The table was last updated on 21/03/2021, and will be kept up to date to the best of our abilities. However, please note that IUCN red list assessments are updated regularly and so please check their pages for the latest information

THE REAL AND IMMINENT EXTINCTION RISK TO WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES:
AN OPEN LETTER FROM [> 360] CETACEAN SCIENTISTS

Statement of concern

We, the undersigned scientists, raise here our gravest concerns about the extinction risk to many species and populations of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises).

Each one of us is a cetacean specialist and each one of us believes this issue is now critical. The lack of concrete action to address threats adversely affecting cetaceans in our increasingly busy, polluted, over-exploited and human-dominated seas and major river systems, means that many, one after another, will likely be declared extinct within our lifetimes.

Even the large whales are not safe. The recent listing of the North Atlantic right whale, *Eubalaena glacialis*, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Critically Endangered reveals the serious failure of its relatively wealthy range countries to address a critical decline. Moreover, the factors driving this ongoing decline are well known, and, we believe, could be addressed. Only a few hundred North Atlantic right whale adults remain and, unless appropriate action comes soon, we will undoubtedly lose this entire species.

Similarly, the Critically Endangered vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, of the Gulf of California, Mexico, sits poised on the knife-edge of extinction, with an estimated population size that may be as low as only ten individuals.

It is now almost inevitable that these two species will follow the baiji or Chinese river dolphin, *Lipotes vexillifer,* down the road to extinction. The baiji was identified as 'Possibly Extinct' by the IUCN in 2017 and, regrettably, there is little hope for this species. We believe, in all three cases, that enough was known about the situation of the species concerned for these dramatic declines to have been avoided, but that the political will to take action has been lacking.

The bleak outlook for these three species shows how often too little is done too late. Of the 90 living species of cetaceans, more than half now have a concerning conservation status according to the IUCN, with 15 species listed as 'Critically Endangered' or 'Endangered', 7 as 'Vulnerable' and 10 as 'Near Threatened', whilst 9 species are 'Data Deficient'. These 'Data Deficient' species may also be imperilled. We simply do not know. This lack of clear information about so many species and populations is itself a major concern.

Additionally, there are 29 subspecies and other distinct cetacean populations which are presently either Endangered or Critically Endangered (please see the list below for further details), and with ongoing research we are recognizing more populations of cetaceans that are discrete and require conservation action. Regrettably, as the cases of the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin *(Tursiops truncatus gephyreus)* of the subtropical western South Atlantic, the Gulf of Corinth common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis)* and the orcas (*Orcinus orca)* of the Strait of Gibraltar all illustrate, recognition of their distinctiveness may coincide with the realization that their population is already in danger of extinction.

Cetacean populations are adversely affected by many interacting factors, including chemical and noise pollution, loss of habitat and prey, climate change and ship-strikes. For many, foremost among these threats is incidental take in fishing operations.

Bearing these urgent matters in mind and with the knowledge that cetacean populations can be lost very quickly, we call on:

- countries with cetaceans in their waters to take precautionary action to ensure these species and populations are adequately protected from human activities, including implementing appropriate and fully resourced monitoring. We note that improved monitoring technologies now offer new opportunities to observe and address activities at sea; and

- all nations to both work with and strengthen the relevant international bodies that seek to address threats to cetaceans, including, but not limited to, the International Whaling Commission and the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, both of which are generating important conservation initiatives at this time. Foremost among other relevant international organisations are the regional fisheries bodies, which can address fishing-related threats to cetaceans, noting the urgent need to address such impacts on many populations.

Finally, we note that cetacean conservation, like much that relates to the marine environment, may be a concern that seems remote to many people. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, our connection to nature is a key component in our own wellbeing. Whales, dolphins and porpoises are seen and enjoyed all over the world, and are valued as sentient, intelligent, social and inspiring species; we should not deny future generations the opportunity to experience them. They are also sentinels of the health of our seas, oceans and, in some cases, major river systems and the role of cetaceans in maintaining productive aquatic ecosystems, which are key for our survival as well as theirs, is also becoming clearer.

Please bring this statement to the attention of the relevant policy makers in your country and help us to help the cetaceans.

Species and populations of cetaceans that are deemed at risk of extinction

The list shows only the species, subspecies and distinct populations labelled as 'Critically Endangered' (CR), 'Endangered' (EN) or 'Vulnerable' (VU) and displays the latest assessment by the IUCN (highlighted in red) and, where available, the previous assessment, with their dates.

'Global population' refers to the status of the whole species or subspecies.

The population trend is also noted: I = Increasing, D = Decreasing, S = Stable, ? = Unknown.

Balaenidae

- Bowhead whale, *Balaena mysticetus*
  East Greenland-Svalbard-Barents Sea subpopulation 2012: CR, 2018: EN, ?
  Okhotsk Sea subpopulation 2012: EN, 2018: EN, D
- North Atlantic right whale, *Eubalaena glacialis*, Global population, 2018: EN, 2020: CR, D
  European population, 2007: CR, ?

- North Pacific right whale, *Eubalaena japonica*, Global population, 2008: EN, 2017: EN, ?
    - Northeast Pacific subpopulation, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, ?
- Southern right whale, *Eubalaena australis*
    - Chile-Peru subpopulation, 2013: CR, 2017: CR, ?

Balaenopteridae

- Blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*, Global population, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, I
    - European population 2007: EN, ?
- Antarctic blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus* ssp. *intermedia*, Global population 2008: CR, 2018: CR, I
- Bryde's whale, *Balaenoptera edeni*
    - Gulf of Mexico subpopulation, 2017: CR, D
- Fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus,* Global population, 2013: EN, 2018: VU, I
    - Mediterranean population 2011: VU, D
- Humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*
    - Oceania subpopulation, 2008: EN, I
    - Arabian Sea subpopulation 2008: EN, ?
- Sei whale, *Balaenoptera borealis*, Global population, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, I
    - European population, 2007: EN, ?

Eschrichtiidae

- Gray whale, *Eschrichtius robustus*
    - Western North Pacific subpopulation, 2008: CR, 2018: EN, I

Delphinidae

- Atlantic humpback dolphin, *Sousa teuszii*, Global population, 2012: VU, 2017: CR, D
- Australian humpback dolphin, *Sousa sahulensis*, Global population, 2015: VU, D
- Australian snubfin dolphin, *Orcaella heinsohni*, Global population, 2008: NT, 2017: VU, D
- Common bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*
    - Mediterranean population, 2009: VU, D
    - Fiordland subpopulation, New Zealand, 2010: CR, D
- Black Sea bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *ponticus*, Global population, 2008: EN, ?
- Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *gephyreus*, Global population, 2019: VU, D
- Hector's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, Global population, 2000: EN, 2008: EN, D
- North Island Hector's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus hectori* ssp. *maui*, Global population, 2000: CR, 2008: CR, D
- Indian Ocean humpback dolphin, *Sousa plumbea*, Global population, 2015: EN, D
- Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, *Sousa chinensis*, Global population, 2015: VU, D
- Taiwanese humpback dolphin, *Sousa chinensis* spp. *taiwanensis*, Global population, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D
- Irrawaddy dolphin, *Orcaella brevirostris*, Global population, 2008: VU, 2017: EN, D
    - Ayeyarwady River, Myanmar subpopulation, 2004: CR, D
    - Iloilo-Guimaras, Philippines subpopulation, 2018: CR, D
    - Mahakam river, Indonesia subpopulation, 2000: CR, 2008: CR, ?
    - Malampaya Sound, Philippines subpopulation, 2004: CR, D
    - Mekong River subpopulation, 2004: CR, D
    - Songkhla Lake, Thailand subpopulation, 2004: CR, D
- Peruvian dusky dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* ssp. *posidonia*, Global population, 2019: VU, ?
- Killer whale, *Orcinus orca*
    - Straits of Gibraltar subpopulation, 2019: CR, S
- Common dolphin*, Delphinus delphis*,
    - Mediterranean population, 2003: EN, D
    - Gulf of Corinth subpopulation, 2019: CR, ?
- Black Sea short-beaked common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis* ssp. *ponticus*, Global population, 2008: VU, Unspecified
- Eastern spinner dolphin, *Stenella longirostris* ssp. *orientalis*. Global population, 2008: VU, I

- Striped dolphin, *Stenella coeruleoalba*
  Mediterranean population, 2010: VU, ?
- Tucuxi, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, Global population, 2012 : DD, 2020 : EN, D

Iniidae

- Amazon river dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, Global population, 2011: DD, 2018: EN, D

Lipotidae

- Baiji, *Lipotes vexillifer*, Global population, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Monodontidae

- Beluga, *Delphinapterus leucas*
  Cook Inlet, United States subpopulation, 2012: CR, 2018: CR, D

Phocoenidae

- Harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena*
  European population, 2007: VU, D
  Baltic Sea subpopulation, 1996: VU, 2008: CR, D
- Black Sea harbour porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena* ssp. *Relicta*, Global population, 1996: VU, 2008: EN, D
- Indo-Pacific finless porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, Global population, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D
- Narrow-ridged finless porpoise, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*, Global population, 2012: VU, 2017: EN, D
- Yangtze finless porpoise, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* ssp.*asiaeorientalis*, Global population, 1996: EN, 2012: CR, D
- Vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, Global population, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Physeteridae

- Sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus*, Global population, 2008: VU, 2019: VU ?
  European population, 2007: VU, ?
  Mediterranean population, 2006: EN, D

Platanistidae

- South Asian river dolphin, *Platanista gangetica*, Global population, 2012: EN, 2017: EN, ?
- Ganges river dolphin, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. *Gangetica*, Global population, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, D
- Indus river dolphin, *Platanista gangetica ssp. Minor*, Global population, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, ?

Pontoporiidae

- Franciscana, *Pontoporia blainvillei*, Global population, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D
  Rio Grande do Sul/Uruguay subpopulation, 2003: VU, D

Ziphiidae

- Perrin's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon perrini,* Global population, 2008: DD, 2020: EN, D

- Cuvier's beaked whale, *Ziphius cavirostris*
  Mediterranean population, 2012: DD, 2018: VU, D

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239. Leigh Henry MELP, WWF US, USA
240. Manel Gazo PhD, SUBMON-awareness, study and conservation of the marine environment, Spain
241. Alejandro Cammareri, Fundacion Marybio, Argentina
242. Stephanie H. Stack MSc, Pacific Whale Foundation, Australia.
243. Cristina Castro Ayala PhD, Pacific Whale Foundation, Ecuador.
244. Jens J. Currie MSc, Pacific Whale Foundation, USA.
245. Tamara McGuire PhD, The Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Photo-ID Project/Aqua Wildlife Research Anchorage, Alaska USA
246. Volker Deecke PhD, University of Cumbria, UK
247. ECM Parsons PhD, Institute for Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, University of Glasgow, UK
248. Heather Fowle RMarSci, MMOA, Wales, UK
249. Stephen C.Y. Chan PhD, Cetacea Research Institute & University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
250. Leszek Karczmarski PhD, Cetacea Research Institute & University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
251. Scott Y.S. Chui, Cetacea Research Institute & University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
252. Yuen-Wa Ho, Cetacea Research Institute, University of Hong Kong & Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
253. John H.W. Kwok, Cetacea Research Institute & Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
254. Andy T.L. Lee, Cetacea Research Institute, Hong Kong and Yale School of the Environment, USA
255. Elizabeth Robinson, University of Bristol, UK
256. Leonardo G. Berninsone, AquaMarina, Argentina.
257. Théa Jacob MSc, Marine Species and Fisheries Program Manager, WWF France
258. Alice Lima PhD, Zoo Parc de Beauval, France
259. Barbara Mussi, Oceanomare Delphis, Italy
260. Howard Rosenbaum PhD, Wildlife Conservation Society-Global Conservation, USA

261. Susan Lieberman PhD, Wildlife Conservation Society-Global Conservation, USA
262. Luciana Moller PhD, Flinders University, Australia
263. Tim Collins, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kenya
264. Brian D. Smith, Wildlife Conservation Society-Global Conservation, USA
265. Javier Rodríguez-Fonseca, Promar Foundation, Costa Rica
266. Heather Pettis, North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, USA
267. Anderson Cabot, Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, USA
268. Arturo Serrano PhD, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
269. Uko Gorter, American Cetacean Society, USA
270. Cara Miller PhD, University of New England, Australia
271. Guido J. Parra PhD, Cetacean Ecology, Behaviour and Evolution Lab, College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University, Australia
272. Ana Mafalda Correia PhD, Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research - CIIMAR.UP, Portugal
273. Jacopo Di Clemente, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
274. Erin LaBrecque PhD, USA
275. Matthew S. Leslie PhD, Swarthmore College, USA
276. Jean-Marie Graïc DVM, PhD, University of Padua, Italy
277. Bárbara Galletti, Centro de Conservación Cetacea, Chile
278. Angiolina Henriquez, Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation, Arubaµ
279. Rebecca Allen MSc, Cornwall College Newquay, Centre for Applied Zoology, UK
280. Amandine Gillet PhD, Université de Liège, Belgium
281. Ayça Eleman MSc, University of Iceland, Iceland
282. Alejandra Vargas O. Fonseca, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
283. Doris K. Y. Woo MSc, WWF Hong Kong, Hong Kong
284. Mariel T.I. ten Doeschate Msc, Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, UK
285. Courtney Smith PhD, George Mason University, USA
286. Lucy Babey, ORCA, UK
287. Antoine Simond PhD, Simon Fraser University, Canada
288. Annalisa Sambolino MSc, MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Portugal
289. Jason N. Bruck PhD, Stephen F. Austin State University, USA
290. Pete Garbett, Dolphin Research Australia, Australia
291. Anja Reckendorf, Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research, Germany
292. Alexandre Bernier-Graveline MSc, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
293. Tilen Genov, Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society, Slovenia
294. Julieta Martino PhD, Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas, Argentina
295. Candelaria B. Piemonte, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, Argentina
296. Aluminé Orce, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, Argentina
297. Florencia Vilches, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas Argentina and University of California-Santa Cruz, USA
298. Anaïs Remili, McGill University, Canada
299. Luciano O Valenzuela PhD, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas-CONICET, Argentina
300. Macarena Agrelo, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, Argentina.
301. José Julio Casas MSc, Ministerio de Ambiente, Panamá
302. Madison Miketa PhD, Humane Society International, USA
303. Claire Garrigue PhD, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
304. Simon J. Allen PhD, University of Bristol, UK
305. Silvia Bonizzon MSc, Dolphin Biology and Conservation, Italy
306. Chris Taklis, Hellenic Biodiversity Center (BiodiversityGR), Greece
307. Richard Connor PhD, Florida International University, USA
308. Prof Alastair Birtles Phd, Minke Whale Project, James Cook University, Australia
309. Guido Pietroluongo DVM, University of Padova, Italy
310. Daniel Torres Navarro, Instituto Antártico Chileno, Chile
311. Carlos Olavarría PhD, Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Aridas (CEAZA), Chile
312. Ágatha Gil, Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research, Portugal
313. Rodrigo Hucke-Gaete PhD, Centro Ballena Azul and Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile

314. Elizabeth R. Hawkins PhD, Dolphin Research Australia, Australia
315. Cindy Peter Msc, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia
316. Peter J. Auster PhD, University of Connecticut and Mystic Aquarium, USA
317. Juan J. Capella MSc, Whalesound Foundation, Chile and Yubarta Foundation, Colombia
318. Sonia Español-Jiménez PhD, Fundación MERI, Chile
319. Peter GH Evans DPhil Director, Sea Watch Foundation, UK
320. Amy Knowlton, MMA, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, New England Aquarium, USA
321. Daniel Pendleton PhD, New England Aquarium, USA
322. Violaine Dulau-Drouot PhD, GLOBICE, France/Reunion
323. Whitney Springer, University of Hawaii at Hilo, USA
324. Camila Calderón-Quirgas MSc, Universidad de Concepción, Chile
325. Carlos Yaipen-Llanos DVM, ORCA PERU, Peru
326. Francine Kershaw PhD, Natural Resources Defense Council, USA
327. Jim Rice, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, USA
328. Pierre Gallego DVM, MSc, Odyssea, Luxembourg
329. Filipe Alves MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre / ARDITI, Portugal
330. Rob Lott MSc, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK
331. Pavel Hulva PhD, Charles University, Faculty of Sciences, Dept. of Zoology, Czech Republic
332. Petra Neveceralova MSc., Charles University, Faculty of Sciences, Dept. of Zoology, Czech Republic
333. Brooke Bessesen, University of Reading, UK
334. Leigh G. Torres PhD, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, USA
335. Marcos Santos PhD, Instituto Oceanográfico, USP, Brazil
336. Lisa T. Ballance PhD, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, USA
337. Robert L. Pitman, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, USA
338. Lilián Flórez-González, Fundación Yubarta, Colombia
339. Michela Podestà, Museum of Natural History of Milan, Italy
340. Susannah Calderan, Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), UK
341. Russell Leaper PhD, IFAW, UK
342. Mark Johnson PhD, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark
343. Lucía Martina Martín López, Asociación Ipar Perspective, Sopelana, Spain
344. Kalliopi Gkikopoulou PhD, Sea Mammal Research Unit, St Andrews University, UK
345. Valeria Vergara PhD, Ocean Wise Conservation Association, Vancouver, Canada
346. Per Berggren PhD, Professor of Marine Megafauna Conservation, Newcastle University, UK
347. Jorge Urban R. PhD, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur, México
348. Sina Kreicker MSc, University of Zürich, Switzerland
349. Nachiket Kelkar, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India
350. Maria Sørlie, University of Agder, Norway
351. Gideon van den Berg, University of Pretoria, South Africa
352. Vreni Häussermann PhD, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, Fundacion Huinay, Chile
353. Link E. Olson PhD, University of Alaska Museum, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
354. Francis Hooton BSc, MSc Scotland
355. Michael Leach DSc, FLS, FRGS, FZS, Wildlife Author & Photographer, UK
356. Alison Lomax, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, UK
357. Charlotte Dunn PhD, Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation, Bahamas
358. Diane Claridge, PhD, Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation, Bahamas
359. Francine Kershaw PhD, Natural Resources Defense Council, USA
360. Frances C. Robertson PhD, Northeast Pacific Minke Whale Project, USA
361. Fiona Read PhD, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK

EL REAL E INMINENTE RIESGO DE EXTINCIÓN DE BALLENAS, DELFINES Y MARSOPAS: CARTA ABIERTA DE [> 360] INVESTIGADORES DE CETÁCEOS

Declaración Pública de Preocupación

Los científicos abajo firmantes expresamos nuestra más seria preocupación sobre el riesgo de extinción de muchas especies y poblaciones de cetáceos (ballenas, delfines y marsopas).

Somos especialistas en cetáceos y creemos que este problema ha llegado a un punto crítico. La falta de acciones concretas que aborden las amenazas que afectan a los cetáceos en mares, ríos y estuarios, cada vez más transitados, contaminados, sobreexplotados y dominados por los seres humanos, significa que muchos, uno tras otro, probablemente serán declarados extintos en poco tiempo.

Incluso las grandes ballenas no están seguras. La reciente clasificación de la ballena franca del Atlántico Norte, *Eubalaena glacialis*, por la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) como En Peligro Crítico revela el serio fracaso para abordar su crítico declive de los países relativamente ricos en cuyas aguas se distribuye. Además, los factores que impulsan este continuo declive son bien conocidos y, creemos, podrían ser tratados. Sólo quedan algunos cientos de individuos adultos de ballena franca del Atlántico Norte y, a menos que se tomen medidas pronto, sin duda perderemos la especie.

De manera similar, la vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, del golfo de California, México, está En Peligro Crítico y se encuentra al borde de la extinción con un tamaño poblacional estimado que puede ser de tan solo diez individuos.

Ahora es casi inevitable que estas dos especies sigan al delfín de río chino o baiji, *Lipotes vexillifer*, en el camino hacia la extinción. El baiji fue clasificado como "Posiblemente Extinto" por la UICN en 2017 y, lamentablemente, quedan pocas esperanzas para esta especie. Creemos que, en los tres casos, se tenía suficiente información sobre la situación de cada especie para evitar estas dramáticas disminuciones, pero faltó la voluntad política para actuar.

El panorama desolador para estas tres especies muestra cuán frecuentemente se hace tan poco y demasiado tarde. De las 90 especies de cetáceos que existen actualmente, más de la mitad se encuentra en un estado de conservación preocupante según la UICN, con 15 especies clasificadas como 'En peligro crítico' o 'En peligro', 7 como 'Vulnerables' y 10 como 'Casi amenazadas', mientras que 9 especies poseen 'Datos Insuficientes'. Estas especies con "datos insuficientes" también pueden estar en peligro. Simplemente no lo sabemos. La falta de información clara sobre tantas especies y poblaciones es en sí misma una gran preocupación.

Además, hay 29 subespecies y distintas poblaciones de cetáceos que se encuentran en peligro o en peligro crítico (ver la lista a continuación para más detalles). Con las investigaciones en curso estamos dándonos cuenta que existen otras poblaciones de cetáceos que son discretas y que requieren acciones de conservación. Lamentablemente, como ilustran los casos del delfín nariz de botella de Lahille (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) del Atlántico Sudoccidental subtropical, el delfín común del golfo de Corinto (*Delphinus delphis*) y las orcas (*Orcinus orca*) del estrecho de Gibraltar, este reconocimiento de su singularidad puede coincidir con la constatación del peligro de extinción en el que se encuentran.

Las poblaciones de cetáceos se ven afectadas negativamente por muchos factores que interactúan entre sí, como la contaminación química y acústica, la pérdida de hábitat y de presas, el cambio climático y las colisiones con embarcaciones. Para muchas de estas poblaciones, la principal amenaza es la captura incidental en las actividades pesqueras.

Considerando estos problemas urgentes y sabiendo que las poblaciones de cetáceos pueden perderse rápidamente, hacemos un llamamiento a:

- los países con cetáceos en sus aguas para que tomen medidas de acción precautorias que garanticen que estas especies y poblaciones estén adecuadamente protegidas de las actividades humanas, incluida la implementación de un monitoreo apropiado que disponga de todos los recursos necesarios. Destacamos que las nuevas tecnologías de seguimiento ofrecen nuevas oportunidades para observar y abordar las actividades en el mar; y a

- todas las naciones para trabajar en conjunto y fortalecer los organismos internacionales relevantes que buscan tratar las amenazas a los cetáceos, incluidos, entre otros, la Comisión Ballenera Internacional y la Convención para la Conservación de Especies Migratorias de Animales Silvestres, las cuales actualmente están generando iniciativas de conservación. Entre otras organizaciones internacionales relevantes, las más importantes son los organismos regionales de pesca, que pueden abordar las amenazas relacionadas con la pesca para los cetáceos, señalando la urgente necesidad de abordar tales impactos en las poblaciones.

Por último, destacamos que la conservación de los cetáceos, como la mayoría de los temas vinculados con el medio marino, puede ser una preocupación lejana para muchas personas. Sin embargo, como ha demostrado la pandemia mundial de Covid-19, la conexión con la naturaleza es un componente clave para nuestro propio bienestar. Las ballenas, los delfines y las marsopas se ven y se disfrutan en todo el mundo, y se valoran como especies sensibles, inteligentes, sociales e inspiradoras; no debemos negar a las generaciones futuras la oportunidad de apreciarlos. También son centinelas de la salud de los mares, océanos y, en algunos casos, de los principales ríos y estuarios; y, poseen un papel clave en el mantenimiento de la productividad de los ecosistemas acuáticos, fundamentales para nuestra supervivencia y la de ellos.

Por favor, haga llegar esta declaración a los responsables políticos pertinentes en su país y ayúdenos a ayudar a los cetáceos.

Especies y poblaciones de cetáceos consideradas en riesgo de extinción.

La lista muestra solo las especies, subespecies y distintas poblaciones clasificadas como 'En peligro crítico' (CR), 'En peligro' (EN) o 'Vulnerable' (VU), la última evaluación de la UICN (resaltada en rojo), y, en los casos en que están disponibles, las evaluaciones previas, con sus fechas.

"Población global" se refiere al estado de todas las especies o subespecies.

También se presenta la tendencia de la población: C = creciendo, D = decreciendo, E = estable, ? = Desconocida.

Balaenidae

• Ballena de Groenlandia, *Balaena mysticetus*

Subpoblación de Groenlandia Oriental – Mar de Barents – Archipiélagos de Svalbard, 2012: CR, 2018: EN, ?

Subpoblación del mar Okhotsk, 2012: EN, 2018: EN, D

- Ballena franca del Atlántico Norte, *Eubalaena glacialis*, Población global, 2018: EN, 2020: CR, D
    Poblaciones europeas, 2007: CR, ?
- Ballena franca del Pacífico Norte, *Eubalaena japonica*, Población global, 2008: EN, 2017: EN, ?
    Subpoblación del Pacífico Noreste, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, ?
- Ballena franca austral, *Eubalaena australis*
    Subpoblación de Chile - Peru, 2013: CR, 2017: CR, ?

Balaenopteridae

- Ballena azul, *Balaenoptera musculus*, Población global, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, C
    Población europea 2007: EN, ?
- Ballena azul antártica, *Balaenoptera musculus* ssp. *intermedia*, Población global, 2008: CR, 2018: CR, C
- Ballena de Bryde, *Balaenoptera edeni*
    Subpoblación del Golfo de México, 2017: CR, D
- Ballena fin, *Balaenoptera physalus,* Población global, 2013: EN, 2018: VU, C
    Población mediterránea 2011: VU, D
- Ballena jorobada, *Megaptera novaeangliae*
    Subpoblación de Oceanía, 2008: EN, C
    Subpoblación del mar Arábigo 2008: EN, ?
- Ballena sei, *Balaenoptera borealis*, Población global, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, C
    Población europea, 2007: EN, ?

Eschrichtiidae

- Ballena gris, *Eschrichtius robustus*
    Subpoblación del Pacífico Noroeste, 2008: CR, 2018: EN, C

Delphinidae

- Delfín blanco africano, *Sousa teuszii*, Población global, 2012: VU, 2017: CR, D
- Delfín jorobado de Australia, *Sousa sahulensis*, Población global, 2015: VU, D
- Delfín beluga de Heinsohn, *Orcaella heinsohni*, Población global, 2008: NT, 2017: VU, D
- Delfín nariz de botella común, *Tursiops truncatus*
    Población mediterránea, 2009: VU, D
    Subpoblación de Fiordland, Nueva Zelanda, 2010: CR, D
- Delfín nariz de botella del mar Negro, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *ponticus*, Población global, 2008: EN, ?
- Delfín nariz de botella de Lahille, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *gephyreus*, Población global, 2019: VU, D

• Delfín de Héctor, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, Población global, 2000: EN, 2008: EN, D

• Delfín de Māui, *Cephalorhynchus hectori* ssp. *maui*, Población global, 2000: CR, 2008: CR, D

• Delfín blanco de China, *Sousa plumbea*, Población global, 2015: EN, D

• Delfín jorobado del Indo-Pacífico , *Sousa chinensis*, Población global, 2015: VU, D

• Delfín jorobado de Taiwán, *Sousa chinensis* spp. *taiwanensis*, Población global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

• Delfín del Irrawaddy, *Orcaella brevirostris*, Población global, 2008: VU, 2017: EN, D

  Subpoblación del río Ayeyarwady, Myanmar, 2004: CR, D

  Subpoblación de Iloilo-Guimaras, Filipinas, 2018: CR, D

  Subpoblación del río Mahakamr, Indonesia, 2000: CR, 2008: CR, ?

  Subpoblación de Malampaya Sound, Filipinas, 2004: CR, D

  Subpoblación del río Mekong, 2004: CR, D

  Subpoblación del lago Songkhla, Tailandia, 2004: CR, D

• Delfín oscuro peruano, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* ssp. *posidonia*, Población global, 2019: VU, ?

• Orca, *Orcinus orca*

  Subpoblación del estrecho de Gibraltar, 2019: CR, E

• Delfín común*, Delphinus delphis*,

  Subpoblación mediterránea, 2003: EN, D

  Subpoblación del golfo de Corinto, 2019: CR, ?

• Delfín común del mar Negro, *Delphinus delphis* ssp. *ponticus*, Población global, 2008: VU, No especificado.

• Delfín tornillón oriental, *Stenella longirostris* ssp. *orientalis*. Población global, 2008: VU, C

• Delfín listado, *Stenella coeruleoalba*

  Población mediterránea, 2010: VU, ?

• Tucuxi, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, Global population, 2012 : DD, 2020 : EN, D

Iniidae

• Delfín rosado, *Inia geoffrensis*, Población global, 2011: DD, 2018: EN, D

Lipotidae

• Baiji, *Lipotes vexillifer*, Población global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Monodontidae

• Beluga, *Delphinapterus leucas*

  Subpoblación de la ensenada de Cook, Estados Unidos, 2012: CR, 2018: CR, D

Phocoenidae

• Marsopa común, *Phocoena phocoena*

  Población europea, 2007: VU, D

Subpoblación del mar Báltico, 1996: VU, 2008: CR, D

• Marsopa común del mar Negro, *Phocoena phocoena* ssp. *relicta*, Población global, 1996: VU, 2008: EN, D

• Marsopa negra, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, Población global, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D

• Marsopa lisa, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*, Población global, 2012: VU, 2017: EN, D

• Marsopa lisa de Yangtze, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* ssp. *asiaeorientalis*, Población global, 1996: EN, 2012: CR, D

• Vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, Población global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Physeteridae

• Cachalote, *Physeter macrocephalus*, Población global, 2008: VU, 2019: VU, ?
 Población europea, 2007: VU, ?
 Población mediterránea, 2006: EN, D

Platanistidae

• Delfín de río asiático, *Platanista gangetica*, Población global, 2012: EN, 2017: EN, ?
• Delfín del Ganges, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. *gangetica*, Población global, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, D
• Delfín del Indo, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. *minor*, Población global, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, ?

Pontoporiidae

• Franciscana, *Pontoporia blainvillei*, Población global, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D
 Subpoblación de Río Grande do Sul - Uruguay, 2003: VU, D

Ziphiidae

• Zifio de Perrin, *Mesoplodon perrini*¸ Población global, 2008: DD, 2020: EN, D
• Zifio de Cuvier, *Ziphius cavirostris*

 Población mediterránea, 2012: DD, 2018: VU, D

La presente declaración está respaldada por las siguientes personas:

O RISCO DE EXTINÇÃO REAL E IMINENTE PARA BALEIAS, GOLFINHOS E BOTOS: UMA CARTA ABERTA DE [>360] CIENTISTAS DE CETÁCEOS

Declaração de preocupação

Nós, os cientistas abaixo assinados, levantamos aqui nossas maiores preocupações sobre o risco de extinção de muitas espécies e populações de cetáceos (baleias, golfinhos e botos).

Cada um de nós é um especialista em cetáceos e cada um de nós acredita que este problema é agora crítico. A falta de ações concretas para enfrentar as ameaças que afetam adversamente os cetáceos em nossos mares cada vez mais ocupados, poluídos, superexplorados e dominados pelo homem e nos principais sistemas fluviais, significa que muitos, um após o outro, provavelmente serão declarados extintos durante nosso tempo de vida.

Mesmo as grandes baleias não estão seguras. A recente listagem da baleia-franca-do-Atlântico-Norte, *Eubalaena glacialis*, pela União Internacional para Conservação da Natureza (IUCN) como 'Criticamente em Perigo', revela o grave fracasso de seus países relativamente ricos em lidar com um declínio crítico. Além disso, os fatores que impulsionam esse declínio contínuo são bem conhecidos e, acreditamos, podem ser resolvidos. Restam apenas algumas centenas de adultos de baleia-franca-do-Atlântico Norte e, a menos que ações efetivas aconteçam logo, sem dúvida perderemos essa espécie.

Da mesma forma, a vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, do Golfo da Califórnia, México, está 'Criticamente em Perigo' e à beira da extinção, com um tamanho populacional estimado que pode chegar a apenas dez indivíduos.

Agora é quase inevitável que essas duas espécies sigam o baiji ou golfinho-de-rio-chinês, *Lipotes vexillifer*, no caminho da extinção. O baiji foi classificado como 'Possivelmente Extinto' pela IUCN em 2017 e, infelizmente, há pouca esperança para esta espécie. Acreditamos, nos três casos, que se sabia o suficiente sobre a situação destas espécies para que essas dramáticas quedas tivessem sido evitadas, mas que faltou vontade política para agir.

O panorama desolador para essas três espécies mostra que, frequentemente, muito pouco é feito e, tarde demais. Das 90 espécies vivas de cetáceos, mais da metade estão num estado de conservação preocupante de acordo com a IUCN, com 15 espécies listadas como 'Criticamente em Perigo' ou 'Em Perigo', 7 como 'Vulneráveis' e 10 como 'Quase Ameaçadas', enquanto 9 espécies são 'deficientes em dados' para serem avaliadas. Essas espécies com deficiência de dados também podem estar em perigo. Nós simplesmente não sabemos. Essa falta de informações claras sobre tantas espécies e populações é em si uma grande preocupação.

Além disso, existem 29 subespécies e outras populações distintas de cetáceos que estão atualmente 'Em Perigo' ou 'Criticamente em Perigo' (consulte a lista abaixo para obter mais detalhes) e, com a pesquisa em andamento, estamos reconhecendo mais populações de cetáceos que são discretas e requerem ações de conservação. Lamentavelmente, como ilustram os casos do Golfinho-nariz-de-garrafa-de-Lahille (*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*) do Atlântico sul ocidental subtropical, o golfinho-comum (*Delphinus delphis*) do Golfo de Corinto e as orcas (*Orcinus orca*) do Estreito de Gibraltar, o reconhecimento de sua distinção pode coincidir com a percepção de que sua população já está em perigo de extinção.

As populações de cetáceos são adversamente afetadas por muitos fatores de interação, incluindo poluição química e sonora, perda de habitat e presas, mudanças climáticas e colisões com embarcações. Para muitos, a principal dessas ameaças é a captura acidental nas operações de pesca.

Tendo em mente essas questões urgentes e com o conhecimento de que as populações de cetáceos podem ser perdidas muito rapidamente, pedimos que:

• os países com cetáceos em suas águas devem tomar medidas de precaução para garantir que essas espécies e populações sejam adequadamente protegidas das atividades humanas, incluindo a implementação de monitoramento apropriado e com todos os recursos. Notamos que tecnologias de monitoramento aprimoradas agora oferecem novas oportunidades para observar e abordar atividades no mar; e

• todas as nações devem trabalhar com e fortalecer os órgãos internacionais relevantes que buscam abordar as ameaças aos cetáceos, incluindo, mas não se limitando à Comissão Baleeira Internacional e à Convenção para a Conservação de Espécies Migratórias de Animais Silvestres, os quais estão gerando importantes iniciativas de conservação neste momento. Em primeiro lugar, entre outras organizações internacionais relevantes, estão os órgãos regionais de pesca, que podem abordar as ameaças aos cetáceos relacionadas à pesca, observando a necessidade urgente de lidar com esses impactos em muitas populações.

Finalmente, notamos que a conservação dos cetáceos, como muitas coisas que se relacionam com o ambiente marinho, pode ser uma preocupação que parece remota para muitas pessoas. No entanto, como a pandemia COVID-19 mostrou, nossa conexão com a natureza é um componente-chave para o nosso próprio bem-estar. Baleias, golfinhos e botos são vistos e apreciados em todo o mundo e são considerados como espécies carismáticas, inteligentes, sociais e inspiradoras; não devemos negar às gerações futuras a oportunidade de conhecê-las. São também sentinelas da saúde dos nossos mares, oceanos e, em alguns casos, dos principais sistemas fluviais. O papel dos cetáceos na manutenção de ecossistemas aquáticos produtivos, que são fundamentais para a nossa sobrevivência, bem como a deles, também está se tornando mais claro.

Por favor, leve esta declaração à atenção dos tomadores de decisão relevantes em seu país e ajude-nos a cuidar dos cetáceos.

Espécies e populações de cetáceos consideradas em risco de extinção

A lista mostra apenas as espécies, subespécies e populações distintas classificadas como 'Criticamente em Perigo' (CR), 'Em Perigo' (EN) ou 'Vulneráveis' (VU) e exibe a avaliação mais recente da IUCN (destacada em vermelho) e, quando disponíveis, a avaliação anterior, com suas respectivas datas.

'População global' refere-se ao status de toda a espécie ou subespécie.

A tendência populacional também é observada: I = Aumentando, D = Diminuindo, S = Estável,? = Desconhecida.

Balaenidae

• Baleia-da-Groenlândia, *Balaena mysticetus*

    Subpopulação 2012 do mar da Groenlândia Oriental-Svalbard-Barents: CR, 2018: EN,?

    Subpopulação do mar de Okhotsk 2012: EN, 2018: EN, D

• Baleia-franca-do-Atlântico-Norte, *Eubalaena glacialis*, População global, 2018: EN, 2020: CR, D

    População europeia, 2007: CR,?

• Baleia-franca-do-Pacífico-Norte, *Eubalaena japonica*, População global, 2008: EN, 2017: EN,?

    Subpopulação do Nordeste do Pacífico, 2008: CR, 2017: CR,?

• Baleia-franca-austral, *Eubalaena australis*

    Subpopulação Chile-Peru, 2013: CR, 2017: CR,?

Balaenopteridae

• Baleia-azul, *Balaenoptera musculus*, População global, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, I

    População europeia 2007: EN,?

• Baleia-azul-da-Antártica, *Balaenoptera musculus* ssp. *intermedia*, População global 2008: CR, 2018: CR, I

• Baleia-de-Bryde, *Balaenoptera edeni*

    Subpopulação do Golfo do México, 2017: CR, D

• Baleia-fin, *Balaenoptera physalus*, População global, 2013: EN, 2018: VU, I

    População mediterrânea de 2011: VU, D

• Baleia-jubarte, *Megaptera novaeangliae*

    Subpopulação da Oceania, 2008: EN, I

    Subpopulação do Mar Arábico 2008: EN,?

• Baleia-Sei, *Balaenoptera borealis*, População global, 2008: EN, 2018: EN, I

    População europeia, 2007: EN,?

Eschrichtiidae

• Baleia-cinzenta, *Eschrichtius robustus*

    Subpopulação do Pacífico Norte Ocidental, 2008: CR, 2018: EN, I

Delphinidae

• Golfinho-corcunda-do-Atlântico*, Sousa teuszii*, População global, 2012: VU, 2017: CR, D

• Golfinho-corcunda-australiano, *Sousa sahulensis*, População global, 2015: VU, D

• Golfinho-australiano, *Orcaella heinsohni*, População global, 2008: NT, 2017: VU, D

- Golfinho-nariz-de-garrafa-comum, *Tursiops truncatus*

    População mediterrânea, 2009: VU, D

    Subpopulação Fiordland, Nova Zelândia, 2010: CR, D

- Golfinho-nariz-de-garrafa-do-Mar-Negro, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *ponticus*, População global, 2008: EN,?

- Golfinho-nariz-de-garrafa-de-Lahille, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *gephyreus*, População global, 2019: VU, D

- Golfinho-de-Hector, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, População global, 2000: EN, 2008: EN, D

- Golfinho-de-Hector-da-Ilha-Norte, *Cephalorhynchus hectori* ssp. *maui*, População global, 2000: CR, 2008: CR, D

- Golfinho-corcunda-do-Índico, *Sousa plumbea*, População global, 2015: EN, D

- Golfinho-corcunda-do-Indo-Pacífico, *Sousa chinensis*, População global, 2015: VU, D

- Golfinho-corcunda-taiwanês, *Sousa chinensis* spp. *taiwanensis*, População global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

- Golfinho-do-Irrawaddy, *Orcaella brevirostris*, População global, 2008: VU, 2017: EN, D

    Rio Ayeyarwady, subpopulação de Mianmar, 2004: CR, D

    Iloilo-Guimaras, subpopulação das Filipinas, 2018: CR, D

    Rio Mahakam, subpopulação da Indonésia, 2000: CR, 2008: CR,?

    Malampaya Sound, subpopulação das Filipinas, 2004: CR, D

    Subpopulação do rio Mekong, 2004: CR, D

    Lago Songkhla, subpopulação da Tailândia, 2004: CR, D

- Golfinho-escuro-peruano, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* ssp. *posidonia*, População global, 2019: VU,?

- Baleia-assassina, *Orcinus orca*

    Subpopulação do Estreito de Gibraltar, 2019: CR, S

- Golfinho-comum-de-bico-curto, *Delphinus delphis*,

    População mediterrânea, 2003: EN, D

    Subpopulação do Golfo de Corinto, 2019: CR,?

- Golfinho-comum-de-bico-curto-do-Mar-Negro, *Delphinus delphis* ssp. *ponticus*, População global, 2008: VU, não especificado

- Golfinho-rotador-oriental, *Stenella longirostris* ssp. *orientalis*. População global, 2008: VU, I

- Golfinho-listrado, *Stenella coeruleoalba*

    População mediterrânea, 2010: VU,?

- Tucuxi, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, Global population, 2012 : DD, 2020 : EN, D

Iniidae

- Golfinho-do-rio-Amazonas, *Inia geoffrensis*, População global, 2011: DD, 2018: EN, D

Lipotidae

- Baiji, *Lipotes vexillifer*, População global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Monodontidae

• Beluga, *Delphinapterus leucas*

    Cook Inlet, subpopulação dos Estados Unidos, 2012: CR, 2018: CR, D

Phocoenidae

• Golfinho-do-porto, *Phocoena phocoena*

    População europeia, 2007: VU, D

    Subpopulação do Mar Báltico, 1996: VU, 2008: CR, D

• Gofinho-do-porto-do-Mar Negro, *Phocoena phocoena* ssp. *relicta*, População global, 1996: VU, 2008: EN, D

• Golfinho-sem-dorsal-do-Indo-Pacífico, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, População global, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D

• Golfinho-sem-dorsal-de-quilhas-estreitas, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*, População global, 2012: VU, 2017: EN, D

• Golfinho-sem-dorsal-do-Yangtze, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis* ssp. *asiaeorientalis*, População global, 1996: EN, 2012: CR, D

• Vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, População global, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Physeteridae

• Cachalote, *Physeter macrocephalus*, População global, 2008: VU, 2019: VU? População europeia, 2007: VU,?

    População mediterrânea, 2006: EN, D

Platanistidae

• Golfinho-de-rio-do-sul-da-Ásia, *Platanista gangetica*, População global, 2012: EN, 2017: EN,?

• Golfinho-do-rio-Ganges, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. *gangetica*, População global, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, D

• Golfinho-do-rio-Indus*, Platanista gangetica* ssp. *minor*, População global, 1996: EN, 2004: EN,?

Pontoporiidae

• Toninha, *Pontoporia blainvillei*, População global, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D

    Subpopulação Rio Grande do Sul / Uruguai, 2003: VU, D

Ziphiidae

• Baleia-bicuda-de-Perrin, *Mesoplodon perrini*¸ População global, 2008: DD, 2020: EN, D

• Baleia-bicuda-de-Cuvier, *Ziphius cavirostris*

    População mediterrânea, 2012: DD, 2018: VU, D

Esta declaração é apoiada pelas seguintes pessoas:

LE RISQUE RÉEL ET IMMINENT D'EXTINCTION DES BALEINES, DES DAUPHINS ET DES MARSOUINS : UNE LETTRE OUVERTE DE [>360] SCIENTIFIQUES EXPERT DES CÉTACÉS

Déclaration de préoccupation

Nous, scientifiques soussignés, exprimons ici nos plus vives inquiétudes quant au risque d'extinction de nombreuses espèces et populations de cétacés (baleines, dauphins et marsouins).

Chacun d'entre nous est un spécialiste des cétacés et chacun d'entre nous pense que cette situation est désormais critique. L'absence de mesures concrètes pour faire face aux menaces qui pèsent sur les cétacés autant en eaux douces que dans les océans, eux-mêmes de plus en plus fréquentés, pollués, surexploités et dominés par l'homme. Cette absence de mesures signifie que beaucoup de ces cétacés, seront probablement déclarés éteints dans les prochaines décennies.

Les grandes baleines ne sont pas en sécurité. La récente inscription de la baleine franche de l'Atlantique Nord, Eubalaena glacialis, sur la liste des espèces en danger critique d'extinction de l'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (UICN) révèle l'incapacité grave des pays relativement riches situés autour de son aire de répartition à faire face à ce déclin critique. En outre, les facteurs à l'origine de ce déclin sont bien connus et ne sont, selon notre expertise, pas suffisamment traités. Il ne reste que quelques centaines de baleines franches l'Atlantique Nord adultes et, à moins que des mesures appropriées ne soient prises rapidement, l'extinction prochaine de cette espèce semble inévitable. De même, le marsouin vaquita, Phocoena sinus, du golfe de Californie, au Mexique, se trouve au bord de l'extinction, avec une population estimée à seulement dix individus.

Il est désormais presque inévitable que ces deux espèces suivent le baiji ou dauphin de Chine, Lipotes vexillifer, sur la voie de l'extinction. Le baiji a été identifié comme "possiblement éteint" par l'UICN en 2017 et, malheureusement, il reste peu d'espoir pour cette espèce. Nous pensons que la situation de ces trois espèces était suffisamment claire et connue pour que ces déclins dramatiques soient évités, mais que la volonté politique d'agir a fait défaut.

Les sombres perspectives concernant ces trois espèces montrent à quel point trop peu est fait trop tard. Sur les 90 espèces vivantes de cétacés, plus de la moitié ont maintenant un statut de conservation préoccupant selon l'UICN. Ainsi, 15 espèces sont classées "en danger critique d'extinction" ou "en danger", 7 sont "vulnérables" et 10 sont "presque menacées", tandis que 9 espèces sont "insuffisamment documentées". Ces espèces "insuffisamment documentées" pourraient être menacées. Ainsi, il existe un besoin crucial d'acquérir de nouvelles données avant de pouvoir statuer sur le sort de ces espèces.

En outre, il existe 29 sous-espèces et autres populations distinctes de cétacés qui sont actuellement soit en danger, soit en danger critique d'extinction (voir la liste ci-dessous pour plus de détails). Grâce aux recherches en cours, nous reconnaissons davantage de populations de cétacés qui sont discrètes et nécessitent des mesures de conservation. Malheureusement, comme l'illustrent les cas du grand dauphin de Lahille (Tursiops truncatus gephyreus) dans l'Atlantique Sud occidental subtropical, du dauphin commun du golfe de Corinthe (Delphinus delphis) et des orques (Orcinus orca) du détroit de Gibraltar, la reconnaissance de leur spécificité peut coïncider avec la prise de conscience que leur population est déjà en danger d'extinction.

Les populations de cétacés sont affectées par de nombreux facteurs en interaction, notamment la pollution chimique et sonore, la perte d'habitat et de source d'alimentation, le changement climatique et les collisions avec les navires. Pour beaucoup d'entre elles, la principale menace est la prise accessoire lors des opérations de pêche.

En gardant à l'esprit ces questions urgentes et en sachant que les populations de cétacés peuvent disparaître très rapidement, nous lançons cet appel :

- Nous demandons aux pays qui abritent des cétacés dans leurs eaux territoriales, de prendre des mesures de précaution pour garantir que ces espèces et ces populations soient protégées de manière adéquate contre les activités humaines, notamment en mettant en place une surveillance appropriée et dotée de ressources suffisantes. Nous notons que l'amélioration des technologies de surveillance offre désormais de nouvelles possibilités d'observer et de gérer les activités en mer
- Nous demandons à toutes les nations de coopérer et de d'apporter leur soutien aux organismes internationaux compétents qui cherchent à traiter les menaces pesant sur les cétacés, qui incluent notamment la Commission baleinière internationale et la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage ou Convention de Bonn, qui toutes deux génèrent actuellement d'importantes initiatives de conservation. Parmi les autres organisations compétentes, les organismes régionaux de pêche sont les premiers à pouvoir s'attaquer aux menaces que la pêche fait peser sur les cétacés, en soulignant la nécessité urgente de s'attaquer à ces impacts sur de nombreuses populations.

Enfin, nous notons que la conservation des cétacés, comme de nombreux sujets concernant l'environnement marin, peut-être une préoccupation qui semble lointaine pour beaucoup de gens. Cependant, comme l'a montré la pandémie COVID-19, notre lien avec la nature est un des éléments clé de notre propre bien-être. Les baleines, les dauphins et les marsouins sont observés et appréciés dans le monde entier, et sont considérés comme des espèces sensibles, intelligentes, sociales et inspirantes ; nous ne devrions pas refuser aux générations futures la possibilité de les découvrir.

Les Cétacés sont également les sentinelles de la santé des fleuves et des océans. Ils jouent un rôle prépondérant dans le maintien d'écosystèmes aquatiques productifs, essentiels tant pour leur survie que la nôtre.

Veuillez porter cette déclaration à l'attention des décideurs politiques concernés de votre pays et aidez-nous à aider les cétacés.

Espèces et populations de cétacés jugées menacées d'extinction

La liste ne présente que les espèces, sous-espèces et populations distinctes étiquetées comme «en danger critique d'extinction» (CR), «En danger» (EN) ou «Vulnérable» (VU) et affiche la dernière évaluation de l'UICN (surlignée en rouge) et, le cas échéant, l'évaluation précédente, avec leurs dates.

La «population mondiale» fait référence au statut de l'ensemble de l'espèce ou de la sous-espèce. La tendance de la population est également notée: I = croissante, D = décroissante, S = stable, ? = Inconnu.

Balaenidae

• Baleine boréale, *Balaena mysticetus*

      Sous-population de l'est du Groenland-Svalbard-Barents 2012: CR, 2018: EN,?

      Sous-population de la mer d'Okhotsk 2012: EN, 2018: EN, D

• Baleine noire de l'Atlantique Nord, *Eubalaena glacialis*, Population mondiale, 2018: EN, 2020: CR,

    DPopulation européenne, 2007: CR,?

• Baleine noire du Pacifique Nord, *Eubalaena japonica*, Population mondiale, 2008: EN, 2017:

    EN,?Sous-population du Pacifique Nord-Est, 2008: CR, 2017: CR,?

• Baleine franche australe, *Eubalaena australis*

    Sous-population Chili-Pérou, 2013: CR, 2017: CR,?

Balaenopteridae

• Baleine bleu, *Balaenoptera musculus*, population mondiale, 2008: EN, 2018: EN,

    IPopulation européenne 2007: EN,?

• Baleine bleu de l'Antarctique, *Balaenoptera musculus ssp. intermedia*, Population mondiale 2008: CR, 2018: CR, I

• Baleine de Bryde, *Balaenoptera edeni*

    Sous-population du golfe du Mexique, 2017: CR, D

• Rorqual commun, *Balaenoptera physalus*, population mondiale, 2013: EN, 2018: VU,

    IPopulation méditerranéenne 2011: VU, D

• Baleine à bosse, *Megaptera novaeangliae*

    Sous-population d'Océanie, 2008: EN, I

    Sous-population de la mer d'Oman 2008: EN,?

• Rorqual boréal, *Balaenoptera borealis*, Population mondiale, 2008: EN, 2018: EN,

    IPopulation européenne, 2007: EN,?

Eschrichtiidae

• Baleine grise, *Eschrichtius robustus*

    Sous-population du Pacifique Nord-Ouest, 2008: CR, 2018: EN, I

Delphinidés

• Dauphin à bosse de l'Atlantique, *Sousa teuszii*, population mondiale, 2012: VU, 2017: CR, D

• Dauphin à bosse australien, *Sousa sahulensis*, population mondiale, 2015: VU, D

• Dauphin à aileron retroussé australien, *Orcaella heinsohni*, population mondiale, 2008: NT, 2017: VU, D

• Grand dauphin commun, *Tursiops truncatus*

    Population méditerranéenne, 2009: VU, D

    Sous-population du Fiordland, Nouvelle-Zélande, 2010: CR, D

• Grand dauphin de la mer Noire, *Tursiops truncatus ssp. ponticus*, Population mondiale, 2008: EN,?

• Grand dauphin de Lahille, *Tursiops truncatus ssp. gephyreus*, Population mondiale, 2019: VU, D

• Dauphin d'Hector, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, Population mondiale, 2000: EN, 2008: EN, D

• Le dauphin d'Hector de l'île du Nord, *Cephalorhynchus hectori ssp. maui*, Population mondiale, 2000:CR, 2008: CR, D

• Dauphin à bosse de l'océan Indien, *Sousa plumbea*, population mondiale, 2015: EN, D

• Dauphin à bosse de l'Indo-Pacifique, *Sousa chinensis*, population mondiale, 2015: VU, D

• Dauphin à bosse de Taiwan, *Sousa chinensis spp. taiwanensis*, Population mondiale, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

• Dauphin de l'Irrawaddy, *Orcaella brevirostris*, Population mondiale, 2008: VU, 2017: EN,

    DRivière Ayeyarwady, sous-population du Myanmar, 2004: CR, D

    Iloilo-Guimaras, sous-population des Philippines, 2018: CR, D

    Rivière Mahakam, sous-population indonésienne, 2000: CR, 2008: CR,?

    Malampaya Sound, sous-population des Philippines, 2004: CR, D

    Sous-population du Mékong, 2004: CR, D

    Lac Songkhla, sous-population de Thaïlande, 2004: CR, D

• Dauphin sombre péruvien, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus ssp. posidonie*, population mondiale, 2019: VU,?

• Orque, *Orcinus orca*

    Sous-population du détroit de Gibraltar, 2019: CR, S

• Dauphin commun, *Delphinus delphis*,

    Population méditerranéenne, 2003: EN, D

    Sous-population du golfe de Corinthe, 2019: CR ,?

• Dauphin commun de la mer Noire, *Delphinus delphis ssp. ponticus*, Population mondiale, 2008: VU, Non spécifié

• Dauphin à long bec, *Stenella longirostris* ssp. orientalis. Population mondiale, 2008: VU, I

• Dauphin bleu et blanc, *Stenella coeruleoalba*

    Population méditerranéenne, 2010: VU ,?

• Tucuxi, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, Global population, 2012: DD, 2020 : EN, D

Iniidae

• Dauphin de l'Amazone, Inia geoffrensis, population mondiale, 2011: DD, 2018: EN, D

Lipotidés

• Baiji, *Lipotes vexillifer*, Population mondiale, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Monodontidae

• Béluga, *Delphinapterus leucas*

    Cook Inlet, sous-population des États-Unis, 2012: CR, 2018: CR, D

Phocénidés

• Marsouin commun*, Phocoena phocoena*

    Population européenne, 2007: VU, D

    Sous-population de la mer Baltique, 1996: VU, 2008: CR, D

• Marsouin commun de la mer Noire, *Phocoena phocoena ssp. relicta*, Population mondiale, 1996: VU,2008: EN, D

• Marsouin sans nageoires de l'Indo-Pacifique, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, population mondiale, 2012: VU, 2017: VU, D

• Marsouin sans nageoires à crêtes étroites, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*, population mondiale, 2012: VU,2017: EN,D

• Marsouin sans nageoires du Yangtsé, *Neophocaena asiaeorientalis ssp.asiaeorientalis*, population mondiale, 1996: EN, 2012: CR, D

• Vaquita, *Phocoena sinus*, population mondiale, 2008: CR, 2017: CR, D

Physeteridae

• Cachalot, *Physeter macrocephalus*, population mondiale, 2008: VU, 2019:

    VU?Population européenne, 2007: VU ,?

    Population méditerranéenne, 2006: EN, D

Platanistidae

• Dauphin de rivière d'Asie du Sud, *Platanista gangetica*, Population mondiale, 2012: EN, 2017: EN ,?

• Dauphin du Gange, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. gangetica, Population mondiale, 1996: EN, 2004: EN, D

• Dauphin de l'Indus, *Platanista gangetica* ssp. minor, Population mondiale, 1996: EN, 2004: EN ,?

Pontoporiidés

• Dauphin Franciscain, *Pontoporia blainvillei*, Population mondiale, 2012: VU, 2017: VU,

    DSous-population de Rio Grande do Sul / Uruguay, 2003: VU, D

Ziphiidae

• Baleine à bec de Perrin,
• Baleine à bec de Cuvier, *Ziphius cavirostris*

    Population méditerranéenne, 2012: DD, 2018: VU, D