

## **Advice from the Dugong Technical Advisory Group (DTAG) regarding the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)**

The Dugong Technical Advisory Group (DTAG) considers that the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) needs further substantive updating and reorganization, to take account of the new information that has arisen since the consultant was employed to recommend revisions in 2021. The new information comes from the Range States via: (1) the GEF project; (2) the IKI project, which is still being finalized; and (3) the consultative process undertaken to produce the Dugong Status and Trends Report to be published this year with more than 90 contributing authors from Range States.

The DTAG is prepared to undertake these revisions, which will also take the feedback from MOS 2024 into account. Our proposed changes include:

### **1) Revising the order in which the objectives are considered as follows**

Objective 1 Conserve dugongs

Objective 2 Conserve habitats (currently Ob 3)

Objective 3 Enhance legal protection (currently Ob 8)

Objective 4 Enhance capacity (currently Ob 9)

Objective 5 Research on dugongs (currently Ob 2)

Objective 6 Research on habitats (currently Ob 4)

Objective 7 Raise Awareness (currently Ob 5) and finally,

Objective 8 Enhance collaboration at all levels to include promotion of uptake of the MOU.

**2) Remove the explicit objective on promoting the use of the MOU, which is a commitment inherent in a Range State signing the MOU and incorporated into Objective 8.**

**3) Move all study-related actions from the two first Objectives and move them to the research objectives.**

We suggest that it may be appropriate for the MOS to agree in principle to a process being established to consider the DTAG's draft revisions to ensure that Signatory States have input into the proposed changes prior to the revised CMP being presented at MOS5 for endorsement.

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