

Report on Socialization Events on Dugong and Seagrass by the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project Indonesia

Jun – Dec 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (DSCP) Indonesia sought to support dugong and seagrass conservation efforts by promoting national awareness of the threats posed to dugongs and their habitats. This aim was accomplished through the implementation of ID2 activities, specifically those that enhance community awareness of dugong and seagrass conservation and management through producing campaign materials (Activity 4.2.3), assigning dugong and seagrass ambassador (Activity 4.2.4), and conducting awareness campaign through national media (Activity 4.2.5). The summary of those activities conducted during June – December 2017 is presented in this report.

1. Knowledge Sharing in Bogor Young Scientist Fair 2017 (August 11th, 2017)



Figure 1. Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF-Indonesia was introducing drones and other types of technology being used nowadays in dugong research in Bogor Young Scientist Fair 2017

Among technologies being used in dugong research is drone or unmanned aerial vehicle. To promote the use of it and share the experiences using it in wildlife conservation activities, Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF-Indonesia was invited to Bogor Young Scientist Fair 2017 in Jungleland, Bogor, West Java. Sheyka also discuss with 25 participants from various high schools in West Java area the benefits of using technology in wildlife research and conservation, one of them being monitoring the threats to the animals.

2. Knowledge Sharing in WWF-Indonesia's Conservation Discussion (September 30th, 2017)

WWF-Indonesia's Conservation Discussion or "DisKo" is an event presented in a presentation-discussion format to promote conservation issues with the help of experts from WWF and other organizations. Last September, Sheyka N. Fadela from Marine Species team of WWF was invited to share to 60 participants in Jakarta Creative Hub her knowledge on dugongs and the role of DSCP Indonesia in conserving the dugong and seagrass in the country.



Figure 2. Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF-Indonesia was explaining to the attendees of "DisKo" that dugong and seagrass should exist together for the seagrass gets benefits from dugong too.

3. General Lecture on Dugong in Jakarta Fisheries University (October 31st, 2017)

WWF-Indonesia was invited by Jakarta Fisheries University (STP) to present a general lecture titled "Dugong as a Protected Species" in its school in Serang, Banten. The lecture was attended by 112 students, five lecturers, and three invited participants from Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University (Untirta). It was Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF who presented the lecture, while also promoting DSCP Indonesia as one of the options for Indonesians to contribute to the conservation of dugong and seagrass. She explained that both marine biota must be

preserved together through research (survey and monitoring), campaigns, and law enforcement.



Figure 3. Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF-Indonesia was presenting a general lecture on dugong and seagrass to STP students on October 31st, 2017.

4. Knowledge-Sharing on Dugong Survey Result and DSCP Indonesia in International Wildlife Symposium 2017 (October 23rd, 2017)



Figure 4. Sheyka N. Fadela from WWF-Indonesia was introducing the DSCP Indonesia as one of the solutions to dugong and seagrass conservation in Indonesia to the participants of the IWS 2017.

Sheyka N. Fadela was invited by University of Syiah Kuala (Unsyiah) in Aceh to present the result of dugong survey in Alor in 2016 and the profile of DSCP Indonesia in International Wildlife Symposium (IWS) 2017 on October 23rd, 2017. The presentation was held in parallel session and was attended by more than 30 participants from various background (mostly students from Unsyiah). Among the questions being asked by the participants were (1) whether it was true or false that only one individual of dugong found in Alor waters; (2) the function of seagrass meadow; and (3) the challenges faced by the DSCP Indonesia when communicating about the project activities to the local government.

5. General Lecture on Dugong with Mata Air Banten community (November 26th, 2017)



Figure 5. Muta A. Khalifa from UNTIRTA was presenting a general lecture on dugong and its threats in an event hosted by the Mata Air Banten community on November 26th, 2017

Muta A. Khalifa from UNTIRTA was invited by the Mata Air Banten community, an environment community in Banten to present a general lecture to 54 participants on dugong and its threats. During the lecture, Muta shared the DSCP Indonesia factsheets to the participants and explained that one of the Indonesian government efforts to reduce the threats to dugong is through DSCP Indonesia.

6. Storytelling in Gita Laut Campaign (December 7th, 2017)



Figure 6. Uncle Gery told stories to homeschooled children of age 10-12 years old about dugong and its habitat, seagrass meadow, during Gita Laut school visit session on December 7th, 2017.

Gita Laut or “Gerakan Cinta Laut” is a campaign by Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) to develop the awareness in preserving the Indonesian seas through keeping the ocean and coastal areas clean, coastal activities (e.g. beach clean up, beach school), waste management workshop, and art competitions. Its targets are most of the time students.

DSCP Indonesia supported the implementation of Gita Laut by providing education materials, one of them through storytelling. Uncle Gery, a notable storyteller, was invited to the Mina Bahari Building III, where MMAF was hosting a school visit (Figure 3). Uncle Gery told stories to 10 homeschool students of age 10-12 years old about dugong and its habitat, seagrass meadow. The information on dugong and seagrass itself was provided through DSCP Indonesia factsheet.

CONCLUSION

More than 300 people have been exposed to dugong and seagrass conservation issue through socialization events in which representatives from WWF-Indonesia and UNTIRTA have participated as a speaker. These events were mostly conducted in DKI Jakarta, Banten, and West Java area that there is still a need to conduct the same event in outside of those areas.