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Proposal for Inclusion of Species on the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Sousa teuszii in Appendix II.

B. Proponent:

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Mammalia
1.2. Ordo	CETACEA
1.3. Familia	Delphinidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Sousa teuszii</u> (Kukenthal, 1892)
1.5. Common Name(s)	
English:	Atlantic hump-backed dolphin
Spanish:	delfin jorobado del Atlantico
French:	dauphin du Cameroun
Dutch:	kameroendolfijn

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

This species is found from the coast of Mauritania in northwestern Africa south to Cameroon and possibly to Angola (Maigret, 1982; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

Maigret (1982) roughly estimated the total population in both the estuary of the Saloum River in Senegal and the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania at less than roughly one hundred individuals. No other estimates are available.

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

This species is basically coastal and estuarine, and there are no reports of its presence in offshore waters. It has been recorded up to 33 miles up the Saloum River. The preferred habitat is near sandbanks and mangrove areas, in turbid waters with temperatures ranging between 17°C and 28°C (Maigret, 1982).

Fishes, in particular of the genera Ethmalosa and Mugil are reported prey items (Cadenat, 1956; Maigret, 1980).

2.4. Migrations (kinds of movement, distance, proportion of the population migrating)

There are signs of a probable north-south migration for this species. Atlantic hump-backed dolphins have been recorded in the Saloum Estuary from January to April with very few observations in subsequent months. However, catch data show that the species was taken north of the estuary from June to August (Cadenat, 1956; Maigret, 1982). On the other hand Maigret (1982) recorded sightings of this species in the Banc d'Arguin between May and January, with a peak in August and September.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population (factors, intensity)

A few Atlantic hump-backed dolphins have been reportedly taken along the range (Mitchell, 1975b). No recent information is available, but direct catches still may occur. There are reports of incidental catches in beach seines and shark nets in Senegal (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983). Past and present levels of these captures remain unknown.

3.2. Habitat destruction (quality of changes, quality of loss)

In Senegal there is a permanent reduction of mangrove areas for extension of rice culture and exploitation of forest, especially in the Fathala area (Klinowska, in press). Pollution may also be a source of habitat destruction, since the species inhabits areas with a high population growth subject to agricultural and industrial development.

3.3. Indirect threat (e.g. reduction of breeding success by pesticide contamination)

There are no studies on levels of pollutants or their effects on the population. Excessive fishing of prey species may reduce food availability and increase the risk of incidental catch (Klinowska, in press).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information

3.5. National and international utilization

The meat is used for human consumption. The oil is also used, but its specific utilization is not described (Mitchell, 1975; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

No national legislation protecting this species has been located, but several conservation areas may protect the habitat, in particular the national Parks of Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania and the Saloum National Park in Senegal (Maigret, 1982; Klinowska, in press).

Furthermore the simbiotic relationship between fishermen on the Mauretanian coast between Noudadibou and Nouakchott and dolphins (including S.teuszii) described by Busnel (1973) may result in some protection of that population, since it is absolutely forbidden to harm the dolphins.

4.2. International protection status

Sousa teuszii is listed in Appendix I of CITES. Some habitat is protected through the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions (Klinowska, in press). The species is categorized "At Risk" by the IUCN (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

More studies are needed to establish the actual range of the species, from which more Range States south of Cameroon could be included. In addition research on biology, taxonomy, abundance, fishery interactions and human affects on habitat should be addressed to give a better idea of the status of the species.

5. Range States

Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory coast, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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