



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?

Australia

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

Department of the Environment and Energy



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:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife

Torres Strait Regional Authority

New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage

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?

1 November 2007

5. On what date are you submitting this report?

18 January 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?

Australia has undertaken a number of measures with the aim of reducing threats to dugongs such as (but not limited to) developing a Threat Abatement Plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life, implementing Dugong Protection Areas that limit the types of fishing equipment allowed to be used, and implementing vessel speed limits in a number of coastal areas frequented by dugongs. Australia's national environmental legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), prohibits the direct use of and domestic (and international) trade in dugongs, their parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional subsistence and customary use. The EPBC Act also requires any action that has the potential to have a significant impact on the dugong be assessed to determine if approval would be required and if so what conditions may need to be implemented to ensure minimal impact on the dugong.

In 2013, the Government announced a \$5 million commitment to implement the Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan (DTPP) to protect those species from threats such as marine debris. The DTPP sits within the Reef 2050 Plan, which is administered by the Department of the Environment and Energy. The DTPP includes funding of \$2 million over two years for a Specialised Indigenous Ranger Program (SIRP). The SIRP forms an essential component of the Government's strategy to protect dugong and turtle and to constrain poaching and illegal trade in dugong and turtle meat. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has lead responsibility for Indigenous land and sea management policy and programs under the Land, Jobs and Economy Indigenous Advancement Strategy, and implements the SIRP. In 2014 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were funded under this Strategy to implement an Indigenous Ranger Compliance Enhancement Program. This has resulted in employment of four

Indigenous Compliance officers for two years and upskilling of 22 Indigenous community rangers within the Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 and Zoning Plan 2003 expressly provide for the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Marine Park, including management of traditional use of marine resources, such as traditional hunting in accordance with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custom and tradition. Under these arrangements, the traditional use of marine resources will be managed in accordance with Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) developed by Traditional Owners and accredited by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government. The aim of TUMRAs is to encourage a cooperative approach to the management of the Marine Park that benefits Traditional Owners and the government, achieves sustainable levels of dugong harvesting that will benefit species conservation generally, and is consistent and transparent. Each TUMRA has set harvest limits that have been assessed for their sustainability against the latest science and monitoring information. A compliance management plan and traditional permits system then underpins each TUMRA. Currently one quarter of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is covered by TUMRAs. The Government's intention is to continue to expand this program to support sustainable traditional use of dugongs where populations can sustain it.

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: Click here to enter text.

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?

There is currently no evidence that illegal take of dugongs is a significant issue in Australia. Under Australia's national, state and territory legislation, it is an offence to take, trade, keep, or move dugongs in Australian waters with the exception of traditional customary use. On 23 February 2015, the Australian Parliament passed the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015 which increases the protection for turtles and dugong by tripling penalties for killing or injuring these species.

In addition, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Queensland has a dedicated Indigenous Compliance Team which delivers targeted training and development of Compliance Management Plans to support indigenous Rangers, Traditional Owners and Indigenous Communities. In 2015 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority implemented an Indigenous Ranger Compliance Enhancement program under the Specialised Indigenous Ranger Programme including delivery of nationally recognised compliance training to Indigenous Rangers and employment of four Indigenous compliance officers. This program will increase compliance capacity to identify any illegal activities, including illegal take of dugongs.

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?

Culturally appropriate management programs to ensure customary use of dugongs is sustainable include:

- Development of Torres Strait Islander community-based management plans to manage turtles and dugongs, supported by the Torres Strait Regional Authority; and
- Development of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs) between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Traditional Owners.

These plans or agreements may include how Traditional Owner groups wish to manage their take of natural resources (including protected species), inclusion of traditional governance and cultural protocols, their role in education and compliance, their role in monitoring the condition of plants, animals and human activities, ways to educate the public about traditional connections to sea country areas, and ways to educate other members of a Traditional Owner group about the conditions of the agreement.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and acknowledges their continuing social, cultural, economic and spiritual connections to the Great Barrier Reef region. The GBRMPA also recognises that establishing an effective and meaningful partnership with Traditional Owners is essential to protect cultural and heritage values, conserve biodiversity and enhance the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This includes the culturally sustainable management of marine resources such as dugong.

Development of TUMRAs by Traditional Owners are assessed for sustainability and co-accredited by the GBRMPA and the Queensland Government under legislation. These agreements are then implemented and financially supported by the Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program (a component of the government's overarching Reef Programme) - see funding and outputs below.

- (2008-13) In December 2008, the Australian Government, under the Caring for our Country initiative, committed \$10 million over five years towards the Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program. The program, administered by GBRMPA, engages Indigenous communities located along the Great Barrier Reef in the management and sustainability of the Reef's marine resources. A key focus of the program was the critical support for the development, accreditation and implementation of TUMRAs in partnership with Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners.

- (2013-18) Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program - The Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program is a component of the Australian Government Reef Programme (2013-2018). This ongoing commitment to natural resource management programs by the Australian Government will invest a further \$10 million over a second five-year period. The Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program will assist GBRMPA and Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners to: 1. develop and implement TUMRAs; 2. support the Indigenous Compliance Program and 3. engage Traditional Owners to share and increase their knowledge base in sea country.
- Accreditation of seven TUMRAs - Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements provide a legal management tool for Traditional Owners to articulate and enact their Traditional Loes and Custom within their sea country. This is applied practically through establishing and maintaining critical linkages between compliance and management. As part of a comprehensive suite of management arrangements under the TUMRA, Traditional Owners put in place measures to manage traditional take of dugong within sustainable limits and work together with management agencies to address other activities impacting on this culturally important species, including illegal hunting (poaching). No permits have been issued under any TUMRA for the take of Dugong. Traditional Owners have been actively engaging with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to manage and protect their sea country. Through the implementation of their TUMRA, Traditional Owners have strengthened their partnerships with government agencies in the compliance and enforcement of illegal activity.
- Determination of the Kuuku Ya'u Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) – The ILUA prescribes the native title rights and interests of the Kuuku Ya'u People so as to ensure good management of the ILUA area. Notably, it provides for the protection of green turtles, dugong and prescribed fauna. The Kuuku Ya'u People's Marine Park ILUA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on 16 November 2009 following extensive negotiations between the Kuuku Ya'u People, the State of Queensland, the Commonwealth Government and the GBRMPA.

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?

Australia's national environmental legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), prohibits the direct use of and domestic (and international) trade in dugongs, their parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional subsistence and customary use. The EPBC Act also requires any action that has the potential to have a significant impact on the dugong be assessed to determine if approval would be required and if so what conditions may need to be implemented to ensure minimal impact on the dugong.

On 23 February 2015, the Australian Parliament passed the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015 which increases the protection for turtles and dugong by tripling penalties for killing or injuring these species.

Each state and territory also provides its own legal protection for dugongs. For example in Queensland, legislation operating within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area includes: the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (including statutory plans of management such as those for Cairns, Hinchinbrook and Whitsundays) and subordinate legislation; the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld) and subordinate legislation; Fisheries Act 1994 (Qld) and subordinate legislation; spatial protection via the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 (34 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is closed to extractive use), which along with the Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004 (Qld) provides complementary protection of coastal and some estuarine waters; Dugong Protection Area Regulations under the Fisheries Act 1994 (Qld) (with complementary provisions under Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act Species Conservation (dugong protection) Special Management Areas) and Fish Habitat Areas (under the Fisheries Act 1994 (Qld)), provide protection for dugongs and their supporting habitats; trawling strip closures under Queensland Fisheries Regulations 2008 complement habitat protection provided by Marine Park

zoning plans; the regulation of land management practices for the improvement of water quality that enters the catchment under the Great Barrier Reef Protection Amendment Act 2009 (Qld).

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?

Research and monitoring of dugong populations is ongoing. The relevant jurisdictional governments and a number of researchers are continuing to undertake dugong surveys to build on the existing knowledge of dugong abundance and distribution. Studies recently undertaken include in the Northern Territory, Torres Strait in Queensland and the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia (for example see <http://www.nerptropical.edu.au/project/marine-turtles-and-dugongs-torres-strait>, <http://ro.ecu.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7679&context=ecuworks> or <http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/259635>). Western Australia is the least studied state in regard to dugongs and further surveys are planned from 2017-2019 to characterise dugong seagrass habitat in the Pilbara region in Western Australia which will attempt to link seagrass distribution to dugong distribution.

There are a number of Australian Government National Environmental Research Program projects that have recently been completed including 'Marine wildlife management in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', 'Marine turtles and dugongs of Torres Strait' and 'Partnerships and tools to support biodiversity monitoring by Indigenous land and sea managers' all of which included a strong dugong component. The final reports for these projects can be located at <http://www.nerptropical.edu.au/theme/assessing-ecosystem-condition-and-trend>.

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?

Please refer to the previously mentioned research projects for an indication of the type of data collected and how it is analysed. Of note is the move towards undertaking more aerial count surveys using either manned aircraft or more recently Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

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?

Research and monitoring of dugong habitat is ongoing. Although research on seagrass distribution and quality is becoming more widespread, there are still knowledge gaps regarding the relationship between various seagrass species' distribution patterns and dugong distribution/movement. Some areas in Australia have been surveyed intensively whereas other areas (remote and difficult to access areas) have had little to no seagrass monitoring. Areas that have been impacted from cyclones or flooding have been surveyed more intensely. There are a number of Australian Government National Environmental Science Program projects that have recently been completed including among others 'Seagrass mapping', 'Light thresholds for seagrasses of the Great Barrier Reef', 'Developing and refining biological indicators for seagrass condition assessments in an integrated monitoring program' and 'Assessment of key dugong and turtle seagrass resources in the northern Torres Strait'. There are also a number of projects regarding water quality that have been completed. Final reports for these projects can be located at <http://nesptropical.edu.au/index.php/round-1-projects/>. These particular projects have all been completed in Queensland. Surveys have been planned in Western Australia from 2017-2019 to characterise dugong seagrass habitat in the Pilbara region in Western Australia and will attempt to link seagrass distribution to dugong distribution.

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?

Under the Government's Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan (DTPP), \$700,000 has been provided to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to collaborate with community groups, including Reef Guardian councils, fishers, farmers and schools, traditional owners, and tourism operators along the Queensland coast to conduct reef clean-up events and raise awareness of the issue to reduce the source and occurrence of marine debris.

The DTPP also includes funding of \$2 million over three years for a Specialised Indigenous Ranger Program which has included employment of four Indigenous Compliance Officers and upskilling of 22 Indigenous community rangers within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Sydney Aquarium has two captive dugongs which are used to raise awareness and educate the community about dugongs. This aquarium has a large number of visitors each year and the dugongs are one of the flagship attractions.

In addition, there is an abundance of educational material available (including a recently published fact sheet by the Australian Maritime and Safety Authority - <http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/Fact-Sheets/AMSA283.pdf>) encouraging people operating vessels to slow down in order to avoid collisions with dugongs and each state and territory has educational information available on the dugongs, their habitat, and conservation.

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?

The Australian Government is a signatory and participant in a number of International fora that other Range States also participate in, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, among others. Australia has funded and attended Oceania regional meetings to build capacity and cooperation to better implement CITES and protect listed species, including dugong. Australia is also working with the CITES Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Centre of Excellence Gibraltar and interested Pacific Island countries to establish a pilot project to create simple licensing systems to better manage and monitor trade in CITES listed species.

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?

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy has a public database with information on all nationally listed threatened and migratory species. The profile for the dugong can be found at the following location: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=28.

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: 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?

Australia is a significant contributor of in-kind support for the Global Environment Facility project "Enhancing the Conservation Effectiveness of Seagrass Ecosystems Supporting Globally Significant Populations of Dugongs across the Indian and Pacific Ocean Basins" (also referred to as the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project).

Australia has continued to undertake conservation actions for dugong and seagrasses within its jurisdiction.

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 Australian Government is a signatory and participant in a number of International fora that other Range States also participate in, including the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CITES and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, among others.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.5 Sustainable dugong use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1 Dugong populations and habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Dugong habitat protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Actions to address habitat loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Degraded dugong habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Encourage local community participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.1 Combat illegal trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Exchange information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Improve coordination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Database	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.1 Encourage participation in the MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Support the Secretariat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 Seek resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Synergy with other conventions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.1 Incorporation into national legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.2 Legal protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.1 Promote capacity building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Priorities - these are reflective of the current priorities. Some of the objectives are listed as low because related actions have been completed.

A number of actions referred to in this report weren't developed specifically for dugong conservation, however these actions indirectly benefit the dugong.

END OF REPORT