

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP TO THE DUGONG MOU

(Online, 20 March 2023)

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REVISION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUGONG MOU

(Prepared by Secretariat of the Dugong MOU)

1. Paragraph 4 of the [Dugong MOU Text](#) calls for the Dugong MOU Signatory States to implement, subject to the availability of necessary resources, the [Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CMP) annexed to the MOU. It also states that the CMP will address the following nine actions:
 - (a) Direct and indirect causes of dugong mortality;
 - (b) Research and monitoring of dugong populations;
 - (c) Protection, conservation and management of habitats;
 - (d) Research into and monitoring of important dugong habitats;
 - (e) Awareness of dugong conservation;
 - (f) National, regional and international cooperation;
 - (g) Implementation of the MOU;
 - (h) Legal protection of dugong and their habitats; and
 - (i) Capacity building at all levels.
2. At the Third Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MOU (MOS3, Abu Dhabi, March 2017), Signatory States endorsed the need to undertake a full revision of the CMP to ensure correlation and consistency with relevant international mandates (see document [CMS/Dugong/MOS3/Report*](#), paragraphs 127-131). In particular, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP11, Quito, November 2014).
3. At MOS3, Signatory States agreed that the Secretariat would work with the Dugong Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to develop terms of reference for the mentioned review so that a revised draft of the CMP could be made available for consideration by Signatory States at the Fourth Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MOU (MOS4, anticipated for the first quarter of 2024).
4. Between December 2020 and May 2022, the Secretariat commissioned a consultant to review and update the CMP, ensuring it reflected relevant MOS3 recommendations and synergies between the MOU and CMS COP Resolutions. As part of the work, the consultant was requested to liaise with the Dugong MOU Secretariat, Technical Advisory Group, Signatory States and other Dugong Range States, as needed.
5. The revised CMP, resulting from the consultant's work, is presented in Document 6 of the first meeting of the CMS Dugong TAG. It reflects the changes mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 above.

Action requested from the TAG

6. The TAG is invited to review and comment on the revised version of the CMP (Document 6).
7. The TAG is further invited to consider whether an additional review of the CMP by the Secretariat would be beneficial to further strengthen the document and ensure concise, clear, and unambiguous interpretation. Such review by the Secretariat could be directed at the below, and would be followed by an opportunity for the TAG to comment on the proposed changes:
 - (a) Ensuring that CMP Objectives 1 to 9 closely follow the items listed in paragraph 4 of the Dugong MOU Text, and that there is no overlap between the Objectives.
 - (b) Ensuring that the contents of CMP column 'Examples of specific actions that may be applicable depending on national circumstances' are concise, unambiguous and well-placed under each objective.
 - (c) Reducing the complexity of the table.
 - (d) Removing redundant and repetitive terms.
 - (e) Using acronyms when possible.
 - (f) Clustering stakeholder types into more concise, overarching categories.
 - (g) Implementing any other editorial changes that emerge as helpful during the above process.