



**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
of Wild Animals**



**TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS AND MEETING TO SIGN THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF DUGONGS (*DUGONG DUGON*) AND THEIR HABITATS
THROUGHOUT THEIR RANGE**

28 - 31 October 2007, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

CMS/DUGONG/Inf.6
Agenda Item 10.0

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DUGONGS
(*Dugong dugon*) AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THEIR RANGE**

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DUGONGS (*Dugong dugon*)
AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THEIR RANGE**

Species Aspects

| <i>Objective 1 – Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong mortality</i> | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|---|---|
| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
| 1.1 Identify, assess and evaluate the threats to dugong populations and develop appropriate measures to address these threats | High (Across all of the range of dugong) | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Threats to dugongs and their required conservation measures are identified assessed and evaluated |
| 1.2 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of dugongs in the course of fishing activities | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers, fishers and fishing communities | Incidental fishing mortality of dugongs is minimized |
| 1.3 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental mortality of dugongs arising from other anthropogenic activities | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and other stakeholders (e.g., tourism operators, recreational fishers) | Mortality arising from other anthropogenic activities on dugong is minimized |
| 1.4 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the illegal take of dugong | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and communities | Illegal take of dugong is minimized |
| 1.5 Ensure that subsistence and customary use of dugong is sustainable in areas where it is permitted | High (In areas where subsistence and customary harvest is permitted) | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and community-based organizations | Subsistence and customary use is managed sustainably |

Objective 2 – Improve our understanding of dugong through research and monitoring

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|--|----------------|------------|--|--|
| 2.1 Determine the distribution and abundance of dugong populations to provide a base for future conservation efforts and actions | High | Immediate | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | An understanding, across the range of dugong, of distribution and numbers |
| 2.2 Conduct research and monitoring into dugong | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Research and monitoring that promote dugong conservation are conducted |
| 2.3 Collect and analyse data that supports the identification of sources of mortality, the mitigation of threats and improved approaches to conservation practices | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Data are collected and analysed to improve conservation practices and are reported in national reports |

Habitat Aspects

Objective 3 – Protect, conserve and manage habitats for dugong

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|--|----------------|------------|--|---|
| 3.1 Identify and map areas of important dugong habitat such as sea grass beds | High | Immediate | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Important dugong habitat identified and mapped |
| 3.2 Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve dugong habitats | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and local communities | Measures to protect dugong habitat are developed and implemented |
| 3.3 Assess the risk of, and develop measures to mitigate against, the degradation of dugong habitats | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and local communities | Dugong habitats at risk are assessed and action to mitigate those risks are taken |

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 3.4 Identify and where appropriate, rehabilitate degraded dugong habitats | Medium | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and local communities | Degraded important habitats for dugong are identified and where appropriate remedial steps are taken |
| <i>Objective 4 – Improve our understanding of dugong habitats through research and monitoring</i> | | | | |
| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
| 4.1 Conduct research into and monitoring of important dugong habitats | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and local communities | Research and monitoring that promote dugong conservation are conducted |

Awareness and Education

| <i>Objective 5 – Raise awareness of dugong conservation</i> | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
| 5.1 Establish education, awareness and information programmes | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Programmes are implemented and the conservation needs of dugong are widely understood by all stakeholders |
| 5.2 Consult with local communities to encourage their active participation in conservation efforts | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and local communities | Local communities are actively involved in dugong conservation |

Objective 6 – Enhance national, regional and international cooperation

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 6.1 Collaborate with, and assist Signatory and non-Signatory States to combat illegal international and domestic trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to dugong products | Medium | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations | Illegal trade is controlled by cooperative action |
| 6.2 Develop and implement mechanisms for effective exchange of information | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers and local communities | Mechanisms for cooperation and information exchange are established and used by Signatory States |
| 6.3 Improve coordination among government and non-government sectors and communities in the conservation of dugongs and their habitats | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions and local communities | Coordination amongst government and non-government and community sectors is established for the conservation of dugong and their habitats |
| 6.4 Develop and implement a regional database of relevant information in relation to dugong conservation and management | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers | Important information in relation to dugong, across their range, is available to all parties to the MoU |

Objective 7 – Promote implementation of the MoU

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| 7.1 Encourage all Range States to participate in the MoU and its conservation and management activities | Medium | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | The MoU encompasses all dugong Range States |
| 7.2 Support the Secretariat of the MoU to ensure the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan are met | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations | The Secretariat is established and is effective in implementation of the MoU and Conservation and Management Plan |
| 7.3 Seek resources to support the implementation of the MoU | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, donor agencies and the private sector | Adequate resources are obtained to implement the MoU |

| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| 7.4 Create links and develop synergies with other relevant regional conservation conventions, MoUs and Agreements | Medium | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other agreement Secretariats | Potential complementarities between dugong and other marine wildlife species in conservation and management are identified and enhanced |

Crosscutting Issues

| Objective 8 – Improve legal protection of dugongs and their habitats | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
| 8.1 Encourage all Range States, and ensure Signatory states, incorporate dugong and habitat conservation and protection measures into national legislation | High | Immediate | Relevant government agencies | Dugongs and their habitats are given appropriate protection in the national legislation of all Range States |
| 8.2 Review, and where necessary, strengthen national legal protection for dugongs and their habitats | Medium | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies and other stakeholders (e.g., consultation with non-governmental organizations, local communities and academic institutions) | Laws protecting dugong are reviewed, strengthened and where appropriate, enforced |
| Objective 9 – Enhance national, regional and international cooperation on capacity building | | | | |
| Action | Priority Level | Time-scale | Organizations | Target |
| 9.1 Promote capacity building at all levels to strengthen conservation measures | High | Ongoing | Relevant government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, scientists and researchers donor agencies, the private sector and philanthropic organizations | Mechanisms to support capacity building activities within Signatory States are established and used |

ANNEX 1: EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS THAT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE CMP

This annex provides a list of examples that are related to Conservation and Management Plan objectives. The examples provide an indication of the types of activities that could take place at local, national and regional scales. Some of the examples are only applicable to some areas and State Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding will need to assess the relevance of particular approaches in the context of their own national circumstances.

Species Aspects

Objective 1 – Reduce direct and indirect causes of dugong mortality

1.1 Identify, assess and evaluate the threats to dugong populations and develop appropriate measures to address these threats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Establish baseline data collection and monitoring programmes to gather information on the nature and magnitude of threats*
- b) Regularly update existing data on threats to dugong populations and their habitats*
- c) Determine those populations affected by traditional subsistence and customary use, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality*
- d) Conduct socio-economic studies among communities that interact with dugongs and their habitats*
- e) Implement programmes to correct adverse social and economic incentives that threaten dugong populations*
- f) Facilitate the development of means of subsistence to minimise resultant adverse social and economic impacts*
- g) Enact, where not already in place, legislation and prohibit the direct use (capture or killing) of, and domestic trade in, dugongs their parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional subsistence or customary use*
- h) Establish management programmes to enforce such legislation*
- i) Negotiate, where appropriate, management agreements in consultation with other concerned States*
- j) Identify resources and sources of funding for the above programmes*

1.2 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of dugongs in the course of fishing activities

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Develop and use 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*

- b) *Develop procedures and extension programmes to promote implementation of these measures*
- c) *Exchange information and, upon request, provide technical assistance to other Signatory and cooperating States to promote these activities*
- d) *Liaise and coordinate with fishing industries, fisheries management organisations and community groups to develop and implement these activities*
- e) *Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches*
- f) *Provide and ensure the use of onshore facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste*

1.3 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental mortality of dugongs arising from other anthropogenic activities

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Assess the level, location and impact of anthropogenic impacts on dugongs at ecologically relevant scales*
- b) *Reduce as much as possible all other human impacts on dugongs and their habitats in areas that sustain subsistence and customary use*
- c) *Establish 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*

1.4 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the illegal take of dugong

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Assess the level, location and impact of the illegal take of dugongs*
- b) *Establish appropriate management programmes to ensure that the illegal take of dugongs is addressed*

1.5 Ensure that subsistence and customary use of dugong is sustainable in areas where it is permitted

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Assess the level, location and impact of subsistence and customary use on dugongs at ecologically relevant scales*
- b) *Reduce as much as possible all other human impacts on dugongs and their habitats in areas that sustain subsistence and customary use*
- c) *Determine the cultural and subsistence values and uses of dugongs (both consumptive and non-consumptive)*
- d) *Establish 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*
- e) *Ensure that such programmes do not have adverse unintended consequences (e.g., increase use of other threatened species such as marine turtles)*
- f) *Consider 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*

- g) *Negotiate, 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*
- h) *Ensure 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*

Objective 2 – Improve our understanding of dugong through research and monitoring

2.1 Determine the distribution and abundance of dugong populations to provide a base for future conservation efforts and actions

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Conduct baseline studies or gather secondary information on dugong populations using cost effective techniques where possible, including community-based monitoring*

2.2 Conduct research and monitoring into dugong

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Initiate and/or continue long-term monitoring of priority dugong populations at appropriate spatial scales in order to assess conservation status, using a combination of traditional, community-based and scientific techniques where appropriate*
- b) *Identify migratory routes through the use of techniques such as genetic studies and/or satellite tracking where appropriate*
- c) *Carry out studies on dugong population dynamics and survival rates*
- d) *Promote the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible*
- e) *Involve local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required*
- f) *Review periodically and evaluate research and monitoring activities*
- g) *Identify and include priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans*
- h) *Conduct collaborative studies and monitoring of genetic identity, conservation status, migrations, and other biological and ecological aspects of dugongs*

2.3 Collect and analyse data that supports the identification of sources of mortality, the mitigation of threats and improved approaches to conservation practices

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Identify and prioritise populations for conservation actions*
- b) *Identify population trends using local information where appropriate*

- c) *Use research results to improve management, mitigate threats and assess the efficacy of conservation activities (e.g., habitat loss, etc.)*
- d) *Involve local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required*
- e) *Develop and harmonise data collection and analysis protocols*
- f) *Where appropriate, develop and harmonise the reporting format that can be used for informing decision-making (local, national and regional)*

Habitat Aspects

Objectives 3 – Protect, conserve and manage habitats for dugong

3.1 Identify and map areas of important dugong habitat such as seagrass beds

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Identify and map areas of critical habitat such as seagrass beds and migratory corridors, using rapid assessment techniques where appropriate

3.2 Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve dugong habitats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Designate and manage protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones in areas of critical habitat, or take 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*
- b) *Consider protecting dugong habitats as part of ecosystem based management (e.g., networks of marine protected areas)*
- c) *Develop incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas*
- d) *Assess the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on dugong populations and their habitats*
- e) *Monitor and promote the protection of water quality from land-based and maritime pollution, including marine debris, which may adversely affect dugongs and their habitats*
- f) *Strengthen the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources*

3.3 Assess the risk of, and develop measures to mitigate against, the degradation of dugong habitats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Identify and enhance recovery of degraded seagrass habitats used by dugongs*
- b) *Identify and enhance recovery of degraded mangrove and coral reef habitats used by dugong*
- c) *Undertake measures to restore degraded habitats*

3.4 Identify and where appropriate, rehabilitate degraded dugong habitats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Identify and undertake measures where appropriate to enhance recovery of degraded seagrass habitats used by dugongs*

Objective 4 – Improve our understanding of dugong habitats through research and monitoring

4.1 Conduct research into and monitoring of important dugong habitats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Conduct baseline studies or gather secondary information on dugong habitats using cost effective techniques where possible, including community-based monitoring*
- b) *Initiate and/or continue long-term monitoring of priority dugong habitats*
- c) *Promote the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research and management studies, where possible*
- d) *Involve local communities in research and monitoring programmes with training as required*
- e) *Review periodically and evaluate research and monitoring activities*
- f) *Identify and include priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans*

Awareness and Education

Objective 5 – Raise awareness of dugong conservation

5.1 Establish education, awareness and information programmes

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Collect, develop, co-ordinate and disseminate education materials (e.g., dedicated regional web site)*
- b) *Identify key persons/champions to help disseminate messages about the need to conserve dugongs and their habitats*
- c) *Establish community learning/ information centres*
- d) *Develop and implement mass media information programmes*
- e) *Develop and conduct focused education and awareness programmes for target groups (e.g., policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, subsistence and customary users, media)*
- f) *Encourage the incorporation of dugong biology and conservation issues into school curricula*

- g) *Organise special events related to dugong conservation and biology (e.g., Dugong Day, Year of the Dugong, symposia, community education workshops)*
- h) *Promote public participation in conservation activities*
- i) *Involve stakeholders, including key policymakers, subsistence and customary users, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures*
- j) *Encourage the participation of government institutions, intergovernmental government organisations, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the general community (e.g., students, volunteers, fishing communities, local communities) in research, conservation and management efforts*
- k) *Implement, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g., T-shirts, public acknowledgement and certificates)*

5.2 Consult with local communities to encourage their active participation in conservation efforts

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Identify, develop and facilitate 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

Cooperative Aspects

Objective 6 – Enhance national, regional and international cooperation

6.1 Collaborate with and assist Signatory and non-Signatory States to combat illegal international and domestic trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to dugong products

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Encourage 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)*
- b) *Review at a national level, compliance with obligations under CITES relating to illegal international trade in dugong parts or products*
- c) *Facilitate better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other Signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations*
- d) *Identify routes of international illegal trade through monitoring, and seeking cooperation to take action to prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate i.t*
- e) *Exchange and discuss 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*

- f) Identify, prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate domestic illegal trade through monitoring, implementation of legislation, identification of gaps in enforcement capabilities in each country, and training of enforcement officers*

6.2 Develop and implement mechanisms for effective exchange of information

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Identify and strengthen existing mechanisms for cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level*
- b) Develop a website and/or newsletter to facilitate networking and exchange of information*
- c) Develop a web-based information resource for dugong conservation (including data on populations, migration, on-going projects) based on IUCN website*
- d) Regularly update a directory of experts and organisations concerned with dugong conservation*
- e) Develop networks for cooperative management of shared populations, within or across sub-regions, and, where appropriate, formalise cooperative management arrangements*
- f) Cooperate where possible in the establishment of transboundary marine protected areas using ecological rather than political boundaries*
- g) Develop 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*
- h) Encourage MoU Signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)*
- i) Encourage 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 implement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)*
- j) Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt dugong conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and territorial waters*
- k) Determine the most appropriate methods for information dissemination e.g., internet and community forums*
- l) Exchange 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*
- m) Disseminate traditional knowledge on dugongs, their habitats and traditional practices for conservation and management in a culturally appropriate manner*
- n) Update data on dugong populations of regional interest on a regular basis (e.g., country status reports).*

6.3 Improve coordination among government and non-government sectors and communities in the conservation of dugongs and their habitats

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Review the roles and responsibilities of government agencies related to the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats*
- b) Designate a lead agency responsible for coordinating national dugong conservation and management policy*
- c) Identify non-governmental organisation with an interest in dugong conservation and management*
- d) Encourage cooperation within and among government and non-government sectors, including through the development and/or strengthening of national networks*

6.4 Develop and implement a regional database of relevant information in relation to dugong conservation and management

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Collate and manage information relevant for dugong conservation and management in a regional database that is easily accessible to all interested parties

Objective 7 – Promote implementation of the MoU

7.1 Encourage all Range States to participate in the MoU and its conservation and management activities

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Encourage non-Signatory States to sign the MoU*
- b) Arrange regional and sub-regional workshops involving non-Signatory States to raise awareness of the MoU*
- c) Consider at the first meeting of the Signatory States the development of a timetable for regular review of implementation the MoU*

7.2 Support the Secretariat of the MoU to ensure the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan are met

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Secure reliable sources of funding to support the MoU Secretariat.

7.3 Seek resources to support the implementation of the MoU

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Prioritise conservation and management activities for funding*
- b) *Explore funding options with governments and other donors such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF, etc.*
- c) *Solicit funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on dugongs and their habitats (e.g., fisheries, tourism, oil industry, real estate)*
- d) *Explore international funding support and other incentives for Signatory States that effectively manage populations*

7.4 Create links and develop synergies with other relevant regional conservation conventions, MoUs and Agreements

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Identify, facilitate and explore links to other international, regional, sub-regional fora, conventions, agreements and MoUs

Cross-cutting Issues

Objective 8 – Improve legal protection of dugongs and their habitats

8.1 Encourage all Range States, and ensure Signatory States incorporate dugong and habitat conservation and protection measures into national legislation

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) *Encourage MoU Signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)*
- b) *Encourage the establishment of legislation to protect dugongs and their habitats while recognising existing traditional management systems*
- c) *Review domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to dugong conservation*
- d) *Ensuring appropriate sanctions for harming dugongs or destroying habitat, training law enforcement authorities, raising public awareness to boost surveillance for reporting of illegal activities*

8.2 Review, and where necessary, strengthen legal protection for dugongs and their habitats.

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

Cooperate in law enforcement to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and intelligence sharing)

Objective 9 – Enhance national, regional and international cooperation on capacity building

9.1 Promote capacity building at all levels to strengthen conservation measures

Examples of specific actions that could be implemented:

- a) Identify needs for capacity-building in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities*
- b) Provide training (e.g., through workshops) in conservation and management techniques for dugongs and their habitats to relevant agencies, individuals and local communities*
- c) Coordinate training programmes and workshops*
- d) Develop partnerships with universities, research institutions, NGOs, training bodies and other relevant organizations to support capacity building initiatives*
- e) Identify assess, develop and implement training programmes for local communities, NGOs, community-based organisations, media, enforcement officers, policy makers, law makers and decision makers*
- f) Enhance capacity at all levels to develop and undertake joint research programmes on dugong and their habitats*
- g) Organise forums (local, national and regional as appropriate) with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to enable knowledge sharing and capacity building*
- h) Provide training on development, implementation and monitoring of community rehabilitation programmes*
- i) Support local communities and relevant national organizations with necessary basic equipment and facilities to enable protection, conservation and management of dugong and their habitats*