# Voluntary National Cetacean Conservation Report, 2009

## Submitted by the Government of Brazil for the International Whaling Commission's Conservation Committee Madeira, June 2009

Prepared by Claudia Rocha-Campos

### 1) Governmental Authority Submitting the Report

Ministry of the Environment
Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation – ICMBio
Biodiversity Conservation Directorate - DIBIO
EQSW 103/104, Sudoeste, 70.670-350, Brasília, DF - Brazil
E-mail: claudia.campos@icmbio.gov.br

### 2) Background

This Report updates and complements the information provided in Brazil's Voluntary National Cetacean Conservation Reports, submitted yearly to the IWC since 2005, about the legislation, current government programs, threats and measures established related to cetaceans.

### 3) Legal Developments (laws, regulations and other regulatory measures related to cetaceans)

*i) Laws, Decrees and Normative Instructions established*

**Federal Law 5.197**, January 3rd, 1967, establishes as forbidden any kind of utilization, persecution, hunt, destruction or catch of any fauna species.

**Federal Law 7.643**, December 18th, 1987, establishes as forbidden any type of whaling and intentional harassment to cetaceans in national jurisdictional waters.

**Municipal Decree 49**, January 31th, 1990, declares *Tursiops truncatus* as a Natural Heritage of the city of Imbé, Rio Grande do Sul State.

**Order IBAMA 5**, January 25th, 1995, establishes rules to protect reproduction, resting and calving of spinner dolphins, *Stenella longirostris*, in Fernando de Noronha Archipelago.

**State Decree 171**, June 6th, 1995, declares *Eubalaena australis* as a Natural Heritage of Santa Catarina State.

**Order IBAMA 117**, December 26th, 1996, regulates Federal Law 7.643, 12/18/1987, and provides guidelines to avoid intentional harassment to cetaceans in national jurisdictional waters.

**Municipal Law 521,** November 10th, 1997, declares *Tursiops truncatus* as a Natural Heritage of the city of Laguna, Santa Catarina.

**Order IBAMA 5-N,** January 20th, 1998, establishes rules to protect reproduction, resting and calving of the Guiana dolphin, *Sotalia fluviatilis* (*S. guianensis*), in the Anhatomirim Environmental Protection Area.

**Federal Law 9.605**, February 12th, 1998, establishes the environmental crimes.

**Order IBAMA 72-N**, June 2nd, 1998, regulates the use of tourism boats in the Abrolhos National Marine Park.

**Order IBAMA 4**, December 28th, 1999, prohibits intentional diving with spinner dolphins, *Stenella longirostris*, in the Fernando de Noronha Environmental Protection Area.

**Order MMA 98**, April 14th, 2000, establishes rules to the maintaining, management and using of aquatic mammals from the Brazilian and exotic fauna in captivity.

**Order IBAMA 39**, June 28th, 2000, creates the Northeastern Stranding Network (REMANE), to work from Piauí to Bahia States.

**Order IBAMA 3,** February 8th, 2002, regulates procedures of maintaining and managing of aquatic mammals in captivity.

**Normative Instruction MMA 3, May,** 26th, 2003, lists the endangered species of Brazilian fauna (Cetaceans: *Balaenoptera musculus*, *B. physalus*, *B. borealis*, *Eubalaena australis*, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, *Physeter macrocephalus* and *Pontoporia blainvillei*).

**Order IBAMA 59**, August 23th, 2005, creates the Southern Stranding Network (REMASUL), to work from Paraná to Rio Grande do Sul States.

**Decree 6.698**, December 17th, 2008, declares Brazilian marine jurisdictional waters *Sanctuary of Whales and Dolphins of Brazil*, aiming the strengthening of research and non-lethal use of cetaceans.

*ii) Ongoing normative instruments*

A Normative Instruction is under discussion and reviewing by Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and researchers from the scientific community to regulate whale and dolphin watching, as well as to define harassment to cetaceans, determined by Federal Law 7.643, of December 18th 1987.

The Normative Instruction that was supposed to regulate fisheries in order to diminish the incidental captures of non-targeted fauna, mentioned in the previous report (2008), is still under elaboration by the Brazilian Institute of Environment and the Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA). The Working Group (Order IBAMA nº 7, February 2sd 2008), created to discuss and elaborate recommendations for the gillnet fishery in Brazilian waters, is finalizing a report that will guide the development of this Instruction. The recommendations include restrictions of periods and areas for the gillnet fishery in conservation priority areas and the establishment of mitigation measures for incidental captures, mainly of cetacean species. The current law about this issue establishes 2,500 km in maximum length for bottom and surface gillnets (Order IBAMA nº 121, August 24th 1998), 15 meters in maximum height for surface gillnets and 20 meters in maximum height for bottom gillnets (Normative Instruction IBAMA nº 166, July 18th 2007).

**4) Current Government Programs Related to Cetacean Conservation**

*i) National Management Strategies*

The National Action Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Mammals - 3rd version - is finished and is going to be published in the current year. This document was elaborated by the Special Working Group of Aquatic Mammals (GTEMA), ICMBio and invited researchers, and it reports the global and national threats to aquatic mammals, it lists the Protected Areas and the 56 species that occur in Brazil. Moreover, it lists the conservation actions to be performed by universities, government and non-government agencies, emphasizing feasible actions to be done with coastal and endangered species. The international and national categories of conservation status are reported. The national categories considered are: a) *Balaenoptera musculus* (CR) – Blue Whale; b) *Balaenoptera physalus* (EN) – Fin Whale; c) *Balaenoptera borealis* (VU) – Sei Whale; d) *Megaptera novaeangliae* (VU) – Humpback Whale; e) *Eubalaena australis* (EN) – Southern Right Whale; f) *Physeter macrocephalus* (VU) – Sperm Whale; and g) *Pontoporia blainvillei* (EN) – Franciscana.

*ii) Habitat Protection*

The establishment of a representative and effective system of protected areas is part of the global strategy of conservation of biodiversity, representing a mark necessary to the actions of the signatories' countries of the Convention of Biological Diversity - CBD. Once there are recognizing peculiarities for the ocean environment, the Program of Protected Areas of the CBD established differentiated marks for the land environments (up to 2010) and the ocean environments (up to 2012).

The Ministry of the Environment carried out between 1998 and 2000 the first "Evaluation and Identification of the Priority Areas for the Conservation of the Brazilian Biomes", financed by Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Brazilian Biological Diversity Project (PROBIO), and, among them, "Evaluation and

Priority Actions" stands out as the first diagnosis on biological ocean and coastal diversity of Brazil carried out in the context of the Subproject for the Biodiversity Conservation of the Coastal and Ocean Zones. The conclusion of the process happened in December of 2006, where the map containing the final polygons of all the biomes for the priority areas was approved by the CONABIO (Biodiversity National Commission) and published in the Normative Instruction MMA n$^{o}$ 9, of 23/01/2007. More information can be found in www.mma.gov.br.

ICMBio and its Directorates of Conservation Units have created in Brazil 61 Federal Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (Conservation Units) and several other Protected Areas located near the Rain Forest and in the Amazon that are known to have occurrence of cetacean species. More information can be found in www.icmbio.gov.br.

*iii) Marine Protected Areas*

Thirteen Coastal and Marine Conservation Units have elaborated their Management Plans, while seven of them are still in preparation. Six Conservation Units with confirmed occurrence of humpback whale, a species considered "Vulnerable" in Brazil (Biodiversitas, 2005), have Management Plans finalized (Fernando de Noronha Environmental Protection Area, Fernando de Noronha Marine National Park, Comboios Biological Reserve, Arvoredo BR, Atol das Rocas BR and Abrolhos Marine NP). In Abrolhos Marine National Park there are also occurrences of the Southern right whale and the Guiana dolphin, species considered "Endangered" and "Data Deficient", respectively, in Brazil (Biodiversitas, 2005). Other Conservation units with occurrences of Southern right and humpback whales (EPA Baleia Franca), humpback whale, the Guiana dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin (EPA Costa dos Corais and EPA Anhatomirim) are elaborating their Management Plans. Nevertheless, just one Conservation Unit with occurrence of the "Endangered" franciscana has elaborated its Management Plan (Arvoredo Biological Reserve), while 3 others have not done so yet (Superagüi NP, Ilha dos Lobos Wildlife Refuge and Cananéia-Iguape EPA). Several Management Plans are intended to be funded by environmental compensation resources. Special attention is given by ICMBio to create the Babitonga Bay Fauna Reserve, an area known to have one of the few estuarine populations of franciscana. Many human activities threat this population in this region due to harbor activities that produce noise, dredging, explosions and intense boat traffic. Social-economic analysis and several public consultations have been undertaken, but there is still a great resistance by the economic sector to stop the creation of the Reserve.

*iv) Research and Conservation Projects Funded by Federal Government*

Several Federal agencies finance several projects and researchers, as well as have several programs related to marine conservation and biology, like CNPq (National Research and Technology Council), Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) and PETROBRAS.

The first two great initiatives of the National Program of the Biologic Diversity (PRONABIO) were the establishment, in a partnership with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), of two mechanisms of financing: a project of government financing, the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Brazilian Biological Diversity Project (PROBIO), and a private fund, the Brazilian Fund for the Biodiversity (FUNBIO). The conclusion of PROBIO took place in December of 2006, with several subprojects providing important results, as the Red Data Book of the Brazilian Endangered Fauna (Biodiversitas, 2008) and the National Action Plan for the Conservation of franciscana, *Pontoporia blainvillei* (to be published).

The Private-public National Project of Integrated Actions for Biodiversity (PROBIO II) has just initiated and it is the landmark to the transformation of the models of production, consumption and of occupation of the national territory, beginning with the sectors of agriculture, science, fishing, forests and health. PROBIO II was drawn to integrate the current initiatives in the country in the next six years, with the financial support of US$ 22 millions from the GEF and more than US$ 75 millions of counterpart resources from the government and the private sector. And, strategic partnerships were established with the Ministry of the Agriculture (MAPA), the Ministry of Health (MS), the Ministry of the Science and Technology (MCT), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) and the Chico Mendes Institute for the Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio). More information can be found in www.mma.gov.br.

The Brazilian Fauna Fund (FUNBIO) was launched in November of 2006, with the objective of creating an alternative to catch and invest financial resources for the protection of the fauna and of the fishing resources in the country. The programs and projects that will be able to be financed by resources of the Fund must attend the next thematic lines: a) conservation of endangered or migratory species; b) sustainable use of native species; c) management of alien species; and d) the development of a technical capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of the fauna. The first resources are being applied in several projects of investigation and sea preservation, in different towns of the Brazilian coast. The sea projects have actions that

predict the monitoring of impacts, the study of migratory species, technical training and the development of animal rescue techniques. More information can be found in www.funbio.org.br.

The Coastal and Marine Units Network (RUMAR/ICMBio) intends to be implemented from environmental compensation resources, based on Law 9.985/00 and Decree 4.340/02. Their main objectives range from the Institutional strengthening to the proper management of the Coastal and Marine Zones.

The National Research and Technology Council (CNPq) provides several programs that support the research on Oceanography, Ecology and Zoology. The Antarctic Brazilian Program (PROANTAR) supports investigation in the areas of Geology, Physical and Life Sciences in the Antarctic continent, aiming to enlarge the knowledge on the many phenomena that take place in this region, with all the aspects that have influences on Brazil. The Antarctic Brazilian Program is managed by a partnership between the ministries of: Science and Technology (MCT), Environment (MMA), Mines and Energy, Exterior Relations (MRE), Defense (Navy and Air Force) and CNPq (organization supporting higher education). Its main objectives are the study of the environmental global changes and the identification of the economical living and non-living resources, getting data on the means of its use. More information can be found in www.cnpq.br. Inside this Program, deserves distinction projects aiming the characterization of stocks, abundance estimates and distribution of humpback whales in the Western South Atlantic and Antarctic Ocean (already finished), as well as the ongoing subproject (inside the Antarctic Marine Life Project - MABIREH) on the biodiversity and evolutional aspects of cetaceans of the Antarctic Peninsula and his interactions with environmental parameters (contact Eduardo Secchi: edu.secchi@furg.br).

The Program Archipelago and Ocean Islands, also from CNPq, supports researches in the São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago, an important scientific constituent for research of geological, geophysical, biological, chemical, physical, meteorological, economical, political and social issues, in function of the strategic position that it occupies (between the northern and southern hemispheres, and between the American and African continents). More information can be found in www.cnpq.br. Inside this Program, deserves distinction as well the project that investigates the Biology, population structure and conservation status of *Tursiops truncatus*, from the continental platform up to the São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago (contact Thales Freitas: trof@if.ufrgs.br).

The Oil Brazilian Company (Petróleo Brasileiro S/A - PETROBRAS), through the Environmental Petrobras Program, promotes the conservation and management of marine endangered species supported projects, aiming to collaborate in the reduction of the threatened level of their conservation status. Projects of cetacean conservation, such as: Projeto Baleia Franca (www.baleiafranca.org.br), Projeto Baleia Jubarte (www.baleiajubarte.org.br) and Projeto Golfinho Rotador (www.golfinhorotador.org.br) are carried out in partnership with MMA and ICMBio. PIATAM - Ocean Program (www.piatamoceano.uff.br) also supports a project that analyses the potential environmental impacts of the oil and derivatives exploration, production and transport in the oceanic Equatorial Brazilian Region, as well on the cetacean species (contact Salvatore Siciliano: sal@ennsp.fiocruz.br).

## 5) Current threats and research on Cetacean Conservation

There are several National Institutions and Universities that carry researches that contribute directly or indirectly to the conservation of cetacean species and populations. Deserving distinction are projects that focus their studies on the major threats to great whales (collisions, noise pollution, habitat destruction, effects of boat traffic) and to small cetaceans (fishery interactions, pollution and habitat destruction, intentional captures, effects of boat traffic), as well as studies that try to identify these threats or utilize instruments/techniques that assess the conservation status of species or search important information that contributes to the development of National conservation strategies by the government and stakeholders. Researcher's contacts may be found in the IWC Progress Report on Cetacean Research 2009.

### *i) Fishery Interactions*

Institutions and Universities that conduct researches on the impacts of fishery interactions and incidental catches on cetaceans, mainly of franciscanas, the Guiana dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin, are: Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (Laboratório de Tartarugas e Mamíferos Marinhos – LTMM-FURG and Museu Oceanográfico "Prof. E.C. Rios" – contact edu.secchi@furg.br), Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro (Laboratório de Mamíferos Aquáticos – contact lailson@uerj.br and azevedo.alex@uerj.br), Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Laboratório Mamíferos Aquáticos – contact lamaqsl@ccb.ufsc.br), Instituto de Pesquisas Cananéia (IPeC – gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br) and Associação de Resgate e Preservação de Ecossistemas Aquáticos (AQUASIS – contact cameirelles@yahoo.com.br).

*ii) Effects of Boat Traffic*

The study of the effects of boat traffic on the behavioral ecology of humpback whales in the Abrolhos Bank region is being conducted by Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and Cornell University (BRP and UFMG – contact renata.sousalima@icb.ufmg.br). The impacts of whalewatching boats on the behavior of spinner dolphin population in Fernando de Noronha are being analyzed for almost two decades by Centro Golfinho Rotador and most recently also supported by Centro de Mamíferos Aquáticos – CMA (Aquatic Mammals Center) of ICMBio. These institutions have also made opportunistic observations on the interactions of the pantropical spotted dolphin and humpback whales with whalewatching boats in a regular basis (contact rotador@golfinhorotador.org.br). Systematic surveys to understand the impacts of boat traffic on the activities of the Guiana dolphin are also being conducted in the complexes of Cananéia and Paranaguá Bay, São Paulo State, by the Instituto de Pesquisas Cananéia (IPeC – gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br). The effects of boat traffic on behavior and its influence on communication of franciscanas are being studied in Babitonga Bay estuary by Universidade da Região de Joinville (UNIVILLE – contact marta.cremer@univille.net) and by Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC – contact lamaqsl@ccb.ufsc.br). The interaction between whalewatching boats and Southern right whales is being analyzed by Projeto Baleia Franca (contact krgroch@terra.com.br). Ship strikes with humpback whales were notified by Instituto Baleia Jubarte (contact milton.marcondes@baleiajubarte.org.br and marcia.engel@baleiajubarte.org.br), as well as the results of boat collisions were observed by other Institutions with spinner dolphins (claudio.bellini@icmbio.gov.br) and with the Guiana dolphin (contact Marcos Santos sotalia@gmail.com) and Ana Santos-Lopes gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br), wich represents the beginning of data collection that evaluates this impact over cetacean populations.

*iii) Pollution*

Pollution studies (trace metals and organochlorines) in the tissues of several cetacean species are being conducted by many Institutions in a collaborative work with Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro (Laboratório de Mamíferos Aquáticos – contact lailson@uerj.br and azevedo.alex@uerj.br): a) Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (Laboratório de Tartarugas e Mamíferos Marinhos – LTMM-FURG and Museu Oceanográfico "Prof. E.C. Rios" – contact edu.secchi@furg.br); b) Projeto Biopesca (contact jumarigo@hotmail.com); c) Associação de Resgate e Preservação de Ecossistemas Aquáticos (AQUASIS – contact cameirelles@yahoo.com.br); and d) Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA – contact tucuxi@inpa.gov.br). Other Institutions performing pollution analysis are Instituto de Pesquisas Cananéia (IPeC – contact gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br), Instituto Mamíferos Aquáticos (IMA – contact adolfo@mamiferosaquaticos.org) and UNESP (SP).

*iv) Intentional capture*

The intentional capture of Amazon river dolphins to serve as bait to the piracatinga fishery has been documented and studied since 2000 by Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA – contact Vera da Silva tucuxi@inpa.gov.br). The piracatinga's extension area for commercialization is already known (Madeira and Purus River, Central Amazonia and the Brazil/Colombia frontier).

*v) Other assessment*

Information about distribution, population densities and/or abundance estimates, which is essential to assess the conservation status of species, is being collected and analyzed by the following Institutions: a) humpback whale along the Brazilian coast (from 5$^{o}$ to 24$^{o}$S) by Instituto Baleia Jubarte (contact leonardo.wedekin@baleiajubarte.org.br); b) spinner dolphin in Fernando de Noronha Archipelago by Centro de Mamíferos Aquáticos/CMA/ICMBio (contact jose-martins.silva-junior@icmbio.gov.br); c) the Guiana dolphin in the Estuary Complex of Cananéia and Ubatuba, in Guaraqueçaba, Paranaguá Bay and Guaratuba Bay by Instituto de Pesquisa Cananéia (IPEC – gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br); d) Southern right whale from Santa Catarina to Rio Grande do Sul States by Projeto Baleia Franca (contact karina@baleiafranca.org.br); e) franciscanas off the southern and southeastern coast of Brazil by Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (FURG – contact edu.secchi@furg.br), Grupo de Estudos de Mamíferos Aquáticos do Rio Grande do Sul (GEMARS – contact gemars@gemars.org.br), Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF – contact andriolo@ufjf.edu.br) and Instituto Aqualie (alex.zerbini@noaa.gov); f) bottlenose dolphin in the Patos Lagoon Estuary by Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (FURG – contact edu.secchi@furg.br); and g) Amazon river dolphin and tucuxi in Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve by Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia (INPA – contact tucuxi@inpa.gov.br).

Moreover, important instruments essential to know the species ecology, habitat use and/or migration routes in order to utilize in conservation actions are the photo-identification and telemetry. Photo-identification techniques are being utilized by: a) bottlenose dolphin - Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (FURG – contact edu.secchi@furg.br); b) the Guiana dolphin and humpback whale – Instituto Baleia Jubarte (IBJ – contact leonardo.wedekin@baleiajubarte.org.br and marcia.engel@baleiajubarte.org.br); c) the Guiana dolphin - Instituto de Pesquisa Cananéia (IPEC – gruporesgate_ipec@yahoo.com.br); d) Southern right whale - Projeto Baleia Franca (contact karina@baleiafranca.org.br); e) spinner dolphin - Centro de Mamíferos Aquáticos/CMA/ICMBio (contact jose-martins.silva-junior@icmbio.gov.br) and f) the Guiana dolphin – ECOMAMA (contact lilodi@uninet.com.br). Telemetry studies are just been conducted in the Amazon with the Amazon river dolphin (VHF) by Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia (INPA – contact tucuxi@inpa.gov.br) and with humpback whales throughout the range of the species in the wintering grounds by a collaborative work among Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande (FURG – contact edu.secchi@furg.br), Grupo de Estudos de Mamíferos Aquáticos do Rio Grande do Sul (GEMARS – contact gemars@gemars.org.br), Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF – contact andriolo@ufjf.edu.br) and Instituto Aqualie (alex.zerbini@noaa.gov).

**6) Conservation and Management instruments and measures taken/proposed**

*i) Reporting Systems for Cetacean Injuries/Mortality/Stranding*

The National Stranding Network of Aquatic Mammals – REMAB was a governmental initiative to unite several Institutions, grouped by region, aiming to establish procedures for the attendance of stranded aquatic mammals. The REMAB was proposed to achieve the next objectives: a) to establish a protocol for the register, rehabilitation of animals, collection and storage of biological material; b) to allow a computerized database for the use by institutions involved in the research and conservation of aquatic mammals; c) to promote training of people; and d) to optimize the human, financial and institutional resources in regional and national level.

Information on sightings and stranded marine mammals in the Brazilian coast can also be obtained at SIMMAM – The Monitoring of Marine Mammals System, and it is available to the scientific community and the public in general. The system allows the insertion and the recuperation of GIS data of the occurrence of marine mammals. This will enable a better cooperation among researchers, improving the capacity of analyzing Biogeography and the biodiversity inside this group. Through a database integrated with relative information on sightings, strandings and incidental captures, the exchange of information between the research institutions will be possible, promoting a standardization of the protection, conservation and management strategies. The System of Monitoring of Marine Mammals was developed by Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI) and can be accessed in the electronic address http://siaiacad09.univali.br/simmam.

*ii) Whale Watching Operations (scale, target species/populations and relevant management issues)*

As informed in the previous Conservation Reports, whalewatching operations focus mainly in the coastal species of great and small cetaceans. Southern right whales are subject to whalewatching by vessels and shore-based stations in the EPA Baleia Franca, in Santa Catarina State. Humpback whales are targeted in Bahia State, mainly in Abrolhos Marine National Park, where it is also possible to sight other species such as the minke, the Southern right whale, and dolphins like the Guiana, the rough-thooted and the bottlenose. The Guiana dolphins are also targeted to whalewatching in the Superagüi National Park (PR), Ilha do Cardoso State Park (SP), Iguape/Cananéia EPA (SC), Anhatomirim EPA (SC), Rio Grande do Norte State (Pipa Beach), as well as in the vicinities of those Conservation Units. The spinner dolphin population of Fernando de Noronha Archipelago object of a considerable increase in the tourism yearly in this region, as it holds the greatest population of this species in Brazilian waters. Swim-with-dolphins and feeding activities of Amazon river dolphins are being conducted in the Amazonas State as a tourist attraction and marketing strategy of some hotels and restaurants, illegally taking place even inside Protected Areas, as Anavilhanas National Park, in Novo Airão (AM).

In Brazil, several projects aiming the research and monitoring of the impacts of whalewatching on the behavior of cetaceans have provided important information to the development or reviewing of legal instruments. A Normative Instruction is under discussion to review the Order IBAMA nº. 117, December 26th, 1996, that regulates Federal Law 7.643, 12/18/1987. By considering international guidelines and reviewing the knowledge from scientific research, this Instruction aims to regulate and update whale and dolphin watching, as well as defining harassment to cetaceans.

*iii) Projects related to Seismic Activities*

The Fauna Fund (FUNBIO), through a Term of Promise between ICMBio and IAGC (International Association of Geophysical Contractors), has supported several projects about seismic prospection on the marine ecosystem, and four of them are related to aquatic mammals: a) "Technical Training of Veterinary Doctors Project", which aims to enable veterinarians for necropsy of marine mammals related to the evaluation of the possible effects caused by seismic activities and gas exploration; b) "National Meeting of Biota Observers", whose objective is the standardization of sighting methods for the improvement of the quality of the data produced by these observers; c) "Assessment of Marine Mammals Distribution Through Aerial Surveys", that aims to reduce the gaps of knowledge with data on the distribution of marine mammals in order to provide information for seismic activities licensing and gas exploration; and d) "The National Stranding Network of Aquatic Mammals – REMAB", which consists of supporting the implementation of the Network and also the development of the SIMMAM – The Monitoring of Marine Mammals System. All projects mentioned are performed by Aquatic Mammals Centre (CMA/ICMBio).

*iv) International Cooperation*

The Brazilian government participated in the first workshop of the Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP), held at the National Maritime Museum, Sydney, Australia, from the 23rd to the 26th of March 2009. The meeting's proposal was the development of regional, non-lethal, cetacean research partnerships to provide the information necessary to best conserve and manage cetacean species.

Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) signed a Letter of Intentions (Lol), aiming to cooperate in promoting and facilitating collaborative activities to conserve and manage migratory animals and their habitats throughout their range, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. A potential area that could benefit cetaceans is the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Conservation of the Franciscana Dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*).

*v) Other*

The current threats and conservation issues that are related to cetaceans, mainly referred to endangered species, are going to be discussed by the government and researchers of the scientific community in the next meeting of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Mammals, in July 2009. At this meeting, it will also be determined by the Federal Order the thematic Committees that will be responsible for the implementation of the conservation actions established in the document.

The Working Group of Incidental Captures is going to be recreated by the Federal Order under the aegis of ICMBio, to continue the discussions and works of the Working Group previously created by Order IBAMA 93, November 6th 2006. The main objective of this group is to help ICMBio in issues related to the monitoring and reduction of incidental captures in fisheries, assessing and proposing mitigation measures to endangered species of the fauna.

The Action Plan established in 2008 for the reduction of the intentional capture of the Amazon river dolphin used as bait for the piracatinga fishery is going to be continued, with some actions to be implemented. Some of them include: the definition of the piracatinga fishery production sites with the elaboration of detailed maps, the assessment of the impact on the Amazon river dolphin, the tucuxi populations (PVA), and the conduction of investigating operations.

The conservation status of cetacean species is going to be reviewed by researchers of the scientific community, under the coordination of ICMBio, following the IUCN criteria; and, a new List of Endangered Species of the Fauna is going to be prepared as well. Some species as the Guiana dolphin may have its conservation status altered because of the many threats the species is facing along its distribution, such as incidental captures and habitat degradation, which are reasons of great concern.