



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

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SECOND SIGNATORY STATE MEETING / Manila, Philippines, 19-20 February 2013

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT: MOU IMPLEMENTATION

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Status of Signatures

1. Since the last report on the Status of Signatures, given on 27 September 2010 at the First Official Signatory State Meeting, the following states have signed the Dugong MOU: Bahrain, Yemen (3 October 2010), Palau, Seychelles, Vanuatu (4 October 2010), Mozambique (18 April 2011), Thailand (30 June 2011), and Sri Lanka (31 January 2012). This brings the total number of Signatories to 21.
2. The Secretariat has actively been encouraging non-Signatory Range States to sign the Dugong MOU. In addition, the Secretariat has developed a document entitled 'Benefits, entitlements and obligations of signing the Dugong MOU' (Annex I) The first version was created in January 2011 and provided to Range States if they had informed the Secretariat about their interest to sign the Dugong MOU.
3. The result of these efforts has been expressions of interest to sign the Dugong MOU received from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Sudan. Indonesia and Malaysia have also informally advised of their interest to sign the Dugong MOU. Delegates from non-Signatory Range States are invited to state their countries' intention to sign the Dugong MOU at a future occasion.

Dugong MOU Focal Points

4. As stated in paragraph 8 of the MOU text, the Signatory States will "[d]esignate a competent national authority to serve as a focal point for communication among Signatory States and for implementing activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, and communicate the complete contact details of this authority (and any changes thereto) to the Secretariat".
5. A list of current Focal Points designated by Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States is available in Annex II to this report. Signatories not included in this list are urged to designate a Focal Point and to submit their details using the designation form (Annex III) at their earliest convenience. Non-Signatory Range States may also wish to designate Focal Point.
6. To advise the Dugong MOU Focal Points, the Secretariat has developed and drafted 'Terms of Reference for Dugong MOU Focal Points' (Annex IV). The document sets out the function of Focal Points, and provides information about the role of the Secretariat of the Dugong MOU. It is designated to promote efficient and effective contributions by Focal Points to the operation of the MOU, and also to facilitate smooth and timely interactions between Signatories through their Focal Points and the Secretariat. At this SS2 meeting, the Secretariat invites the Signatories to review and adopt the 'Terms of Reference for Dugong MOU Focal Point'.

Communications

7. The Secretariat has communicated regularly with Signatories, non-Signatory Range States and other interested parties, primarily via email. The Signatories may wish to give feedback to the Secretariat on the channel, quality and frequency of the communications. On a sub-regional level, the Secretariat continues to work to establish direct contact with regional organisations across the Range States. The information provided by Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States at this as well as previous meetings will assist this process.
8. Furthermore, the Secretariat has communicated its activities regularly via the Dugong MOU Notice Board (http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_noticeboard.htm). The Dugong MOU webpages (www.cms.int/species/dugong) are hosted as part of the CMS Family website and is updated on a regular basis. The Secretariat has also been contributing to plans by the CMS Secretariat to completely redesign the whole CMS Family website.
9. In addition, a web-portal funded under the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project is planned. This portal will provide a useful resource for the GEF Partners as well as other Dugong MOU Range States.
10. In February 2012 the Secretariat launched its Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative brochure, see http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/pdf/dugong_initiative_brochure.pdf. This initiative aims to raise awareness and resources for the pilot projects being developed to trial the application of a Management Tool Kit. This Kit includes financial performance-based incentives, advisory tools, gear modifications, education and communications, cultural tools, permitting systems, fines, and the Standardised Survey Questionnaire. Development of a webpage dedicated to the Dugong, Seagrass and Communities Initiative and linked to the GEF Project portal referred to above, is also under consideration by the Secretariat.
11. Regarding the UNEP/CMS Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool that was published in 2010, its revised Survey Questionnaire, Project Manual and Upload file were published on 16 September 2012, and are available online¹.
12. The Secretariat regularly communicates its activities in different journals and magazines such as the Sirenews, biannual Newsletter of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist. The latest article was published in the Seagrass-Watch (Issue 45, June 2012)², the official magazine of the Seagrass-Watch global assessment and monitoring programme.

Meetings and other activities

13. The following meetings and associated projects have been supported utilising funding available for small scale projects. Details on support provided to dugong conservation projects is provided under Agenda Item 9. These activities are reported in chronological order:
 - a) *Pacific Year of the Dugong*: The Secretariat was a supporting partner with South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for the Pacific Year of Dugong launched in 2011. The Pacific Year of the Dugong (PYOD) was a campaign led by the SPREP, aimed at boosting the conservation of dugongs and its seagrass habitats. The campaign invited individuals, conservation bodies, communities and governments to support the drive for dugong conservation. The PYOD regional launch took place in Palau on 14 March 2011. National launches were also organised in Palau (14 March 2011), Papua New Guinea (24 March 2011), Solomon Islands (10 May 2011) and Vanuatu (6 June 2011). New Caledonia celebrated its national Year of the Dugong in 2010 but joined the

¹ http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_resources.htm

² http://www.seagrasswatch.org/Info_centre/Magazine/pdf/issue45/SW_Magazine_Issue45_low.pdf

regional campaign in 2011 with the production of materials such as the 2011 Dugong Calendar.

- b) *Global Dugong Genetics Project*: The project, initiated by the James Cook University of Australia, aims at building a network across dugong range states, interested in collaborating in a study of dugong genetics (More details are provided under Agenda Item 11.3). The network includes participants that provide already collected or new samples for genetic analysis. This project provides valuable information on genetic diversity remaining in different parts of the vast dugong range, estimates of gene flow, and population size.
- c) *First South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop of the Dugong MOU, 6-7 June 2011 (Tuticorin, India)*: The workshop, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Wildlife Institute of India, facilitated regional cooperation to implement the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan in the Range States (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). It was an opportunity to share information as well as to undertake training to help develop capacity to conduct the Standardised Surveys on dugongs. The high commitment from the Range States was reflected in the support of the meeting recommendations: (i) encourage the Governments of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to sign the Dugong MOU by SS2; (ii) to develop and deliver a practical and resource-efficient strategy to collaborate in, and implement regional conservation and management initiatives; (iii) to enhance communication among participating countries and organisations; to (iv) identify the financial and technological resources to support implementation of these recommendations. The meeting report is available online³.
- d) *South East Asia Sub-Regional Meeting on Dugongs and Workshop on Developing Standardised Analysis Protocols for Dugong Questionnaire Survey Project Data for South East Asia Region, 27-29 July 2011 (Lawas, Sarawak, Indonesia)*: The meeting and workshop, which were hosted by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, aimed at (i) helping to develop capacity amongst staff from collaborating countries to conduct standardised dugong surveys, (ii) updating information on dugongs and artisanal fisheries, (iii) and progressing dugong conservation in the South Asia sub-region. Recommendations concluded by the workshop were: (i) to encourage the Governments of Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Timor Leste and Viet Nam to become signatories to the Dugong MOU; (ii) to explore and establish effective communication and data sharing among Range States and organisations; (iii) for Range States to cooperate on joint projects and trans-boundary initiatives; (iv) for Range States to identify high conservation value areas and take concrete steps to protect them; and (v) to encourage Range States to enhance efforts in dugong research through collaboration, co-funding and consultations among experts. The meeting was a success also because for the first time representatives from Singapore and Timor Leste attended an international dugong meeting, and this was also the first time for Japan to attend since 2005. The meeting report is online⁴.
- e) *Dugong Session at the WIOMSA Symposium, 28 October 2011 (Mombasa, Kenya)*: In association with the 7th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, the Secretariat organised a special session on progressing dugong conservation in the South West Indian Ocean sub-region. The session shared information about current dugong conservation, management and research activities in the region. In addition, Dr. David Blair from the James Cook University of Australia presented the Global Dugong Genetics Project, which the Secretariat is supporting. The session report is available online⁵.
- f) *Moro Momoro (My Dugong) Pilot Project*: This pilot project seeks to reduce pressure on marine resources by providing livelihoods through artisanal aquaculture. The aim is to provide the Daru communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with microfinance, knowledge resources and technical assistance with access to wider markets. The resulting community benefits will reduce pressures on

³ http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/pdf/tuticorin_workshop_exec_sum.pdf

⁴ http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/pdf/sarawak_workshop_report.pdf

⁵ http://www.wiomsa.net/index.php?option=com_jdownloads&Itemid=53&task=finish&cid=998&catid=88

dugongs and seagrass ecosystems. Partners to this project are the Government of Papua New Guinea, EcoSeeds, PNG Sustainable Development Programme (PNGSDP), the Government of Australia, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The outcomes of a proposal submitted to PNGSDP in May 2012 but no decision has yet been made.

- g) *Bazaruto Archipelago Pilot Project*: The aim of this project is to increase the capacity for community-based marine conservation by using the dugong as a flagship species. Another objective is to create a program to certify ‘dugong-friendly’ seafood – harvested in ways that protect dugongs and seagrass habitat. A larger objective is to encourage the spill over of ‘dugong-friendly’ practices to other fisheries in the region. Partners to this project are the Government of Mozambique and Institutions, Concelho Comunitario de Pesca, Natural History Museum - University Eduardo Mondlane, Center for Dolphin Studies, Endangered Wildlife Trust, tourist operators and arts & crafts business. This project has now been incorporated into the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (presented under Agenda Item 11.2).
- h) *S.O.S Event: Save our Sirenians – Dugongs and West African Manatees*, 27 February 2012 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates): The event launched the **Dugong, Seagrass & Coastal Communities Initiative** – a program to improve livelihoods and create economic opportunity in exchange for the conservation of dugongs and their habitats. The Initiative, which is presented in detail under Agenda Item 11, aims to attract funding partners whose investment in rural coastal communities and local partnerships will return financial and environmental benefits to communities in developing nations. The event included presentations by Dr. Nicolas J. Pilcher, Technical Advisor for the Dugong MOU Secretariat, who explained that the broader contribution of the Initiative will be to show how pioneering partnerships among investors, local communities, conservationists and scientists can combine conservation efforts, sustainable development and financial investment to the benefit of all. Prof. Helene Marsh, Technical Advisor for the Dugong MOU Secretariat and internationally recognised expert on Sirenians, highlighted in her presentations the need for coordinated effort in preserving the existence of both dugong and West African manatee.
- i) *Preliminary Meeting for proposed project on Addressing Net Fishery By-catch in the Gulf*, 30 April 2012, Abu Dhabi: This initial meeting was intended to scope interest and discuss methodology for a potential project to assess by-catch of marine mega-fauna (turtles, in-shore cetaceans, elasmobranchs, and dugongs) in the North-West Indian Ocean region. The meeting was attended by potential collaborating partners from the region, including representatives from Emirates Wildlife Society - WWF, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, the Environment Society of Oman, IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi. The project is envisaged as a phased process of in-country data collection, analysis and consideration of solutions, and final presentation to policy makers. The geographical scope of the project is proposed to include Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Pakistan. The outputs of this preliminary meeting were a project proposal and a by-catch prospectus (not yet published). The Secretariat is working with the above key partners to progress this proposal.
- j) *Dugong MOU Strategic Support Team Meeting*, 12-13 July 2012 (Cairns, Australia): The goal of this meeting was to provide technical advice for the preparation of the SS2 and GEF International Workshop to be held in Manila in February 2013, and to discuss practical steps for the implementation of pilot incentives-based projects as part of the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative. The meeting gave updates on the UNEP/CMS dugong projects’ progress, including GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project and UNEP/CMS pilot projects, innovative tools and techniques, incidental catch surveys, social marketing techniques and success factors for project implementation, management of dugong and turtle hunting in Torres Strait, and Seagrass-Watch program. It also provided technical advice for the successful implementation of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation project and other funding initiatives. In addition, an update was given on the progress with The Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative, and a description of the Global Dugong Genetics project and its current status was provided. In the light of

the experience of the Strategic Support Team over the past 2 years, the Secretariat requested advice on the potential future role of the technical advisors as the programme enters into a new and potentially more intensive phase of implementation. Technical support will be essential at different scales, from participation in international conferences to on-the-ground assessments at target sites. Over the next 12-18 months technical support will be needed to complete the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase of the GEF Project and the development and implementation of pilot projects in selected GEF Project sites.

- k) *The Second Signatory State Meeting of the Dugong MOU*, 19-20 February 2013 (Manila, Philippines): to be held in Manila on 19-20 February 2013, in which this Report of the Secretariat is presented.
- l) *GEF International Workshop – Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project*, 21-22 February 2013 (Manila, Philippines): to be held in Manila back-to-back with SS2, on 21-22 February 2013. The Workshop is targeted for the GEF Project Partner Countries and Supporting Partners.

14. With regards to external representation, the Secretariat has actively promoted the Dugong MOU at a number of international, regional and local meetings and events since SS1, as follows:

- Colloquium on Challenges in Marine Mammal Conservation and Research in the Indian Ocean (CIMCAR), 26-27 August 2011 (Kochi, India)
- Pacific Environment Forum, 12 September 2011 (Apia, Samoa)
- SPREP meeting, 13-15 September 2011 (Apia, Samoa)
- 7th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, 24-29 October 2011 (Mombasa, Kenya)
- CMS 10th Conference of Parties, 20-25 November 2011 (Bergen, Norway)
- 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, 26 November-2 December 2011 (Tampa, Florida, USA)
- Coral Reefs of the Gulf Conference, 17-19 January 2012 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
- IUCN Species Survival Committee: Specialist Group Chairs' Meeting (opening only), 23-27 February 2012 (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
- Turtle and Dugong Workshop, 29 February - 1 March 2012 (Thursday Island, Australia)
- Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Career Forum, 9 May 2012 (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, 27-30 August 2012 (Muscat, Oman)
- New York University Abu Dhabi Opportunities Fair, 19 September 2012 (Abu Dhabi, UAE)

15. Furthermore, relating to above-mentioned projects and the implementation of the MOU, the Dugong Programme Officer went on the following missions:

March 2011:

- Further planning with a Technical Advisor for conducting site visits to Daru and other areas, 7-8 March 2011 (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia)
- Meeting with Philippine Government Officials and potential project partners regarding interest on starting a pilot project in the Hinatuan area, 10 March 2011 (Manila, Philippines)
- Regional launch of the SPREP Pacific Year of the Dugong, 11-17 March 2011 (Koror, Palau)
- Planning and organisation of the national launch of the SPREP Pacific Year of the Dugong in Daru & Moro Momoro Pilot Project discussion with Government Official, 20-23 March 2011 (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)
- Moro Momoro Pilot Project preliminary stakeholders' meeting and site visit #1, 23-26 March 2011 (Daru, Papua New Guinea)
- National launch of the SPREP Pacific Year of the Dugong, 24 March 2011 (Daru, Papua New Guinea)

April-May 2011:

- Bazaruto Archipelago Pilot Project site visit #1 & Mozambique signing the Dugong MOU, 13-22 April 2011 (Vilanculos/Inhassoro, Mozambique)
- Moro Momoro Pilot Project site visit #2 & meeting with project partners, 21 May-1 June 2011 (Daru, Papua New Guinea)

June-September 2011:

- Thailand signing the Dugong MOU, 30 June 2011 (Bangkok, Thailand)
- UNEP/CMS South East Asia Sub-Regional Meeting on Dugongs and Workshop on Developing Standardised Analysis Protocols for Dugong Questionnaire Survey Project Data for South East Asia Region, 27-29 July 2011 (Lawas, Sarawak, Malaysia)
- GEF Project partnership discussions with Indonesia, 19-21 September 2011 (Jakarta, Indonesia)

October-November 2011:

- Meeting with Philippine Government Official on the GEF Project, 20 October 2011 (Manila, Philippines)
- Meeting with potential key partners to discuss Malaysia's participation in the GEF project, 12-14 October 2011 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- Bazaruto Archipelago Pilot Project site visit #2, 31 October-7 November 2011 (Maputo and Vilanculos, Mozambique)
- Meeting with Government of Madagascar and potential GEF project partners, 8-10 November 2011 (Antananarivo, Madagascar)

February 2012:

- Bazaruto Archipelago Pilot Project: Meetings with the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs and project partners, 6-9 February 2012 (Maputo, Mozambique)
- Meeting with potential GEF project partner and site visits, 9-16 February 2012 (Tulear, Adavadoaka, Madagascar)

March 2012:

- Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong workshop 29 Feb-1 March (Thursday Island, Australia)
- SPREP review of the Pacific Island Regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans, 8-14 March (Nadi, Fiji)

May 2012

- SS2 Venue visit, 9-12 May (Manila, Philippines)

October – November 2012:

- The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project National Meetings in Malaysia (3-4 October in Putrajaya) with Dr Nicolas Pilcher, Sri Lanka (9-10 October in Colombo) with Dr Nicolas Pilcher, Mozambique (26-27 October in Maputo) with Dr Garth Cripps, Madagascar (30-31 October in Antananarivo) with Dr Alasdair Harris and Indonesia (6 -7 November in Jakarta) with Dr Nicolas Pilcher.

Action requested

The Meeting is requested to:

- a) Note the report on MOU implementation.
- b) Urge Signatories not listed on Annex II, to nominate a Focal Point and to supply details to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
- c) Adopt the Terms of Reference for Focal Points of the Dugong MOU (Annex IV).