negro: A new facility for old Orinoko river dolphins at Duisburg Zoo

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Since 1996, Duisburg Zoo has expressed the wish to provide a new facility for its two male Orinoko river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis humoldtiana*) kept at Duisburg Zoo. The river dolphins had been held in an old and small-sized facility which was in use since their arrival in March 1975 and was not considered adequate to modern husbandry standards of this species. After overcoming financial and political difficulties, the new facility with the name "Rio Negro" -named after the largest blackwater river of South America- was buildt and opened to the public in September 2005.

The facility is a reproduction of a natural habitat where river dolphins occur: a river running through tropical rain forest. The exhibition has a total surface of 890 m², with a pool of 305 m² water surface and 640 m³ of water volume, with depth varying from 40 cm to more than 4 m. The life support system consists of mechanical filtration by skimming and gravel filters, a biological filter and UV disinfection. Water and air temperature are kept at 28° C, air humidity at > 70%. A large acrylic allows an underwater view for 19 m. The transfer and adaption of the two river dolphins, of 31 and 50 years of estimated age at the time of their transfer in August 2005, respectively, is described as well in this poster. The facility and life support system have been designed to be able to hold manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) in the future.

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