

野生河馬是吵鬧的動物，叫聲可以傳到湖泊和河流另一邊的遠處。但到目前為止，這種動物發出的一種響亮叫聲有何確切的作用仍是一個謎。不過，科學家現在有了一個有趣的發現。

Hippos are noisy creatures making **squeals, grunts, bellows** and **honks**. But until now, the **function** of the loudest 'wheeze honks' the animals make has been a mystery.

河馬是會發出尖叫聲、哼哼聲、低吼聲和鳴叫聲的吵鬧動物。但到目前為止，這種動物發出的最響亮的“喘叫聲”有何用處仍是一個謎。

The researchers recorded hippo talk at a nature reserve in Mozambique to find out more about the behaviour of these **talkative** mammals. They broadcast the recordings through loudspeakers over lakes and found **resident** hippos responded differently to friends, neighbours and strangers, suggesting they could tell each other apart.

研究人員在莫三比克的一個自然保護區記錄了河馬之間的交流，以瞭解這些叫個不停的哺乳動物的更多習性。他們用擴音器在湖邊播放河馬叫聲的錄音，發現當地河馬對同伴、鄰居和陌生河馬的反應不同，表明它們可以區分彼此。

Hippos are not yet **endangered**, but their numbers are **plummeting** fast. The scientists say their study has important **implications** for conservation policy and could help the management of hippo populations in the wild.

雖然河馬尚未瀕臨滅絕，但它們的數量正在驟減。科學家表示，他們的研究對動物保護政策有重要意義，可能有助於野生河馬種群的管理。

## 1. 詞彙表

squeals	尖叫聲
grunts	哼哼聲
bellows	(低沉的) 吼叫聲
honks	鳴叫聲
function	功能，用途
talkative	健談的 (本文比喻河馬叫個不停)
resident	在當地生活的
endangered	瀕臨滅絕
plummeting	急劇下降
implications	意義，可能產生的影響

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。(答案見下頁)

1. True or false? *Scientists weren't sure why hippos made the noises they did.*
2. How did researchers find out about how hippos were communicating?
3. What did researchers broadcast over loudspeakers?
4. How endangered is the hippo population?

### 3. 答案

1. True or false? *Scientists weren't sure why hippos made the noises they did.*

**True. Until now, the function of the loudest 'wheeze honks' the animals make has been a mystery.**

2. How did researchers find out about how hippos were communicating?

**The researchers recorded hippo talk at a nature reserve in Mozambique to find out more about the behaviour of these talkative mammals.**

3. What did researchers broadcast over loudspeakers?

**They broadcast the recordings of hippos talking through loudspeakers.**

4. How endangered is the hippo population?

**They're not endangered, but their numbers are plummeting fast.**