



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RECOMMENDATION 7.5*

RANGE STATE AGREEMENT FOR DUGONG (*Dugong dugon*) CONSERVATION

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Meeting (Bonn, 18-24 September 2002)

Recognising that Article II of the Convention requires all Parties to endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II of the Convention;

Noting that Dugongs have a large range that spans some 37 countries and territories, and includes tropical and subtropical coastal and inland waters;

Recalling that Dugongs are long-lived with a low reproductive rate and high investment in each offspring, making the species vulnerable to over-exploitation;

Noting that throughout much of its range the Dugong remains in relict populations, many separated by large areas where its numbers have been greatly reduced or where it is already extirpated;

Aware that Dugongs are vulnerable to anthropogenic influences because of their life history and distribution along coastal habitats, where they are often under pressure from human development and hunting activities;

Acknowledging that Dugongs are culturally significant to communities throughout their range and are still traditionally hunted in a number of areas;

Aware that Dugong products, such as meat, oil, medicaments, amulets and other products, are still highly valued over parts of the species' range; and

Recalling that all populations of the species are listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) prohibiting international trade in the species and its parts;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* Parties that are Range States for Dugong to take action to identify the conservation status of populations and to determine the nature and scope of threats to those populations within their national jurisdictions;

* The original draft of this recommendation, considered by the Conference of the Parties, was numbered 7.7.

2. *Requests* Parties that have known breeding and habitat sites for Dugong within their national jurisdictions to cooperate for the conservation and management of Dugong throughout the species' range;
3. *Recommends* that all Range States of Dugong cooperate among themselves, as appropriate, and participate actively to develop and conclude a memorandum of understanding and an action plan for the conservation and management of Dugong throughout the species' range;
4. *Calls upon* the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council to review progress and to propose any appropriate urgent actions required to the Conference of the Parties at its Eighth Meeting; and
5. *Further urges* international organizations and non-governmental organizations, including regional economic organizations, having biodiversity conservation in their mandate, to provide appropriate assistance, including technical and financial support, for the conservation and management of the Dugong.

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