

Dugong & Seagrass

CONSERVATION PROJECT

This Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, with financing from the GEF, and implementation support by UN Environment and technical support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.

Solomon Islands National Facilitator

Chelcia Gomese, WorldFish Solomon Islands

Location



Key conservation Problems

- ❑ Destruction of protective mangrove barriers, sediment runoff
- ❑ Traditional hunting major threat to dugongs
- ❑ Baseline data is fragmented or absent at the national level

Objectives of the project:

- ❑ SB5 will strengthen national and provincial government capacities by establishing a National Facilitating Committee (NFC) to ensure a coordinated approach to conserve dugongs and seagrass habitats.
- ❑ The NFC will connect the local-level field work and research activities at the provincial level with government ministries.





Addressing the problems

- ❑ Improved information and data on seagrass and dugong through CMS Questionnaires, mapping, and awareness raising.
- ❑ Integrating art, and culture effective in communicating dugong, and seagrass conservation.
- ❑ Policy: National Dugong Conservation Strategy developed. NFC plays a key role in implementation
- ❑ Law: New Fisheries Regulations protecting dugongs (2018).



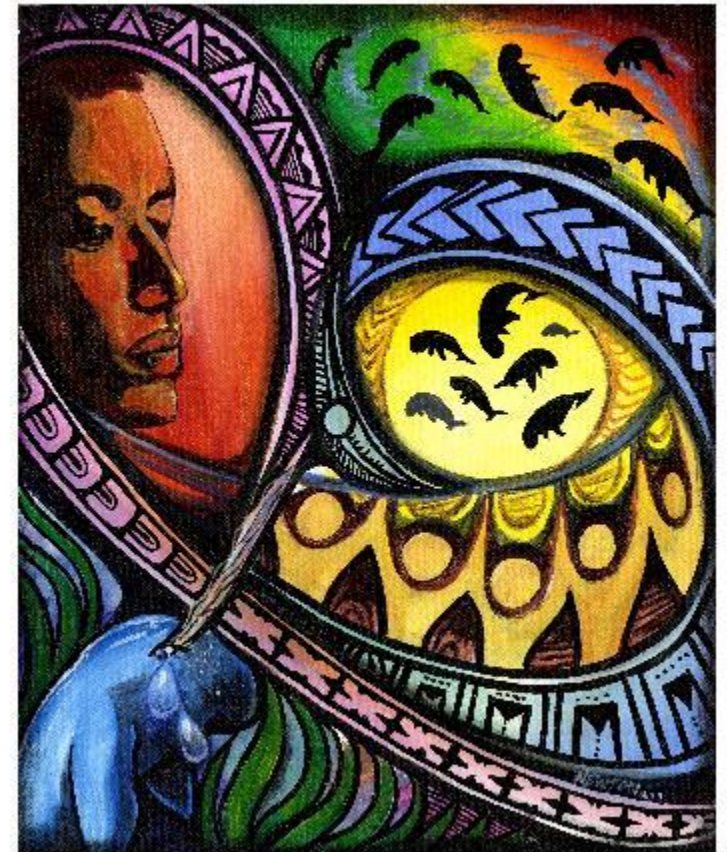
Results from the projects:

- ❑ Successful 9 NFC meetings including other NFC and partner related meetings.
- ❑ Stronger relationship between key stakeholders
- ❑ Dugong Conservation Strategy developed with actions for future work.
- ❑ Bringing an International Red-listed species Dugong into National Laws was an achievement.



Results from the project...Cont

- ❑ Successful National Art and Creative Competition.
- ❑ Awareness materials: t-shirts, bags, story booklet, posters, maps and mother and calf sculpture.



Lessons learnt

- ❑ Communication between government agencies, NGOs, private sector, communities and donors is essential.
- ❑ NFC ensures that all stakeholders work towards a common goal: Community based resource management (CBRM).
- ❑ NFC has a central role in raising awareness at all levels.



Replication of work in other sites

Building on the Solomon Islands NFC Model:

- Strong relationship between government and stakeholders important for policy development and implementation for conservation outcomes.
- Success and sustainability of project activities depend on communication, trust and consistency, influence, and respect.
- Art is an effective approach to integrate different perspectives and foster love for the environment

