



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Bonn, Germany, 13 June 2009

UNEP/CMS/ScCAP/Doc.5

Agenda Item 6.1

CONSERVATION STATUS OF CMS APPENDIX I SPECIES

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

One of the targets of the Strategy Implementation Plan of the CMS Scientific Council 2006-2011 is the production by the Council of a report on the status of Appendix I species, to be submitted to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

At its 14th session (Bonn, March 2007), the CMS Scientific Council started debate on the layout of the report and agreed that single species fact sheets should constitute the core of the report.

Preliminary discussions on the format of the fact sheets were held by the Secretariat with the coordinators of the taxonomic Working Groups before the meeting. A draft fact sheet prepared by the Secretariat was then submitted to the Taxonomic Working Groups for consideration. The Secretariat subsequently produced a revised version in light of the recommendations made by the groups.

With a view to making further progress towards the definition of the report format and to get a common understanding of the desired format, in the run off to the 15th meeting of the Scientific Council and the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Secretariat requested the coordination of the Taxonomic Working Groups to produce some examples of species accounts based on the template. The Secretariat has received so far a draft species account on *Platanista gangetica gangetica* produced by the coordinator of the Working Group on aquatic mammals, Dr. Perrin.

Action requested:

Participants are invited to:

- a) consider the general fact sheet (Annex I) as well as the draft fact sheet (Annex II) on *Platanista gangetica gangetica* and discuss how to take forward the definition of its format of the report.

For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

Annex I

List of Contents for the fact sheet on the conservation status of CMS Appendix I species

- Latin name
- Taxonomic reference
- English name
- French name
- Spanish name

- Distribution Map (if possible, showing known populations)
- IUCN Category of Threat
- Population size estimate
- Subpopulations size estimate
- Population trend (increasing, declining, no significant changes)
- Subpopulations trend (increasing, declining, no significant changes)

- List of Range States indicating the legal status in each country, and indicating adequate monitoring information that is available to CMS

- List of Critical Sites (e.g. >1% of population for birds; critical sites per management unit for turtle) per Range State, showing which sites are legally protected

- List of main impact factors

- Availability and source of action plan(s) (or CMS Review Report)
- Priority for concerted action (High, Medium, Low)
- List of Concerted Actions by CMS and others, including National Action Plans if they exist

- List of research priorities

- List of reference publications

Annex II

DRAFT FACT SHEET ON CONSERVATION STATUS OF CMS APPENDIX I SPECIES

(W. F. Perrin)

Latin name: *Platanista gangetica gangetica*

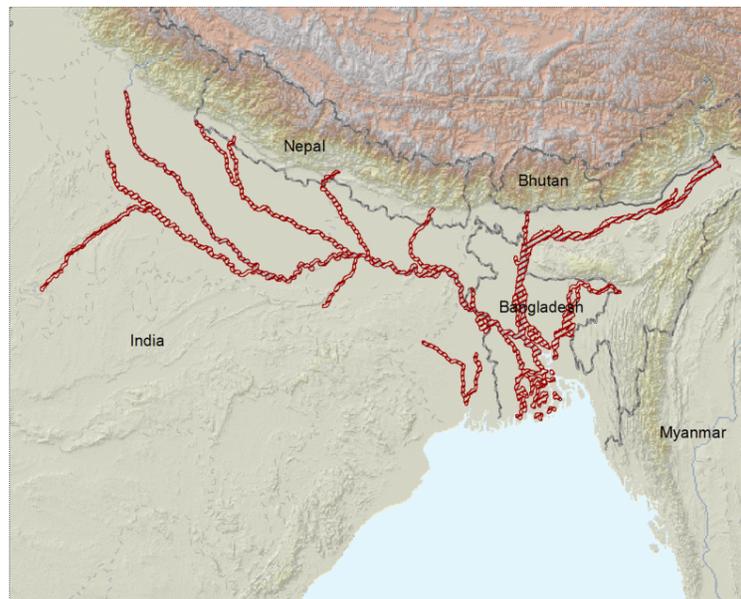
Taxonomic reference: Rice, D. W. (1998). Marine Mammals of the World. Systematics and Distribution. *Society for Marine Mammalogy Special Publication 4*. Lawrence, Kansas, USA.

English name: Ganges dolphin, Ganges river dolphin, Ganges susu

French name: plataniste du Gange, sousou

Spanish name: delfín del Ganges

Distribution map:



Distribution of the Ganges dolphin *Platanista gangetica gangetica* (from www.IUCNRedList.org)

IUCN category of threat: Endangered

Population size estimate: Total of local estimates of abundance from portions of range is about 1,200—1,800. This provides a lower range for the total population. However, since animals in some portions of the range have not been censused, and because some of the available estimates are known to be negatively biased, the true number could be several times as high (www.IUCNRedList.org).

Subpopulation size estimates: Estimates of dolphins inhabiting portions of the riverine habitat from 60 to 505 km long range from 3 (in the Kosi River above Kosi Barrage) to 765-816 (in 505 km of Ganges River from Maniharighat to Buxar). Details of the results of 40 surveys are given in

www.IUCNRedList.org/details/41756.

Population trend: declining (www.IUCNRedList.org).

Subpopulation trends: declining (www.IUCNRedList.org).

List of range states: India (legally protected from all hunting), Nepal (legally protected from all hunting), Bangladesh (legally protected from all hunting) and possibly Bhutan. Little national monitoring. Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar, India, but little government support to enforce protective measures. Some protection afforded by inclusion of portions of the range in or adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries (e.g., Kaziranga National Park in Assam, National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, and gharial sanctuaries north and south of India/Nepal border) (www.IUCNRedList.org).

List of critical sites: Historically the species' formerly continuous range has been cut up into many isolated segments by the construction of dams and barrages (at least 50). The dolphin has disappeared from some of these segments. Other segments contain only a few dolphins; future extirpation seems almost certain for these. Some sections of the range contain a hundred or more dolphins; these hold the most promise for continued existence of the subspecies. Among them are 460 km of the Ganges mainstem from Patna to Farakka Barrage, 505 km of Ganges River from Maniharighat to Buxar (includes Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary), 320 km of Bhagirathi River from Jangipur Barrage to Tribenghat, Brahmaputra River (and tributaries) from Sadiya to South Salmara (near India/Bangladesh Border), and Karnaphuli and Sangu River systems (SE Bangladesh), There may be more. (www.IUCNRedList.org)

List of main impact factors:

1. Water development projects (known major factor)
2. Toxic contaminants (potential major factor)
3. Hunting (declining)
4. Bycatch (severe throughout range)

Availability and source of actions plan(s)(or CMS Review Report): none

Priority for concerted action: Listed on CMS Appendix I at COP 7 (Bonn, 2002); proposed by India. Not presently on list of species designated for Concerted Action. Priority should be high.

List of Concerted Actions by CMS and others, including national action plans if they exist: none? [consult with India]

List of research priorities:

1. Assessment of likely impact on dolphins of planned future water development and river embankment construction projects and development of mitigation approaches.
2. Assessment of impacts of dredging and debris removal, and development of advice for regulation to control effects on dolphins and habitat.
3. Investigation of effects of contaminants on health and reproduction.
4. Development of alternatives to use of dolphin oil as fish bait.
5. Surveys of abundance in previously unsurveyed portions of the range.
6. Assessment of scale and impact of bycatch and development of mitigation gear and techniques.

List of reference publications: Comprehensive list given in www.IUCNRedList.org/details/41746.

[Note that IUCN has requirements for use/publication of information in the Red List website]