



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

Distr. General

DM/SS.1/Doc. 8
Agenda item 9

Rev.1 – 26 September 2010

FIRST OFFICIAL SIGNATORY STATES MEETING
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 4–6 October 2010

ALLIANCES, SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Purpose

To bring to Signatories attention the potential benefits of alliances, synergies and complementary activities between the Dugong MoU and other international and regional instruments and to give consideration to how the synergies of these instruments are considered and discussed in future meetings.

Background

1. The Dugong MoU is the primary platform for the global and regional conservation and management of dugongs. It is therefore important to ensure that the MoU's activities are coordinated and integrated with as well as being complementary to other global and regional activities. The MoU also recognises there are other international and regional instruments, policies and strategies relevant to the conservation of dugong.
2. There are potential alliances and synergies to be found in linkages with other UN Conventions and within the CMS family. Such alliances and synergies have the potential to increase effective conservation and development action by combining effort and resources into locations that have issues common to the conservation of dugong and other species.

Collaboration with other UN Conventions

3. Overarching synergies are found in the commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) for which the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the CBD lead partner in the global conservation of migratory species over their entire range. A concrete example of this is the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Sea Turtles and Their Habitats in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, where several of the conservation issues shared by marine turtles are also shared by dugongs, such as bycatch, life histories, and logistical constraints to conservation implementation.

Collaboration between Related CMS agreements

4. The Secretariat is working to create greater linkages and synergies with the CMS family consistent with the request from CMS COP9 (Resolution 9.9 on Marine Migratory Species, December 2008) to consider options such as promoting joint priorities, the sharing of technical expertise and resources and holding joint meetings between species agreements, if appropriate.
5. Of the 25 agreements (CMS Art IV, paras 3 and 4) operating under the framework of CMS, those with most potential for linkages and synergies include: MoU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Indian Ocean South East Asia; the MoU on Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region; MoU Concerning the Conservation of Manatees and Small Cetaceans of West Africa and Macaronesia.

6. For example, the Secretariat has taken the initiative to investigate shared conservation synergies with marine turtles (Annex 1). The Secretariat has also actively sought to address synergies between the by-catch of dugongs and other marine wildlife including marine turtles and cetaceans (Agenda Item 11).

Regional Coordination

7. The Signatories may wish to identify specific international and regional instruments and give consideration to how the synergies of these instruments are considered and discussed in future meetings.

8. There are also a number of additional initiatives that can be reported and considered at this meeting including increasing collaboration between related CMS agreements. The Signatories may wish to identify other initiatives and discuss the opportunities to improve linkages and synergies.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants:

- Note the existing linkages between CMS MoUs and other international and regional instruments, policies and strategies affecting dugongs.
- Seek any clarification that might be necessary.
- Provide advice on other possible initiatives and opportunities to improve linkages and synergies with other UN Convention, other international and regional instruments or initiatives as well as within the CMS family the possibilities of collaboration between CMS MoUs and alliances and partnerships.
- Request the Secretariat to regularly report on the progress of alliances, synergies and complementary activities at future meetings, maintaining an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MoU development.

**Report of the Shared Dugong and Turtle Conservation Synergies Workshop
Goa, India 26 April 2010**

Background

1. Marine turtles and dugongs are the focus of two separate international conservation agreements under auspices of UNEP/CMS: the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA Turtle MoU), and the MoU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range.
2. The agreements overlap in terms of the range states and approach to conservation in addressing both species and habitat specific impacts via their respective conservation and management plans.
3. There has been little concerted effort to explore where those synergies, and thus opportunities, may lie in order to maximize conservation outcomes for these species. Such an approach may become increasingly important given the need to make the best use of limited resources, in terms of funding and other resources to build technical and often, community-based capacity, which can effectively and efficiently address conservation and management needs.
4. The Secretariat conducted the *Shared Dugong and Turtle Conservation Strategies Workshop* with the assistance of Dr Nicolas Pilcher at in association with the International Sea Turtle Symposium, Goa, India on 26 April 2010.

Workshop outcomes

5. The Workshop discussed the overlaps between marine turtles and dugongs in relation to policy implementation, research management, funding, technical capacity, education and awareness raising issues.
6. The participants were encouraged to share ideas about how to deal with two species that are very similar and how to best use the presented opportunities and maximize project investments.
7. The participants were also asked to share their ideas based on their personal experiences in turtle research and conservation.
8. The participants noted that in dugong and marine turtle conservation work, alternative methods of funding, such as environmental mortgages, may provide important opportunities to address livelihood and species conservation needs.
9. Network-building and sharing of data was seen as one of the issues affecting a successful conservation policy application regarding dugongs and marine turtles. Community support was envisaged as important in species conservation work.
10. The UNEP/CMS Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool (Agenda Item 11) developed in the Singapore workshop in April 2010 raised large interest among participants. The Questionnaire is a tool developed to ease the difficulties on the way of a successful implementation of the conservation management plan, data collection, tighter network building and synergy sharing. The form is available for downloading on the Secretariat's website http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_noticeboard.htm > Standardised Dugong Catch/By-catch Questionnaire Available Now.
11. Participants at the workshop strongly supported the need for more dialogue between marine turtle and dugong researchers, managers and interested parties to further explore the opportunities to address conservation and management issues shared by these species.