



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



INFORMAL MEETING OF SIGNATORY STATES TO THE CMS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DUGONGS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THEIR RANGE

19 August 2008, Bali, Indonesia

PRESENTATIONS

- 3a) Australian presentation
- 3b) Thailand presentation

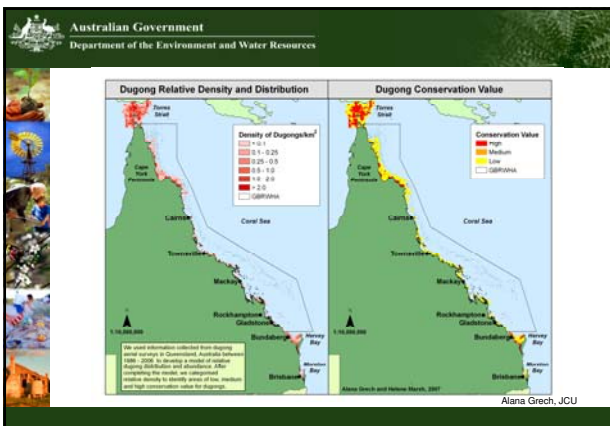
Overview of Australian Dugong Activities



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Dugong in Australia

- Dugong are protected under Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation
- Listed as 'Migratory' under the Commonwealth EPBC Act but not 'Threatened'
- Special recognition given in statutory regulations for traditional use

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Initiatives helping to protect dugong

- Management Plans for Commonwealth/State Reserves help protect critical habitat
- Strategic Assessment of the sustainability of the Torres Strait dugong fishery
- A threat abatement plan identifies ways to address issues of harmful marine debris
- 'Go Slow Zones' help avoid boat strikes
- Dugong Protected Areas



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Priority issues

- Community Engagement
 - Sustainable harvesting of dugongs by Indigenous Australians
- Addressing other human-related impacts
 - Boat-strikes, by-catch, habitat degradation, Illegal take.
- Research and Monitoring Projects



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Community Engagement – National Partnership Approach

- A partnership between government and Indigenous communities to sustainably manage the harvest of turtle and dugong
- Working Group to provide strategic planning
- Meetings are held 'on country' to ensure greater Indigenous involvement
- Reporting to Commonwealth and State Ministers
- Inform Government's policy and programme development

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Community Engagement – Turtle and Dugong Management Project

- A partnership between 5 regions across Northern Australia
- \$4.6m of funding over 4 years
- To assist Indigenous Communities develop their own management plans for turtle and dugong - based on Indigenous customary values
- To understand Indigenous harvest and other causes of mortality

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Community Engagement – Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs)

- Agreement between Commonwealth and state Governments with Traditional Owners about how to sustainably manage traditional take of turtles and dugong in the Great Barrier Reef region.
- Australia has four TUMRAs:
 - Girringin TUMRA, 2005
 - Woppaburra TUMRA, 2007
 - Wuthathi TUMRA, 2008
 - Mamu TUMRA, 2008
- \$10m to expand TUMRAs and improve Indigenous partnerships



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Girringin TUMRA



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Research and Monitoring Projects

- The Australian Applied Marine Mammal Centre Science
 - Established in 2006
 - First major national research centre for whales, dolphins, seals and dugongs in our region.
- 'Seagrass watch' – community engagement project assessing health of seagrass beds in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Aerial Surveys used to estimate dugong distribution and abundance



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International Activities

- CMS Dugong Regional Memorandum of Understanding
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Regional Action Plan for Dugong for the Pacific Region (SPREP)
- Torres Strait Treaty – between Australian and PNG Governments to protect livelihood of traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait

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Future Challenges

- Increasing community engagement
 - More TUMRAs
 - Implementation of community-based management plans
- Continued funding for research
- Working with local and state authorities to implement





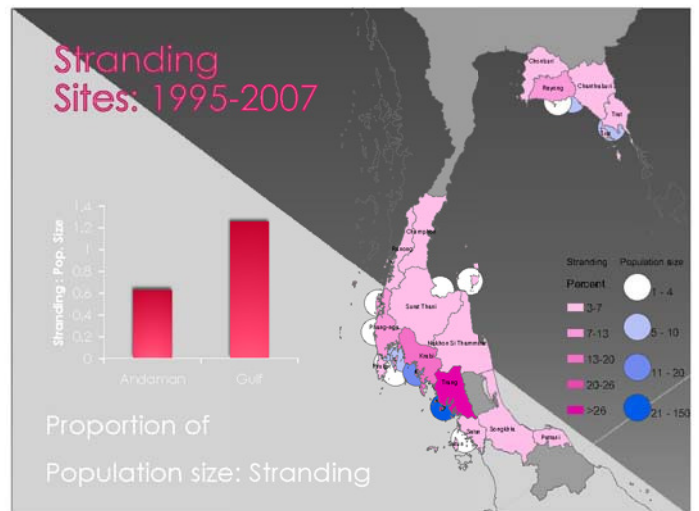
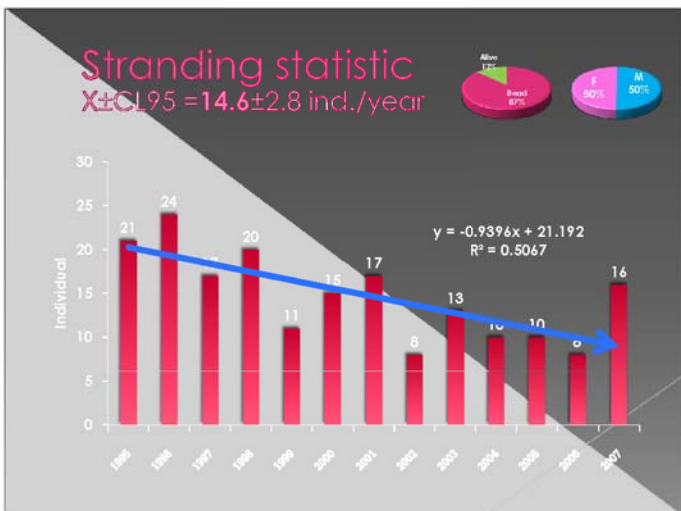
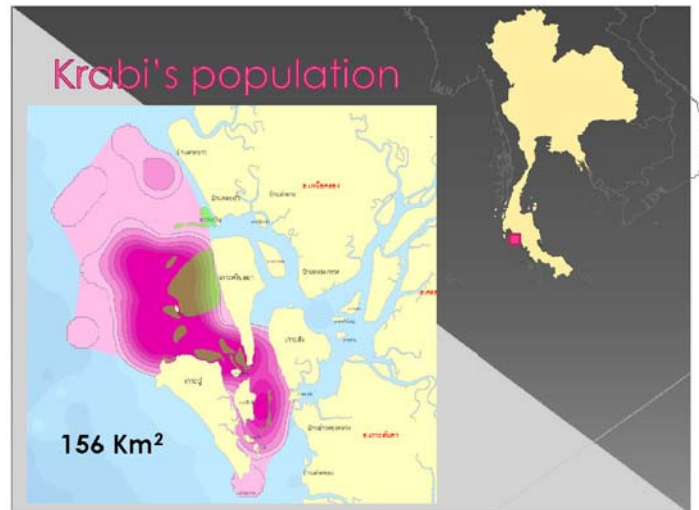
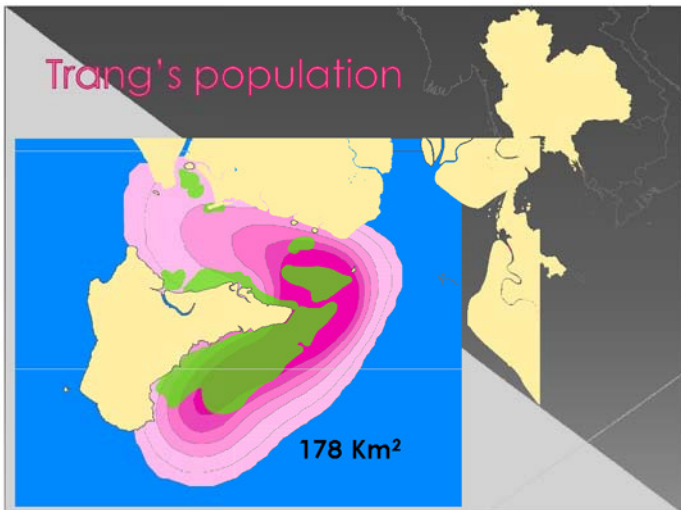
Dugongs in Thailand

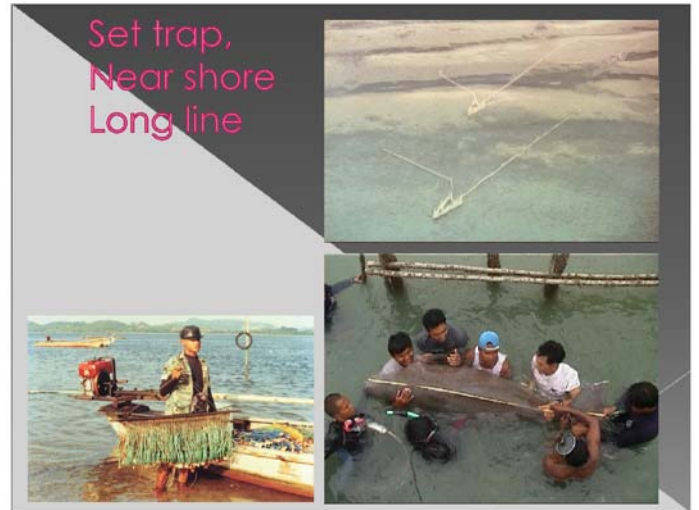
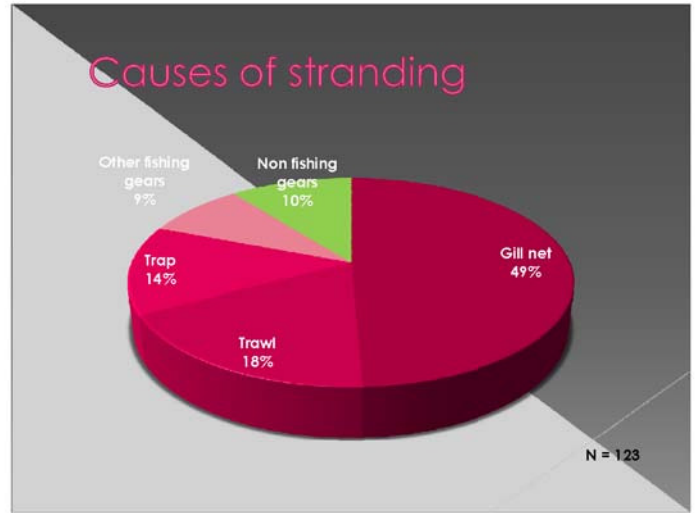
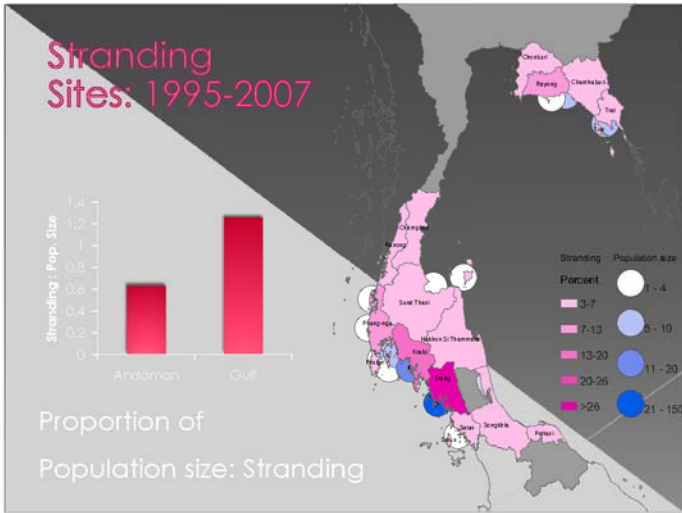
Status, Distribution, Threats and Conservation



Abundance & Distribution

Andaman: ca 200 ind.
 Gulf of Thailand: ca 50 ind.
 Sea grass: 145 km², 60% Andaman





- ### Conservation plans
- National action plan
 - > In 2004: DMCR and WCS -Thailand co-organized to develop Dugong Conservation Action Plan for Thailand
 - > Aug 2005>>>>1st draft of CMS
 - > May 2006 >>>> to finalize a draft text for regional dugong conservation, protection and management
 - > 2007 >>>> Seagrass and Dugong action Plan
 - Public participation >>> MPAs
 - Education and awareness building
 - Rescue of live stranded dugongs

Dugong's MPA in Trang province

- Before 1991, push-net operating be extensively done along the Andaman Sea coast. Target sp. was shrimp while the others non-market size were used as trash fishes.
- Caused seagrass degradation and decreased the marine organisms especially the market size.



Dugong's MPA in Trang province

- In order to conserve the seagrass bed and protect the dugong
- People used Dugong as "Flagship species" and asked the governor to protect this animal.
- The governor has announced the "Provincial Notification of Trang province in 1991"
- Stop specific fishing operations; push net, trawl, beach seine, drive-in net and dynamite fishing in 4 seagrass beds
- Recovery of marine organisms (fish, shrimp, crab) after 3-4 mo has been proved by PMBC staff.

MPA: Dugong's home



Thank you

