



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

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CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FUTURE FUNDING

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Purpose

1. This report is divided into two main areas of financial activity – one covering the four-year period since the Second Meeting of Signatories (MOS2) to the Dugong MOU (1 January 2013 – 31 December 2016) and a second looking ahead for a period of three years (1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019).

Dugong MOU Secretariat: Operating costs and expenditures (1 January 2013 – 31 December 2016)

2. Since establishment in August 2009, the Secretariat of the Dugong MOU has been generously funded by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) via a Donor Agreement signed between EAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

3. The Dugong MOU Secretariat is located within CMS Office - Abu Dhabi, an out-posted office of the CMS Secretariat, alongside the Coordinating Unit of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU). Hosted by EAD at their headquarters building, the Secretariat is fortunate to be operating from modern accommodation equipped with computers, telephones, mail and courier services, printing and photocopying facilities, wireless internet and associated IT support. These facilities are additional to the financial contribution provided for in the Donor Agreement and are very kindly provided by EAD.

4. At present (January 2017), the Secretariat is led by a Programme Management Officer and supported by one general staff member (Finance/Administrative Assistant) whose time is shared with the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU and CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. A dedicated Associate Programme Management Officer (Marine) provided support to the Secretariat during 2013–2014. This post is currently vacant due to funding constraints, however, an Associate Programme Management Officer now provides support to both the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU and the Dugong MOU Secretariat. The Executive Coordinator of CMS Office - Abu Dhabi allocates approximately one-third of his time to Dugong MOU-related issues. In addition four consultants have been recruited as temporary assistants to support the Secretariat for varying periods during the intersessional period between MOS2 and MOS3. Since MOS2, CMS Office - Abu Dhabi has hosted four interns to provide administrative support. It is planned that interns will continue to be regularly recruited for periods of 3-6 months.

5. A summary of expenditures between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2016 is presented in Table 1 (Annex 1).

Programme activities

6. The Secretariat commissioned and managed a number of activities, including meetings, projects and consultants during the reporting period.

7. In 2013 the Secretariat organised MOS2 (19-20 February) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project International Workshop (21-22 February) in Manila, Philippines using core funding provided under the Donor Agreement with EAD.

8. To facilitate the promotion of key dugong initiatives and projects, the Secretariat supported the sixth International Sirenian Symposium in Dunedin, New Zealand on 7 December 2015 via a small grant.

9. To facilitate the implementation of key dugong conservation projects and activities, and build capacity to implement the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) through the Dugong Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (DSCC Initiative), the Secretariat entered into the following contracts for small grants using core funding provided under the Donor Agreement with EAD:

- **Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Action Plan for Trang Province:** support for the development of a Trang Action Plan. Contractor: Save Andaman Network Foundation. November 2013 – September 2015, total cost USD 10,000.¹
- **Dugong Conservation Incentive Programme project:** support for the development and implementation of a pilot incentive programme in Trang, Thailand. Contractor: Advanced Conservation Strategies. January 2014 – November 2014, total cost USD 20,690.¹
- **Development of an Incentive-based Model and LMMA-based Management Approach for Conservation of Dugongs and Seagrass Ecosystems in Myanmar project:** support for a scoping field trip to identify sites for ecotourism ventures. Contractor: Blue Ventures. February 2014 – April 2014, total cost USD 5,000.
- **Increasing Conservation Capacity in Tamil Nadu project:** support to improve conservation capacity through seagrass assessments and an education and awareness programme. Contractor: OMCAR. March 2014 – January 2015, total cost USD 5,500.
- **Conservation of Dugongs and Seagrass Habitats project:** support to implement activities that contribute to the conservation of dugongs and seagrasses, and to the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, including communications and administrative support, and technical support for the GEF Project Inception Workshop. Contractor: Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. April 2015 – September 2015, total cost USD 29,832.²
- **Dugong Conservation Project, Trang:** support to undertake dugong conservation activities identified in the Trang Action Plan. Contractor: Save Andaman Network Foundation. August 2015 – November 2015, total cost USD 10,000.¹
- **Conservation of Dugongs and Seagrass Habitats project:** support to implement activities that contribute to dugong and seagrass conservation including the provision of administrative support to the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Project and fundraising for dugong and seagrass conservation. Contractor: Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. September 2015 – September 2016, total cost USD 29,000.²
- **Conservation of Dugongs and Seagrass Habitats project:** support for a technical workshop that contributes to dugong and seagrass conservation and the successful delivery of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. Contractor: Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. September 2015 – January 2016, total cost USD 14,500.²

¹ South East Andaman Community Tourism and Seagrass Initiative (Trang Incentive Project).

² Co-financing for GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

10. To facilitate delivery of its work plan, the Secretariat recruited the following temporary consultants during the reporting period:

Title	Period	Cost
Team Associate (a)	January 2013 – June 2014	USD 67,054
Team Associate (b)	February 2013 – April 2014	USD 58,559
Team Associate (c)	July 2014 – March 2015	USD 31,370
Major Donor Fundraising Consultant	December 2014 – December 2015	USD 12,000
	Total cost of consultants	USD 168,983

Dugong MOU Secretariat: future funding (2017–2019)

11. In May 2016, EAD and UNEP signed a four year extension for the Donor Agreement for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi (2016–2019) which aims to provide continued core funding to coordinate both the Dugong and Raptors MOUs and maintain the operations of the Office. The Secretariat wishes to express its sincere gratitude to EAD for its long-standing ongoing and generous support.

12. Table 2 (Annex 1) presents an indicative budget for the Secretariat for the period 2017–2019, inclusive. It covers the costs of a fully functional Dugong MOU Secretariat and would support the implementation of key activities as outlined in the draft Programme of Work (CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.1). The indicative budget is derived from amounts agreed in the extended Donor Agreement for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. The actual contributions for 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be confirmed with EAD on an annual basis.

13. The Secretariat aims to continue to pursue a diverse range of financial and in-kind resources to build capacity in support of the implementation of the CMP via the draft Programme of Work.

Resource mobilisation to build capacity in support of the implementation of the CMP

14. The CMP is an integral part of the Dugong MOU, and as agreed by MOS2, the Secretariat will continue to work with Range States to build capacity to implement the CMP through the DSCC Initiative. The Secretariat has been proactive in dedicating staff time and investing financial resources provided by the Donor Agreement to mobilise additional financial and in-kind resources to build the capacity of dugong Range States to implement the CMP.

15. Over the four-year reporting period (1 January 2013 – 31 December 2016), the average annual expenditure of the Dugong MOU Secretariat on consultants, official missions, small grants, meetings (i.e. all expenditure excluding staff costs and overheads) was approximately USD 126,000 (Table 1, Annex 1). At minimum, mobilising USD 120,000 annually over the coming triennium is essential for the Secretariat to continue to support capacity building activities for Range States to implement the CMP.

Project Proposals and Grant Applications

16. To complement the core funding provided by the Donor Agreement with EAD, significant effort has been expended by the Secretariat to develop and submit Project Proposals and Grant Applications. A summary of these proposals is outlined below:

Proposal Title		Proposal submitted to	Amount sought
1	Gulf Action: A Dugong Conservation Programme	Occidental TOTAL	USD 1 million

Proposal Title		Proposal submitted to	Amount sought
2	Develop a Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative Pilot Project in the Philippines	SeaLife Conservation Fund	USD 7,468
3	Enhancing the conservation effectiveness of seagrass ecosystems supporting globally significant populations of dugongs across the Indian and Pacific ocean basins (GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project)	UNEP/GEF	USD 5.88 million
4	Ensuring sustainable livelihoods by increasing local capacity to manage and conserve seagrass ecosystems, their biodiversity and fish resources in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu*	GEF Small Grants Program	USD 77,315
5	Coastal communities and seagrass conservation initiative in Trang Province, Thailand*	Global Resilience Partnership	USD 197,786
6	Advancing Innovative Data Driven Incentive Solutions for Seagrass Ecosystems	Eye on Earth Alliance	USD 1.7 million
7	Improving Standardisation of and Access to Seagrass Biodiversity Data for Decision Making and Conservation	Eye on Earth Alliance	USD 985,000
8	Enhanced community engagement for sustainable management of the seagrasses of Trang Province and adjacent areas*	GEF Satoyama	USD 100,000
9	Incentivising the sustainable conservation, restoration, and management of globally important critical seagrass ecosystems, safeguarding food security and resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and conserving biodiversity	Man and Nature	USD 590,150
10	Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate	International Climate Initiative	USD 5,074,310
11	Ecotourism for dugong and seagrass conservation in Trang, Thailand*	Pacific Asia Travel Association	USD 15,000
12	Participatory tools and community designed business solutions for seagrass conservation*	Darwin Initiative	USD 375,000

* Proposal was not submitted by the Dugong MOU Secretariat. However, the Secretariat played a significant role in developing the proposal.

17. Of these project proposals, two were successful. The GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project commenced in January 2015. The Data Driven Incentive Solutions proposal submitted to Eye on Earth Alliance was also successful. However, in February 2016, the Alliance advised that they were not able to follow-up or assist in securing funding for the proposal as originally envisioned. As of 12 January 2017, the International Climate Initiative has not yet announced the successful Stage 1 applicants.

18. To complement and leverage the core funding provided by the Donor Agreement, significant effort by the Secretariat has been expended in developing and submitting grant applications to donors, in an increasingly uncertain and competitive environment for securing conservation funds. To date, only one proposal has been successful, as mentioned above.

19. Signatory States are encouraged to assess the efforts of the Secretariat required to fundraise and explore how to diversify the MOU's financial and in-kind resource base in order to complement EAD's investment and ensure that the Secretariat can continue to deliver the same level of high quality support that it has provided to Range States since 2009.

20. The Dugong MOU text provides a clear basis for diversifying resources. According to paragraph 10, Signatory States will: "Assess and [...] review periodically, the need for and possibilities of obtaining financial resources, as well as the establishment of a special fund for purposes such as: a. Contributing towards any expenses required to operate the Secretariat and activities carried out

under this Memorandum of Understanding; and b. Assisting the Signatory States to carry out their responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding.”

21. Following on from the discussions at MOS2, the Secretariat has identified for the consideration of Signatories, several additional non-mutually exclusive mechanisms to mobilise financial and in-kind resources under the MOU to build the capacity of Range States to implement the CMP and DSCC Initiative.

Ad-hoc voluntary contributions

22. The annual contribution from EAD has been the sole regular source of income for all programme activities under the Dugong MOU since the Secretariat was established in 2009. Over this time a total of approximately USD 4.1 million has been invested in the Dugong MOU by EAD on behalf of the Government of the UAE as core funding to promote international cooperation and support capacity building efforts.

23. To complement EAD’s annual investment Signatories, strategic partners and implementing partners are invited to consider making regular ad-hoc voluntary contributions to the MOU’s budget as part of their own annual financial planning mechanisms. Uncommitted contributions provide the most flexibility and would be allocated according to the priorities outlined in the draft Programme of Work 2017 – 2019 (CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.1). However, it is acknowledged that some Ranges States may wish to earmark their contributions to specific projects or initiatives. In this regard, the Secretariat would welcome advice from Signatories as to the type of project proposals most likely to attract their funding support keeping in mind the priorities for the coming triennium as outlined in the draft Programme of Work.

Voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale

24. An agreed annual budget for activities could be apportioned among Signatories according to an indicative scale. This approach was adopted by the CMS Indian Ocean - South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MOU at its Sixth Meeting of Signatories in January 2012.

25. As an example, Table 3 (Annex 2) provides an indicative annual voluntary contribution for each Signatory to the Dugong MOU in order to generate a value of USD 120,000 per annum. The figures have been calculated using the UN General Assembly Agreed Scale of Contributions (A/RES/70/245). The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has not been included in Table 3 because EAD already makes a generous annual contribution via the Donor Agreement.

26. Deriving the indicative voluntary contributions using the UN General Assembly Agreed Scale of Contributions results in large disparities in the suggested contribution for each Signatory State. To address this, the Dugong MOU Secretariat would suggest applying two rules to provide a more equitable annual voluntary contribution:

- a. First, following the practice adopted by other CMS instruments including the Convention, Raptors MOU and EUROBATS Agreement, the suggested maximum contribution per Signatory would be capped at 20% of the overall budget.
- b. Second, the minimum contribution be USD 2,275, meaning that any country that has an assessed contribution of less than USD 2,275 under the UN Scale would be asked to consider making a voluntary contribution of USD 2,275.

27. By applying these two rules to the UN Assessed Contributions, the Signatory States could mobilise USD 119,991 in funding for activities under the Programme of Work.

28. Voluntary contributions towards an agreed targeted amount based on an indicative scale (such as that suggested in Table 3) have the potential to mobilise a significant amount of financial resources with more predictability. However, as noted at MOS2, it is important to re-emphasise that any contribution would be voluntary. The UN Scale simply provides a well-established tool for assisting Signatories in their consideration of a possible amount to contribute.

29. Alternatively, Signatories could indicate how much they wish to contribute annually to achieve the agreed target. This would provide the Secretariat with a reliable basis on which to plan expenditure on programme activities.

30. In all cases the funds raised would be used to support activities in pursuit of the draft Programme of Work 2017 – 2019 (CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.1).

Concerted programme of fundraising

31. To date the Dugong MOU Secretariat has undertaken fundraising activities as part of its work programme. This activity is supported by the core budget provided under the Donor Agreement with EAD. However, as noted earlier, conservation funding is becoming increasingly competitive and developing large-scale project proposals is a resource-intensive activity.

32. During the last triennium a Major Donor Fundraising Consultant was hired on a short-term basis to support the Secretariat in developing large-scale project proposals. Recruiting a part or full-time consultant, or having the resources to recruit consultants with the relevant expertise as required, would create the capacity needed to establish a strategic programme of proposals, initiatives and corporate sponsorship requests aimed at securing six figure sums. This could supplement the Secretariat's limited human resource capacity while aiming to secure funding for more projects aimed at building capacity in Range States to implement the CMP. Financial resources to fund such a consultancy from the core budget provided by the Donor Agreement may not be available until 2018. In the interim voluntary contributions to support the fundraising programme would be needed. Based on previous costs, a contribution of approximately USD 15,000 (i.e. USD 5,000 per year over the coming triennium) would allow for a more concerted programme of fundraising to be undertaken.

In-kind contributions

33. In-kind contributions could be considered alongside, and complementary to, financial contributions. They could supplement the capacity of the Secretariat or could be directed towards Range States in project-related contexts. They may include donating equipment, professional, technical or administrative services or offering to loan staff free of charge to work with the Secretariat or on specific programme activities. Individuals selected would have the opportunity to gain unique experience and professional development opportunities whilst the parent organisation may benefit from the individual's increased skill set and knowledge. With modern communication technology, it is realistic to consider the option of working remotely, i.e. staff remaining based at the parent organisation in the home country and thus saving travel and accommodation costs associated with a posting to the Secretariat in Abu Dhabi.

34. In summary, regular financial and in-kind contributions from Signatories would complement the significant ongoing investments being made by EAD to the Dugong MOU's core budget. These contributions would enable the Secretariat to continue to build the capacity of Range States to implement the CMP and ensure the ongoing conservation of dugongs and their seagrass habitats. Voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale would provide the Secretariat with greater certainty than relying on ad-hoc approaches and would allow the continuation of the Secretariat's already robust capacity building activities over the coming triennium. This approach could be combined with one or more of the other mechanisms suggested.

35. The Secretariat requests Signatory States to affirm the need for regular financial and in-kind contributions to complement core funding provided by EAD and agree to voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale, or through one of the other mechanisms proposed above.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Warmly welcome and accept the very generous offer from EAD on behalf of the Government of the UAE to continue to fund the Secretariat for a further three years (until 31 December 2019).
- b) Acknowledge the need for regular financial and in-kind contributions to complement core funding.
- c) Agree to mobilise resources to raise a minimum of USD 120,000 per annum to support building capacity to implement the CMP, through voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale, or through one of the other mechanisms proposed above.
- d) Encourage Signatories, Range States, partners and stakeholders to work collaboratively to mobilise resources to enable the implementation of the CMP and other key initiatives highlighted in the draft Programme of Work 2017–2019.

Annex 1

Table 1: Summary of Expenditure of the Dugong MOU Secretariat 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2016 (US Dollars)

Dugong MOU	Budget Item	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
	Head of Unit, Executive Coordinator (P-5) (33%) ¹	93,546	71,687	104,713	89,073	359,019
	Programme Management Officer - Dugongs (P-4)	165,133	161,262	173,800	170,220	670,415
	Associate Marine Programme Officer (P-2) ²	94,680	71,312	-	-	165,992
	Associate Programme Officer (P-2) (50%) ³	-	-	-	71,470	71,470
	Admin and Finance Assistant (G-6) ⁴	-	-	-	-	-
	SUBTOTAL	353,359	304,261	278,513	330,763	1,266,896
	Consultants	89,202	57,326	22,455	-	166,983
	Travel on official mission	32,442	26,096	22,437	15,708	96,683
	Small grants	16,000	31,190	83,332	-	130,522
	Meetings	120,000	-	-	-	120,000
	Information management & material	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment (50%)	-	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
	SUBTOTAL	257,644	114,612	116,224	15,708	504,188
	TOTAL	611,003	418,873	394,737	346,471	1,771,084
	Programme Support Cost (PSC) (13%)	79,430	54,453	51,316	35,750	220,949
	GRAND TOTAL	690,433	473,326	446,053	382,221	1,992,033

¹ Position costs shared with Raptors MOU and CMS Office - Abu Dhabi.

² Position has been vacant since 2014 due to funding constraints.

³ Position costs shared with Raptors MOU.

⁴ Position funded by Project Support Costs administered by UNEP.

Table 2: Indicative Budget for the Dugong MOU Secretariat 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019¹ (US Dollars)

Dugong MOU	Budget Item	2017	2018	2019	Total
	Head of Unit, Executive Coordinator (P-5) (33%) ²	90,144	92,397	94,707	277,248
	Programme Management Officer - Dugongs (P-4)	173,640	177,097	180,640	531,377
	Associate Marine Programme Officer, (P-2) ³	-	149,854	153,600	303,454
	Associate Programme Management Officer (P-2) (50%) ⁴	71,580	-	-	71,580
	Admin and Finance Assistant (G-6) ⁵	-	-	-	-
	SUBTOTAL	335,364	419,348	428,947	1,183,659
	Consultants	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
	Travel on official mission	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
	Small grants	30,000	50,000	50,000	130,000
	Meetings	115,000	15,000	15,000	145,000
	Information management & material	-	-	-	-
	Equipment (50%)	-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
	SUBTOTAL⁶	200,000	120,000	120,000	440,000
	TOTAL	535,364	539,348	548,947	1,623,659
	Programme Support Cost (PSC) (13%)	69,597	70,115	71,363	211,075
	GRAND TOTAL	604,961	609,463	620,310	1,834,734

¹ Indicative budget is subject to core funding under the Donor Agreement and voluntary contributions.

² Position costs shared with Raptors MOU and CMS Office - Abu Dhabi.

³ Subject to the availability of funds.

⁴ Position costs shared with Raptors MOU.

⁵ Position funded by Project Support Costs administered by UNEP.

⁶ Annual expenditure in 2017 is higher than the average annual expenditure of USD 120,000 in 2018 and 2019 because of the costs associated with MOS3.

Annex 2

Table 3: Voluntary contributions based on an indicative scale (US Dollars)

Signatory ¹	Current UN Scale ²	Scale (adjusted to 100%)	UN Assessed Annual Contribution (US Dollars)	Revised Annual Contribution (US Dollars) ³
Australia	2.337	23.731	\$28,477	\$24,000
Bahrain	0.044	0.447	\$536	\$2,275
Bangladesh	0.01	0.102	\$122	\$2,275
Comoros	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Egypt	0.152	1.543	\$1,852	\$2,275
Eritrea	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
France (Mayotte and New Caledonia)	4.859	49.340	\$59,208	\$24,000
India	0.737	7.484	\$8,981	\$8,981
Kenya	0.018	0.183	\$219	\$2,275
Madagascar	0.003	0.030	\$37	\$2,275
Mozambique	0.004	0.041	\$49	\$2,275
Myanmar	0.01	0.102	\$122	\$2,275
Palau	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Papua New Guinea	0.004	0.041	\$49	\$2,275
Philippines	0.165	1.675	\$2,011	\$2,275
Saudi Arabia	1.146	11.637	\$13,964	\$13,964
Seychelles	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Somalia	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Sri Lanka	0.031	0.315	\$378	\$2,275
Sudan	0.01	0.102	\$122	\$2,275
Thailand	0.291	2.955	\$3,546	\$3,546
United Republic of Tanzania	0.01	0.102	\$122	\$2,275
Vanuatu	0.001	0.010	\$12	\$2,275
Yemen	0.01	0.102	\$122	\$2,275
TOTAL USD	-	100	\$120,000	\$119,991

¹ Owing to the generous ongoing core contribution by EAD on behalf of the Government of the UAE, the UAE is not included in this assessment.

² UN General Assembly, Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 23 December 2015, A/RES/70/245.

³ Contributions capped at 20% and a minimum contribution on USD 2,275 applied.