Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops sp.)
Distribution: Worldwide (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/bottlenose-dolphin)

**Adult length:** 2.6m  
**Adult weight:** up to 230kg (male)  
**Newborn:** 84-112cm /9-20kg

**Threats:** bycatch, contaminants, habitat loss  
**Habitat:** estuarine, nearshore, continental shelf, offshore  
**Diet:** fish, crustaceans, squid

**IUCN Conservation status:**  
Common Bottlenose dolphin: Least Concern  
Indo-Pacific bottlenose: Data deficient

Bottlenose dolphins are often more approachable and more active than other species of dolphins, sometimes engaging in aerial displays or ‘bow-riding’ on the waves in front of vessels.

Individual bottlenose dolphins can be recognised by the nicks and scars on their dorsal fins, through a process called photo-identification. Some dolphins in well-studied populations have been re-sighted over periods of more than 40 years. (photos Gianna Minton/WWF Gabon)

**Fun Facts**
- Bottlenose dolphins have a range of feeding techniques: some use ‘tools’ like sponges to protect their beaks when they dig in the sand, others hunt in formation temporarily beaching themselves to chase fish onto the land.
- Many male dolphins have ‘toothrakes’ on their bodies - the result of aggressive behaviour between males.
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