

**REPORT ON RESULTS**

**SECOND EXECUTIVE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**GEF DUGONG & SEAGRASS CONSERVATION PROJECT**



Prepared by Project Coordination Team  
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**List of abbreviations**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)
DG	Director General
DTG	Dugong Technical Group
Dugong MoU	Dugong Memorandum of Understanding
EPSC	Executive Project Steering Committee
EPSC II	Second Executive Project Steering Committee meeting
EA	Executing Agency
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IA	Implementing Agency
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Area
MoSS 3	Meeting of the Signatory States to the Dugong MoU
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NF	National Facilitator
NFC	National Facilitating Committee
PC	Project Coordinator
PCT	Project Coordination Team
PHE	Population, Health and Environment programme
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
ProDoc	Project Document
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
The MbZ Fund/ the Fund	The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
TT	Tracking Tool
UNEP/ UN Environment	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP ROWA	UNEP Regional Office of West Asia (ROWA)

## **1. Introduction**

The second meeting of the Executive Steering Committee of the GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project took place on 1-2 November 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry.

## **2. Organisation of the second EPSC meeting**

The EPSC meeting was attended by 18 participants, among which 10 permanent members – eight Project country representatives, the UNEP/ GEF Task Manager and the Programme Manager of the CMS Dugong MoU – the Project Coordination Team (PCT) and representatives of the CMS Dugong Technical Group. Supporting Partners, the Australian Government and SPREP, were invited but no delegate attended the meeting.

The second meeting was conceptualised to give the opportunity for more input from Project Partners, whose country representatives had to present an overview of the success and challenges, needs for support and next steps until 2017 on a country level. The agenda was designed to start the reporting on the Project progress from a global perspective, zoom in on Project country level and conclude the results on a global level again. Therefore, the role and progress of the Project were to be presented and analysed from the perspective of the GEF implementing agency, UNEP, the CMS Dugong MoU and their technical advisors, each Project country and the PCT.

### **2.1. Media work**

#### **2.1.1. Media event in Kuala Lumpur**

The second EPSC meeting provided a good opportunity to demonstrate the conservation efforts towards dugongs and their habitats in Malaysia. The PCT together with the Malaysian Partners conceptualised and carried out a media briefing and a poster session, during which all Project Partners in Malaysia presented their work. Ten media representatives responded the invitation and attended the media briefing. The media briefing was led by Dato' Haji Ismail bin Abu Hassan, Director General of Fisheries Malaysia and attended by Max Zieren, UNEP/ GEF Task Manager of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, Donna Kwan, Programme Manager of the CMS Dugong MoU and Maya Todorova, Project Coordinator. During the media briefing Donna Kwan invited Malaysia to formalise their contribution to dugong and seagrass conservation and DG Fisheries announced that Malaysia is proceeding with arrangements to sign the Dugong MoU at the Third Meeting of the Signatory States to the Dugong MoU, taking place on 13-14 March 2017. Journalists showed high interest in dugongs and asked popular science-related questions about their life and biology and the importance of dugongs for the marine ecosystems.

#### **2.1.2. Media work by PCT on the second EPSC meeting**

The PCT worked on a news article for the Department of Fisheries Malaysia to support the communication of the Project in Malaysia. The article was published in English/ Malaysian by three online Malaysian and one Singaporean media.

A press release on the second meeting of the EPSC was prepared by the PCT in English and Arabic languages. The article was circulated in four media in Abu Dhabi.

A list of media news is provided in the Annex.

## **2.2. Second EPSC meeting logistics**

The second EPSC meeting took place in the Royale Chulan Damansara hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The logistics of the second EPSC meeting was carried out free of charge by the Marine Research Foundation (based in Sabah, Malaysia), who supported immensely the PCT with the meeting venue selection and took care of all important details to make all participants work effectively and feel comfortable during the event. The Marine Research Foundation also provided the PCT with important information on local culture and the protocol to be respected at the media event.

## **2.3. Other important logistics**

During the meeting, the PCT handed over to each National Facilitator the originals of the undistributed Funding Agreements<sup>1</sup> on the national projects and a pack of 100 stickers with the Project logo and the partnership banner, to be applied on items purchased under the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. The National Facilitators were advised to provide these to the Project Partners in their countries on their return.

The National Facilitators handed over to the PCT communications materials developed by the Project Partners in their countries.

## **3. Key points and results from the meeting**

The second EPSC meeting was opened by Lakshman Peiris, Chairman of the first EPSC meeting in 2015, who welcomed everybody and asked participants to introduce themselves. Max Zieren, UNEP/ GEF Task Manager also welcomed participants and emphasizing the link of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **3.1. Selection of the Chair of the second EPSC meeting**

According to the Terms of Reference of the EPSC, the Chair of the EPSC rotates every year and should be selected among the eight country representatives of the Project.

The first meeting of the EPSC, held in 2015, was chaired by the country representative of the host country, Sri Lanka. This was Lakshman Peiris, Deputy Director-Research and Training, Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka.

The Project Coordinator thanked the 2015 EPSC Chair for his support to the PCT and introduced the 2016 Chair of the EPSC – Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir, Head of Turtle

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<sup>1</sup> The Funding Agreements for the following national projects were handed over to the country representatives attending the EPSC II: MG3, MZ1, MZ2, MZ3, MZ4, MZ5, MZ6, SB2, SB3, SB4, SB5, LK1, LK2, LK4, LK5, LK6, LK7, LK8, TL1, TL3, TL4 and TL5.

and Marine Ecosystem Centre (TUMEC), the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and Dugong Focal Point of Malaysia.

### 3.2. Global Project review

This section of the report provides an overview of all presentations, given during the two meeting days. It includes the main issues, challenges and needs for technical support reported during the meeting as well as the minutes reflecting discussions and questions raised after each presentation.

#### 3.2.1. Global Project review: objectives and indicators of progress, 2016 technical and financial progress

This part of the agenda comprised a joint presentation of Maya Todorova, Project Coordinator and Kirk Duthler, Project Communications Manager. A retrospection of the Project was provided, revisiting the global commitment made by all Partners of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. This included a review of the global goal and logframe of the Project and the key indicators of success. Table 1 presents an excerpt of the global Project logframe. It shows the indicators of success, the baseline (2015) and the targets at mid-term (2016) and end of the Project (2018) related to the global Project objective only.

*Table 1 Indicators of success, baseline and targets related to the global Project objective*

Global objective: To enhance the effectiveness of conservation of dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems across the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins	Indicators	2015	2016	2018
	Seagrass under improved management	524,368 ha of seagrass	800,000 ha of seagrass under improved conservation management	1,000,000 ha of seagrass under improved conservation management
	Improved management effectiveness of dugong hotspots	11 existing, 16 new/ expanded Locally Managed Marine Areas and/ or Protected Areas	+10% METT <sup>1</sup> score	+20% METT score
	Reduced use of “bad” fishing gear & practices	Bycatch/ incidental catch “bad” fishing gear Bad fishing practices	Incentives developed  +20% female participants	-50% “bad” fishing gear 0 dugong mortality in incentives sites +20% income for local communities +20% female participants

<sup>1</sup> METT stands for management effectiveness tracking tool. It measures how effectively dugong hotspots are managed to reach their conservation objective. The effectiveness is assessed through a questionnaire comprising 30 questions. There is one METT for each Project country, which was prepared during the development of the Project proposal and was reviewed during the inception phase (2015). METTs will be reviewed during the Project mid-term review and terminal evaluation.

The status of the Project in 2015 and its progress in 2016 were reviewed, including the communications of the Project. Year 2015, when most of the 38 project proposals were written, was described as the Project year of administration and preparation for the real implementation. Maya Todorova reported that in 2016, there were still two national projects to sign a Funding Agreement for. As of the end of September 2016, the total amount of USD 1,4 million was disbursed to the Partners for the implementation of their national projects. This amount comprised 20% of the total GEF funds available for the national projects.

On co-financing, Maya Todorova advised that the Project Partners need to keep their co-financing plans, as the total co-financing from all national projects is below the planned. She made a comparison between the rate of absorbing GEF funds and the rate of delivering the planned co-financing by the Partners – the rate of absorbing the GEF Funds was reported to be much higher (faster) than the rate of completion the contribution commitments.

The Project country that provided the highest co-financing to the Project was Sri Lanka. With regard to Supporting Partners, Maya Todorova reported that the value of the accumulated contribution to dugong and seagrass conservation at large of biggest contributor to the Project, the Australian Government, was estimated at USD 20,6 million (or 23% of the total planned contribution of the Australian Government to the Project).

An overview of the level of achieving the conservation objective of the global Project showed that the national projects and Project Partners were making a good progress towards the establishment of new or expansion of existing areas of protection for dugongs and their habitats. This work was based on field data being collected and supported through the establishment of 11 local governance structures. A lot of progress was also made by the national projects focused on incentives, delivering important feasibility studies and initiating alternative livelihoods, incentives and social solutions to enhance conservation of dugongs and seagrass. All teams working with local communities on data collection, community-based management and alternative livelihoods invested a lot of efforts in awareness raising and capacity building of local communities. However, most of these efforts were not successfully promoted on the global Project website and social media because Partners did not communicate them to the PCT.

The presentation of Kirk Duthler, Project Communications Manager, showed that in 2015 and 2016 the main objective of the PCT was to build and promote the identity of the global Projects and its Partners. This was achieved through the development of the Project logo, a partnership banner and brand guidelines as well as comprehensive Project collateral, including fact sheets, rollups, folders and e-stationary. A creative company based in Abu Dhabi, Mojo Ink, helped the PCT pro bono with all creative works.

Kirk Duthler noted other important communications deliverables by the PCT – the launched of the Project website, the social media accounts, the Project newsletter and the Project film. The Project website - [www.dugongconservation.org](http://www.dugongconservation.org) - was launched in May 2016. Kirk Duthler shared with the participants that the Project website is made to feature the Partners and it needs their stories and photo/ video material to keep the site alive. He added that the website already attracted individuals interested in internship and volunteering as well as companies exploring collaboration opportunities for a conservation cause in the Project countries.

After the presentation of the technical and communications progress of the global Project, Maya Todorova reminded the approach of the PCT to monitoring the quality of the results delivered by the national projects and the global Project, respectively. Technical and financial

progress are monitored by the PCT, making sure that the Project GEF funds are invested reasonably and transparently, to serve the objectives of the national projects and global Project objective. To ensure the quality of the technical progress (and deliverables), PCT uses support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat and the CMS Dugong Technical Group of advisors (DTG). Maya Todorova reported that all half-yearly progress reports on the national projects for the period January-June 2016 were provided to the DTG for review and recommendations, and that all Partners are expected to address the feedback and provide information on how it was integrated in their work within the next half-yearly progress report, due by 10 January 2017.

Several administrative and thematic challenges were shared by the PCT, the most important of which included:

- Low contribution to/ involvement of Partners in the global Project communication and awareness raising activities
- Late submission of reports without the deliverables and/ or supporting documents – Partners treating data as their own ownership and unwilling to share them
- Low/ no openness to the advice of DTG, which was noted to be crucial for the Project to ensure comparability and consistency of the dugong and seagrass data collected and appropriateness of the approach/ methodology used for compiling these (which may require repeating survey work and would imply delay of project work and inefficient use of GEF resources.

### **3.2.2. Recommendations by the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat**

The presentation by Donna Kwan, CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat, provided information on the role of DTG and expressed concerns that very few Partners sought the advice of DTG. The main feedback from DTG as shared by the CMS Dugong MoU emphasized the importance of evidence-based science underpinned by quality data for achieving the conservation goals on dugongs, seagrasses and communities.

Several opportunities were outlined for Project Partners to seek the advice of DTG – following the mid-term review of the Project and the CMS Seagrass and Dugong Technical Workshop, to be held on 15-16 March 2017 in Abu Dhabi, back to back with the third Meeting of the Signatory States (MoSS 3) to the Dugong MoU.

Donna Kwan also briefed the Participants on the upcoming MoSS 3 and the fact that three Project countries were invited to sign the Dugong MoU – Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste. From the discussion following the presentation it was clear that the PCT had repeatedly asked Project Partners to contact DTGs. It was proposed to link the approval of the upcoming quarterly expenditure report to effectively seeking DTG advice.

### **3.2.3. Comments and recommendations on the global Project progress**

Max Zieren commented that the data collected by the national projects is not a national or private property. This is public property and if there is reluctance to share the data, funding will be ceased. He also added that it is difficult to coordinate 38 projects on a global scale and Partners need to support the global coordination process by planning in their workplans the regular provisioning of information. Max Zieren recommended the PCT to develop a regular

check lists – e.g. bi-monthly for outstanding items/ issues and to discuss this during national skype calls.

Aires Guterres, Manager of project TL4, put a question on the ownership on the equipment purchased under the projects - whether this would be owned by the government or NGOs. Max Zieren responded that in principle, UNEP owns the equipment. However, there is a standard procedure of transferring the ownership to the Executing Agencies, government or others, as to be agreed by the end of the Project.

Donna Kwan expressed concerns on the standardisation of data and the survey techniques used for dugongs and seagrass. She emphasised that most projects would benefit from DTG advice before initiating research activities. Donna Kwan added that the CMS Dugong MoU developed a description of the process of seeking the advice of DTG. This process requires to write an e-mail to Maya Todorova, who will contact the CMS Dugong MoU. Following this Donna Kwan will contact a Technical Advisor that can best address the needs of the Partner.

Max Zieren expressed concern that after four years of project implementation, the independent terminal evaluation may find out that each project was following their own methodology and the evaluators would hold accountable the Executive Project Steering Committee of not intervening on time to ensure the standardization of the methodologies used across the countries. He recommended to the PCT to identify those key national projects, for which the technical advice would be beneficial and 'oblige' them to follow up with the respective DTG members. Reviewing the upcoming quarterly expenditure reports of Partners (due by 10 January 2017) against how the advice of DTG has been followed up could be linked to the approval of the reports.

Christina Shaw, National Facilitator of Vanuatu and lead of the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society, proposed to promote the role of DTG by showcasing the support of DTG to national projects – there is a good example from Vanuatu to be used by PCT for preparing a news article for the website and newsletter.

Nicolas Pilcher suggested to include the list of Technical Advisors on the website of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

### **3.3. Project countries review**

#### **3.3.1. Vanuatu**

The country progress of Vanuatu was presented by Christina Shaw. The main achievements reported in Vanuatu were:

- the completion of 217 out of 250 planned CMS Dugong by-catch questionnaires in Vanuatu and the capacity built for carrying out the questionnaire
- the development of national guidelines for tourism on the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, including seagrass and dugongs, respectively
- the successful promotion of dugong conservation and the Project in local media and awareness raising activities; the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Vanuatu was included in one of the editions of Scuba Diver Australasia;
- the successful role of the National Facilitating Committee as a coordination platform gathering key national institutions and non-governmental organisations

A key challenge reported by Christina Shaw was the tight budget for the country and the remoteness of the sites to be studied. Christina Shaw explained that Vanuatu has 83 islands, with no regular transport between them, which makes survey work quite expensive. Lack of knowledge of dugongs and capacity for dugong and seagrass conservation at a national level were identified as other challenges. However, the participants at the second EPSC meeting advised that building capacities was planned for and contributes to achieving the aim of the DSCP.

In terms of needs, Christina Shaw outlined a GIS training, and the next steps for Vanuatu included to make a link to a national Blue Carbon project, which would generate data on seagrass habitats and support the identification of dugong hotspots and set aside territories for conservation.

Christina showed the link between the DSCP and several national policies, such as the millennium sustainable development goals for Vanuatu, the National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan, and the Fisheries Act 2014.

#### **3.3.1.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Vanuatu**

Vanuatu's progress was well accepted by the meeting participants.

Max Zieren asked about the biggest threats to dugongs and commented that the data collected under the Project could be used in reported national spatial planning process to show dugong hotspots and suggest areas for conservation and areas for development.

Christina Shaw answered that coastal and tourism development in Vanuatu are the key threats to dugongs and their habitats because of infrastructure development neglecting species hotspots and habitats. Christina Shaw said that it is important to expand tourism in Vanuatu, as a source of income and a factor for local development but it is necessary to provide ecotourism guidelines, including specifics on marine wildlife observation.

She added that dugong stranding is very rare in Vanuatu because of the steep bathymetry. However in cases of stranding, communities have to report to the Department of Fisheries, who oversees the stranding cases, and Christina Shaw was not certain whether or not communities would report such cases to the authorities.

Nicolas Pilcher referred to the needs for GIS training and recommended to Christina Shaw to become a member of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group to build overall capacity and to get a free access to the GIS software.

#### **3.3.2. Timor-Leste**

Aires Guterres, Manager of project TL4 and representative of the National Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration (NDBPR), Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, presented the progress of Timor-Leste.

Aires Guterres mentioned that dugongs are protected under the Marine Protected Species Act, and that a reference to their endangered status is made in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

He presented the main achievements in Timor-Leste, including:

- Including dugongs and seagrass in NBSAP

- The development of the ecotourism initiative on Atauro Island, built around the sustainable management of marine areas protection of species and habitats (including dugongs and seagrass). According to information provided from the Partners, 70 tourists are expected to visit Timor-Leste under this initiative in 2016, spreading the word about Timor-Leste to other international tourists;
- Public awareness of schools kids and reach out to fishermen, coastal guards and the navy and raising also their awareness on dugongs and seagrass – besides the meetings and discussions, stickers were produced and distributed to the different stakeholders for their boats, telling whom to call when they occur a dugong in emergency.
- Technical capacity for implementation of the Project through the acquisition of a boat, dive equipment, a vehicle and two computers.

Aires Guterres also reported that the National Facilitating Committee (NFC) was active in Timor-Leste, organising several coordination and capacity building meetings as well as using different occasions to promote dugongs and seagrass. He added that the NFC would benefit from more input from the Partners and other relevant stakeholders in Timor-Leste.

Among the challenges listed, the most important included the high deforestation rates causing sedimentation and degradation of seagrass beds and the fact that environmental issues have very low priority on the political agenda. The low interest in the Project is also an obstacle to achieving better coordination on conservation in Timor-Leste.

Aires Guterres mentioned that many development activities neglect the existing environment management and impact assessment requirements and consequently have a negative impact on the environment, including seagrass degradation. In addition, he described conservation efforts as very difficult in the context of economic growth, giving an example of an oil pipe to be constructed next to the existing marine protected area.

The most important needs identified in the presentation of Aires Guterres included a dugong footage, possibly from Timor-Leste, to be used for project communications to fishermen and coastal communities, capacity building of local institutions and non-government organisations for conservation of dugongs and their habitats. A learning exchange to any other Project country to gain experience with dugong conservation was also marked as an important need.

### **3.3.2.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Timor-Leste**

The report on the progress of Timor-Leste was accepted by participants and advancing the work on data gathering was recommended, as an important element for improving policies within the life of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

Himansu Das, Unit Head, Marine Threatened Species and Habitats Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity, Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, recommended to improve the effectiveness of communication efforts by building the capacity of school teachers to include information on dugongs and seagrass in their education activities. A way to do that is to provide specific information on dugongs and seagrass to the teachers of English language, Geography and Biology. Himansu Das also recommended to have more often meetings with the stakeholders in Timor-Leste to raise their awareness on seagrass and dugongs and to ensure better coordination among them

Max Zieren provided specific recommendations on each project. He commented that project TL1 needs to expand the scope of data collection beyond the marine protected area, given the aim of the global Project is to conduct surveys to deliver on the targeted Project outcome of national policies and strategies – not just monitoring the situation in an existing protected area. Development challenges, such as the oil and gas operations in the large marine triangle with Australia and Indonesia can be used by Project Partners to engage with the corporate investors and government agencies involved to possibly make seagrass and dugong surveys part of their environment assessments. Project TL2 needs to show clearly the link of the ecotourism initiative to conservation and the objective of the global Project. Project TL5 needs to expand the NFC in order to achieve better support for the projects in Timor-Leste.

With regard to the planned drone survey under project TL1, Donna Kwan recommended the Project Partner to contact Amanda Hodgson and describe the needs of the project and objectives of the survey, so she can advise on the limitations, potential mistakes and pitfalls to avoid.

Nicolas Pilcher, CMS DTG, recommended that Project TL1 contact him with regard to the CMS Dugong Questionnaire because the way it had been modified by the Partner would not deliver relevant standardised data, which was already communicated to the Partner.

### **3.3.3. Sri Lanka**

Lakshman Peiris, National Facilitator of Sri Lanka and Deputy Director-Research and Training, Department of Wildlife Conservation, presented the progress in Sri Lanka. Among the main achievements presented were:

- The progress of dugong and seagrass research in Northwest Sri Lanka, providing first data on dugong presence and distribution and on seagrass status, distribution and abundance, and identifying threats and drivers of change to the habitat and the species;
- The active role of the National Facilitating Committee in Sri Lanka, which managed to unite the Partners, despite the challenge of having each Partner thinking of their own project only;
- Development of a policy gap analysis and marine mammal watching guidelines
- Awareness raising needs identification and preparation of communications materials to address these
- The efforts to establish Community Conservation Groups in dugong hotspots to support participatory management and conservation, which would be formally recognize by the government and will be able to get support for the group (according to a new legislation)
- Incentives and sustainable livelihoods alternatives built for communities in Puttlam Lagoon and intensive capacity building of the communities to enable them participate in the solutions introduced.

A couple of challenges were presented, including the difficulties to get data on dugongs because of the low sighting and the reluctance of fishers to provide sensitive for them information on dugongs (and mortality cases) because of being scared of getting prosecuted (punished). Also, the high number of government institutions dealing with conservation and their overlapping responsibilities makes national coordination on dugong and seagrass protection very difficult.

The time for a behavioural change of communities and the value of the compensation were reported as the main challenges to the incentive component in Sri Lanka.

In terms of needs, Lakshman Peiris outlined to need to conduct a socio-economic survey in the Northwest of Sri Lanka with the aim to identify the needs of the communities to be addressed to incentivise their support for conservation and the management of the Marine Protected Area.

Lakshman Peiris also mentioned that for the effectiveness of conservation efforts it is necessary to cooperate with India and reported that recently there was a high level discussion between the governments of India and Sri Lanka to cease or change bottom trawling, which would support the protection of seagrass and other marine ecosystems.

### **3.3.3.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's progress was well accepted. The National Facilitator and the NFC in Sri Lanka were acknowledged by the PCT as a good model of a national platform on conservation efforts.

With regard to the high-level talk between the governments of India and Sri Lanka on bottom-trawling, Nicolas Pilcher recommended to highlight the ministry dialogue with India in the outcome of the GEF Project, if the Project in Sri Lanka contributed to that dialogue.

Max Zieren emphasised the need of a good national coordination, noting the possible risk the project on incentives could remain isolated from the other initiatives – such as indicated in the presented project implementation structure in Sri Lanka. Lakshman Pieris explained that the project on incentives is the only one implemented in Puttlam Lagoon, Kalpitiya and that however, it is also supported and strengthened in its results through the awareness raising activities in Northwest Sri Lanka.

### **3.3.4. Solomon Islands**

Chrisanto Daokalia, National Facilitator in the Solomon Islands and Research Analyst, Natural Resource Management of WorldFish, gave an overview of the status of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in the Solomon Islands. Key achievements presented were:

- Data collection of seagrass using drones and actively involving local communities;
- Visual confirmation of dugong presence in Lau Lagoon and new dugong hotspots identified in Western and Temotu Provinces
- Active work with communities on participatory seagrass mapping and monitoring in Lau Lagoon and Western Province; first maps of seagrass produced
- Intensive awareness raising on dugongs and seagrass in the two Project sites (Lau Lagoon and Western Province) and in the capital, reaching out school kids, authorities, local guards and the public at large. Several occasions were successfully used to promote the Project, such as World Environment Day, celebrated in Honiara
- Well working National Facilitating Committee (meeting quarterly), delivering policy briefs and joint media releases.

Chrisanto Daokalia reported that seagrass and dugong datasets are outdated. He added that the new data collected through the Project would contribute to the development of a national policy. Ensuring sustainability of project results and involvement of local communities to

dugong conservation, especially in the Western Province was considered challenging without the support local rangers. A proposed mitigation strategy was to engage rangers and pay for their time to work with communities and support conservation efforts.

Some of the needs and next steps, as presented by Chrisanto Daokalia included capacity building for dugong tagging and recording, communicating the importance of the dugong and seagrass, conducting cross learning across the region, with Vanuatu, as well as effective project management

#### **3.3.4.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to the Solomon Islands**

The participants acknowledged the progress in the Solomon Islands.

Donna Kwan did not recommend tagging of dugongs out of Australia. She explained that this practice causes stress and eventual death to the animals. Donna Kwan reiterated the importance of seeking the advice of the DTG on tagging and other research activities prior to starting them. She emphasised that using the CMS Dugong Questionnaire is probably the best (resource and time effective) methodology to define dugong hotspots

Nicolas Pilcher commented that the identification of priority dugong and seagrass hotspots in the Solomon Islands is of utmost importance for the global Project and that a lot of efforts were already invested in Lau Lagoon and thus, it is necessary to know about other, new sites.

Max Zieren recommended to Partners in the Solomon Islands to keep to their workplans and deliver the committed project outcomes, before embarking on possible new work.

#### **3.3.5. Mozambique**

The progress of Mozambique was presented by Anselmo Gaspar, National Facilitator of Mozambique and Senior Officer at the National Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development.

Key achievements as presented by Anselmo Gaspar related to:

- Data collection on dugongs using the CMS Dugong Questionnaire in the Southern part of Sofala Bank ( Machanga – Buzi-Beira and Dondo) and acoustics survey; 6 acoustic loggers were deployed around Bazaruto Archipelago and collection of data on dugongs was carried out in partnership with Marine Megafauna Foundation
- Active work with communities in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park to identify their needs and the tipping point for conservation; a combination of access to social services and sustainable livelihoods alternatives were devised as a potential model for community-based conservation and management in the area.
- Feasibility and impact assessment carried for potential solutions for involving communities into conservation – a Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach to conservation was introduced in Bazaruto and health needs were assessed; the impact assessment of seaweed farming was carried out.
- A learning exchange on community livelihoods - visit to project sites of Blue Ventures in Madagascar

The main challenges outlined in the presentation on Mozambique included the remoteness and underdeveloped transport to Bazaruto Archipelago, the high price of external expertise for awareness raising materials and the low national project budgets, the inaccessibility to some sites important for dugong research in the central part of Mozambique because of a current military conflict.

Anselmo Gaspar presented the needs of the Partners in Mozambique, some of which included more targeted awareness raising of different target groups on the importance of seagrass and their services. He outlined the next steps, as identified by the Partners, including the use of Baited Remote Underwater Camera survey and continuous work on the research and incentives in Bazaruto.

#### **3.3.5.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Mozambique**

Further to the presented progress, Max Zieren and other participants were interested in PHE model to conservation promoted by Blue Ventures. Max Zieren also requested clarification on the PhD proposal and its relevance to the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

Nicolas Pilcher, requested more information on the Baited Underwater Camera survey and required clarifications on how this survey relates to the objective of project MZ4 and how it helps communities and moving conservation forward.

#### **3.3.6. Malaysia**

Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir, Head of Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Centre (TUMEC), Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), under the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and Dugong Focal Point of Malaysia presented the progress in Malaysia.

Key achievements in Malaysia included:

- Collection of data on seagrass and dugongs in the two major Project sites in Malaysia – aerial surveys and mapping of seagrass in Johor and drone survey in Lawas
- Capacity building of Malaysian Partners to carry out project activities – acquisition of drones and GIS staff training; development of a methodology (survey techniques) for studying seagrass and dugongs; ensuring the presence of the Project in Johor by hiring a permanent local coordinator to communicate with communities on a daily basis
- Development of communications materials such as posters, stickers, T-shirts to promote the project
- Using important occasions to promote the Project - dugongs and seagrass conservation was promoted during Sultan of Johor's visit to the area under invitation by the Johor State Government
- Community awareness programme ("Nature n U" ) to students in Lawas, demonstrating the importance seagrass and dugongs to youth - of 96 students from 4 local schools

One of the most important challenges outlined in the presentation of Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir referred to the unresolved dispute between state and federal agencies over the authority of managing the marine protected area in Johor, which might impact the projects in this pilot site. Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir also shared that conservation is not a priority

among local stakeholders, especially in Johor, as they face more pressing issues such as lack of freshwater, consistent power supplies and livelihoods uncertainties.

Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir mentioned that capacity building and expertise for assessing the total economic value of seagrass ecosystems are highly needed. He also stressed the need to promote better communication between the institutions in Johor, in order to ensure the implementation of the national projects.

A cooperation with the teams working in Bintan was identified as a potential cross-regional cooperation.

#### **3.3.6.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Malaysia**

The progress of Malaysia was well received.

Max Zieren emphasised the need to establish new or expand existing areas under protection, seeking the consent of the communities - respecting the Nagoya protocol when engaging with communities, businesses and the principles of our stakeholders having the right to step out. One way of avoiding conflicts is to understand the needs of communities, conduct a process of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), and look for benefits sharing. Gender balance representation is another important aspect that Partners should consider. Max Zieren advised that e.g. UN REDD+ and the Forest Stewardship Council programs both active in Sri Lanka have FPIC manuals. Which may be used if needed.

Nicolas Pilcher commented that the two projects, working in Johor, planned intensive consulting processes with communities

#### **3.3.7. Madagascar**

Rijaso Fanazava, CMS National Focal Point and Director of the Sea Preservation, Secretariat of the State at the Ministry of the Halieutic resources and the Fishery in charge of the Sea, presented the progress of Madagascar. He presented the following key achievements:

- Collection of data on dugongs and seagrass in Northwest Madagascar. The information was used to update the management plan of Sahamalaza, raise the awareness of local communities, identify dugong hotspots and establish 10 new community management structures in the area
- Active work with communities on raising their awareness and building capacity for engaging in conservation - 40 new Conservation ambassadors were recruited and trained, and among them 6 were trained in fishery data collection
- Film development on community-based conservation in Diego region, featuring dugongs and seagrass
- Establishment and operationalisation of the National Facilitating Committee

Rijaso Fanazava reported that the teams in Madagascar experienced problems with the dugong research because of low expert capacity, remoteness of the areas for some teams and difficulties to secure survey equipment. He added that 6 acoustics loggers were lost (stolen) by one of the Partners, which had been reported to the PCT.

Some of the next steps in Madagascar, as presented by Rijaso Fanazava include continuation of project activities of data collection as well as awareness raising and education activities for communities, incentives and policy work.

#### **3.3.7.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Madagascar**

The progress in Madagascar was received well by the meeting participants.

Himansu Das asked for more information on the lost acoustic loggers. Rijaso Fanazava explained that the loggers were lost even that precautionary measures were taken – they were fixed to the sea bottom with a concrete blocks, they had contact information on them and local stakeholders had been advised that loggers would be deployed.

Nicolas Pilcher recommended to Partners using the CMS Dugong Questionnaire to contact him.

Christina Shaw expressed interest in getting in contact with the Partners in Madagascar, working on the incentives to receive more information on the impact assessment they conducted for the seaweed aquaculture.

#### **3.3.8. Indonesia**

Firdaus Agung, Deputy Director for Conservation Partnership and Infrastructure, Directorate for Conservation and Marine Biodiversity and CMS Focal Point, gave an overview of the status of the Project in Indonesia. The key achievements as presented by Firdaus Agung included:

- Preparation of the National Plan of Action for Dugong and Seagrass – the first National Symposium of Dugong and Seagrass was carried out, gathering, 200 participants from 25 provinces; a map of dugong distribution was prepared showing the historical and current distribution of dugongs and identifying the new areas of distribution
- Collection of data on dugong presence and seagrass distribution, density and biomass, adopting different methods. The Indonesian team also surveyed the threats to dugongs and their habitats, reaching out communities in Bintan, Tolitoli, Alor and Kotawaringin Barat and obtaining information on the communities' perceptions and level of awareness.
- Technical capacity for the implementation of dugong and seagrass conservation work was built – acquisition of a drone, binoculars, GPS device, a camera and a voice recorder.
- Two cases of dugong stranding in Tolitoli and Bali were successfully handled and served also as awareness and education campaign
- National Dugong Conservation Committee was built – a platform gathering all Project Partners and other relevant institutions
- Good communications work by the team – good media presence and development of a Facebook page of the Project

Challenges presented by Firdaus Agung included the implementation of the project in new sites for the project team in Indonesia and the difficulty to find support for conservation among communities. He added that the team had to take a different approach to reaching out and building cooperation with communities, changing from top-down to bottom-up approach.

The needs for technical support included capacity for analysing acoustic data, implementation of a drone survey, development of integrated dugong and seagrass databases and ensuring that survey and monitoring methods used in Indonesia are in-line with international methods. CMS Dugong Technical Group support/ guidance was requested for a training on dugong and seagrass monitoring and survey technique, reviewing Indonesian standardized method for seagrass and dugong research and monitoring and the development of incentive scheme design in 4 targeted sites.

As potential areas of cooperation, Firdaus Agung emphasized the need to coordinate with the teams in Malaysia and Timor-Leste, because of probably sharing same dugong populations; the Blue Carbon project was reported to be of relevance to the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

#### **3.3.8.1. Questions, answers and recommendations to Indonesia**

The progress of Indonesia was well accepted by the members of the EPSC II.

Maya Todorova asked for more information on the Blue carbon project. Firdaus Agung answered that the project just started, covering Indonesia and the Philippines and aiming at assessing the ecosystem services of the Coral Triangle, including seagrass.

Nicolas Pilcher commented positively on the expansion of research and awareness efforts to other places that have not been studied before.

Firdaus Agung asked if dugongs in Indonesia (Alor) are shared with Timor-Leste. Donna Kwan explained that there is a seasonal dugong occurrence in Timor-Leste, when seagrass in Indonesia is very limited. She suspected that the dugong population in Indonesia and Timor-Leste was the same.

Donna Kwan emphasised the importance to collect genetic samples for all stranding cases

Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir commented that his team also collected information on stranded animals that they can compare the samples and hence, dugong populations among countries. Donna Kwan added that there is need for coordination on genetics, using technical advisors and that expertise on dugong genetics exists in Johor, Malaysia.

#### **3.4. Discussion: country of needs, the role of the National Facilitators, PCT, CMS Dugong MoU and next steps**

This part of the meeting was organised as an open discussion, including a round of input on the second EPSC meeting and progress reported on.

Max Zieren commented that the progress of the global Project seemed good but there are areas for improvement. It is necessary to work on gender equality and to integrate and monitor this better in the implementation of the project. Regarding the METT score, Max Zieren mentioned that it is important to update the information in the tracking tools given the project is already at midterm. He also added that it is important to complete any outstanding baseline (data) baseline of the projects in the countries in order to measure the impact of the Project. Policy work should go together with incentives development, which is a long process because of the need to reach out sector agencies.

Christina Shaw, representing Vanuatu emphasised the benefits of having the Technical Advisors and the opportunity to seek their advice. She expressed that they would work on feeding the results from the national projects in the National Ocean Policy. Christina Shaw asked about the use of the photos available with the global Project photo gallery.

Kirk Duthler replied that it is possible to use them and Christina Shaw or any other Partner in need of photos should contact him.

Aires Guterres from Timor-Leste acknowledged the increasing role of project TL3 and confirmed that steps would be taken to improve communications by training teachers/trainers

Lakshman Peiris from Sri Lanka said that the recommendations from the second EPSC meeting will be further presented to the Project Partners in Sri Lanka. He also expressed the need for establishing a collaborative network on dugongs and seagrass.

Chrisanto Daokalia, representing the Solomon Islands acknowledged the importance of having more quantifiable baseline of the Project to be able to monitor the added value of the GEF funding. He also mentioned that he would make the Partners aware of the need to seek the advice of the Dugong Technical Advisors.

Anselmo Gaspar from Mozambique commented that as a National Facilitator he would promote timely reporting. He also expressed the benefits of experience exchange between countries.

Syed Abdullah bin Syed Abdul Kadir mentioned that in Malaysia it is necessary to compare the new information compiled under the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project to the long-term commitments. He also commented that the national coordination is very important for the effectiveness of the Project, as more work can be done when sharing targets.

Rijaso Fanazava commented that he is new to the Project and will bring back home all recommendations from the Project and that more accent will be put on identifying policy gaps for dugong and seagrass conservation for improving policies. He supported the suggestion of Lakshman Peiris on the development of a collaborative network on dugongs and seagrass.

Firdaus Agung commented that the incentives confirmed to be the most important for this Project and thus, for Indonesia. He requested a rough time table for consultation with the DTG. Firdaus Agung asked about data sharing agreements and support the suggestions of Lakshman Pieris on the development of a collaborative network on dugongs and seagrass.

Himansu Das expressed that the coordination among Partners is the most important for the Project and for the purpose, regular meetings should take place. He recommended to Partners to seek the advice of DTG regarding research and technologies. With regard to awareness raising, Himansu Das suggested to aim at better effectiveness of awareness raising efforts through understanding better target audiences and their needs.

With regard to the power point presentation template provided to the National Facilitators, Himansu Das recommended to include mitigations actions/ strategies in addition to the recognition of challenges.

Nicolas Pilcher commented that the main objective of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project is to encourage and foster collaboration across the countries. He emphasised the need to request from Partners to report on how the feedback and recommendations by the DTG were addressed by them in the next half-yearly progress report.

Nicolas Pilcher found the EPSC meeting reporting format for the countries as a good flow and overview of the situation in the countries.

### **3.5. Outlook 2017 and summary of action points**

Maya Todorova presented the next steps for the global Project, which included:

- Preparation for the Project mid-term review and its implementation
- Improving the quality of Project deliverables by identifying capacity needs to be addressed by DTG
- Improving internal communications with the Project Partners by organizing regular national Skype calls
- Raise the public profile of seagrass using different international events and occasions during 2017

Maya Todorova also outlined the following need for support:

- From Project Partners to improve the reporting of projects and get DTG's advice
- From CMS Dugong MoU to feature the Project at MoSS3 and facilitate the dialogue with DTG, and to help communicate the role of seagrass
- From UNEP to continue their back over role

### **3.6. UN Environment's perspective and recommendations**

Max Zieren, presented the observations and recommendations of the GEF Implementing Agency for the Project, UN Environment. He emphasized the link of the Project to 17 Sustainable Development Goals set for 2016-2030. The SDGs build on three pillars – environmental, economic and social and the global Project integrate in its design the three pillars, as follows

- Environment: Conservation of near-shore seagrass meadows and the services they provide to man and humans (fish, recreation, shore protection); protection of Dugong; introduction sustainable fisheries catch technologies.
- Economic: poverty alleviation fishing communities, alternative income, blue ventures.
- Social: gender, empowerment, self-development, education, 'green' producers through capacity building

Being integrated in the design means that all national Partners need to make the link to SDGs in their work, communications and monitoring of results. Max Zieren added that integrating SDGs into Partners' work does not mean that they promoting just conservation or just science but both together, with education and incentives.

Max Zieren stated that the expectations of the Donor, the GEF, and UN Environment from the Project and its Partners are the delivery of the committed environmental and socio-economic outcomes, as per the Project Document, as well as of the co-funding contributions (clearly

disaggregating in-kind and cash contributions). Additionally, these commitments require Partners to take very seriously the level of replicability and sustainability of their Projects, which will be assessed during the Project mid-term review as well as at the end of the DSCP project. Further, communications of achievements and challenges and contribution to the global Project website are part of the commitments to be made regularly by each Partner.

Max Zieren advised the PCT that it was important to not only show global project performance at the logframe objective level but do that particularly at the outcome level, to enable a quantifiable assessment (where possible) of the Project performance. He presented to the participants the current progress and performance of the Project at the outcome level.

Max Zieren provided specific recommendations on each country to be addressed by the PCT and the Project Partners, a brief of which is provided below:

- Vanuatu – to keep the good progress on data, policy work and integrating gender and youth in their work and to increase the outreach on dugong and seagrass matters
- Timor-Leste – to improve the reach and effectiveness of communications through ‘training of teachers’ training’, to demonstrate clearly the link of the eco-tourism incentives to conservation objectives – preferably to be set as a conditionality, to continue the good steps taken on the national policy arena, putting more effort to deal with emerging economic development programs (harbour etc) potentially affecting dugong and seagrass
- Sri Lanka – to continue the good progress of the national facilitation and dialogue among Partners and to communities and demonstrate clearly the link of the incentives and alternative income component and its contribution to the objectives of all the other national projects
- Solomon Islands – to continue data collection and work with communities, while also building capacities and to seek the advice of PCT and DTG on survey technologies and capacity building needs of project teams, and to provide more quantified and proven-to-be-incremental compared to the baseline
- Mozambique – to improve information sharing by the projects to the PCT, get more active on communications and contribution to the global Project communications; and with regard to the Sustainable Seafood Initiative to clarify if dugongs are included in the smartphone application for fisheries inventory
- Malaysia – to work on facilitating as much as possible the dialogue on establishment of the Dugong Sanctuary between the institutions having overlapping conservation responsibilities in Johor and improve Project Partners’ coordination
- Madagascar – to continue the good progress, following up on the projects workplans;
- Indonesia – to expand the seagrass mapping and research in new potential areas beyond the known sites now, to finalise the proposal of the incentives project and to maintain an integrated approach to the coordination between various partners

Max Zieren also recommended to all Partners to:

- Focus more efforts on true integration of national projects with the incentives and communications work, and vice versa
- Use national coordination bodies to discuss and solve challenges and achieve better integration

- Involve government sectors beyond conservation – for mainstreaming, policies and decisions makers
- Take gender serious: integrate it in the design and implementation of project activities, set gender specific targets, and measure the results in your routine M&E
- Keep quality in your work high – including in final technical reports, communications, end products
- To prepare for the mid-term review by collating all outputs, reports, communications materials;
- Apply free prior and informed consent with communities towards any on the ground conservation activities, and establishment of new MPAs.
- Communications of the Partners to be more strategic, pro-active, contributing to global communications objectives
- Better identify, analyse and target agents of change (women, staff, formal/informal institutions) – who will replicate, fund and decide on programs to sustain the Dugong cause

#### 4. Summary of next steps

The next table summarises the key recommendations and actions expected to be taken by Project Partners and PCT.

Relevance	Recommendation/ next step	Actions
Global	Integrate and monitor women and youth inclusion in project work	All Project Partners to report on gender equality and youth inclusion. PCT to report on it in the logframe.
Global	Improve the reporting of national project deliverables	All Project Partners to submit to PCT their data, analyses, etc., generated with GEF funds under the DSCP, as supporting documents with their half-yearly progress reports.
Global	Improve internal communication between the PCT and the Project Partners	Project Partners should be more proactive and communicate regularly their issues and news to the PCT PCT to organise more regular national skype calls
Global	All Partners should address the recommendations provided to DTG	Partners to include information on how DTG advice was addressed in their half-yearly progress reports due on 10 Jan 2017 PCT to identify the national projects that need technical advice and make the link between them and DTG PCT will link the approval of expenditures to be reported in Jan 2017 to whether and how DTG advice was addressed by the Partners
Global	Promote the role of DTG on the Project website	PCT to showcase the support of DTG to national projects using the example from Vanuatu
Vanuatu	VESS to become a member of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group	VESS to take the necessary steps to become a member of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group
Timor-Leste	Improve the effectiveness of communications efforts	Project TL4 to train biology, geography and English language teachers by providing them with materials on dugong and seagrass
Timor-Leste	Improve the effectiveness of data collection activities	Project TL1 to contact DTG members to survey methodologies; TL1 to provide information on the geographic scope of their surveys

Timor-Leste	Demonstrate/ explain the link between ecotourism and conservation of dugongs and seagrass	Project TL2 to demonstrate/ explain the link
Sri Lanka	Demonstrate/ explain the link between the proposed alternative livelihoods and conservation of dugongs and seagrass	Project LK7 to demonstrate/ explain the link
Solomon Islands	Avoid using dugong tagging. Better use the CMS Dugong Questionnaire	Projects SB3 and SB4 to seek the advice of DTG on dugong and seagrass surveys
Mozambique	Demonstrate the link between the use of Baited Remote Underwater camera and the incentives related to dugong and seagrass conservation	Project MZ4 to demonstrate/ explain the link
Malaysia	Facilitate the dialogue between the federal and state authorities sharing management responsibilities in Johor	Projects MY1 and MY4 to work on facilitating the dialogue between institutions
Madagascar	Ensure the effectiveness of dugong research	Project MG4 and other partners, using the CMS Dugong Questionnaire to contact Nicolas Pilcher
Indonesia	Expand seagrass mapping and research in new potential areas	Project ID2 and ID3 to follow up on this

## 5. Annex

### List of media articles on the second EPSC meeting

#### In Arabic:

Listed below are the various AR newspapers in which the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project was featured, in order of the potential viewership (in terms of circulation):

1. Al Bayan Newspaper - UAE: <http://www.albayan.ae/across-the-uae/news-and-reports/2016-11-03-1.2752246> (potential viewership: 463,962)
2. Al Ittihad Newspaper - UAE: <http://www.alittihad.ae/details.php?id=54840&y=2016> (potential viewership: 265,245)
3. Al Khaleej - UAE: <http://www.alkhaleej.ae/alkhaleej/page/1ec162bc-19b3-4d6d-9b84-ac64e3be405f> (potential viewership: 202,026)
4. Emirates News Agency (WAM) - UAE: <http://www.wam.ae/ar/news/general/1395302460024.html#> (potential viewership: 3,589)
5. The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) - Jordan: <http://www.fananews.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA/1923980/> (potential viewership: 1,637)

#### In English:

Listed below are the various newspapers in which the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project was featured in English, outside of the UAE:

1. Malaysian Digest – Malaysia: <http://www.malaysiandigest.com/news/640926-fisheries-department-calls-for-mou-on-dugong-conservation.html> (CMS Dugong MoU focused; potential viewership: 162,228)
2. Wild Singapore – Singapore: [http://wildsingaporenews.blogspot.ae/2016/11/malaysia-on-brink-of-extinction-only.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+WildsingaporeNews+\(wildsingapore+news\)#.WB7SEvp942w](http://wildsingaporenews.blogspot.ae/2016/11/malaysia-on-brink-of-extinction-only.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+WildsingaporeNews+(wildsingapore+news)#.WB7SEvp942w) (mention of both the GEF Project and of the CMS Dugong MoU; potential viewership: 175,473,479)
3. Astro Awani – Malaysia: <http://english.astroawani.com/malaysia-news/fisheries-department-calls-mou-dugong-conservation-121281>
4. The Borneo Post Online – Malaysia: <http://www.theborneopost.com/2016/11/03/fisheries-department-calls-for-mou-on-dugong-conservation/> (potential viewership: 188,541)
5. Astro Awani – Malaysia: <http://english.astroawani.com/malaysia-news/brink-extinction-only-100-dugongs-left-malaysia-121301> (Film of the media event that took place with Datuk Ismail, Director General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, on 02 November and the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat/Donna's intervention)
6. Bernama – Malaysia: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=1298312> (potential viewership: 95,330)