



# Mekong River Dolphin under threat

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# Irrawaddy dolphin – *Orcaella brevirostris* family: Delphinidae

freshwater  
brackwater  
mangroves









# Threats

Average annual minimum mortality = 16 dolphins over last 5 years

## Identified threats:

- gillnet bycatch
- targeted human killing

## Potential threats:

- pollution
- boat traffic
- overfishing
- poorly planned tourism
- illegal fishing
- hydropower projects
- disease







# Development of dolphin's mortality

Year	Total	Ad	Ca
2001	3	1	1
2002	4	2	2
2003	16	10	6
2004	16	5	11
2005	14	5	9
2006	19	3	16
2007	13	2	11





# Reason of mortality

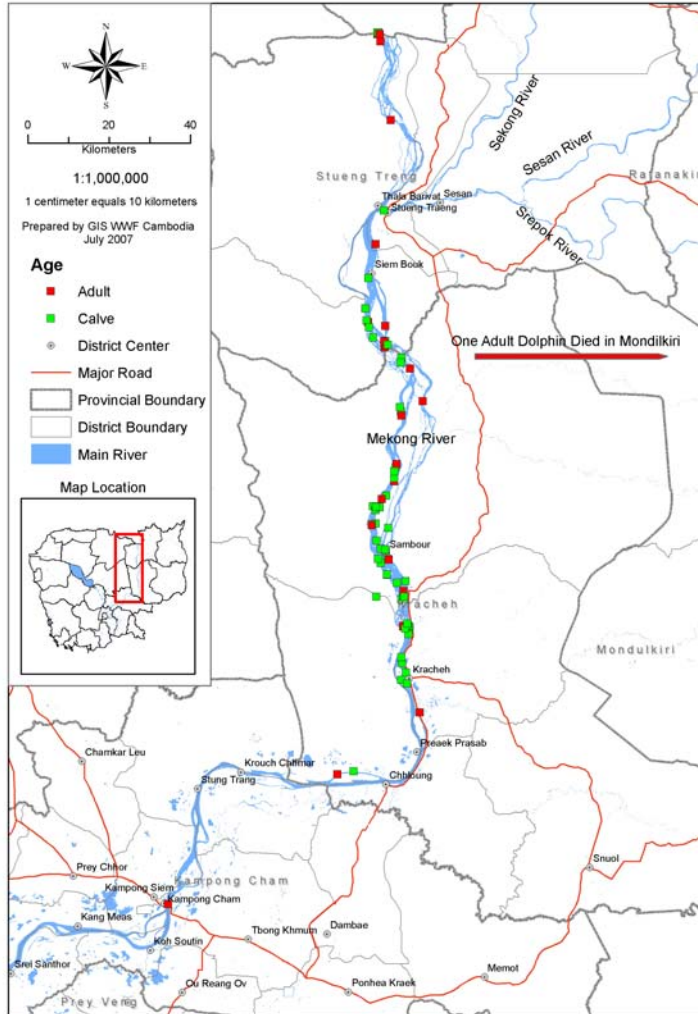
Adults – total 29  
antropogenic factors – 17  
geriatric factor – 2  
unknown - 10

Calf – total 56  
antropogenic factors – 1  
unknown - 55





## Dolphin Deaths Distribution 2001 - 2007



Calf's mortality

primary cause –  
pollution?

secondary cause –  
bacterial infection







# Conclusions

Decline in the number of adults strandings in gill nets, but reason for the mortality of calves still unknown

**Current rate of mortality extremely high and unsustainable**







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please  
to survive

