

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group

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SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://mission.cmaquarium.org/research-institute/manatee-research/sirenews/>



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

80

Mission statement

The mission of the Sirenia Specialist Group (SSG) is to provide recommendations to managers and stakeholders in range states regarding research and conservation actions to ensure the long-term conservation of all extant Sirenian populations contribute by increasing current knowledge of their status and distribution and identifying issues of concern and suggesting culturally-appropriate, effective and efficient corrective actions. Our ultimate goal is that local population of the sirenia species are recovered and the species diversity is maintained in order to increase resilience to the effects of climate change and major stochastic events, especially extreme weather.

Projected impact 2021–2025

(1) Increase knowledge about the different Sirenian species and populations across their ranges. (2) Support and strengthen the network of researchers and conservationists that direct work with the species. (3) Share conservation and research initiatives among the network of collaborators. Provide status updates for the Red List assessments. (4) Support and promote conservation planning and management actions at regional, national, and local levels.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct regional Red List assessments for total of ~8 dugong subpopulations.

T-002 Conduct subspecies assessments for Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*).

T-004 Carry out aerial surveys for West Indian Manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) in Central America to provide population estimates.

T-005 Designate Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) for the entire global Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) range.

T-007 Develop monitoring strategies for the Antillean manatee populations in habitats with limited visibility.

PLAN

T-006 Prepare Plans of Action or Recovery for species and subpopulations in their countries of distribution.

T-008 Influence implementation of Dugong MOU.

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Produce and publish *Sirenews* bulletins.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: Progress was made on drafting regional assessments for Dugong subpopulations in Coastal East Africa and New Caledonia. Process is being made in finishing the Antillean and Florida subspecies assessments for the Red List.

T-005 (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 32

Result description: Progress was made on drafting regional assessments for Dugong subpopulations in Coastal East Africa and New Caledonia. Process is being made in finishing the Antillean and Florida subspecies assessments for the Red List.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Vulnerable West Indian Manatee, *Trichechus manatus*,
Xclalak, Costa Sur de Quintana Roo
Photo: Luis. F. Amezcua



Result description: Two bulletins were published in 2021 with information and local news about research and conservation initiatives for manatees and dugongs.

Acknowledgements

We would thank the SSC Conservation Planning group, The Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, Secretariat UNEP Dugong MOU, Abu Dhabi.



Vulnerable Dugong, *Dugong dugon*
Photo: Ahmed Shawky

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 2 Africa, 4 America, 2 Asia, 2 Global, 2 Oceania

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

