



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

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## NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES BY SIGNATORIES

*Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat*

### Background

1. National Reports provide valuable information on each country's implementation of the Dugong MOU and associated Conservation and Management Plan (CMP). The information provided is critical to underpin the communication, coordination and collaboration required to ensure effective conservation actions aimed at dugongs and their habitats, and to prioritise future conservation action.
2. It should be noted that CMS Resolution 10.9 on the Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family<sup>1</sup> calls for the *"harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family"*. This includes reducing duplication of reporting, properly analysing and comparing data, and improving its collection, storage, management and retrieval.
3. Accordingly, the CMS Family has developed an Online Reporting System (ORS) which streamlines the national reporting process, makes it more efficient for the Parties and Signatories and also provides a basis for easier analyses of datasets. The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC, in close cooperation with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Asian Water Birds (AEWA) Secretariat. It has been designed specifically to be adaptable to meet the requirements of the whole family of CMS instruments, including the Dugong MOU.
4. Paragraphs 6 and 9 of the Dugong MOU call on Signatory States to:  
  
*"Assess the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, including the Conservation and Management Plan, at regular meetings to be attended by representatives of each of the Signatory States concerned, and persons or organisations technically qualified in dugong conservation and management"* and to:  
  
*"Provide to the Secretariat regular report on their implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding..."*
5. Although Signatory States are requested to provide national reports by the Dugong MOU, the Secretariat also encourages national reporting from interested Non-Signatory Range States.
6. The Secretariat has developed National Report Template (NRT) for Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States (Annex I) in order to enable clear and consistent national reporting, which is also comparable between reports. The NRT is designed to mirror the structure and content of CMP and to review progress in the implementation of the CMP's objectives and activities. The NRT was presented at the SS1, and endorsed upon receiving the comments from Signatories.

7. The Secretariat recommends that the periodicity of national reporting should correspond to the periodicity of the Signatory State meetings (see: Doc 3 – Rule 2).

### **2011-2012 National Reports**

8. The NRT was distributed to the Range States on 16 August 2012, and the Range States were requested to deliver a national report by 15 October 2012. At the time of writing, only two Signatory States had provided a national report to the Secretariat: Australia (Annex II) and Tanzania (Annex III).
9. The lack of national reports has prevented the Secretariat from developing a collated assessment of the National Reports to be presented and discussed at SS2.
10. Moreover, the capacity of the Secretariat to provide adequate assistance to the Signatories for implementation of Dugong MOU and CMP is significantly enhanced by information on national dugong conservation activities.

### **Action requested**

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the response by Signatory States to provide national reports.
- b) Consider and advise how Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States can be encouraged to provide their national reports.
- c) Consider and advise on possibility of adoption of the ORS.
- d) Advise on the periodicity of reporting.
- e) Note national reports submitted by Signatories (Annexes II and III).