



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

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Third Meeting of Signatories | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 13-14 March 2017

REPORT OF THE DUGONG MOU SECRETARIAT

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Introduction

1. The CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MOU) came into effect on 31 October 2007. The Secretariat of the Dugong MOU is located in an out-posted office of the CMS Secretariat in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), together with the Coordinating Unit of the CMS Raptors MOU.
2. From its establishment in 2009, CMS Office - Abu Dhabi has been generously funded by Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the UAE. CMS Office - Abu Dhabi currently comprises four professional officers and one general staff member. Overseen by an Executive Coordinator, and supported by a Finance and Administrative Assistant, the Dugong MOU Secretariat is staffed by one Programme Management Officer. An Associate Programme Management Officer provided support during 2013-2014. The post currently remains vacant, and one Associate Programme Management Officer now provides support to both the Raptors Coordinating Unit and Dugong MOU Secretariat. In addition, four separate consultants have been recruited as temporary assistants for varying periods during the inter-sessional period between MOS2 and MOS3. Four interns also provided support to the Secretariat for periods varying from three to six months, from August 2014 until January 2017.

Status of Signatures

3. In March 2013, Saudi Arabia joined the MOU. At December 2016, the total number of Signatories to the Dugong MOU was 26, from a coverage area that encompasses 46 Range States.
4. During the last three years, the Secretariat has actively engaged to promote the Dugong MOU with non-signatory Range States including Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar and Timor-Leste. A database of official contacts within all non-signatory Range States has been maintained and recently updated.
5. The Programme Management Officer has written to key non-signatory Range States who have indicated interest to receive information about the benefits, entitlements and obligations associated with signing the Dugong MOU. The result of these efforts has been encouraging, with expressions of interest to sign the Dugong MOU received from Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste. Delegates of non-signatory Range States attending the Meeting as observers are invited to state their intention to sign the MOU at a future occasion.

National Focal Points

6. 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”.

7. To advise the Dugong MOU Focal Points, the Secretariat developed ‘Terms of Reference for Dugong MOU Focal Points’ that were adopted by MOS2 in 2013. The document sets out the function of the National Focal Points (NFPs) and provides information about the role of the Secretariat of the Dugong MOU. It is designed to promote efficient and effective contributions by NFPs to the operation of the MOU, and also to facilitate smooth and timely interactions between Signatories, through their Focal Points, and the Secretariat. Since MOS2, the document has been updated and is available as Annex 1 (‘Guidance for National Focal Points of the Dugong MOU’) to this report. The Secretariat urges Focal Points to utilise the Guidance for National Focal Points document.

8. In 2013, as part of ongoing capacity building activities, the CMS Secretariat published a useful ‘Manual for the National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments’¹. This Manual is available in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) and has been published online and in hard copy. The online version is equipped with hyperlinks that cross-reference relevant passages on a topic, practical examples and useful tips and has checklists at the end of every chapter, making it a very user-friendly online tool which the Dugong MOU National Focal Points would benefit from as well.

9. A list of current Focal Points designated by Signatories is available as Annex 2 to this report. Signatories with provisional Focal Points - Comoros, India, Palau, Sudan and Vanuatu - are urged to formally designate a NFP and to submit details of the nominated individual(s) at their earliest convenience. A National Focal Point Designation Form that can be used as a template is available as Annex 3 to this document. In the meantime, for Signatory States where a NFP has yet to be formally designated, the Secretariat will continue to communicate with those individuals whose details are held in its database of official contacts.

10. If Signatories change their NFPs, contact details of the replacement person should be communicated to the Dugong MOU Secretariat without delay so as to ensure use of the most appropriate communication channels. The list of NFPs is kept up-to-date by the Secretariat and is planned to be published on the Dugong MOU webpage footer under Contacts > National Focal Points.

Communications

11. Since MOS2, the Dugong MOU Secretariat has communicated with Signatories, non-signatory Range States, stakeholders and other interested parties primarily via email. The Secretariat has also engaged in numerous bilateral communications relating to the Dugong MOU and its implementation. On a sub-regional level, the Secretariat continues to work to establish direct contacts with regional organisations across the Range States including the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat (GCC), Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) and Secretariat for the Regional Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP).

12. The Dugong MOU webpages² are hosted as part of the CMS Family website. In 2014, the CMS Family website received a major overhaul in terms of its structure and design, and as a result, the Dugong MOU webpages have been renewed as well. The Secretariat actively contributed to the redesign process. The Dugong MOU webpage remains the Secretariat’s main outlet through which it regularly communicates its activities and other news.

13. The Secretariat collaborates with the CMS Family Joint Communications Team in relation to press releases, web stories and social media postings. Recently, new internal protocols were

¹ www.cms.int/en/publication/manual-national-focal-points-cms-instruments

² www.cms.int/dugong

developed by the CMS Secretariat to improve communication working practices for all instruments within the CMS Family.

14. The Secretariat also enjoys close collaboration with the Environmental Information Science and Outreach Management section of EAD, along with EAD's Public Relations section. By working closely with EAD, the Secretariat is able to leverage EAD's communications and outreach resources, increase the MOU's visibility and promote collaboration on dugong and seagrass conservation in the region.

15. During the development of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, the Secretariat envisioned a website to act as a clearing-house for all 46 range states to promote conservation efforts of dugongs and their seagrass habitats. The establishment of the GEF 5-Project website³ by the Project Coordination team was a major communications achievement during this reporting period. The website is dedicated to promoting dugong and seagrass conservation with a particular focus on the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, but it is being used by other range states as well. The website has been very well received and has already catalysed interest from various potential donors and strategic partners. The Secretariat contributes content to the website and is working with the GEF-5 Project Coordination Team to ensure that it serves as a legacy to the GEF-5 project while continuing to provide an important resource for dugong and seagrass conservation globally after the GEF-5 Project concludes in 2018.

16. The Dugong MOU Secretariat has also produced outreach material such as a poster and a fact sheet on the Dugong MOU to the Marine Environment Day in Dubai (October 2014), two dugong infographics and a banner for the Volvo Ocean Race in Abu Dhabi (December 2014), two infographics for the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (June 2016); and a summary fact sheet⁴ on the Dugong MOU has been published on the MOU's webpage (October 2014). The Dugong MOU Secretariat wishes to thank the photographers who have graciously given their photos for use free of charge, especially Mandy Etpison, Fergus Kennedy, Len McKenzie, and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD).

17. In addition, the Secretariat continued to communicate its activities in different journals and magazines such as the Sirenews and biannual Newsletter of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group. A list of publications that the Secretariat contributed to, including interviews of the Programme Officer, is available at Annex 4. Also, a number of UAE-based and international newspapers featured articles referring to the Dugong MOU Secretariat during this reporting period.

Meetings, representation and outreach

18. Since MOS2, the Dugong MOU Secretariat has organized, co-organized or contributed to the following official international meetings (listed in chronological order):

- **GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project International Workshop** – to review progress towards developing the Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request, held in Manila, the Philippines (February 2013)
- **Workshop on Addressing Bycatch of Marine Megafauna in the Gulf**, held in Dubai, UAE (March 2014)
- **Dugong and Seagrass Workshop** – to explore the development of the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit (E-Resource Kit) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (September 2015)
- **GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Inception Workshop** – the first meeting of all GEF Project Partners and technical advisors after the project was endorsed, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (October 2015)

³ www.dugongconservation.org

⁴ www.cms.int/dugong/en/publication/factsheet-cms-dugong-mou

- **Meeting of the Dugong Technical Group** – to seek guidance and advice from technical advisors on major activities for Dugong MOU held in Bangkok, Thailand (February 2016).

19. In addition, the Secretariat has hosted frequent (sometimes several per week) online teleconferences, normally via Skype, with representatives of the Dugong Technical Group, project partners, consultants and other stakeholders.

20. Over the past four years, the Secretariat has actively promoted the Dugong MOU at over 40 international and local meetings and events, as detailed in Annex 5 (in chronological order).

On-going and Core Activities

21. In 2014 changes agreed with EAD to the funding arrangements and reporting cycle for CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to a calendar year basis resulted in a corresponding shift in the Secretariat's annual Work Plan which now runs from 1 January to 31 December (instead of the previous cycle which ran from 1 July to 30 June in the following year). Accordingly, MOS3 falls in the first quarter of the current 2016-2017 Work Plan.

22. The key conservation initiatives on which the Secretariat is either leading or actively engaged are presented under Agenda Item 11.2 (CMS/Dugong/MOS3/11.2). Looking ahead, the Programme of Work to Support the Implementation of the CMS Dugong MOU 2017-2019, of which a draft is presented in CMS/Dugong/MOS3/12.1, will be shaped by the outcomes and deliberations by Signatories during MOS3. However, some core activities can already be identified which are either ongoing or will continue to demand attention, notably:

- Operating the Secretariat to provide efficient, effective and timely support to Signatories (and non-signatory Range States) to promote and assist the implementation of the Dugong MOU and associated Conservation and Management Plan;
- Coordinating the implementation of the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities (DSCC) Initiative (see in CMS/Dugong/MOS3/11.2), which includes technical support to, for example, the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project; the Trang Community Tourism Initiative;
- Supporting the uptake and use of conservation tools developed and/or identified by the Dugong MOU Secretariat, including the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit;
- Providing administrative support to technical advisors of the Dugong Technical Group, including organizing face-to-face meetings during the intersessional period between MOS3 and MOS4, subject to resources being available;
- Ensuring that threats to dugongs are mainstreamed and properly addressed within other cross-cutting marine-related initiatives at regional level and those being led globally by the CMS Secretariat, such as: CMS Resolution 10.14 Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries⁵; CMS Resolution 11.25 Advancing Ecological Networks to Address the Needs of Migratory Species⁶; and CMS Resolution 11.31 Fighting Wildlife Crime and Offences within and beyond Borders⁷; and impact of aquatic bushmeat on CMS-listed species⁸; and
- Working with the CMS Secretariat to maintain, further develop and enhance the Dugong MOU website as a key source of information of relevance to Signatories, Range States and other stakeholders. In addition, the Dugong MOU Secretariat is actively working with the

⁵ www.cms.int/en/document/bycatch-cms-listed-species-gillnet-fisheries

⁶ www.cms.int/en/document/advancing-ecological-networks-address-needs-migratory-species-0

⁷ www.cms.int/en/document/fighting-wildlife-crime-and-offences-within-and-beyond-borders

⁸ www.cms.int/en/document/aquatic-bushmeat

Mohammed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to provide content to the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project website and promoting it on the Dugong MOU webpage.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note this report.
- b) Provide feedback to the Secretariat on the channel, quality and frequency of their communications.
- c) Urge Dugong MOU Focal Points to use the updated 'Guidance for National Focal Points of the Dugong MOU'.
- d) Urge Comoros, India, Palau, Sudan and Vanuatu to nominate a National Focal Point and to supply details to the Secretariat forthwith by 1 May 2017.
- e) Encourage Range States and the dugong and seagrass conservation community to utilise the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project website to share important dugong and seagrass conservation information and initiatives.

Annex 1

Guidance for National Focal Points of the Dugong MOU (as at December 2016)

Introduction

Paragraph 8 of the Dugong MOU states that each Signatory State will: “Designate 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.”

This Guidance has been developed to provide advice for current and future National Focal Points (NFPs) of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MOU). The document sets out the function of NFPs, as well as providing information about the role of the Secretariat of the Dugong MOU. This Guidance is designed to promote efficient and effective contributions by NFPs to the operation and implementation of the Dugong MOU, and also to facilitate smooth and timely interactions between Signatories (through their NFPs) and the Secretariat.

The working language of the Dugong MOU is English, and therefore it is necessary that the NFP is able to communicate in English.

Role of the Dugong MOU Secretariat

The Dugong MOU Secretariat operates from an outposted CMS Office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, hosted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Programme Management Officer for dugongs leads the Secretariat, which comprises a small team of supporting staff. The Secretariat acts as the liaison point for all matters relating to the Dugong MOU, and is the central coordinating body for all MOU-related activities.

A key aim of the Secretariat is to develop a mutually beneficial relationship between the NFPs and the Secretariat. In support of this goal, it commits to:

- Providing regular updates to NFPs on developments within the Dugong MOU;
- Forwarding CMS Notifications considered of particular interest to Signatories and/or Range States of the Dugong MOU (e.g. upcoming workshops, calls for CMS or other grant applications, etc.);
- Circulating and/or publishing news stories or other relevant items (e.g. national workshops, training courses, new publications, etc.) submitted by NFPs on the Dugong MOU website;
- Acting as a liaison point for Signatories to assist communication, encourage reporting and facilitate activities between and among Signatories and other Range States and interested organisations;
- Providing technical advice or assisting in locating an appropriate source of specialist expertise relating to dugong or seagrass and their conservation;
- Listening to the views of NFPs and responding or sharing such information, as appropriate;
- Being available, on request, to offer advice and clarification on any aspect of the Dugong MOU;
- Arranging Meetings of Signatories (MOS), and other meetings or workshops on an ad-hoc basis;
- Preparing an overview of progress in implementation of the Dugong MOU, including the Conservation and Management Plan, at Meetings of Signatories;
- Compiling and making available to all Signatories and other Range States the national and international progress reports provided for in Paragraph 9 of the MOU.

Functions of National Focal Points

National Focal Points play a crucial role by acting as a link between the Secretariat and the responsible institutions in the country that they represent, by ensuring and maintaining a timely constant two-way flow of information. Ideally, the appointed NFP should be based within the relevant Ministry or responsible agency competent for dugong conservation in their country. The following non-exhaustive list details some appropriate functions for the National Focal Point.

Ongoing functions:

1. Arrange formal confirmation of the appointment by obtaining and submitting to the Secretariat an official communication from the Minister or appropriately authorized Government official, including full contact details. A Focal Point Designation Form can be obtained from the Secretariat on request. Any change of NFP or contact details should be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible after it takes place;
 2. Inform the Secretariat as soon as possible about any changes in the key personnel responsible for specific matters relating to dugongs and their habitats, so that the Secretariat can ensure that all relevant communications are targeted appropriately;
 3. Consider establishing a National Dugong Committee, network or an alternative means of regularly exchanging information to bring together representatives of relevant Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders, including research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector (such as tourism authorities, fishing companies, etc.). This will help to promote synergies and strengthen national liaison as well as avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts in terms of dugong and its habitat conservation and the implementation of the Dugong MOU.
- 3bis. Work towards mainstreaming the conservation of dugongs and their habitats into the country's biodiversity planning processes.
4. Check the CMS (www.cms.int) and the Dugong MOU (www.cms.int/dugong) websites regularly to keep informed of developments and updates, and share with the Secretariat key national achievements and actions towards the implementation of the Dugong MOU, as well as any other activities related to the conservation of dugongs and their habitats;
 5. Transmit and share information relating to the Dugong MOU as widely as possible within the country, via an established network of contacts (see point 3 above);
 6. Respond to requests for information from the Secretariat in a timely manner, including by seeking and coordinating contributions from relevant specialists within the established network of contacts.

Functions related to Meetings and Workshops:

7. Work to ensure that the country is represented at official meetings of the Dugong MOU, such as the MOS or workshops, by: coordinating in a timely manner the nomination of the delegation; securing and submitting credentials; and, applying for funding, if applicable and needed;

8. Hold consultations with relevant institutions and individuals in advance of meetings to discuss the Provisional Agenda and any other documents which may be circulated by the Secretariat in advance;
9. Coordinate the country's inputs for meetings, which may include developing a policy stance, drafting implementation reports including information on dugong conservation and management actions, results of scientific research, threats encountered, etc.;
10. Upon request, give presentations at meetings describing recent national activities at the strategic, tactical and/or practical levels, and/or other relevant updates;
11. Oversee the compilation of a National Report, to be finalised and submitted at least 60 days prior to a MOS to enable the Secretariat to prepare an overall synthesis of the implementation progress of the Dugong MOU;
12. Ensure that any proposed draft recommendations for consideration by the MOS or amendments to the Dugong MOU or the Conservation and Management Plan are submitted to the Secretariat at least 150 days prior to a MOS. National Focal Points are expected to consult widely with interested parties, including via their established network of contacts (see paragraph 3 – above), when preparing or commenting on such documents;
13. Where possible, hold internal discussions prior to a MOS, inter alia, in order to explore possible sources of funding that their Government or outside organisations may be able to offer for the Dugong MOU;
14. Follow-up on requests made after meetings by the Secretariat (e.g. commenting on meeting minutes, promoting revision of meeting reports, provision of inputs on proposed Resolutions, etc.) within the designated time-frame;
15. Ensure that the outcomes of meetings are shared with the country's national network, and discuss and initiate the implementation at a national level of any decisions taken, if appropriate;
16. Initiate the internal process required to secure any financial or in-kind contributions volunteered at meetings;
17. Continue dialogue with regional and/or other partners after meetings with a view to implementing any projects and collaborative activities agreed upon during, for example, regional discussions;
18. Any other relevant function that the Signatory State may authorize the NFP to undertake.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Head of the Dugong MOU Secretariat:

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Annex 2

National Focal Points of the Dugong MOU designated by the 26 Signatories
(as at December 2016)

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Annex 3

Signatory State Focal Point Designation Form

Recalling Point 8 of the text of the above-mentioned MOU, each Signatory State has agreed to:

“Designate 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.”

I hereby designate the following person as the Focal Point for purposes of communicating with the Dugong MOU Secretariat and other Signatories:

Family name: **First name:**

Title/Function:

Department:

Organisation:

Full postal address:

.....

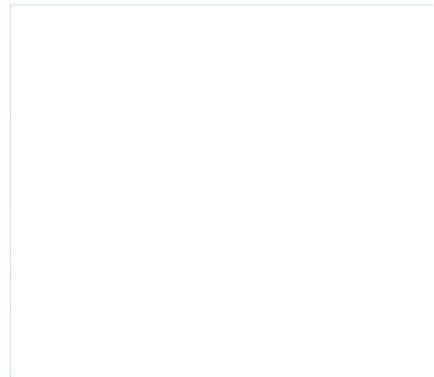
Tel.: **Mobile:**

Fax:

E-mail:.....

Date:

Signature:



(Stamp of Ministry)⁹

Name:

(Minister responsible for nature conservation and/or biodiversity)

⁹ This document must bear a stamp or be printed on headed notepaper, in order to unambiguously indicate that it has been issued by the appropriate authority.

Annex 4

CMS Dugong MOU Media Contributions

- News from the Secretariat to the UNEP/CMS Dugong MOU, Sirenews – Newsletter of the IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group, Number 60 (October 2013)¹⁰
- How Abu Dhabi is saving the dugong, Gulf News (27 March 2014)¹¹
- Illegal drift nets killing Abu Dhabi's dugongs, The National (4 March 2015)¹²
- A gentle giant struggling for survival, Island Life (18 February 2016)¹³
- Abstracts [from presentations at the 7th International Sirenian Symposium], Sirenews, Number 65 (April 2016)¹⁴.
- Save the Dugong, Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, Newsletter # 3 (May 2016)¹⁵
- On the brink: Dugongs, Scuba Diver Australasia, Issue 05/2016 (September 2016)¹⁶
- Discovering Vanuatu's Dugongs, Scuba Diver Australasia Issue 05/2016 (September 2016)¹⁷
- Upcoming: Third Meeting of Signatories, Sirenews – Newsletter of the IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group, Issue 66 (October 2016)¹⁸
- On the brink of extinction: Only 100 dugongs left in Malaysia, Astro Awani (2 November 2016)¹⁹
- Fisheries department calls for MOU on dugong conservation, The Sun Daily (2 November 2016)²⁰
- There are only 100 dugongs left in Malaysia, and they're on the verge of extinction, Rojak Daily (3 November 2016)²¹

Items published on the Dugong MOU Website > News²²:

- Twenty-Six Countries Meet to Progress Sea Cow and Seagrass Conservation (20 February 2013)
- Saudi Arabia Signs Dugong MOU (3 March 2013)
- The Sixth International Sirenian Symposium (7 December 2013)
- North-west Indian Ocean Experts meet to Identify Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (28 April 2015)
- Dr Donna Kwan Awarded James Cook University 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award (8 September 2015)
- An Experimental Success: Entanglement & Stranding Response Training in Oman (19 November 2015)
- CMS Participates in the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016 (15 February 2016)
- WIOMSA Dugong Project Going Strong (15 February 2016)
- Dugong Technical Group Meeting Held in Bangkok (18 February 2016)
- Revised Dugong Questionnaire Survey & Upload File and New Short Questionnaire Available (28 February 2016)
- Exploring Synergies for Addressing Bycatch throughout the CMS Family (3 May 2016)

¹⁰ ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00099157/00060

¹¹ gulfnews.com/gn-focus/country-guides/reports/abu-dhabi/how-abu-dhabi-is-saving-the-dugong-1.1308081

¹² www.thenational.ae/uae/environment/illegal-drift-nets-killing-abu-dhabis-dugongs

¹³ www.islandlifemag.com/island-life-magazine/a-gentle-giant-struggling-for-survival/

¹⁴ <http://sea2shore.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Sirenews-65-4.16.pdf>

¹⁵ www.dugongconservation.org/media/2016/08/Dugong-and-Seagrass-Newsletter-2016-3.pdf

¹⁶ www.uw360.asia/scuba-diver-australasia-issue-052016/

¹⁷ www.uw360.asia/scuba-diver-australasia-issue-052016/

¹⁸ sea2shore.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Sirenews-66_FINAL.pdf

¹⁹ english.astroawani.com/malaysia-news/brink-extinction-only-100-dugongs-left-malaysia-121301

²⁰ www.thesundaily.my/news/2047496

²¹ www.rojakdaily.com/news/article/1220/there-are-only-100-dugongs-left-in-malaysia-and-they-re-on-the-verge-of-extinction

²² www.cms.int/dugong/en/news/

- The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Launches New Website (21 May 2016)
- Training Opportunity: Health Assessment for Marine Endangered Species (31 May 2016)
- United Arab Emirates Has Joined CMS! (1 July 2016)
- Dugong MOU Signatory States to Meet to Discuss Dugong and Seagrass Conservation in March 2017 (22 September 2016)
- Seagrass and Dugong Technical Workshop to be held in March 2017 in Abu Dhabi (13 October 2016)

Annex 5

CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat Representation and Outreach

1. Meetings with Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation and GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project national project partners to follow up finalising national proposals for the GEF-5 Project Document, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (March 2013);
2. Meeting of the technical advisors and consultants to review the Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, held in London, United Kingdom (May 2013);
3. CMS Family Retreat in Bonn, Germany (June 2013);
4. Meetings with Thailand Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, IUCN Asia Regional Office, UNDP Thailand, CMS Indian Ocean South-East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MOU Secretariat, Trang Provincial Government, and key local NGOs to discuss a pilot project (to trial incentive tools) to help address the present high level of dugong mortality in gill nets in Trang Province, held in Bangkok and Trang, Thailand (July 2013);
5. Meetings with India Ministry of Environment and Forests, and key NGOs to discuss a pilot project (to trial incentive tools) to help address the high level dugong mortality in gill nets in Tamil Nadu, held in New Delhi, Chennai, and Tamil Nadu, India (August 2013);
6. Regional Symposium: Ecosystem Approaches to the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Marine Biodiversity in the Asian Region, held in Kochi, India (October 2013);
7. 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress, including World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Workshop on Site Networks for Marine Mammals/ Workshop for the Development of Important Marine Mammal Areas, held in Marseille, France (October 2013);
8. Technical and consultative meetings with Trang Dugong Conservation Working Group, held in Trang, Thailand (November 2013);
9. 6th International Sirenian Symposium, held in Dunedin, New Zealand (December 2013);
10. 20th Biennial Marine Mammal Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, held in Dunedin, New Zealand (December 2013);
11. Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF Marine Turtle Conservation Project Stakeholders Workshop, held in Dubai, UAE (March 2014);
12. IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Site Network Meeting, held in Dubai, UAE (March 2014);
13. Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Workshop, held in Vishakhapatnam, India (May 2014);
14. Trang Incentive Pilot Project site visit and Meeting of the Trang Dugong Conservation Working Group, held in Trang, Thailand (May 2014);
15. Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Conference: Systematic Conservation Planning Marine Megafauna Symposium, held in Suva, Fiji (July 2014);
16. International Whaling Commission Workshop on Mitigation and Management of the Threats posed by Marine Debris to Cetaceans, held in Honolulu, Hawaii (August 2014);
17. 3rd Regional Conference for the Society of Conservation Biology – Asia Section, held in Melaka, Malaysia (August 2014);
18. Meeting to discuss the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (website development, technical support, recruitment of coordinator), held in London, United Kingdom (September 2014);
19. Marine Environment Day, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (October 2014);
20. EAD Dugong and Fisheries Meeting, Mirfa, United Arab Emirates (November 2014);
21. Sea Turtle Conservation Workshop, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait (December 2014);
22. 'An Evening with Fabien Cousteau: Ocean Adventures and UAE Action for Dugongs at Risk', held at the Volvo Ocean Race in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (December 2014);
23. Meetings with the Thailand Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Trang Dugong Conservation Working Group, UNEP/GEF Task Manager, and Dugong MOU technical advisors, held in Bangkok and Trang, Thailand (January 2015);

24. Meeting with the Indonesian Project Partners of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, held in Jakarta, Indonesia (January 2015);
25. Meetings with Dugong MOU technical advisors, Qatar Dugong Project Team and UNESCO Regional Office, held in Doha, Qatar (March 2015);
26. Regional Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Karachi, Pakistan (March 2015);
27. GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project National Inception Workshop for the Solomon Islands, held in Honiara, Solomon Islands (April 2015);
28. GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project National Project Discussion for Vanuatu, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu (April 2015);
29. Journées Bleues – Blue Day Ecotourism Conference: Pacific Islands Regional Workshop, held in Papeete, Tahiti (June 2015);
30. CMS Family Retreat in Bad Godesberg, Germany (June 2015);
31. Meeting with the Timor-Leste Project Partners of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, held in Dili, Timor-Leste (June 2015);
32. Meeting with the Sri Lankan Project Partners of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, held in Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Sri Lanka (July 2015);
33. Scoping Workshop of the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit (E-Resource Kit) – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (September 2015);
34. 7th International Sirenian Symposium, held in San Francisco, California, USA (December 2015);
35. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) Dugong Project Meeting, held in Cape Pettenburg, South Africa (February 2016);
36. Meeting of the Dugong MOU Technical Advisors, held in Bangkok, Thailand (February 2016);
37. CMS Family Bycatch Workshop: Exploring Synergies for Addressing Bycatch, held in Bonn, Germany (April 2016);
38. Meetings with UNEP/GEF Task Manager of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Bangkok, Meeting on/with South East Andaman Community Tourism and Seagrass Initiative’ (Save Andaman Network, Anantara Si Kao Resort and Seagrass-Watch), Trang, Thailand (June 2016);
39. Endangered Marine Species Animal Welfare Workshop, held in Pak Meng, Thailand (June 2016);
40. Meetings with UNEP/GEF Task Manager of the GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, UNDP SGP, IOSEA MOU Coordinator, held in Bangkok and Trang, Thailand (September 2016);
41. Meeting with Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Project Coordination Unit and Indonesian GEF-5 Project Partners, held in Jakarta, Indonesia (October 2016);
42. Meeting of the GEF-5 Project Executive Steering Committee, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (November 2016);
43. GEF-5 Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project field trip to MY4 Project site, in Johor, Malaysia (November 2016);
44. Second Regional Meeting of the Southeast Asian Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Pattaya, Thailand (November 2016);
45. International Whaling Commission (IWC) Bushmeat Workshop, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (November 2016);
46. Blue Economy Challenge Aquacelerator Summit, held in Perth, Australia (7-8 December 2016).