



## Launch of new website to support the conservation of Critically Endangered Atlantic humpback dolphins in Africa

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A collaborative effort between scientists and conservation organisations around the world had resulted in the launch of a new trilingual website that highlights the plight of Atlantic humpback dolphins and provides resources to support a broad range of stakeholders in efforts to protect the species. Atlantic humpback dolphins (*Sousa teuszii*) considered Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, in danger of sliding toward extinction without urgent conservation intervention.

The website, <https://sousateuszii.org/>, displays content in English, French and Portuguese, the three languages most commonly spoken among the 19 countries that encompass the species' range from Western Sahara in the north to Angola in the south. The site provides [information](#) about the species' distribution, biology, ecology and threats, while an [interactive map](#) allows users to explore what is known about the dolphins and who is studying them in each of the 19 range countries. A '[Resources](#)' section features a searchable table of scientific literature, as well as downloadable resources, such as species identification cards, printable A4 Factsheets, colouring sheets for school children, and reports and research protocols for data collectors. The Website is dynamic resource, that can be updated and enriched with [news](#) items and additional content and information over time.

The site was developed with funding from the Nuremberg Zoo/Friends of Nuremberg Zoo, as well as contributions of time and expertise from a network of scientists and conservation bodies around the world, who collaborate through the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (CCAHD). More than 50 individuals and over 40 organisations are represented in the Consortium, whose collective aim is to 'Work towards the long-term sustainability of Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) populations and their habitats through research, awareness, capacity-building and action.'

With fewer than 3000 individuals estimated to remain throughout the species entire range along the Atlantic coast of Africa, international conservation organisations, including the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) have expressed grave concerns about the species' future. Restricted to shallow-water habitats that overlap with human activities, including fishing and coastal development, Atlantic humpback dolphins are thought to be in decline throughout their range. Entanglement in fishing nets is thought to be the greatest cause of mortality for the species, although direct hunting and loss or degradation of nearshore habitat are also likely to be driving decline. Without urgent conservation action, Atlantic humpback dolphins may follow other species like the vaquita to the brink of extinction.

Lorenzo von Fersen, of the Nuremberg Zoo, who provided funding for the website says 'We are extremely pleased to have played a role in making this valuable resource a reality. We hope that it will inspire a wide range of stakeholders from individuals to NGOs, industries and governments in the countries where these dolphins are found to learn about the species and work from the ground upwards to protect it.'

The CCAHD is also finalising a report that systematically assesses knowledge, resource and capacity gaps that are hindering conservation efforts for the species, and makes recommendations for a range of actions that can be implemented. Fundraising to implement the recommended actions will be the CCAHD's next priority.

For more information, please contact [info@sousateuszii.org](mailto:info@sousateuszii.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Consortium for the Conservation of Atlantic Humpback Dolphins (CCAHD). The main header features a large image of an Atlantic humpback dolphin with the text "Atlantic humpback dolphins" and a sub-header: "Find out more about the ecology, distribution, abundance and conservation status of this Critically Endangered species, and the threats that are causing its decline." The navigation menu includes: ABOUT THE CCAHD, COUNTRIES, ATLANTIC HUMPBAC DOLPHIN, PROJECTS, NEWS, RESOURCES, GET INVOLVED. Below the header are three main sections: "About the CCAHD" (describing the consortium's mission), "Projects" (listing ongoing work), and "Resources" (providing links to reports and publications). At the bottom is an "Interactive Map" showing the distribution range of Atlantic humpback dolphins along the West African coast, with a text box explaining how to use the map to access country-specific information.



# CCAHD

Consortium for the Conservation  
of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin

## CCAHD Partners



The [sousateuszii.org](http://sousateuszii.org) website was developed by Chameleon Studios:  
<https://www.chameleonstudios.co.uk/>