



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

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HOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE DUGONG MOU CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS DELIVERY OF THE CMS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Dugong MOU is a daughter agreement of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animal (CMS). In November 2014, at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP11) to the CMS, Parties adopted Resolution 11.2 regarding a Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) for the period of 2015-2023. The mission of the SPMS is to “promote actions to ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species and their habitats, and to ensure the ecological integrity, connectivity and resilience of migration systems” (see CMS/Dugong/MOS3/Inf.5).
2. In addition to adopting the SPMS itself, COP11 noted that two further elements were needed to ensure the successful implementation of the SPMS: a set of indicators and a companion volume that would describe how the Plan might be implemented.
3. Resolution 11.2 also mentions actions for consideration by CMS instruments, including the Dugong MOU, as follows:
 - Paragraph 3, “*Urges* [...] the CMS Family of instruments [...] to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan”;
 - Paragraph 4, “*Invites* the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments to consider the Strategic Plan for adoption at their next meetings”;
 - Paragraph 5, “*Encourages* the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments [...] to identify existing or develop new sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments [...] that support the achievement of the targets in the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species; and to inform the CMS Secretariat of such sub-targets”; and
 - Paragraph 6, “*Requests* the [CMS] Secretariat to maintain a register of sub-targets as a ‘living’ document able to be supplemented and updated by contributions from the CMS Family of instruments [...] and to provide updates on additions to the register to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties for the duration of the Strategic Plan”.
4. The Dugong MOU includes a detailed Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), setting out nine objectives addressing four areas relevant to dugong conservation (species, habitat, awareness and education, and crosscutting issues). It includes 26 actions, priority levels, time-scales, organisational responsibilities and targets (see CMS/Dugong/MOS3/Inf.6).
5. In consideration of the actions identified by Resolution 11.2 (as summarised above) the Dugong MOU Secretariat recommends that an assessment of potential areas of alignment between the SPMS

and the CMP be undertaken as part of the review of the CMP. The exercise would include review of existing targets and where necessary develop new targets that support achievement of the SPMS (see CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.2).

CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species

6. Migratory species have distinct conservation needs and conservation at the population level that can only be achieved by coordinated and cooperative international action between the Range States that share these populations.

7. Since 1979, the CMS has provided the primary specialised intergovernmental framework for these cooperative efforts, through its agreements, action plans and other instruments. The SPMS does not duplicate the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010–2020¹, adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2010, but complements it by adding the necessary framework for migratory species conservation, including within the context of the CMS Family.

8. The close interaction between the SPMS and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity further facilitates national coordination on and integration of issues related to migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

9. The SPMS was developed to provide vision, leadership, and a driving force toward the full and effective implementation of goals and targets related to migratory species. The SPMS aims to achieve the following vision: “Living in harmony with nature – where populations and habitats of migratory species (along with all biodiversity) are valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, thereby contributing to global sustainability.”

10. The SPMS consists of five Goals (listed below) and 16 Targets:

Goal 1: Address the underlying causes of decline of migratory species by mainstreaming relevant conservation and sustainable use priorities across government and society;

Goal 2: Reduce the direct pressures on migratory species and their habitats;

Goal 3: Improve the conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats;

Goal 4: Enhance the benefits to all from the favourable conservation status of migratory species;

Goal 5: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Conservation and Management Plan of the Dugong MOU

11. The main objective of the CMP is to restore, or where appropriate maintain, a favourable conservation status for dugongs and their habitats on which they depend. The CMP consists of nine main objectives (listed below) and 26 actions:

- Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong mortality;
- Improve our understanding of dugong through research and monitoring;
- Protect, conserve and manage habitats for dugong;
- Improve our understanding of dugong habitats through research and monitoring;
- Raise awareness of dugong conservation;
- Enhance national, regional and international cooperation;
- Promote implementation of the MOU;

¹ www.cbd.int/sp/

- Improve legal protection of dugongs and their habitats; and
- Enhance national, regional and international cooperation on capacity building.

Linkages between the SPMS and the Dugong MOU CMP

12. Both the CMP and the SPMS define long-term and high-level outcomes in a way that allows progress towards them to be monitored and evaluated. The SPMS has five goals which express strategic outcomes, and sixteen targets which specify the scale and nature of the measurable changes required in each case. The purpose of the targets is to define priorities and to clarify what constitutes successful performance, and at the same time to ensure that all parts of the CMS Family make a coherent and effective contribution to the delivery of the CBD Aichi Targets. The implementation framework for the nine key objectives covered by the CMP specifically include sections covering priority-level, time-scale, implementing organisations and outcomes for each of the 26 activities.

13. In principle, the implementation of the CMP by Signatories should directly contribute to the goals and targets of the SPMS. However, as noted in CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.2, there is a need to review the CMP to ensure that it remains relevant and addresses current conservation threats to dugongs and seagrasses. It should also align with conservation and sustainable development policy initiatives such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, CBD Aichi Targets and the SPMS.

14. National reports are the primary tool for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the CMP and the SPMS. The National Report Template presented by the Secretariat and adopted at the Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) to the Dugong MOU (Manila, Philippines 2013) was designed to mirror the structure and content of the CMP and facilitate monitoring and evaluation. As such, if the CMP is revised, the National Report Template would also be revised and presented to the Fourth Meeting of Signatories for consideration.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Endorse the SPMS (see CMS/Dugong/MOS3/Inf.5) with the aim to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant current and future Dugong MOU policy and planning documents.
- b) Agree to review the alignment of the CMP with the SPMS as part of the CMP's review and adjust the National Report Template as appropriate (see CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.2).