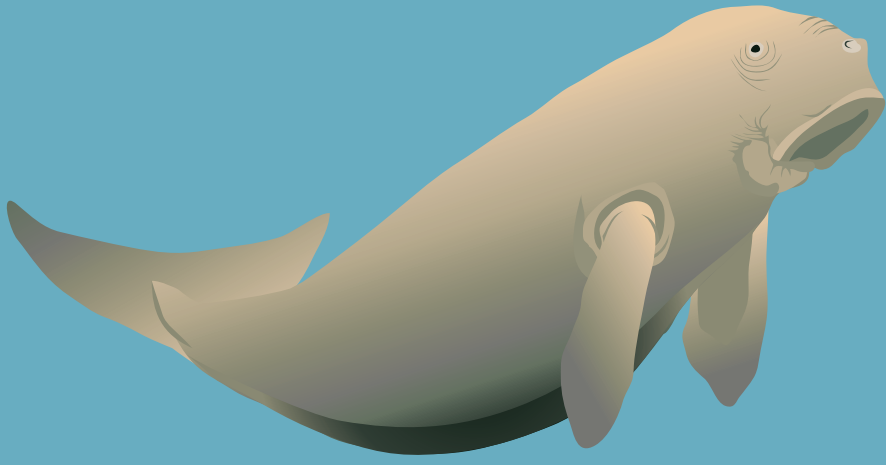


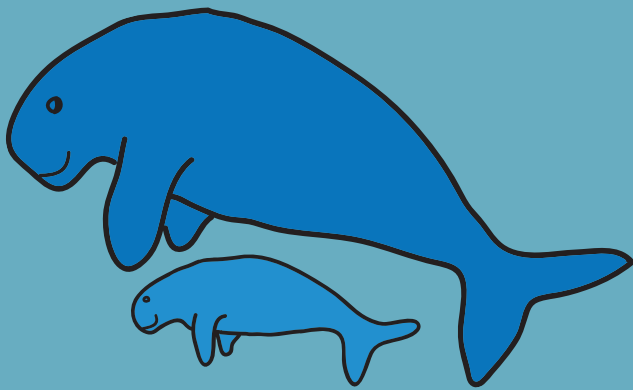
Dugong Facts



Dugongs are large mammals that live in the sea. They stay close to the coast and live in places where seagrass grows. They live in over 40 different countries. Vanuatu is the easterly edge of their range.

Dugongs can grow up to 3 meters in length and weigh up to 500 kilograms.

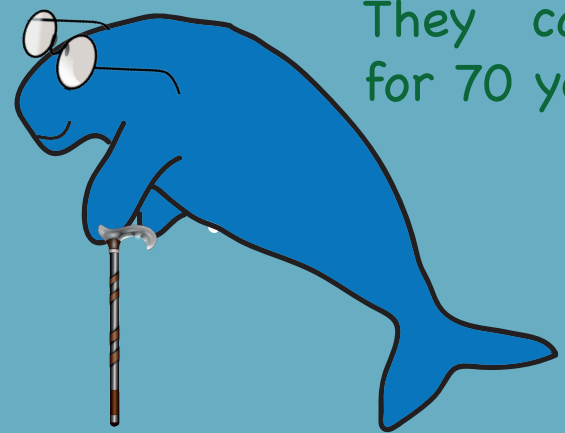
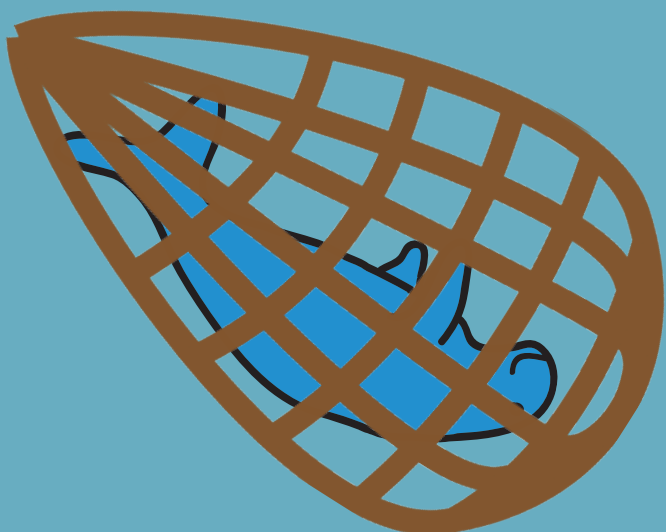
Female dugongs have their first calf between 4 and 17 years old. They will have one calf about every 3 to 5 years. Very rarely they can have twins. They are pregnant for about 14 months. Calves drink milk from their mothers and will stay with their mothers for a year and a half.



Dugongs are threatened with extinction.

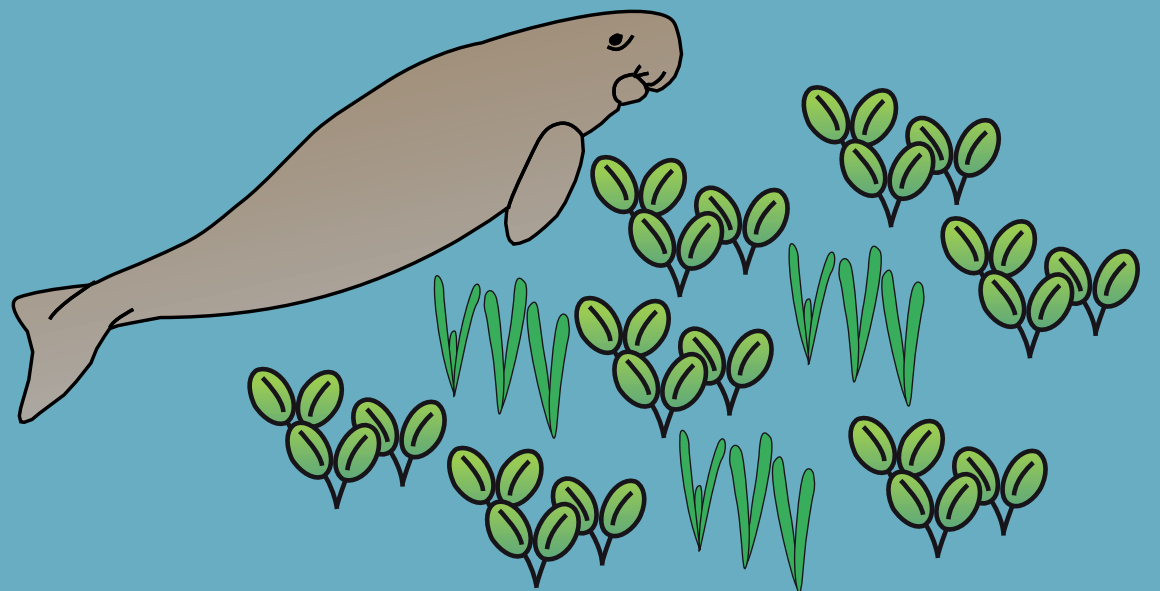
The threats that dugongs face include:

- Getting caught in fishing nets
- Being hit by speeding boats
- Lack of food when seagrass beds are damaged or polluted.



They can live for 70 years.

Dugongs are herbivores and eat seagrass. They eat a lot of seagrass, up to 40kg a day.



You can help dugongs survive by:

- Taking care when driving and anchoring boats
- Not leaving fishing nets unattended
- Releasing any dugongs that get caught in nets immediately
- Keeping seagrass beds healthy

