



UNEP/CMS OFFICE

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Range State: Philippines |
| Which agency or institution has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report? Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) |
| List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input: Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, WWF Philippines, Conservation International Philippines |
| Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy): |
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| Designated Focal Point (and full contact details): Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Director of DENR-PAWB, Tel no. (632)9246031 |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION:

The purpose of completing the national report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Dugong MoU including, as far as possible, contributions of cooperating non-governmental partners. For each main objective and its associated sub-objectives, you are required to rate an order of priority (High, Medium or Low) from a national as well as sub-regional perspective. This information will allow us to collate regional and global priorities for conservation and management actions. It will also give an indication of what has been done already (helping to avoid duplication of effort); what is generally not being done (gaps that need to be addressed); and what interventions or specific assistance may be required?

The reporting template is divided into these nine main objectives, and asks specific questions in relation to the activities that need to be carried out to fulfil those objectives.

Text boxes can be expanded to accommodate longer answers or to explain and provide additional information, beyond what is requested. Details of future plans are especially encouraged. Wherever possible, please try to indicate the source of information used to answer a particular question, if a published reference is available. Remember that you are sharing information with other countries about your progress, so that it may be of benefit to them.

Implementation will be assessed in terms of the nine objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP). A process for self-assessment of effectiveness and completeness of actions undertaken – intended to stimulate reflection within a given Signatory State/Party on what more could or should be done in relation to a particular activity will be the basis for a workshop to be held in association with the First Official Signatory State Meeting on 4-6 October 2010 in Abu Dhabi.

Please submit the completed report to the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi by email (CmsOffice.ae@cms.int) as a Word attachment. Feel free to attach additional material (published reports, maps, etc.) to this template and send them separately by e-mail or by post.

OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF DUGONG MORTALITY

1.1 Threats facing dugong population

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to identify, assess and evaluate the threats to dugong populations? What kind of measures has your country developed to address these threats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Established baseline data collection and monitoring programmes to gather information on the nature and magnitude of threats
- Regularly updated existing data on threats to dugong populations and their habitats
- Determined those populations affected by traditional subsistence and customary use, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality
- Conducted socio-economic studies among communities that interact with dugongs and their habitats
- Implemented programmes to correct adverse social and economic incentives that threaten dugong populations
- Facilitated the development of means of subsistence to minimise resultant adverse social and economic impacts
- Enacted, where not already in place, legislation and prohibited the direct use (capture or killing) of, and domestic trade in, dugongs their parts or products, whilst allowed exceptions for traditional subsistence or customary use
- Established management programmes to enforce such legislation
- Negotiated, where appropriate, management agreements in consultation with other concerned States
- Identified resources and sources of funding for the above programmes
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

1.2 Dugong mortality in fishing activities

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to reduce, to the greatest extent practicable, the incidental capture and mortality of dugong in the course of fishing activities? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Developed and used gear, devices and techniques to minimise incidental capture of dugongs in artisanal and commercial fisheries, such as the use of alternative gears and spatial closures or limit or control the

use of gears known to be harmful to dugongs throughout the range of dugong

- Developed procedures and extension programmes to promote implementation of these measures
- Exchanged information and, upon request, provide technical assistance to together Signatory and cooperating States to promote these activities
- X Liaised and coordinated with fishing industries, fisheries management organisations and community groups to develop and implement these activities
- Developed and implemented net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches
- Provided and ensured the use of onshore facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

1.3 Dugong mortality due to human activities

Rate as a National priority: High X Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High X Medium Low

What has your country done in order to reduce, to the greatest extent practicable, the incidental mortality of dugongs arising from other anthropogenic activities? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- X Assessed the level, location and impact of anthropogenic impacts on dugongs at ecologically relevant scales
- X Reduced, as much as possible, all other human impacts on dugongs and their habitats in areas that sustain subsistence and customary use
- X Established appropriate management programmes to ensure that anthropogenic impacts are addressed, taking account of the temporal and spatial variability of dugong reproductive rates and other impacts on the species in a precautionary manner
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

1.4 Illegal take of dugong

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to reduce, to the greatest extent practicable, the illegal take of dugong? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Assessed the level, location and impacts of the illegal take of dugongs
- Established appropriate management programmes to ensure that the illegal take of dugongs is addressed
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

1.5 Sustainable dugong use

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to ensure that subsistence and customary use of dugong is sustainable (in areas where it is permitted)? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Assessed the level, location and impact of subsistence and customary use on dugongs at ecologically relevant scales
- Reduced as much as possible all other human impacts on dugongs and their habitats in areas that sustain subsistence and customary use
- Determined the cultural and subsistence values and uses of dugongs (both consumptive and non-consumptive)
- Established culturally appropriate management programmes to ensure that subsistence and customary use is sustainable, taking account of the temporal and spatial variability of dugong reproductive rates and other impacts on the species in a precautionary manner
- Ensured that such programmes do not have adverse unintended consequences (e.g. increase use of other threatened species such as marine turtles)
- Considered the development of alternative means of subsistence in areas where the subsistence and customary use of dugong is permitted to alleviate adverse social and cultural impacts
- Negotiated, where appropriate, management agreements on the sustainable level of subsistence and customary use (where it is permitted), in consultation with other concerned States, to ensure that such use does not undermine conservation efforts
- Ensured that the management of other species (including fisheries) does not have adverse unintended

consequences on the subsistence and customary use of dugongs where it is permitted

Other, please describe:

Under RA 9147, sustainable use of dugong is not allowed. Hence, all questions under this item are not applicable.

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING THROUGH RESEARCH AND MONITORING

2.1 Dugong populations and habitats

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done so as to determine the distribution and abundance of dugong populations to provide a base for future conservation efforts and actions? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- X Conducted baseline studies or gather secondary information on dugong populations using cost effective techniques where possible, including community-based monitoring
- X Other, please describe:

Aerial surveys were used in the Province of Palawan and areas in Mindanao, Davao Gulf and Sarangani Bay

** Free text field for a specific description on measures developed:*

2.2 Dugong research

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to conduct research and monitoring into dugong? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Initiated and/or continued long-term monitoring of priority dugong populations at appropriate spatial

scales

- Identified migratory routes through the use of techniques such as genetic studies and/or satellite tracking where appropriate
- Carried out studies on dugong population dynamics and survival rates
- Promoted the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible
- Involved local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required
- Reviewed periodically and evaluated research and monitoring activities
- Identified and included priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans
- Conducted collaborative studies and monitoring of genetic identity, conservation status, migrations, and other biological and ecological aspects of dugongs
- Other, please describe:

Before, there were aerial surveys conducted. Presently, we just get reports from Local communities and NGOs through the DENR Regional Offices, accidentally caught dugongs and dugong strandings.

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

2.3 Data collection and analysing

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to collect and analyse data that supports the identification of sources of mortality, the mitigation of threats, and improved approaches to dugong conservation practices? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified and prioritised populations for conservation actions
- Identified population trends using local information where appropriate
- Used research results to improve management, mitigate threats and assess the efficacy of conservation activities (e.g. habitat loss)
- Involved local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required
- Developed and harmonised data collection and analysis protocols
- Where appropriate, developed and harmonised the reporting format that can be used for informing decision-making (local, national and regional)
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented*

OBJECTIVE 3: PROTECT, CONSERVE AND MANAGE HABITATS FOR DUGONG

3.1 Dugong habitat mapping

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What kind of actions has your country implemented in terms of identifying and mapping areas of important dugong habitat? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified and mapped areas of critical habitat such as seagrass beds and migratory corridors, using rapid assessment technique where appropriate
- Other, please describe:

Through aerial surveys and interviews, data were collected

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

3.2 Protect dugong habitats

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to establish necessary measures in order to protect and conserve dugong habitats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Designated and managed protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones in areas of critical habitat, or took other measures (e.g. modification of fishing gear, banning destructive fishing practices, restrictions on vessel traffic) to remove threats to such areas and involving the local community as much as possible
- Considered protecting dugong habitats as part of ecosystem based management (e.g. networks of marine protected areas)
- Developed incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas
- Assessed the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on dugong populations and their habitats
- Monitored and promoted the protection of water quality from land-based and maritime pollution, including marine debris, which may adversely affect dugongs and their habitats
- Strengthened the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources

Other, please describe:

Under RA 9147, critical habitats can be established and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur is a candidate site for critical habitat to enhance the protection of dugongs in the area

** Free text field for a specific description on measures developed:*

3.3 Actions to address habitat loss

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to assess the risk of the degradation of dugong habitats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified and enhanced recovery of degraded seagrass habitats used by dugongs
- Identified and enhanced recovery of degraded mangrove and coral reef habitats used by dugong
- Undertook measures to restore degraded habitats
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on measures developed:*

3.4 Degraded dugong habitats

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done concerning degraded dugong habitats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified and undertook measures, where appropriate, to enhance recovery of degraded seagrass habitats used by dugong
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF DUGONG HABITATS THROUGH RESEARCH AND MONITORING

4.1 Research of habitats

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done with regards to conducting research into and monitoring of important dugong habitats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Conducted baseline studies or gathered secondary information on dugong habitats using cost effective techniques where possible, including community-based monitoring
- Initiated and/or continued long-term monitoring of priority dugong habitats
- Promoted the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible
- Involved local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required
- Reviewed periodically and evaluate research and monitoring activities
- Identified and include priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

OBJECTIVE 5: RAISE AWARENESS OF DUGONG CONSERVATION

5.1 Information programmes

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done with regards to establishing education, awareness and information programmes? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Collected, developed, co-ordinated and disseminated education materials (e.g. dedicated regional website)
- Identified key persons/champions to help disseminate messages about the need to conserve dugongs and their habitats
- Established community learning/information centres
- Developed and implemented mass media information programmes
- Developed and conducted focused education and awareness programmes for target groups (e.g. policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, subsistence and customary users, media)
- Encouraged the incorporation of dugong biology and conservation issues into school curricula
- Organised special events related to dugong conservation and biology (e.g. Dugong Day, Year of the Dugong, symposia, community education workshops)
- Promoted public participation in conservation activities
- Involved stakeholders, including key policymakers, subsistence and customary users, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures
- Encouraged the participation of government institutions, intergovernmental governmental organisations, the private sector and the general community (e.g. students, volunteers, fishing communities, local communities) in research, conservation and management efforts
- Implemented, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g. T-shirts, public acknowledgement and certificates)
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

5.2 Encourage local community participation

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done with regards to encouraging local communities to actively participate in conservation efforts? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified, developed and facilitated alternative programmes (including means of subsistence and incentives) that are not detrimental to dugongs and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

OBJECTIVE 6: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6.1 Combat illegal trade

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to collaborate with and assist Signatory and non-Signatory States to combat illegal international and domestic trade? What kind of measures have been developed to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to dugong products? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- X Encouraged Signatory States, that have not already done so, to become Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- X Reviewed at a national level, compliance with obligations under CITES relating to illegal international trade in dugong parts or products
- X Facilitated better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other Signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations
- Identified routes of international illegal trade through monitoring, and sought cooperation to take action to prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate it
- Exchanged and discussed information on compliance and illegal trade issues at regular intervals, such as through annual reporting to the MoU Secretariat and at meetings of the Signatory States
- X Identified, prevented, deterred and, where possible, eliminated domestic illegal trade through monitoring, implementation of legislation, identification of gaps in enforcement capabilities in each country, and training of enforcement officers
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

6.2 Information exchange

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to develop and implement mechanisms for effective exchange of information? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified and strengthened existing mechanisms for cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level
- Developed a website and/or newsletter to facilitate networking and exchange of information
- Developed a web-based information resource for dugong conservation (including data on populations, migration, on-going projects) based on IUCN website
- Regularly updated a directory of experts and organisations concerned with dugong conservation
- Developed networks for cooperative management of shared populations, within or across sub-regions, and where appropriate, formalise cooperative management arrangements
- Cooperated where possible in the establishment of transboundary marine protected areas using ecological rather than political boundaries
- Developed a streamlined format for reporting and exchanging information (through the MoU Secretariat and among Signatory States) on the state of dugong conservation at the national level
- Encouraged MoU signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Encouraged Signatory States to become contracting parties to global fisheries agreements such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995) and the FAO Compliance Agreement (1993) and implemented the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
- Established relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encouraged them to adopt dugong conservation measure within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and territorial waters
- Determined the most appropriate methods for information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organisations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to conservation of dugongs and their habitats
- Exchanged at regular intervals scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organisations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to conservation of dugongs and their habitats
- Disseminated traditional knowledge on dugongs, their habitats and traditional practices for conservation and management in a culturally appropriate manner
- Updated data on dugong populations of regional interest on a regular basis (e.g. country status reports)
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

6.3 Improve coordination

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done in order to improve coordination among government and non-government sectors and communities in the conservation of dugongs and their habitats? Please check box when

applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- X Reviewed the roles and responsibilities of government agencies related to the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats
- X Designated a led agency responsible for coordinating national dugong conservation and management policy
- X Identified non-governmental organisation with an interest in dugong conservation and management
- X Encouraged cooperation within and among government and non-government sectors, including through the development and/or strengthening of national networks
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions implemented:*

6.4 Database

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

In relation to dugong conservation and management, what has your country done to develop and implement a regional database of relevant information? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Collated and managed information relevant for dugong conservation and management in a regional database that is easily accessible to all interested parties
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

OBJECTIVE 7: PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

7.1 Encourage participation in the MoU

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to encourage all Range States to participate in the MoU and its conservation and management activities? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Encouraged non-Signatory States to sign the MoU
- Arranged regional and sub-regional workshops involving non-Signatory States to raise awareness of the MoU
- Considered at the first meeting of the Signatory States the development of a timetable for regular review of implementation the MoU
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

7.2 Support the Secretariat

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to support the Secretariat of the MoU to ensure the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan are met? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Secured reliable sources of funding to support the MoU Secretariat
- Other, please describe

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

7.3 Seek resources

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What kind of actions has your country taken to seek resources to support the implementation of the MoU? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Prioritised conservation and management activities for funding

- Explored funding options with governments and other donors such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF, etc.
- Solicited funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on dugongs and their habitats (e.g. fisheries, tourism, oil industry, real estate)
- Explored international funding support and other incentives for Signatory States that effectively manage populations
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

7.4 Synergy with other conventions

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to create links and develop synergies with other relevant regional conservation conventions, MoUs and Agreements? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified, facilitated and explored links to other international, regional, sub-regional fora, conventions, agreements and MoUs
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

OBJECTIVE 8: IMPROVE LEGAL PROTECTION OF DUGONGS AND THEIR HABITATS

8.1 Incorporation into national legislation

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What has your country done to encourage all Range States, and ensure Signatory States, to incorporate dugong and habitat conservation and protection measures into national legislation? Please check box

when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Encouraged MoU Signatory States, that have not already done so, to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Encouraged the establishment of legislation to protect dugongs and their habitats while recognising existing traditional management systems
- Reviewed domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to dugong conservation
- Ensured corporate sanctions for harming dugongs or destroying habitat, trained law enforcement authorities, raised public awareness to boost surveillance for reporting of illegal activities
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

8.2 Legal protection

Rate as a National priority: High Medium Low

Rate as a Sub-Regional priority: High Medium Low

What kind of measures your country has developed to review and, where necessary, strengthen legal protection for dugongs and their habitats? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Cooperated in law enforcement to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and intelligence sharing)
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on measures developed:*

OBJECTIVE 9: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CAPACITY BUILDING

9.1 Promote capacity building

Rate as a National priority High Medium Low

Rate as a Regional priority High Medium Low

What has your country done to promote capacity building at all levels to strengthen conservation measures? Please check box when applicable and provide a specific description on the free text field* below.

- Identified needs for capacity-building in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities
- Provided training (e.g. through workshops) in conservation and management techniques for dugongs and their habitats to relevant agencies, individuals and local communities
- Coordinated training programmes and workshops
- Developed partnerships with universities, research institutions, NGOs, training bodies and other relevant organisations to support capacity building initiatives
- Identified assess, develop and implement training programmes for local communities, NGOs, community-based organisations, media, enforcement officers, policy makers, law makers and decision makers
- Enhanced capacity at all levels to develop and undertake joint research programmes on dugong and their habitats
- Organised forums (local, national and regional as appropriate) with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to enable knowledge sharing and capacity building
- Provided training on development, implementation and monitoring of community rehabilitation programmes
- Supported local communities and relevant national organisations with necessary basic equipment and facilities to enable protection, conservation and management of dugong and their habitats
- Other, please describe:

** Free text field for a specific description on actions taken:*

Other remarks

Please provide any comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format.

Provide additional information not covered above: