



HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

2007: YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN



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... dolphins get tangled in fishing nets and drown. The plight of dolphins helps to highlight the precarious state of coastal ecosystems...

The health of many of the world's dolphin populations is threatened by bycatch, pollution, habitat destruction, over-fishing, and climate change. Other threats include activities that may frighten, displace or harm these species, such as underwater noise pollution from sources such as shipping traffic, seismic surveys and military sonars. UNEP and the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), together with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), have declared 2007 the Year of the Dolphin.

NON STOP
SEASON



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... CMS Executive Secretary Rob Hepworth on his way to Jamaica to launch the Year of the Dolphin with the Caribbean Environment Programme...

Whales and dolphins have immense cultural significance to communities throughout the Caribbean. They have also developed into aesthetic icons, particularly within ecotourism circles. Whales and dolphins have evolved over the course of 50 million years. Whale populations have crashed dramatically in recent decades.

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...Living in oceans and rivers, dolphins are our planet's living treasure. But their survival is increasingly difficult. Dolphins need clean and quiet oceans, protected areas and people who care...



A strong alliance between UNEP, the CMS, partner NGOs and civil society aims to achieve a common objective: to protect dolphins. A crucial factor in achieving this is education to create awareness of dolphin species, educate and inform decision makers and involve local communities. The Year of the Dolphin is part of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. The campaign is also a tangible contribution towards meeting targets to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010, on which all governments have agreed.

