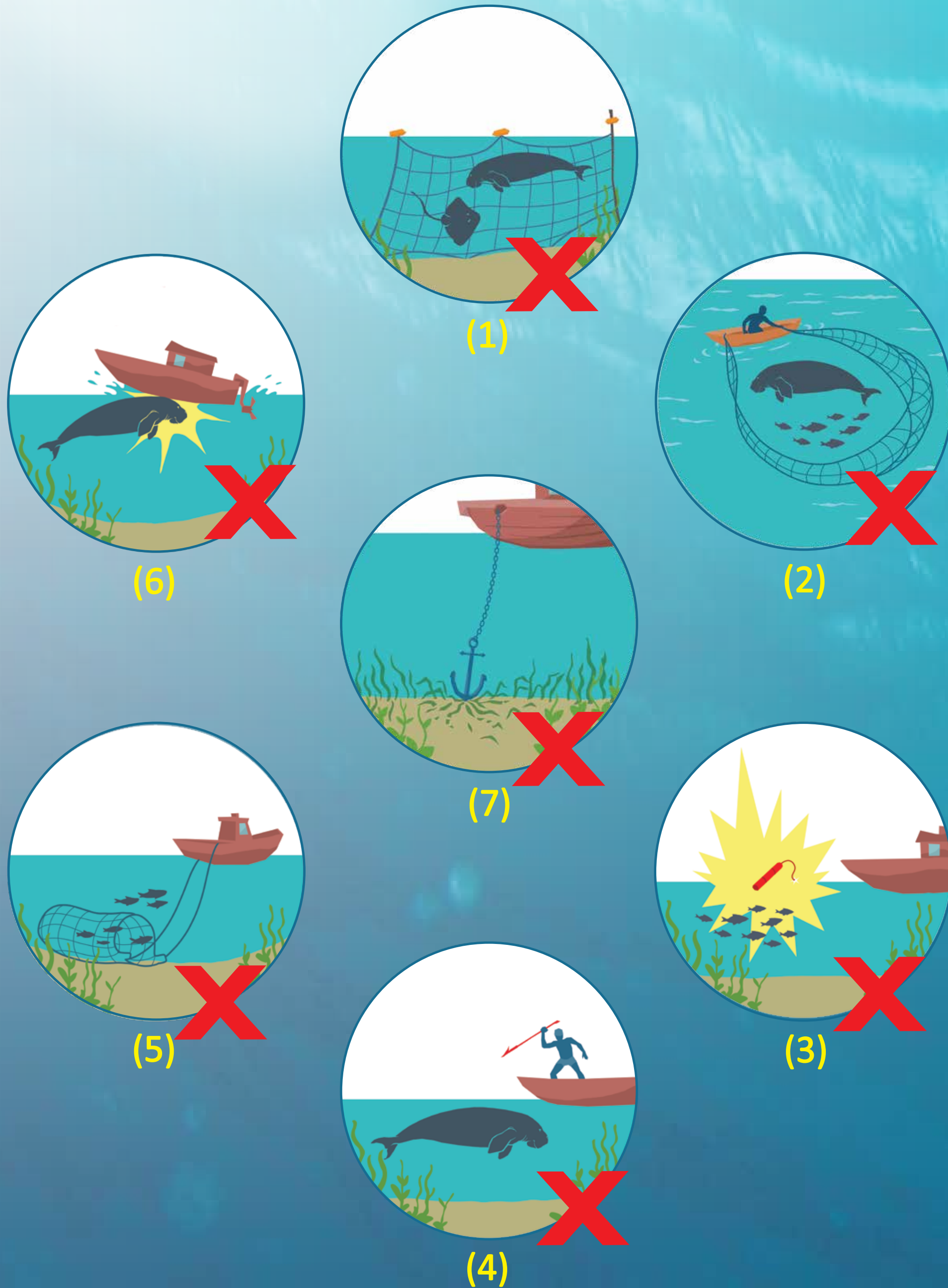




SAVE THE DUGONG PROTECT THE SEAGRASS

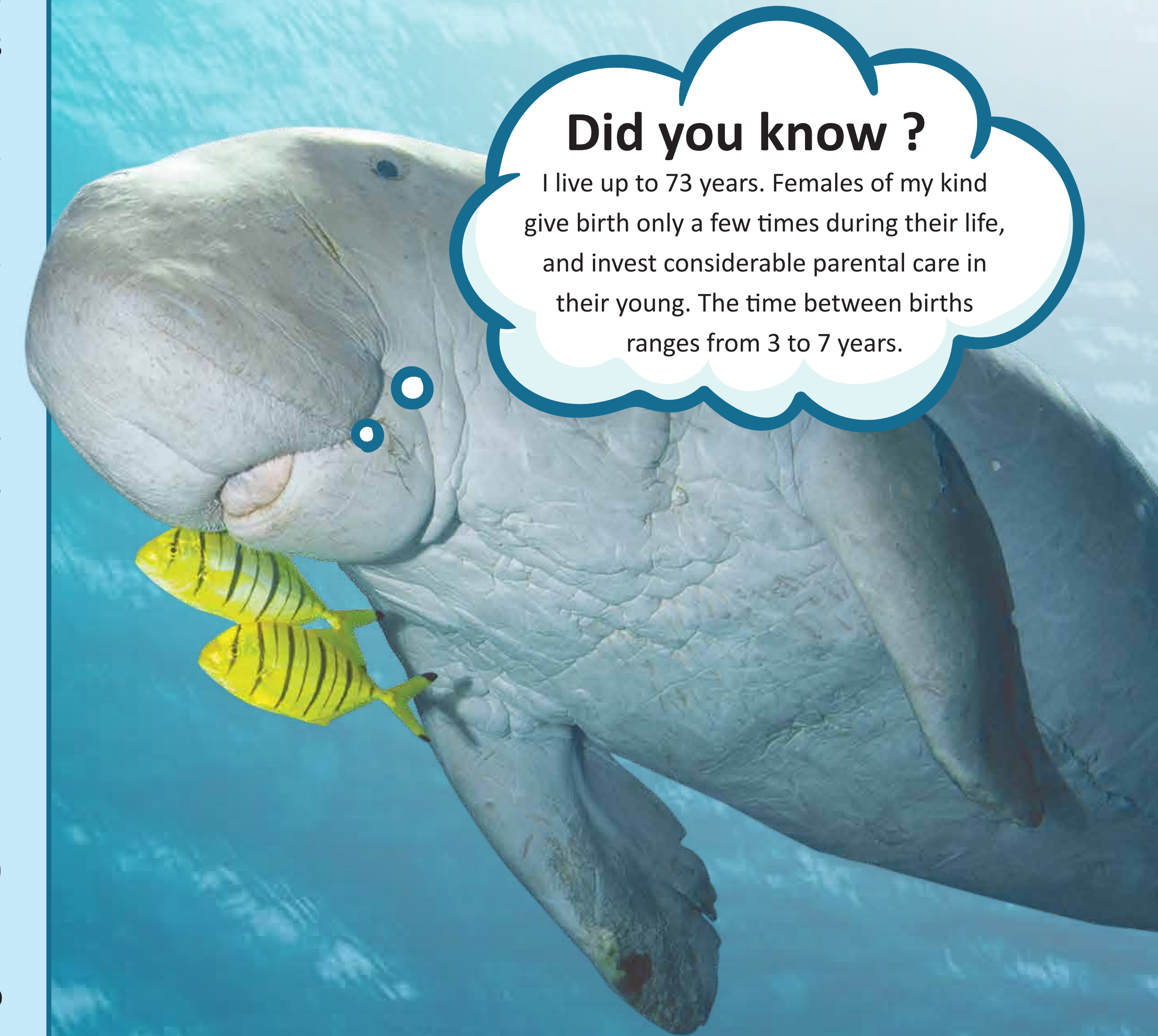


The dugong (*Dugong dugon*) is a migratory marine mammal that feeds primarily on seagrasses and is found in the coastal waters ranging from East Africa to Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean. In Sri Lanka, dugongs and extensive seagrass meadows are found in the north and north-western coastal waters, specifically in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay.

It is listed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The dugong population is declining due to incidental entanglement in nets (1,2), destructive fishing practices (3), hunting (4), trawling (5), boat strikes (6) and damage to seagrass meadows (7).

In Sri Lanka, the dugong is protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. Killing of a dugong and/or possession of its body parts is an offence and will result in a fine of up to Rs. 100,000 and/or imprisonment.

If you happen to see a dead dugong please report to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Department of Wildlife Conservation or the Police.



Did you know ?

I live up to 73 years. Females of my kind give birth only a few times during their life, and invest considerable parental care in their young. The time between births ranges from 3 to 7 years.

Mass: Up to 400 kg (Adult)
Length: Average of 3 m (Adult)

Illustration: Roshan De Sella
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Other Local Project Partners:

