

IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Helene Marsh



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

107

Social networks

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IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group



Mission statement

The mission of the Sirenia Specialist Group (SSG) is to contribute to increase current knowledge on status and distribution of Order Sirenia across the entire geographic range of its distribution. To identify issues of concern and to provide recommendations in research and conservation actions to ensure their long-term conservation.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Red-listing of dugong and two manatee species revised. James Cook University Australia arranging to house Daryl Domming's Sirenian bibliography. (KSR #1)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Sirenian Workshop held in association with Biennial Meeting of Society for Marine Mammalogy in Halifax, Canada, in October 2017. (KSR #17)

ii. Dugong seagrass communities toolkit launched with associated workshops. Relisting of Dugong dugon, *Trichechus inunguis* and *Trichechus senegalensis* finalised. (KSR #17)

Communications

■ Communication

i. *Sirenews* published twice in 2016 and 2017. List of the SSG members finalised. January 8, 2016, the US Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") issued proposal to reclassify the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) from Endangered to Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (Federal Register 2016). This action made impossible to take access to the information for the actualization. (KSR #28)

Conservation action

■ Research activities

i. GEF Dugong and Seagrass Project fostered research and management in seven range states. (KSR #32)

Acknowledgements

Dugong CMS Secretariat, Global Environment Facility, Total, sea2shore Alliance, US Geological Survey, African Aquatic Conservation Fund, Nicole Adimey, and James Powell.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) West Indian manatee assessment revised; (2) dugong regional assessment completed.

Communications

Communication: (1) *Sirenews* published regularly; (2) sirenian bibliography readily accessible.



15 years old orphan manatee rescued and monitored at Chetumal Bay, Mexico
Photo: Benjamín Morales



West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Vulnerable, Xclalak, Costa Sur de Quintana Roo
Photo: Alfredo Barroso



ECOSUR team, Xclalak, Costa Sur de Quintana Roo

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we aim to have achieved a substantial advance in reducing the risk of extinction of:

- (1) West Indian and Amazonian manatees in Central and South American countries by increased community awareness of the risks of poaching and habitat loss through management tailored to specific countries or regions.
- (2) African manatees through information sharing and training of African researchers throughout the species' range via a collaborative network for manatee field work and conservation in 18 African countries, providing basic field research equipment and assisting with the development of plans tailored to specific countries or regions.
- (3) Dugongs through the Global Environment Facility Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project, which focuses on conservation through sustainable community-led stewardship and socio-economic development in Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and in-country actions in the remaining range states.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Capacity building (2 activities)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 17, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result