



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

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT: OPERATIONS

Prepared by the Dugong MOU Secretariat

Background

1. The Dugong MOU Secretariat is located at the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi, hosted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The main objectives of the Office are to service and administer secretariat functions related to the MOUs on Dugongs and their Seagrass Habitats and African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey, including implementation of their respective Conservation and Management Plans, communication and coordination between range states and supporting partners, promotion of conservation projects/programmes, providing technical expertise, and capacity building.
2. At present the UNEP/CMS Office Abu Dhabi comprises three professional officers and one general staff member, as follows: Programme Officer (Dugongs), Programme Officer (Birds of Prey), Associate Programme Officer and Administrative/Finance Assistant. The position of another Associate Programme Officer is in the process of being recruited. The new Executive Coordinator of the Office is expected to enter in duty during the 1st quarter of 2013. In addition, the Office has contracted four temporary Team Associates. To date, the Office has had 6 interns and it is anticipated that interns will be recruited for periods of 3-6 months for the foreseeable future.

Finances

3. Since its establishment in 2009, the Dugong MOU Secretariat has been solely and generously funded by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi. The indicative budget granted for the UNEP/CMS Office - Abu Dhabi to cover the 2012-2014 triennium is US\$ 4 million (Annex I), with a similar amount pledged for the following triennium ending in 2018, subject to a budget review in 2014. This amount includes support for the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU.
4. Table 1 (Annex I) presents an Indicative Budget (2012 -2014) for the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi which supports the Dugong MOU Secretariat as well as the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit.
5. Table 2 (Annex I) presents a Summarised Statement of Expenditure based on calendar years for the Dugong MOU Secretariat for the first triennium (2010-2012) and since the last report at SS1.
6. As described above, the Dugong MOU Secretariat is fortunate to be fully funded for the Secretariat work. However, the Secretariat is not sufficiently resourced to effectively support the implementation functions of the Dugong MOU. The purpose of this current document is to invite Signatories to identify opportunities for additional sources of funding to enhance the resources available to the Dugong MOU

Secretariat to provide increased support for the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) of the Dugong MOU.

Additional sources of funding

7. Mechanisms to secure additional resources to enhance the capacity of the Dugong MOU Secretariat to implement the CMP have included:
 - a) **Ad hoc voluntary contributions from Signatories:** Contributions from Signatories are greatly accepted, encouraged and are directed where they can be most beneficial. Since reporting for SS1, two more voluntary contributions have been made. **Seychelles** announced a USD 10,000 contribution in SS1 (October 2010), which was used for funding Signatory and Non Signatory Range State participants from the South West Indian Ocean Sub-Region to attend the Dugong MOU Secretariat session at the 7th Symposium of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Scientific Association (WIOMSA) in October 2011. The session also served as a South-West Indian Ocean sub-regional update meeting for the Dugong MOU. In February 2012, **Monaco** announced a contribution of EUR 30,000 for CMS dugong and shark conservation activities in Palau. The funds were allocated to an education and awareness programme (information materials based on the report ‘Palau *Dugong dugon* Awareness Campaign 2010-2011’ and other awareness materials). These funds also supported monitoring and reporting activities including the use of time-lapse cameras in key areas, expanding the use of the UNEP/CMS Standardised Dugong Survey, developing a dugong stranding protocol to collect genetic and biological samples from dead dugongs, and to continue daily incidental dugong sightings – pending helicopter availability – to provide spatial and temporal information of dugong distribution and relative abundance.
 - b) **Concerted programme of fundraising:** To date the Secretariat has absorbed fundraising activities within normal day-to-day administrative activities. Some exploratory work has already been carried out in conjunction with the Coordinating Unit for the Raptors MOU but more resources are required to take this activity forward. In particular, this work has involved changing the Dugong MOU logo as presented for the first time at SS2, creating a fund-raising strategy focussed on the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative which has a USD \$5M target (see: Doc.11) and developing a Partnership Building toolbox.
 - c) **In-kind contributions:** In-kind contributions may include donating equipment, services or offering to loan staff for free to work in the Dugong MOU Secretariat. For example the Technical Advisors to the Dugong MOU Secretariat have made substantive in-kind contributions to the Secretariat since 2010.
8. An additional option for a funding source for CMP implementation could be regular voluntary contributions from Signatories based on an indicative scale: An agreed budget could be apportioned among Signatories, on a voluntary basis, according to the United Nations Scale of Assessment (A/Res/64/248). The assessed contribution approach was also presented in SS1, but was not supported by the Signatories. This approach has, however, been adopted by the CMS Indian Ocean - South-East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle MOU at its most recent Meeting of Signatories in January 2012.

Work Programme for 2013-2015

9. The work programme will be further shaped by the outcomes of the Second Signatory State Meeting, and will depend on the decisions taken with respect to a number of agenda items. However, some core activities are already identified which will continue to demand attention, notably:
 - a) Overseeing the “GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project”, currently in the Project Preparation Phase with the seven Project Partner Countries (Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vanuatu) and four Supporting Country Partners (Australia,

Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands). The Project will be presented in detail under Agenda Item 11.2.

- b) Coordinating the “Addressing Net Fishery By-catch in the Gulf” project, initiated at the Preliminary Meeting for proposed project on Addressing Net Fishery By-catch in the Gulf, 30 April 2012, Abu Dhabi. The project is envisaged as a phased process of in-country data collection, analysis and consideration of solutions, and final presentation to policy makers. The geographical scope of the project is proposed to include Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (see more details in Agenda Item 10).
- c) Maintaining and further developing of the Dugong MOU webpages as a key source of information of relevance and interest to Range States. The Dugong MOU Secretariat is actively engaged with the CMS Secretariat to support the complete redevelopment of the CMS Family website over the next 2-3 years, subject to the availability of resources.
- d) Developing supporting partnerships to fully resource the implementation of the Dugong, Seagrass and Coastal Communities Initiative (Agenda Item 11).
- e) Progressing the implementation of the recommendations presented in the document “Future directions for the Dugong MOU” Agenda Item 14).
- f) Providing administrative support to the Technical Advisors through the Strategic Support Team and the proposed Dugong Technical Team to the Dugong MOU Secretariat (see Agenda Item 11.4).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and to seek any clarifications, if required.
- b) Consider and adopt additional resourcing options (ad hoc voluntary contributions, concerted programme for fundraising, in-kind contributions) to enable enhanced implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan.
- c) Take note and consider regular voluntary contributions from Signatories based on an indicative scale.
- d) Advise the Secretariat of any additional activities that may warrant inclusion in the Work Programme for the coming triennium, including allocation of sufficient resources to implement the work.