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WWF comes to the rescue of to-be auctioned dolphin

KARACHI: WWF staff, after rescuing a dolphin that was to be auctioned from Keti Bunder, a coastal town in Thatta, released it back into the sea on Thursday.

On June 6, WWF staff at Keti Bunder were informed that a local fisherman had captured a humpback dolphin and wanted to either sell it alive or kill it and then sell it to other fishermen, who would then use it as a bait to capture crabs.

WWF Keti Bundar Site Manager Zahid Hussain Jalbani, along with team members, went to ask the fisherman to release the dolphin. The latter, however, was adamant and moaned that the dolphin had damaged his fishing net. He also argued that dolphins pose problems in fishing activities.

WWF's Nadeem Sheikh, after detailed conversations with other fishermen, secured the release of the dolphin and was also successful in placing a ban on the hunting of dolphins. WWF is currently working on the Cetacean Conservation Project, which works to conserve whales and dolphins in Pakistan. Under this project, comprehensive surveys have been done along the coast of Sindh and Balochistan.

WWF is also implementing a 5-year Indus for All Programme (part of a 50-year long Indus Ecoregion Conservation Programme), which focuses on natural resource management in the Indus region through the involvement of local communities and exploration of alternate means of livelihood to address poverty-related environment issues. ppi

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