

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Platanista minor* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT1. Taxonomy

1.1 Mammalia

1.2 Cetacea

1.3 Platanistidae

1.4 *Platanista minor* (Owen, 1853),

synonym: *P. indi* (Blyth, 1859)

1.5 Common names: Indus river dolphin (English)
Indus-Delphin (German)
Dauphin du Indus (French)
Susuk indusa (Russian)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: Formerly Indus river and some of its tributaries from the foot of the Himalayas as far as the coast. Studies made in the 70s revealed a considerably reduced occurrence: Indus between Sukkur and Taunsa, Chanab river downstream from Panjnad, perhaps also Sultej river (which is partly situated on Indian territory), where the species used to live formerly.

2.2 Population: In the mid-seventies the residual population was estimated at 450-600 animals only.

2.3 Habitat: Flowing waters of the Indus river, tributaries and coastal areas of the Indus delta. Today not all of these primarily most differentiated types of habitats are readily accessible to the animals, since numerous barrages were built (see also 3.2).

2.4 Migrations: Regular seasonal migrations as far as coastal waters in former times; after barrages were constructed in river systems, migrations were confined to certain areas only.

3. Threat data

- 3.1 Direct threat to the population: The meat of these animals was traditionally eaten by fishermen; otherwise, oil was produced for medicinal purposes; it is possible that the use of the species continues to a limited extent.
- 3.2 Habitat destruction: A series of dams built over the past forty years control flow, supply energy and permit irrigation. The dams have split the dolphin population and made the seasonal migrations to the river mouth impossible. They have also changed the water levels, particularly in the lower reaches where levels are now very low in winter - especially below the Kotri barrage. During the high water season the barrages are kept open. The river water itself seems to be in good condition.
- 3.3 Indirect threat: Not known.
- 3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Not known; the character of migrations after construction of barrages would have to be studied once more.

4. Protection status and needs

- 4.1 National protection status: This dolphin has been fully protected in Sind and Punjab since 1972 and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir since 1975. The Government of Sind set up a reserve in 1974, under this legislation, which covered the whole 130 km between Guddu and Sukkur, with four guards.
- 4.2 International protection status: The species is included in Appendix I of the Washington Convention (CITES).
- 4.3 Additional protection needs: The declaration of extra reserve areas would increase protection, but a more effective approach would be to increase enforcement, prevent accidental catches during other fishing operations and to ensure that sufficient water is left in the river during the dry season. None of the national