



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

Distr: General
CMS/Dugong/SS2/Doc.12

22 January 2012

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

ALLIANCES, SYNERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Background

1. The Dugong MOU is the primary platform for the global and regional conservation and management of dugongs. It is therefore important to ensure that the MOU's activities are coordinated and integrated with, as well as being complementary to other global and regional activities. The MOU also recognises that there are other international and regional instruments, policies and strategies relevant to the conservation of dugong.
2. There are potential alliances and synergies to be found in linkages with other Conventions and Programmes, and within the CMS family. Such alliances and synergies have the potential to increase effective conservation and development action by combining effort and resources into locations that have issues common to the conservation of dugong and other species.
3. The purpose of this document is to draw to Signatories' attention the potential benefits of alliances, synergies and complementary activities between the Dugong MOU and other international and regional instruments and to give consideration to how the synergies of these instruments are considered and discussed in future meetings.
4. This document is directly interlinked with the following two meeting documents: Doc.11. which presents in detail how current and future collaborations contribute to dugong conservation; and Doc.14 which provides further information on directions required to achieve planned collaboration in future.

Collaboration with other UN Conventions

5. As noted by representatives during SS1, overarching synergies are found in the commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the CBD lead partner in the global conservation of migratory species over their entire range. A number of Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹ have relevance to the Dugong MOU in terms of both dugongs and their habitats, such as:

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

6. Dugong MOU Programme Officer, Dr. Donna Kwan attended the CBD Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Focus on examination of associated indicators, held in Muscat, Oman, 27 – 30 August 2012. The session on mainstreaming the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity across the biodiversity-related conventions in Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), co-facilitated by Dr. Donna Kwan, aimed to examine synergies between MEAs and pathways to enhance information flow between focal points of different MEAs.
7. In order to enhance future collaboration on issues of mutual concern, a Joint Work Programme between CMS and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was formally adopted at the CITES 62nd Standing Committee Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 23-27 July 2012². Point B18 states of the CMS and CITES Joint Work Programme refers to dugong conservation:

For other species, such as sturgeons, the South American fur seal and the dugong: continue discussions in order to assess how CMS and CITES could best add value to the conservation status of the species, through for example: community management of resources, non-detrimental trade and sustainable use, and monitoring emerging threats such as climate change.

8. The objectives of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (presented under Agenda Item 11.2) correspond to the point above. Therefore, the Dugong MOU Secretariat plans to cooperate with the CBD and CITES in order to broaden the geographical scope of the project, to include other key countries through supplementary fundraising.

Collaboration between Related CMS agreements

9. The Secretariat continues to work to create greater linkages and synergies with the CMS family consistent with the request from CMS COP9 (Resolution 9.9 on Marine Migratory Species, December 2008) to consider options such as promoting joint priorities, the sharing of technical expertise and resources and holding joint meetings between species agreements, if appropriate.
10. Of the 26 agreements (CMS Art IV, paragraphs 3 and 4) operating under the framework of CMS, those with most potential for linkages and synergies include: MOU on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Indian Ocean South East Asia (IOSEA); the MOU on Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in The Pacific Islands Region; MOU concerning the Conservation of Manatees and Small Cetaceans of West Africa and Macaronesia; and the MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks.

² http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/38th_stc_meeting/doc_03_cms_cites_jwp_e.pdf

11. As an example of joint representation of two MOUs, West African Manatees were profiled at the S.O.S Event: Save our Sirenians – Dugongs and West African Manatees, 27 February 2012 (see: Doc.10). The Dugong MOU bycatch survey has also recently been adapted to address information gaps for manatees in the Caribbean.
12. The Secretariat has actively sought to address synergies between the bycatch of dugongs and other marine wildlife including marine turtles and cetaceans, such as through the proposed North-West Indian Ocean regional workshop on Addressing Net Fishery Bycatch in the Gulf (see: Doc.10). The need for greater attention on this issue, particularly on bycatch caught by gillnetting, was reinforced by CMS Resolution 10.14 (Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries) at CMS COP10, where an assessment of bycatch by gillnet fisheries was also presented (CMS Inf.10.30).
13. CMS COP10 outcomes relevant to the Dugong MOU, including collaboration between the Dugong MOU and other relevant CMS agreements, are further presented in Annex I.
14. CMS Secretariat has established a Strategic Plan Working Group, in order to guide possible alliances, synergies and complementary activities between CMS and other Conventions and Programmes. Further information on future Strategic Plan for Migratory Species is available in Annex II.

Collaboration with other Conventions or Programmes

15. CMS and the Ramsar Convention Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 was endorsed by the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee preceding CMS COP10 in November 2011, and approved by Ramsar COP11. The Dugong MOU Secretariat envisages collaborating with the Ramsar Convention on elaboration and implementation of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, as stated in the point 3.1 of Joint Work Plan.
16. IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Sirenia Specialist Group³ is a science-based worldwide network of approximately 50 volunteer experts. A number of experts of the IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group are involved as technical advisors in Dugong MOU projects, while Dugong MOU Programme Officer, Dr. Donna Kwan, acts as IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group Regional Co-Chair of the Pacific Ocean region. This facilitates flow of information between IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group and Dugong MOU Secretariat.
17. Agenda Item 12.1 suggests how synergies between IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group and Dugong MOU can be even more utilized in future.
18. The Dugong MOU Secretariat collaborates with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)⁴ on promotion of Dugong MOU activities, alongside with the activities of other relevant CMS MOUs, such as MOU on the Conservation of the Migratory Sharks and MOU on the Conservation of the Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region.
19. SPREP and CMS have developed a Joint Action Plan and have appointed Ms. Penina Solomona as a Convention on Migratory Species Pacific Officer to coordinate the various activities in the Pacific region with the interest to CMS, such as capacity building, awareness raising about CMS, and recruitment of new MOU Signatories.
20. The Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan was implemented through the SPREP Regional Dugong Action Plan 2008-2012⁵. Synergy has been created through having a common goal –

³ IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group covers following 6 regions/countries: Indian Ocean (East Africa, Arabian Region and Asia, Pacific Ocean (Australia and Pacific Islands), United States, Meso-America, South America, and West Africa.

⁴ SPREP covers the following 26 countries: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

⁵ <http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Legal/marinespeciesprog.pdf>

conservation of dugongs and their habitats – and will be further advanced with recently published Regional Dugong Action Plan 2013 – 2017⁶.

21. UNEP Regional Office for West Asia⁷ (UNEP/ROWA) facilitates a number of Dugong MOU activities in the countries of West Asia Region. UNEP/ROWA promotes Dugong MOU, alongside with the other CMS Agreements, in relevant UN Conventions' conferences, workshops and meetings in West Africa region. Also, Dugong MOU activities are communicated regularly through UNEP/ROWA Newsletter and networks.
22. At the 13th Meeting of the Arab Work Team for following up the International Environmental Conventions on Desertification and Biodiversity held 16 – 18 September 2012, the UNEP/ROWA committed to cooperate with the Dugong MOU Secretariat to fundraise mainly for *Addressing Net Fishery By-catch in the Gulf* project (see: Doc.10), and possibly, for other projects. This meeting also confirmed the further need for joint community education and awareness raising to introduce alternative methods of fishing and other livelihoods in the West Asia Region.

Regional Coordination

23. The Signatories may wish to identify specific international and regional instruments and give consideration to how the synergies of these instruments are considered and discussed in future meetings.
24. There are also a number of additional initiatives that can be reported and considered at this meeting including increasing collaboration between related CMS agreements.

Action requested

The Meeting is requested to:

- a) Note the existing linkages between CMS MOUs and other international and regional instruments, policies and strategies affecting dugongs and the importance of increasing the effectiveness of these linkages to maximize the impact of combined efforts on dugong conservation, and to avoid potential conflicts between different instruments.
- b) Seek any clarification that might be necessary.
- c) Provide advice on other possible initiatives and opportunities to improve linkages and synergies with other UN Convention, other international and regional instruments or initiatives as well as within the CMS family the possibilities of collaboration between CMS MOUs, alliances and partnerships.
- d) Provide advice on the progressing a work plan with IUCN SSC Sirenia Species Specialist Group (presented under Agenda Item 12.1).
- e) Request the Secretariat to regularly report on the progress of alliances, synergies and complementary activities at future meetings, maintaining an agenda item specifically focusing on this area of MOU development.
- f) Given that many of the prioritized activities concern the entire CMS Family, including Signatories to the Dugong MoU, the Meeting is invited to take note of the provisions included in the CMS Resolutions and to engage with their implementation as appropriate.

⁶ http://sprep.org/attachments/Publications/PI_Reg_Mar_Spec_Prog_2013_2017.pdf

⁷ UNEP/ROWA covers the following 12 countries: the Mashriq sub-region (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Syria) and the Arabian Peninsula sub-region consisting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) and Yemen.