

The Present Status and Threats of Dugoung (*Dugong dugon*) in Myanmar.

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Introduction

- Union of Myanmar located Latitude 09° 32' N and 28° 31' N, Longitude 92° 10' E and 101° 11' E.
- Total land area 675,000 sq kilometer, its stretches 936 km from East to West, 2051 km from North to South.
- The total coast line 2832 km, more than 804 island forming Myeik Archipelago.
- The continental shelf covers 228,781 sq km, EEZ covering 486,000 sq km.



Methodology

- Semi-structure interview
- Questionnaire to native elder
- Influence and knowledge person along the coastal area



Methodology

- Interview to the local fisher and people, all stake holder along the coastal area



Survey Area



- Rakhine coastal area &
- Myeik Archipelago



Survey Area at Myeik Archipelago

- Ross island
- Courts island
- Jacks island
- Thompson island
- Bentick island
- Letsok-aw
- Anne island
- Bushby island
- Lampi island
- Kyunphila island
- Buda island
- Russel island



Evidence from the past the first Dugong (Man Aung Island)

Since 2nd Nov;
1966 a female
Dugong caught
by fishermen of
Rakhine Coast
between
Lahpetkyun
Light House
and Kanthaya



DUGONG. *Dugong dugong* Müller.

A female Dugong caught by fishermen of the Arakan coast between Lahpetkyun Light House and Kanthaya and presented to the Zoological Gardens, Rangoon. Seen on arrival at the Zoological Gardens on November 2, 1966.

From *The Guardian*, Friday, November 4, 1966.

Courtesy: U Ba Kyaw.

Information of Dugong at Rakhine Coastal Area (Kanthaya)

- April; 2004
female
Dugong was
caught in the
fishermen
gill-net at
Rakhine
Coast,
Kanthaya
beach



Information of Dugong at Rakhine Coastal Area (Kanthaya)

- April; 2004 – female Dugong were identified at Kanthaya beach



Recent Information

1966 - Nov: near La phet Kyun light house, Gwa Township (alive)

1989 - Kyein ta li near Than dwe River mouth (dead)

Caught by - Shark / Rays net

1998 - Ma gyi ngu village, Gwa Township (dead)

Caught by - Shark / Rays net

1998 - Dec: Ma gyi ngu, Gwa Township (dead)

Caught by - Shark / Rays net

1998 - Dec: Ma gyi ngu, Gwa Township (dead)

Caught by - Shark / Rays net

2000 - Feb: Ma gyi ngu, Gwa Township (dead)

Caught by - Lobster net

2004 - Apr: Kan tha ya, Gwa Township (dead)

Caught by - Hilsa drift - net

2005 - Taung gup Township, Man aung Island (dead)

Caught by - Gill - net

Information of Dugong at Rakhine Coastal Area (Taung gyot)

- 2005 one of the Dugong was caught gill-net at Taung gyot Rakhine Coast



Information

- Dugong bone and skin collected from Kanthaya, Rakhine coastal area.



Information of Dugong at Rakhine Coastal Area (Chaung Tha)

- 2006 male Dugong was also caught near Chaung tha, Rakhine Coastal area



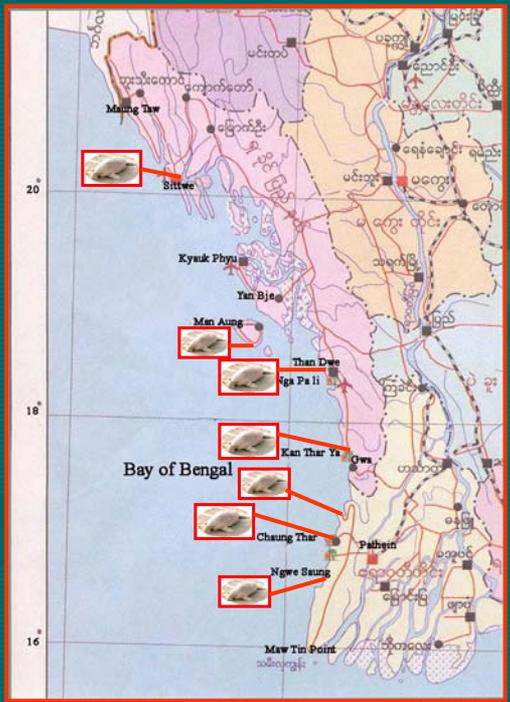
Information of Dugong at Rakhine Coastal Area (Chaung Tha)

- 2006 male Dugong was also caught near Chaung tha, Rakhine Coastal area



Range Distribution at Rakhine coastal area

- Dugong distribution range should be considered from the South Ngwe saung up to North Sittwe.
- Dugong is occur from the past, and its still present at the Rakhine coastal area.



Legislation

- The State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No.6/94, Title
- “ The Protection of Wildlife and Protected area Law” on 8th June, 1994.
- **The Objective of the Law are as follow:**
- **A)** to implement the policy of protecting wildlife of the state.
- **B)** to implement the policy of conserving the protected of the state.
- **C)** to carry out in accordance with International Conservations agreed by the State in respect of the protection of wild species of both flora and fauna and representative ecosystems occurring in the country.
- **D)** to protect endangered species of wild flora and fauna and the habitat.
- **E)** to contribute for the development of research and natural resources.
- **F)** to established zoological and botanical gardens for the protection of flora and fauna.

Dugong is Completely Protected in Myanmar

- In accordance with Chapter V, Article 15(a) of the protection of Wildlife and Protected Area Law, the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry, Union of Myanmar issued Notification No. 583/94, dated 26th October 1994 under which, the Dugong was listed in the “ **Completely Protected Animals**” category. Since 1994, the dugong is a species that is totally protected by law in Myanmar.

Information gathering

- Inside the Myeik Archipelago Island to Island all communities.
- All stake holder



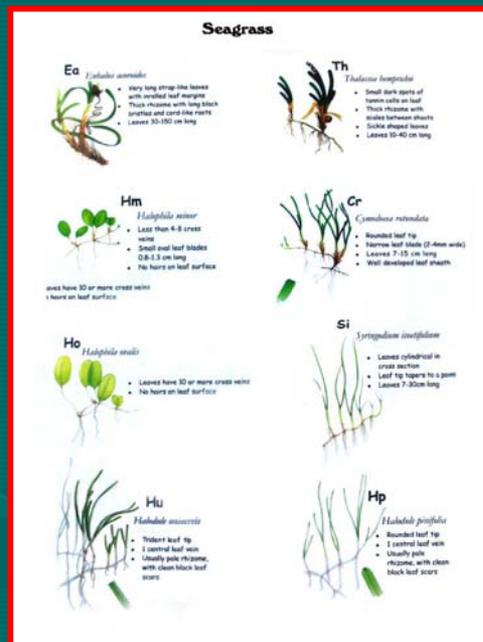
Main Threats

- Accidentally caught by Gill-net
- No hunting
- No demand for local (or) other place



Seagrass species from Myeik Archipelago

- Ea, *Enhalus acoroides*
- Th, *Thalassia bempriichii*
- Cr, *Cymodocea rotundata*
- Hm, *Halophila minor*
- Si, *Syringodium isoetifolium*
- Ho, *Holophila oralis*
- Hu, *Holodule uninervis*
- Hp, *Holodule pinifolia*



Discussion

- Dugong is presently occurring in Myanmar waters, since long time ago.
- There is no systematic survey and document during the past four decade.
- It is to be considering the information from the present survey, Rakhine Coastal area is important in the stage, because recent global assessments and the action plans have not listed for Myanmar as a country that still supports a population of dugong in her waters.
- Dugong appears not list in the whole waters but quite common in Rakhine Coastal area than other Coastal area and it's also range to South and Southeast Asia.
- The data and information from present survey confirmed that the dugong species in this area seem to be healthy and good population still present along the coastal waters.
- There is no stress from human hunting, local consumption and other factors, the main threats is sometimes accidentally entangle by gill-net.

Discussion

- Myanmar is different from other Asian countries, they are generally hunted for food and other parts for medicinal used, and their beliefs.
- Myanmar is the only country and the absence of these factors for this species, and it's still support in her waters, Myanmar can make a future survival of the dugong population and much brighter than among the neighboring countries.
- Total nine species of seagrass have been recorded in Myanmar coastal area, eight of them occurring on the Rakhine Coastal area, Hydrocharitaceae represent the most dominant genera in both Rakhine and Taninthayi Coastal area, Cymodoceaceae occurs mainly on the Rakhine Coastal area.
- Seagrass meadows along the coastal area of Myanmar are in pristine, climax condition.

Recommendation

- 1, To conserve and protect the endangered species of Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) along the coastal area of Myanmar.
- 2, To conduct scientific survey along the distribution of the seagrass bed and dugong at the Rakhine and Taninthayi coastal area of Myanmar.
- 3, To promote collaboration workshop and survey with other international scientists, organization, and institutions, who conserve survey, scientific research and conservation of dugong species.
- 4, To educate the local fisherman, the fisheries officers who stationed along the coastal area, for the knowledge of dugong and other marine mammals regional and internationally prohibited for killing, hunting and selling.

Recommendation

- 5, To prohibit the fishing grounds and fishing gears and technique, to conserve the dugong and other marine mammals which habitat at the seagrass bed areas along the Myanmar waters.
- 6, To propose research grant and funding from international organization, institutions and NGOs for the purpose of the conservation survey and management, education program of dugong, along the coastal area of Myanmar.
- 7, To be establishing research station on the baseline information is available along the Rakhine coastal area.



Thank You

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