



Sirenian Specialist Group
Helene Marsh and Himansu S Das

Structure

1. Specialist Group Co-Chairs: Helene Marsh, Benjamin Morales
2. Regional Co-chairs:
 1. Indian Ocean: Himansu S Das, Tint Tun
 2. Pacific Ocean: Amanda Hodgson, Donna Kwan
 3. US: Christopher Marshall
 4. Meso-America: Nicole Auli, Haydee Dominguez
 5. South America: Nataly Castelblanco, Miriam marmontel
 6. West Africa: Edem Eniang, Keith Diagne
3. A Listing Authority: Ivan Lawler
4. Sirenews Co-Editors: Cyndi Taylors, Buddy Powell
5. Biennial Workshop Convener: Bob Bonde and Nicole Adimey
6. Invited Experts: Ellen Hines, John Reynolds
7. Members of Regional Groups
8. Executive committee: 1 to 6



Function



Role of Regional Groups

1. Define the objective of the group
2. Identify issues of concern
3. Work with the listing authority to revise status of species
4. Provide an annual regional report to Sirenews
5. Work with executive (committee?) to develop strategies (including funding) for dealing with critical issues or needs

Strategies

- **Implement actions under UNEP-CMS dugong MoU: This is universal and range states are obliged to undertake certain tasks – So why any change or modification?**
- **Go for SWOT analysis and identify concerns for your state/ area of research**
- **Communicate with IUCN-SSC-SSG and UNEP-CMS on how to handle it. Funding or expertise issues!**
- **Inform Listing Authority to review and revise status of the species in your country**
- **Regional co chairs will develop and distribute a brief reporting template for your contribution. Kindly fill in the form for your country and send the same back to co-chairs for Sirenews reporting.**
- **Executive Committee will be reported of your concerns and need by the regional co chairs for information and suggestion / solution to your problem.**

Regional Group-Indian Ocean

Co-Chairs

- Himansu S Das Email: hsdas@ead.ae
- Tint Tun Email: tinttun@gmail.com

Range States

- Approximately 75 % of dugong range states with around 15% of global dugong population (in contrast to 25% of range states with 85% of dugongs)
- Mostly developing countries
- Poor legal framework for protection of dugongs
- High rate of by-catch and vessel strike
- Lack of resources to implement conservation actions



Members

As per the present list

- List provided by the Group Co Chair on the basis of the initial response to Sirenews notice
- Notable omissions
- Only 11 members from the region

Those who volunteered / considered

- Viv Cockcroft, Mozambique
- Marisa, Japan
- Toshio Kasuya
- Nicholas Pilcher
- Kanjana Adulyanukosol, Thailand
- Almeida Guissamulo, Mozambique
- Lem Aragones, Philippines
- Kumaran Sathasivam, India

Membership Drive

We must look for

- New Members from each member country (at least 2 from each country)
- Plus invited members who have worked in the region
- Need to meet the criteria (qualification and experience)
- Process involves,
 - Nomination/selection
 - Invitation
 - Agreeing to join

Countries of Indian Ocean

- Not limited to
 - Arabian Region
 - East and Northern Africa
 - India Ocean, Indo-pacific up to Japan

