



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

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT: MOU IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Status of Signatures (Agenda Item 7.2.1)

1. Since the conclusion of the Dugong MoU on 31 October 2007, there are 13 signatories: Australia, Comoros, Eritrea, France (including Mayotte and New Caledonia), India, Kenya, Madagascar, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, and United Arab Emirates. The most recent signatories were Solomon Islands on 9 September 2010 and Papua New Guinea on 10 September 2010.
2. The Secretariat has actively been encouraging all Non-Signatory States to sign the Dugong MoU. Prior to the SS1 Dugong MoU meeting, the Secretariat was most encouraged to have received a number of expressions of interest to sign the Dugong MoU: Bahrain, Cambodia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Qatar, Seychelles, Somalia, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Yemen.
3. Delegates from Non-Signatory Range States are invited to state their countries intention to sign the Dugong MoU at a future occasion.

Designated Competent Authorities and Contact Points (Agenda Item 7.2.2)

4. The Secretariat is circulating a form as Annex 1 to this report, to confirm each signatory's institutional competent authority that would act as a focal point for the MoU and its implementation, and secure the details of an individual contact point within the competent authority. A provisional list of designated competent authorities and contact points, reproduced as Annex 2 to this report, will be maintained and circulated to the signatories by the Secretariat.

Meetings and Other Activities (Agenda Item 7.2.3)

4. Prior to this meeting, the Secretariat has taken direction from the meetings: *Technical Workshops and Meeting to sign the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range, Abu Dhabi*, in October 2007 and *Informal Meeting of Signatory States to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range* in Bali, in August 2008. The following sections briefly summarise the activities in which the Secretariat has been engaged over the past 11 months in its role to facilitate implementation of the MoU.
5. The following meetings and associated projects have been supported utilizing funding available for small scale projects in the 2009 financial year. These meetings and projects to facilitate sub-regional activities to improve available information on the distribution and abundance of dugongs and their habitats in order to assess the conservation status of dugongs throughout their range. In addition, meetings of technical experts have also been convened to provide technical support to implementation of the MoU and its associated Conservation and Management Plans. The full list of financed small scale dugong conservation and management projects can be found under Agenda Item 8, noting that meetings e) and f) below were funded from the Secretariat's core budget. These activities are reported in chronological order:

- a. Technical Expert Meeting in Singapore on March 3–4, 2010 was held to develop a standardised (low cost) tool for the rapid assessment of abundance and spatial distribution of dugongs and their habitats and of impacts on dugong populations including incidental catch in artisanal fisheries, habitat degradation and direct harvests. The Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool was developed by a dedicated group of invited experts. The developed standards were designed to allow the replication of an initial regional project implemented in South Asia (see details below) to other sub-regions.
- b. A sub-regional meeting in South East Asia and implementation of the project, *Assessment of dugong distribution, habitats and risks due to fisheries in Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam*. This proposal was submitted in response to the call for small scale projects at the 2008 Bali meeting. The project piloted the application of the Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool to identify relative dugong abundances, distributions, key habitats as well as direct threats (in the selected priority areas of Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) with a focus on incidental catch in artisanal fisheries. Participants from Indonesia and Philippines attended the meeting as observers. Other Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States in South East/South Asia including India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste were also invited but were unable to attend the meeting. A report on this meeting will be given under Agenda Item 11.
- c. A sub-regional meeting, *Dugong Workshop for the Pacific Islands Dugong Range States* was a collaboration of the Secretariat and the Secretariat to the Pacific Regional Environment Programme SPREP with an overall objective was to progress dugong conservation in the Pacific Islands region. The meeting held on 11–12 April 2010 in Brisbane was attended by participants from Australia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The meeting addressed priority actions identified under the themes of the SPREP regional Dugong and Marine Turtle Action Plans 2008-2012 as well as the Dugong MoU and associated CMP. The workshop also provided training in the conduct of the Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool which was subsequently implemented by in-country projects in New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The workshop report will be posted on the Secretariat's website http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_noticeboard.htm > “Dugong Workshops for Training in the Use of Survey Methodologies”. A report on this meeting will be given under Agenda Item 11.
- d. A sub-regional meeting entitled *Technical Meeting for the Conservation of the Dugong and its Habitat in the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO)* was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 4–6 August 2010. Countries that participated were: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mayotte, Mozambique, Somalia, Seychelles and Tanzania. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the British NGO, Community Centred Conservation (C3), which has an ongoing commitment to dugong conservation in this region. The overall objective of this meeting was to support and enhance cooperation to implement the Dugong Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) in the SWIO region under the auspices of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat for the Dugong MoU, and to also encourage non-signatory dugong range states to sign the Dugong MoU. The technical meeting brought the dugong focal contacts of the SWIO range states together to learn about standardised tools utilized in dugong surveys. The Standardised Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool was introduced and in-country surveys are being planned for early 2011. A report on this meeting will be given under Agenda Item 11.
- e. An *Expert Panel on Management Tools* was convened to discuss the development of an innovative toolbox to improve the survivorship of dugongs and their habitats in Brisbane, Australia, on 30–31 August 2010. The outcomes of this meeting are reported in Agenda Item 12.2.
- f. A sub-regional meeting, *Technical Meeting for the Conservation of Dugong and its Habitat and Associated Meeting on Marine Turtles in the North West Indian Ocean (NWIO)* was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 20–21 September 2010. The overall objective of this meeting was to support and enhance cooperation to implement the Dugong CMP in the NWIO region under the auspices of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat for the Dugong MoU, and also encourage non-signatory dugong

range states to sign the Dugong MoU. Countries that participated were: Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Sri Lanka were also invited but did not attend. The technical meeting brought together the dugong focal contacts of the NWIO range states to learn about the Standardised Survey Tool. It is anticipated that some NWIO range states may wish to participate in projects using the Standardised Survey Tool to identify key dugong habitat, population numbers and trends, and impacts including direct harvest, habitat degradation and incidental capture in fisheries gear. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share information on regional research and monitoring activities, and to discuss regional issues in relation to marine turtles. A report on this meeting will be given under Agenda Item 11.

- g. The *First Official Signatory State Meeting of the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (SSI Dugong MoU)* is to be held in Abu Dhabi on 4–6 October 2010, in which this Report of the Secretariat is presented.
- h. In addition, a half-day meeting will be arranged prior to the Signatory State's meeting, on 3 October, entitled *West Indian Ocean (WIO) Dugong Range States Preparatory Meeting to the SSI*. The meeting presents an opportunity for the WIO range states and territories to discuss a range of issues in relation to the implementation of the *Conservation and Management Plan for Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range of the Western Indian Ocean Region*.

6. Activities supported in relation to marine turtles include:

- Funding contribution of USD \$12K, from Australian Government voluntary contribution to CMS to support Pacific marine turtle conservation;
- Funding contribution of USD \$10K to the International Sea Turtle Symposium, Goa, India 27-29 April 2010 provided in part to conduct the Shared Dugong and Turtle Conservation Strategies Workshop. The outcomes of this workshop are reported in Agenda Item 9.1; and
- Regional NWIO Marine Turtle Meeting being organised in collaboration with EAD and the IOSEA Marine Turtle Secretariat to be held in Abu Dhabi on 21 September 2010.

Communications (Agenda Item 7.2.4)

15. In the beginning of year 2010, the Dugong MoU Focal Points and available contacts for all range states list was updated alongside with the e-mailing list.

16. The Dugong MoU website (www.cms/int/species/dugong) has been updated, with assistance from the CMS Secretariat in Bonn. The website has been regularly updated since February 2010.

17. Updates to Signatory States and Non-Signatory range states were provided on 7 September 2009 and 6 January 2010 using contacts available from previous meetings.

18. On a sub-regional level, the Secretariat continues to working to establish direct contact with regional organisations across the range states. The information provided by Signatory and Non-Signatory Range States at this as well as previous meetings will assist this process.

19. The UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi has developed a brochure outlining the general functions of the Office as well as information on the Dugong MoU for general circulation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Signatory States

- Note the report of the Secretariat on implementation of the MoU;
- Seek clarification that might be necessary; and
- Provide advice on any additional activities that may warrant inclusion in the Secretariat's work programme over the coming year, subject to there being sufficient resources for implementation.



United Nations Environment Programme

Convention on the Conservation of
Migratory Species of Wild Animals



UNEP/CMS OFFICE – ABU DHABI

United Arab Emirates

Designated Competent Authority and Contact Point Form

**Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs
(*Dugong dugon*) and their Habitats throughout their Range**

Recalling Paragraph 8 of the above MoU:

“Designate a competent national authority to serve as a focal point for communication among Signatory States and for implementing activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, and communicate the complete contact details of this authority (and any changes thereto) to the Secretariat.”

I hereby designate the following governmental institution as the competent authority to serve as focal point for the MoU and for implementing activities under the MoU:

Organisation:

.....
.....

I hereby nominate the following person as contact point for purposes of communicating with the Secretariat and other Signatories:

Family name: (Mr./Ms./Dr.)..... **First name:**

Title/Function:

Department:

Organisation:

Full postal address:

.....
.....

Tel.:

Fax:

E-mail:

Signature: **Date:** **Stamp of Ministry**

.....
(Responsible Minister)

Provisional List of Competent National Authorities (Focal Points) for the Dugong MoU
as at 26 September 2010

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