



DUGONG
MOU

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range

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Regional meeting on science and management
for Dugongs of the Arabian Gulf

May 2nd – 4th, 2023

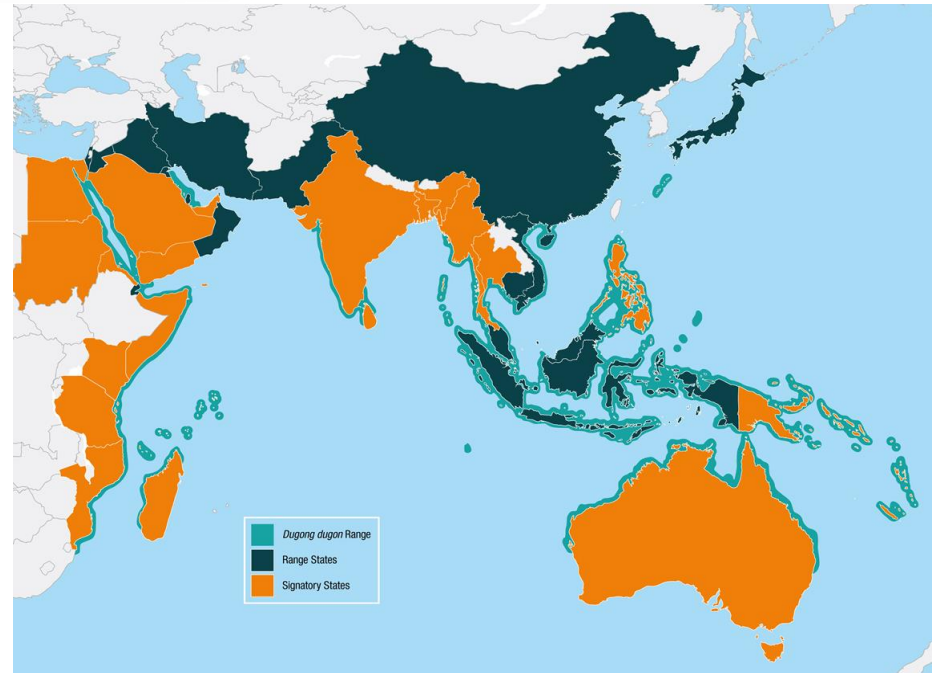
Khalidiya Palace, Abu Dhabi



Dugong MOU



- Non-legally binding instrument under CMS
- Promotes internationally coordinated actions to conserve dugongs and their seagrass habitats
- Entered into effect 31 October 2007
- 46 range states - 27 Signatories
- Guided by the Conservation Management plan (CMP)
- Hosted by Environment Agency Abu Dhabi



Meeting of Signatories & Dugong Technical Conference

- Meeting of Signatories
- National reports by national focal points
- Present a Programme of Work for the MOU
- Amendments to MOU & annexes
- Present progress made on the MOU, and publications/products
- Report by Dugong MOU TAG
- Presentation of financial report & budget for the MOU
- MOS3 was in 2017 in Abu Dhabi
- Next MOS4 planned for 2024 Q1, location TBD
- Scientific/Technical Conference takes place back-to-back with MOS4
 - Scientific presentations by dugong researchers around the world

Conservation & Management Plan (CMP)

- Guides the implementation of the Dugong MOU
- Guides reporting on national conservation actions by national focal points
- Provides guidance on potential priorities for dugong management & conservation, internationally and nationally
- MOS3 decided that a review of the CMP was necessary
- Plan has been reviewed by Helene Marsh, and TAG
- Revised CMP to be presented and adopted at MOS4

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- Provides expert advice to the MOU and Signatories
- 14 expert members, representing most major dugong regions
- Meets every 6 months. First meeting in April 2023
- <https://www.cms.int/dugong/en/meetings/technical-advisory-group>

How we Work



Research

Generating standardized data sets across different countries and sites using participatory methods

Conservation, Policy & Actions

Supporting coastal communities to identify needs, priorities and conservation actions.

Business Models

Developing innovative, low-input and sustainable income opportunities with local communities.

Communications

Highlighting the importance of seagrass and the ecosystem services it provides.

RESEARCH

Working with leading scientists to develop research methodologies for conservation practitioners and coastal communities

Dugong & Seagrass Research Toolkit:

An interactive online guide offering field researchers tailored advice.

Dugong Catch & Bycatch Questionnaire: An interactive online guide offering field researchers tailored advice.

Seagrass Spotter

Encouraging ocean enthusiasts around the world to become citizen scientists.

Seagrass Monitoring Protocol & Manuals

Community-based monitoring bringing citizens and governments together for seagrass conservation.

Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project



- 2019 – 2023: € 4,780,000
- Supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), German Federal Government
- Improving the conservation status of seagrass meadows and the biodiversity in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste.
- Delivering site-specific assessments of seagrass health, threats and the ecosystem services seagrass provides.



SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROJECT

Dugong & Seagrass Hub



www.dugongseagrass.org



Dugong MOU Small Grant Programme

2021: US\$ 25,000

- Yayasan IAR, Indonesia
- Sea Sense, Tanzania
- IRD, New Caledonia
- ARC-WH, Bahrain

**2023: New round of small grants
under consideration**

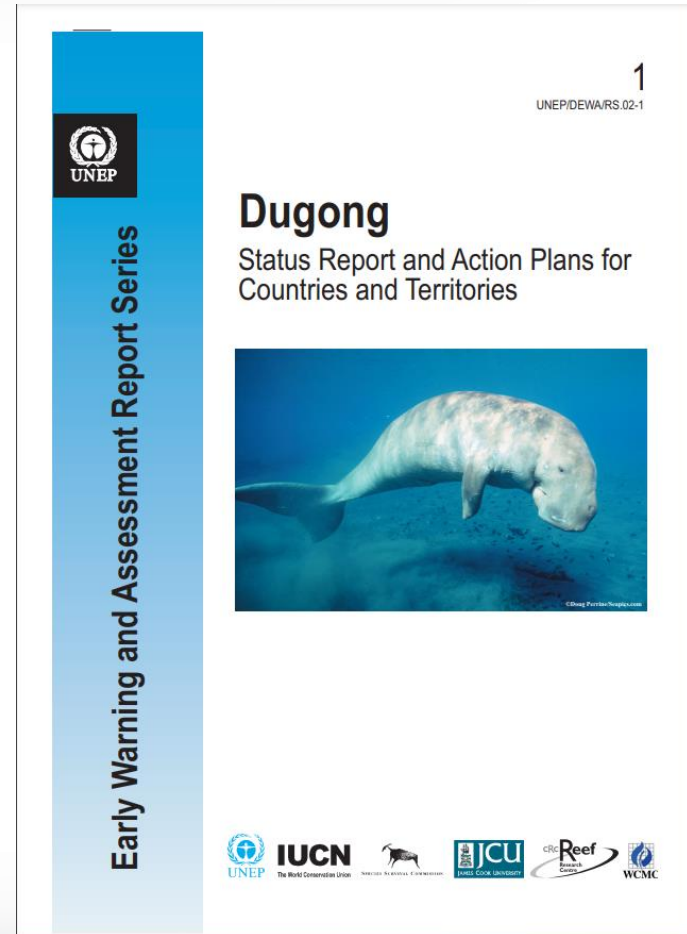


Global reports



- CMS is planning to collaborate with JCU to update the report on the status & trends of the world's dugong populations
- Global report with regional chapters
- 2001 is the last comprehensive report
- New report to be presented at MOS4

- Also plans for a global report on dugong bycatch, using data from questionnaire



www.dugongseagrass.org

