

## Summary of Conservation Priorities Identified by Dugong Range States

SIGNATORY	PRIORITIES
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work more closely with Papua New Guinea to conserve the Torres Strait dugong population</li> <li>▪ Address mortality from other human-related impacts- e.g mineral exploitation in Western Australia</li> <li>▪ Continued work with indigenous communities to ensure sustainable harvest</li> <li>▪ Investigation of impacts of climate change on seagrass habitat</li> </ul>
<b>Comoros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct further basic research as little known on dugongs</li> <li>▪ Encourage/engage local communities, through public awareness to reduce threats</li> <li>▪ Share information in common database (clearing house mechanism) to enable ready access to information and avoid duplication</li> <li>▪ Continue collaboration / sharing of information with Mayotte</li> </ul>
<b>Eritrea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To collect as much info as possible on dugong distribution, especially in the Dahlak archipelago (continue preliminary surveys conducted towards end of the ECMIB project)</li> <li>▪ Sharing of experience and funding for research</li> <li>▪ Public awareness campaigns focussing especially on dugongs, based on success of the marine turtle campaign.</li> <li>▪ ICZM over the longer term. There is now a transitional period while endorsement is awaited of a new national institution that will be responsible for all marine research and management, enforcement.</li> </ul>
<b>Kenya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public awareness: Dugong are now largely restricted to remote, pristine areas and there is limited awareness of their existence</li> <li>▪ Lack of in-country expertise in marine mammals and also funds and distances are limiting factors</li> <li>▪ Last surveys were done in 2000-2001; ground truthing and awareness raising is needed</li> <li>▪ Need to build comparable systems, as for turtles, for monitoring purposes, information storage, and local research capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Myanmar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of status and distribution of dugongs in Rakhine and Taninthanyi through 3-year surveys</li> <li>▪ Investigation of incidental capture – through questionnaires</li> <li>▪ Transboundary surveys (with Thailand) in east Andaman (Taninthanyi)</li> <li>▪ Extend seagrass mapping (already conducted in Rakhine State) to other states</li> </ul>
<b>Philippines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aerial surveys of key dugong populations in other areas to build on information already gathered in Palawan and southern Mindanao</li> <li>▪ Increased public awareness in Aurora and Isabella and southeast Mindanao</li> <li>▪ Funding for dispatch of rapid reaction teams</li> <li>▪ Establishment of critical areas for habitat and feeding, using a shorter procedure than for MPAs (but still needing stakeholder consultations)</li> <li>▪ Long-term rehabilitation and calf rearing</li> </ul>
<b>United Republic of Tanzania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to increase community awareness, as information on numbers and distribution of dugongs is limited to fisher sightings</li> <li>▪ Collaborative research (academic studies), including collaboration with Kenya and Mozambique</li> </ul>

<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater cooperation and coordination with Qatar and Bahrain, in view of apparent influx of dugong from these neighbouring countries</li> <li>▪ Continuation of distribution studies (eg. genetics, and satellite tracking with James Cooke University later in 2008).</li> <li>▪ Inclusion of dugong conservation in ICZM processes, due to coastal development issues</li> <li>▪ Increased public awareness, including engagement of NGOs</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the existing Conservation and Management Plan</li> <li>▪ Rehabilitation programme, to deal with incidence of calves separated from mothers</li> </ul>
<b>NON-SIGNATORY STATES</b>	
<b>Cambodia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public awareness</li> <li>▪ Basic research on dugong populations</li> <li>▪ Huge seagrass bed in Kompot province – cooperation needed from neighbouring countries (Thailand and Viet Nam) for survey work</li> </ul>
<b>Egypt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Challenges include a large area - with many islands - to cover in the Red Sea, with only limited government support</li> <li>▪ Good collaboration with WWF on all marine life and now a successful programme on dolphins;</li> <li>▪ Projects have focussed on fishing communities</li> <li>▪ No research conducted on dugongs so far</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic information on population status</li> <li>▪ Assessment of fishery interactions (data collection)</li> <li>▪ Habitat mapping</li> <li>▪ Public awareness</li> </ul>
<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has no dugong populations in its waters; however habitat mapping has been done; and Jordan is involved in marine turtle activities</li> <li>▪ Potential to help in public awareness and other work</li> </ul>
<b>Seychelles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few recent dugong sightings on Aldabra</li> <li>▪ Need for information on foraging grounds; there are plans to incorporate the seagrass mapping around Aldabra with turtle surveys</li> <li>▪ Plans for producing a documentary on dugongs with Kelonia (Réunion)</li> </ul>
<b>Thailand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduction of fisheries-related mortality</li> <li>▪ Extension / strengthening of “Dugong home” (protected areas) concept</li> <li>▪ Public awareness initiatives to encourage fishers to change to other livelihoods</li> <li>▪ Mapping and monitoring surveys of seagrass, including collaborative work with Myanmar</li> <li>▪ Aerial surveys to confirm presence of dugong on border with Viet Nam</li> <li>▪ Acoustic research with Japan (eg, to help in localisation, reduction of fisheries interactions)</li> </ul>
<b>Viet Nam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking data on dugongs in the northern part of the country</li> <li>▪ Need to assess the impact of fisheries</li> <li>▪ Mapping of dugong distribution to identify hotspots where fishing activities might need to be curtailed</li> <li>▪ Collaboration with Thailand and Cambodia on possible transboundary populations</li> </ul>