

Pakistan's Whales and Dolphins

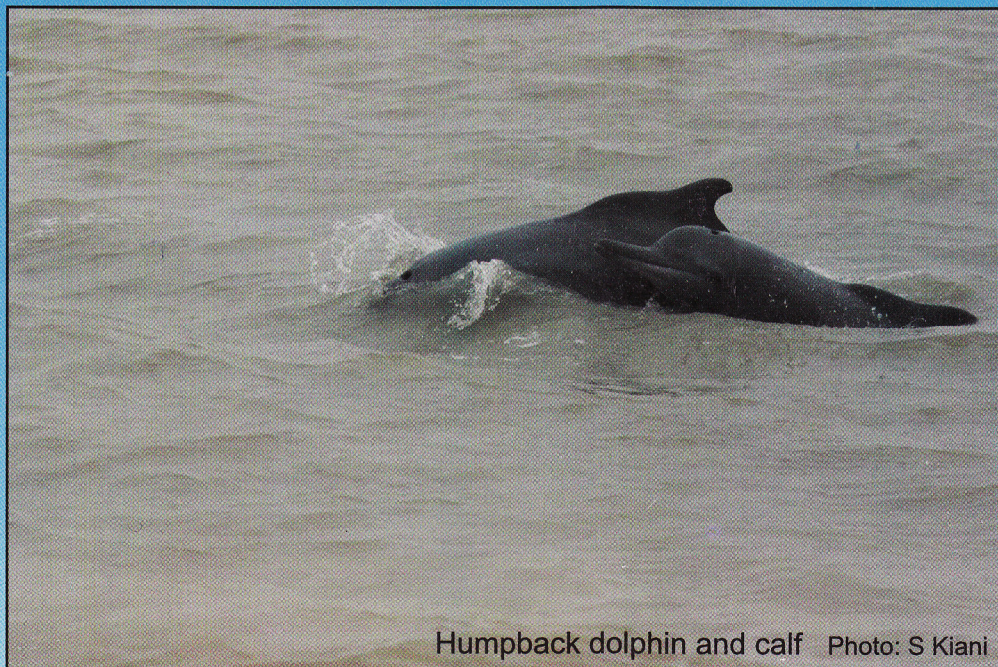


Conservation of Pakistan's Marine

Cetacean Biodiversity and Pelagic Environment

Darwin Initiative Project April 2006 - October 2007

Until recently, there has been little detail on the abundance, diversity and seasonal habitat use by marine cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) off Pakistan. The Cetacean Conservation Pakistan team has carried out surveys along the coasts of Pakistan since November 2005 at sea both inshore and offshore, on land along the beach, and in the coastal communities with fishers. The results are providing information to assess the status of the pelagic environment and threats to their populations. This will lead to the Darwin Initiative project developing management options and recommendations to help fulfill the 'Pakistan National Conservation Strategy'.



Humpback dolphin and calf Photo: S Kiani

The Darwin Initiative project emphasises, through Karachi University, capacity building and training of Pakistani students, academics and fisheries officers. This has included running the first Marine Mammal Course at Karachi University and collating the databases on the data and samples collected. With WWF-Pakistan, the Darwin Initiative project focuses on an active national cetacean conservation group and whale watching tourism to provide sustainability. Activities included holding Fisher Workshops in Sindh and Balochistan, as well as conducting community and beach surveys.

The Darwin Initiative project partners and team members:

Karachi University WWF-Pakistan

Prof. P. J. Siddiqui Dr. Ejaz Ahmad
Shoaib Kiani Syed Ali Hasnain
Pervaiz Iqbal Babar Hussain
 Umer Waqas

Zoological Survey Jinnah University
Dept. for Women

Abrar ul Hasan Dr. Ghazala Butt
Mehrban Ali

University Marine Biological
Station Millport

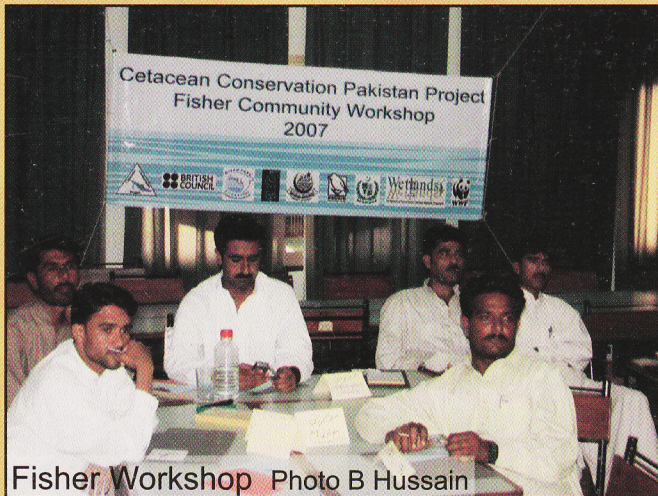
Dr. Mauvis Gore Dr. Rupert Ormond
Dr. Chris Parsons Ross Culloch



Astola Island survey Feb 2007

Potential National Marine Reserve

In collaboration with the Pakistan Wetlands Programme and WWF-Pakistan, the Darwin Initiative partners and CCP team were very pleased with the announcement by the Minister for the Environment that the Prime Minister scheduled Astola Island as Pakistan's first marine reserve. The Minister for the Environment (see photo above centre standing) visited us at work on Astola Island in February 2007.



Fisher Workshop Photo B Hussain

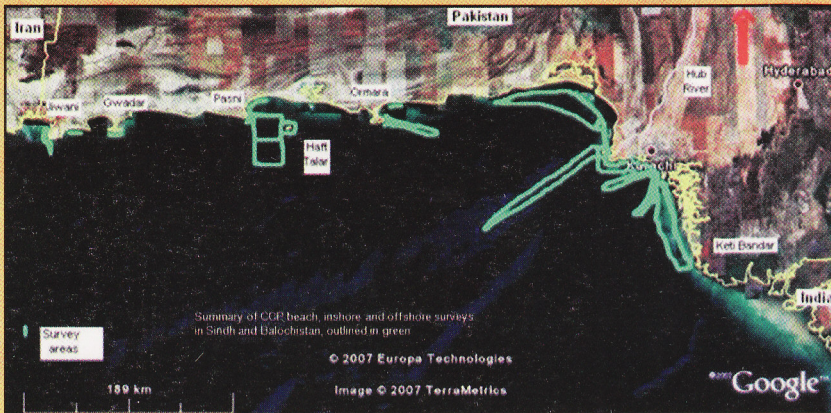
Fisher Workshops

These were organized this year for fishing communities with one in Sindh at the WWF Wetlands Centre and the other at Gwadar in Balochistan. The workshops provided an opportunity to a diverse group of fishers to learn about and discuss issues concerning cetaceans. The CCP team presented information on and photos of cetaceans, as well as focusing discussion on cetacean conservation. Feedback from fishers on their experiences and encounters with cetaceans during fishing provided valuable insight. This helped to identify threats and other problems that marine mammals might face from fishers and vice versa.

Pakistan Whale & Dolphin Society

As a partner in the Darwin Initiative project, WWF-P was pleased to initiate in January 2007 the national cetacean conservation group called the "Pakistan Whale & Dolphin Society". As a national group, the PWDS will be a source of information and support for the conservation of our whales, dolphins and porpoises, with the assistance of the Cetacean Conservation Pakistan group who carry out the surveys of our coasts and seas. Anyone with an interest in our cetaceans is welcome to join the PWDS and can obtain details by contacting:

pakistandolphin@gmail.com



Summary results of boat & community surveys

Details of community surveys Jan to Oct 2007

Communities	Sindh	Balochistan
No. surveys	59	Unk
No. participants	1470	500

Details of boat surveys

Details	Sindh	Balochistan
Period	Nov05 to Dec05	Jan06 to Feb07
No. full day boat surveys	24	32
No. survey Hours	145	143
No. survey km	1,615	12,360
Phytoplankton samples	86	54

Orca

Boyd's Fin

Sperm

Blue

Cuvier's

Number of sightings of cetacean species during dedicated boat surveys in Sindh & Balochistan

Species	Sindh	Balochistan
Bottlenose dolphin	66	57
Humpback dolphin	109	2
Spinner dolphin	0	>1700
Risso's dolphin	0	107
Finless porpoise	62	45
Humpback whale	0	2
Unknown cetacean	16	30

Marine Mammal Course

The first MMC to be held in Pakistan was organised by Prof. Siddiqui at Karachi University in Jan 2007 as part of the Darwin Initiative project. Lectures were given by Dr. Chris Parsons, with talks by Ross Culloch, Dr. Mauvis Gore and Shaoib Kiani. About 50 students and professionals from different institutes attended, including those from Sindh Wildlife Dept., Zoological Survey Dept., NIO, CEMB, Zoology Dept. KU, and two universities from Hong Kong. It is intended that the course continue to be offered with the next one due in late summer 2008.



MMC students on field course Photo M Gore

CCP Publications

- Gore, M.A., Ahmad, E., Ali, Q.M., Culloch, R.M., Hameed, S., Hasnain, S.A., Hussain, B., Kiani, S., Shaik, N., Siddiqui, P.J., Ormond, R.F. (2007) Sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus*, stranding on the Pakistani coast. J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. 87: 363-364.
- Rowat, D., Gore, M.A., Baloch, B.B., Islam, Z., Ahmed, E., Ali, Q.M., Culloch, R., Hameed, S., Hasnain, S.A., Hussain, B., Kiani, S., Siddiqui, J. & Ormond, R.F. (2007) New records of neonatal whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) from the Northern Indian Ocean. Env. Biol. Fishes. Online first at doi: 10.1007/s10641-007-9280-z
- Gore, M.A., Ahmad, E., Ali, Q.M., Culloch, R.M., Hasnain, S.A., Hussain, B., Iqbal, P., Kiani, S., Macleod, C.D., Parsons, E.C.M., Siddiqui, P.J., Ormond, R.F., Waqas, U. (2007) Cuvier's beaked whale, *Ziphius cavirostris*, remains recovered on the Pakistani coast. J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. JMBA2 Biodiversity Records online, 5920 pdf
- Short Guide to Pakistan's Marine Cetaceans booklet (for limited distribution)
- Leaflets on CCP and Darwin Initiative Partnership in English, Urdu & Sindhi
- Pakistan's marine cetacean card for e.g. fishers, students
- T-shirts with 8 most common cetaceans in Pakistan's coastal area

Liaison with Government & NGOs

The CCP team are working with staff from key government departments involved in Pakistan's biodiversity. The Navy has been very supportive and helpful in surveying the Balochistan coast. Initial discussion with the National Institute of Oceanography has been encouraging.



Humpback whale raising its flipper off Balochistan Coast
Photo M Gore

Project Advisory Panel	Organisation
WWF-Pakistan	Conservation NGO
IUCN-Pakistan	Conservation NGO
UMBSM	University
CEMB	University
MRCRC	University
Zoology Dept.	University
Marine Fisheries Dept.	Government
Zoological Survey Dept.	Government
Sindh Wildlife Dept.	Government
Balochistan Forestry Dept.	Government
National Institute of Oceanography	Government
Pakistan Wetlands Programme	Government
Pakistan Navy	Defence

For Further Information:

Prof. PJ Siddiqui, Darwin Project Partner, CEMB, Karachi University, Karachi. 0300 258 1121
jamal.siddiqui@yahoo.com

Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Darwin Project Partner, WWF-Pakistan, Islamabad. 0322 252 3982
eahmad@wwf.org.pk

Dr. Mauvis Gore, Darwin Project Coordinator, University of London Marine Biological Station at Millport, Scotland. 0334 386 8234
mauvisgore@netscape.net

Pakistan Whale & Dolphin Society
pakistandolphin@gmail.com



CCP team with spinner dolphins Photo: M Gore

