



# SPREP Dugong Action Plan 2008-2012 Pacific Islands Region

*Presentation by Anne Trevor for the Technical Workshop for the  
Conservation and Management of Dugongs and Their Habitats: Eastern Indian  
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## SPREP Marine Species Programme 2008 - 2012

- Focuses on 3 groups of marine animals; Dugongs, Marine Turtles and Cetaceans
- Outlines a strategy for the cooperative conservation management of shared dugong, marine turtle and cetaceans resources in the Pacific region.

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## Background

March 2007 - Apia, Samoa

- DAP 2003 -2007 reviewed by SPREP members and collaborating partners
- Draft DAP 2008 - 2007 developed

September 2007 - Apia, Samoa

- DAP 2008 - 2012 considered and endorsed at the 16<sup>th</sup> SPREP meeting
- Supportive of the 6 members joining the CMS MoU for Dugongs and encourage them

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## Implementation and Partnership

- The implementation of the DAP 2008 - 2012 is the collective responsibility of SPREP member states, the SPREP Secretariat, partner non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and private sector organizations.
- The DAP 2008 - 2017 was developed so that it complements any existing mechanisms that address issues relating to the conservation of dugong and their habitat
- SPREP/CMS Memorandum of Cooperation

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## Dugong Action Plan 2008-2012 Pacific Islands Region

- To maintain and improve dugong populations and their habitats, while keeping in line with the traditions of the people of the Pacific Islands Range States
- Occurs in 6 countries and territories of the SPREP region: Australia, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia

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## Threats to dugongs in the Pacific region

### Direct threats

- Harvesting for food, medicine and artifacts
- Incidental by-catch, destructive fishing methods and boat strikes

### In-direct threats

- Coastal development
- Agricultural pollution
- Nutrient run-off

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## Conservation Challenges

- Lack of data and information including basic population, parameters and long-term data sets;
- Absence and lack of on-going and long-term research, survey and monitoring programmes;
- Limited public awareness and education programmes;
- Limited in-country skills/capacity to provide leadership in marine species conservation management;
- Limited national management mechanisms to protect these marine animals and their habitat
- Lack of resources including accessing sustained funding;
- Limited of information exchange, linkages and collaboration.

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## Themes

1. Education and Awareness
2. Habitat Protection
3. Management
4. Traditional Knowledge, Customary Marine Tenure and Traditional Resource Management
5. Capacity building
6. Threat - Key Dugong Conservation Issues
7. Research and Monitoring - Information/Databases
8. National, Regional, and International Collaboration
9. Human and Financial Resources

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