



**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/Doc.4
Agenda Item 7.0

**NOTE OF THE SECRETARIAT:
PROGRESS ON ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUGONG MOU**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Two meetings of the CMS Conference of the Parties encouraged the development and conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the conservation of Dugongs under the auspices of CMS. More specifically, the development of a MoU was agreed by recommendation 7.5, adopted at the seventh CMS Conference of the Parties in 2002, and confirmed by resolution 8.5 of the eighth CMS Conference of the Parties in 2005.
2. Two previous meetings held in Bangkok in August 2005 and May 2006, respectively, developed and considered a draft text of the MoU.
3. The final draft proposal of the MoU and associated Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) was endorsed at the meeting in Bangkok in May 2006.
4. A seminar was also organized by the United Arab Emirates in May 2006 to discuss further steps to be taken for an effective implementation at a sub-regional level.
5. In view of implementing CMS COPs decisions and finalizing the relevant institutional texts, CMS circulated the adopted MoU and CMP to Range States for final comments and notification of intention to sign.
6. The comments received in response indicate that there were no major objections to the final draft. The texts are now finalised and translated into French, Arabic and Chinese.
7. The MoU is a non-binding legal instrument that helps to protect and conserve Dugongs and their habitats, which has been adopted and negotiated in Bangkok, in May 2006.
8. The associated CMP is divided into nine objectives and an annex containing a list of examples of specific activities that could be undertaken with a view to achieving these goals. Objectives relate to the protection and conservation of the species and its habitat and the promotion of the implementation of the MoU. They also refer to improving awareness and education, the legal framework, as well as international cooperation.

9. The purpose of the technical workshops and meeting to sign the MoU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range in Abu Dhabi is to (a) further discuss the implementation of the CMP, (b) get an update on progress made by various range states, and (c) conclude the signature of the MoU.

10. To this end, the event consists of two concurrent workshops concerning the implementation of the Dugong Conservation and Management Plan in (i) East Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean and (ii) West Indian Ocean sub-region, as well as the MoU signing meeting.

11. The outcomes of the two workshops and their integration allow better implementation of the MoU and CMP and support from the Range States and other stakeholders, such as UNEP and various NGOs and IGOs dealing with dugong's conservation.

12. Research and implementing projects are to better identified, including financial support from Governments and other international institutions.

Action requested:

In order to allow for effective implementation, the CMS secretariat requests the Meeting to encourage relevant Range States to:

- Process signing the MoU.
- Maintain their commitment to act in a cooperative sub-regional level, under the auspices of the general MoU & CMP.
- Express their strong will to effectively work on the implementation of the MoU and the associated CMP.