



DUGONG
MOU

Recommendations from the CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat

1 November 2016

A UNEP/CMS PROJECT



Dugong Technical Group (DTG)



- Informal group of specialists – provide technical and scientific support for the effective implementation of the Dugong MOU Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) through the provision of expert advice on request.
- The DTG’s role in the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Project - provide expertise eg., in planning, troubleshooting, tools/method, generating ideas and specialist knowledge.
- Membership of the DTG is voluntary and where-possible, advice is provided pro-bono or in-kind.

Context

- Dugong MOU Secretariat developed the GEF Project from 2011-2014 before handing over to the Executing Agency, MbZ Fund, in January 2015.
- During the PPG Phase (Project Preparation Grant) the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) took particular notice of the technical aspects of the project.
- It is likely the STAP will review the project with the same level of scrutiny during the Mid-Term Evaluation.



Use of the DTG by Project Partners

Inception Workshop: 20-21 October 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Five members of the DTG attended (including one remotely).
- Tried to connect GEF Project Partners with the relevant technical advisors so that they could discuss their projects.
- Reports of good interactions at the meeting but little follow up afterwards.

Post Inception Workshop

- DTG feel they haven't been utilised enough by Project Partners.
- This was particularly evident in their feedback on the half-yearly reports.

Feedback from DTG – HYR

Particular areas of concern

- Standardised data
 - In general there wasn't enough information on the methods used.
 - Need these details to make sure that the methods used will provide data that is comparable.
 - Particularly the case where proven methods have been modified.
- Seagrass Assessments
 - Little information about what methods are being used.
 - No justification about why they're using a different method.
- Dugong Surveys
 - No clear methods for surveys eg., monitoring feeding trial; drones
 - No recognition of the considerations and limitations of using drones.

Feedback from DTG – HYR

“Most projects would benefit greatly by seeking advice from the DTG prior to embarking on field activities.”

- In summary, most partners did not provide enough information for the DTG to provide technical advice on the projects.
- Projects should focus on evidence-based science underpinned by quality data.
- If the data isn't quality, it undermines what we are trying to achieve for dugongs, seagrasses and communities.



Moving forward

- DTG can support PCT to make sure resources are used responsibly by making sure Project Partners have the advice they need before making a purchase.
 - For example Amanda recently provided advice to OMCAR on the purchase and use of a sonar side scanner for dugong observations.
 - PCT can assess risks and make an informed decision about whether or not to approve the resource use.
- DTG are more than happy to provide advice to Project Partners, but to do this they need more information from Partners about the objectives of the project and the methods they want to use.
- Dugong MOU Secretariat has developed a Process for technical support from the Dugong Technical Group to the GEF Dugong Seagrass and Conservation Project.
- A Research Template has also been developed for Partners to complete that would allow the DTG to provide informed advice to Partners.

Moving forward

Opportunities for the GEF Project to make best use of the DTG

- The MTE provides an opportunity to highlight the technical needs to project partners and to encourage them to seek advice from the DTG.
- ER-Kit – Reference Group
- At the Seagrass and Dugong Technical Workshop (15-16 March 2017) there will be a session on the GEF Project.
 - There will also be several opportunities during the two day workshop for Partners to talk with members of the DTG about their projects.



Photo credit: Len McKenzie



Dugong MOU Highlights

Key Events in 2017

- Third Meeting of Signatory States (MOS3), Abu Dhabi, 13-14 March 2017
- Dugong and Seagrass Technical Workshop1, 15-16 March 2017

Key Non-Signatory Range States for Dugong MOU

- Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor Leste
- Key dugong populations in SE Asia
- Would increase Signatories from 26 to 29 (i.e 63% of range states)
- Strengthen and improve recognition of the important conservation work already being undertaken through GEF Project