



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?

PHILIPPINES

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES - BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



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:

Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Community Centered Conservation-Philippines

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?

2008.

5. On what date are you submitting this report?

19 February 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: The incidental captures, strandings and reported sightings are recorded by BMB based on the reports submitted by the DENR Regional/Field Offices and conservation organizations

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?

The most comprehensive and far reaching approach to reducing threats to dugong is the nationwide implementation of the Marine Coastal Resource Management Program of the DENR where local CRM is integrated in local governance through the development and implementation of CRM Plans. CRM strategies includes putting up task force for illegal fishing, zoning coastal areas, habitat protection of threatened species, habitat restoration, capacity building on resource management, and livelihood. CRM plans input into the broader Comprehensive Landuse Plans of Local Governments. Dugongs and their seagrass habitats has benefited in these process where dugong habitats are set aside as locally managed marine protected areas or sanctuaries (e.g Green Island Bay, Leganes, Iloilo). Zoning is pursued to protect critical grazing areas from the risk of fish corals and gill nets which are known to be the major cause of dugong accidental capture .

There are 1,620 marine protected areas in the country with varying levels of CRM implementation. Of the ninety nine (99) known data points of dugong distribution in the country as consolidated by the BMB-DENR, about 50% is within locally managed marine protected areas

The establishment of critical habitats for threatened species pursuant to Wildlife Act is another instrument for protecting dugong habitats. These includes Hinatuan Bay critical habitat.

Marine Protected Areas are established nationally under the National Protected Areas System. To date, there are 33 Marine protected areas in the country several of which are important habitats of dugongs. of the 99 known data points of dugong distribution, 14 are within large contiguously managed marine Protected Areas e.g. Tanon Strait;

Sarangani Bay; Pujada Bay; Sierra Madre Natural Park; El Nido Managed Marine Reserve; Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Narra; Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape, Taytay Palawan.

Aside from the DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, partner organization e.g. Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN), Wildlife In Need, Balyena.org, WWF, have also reporting mechanisms to respond to dugong stranding incidences.

The PMMSN composed of private, NGOs and government was established in 2003. Since then, training- workshops on emergency response and rescue of stranded marine mammals were undertaken and currently a cumulative 3,000 persons were trained. They have become members of the various PMMSN chapters organized throughout the Philippines and are actively responding to marine mammal stranding reports.

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: a. Conducted information/awareness campaign in coastal communities;
b. Conducted capacity-building/training of local government units on proper response during dugong strandings/encounters;
c. Updated and Published the Red List Status of Marine Mammals in the Philippines (2013)
d. Published a Manual on Marine Mammal Rescue and Response

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: Sea weed farms lines are known to be among the source of entanglement of Dugongs leading to mortality. Measures to reduce the risks of sea weed farm lines are being undertaken in Busuanga, Palawan.

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?

Since 1991, dugong hunting in the Philippines was prohibited through a Department Order. The advent of the Philippine Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147 of 2001) was a turning point in wildlife conservation where stiff penalties are provided by the Act for nationally listed threatened species. In 2004, dugong was classified as Critically Endangered making it one of the highly protected species in the country.

Preventing Illegal hunting of wildlife is being pursued with increased number of deputized wildlife enforcement officers. This is in addition to the existing mechanism on the deputation of marine patrol officers ("bantay Dagat"). Nationwide training of wildlife enforcement officers (WEOs) leading to the creation of national wildlife enforcement network was initiated since 2010. WEOs, include police officers, local officials, and fisherfolks.

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?

Republic Act 9147 and its implementing rules and regulations prohibits the taking of Dugongs with a maximum penalty of Php 1 Million pesos and/or imprisonment of 12 years. DENR Administrative Order 2004-15 pursuant to RA 9147 listed the dugong as Critically endangered bestowing the highest level of legal protection available for threatened species in the country.

The National Protected Areas System (RA 7586) of 1992) provides for the establishment of protected areas, i.e. marine reserves, strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary, with known and possible dugong habitat.

As an added legal measure to protect habitats of dugong, the Wildlife Act provides for the designation of habitats of threatened species found outside Protected Areas as "Critical Habitat" where such are co-managed by the DENR and the local communities (DENR Administrative Order 2007-02).

Executive Order 533 on the adoption of Coastal Resource Management Program is a significant legal instrument that spurred community-based protection and conservation of dugongs and their habitats.

Republic Act 8550 or the Fisheries Code of the Philippines (February 22, 1998) . Section 97 of this Act states that fishing or taking of rare, threatened or endangered species is punishable with a fine of Php120,000.00 and/or imprisonment of 12-20 years; forfeiture of catch and cancellation of fishing permit.

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted through DENR Administrative Order 2016-012 and its Preventing Species Extinction Plan included dugong as among the species for priority protection and monitoring.

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: The Philippines' Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (Ong, et. al 2002) identified 33 significant areas for seagrass conservation. This is reiterated in the National Seagrass Action Plan of 2007.

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: The BMB has embarked on a Marine Key Biodiversity Project encompassing large seascapes important for dugong and seagrass conservation. These includes Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, Lanuza Bay, Davao Gulf and Southern Palawan. The project aims to increase management effectiveness in these areas to sustain their ecological character.

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?

The Dugong Conservation Program of the DENR has carried dugong habitat surveys around the country for the last two decades to determine presence or absence of dugong in historical and reported areas of dugong sightings. Results of these surveys served as reference for the more recent and indepth distribution and population studies, and especially for management of dugong habitats. Dugong distribution maps, including maps and list of priority areas are made available in the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities and the recently (2016) approved National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The current distribution of the dugong is significantly reduced. Surveys and field reports indicate that the decline of dugong populations throughout the Philippines has caused local extinction in most of the islands. The distribution is now sparse and scattered. Dugongs are still seen in the following areas: the whole of Palawan; Southern Mindanao Coast including Pujada Bay, Davao Gulf, Sarangani Bay and the Moro Gulf; Tawi-Tawi and the Sulu Archipelago; Eastern Mindanao Coast in Siargao and Hinatuan; Guimaras Strait and Antique; Aurora, Quezon and the Polillo Island.

Until 2008, population distribution and abundance has been undertaken in Green Island Bay, Taytay, and Calamianes Group of islands, Palawan; Sagay, Negros Occidental; Tañon Strait, and the Visayan Sea; southern Panay and northwestern Negros, and Davao Gulf, Southern Mindanao; and Pujada Bay, Davao del Sur.

A more recent catch and bay-catch survey was undertaken in 2011-2012 using the UNEP-GEF Dugong questionnaire. The survey covered sites selected based on historical data and recent stranding reports. This includes Mindanao Island: General Luna, Siargao Islands, Surigao del Norte, Hinatuan in Surigao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Malita Davao del Sur, Glan and General Santos City in Sarangani Bay; and Zamboanga City; Visayas Island: Antique Province; Luzon Islands: Polillo Island, Aurora Province, and Puerto Princesa.

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:

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?

Dugong strandings, catch and by-catch, mortalities and sources of threats, rescue and release data, and location are collected by DENR field offices and forwarded to and consolidated at the BMB. Reports from citizens and NGO partners are also received by BMB. Some NGOs (e.g. PMMSN) also hold their own data holdings on dugongs as part of their broader stranding data on marine mammals.

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?

-Map of strandings, catch and by-catch, distribution of dugongs based on field reports which are validated through field surveys.

-Seagrass assessment in specific localities, dugong population and fishery interaction were undertaken by DENR, NGOs (WWF, CCC3) and academic institutions (Silliman University, Southern Philippines Agri-business and Marine Aquatic School of Technology, University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center) .

- Map of priority areas for dugong and seagrass conservation in the Philippines as contained in the publication of Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities (Ong, et. al. 2002).

- In 2007, the Philippine National Seagrass Committee published the Philippine National Seagrass Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NSCS) which include maps of areas significant for seagrass conservation. Two demonstration sites (Bolinao, Pangasinan, and Narra, Palawan) for seagrass conservation were implemented.

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?

- First, awareness and education campaigns are undertaken in various opportunities and occasions (e.g. regular community education campaigns on biodiversity conservation by the DENR, community consultations prior to project implementation as a basic requirement). In the case of DENR, tokens (simple fisherman's hat and Certificate and appreciation are provided to those who are involved in reporting and rescue of dugong (and marine turtles).
- Community representatives are engage in marine mammal rescue trainings;
- Community members/leaders as Wildlife Enforcement Officers and marine patrol officers as deputized by the DENR and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, respectively contributes in reaching out with communities aside from enforcement work.
- engagement of local community members as guides in field research and/or as local staff in project implementation;

-Coastal Resource Management Program widely adopted in the Philippines is essentially community-based through mainstreaming in local governance resource management and forming and training peoples organization to managed certain community projects like seagrass and mangrove rehabilitation, community managed eco-tourism activities e.g. dugong watching in Leganes, Iloilo.

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?

At the Regional level, the Philippines has been actively participating in the ASEAN- Wildlife Enforcement Network to address illegal wildlife trade across the region. Implementation of the CITES and enforcement of wildlife laws among the ASEAN is realized through enhanced exchange of information and intelligence reporting and sharing of experiences that feeds into capacity building activities of enforcers. At the national level, a task force (i.e. Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and other Wildlife) was created to strengthen national capacity in addressing illegal wildlife crime. The task force is tasked to capacitate local level enforcers and liaise with regional counterparts in the ASEAN-WEN.

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: The DENR undertakes Memorandum of Agreement with private entities and NGOs on dugong conservation and biodiversity conservation in general.

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

No effort on this regard at this time. Nonetheless, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity already serves as the ASEAN hub for regional information and exchange including the maintenance of regional database. The country feeds information into the regional database as far as national data is concern.

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: Click here to enter text.

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:

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

In 2015, the Philippines co-hosted with the CMS secretariat and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity a capacity building workshop for non-cms member countries in the ASEAN Region. The workshop was an opportunity to share the Philippine experience in implementing the work program of the CMS, and the MOUs which the Philippines is a signatory including the Dugong MoU. The workshop aimed to encouraged the ASEAN member countries to join the convention and/or participates in its conservation instruments.

The same opportunity to share the CMS and its MOUs implementation in the Philippines was shared during the 5th ASEAN Heritage Park Congress in Myanmar in October 25, 2016 aimed at promoting the convention and influence the environmental agencies to advocate with their respective offices the accession to the cms and participation to the MOUs .

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?

The Philippines is a member of two regional initiatives: Coral Triangle Initiative (six countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands) and the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-region (three countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines). Action plans to conserve threatened and charismatic migratory species is both part of the program of work of the two regional partnership through the management of marine protected area networks that are important to threatened migratory species i.e marine mammals, marine turtles.

The project, called "Strengthening the Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas," involves the establishment of a more coordinated approach to conservation efforts in the Verde Island Passage, the Lanuza Bay in Surigao Del Sur, the Davao Gulf in Southern Mindanao, the Tanon Strait Protected Seascape in Central Visayas and Southern Palawan. This project seeks to improve ecosystem management in the project sites. These MKBAs are among the richest in the country in terms of coastal and marine biodiversities and their protection is critical to ensure the fish population in the Southeast Asian region. The project is jointly funded by the DENR, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Global Environment Fund.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Dugong mortality in fishing activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Dugong mortality due to human activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Illegal take of dugongs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Data collection and analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Degraded dugong habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1 Research of habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.1 Combat illegal trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.1 Encourage participation in the MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.1 Incorporation into national legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.2 Legal protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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?

The governments overall response to dugong conservation is subsumed in its broader program on law enforcement, ecosystem management through various models of ecosystem management, Nationally through the Protected Areas and local conservation areas and Critical Habitat management by local governments. Information contained in this report therefore essentially reflects the initiative of the government. Initiatives of conservation NGOs, POs local government and academic institutions on specific aspects such as research and site specific interventions as a results of national framework and support policies and programs of the national government may be sporadic and

the current coordination and reporting mechanism may not have captured completely as possible such initiative throughout the archipelago.

END OF REPORT