



National Report Template

Background

The purpose of the National Report is to provide information on each Signatory State's implementation of the Dugong MOU. The information in National Reports will be collated to give an overview of regional and international implementation of the Dugong MOU and to highlight opportunities for collaboration.

When completing the National Report template, you may wish to refer to the **Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)** and Annex 1 (for examples of specific actions that could be implemented under the CMP) at

www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Dugong_CMP_Eng_0.pdf .

Instructions for completing the National Report

- Please complete all questions. Where a written response is required, please provide an answer.
- Check-boxes can be selected by clicking on it, an 'x' will appear in the box. You can de-select a box by clicking on it again.
- To enter text, highlight on 'click here to insert text' and start typing.
- You should select all activities (check-boxes) that are relevant to each question.
- The questions in the National Report refer to any activities you have undertaken since your country became a Signatory to the Dugong MOU, until December 2016. For example, if a country became a Signatory to the MOU in January 2010, this report would refer to any activities from January 2010 to December 2016 (particularly highlighting recent activities).
- Detailed responses are encouraged, especially with regard to future plans. Wherever possible and/or relevant, please indicate the source of information used to answer a particular question. For example, if you are answering using information from a published annual report, please include the name of the report and link if it is available online. Remember that you are sharing information with other countries about your progress, so it may be of benefit to them.
- When you have completed your report, please email it, along with any other relevant information to the Dugong MOU Secretariat at CmsOffice.ae@cms.int.
- The deadline for submission of National Reports is **31 December 2016**. Reports must be received by this date to allow time for collation of results prior to presentation at the Third Meeting of Signatories on 13-14 March 2017.

Section 1: General information

1. What country are you completing the National Report on behalf of?

Seychelles.

2. What agency or institution has been primarily responsible for answering the questions in this report?

Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF).



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

Convention on Migratory Species Office - Abu Dhabi • United Nations Environment Programme
c/o Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi • PO Box 45553 • Abu Dhabi • United Arab Emirates
T +971 2 6934 437 • F +971 2 4997 252 • cmsoffice.ae@cms.int • www.cms.int/dugong



3. Please list any other agencies, institutions or non-government organisations that have provided input:

Department of Environment, Seychelles.

4. On what date did the Dugong MOU take effect in your country? i.e. what is the start date of activities reported on in this National Report?

4 Oct 2010.

5. On what date are you submitting this report?

27 Jan 2017.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 2

Section 2: Dugong status

Questions in Section 2 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- *Objective 1: Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong mortality*
 - 1.1 Threats facing dugong populations
 - 1.2 Dugong mortality in fishing activities
 - 1.3 Dugong mortality due to human activities
 - 1.4 Illegal Take of Dugongs
 - 1.5 Sustainable Use of Dugongs
- *Objective 8. Improve legal protection of dugongs and their habitats*
 - 8.2 Legal protection

6. Which of the following has your country done to identify, assess and evaluate the threats to dugong populations?

- Established baseline data collection and monitoring programmes to gather information on the nature and magnitude of threats.
- Regularly updated existing data on threats to dugong populations and their habitats.
- Determined those populations affected by traditional subsistence and customary use, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality.
- Conducted socio-economic studies among communities that interact with dugongs and their habitats.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

7. Has your country undertaken measures to address these threats to dugongs?

- Yes (please continue to question 8.)
- No (please continue to question 9.)

8. What kind of measures has your country undertaken to address these threats?

Seychelles has increased the marine protected area of Aldabra.

9. Which of the following has your country done to reduce the incidental capture and mortality of dugongs as a result of fishing activities (i.e. bycatch of dugongs)?

- Developed and used gear, devices and techniques to minimise incidental capture of dugongs in artisanal and commercial fisheries, such as the use of alternative gears and spatial closures.
- Limited or controlled the use of gears known to be harmful to dugongs throughout the range of dugong.
- Developed procedures and extension programmes to promote implementation of these measures.
- Exchanged information and, upon request, provided technical assistance to Signatory and cooperating States to promote these activities.
- Liaised and coordinated with fishing industries, fisheries management organisations and community groups to develop and implement activities that reduce the incidental capture and mortality of dugongs.
- Developed and implemented net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches.
- Provided and ensured the use of onshore facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste.
- Other, please describe: Incidental capture and mortality of dugongs as a result of fishing activities does not happen in Seychelles.

10. Which of the following has your country done to reduce the incidental mortality of dugongs from other anthropogenic (human) activities?

- Assessed the level, location and impact of anthropogenic impacts on dugongs at ecologically relevant scales.
- Reduced, as much as possible, all other human impacts on dugongs and their habitats in areas that sustain subsistence and/or customary use of dugongs.
- Established appropriate management programmes to ensure that anthropogenic impacts are addressed, taking account of the temporal and spatial variability of dugong reproductive rates and other impacts on the species in a precautionary manner.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

11. Has your country undertaken actions to reduce and/or prevent the illegal take of dugongs?

- Yes *(please continue to question 12.)*
- No *(please continue to question 13.)*

12. What has your country done to prevent the illegal take of dugongs?

The illegal take of dugongs is not known to occur in Seychelles.

13. Is customary and/or subsistence use of dugongs allowed in your country?

- Yes *(please continue to question 14.)*
- No *(please continue to question 15.)*

14. What has your country done to ensure that customary and/or subsistence use of dugongs is sustainable?

Click here to enter text. See CMP Annex 1 for examples of measures/actions.

15. Are dugongs and/or their habitats granted legal protection in your country?

- Yes *(please continue to question 16.)*
- No *(please continue to question 17.)*

16. What kind of legal protection are dugongs and/or their habitats granted and what measures has your country developed to review and, where necessary, strengthen legal protection of dugongs and their habitats?

Under the Cap 82 Fisheries act, anyone who in Seychelles waters, kills, chases or takes a dugong, alive or dead shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of SCR 50,000.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 3

Section 3: Dugong habitats

Questions in Section 3 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- *Objective 3: Protect, conserve and manage habitats for dugong*
 - *3.2 Protect dugong habitats*
 - *3.3 Actions to address habitat loss*
 - *3.4 Degraded dugong habitats*

17. Which of the following has your country done to protect and conserve dugong habitats (such as seagrasses)?

- Designated and managed protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones in areas of critical habitat, or took other measures (e.g. modification of fishing gear, banning destructive fishing practices, restrictions on vessel traffic) to remove threats to such areas and involving the local community as much as possible.
- Developed incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas.
- Considered protecting dugong habitats as part of ecosystem based management (e.g., networks of marine protected areas).
- Assessed the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on dugong populations and their habitats.
- Monitored and promoted the protection of water quality from land-based and maritime pollution, including marine debris, which may adversely affect dugongs and their habitats.
- Strengthened the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

18. Which of the following has your country done to address current degradation, and to reduce the risk of future degradation of dugong habitats (such as seagrasses)?

- Identified and enhanced recovery of degraded seagrass habitats used by dugongs.
- Identified and enhanced recovery of degraded mangrove and coral reef habitats used by dugongs.
- Undertook measures to restore degraded habitats.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 4

Section 4: Research and Monitoring

Questions in Section 4 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- **Objective 2. Improve understanding through research and monitoring**
 - 2.1 Dugong Populations and Habitats
 - 2.2 Dugong Research
 - 2.3 Data Collection and Analysis
- **Objective 3: Protect, conserve and manage habitats for dugong**
 - 3.1 Dugong Habitat Mapping
- **Objective 4: Improve understanding of dugong habitats through research and monitoring**
 - 4.1 Research of Habitats

19. What has your country done to determine the distribution and abundance of dugong populations to provide a base for future conservation efforts and actions?

Spatial analysis of dugong population and their associated habitats were conducted to understand patterns of dugong distribution on Aldabra. A voluntary contribution of US\$10,000 was also made by the SIF for the conservation of the dugong in the South Western Indian Ocean.

20. Which of the following has your country done to conduct research and monitoring into dugongs?

- Initiated and/or continued long-term monitoring of priority dugong populations at appropriate spatial scales.
- Identified migratory routes through the use of techniques such as genetic studies and/or satellite tracking where appropriate.
- Carried out studies on dugong population dynamics and survival rates.
- Promoted the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible.
- Involved local communities in research and monitoring programmes, with training as required.
- Periodically reviewed and evaluated research and monitoring activities.
- Identified and included priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans.
- Conducted collaborative studies and monitoring of genetic identity, conservation status, migrations, and other biological and ecological aspects of dugongs.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

21. Does your country collect data on dugongs?

- Yes (please continue to question 22.)
- No (please continue to question 23.)

22. What kind of data does your country collect on dugongs and how is it analysed?

Opportunistic sightings are recorded and mapped. One aerial survey of the lagoon where dugongs occur has been conducted.

23. Which of the following has your country done to conduct research and monitoring into important dugong habitats (such as seagrasses)?

- Conducted baseline studies or gathered secondary information on dugong habitats using cost effective techniques where possible, including community-based monitoring.
- Initiated and/or continued long-term monitoring of priority dugong habitats.
- Promoted the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible.
- Involved local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required.
- Periodically reviewed and evaluated research and monitoring activities.
- Identified and included priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

24. Has your country undertaken any identification and mapping of important dugong habitats (such as seagrasses)?

- Yes (*please continue to question 25.*)
- No (*please continue to question 26.*)

25. What kind of identification and mapping of dugong habitats has your country undertaken?

Very high resolution mapping was done for regions where dugongs are known to occur on Aldabra.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 5

Section 5: Dugong conservation

Questions in Section 5 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- **Objective 5: Raise awareness of dugong conservation**
 - 5.1 Information programmes
 - 5.2 Encourage local community participation

26. Which of the following has your country done to establish education, awareness and information programmes?

- Collected, developed, coordinated and disseminated education materials (e.g. dedicated regional website).
- Identified key persons/champions to help disseminate messages about the need to conserve dugongs and their habitats.
- Established community learning/information centres.
- Developed and implemented mass media information programmes.
- Developed and conducted focused education and awareness programmes for target groups (e.g. policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, subsistence and customary users, media).
- Encouraged the incorporation of dugong biology and conservation issues into school curricula.
- Organised special events related to dugong conservation and biology (e.g. Dugong Day, Year of the Dugong, symposia, and community education workshops).
- Promoted public participation in conservation activities.
- Involved stakeholders, including key policymakers, subsistence and customary users, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures.
- Encouraged the participation of government institutions, intergovernmental organisations, the private sector and the general community (e.g. students, volunteers, fishing communities, local communities) in research, conservation and management efforts.
- Implemented, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g. T-shirts, public acknowledgement and certificates).

27. What specifically has your country done to encourage local communities to actively participate in conservation efforts?

Since the community does not directly threaten the dugongs reported on Aldara, activities to encourage local community participation are not of high priority.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 6

Section 6: Cooperation

Questions in Section 6 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- *Objective 6: Enhance national, regional and international cooperation*
 - *6.1 Combat illegal trade*
 - *6.2 Information exchange*
 - *6.3 Improve coordination*
 - *6.4 Database*
- *Objective 8: Improve legal protection of dugongs and their habitats*
 - *8.1 Incorporation into national legislation*
- *Objective 9: Enhance national, regional and international cooperation on capacity building*
 - *9.1 Promote capacity building*

28. Which of the following has your country done in order to collaborate with and assist Range States to combat illegal international trade of dugongs and dugong related products?

- Encouraged Signatory States, that have not already done so, to become Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Reviewed at a national level, compliance with obligations under CITES relating to illegal international trade in dugong parts or products.
- Facilitated better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other Signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations.
- Identified routes of international illegal trade through monitoring, and sought cooperation to take action to prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate it.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

29. What has your country done to work collaboratively with dugong Range States to combat illegal domestic and/or regional trade of dugongs and dugong related products?

Illegal trade of dugongs on a local scale is not known to occur although the country is prepared to contribute on a regional level.

30. Which of the following has your country undertaken to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to the illegal trade of dugongs and dugong related products?

- Exchanged and discussed information on compliance and illegal trade issues at regular intervals, such as through annual reporting to the MOU Secretariat and at meetings of the Signatory States.
- Identified, prevented, deterred and, where possible, eliminated domestic illegal trade through monitoring, implementation of legislation, identification of gaps in enforcement capabilities, and training of enforcement officers.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

31. Which of the following has your country done to develop and implement mechanisms for effective exchange of information?

- Identified and strengthened existing mechanisms for cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level.

- Developed a website and/or newsletter to facilitate networking and exchange of information.
- Developed a web-based information resource for dugong conservation (including data on populations, migration, on-going projects) based on the IUCN website.
- Regularly updated a directory of experts and organisations concerned with dugong conservation.
- Developed networks for cooperative management of shared populations, within or across sub-regions, and where appropriate, formalise cooperative management arrangements.
- Cooperated where possible in the establishment of transboundary marine protected areas using ecological rather than political boundaries.
- Developed a streamlined format for reporting and exchanging information (through the MOU Secretariat and among Signatory States) on the state of dugong conservation at the national level.
- Encouraged Signatory States to become contracting parties to global fisheries agreements such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995) and the FAO Compliance Agreement (1993) and to implement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995).
- Established relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt dugong conservation measure within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and territorial waters.
- Determined the most appropriate methods for information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organisations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to the conservation of dugongs and their habitats.
- Exchanged at regular intervals scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organisations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to conservation of dugongs and their habitats.
- Disseminated traditional knowledge on dugongs, their habitats and traditional practices for conservation and management in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Updated data on dugong populations of regional interest on a regular basis (e.g. country status reports).
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

32. Which of the following has your country done to improve coordination among government and non-government sectors and communities in the conservation of dugongs and their habitats?

- Reviewed the roles and responsibilities of government agencies related to the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats.
- Designated a lead agency responsible for coordinating national dugong conservation and management policy.
- Identified non-governmental organisations with an interest in dugong conservation and management.
- Encouraged cooperation within and among government and non-government sectors, including through the development and/or strengthening of national networks.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

33. What has your country done to develop and implement a regional database of relevant information in relation to dugong conservation and management?

Seychelles is ready to share its database on a regional scale.

34. Which of the following has your country done to encourage Range/Signatory States to incorporate dugong and habitat conservation and protection measures into national legislation?

- Encouraged MOU Signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Encouraged the establishment of legislation to protect dugongs and their habitats while recognising existing traditional management systems.
- Reviewed domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to dugong conservation.
- Ensured corporate sanctions for harming dugongs or destroying habitat.
- Trained law enforcement authorities.
- Raised public awareness to boost surveillance for reporting of illegal activities.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

35. Which of the following has your country done to promote capacity building at all levels to strengthen conservation measures?

- Identified needs for capacity-building in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities.
- Provided and/or coordinated training (e.g. through workshops) in conservation and management techniques for dugongs and their habitats to relevant agencies, individuals and local communities.
- Developed partnerships with universities, research institutions, non-government organisations, training bodies and other relevant organisations to support capacity building initiatives.
- Identified, assessed, developed and implemented training programmes for local communities, non-government organisations, community-based organisations, media, enforcement officers, policy makers, law makers and decision makers.
- Enhanced capacity at all levels to develop and undertake joint research programmes on dugong and their habitats.
- Organised forums (local, national and regional as appropriate) with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to enable knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- Provided training on development, implementation and monitoring of community rehabilitation programmes.
- Supported local communities and relevant national organisations with necessary basic equipment and facilities to enable protection, conservation and management of dugong and their habitats.
- Other, please describe: A voluntary contribution of US\$10,000 was made by the SIF towards the Small Grants Programme under this MOU for the conservation of the dugong in the South Western Indian Ocean.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 7

Section 7: Implementation of the MOU

Questions in Section 7 address the following objectives and actions of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan:

- *Objective 7: Promote implementation of the MOU*
 - *7.1 Encourage participation in the MOU*
 - *7.2 Support the Secretariat*
 - *7.3 Seek resources*
 - *7.4 Synergies with other conventions*

36. Which of the following has your country done to encourage all Range States to participate in the MOU and its conservation and management activities?

- Encouraged non-Signatory States to sign the MOU.
- Arranged regional and sub-regional workshops involving non-Signatory States to raise awareness of the MOU.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

37. What, if anything, has your country done to support the Dugong MOU Secretariat to ensure the objectives of the CMP are met?

Click here to enter text. See CMP Annex 1 for examples of measures/actions.

38. Which of the following actions has your country undertaken to seek resources that support the implementation of the Dugong MOU (at either a national or international level)?

- Prioritised conservation and management activities for funding.
- Explored funding options with governments and other donors (such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF).
- Solicited funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on dugongs and their habitats (e.g. fisheries, tourism, oil industry, real estate).
- Explored international funding support and other incentives for Signatory States that effectively manage populations.
- Other, please describe: Click here to enter text.

39. What, if anything, has your country done to create links and develop synergies with other relevant regional conservation conventions, MOUs and agreements?

Click here to enter text. See CMP Annex 1 for examples of measures/actions.

PLEASE PROCEED TO SECTION 8

Section 8: Country priorities & additional comments

40. How much of a priority is each of the objectives below to your country?

Objective	High	Med	Low
1.1 Threats facing dugong populations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Dugong mortality in fishing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Dugong mortality due to human activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Illegal take of dugongs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.5 Sustainable dugong use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.1 Dugong populations and habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Dugong research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Data collection and analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1 Dugong habitat mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Dugong habitat protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Actions to address habitat loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Degraded dugong habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1 Research of habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1 Information programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Encourage local community participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.1 Combat illegal trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Exchange information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Improve coordination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Database	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.1 Encourage participation in the MOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Support the Secretariat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 Seek resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Synergy with other conventions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.1 Incorporation into national legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.2 Legal protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.1 Promote capacity building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

41. Do you have any other comments you would like to add?

Click here to enter text.

END OF REPORT