



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

Distr. General

DM/SS.1/Doc. 5  
Agenda item 7.1

Rev.1 – 26 September 2010

FIRST OFFICIAL SIGNATORY STATES MEETING  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 4–6 October 2010

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT: ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS

#### FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

##### **Establishment of the Abu Dhabi Office** (Agenda Item 7.1.1)

1. Since the Signatories' last met in August 2008, a new UNEP/CMS Secretariat Office has been established in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Office is hosted by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). The Signatory States to the Dugong MoU formally endorsed EAD's offer to fund and host the secretariat at the *Informal Meeting of Signatory States to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range, Bali, Indonesia, 19 August 2008*. A Donor Agreement was signed between UNEP and EAD in October 2009 which will fund the UNEP/CMS Secretariat for the period 2009-2011. The Agreement will be ongoing subject to EAD endorsement. The UNEP/CMS Office represents a major collaboration between UNEP and the United Arab Emirates to conserve migratory species.

2. Main objectives of the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi are to service and administer Secretariat functions related to the MoUs on Dugongs and Migratory Birds of Prey (BoP) including implementation of their respective Conservation and Management and Action Plans, communication and coordination between range states and supporting partners, promotion of conservation projects/programmes, providing technical expertise, and capacity building. The Office will also coordinate marine turtle conservation efforts with existing bodies in the Western Asia sub-region to promote the implementation of the CMS/IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU. In addition, the Office shall deliver other CMS programmes in the region. This objective remains open to any future new agreement or initiative on migratory birds and/or marine species conservation, with which the Range States want to charge the new UNEP Office, resources permitting.

3. At present, the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi comprises three professional officers and one general staff member in the positions of Executive Coordinator, Programme Officer for Dugongs, Associate Programme Officer, and Administrative/Finance Assistant. The positions of Programme Officer for BoP and Programme Assistant are currently vacant and are in the process of being recruited. An intern was recruited for the period April to October 2010. It is likely that interns will be recruited regularly for a periods of 3-6 months.

4. As agreed by 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the CMS Standing Committee in Bonn, December 2009, the Executive Coordinator reports to CMS Executive Secretary and is responsible to the Meetings of the Signatory

States. The Executive Coordinator represents the Executive Director of UNEP as appropriate. The Administrative/Finance Assistant plays a key role in managing the office for all administrative and finance issues, and contact with relevant Abu Dhabi Authorities. The Programme Officer – Dugong performs technical duties relevant to the secretarial units of the agreement, including contacts with Range States and other partners, compilation of data and reporting, elaborating and implementing grant programmes. The Associate Programme Officer supports the Programme Officers for Dugongs and BOP with average work time up to 80%, and 20% dedicated to common office tasks, website, awareness-raising material, and other outreach activities.

### **Finances** (Agenda Item 7.1.2)

#### *Indicative Budget and Expenditure*

5. The contributions of financial and in-kind support from the Governments of Australia, Thailand and United Arab Emirates which lead to the successful and expedient development and conclusion of the Dugong MoU over the period from 2005 to 2007 are gratefully acknowledged.

6. With the generous funding and host agency commitment from the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi the Secretariat has been able to initiate a number of activities. These are reported to the Signatory States at this meeting (see Agenda Item 7.2.3).

7. The indicative budget 2009-2011 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi is presented in Table 1 in Annex 1. The funding available for programme implementation of Dugong and BoP MoUs and regional turtles initiatives, which includes the Small Grants Programme, is US\$ 365,000.

8. Table 2 in Annex 1 is an unofficial statement of expenditure for 2010 based on information provided by the Secretariat and UNON. Further discussion of funding will be under Agenda Item 7.1.4.

### **Voluntary Contributions** (Agenda Item 7.1.3)

9. The Signatory States are reminded that as the Memorandum of Understanding is a non-binding instrument, noncompliance is not subject to punitive sanction. Financial contributions to the Memorandum of Understanding are voluntary, not mandatory.

10. However, voluntary financial and/or in-kind contributions from Signatory States to provide additional funding resources for the implementation of projects and programmes supported by the Secretariat are most welcomed and gratefully accepted.

11. As reported to the Signatory States throughout the meeting, there are a number of initiatives being proposed for which new funding will need to be sought and allocated to implement the MoU at regional and national levels.

12. In the event that a Signatory State wishes to make voluntary contributions, the Signatory States may wish to consider following the example set by Australia at the 2008 Bali Meeting, when Australia directed the CMS Secretariat to use their voluntary contribution for projects submitted as Small Scale Projects. The projects funded with Australia's voluntary contribution have been reported in Agenda Items 7.2.3.

13. The Signatory States may further wish to discuss the merits of following the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU which has set a suggested voluntary contribution from developing countries as USD 500 per annum, an amount that may be more than offset by benefits of Dugong MoU membership.

**Additional sources of funding** (Agenda Item 7.1.4)

14. The discussion above does not take into account the funds required at a national level for Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding within each of the Signatory States, nor the funds required for broader collective initiatives, such as those proposed for endorsement in Agenda Item 12.9.

15. Relevant to Agenda Item 8, the Signatory States are invited to provide guidance on how to seek additional sources of funding for implementation of the CMP (see also Agenda Item 12).

**Work programme for 2011 & 2012** (Agenda Item 7.1.5)

16. The work programme for the current year will be shaped by the outcomes of the Signatory State Meeting on 4-6 October 2010, 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:

- Extending the use of the Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool to other range states in each sub-region;
- Facilitating other regional activities to improve information on the distribution and abundance of dugongs and their habitats;
- Work with relevant regional initiatives and partners to maintain momentum in dugong conservation and management activities;
- Supporting Signatory States to address global, regional and national priorities as determined at this meeting, for example in Agenda Item 12 – Progressing Dugong Conservation, and through other future processes in proposal development, fund raising and implementation of projects;
- Providing guidance and overseeing timely implementation of small grant projects with Signatory States for national and regional initiatives;
- Building up a strategy for fundraising and networking; and,
- Maintaining and further developing the Dugong MoU website as a key source of information of relevance and interest to Range States.

17. The meeting is invited to note the timetable for activities arising from the present meeting, including follow-up meetings at a sub-regional and regional level.

	Oct – Dec 2010	Jan – Apr 2011	May – Aug 2011	Sep – Dec 2011
Presentation to Small Scale Fisheries Congress, 18-22 October 2010				
Presentation to Conventions' Ecosystem and Climate Change Pavilion at Nagoya CBD CoP10, 26 October 2010				
South East Asia Regional Workshop, Lawas, Malaysia, November 2010				
EWS-WWF Marine Conservation Forum, Abu Dhabi, 12 December 2010				
Implementation of SWIO Sub-Regional Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey projects				
International Marine Conservation Congress, Victoria, Canada, 14-18 May 2011				
19 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Marine Mammal Conference, Tampa, Florida, USA, 27 November – 3 December 2011				
CMS COP10, Bergen, Norway, 20-25 November 2011				
2011 Pacific Year of the Dugong				

18. Next Signatory State meeting (SS2): The Secretariat will communicate with Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States to elicit expressions of interest for hosting the Second Signatory State Meeting of the Dugong MoU. The Signatory States may wish to indicate their preferred frequency of meetings of Signatory States, noting the Secretariat will require at least 12 months preparation time.

### Recommendation

- It is recommended that Signatory States note the report of the Secretariat and seek clarification of any items covered in the report.
- It is recommended that Signatory States advise the Secretariat as to their preferred frequency of official meetings of Signatory States.

Annex 1

Table 1: Indicative budget 2009-2011 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

Budget Item	2009 US\$	2010 US\$	2011 US\$	Total
Staff	548,586	837,443	837,443	2,223,472
Travel on official mission	15,000	30,000	30,000	75,000
Small Grants Programme	50,000	150,000	165,000	365,000
Meetings	80,000	155,000	195,000	430,000
Equipment & Premises	25,000	15,000	10,000	50,000
Miscellaneous	10,000	17,815	14,554	42,369
Total	728,586	1,205,258	1,251,997	3,185,841
Programme Support Cost (PSC), 13%	94,714	156,685	162,760	414,159
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>823,300</b>	<b>1,361,943</b>	<b>1,414,757</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>

Table 2: Unofficial statement of expenditure 2010 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

Item	Expenditure* as on July 2010 US\$
Staff costs	416,162.51
Mission costs	27,686.86
Small Grants Programme	239,019.00
In-service training	31,508.96
Expendable Equipment	2,345.67
Operation & Maintenance	8,790.75
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>725,513</b>

\* total commitment