



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

Distr. General

DM/SS.1/Doc 9.1
Agenda item 10.1

Rev. 1 – 26 September 2010

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED AND DEFINITIONS OF SUB-REGIONAL GROUPINGS

Purpose

To advise Signatory States of efficiency benefits for the Secretariat arising from providing administrative support to regional and sub-regional groupings, and to seek advice from Signatory States on preferences for such groupings.

Background

1. Dugongs are geographically distributed across over 40 countries and territories. Over their extensive distribution, dugongs are exposed to a range of threats, some of which are unique to particular regions and some which span across wide range or areas. These threats include incidental capture in fisheries gear, habitat loss and degradation, fishing pressure, unsustainable indigenous hunting and use, vessel strikes, acoustic pollution, eco-tourism, and diseases.
2. At the First Meeting on Dugong Conservation in 2005, clarification was sought to the potential geographic scope of the MoU, noting the importance of involving countries throughout the range of the species, as well as other countries that may be relevant in terms of possible impacts.
3. In 2006, the Second Meeting on Dugong Conservation and Management further considered the region for which the MoU on dugong conservation and management would have effect and agreed on the following formulation: “Region means all of the waters, coastal and archipelagic States of the Indian Ocean, East Asia, and western Pacific Ocean as well as their adjacent seas, within the range of the dugong.” No further definition on the dugong range of occurrence has been officially made.
4. Paragraph 18 of the MoU states: “Actions under this Memorandum of Understanding will be coordinated with Signatory States, as well as with sub-regional institutions in the Region.” Furthermore, Objective 6 of the CMP calls Signatory States to “Enhance national, regional and international cooperation”.
5. Further to Agenda Item 9, Signatory States may provide advice on other regional institutions relevant to dugong conservation and management which may facilitate the implementation of the MoU and CMP on a regional level.
6. The Secretariat has initiated sub-regional projects to facilitate the dugong conservation and management. The sub-regions were arbitrarily selected on the basis of broad geographical area as follows: South-East Asia, Pacific, North West Indian Ocean, and South West Indian Ocean: which generally correlates with the sub-regions defined under the MoU on the conservation of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU).
7. There are currently two regional arrangements relevant to the Dugong MoU:

- a. Western Indian Ocean: the CMP for the Conservation of Dugongs and their Habitats in the WIO provides the framework for regional actions but does not explicitly specify a delivery mechanism.
- b. Pacific Islands: the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) oversees a regional Action Plan for Dugongs 2008-2012 which provides a mechanism to coordinate regional collaboration amongst Pacific Island States and Territories.

Need for Sub-Regional Groupings?

8. There are distinct administrative advantages and efficiencies in having discrete sub-regional groupings that allow the servicing of each grouping by the Secretariat within its limited resources. Such arrangements have significant benefits in terms of addressing priorities, maximizing cost-efficiencies, use of resources, assisting research, sharing technical support and knowledge to progress and contribute to the conservation of dugongs and their habitats at the regional level.

9. There may also be other natural or convenient groupings that take into account geographical, political, linguistic and cultural criteria, and which might provide useful frameworks within which signatory States could work cooperatively to implement the provisions of the MoU.

10. The advice of Signatory States is sought by the Secretariat on the need for sub-regional groupings as set out in the Recommendations.

11. The Signatory States may wish to consider whether the sub-regional groupings in Table 1 below are appropriate or useful and whether some sub-regions should be combined.

Table 1 Range States in Each Sub-Region

South West Indian Ocean	North West Indian Ocean	South Asia	South East Asia	Pacific
Comoros	Bahrain	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Australia
Mayotte (FR)	Djibouti	India	Brunei	New Caledonia (FR)
Kenya	Egypt	Maldives	China	Palau
Madagascar	Eritrea	Pakistan	Indonesia	Papua New Guinea
Mauritius	Iran	Sri Lanka	Japan	Solomon Islands
Mozambique	Iraq		Malaysia	Vanuatu
Seychelles	Jordan		Myanmar	
Somalia	Kuwait		Philippines	
Sudan	Oman		Singapore	
Tanzania	Qatar		Thailand	
	Saudi Arabia		Timor Leste	
	United Arab Emirates		Viet Nam	
	Yemen			

Note: Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region consists of range states from 28 Countries or Territories from the NWIO, SWIO and South Asia sub-regions.

12. Pending any decision with regards to sub-regional groupings, the Signatory States may also wish to consider whether sub-regional coordinators should be appointed similar to the model of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Signatory States:

- (a) Endorse sub-regional arrangements to assist Secretariat support of Signatory States and sub-regional groupings;
- (b) Provide advice on
 - i. The sub-regional arrangements they wish to formally establish or strengthen;
 - ii. The definition of sub-regional groupings; and
 - iii. Whether sub-regional coordinators should be appointed similar to the model of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU.