



Statement on the Killing of the Endangered Indus River Dolphin in Balochistan

7 August 2023

WWF-Pakistan is deeply saddened by the tragic incident involving the senseless killing of an Indus River dolphin in Balochistan. This heartbreaking event underscores a critical lack of awareness about the vital importance and legal safeguards protecting this endangered species.

The Indus dolphin holds a special place in Pakistan's natural heritage, it enjoys a protection status nationwide, including under the Balochistan (Wildlife Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act, 2014. It is disheartening and extremely concerning that such a treasured and endangered species fell victim to this, in complete disregard for its value and legal protection.

We fervently call for accountability for those responsible for this unjust and heinous act, emphasizing that such actions must not go unpunished. To address this issue and prevent future tragedies, WWF-Pakistan urges the initiation of a comprehensive monitoring programme to track dolphin movement through irrigation canals to Balochistan.

Moreover, it is imperative for the Balochistan Wildlife Department to launch a robust community awareness campaign, educating local communities about the importance of safeguarding this iconic species and adhering to the strict legal protections in place.

In this urgent moment, we emphasize the need for steadfast inter-provincial and inter-departmental collaboration among all regions that host the Indus dolphin. Only through united efforts can we counter the persistent threats that jeopardize the survival of this remarkable species. Let this incident be a catalyst for change, driving us to secure a safer future for the Indus River dolphin and all the incredible wildlife that enriches our precious ecosystem.