Improving communication and collaboration amongst all relevant stakeholders in Sri Lanka to enhance seagrass and dugong conservation

Project Summary

In coastal areas where dugongs are present there is not a center to detect or monitor the activities related to conservation. The Dugong Conservation Coordination Center (DCCC) helps to fill this gap. Communication among government agencies and other stakeholders helps to collect real-time information. This helps to develop a database and to strengthen law enforcement. The National Steering Committee will formulate the appropriate policy framework on dugong and seagrass conservation.

Community-based tourism industry on marine mammals, benefits the local communities. Guidance and regulations of marine mammal tourism will sustain the industry. And these activities will be coordinated through this project.

Results

Dugong conservation coordination center functioning with the assistance of local community
Mobile-based communication application developed and communication network established
National level steering committee with the participation of all national level stakeholders established and functioning

Main Activities

Dugong Conservation Coordination Center (DCCC) established
Communication network for dugong conservation established
National Steering Committee (NSC) on marine-sector conservation established
Marine mammal tourism guidelines authored and reviewed
Capacity on marine sector conservation enhanced

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

Dugong Conservation Coordination Center strengthened with ensuring the participation of local community
Dugong database established and linked with mobile communication network
National steering committee on marine sector conservation strengthened and recognized as a consultative body for decision making
Marine sector conservation capacities developed

About Our Organization

The Department of Wildlife Conservation is the government entity that is empowered by law to conserve wildlife and to develop and implement the policies on wildlife conservation. Fourteen percent of the terrestrial landmass is reserved for protected areas, wildlife species and their habitats including protected marine species are looked after by DWC in Sri Lanka.

The department is the Focal Point of the international conventions of CMS, Ramsar and CITES.