

# IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group



## 2018 Report



Helene Marsh



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### Co-Chairs

Helene Marsh <sup>(1)</sup> (Dugongs)  
Benjamín Morales <sup>(2)</sup> (Manatees)

### Red List Authority Coordinator

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### Location/Affiliation

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<sup>(3)</sup> Departamento de Conservación de la Biodiversidad, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, ECOSUR, Mexico

### Number of members

107

### Social networks

Website:  
<http://locus39.net/iucnssg/>; <https://www.seewinter.com/research/sirenews/>

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### 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.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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

(1) West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and Amazonian Manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*) in Central and South American countries, by increasing community awareness of the risks of poaching and habitat loss through management tailored to specific countries or regions.

(2) African Manatees (*Trichechus senegalensis*) 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 (*Dugong dugon*) 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, and Vanuatu, and in-country actions in the remaining range states.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: (1) West Indian Manatee assessment revised; (2) Dugong regional assessment completed.

#### Communicate

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

### Activities and results 2018

#### Assess

##### Red List

**i.** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has already completed a draft of the West Indian Manatee assessment and is assisting with the IUCN draft. (KSR #2)

**ii.** Informal regional status assessments for Dugong are complete. Full drafts are already available for the Ryukyus and east Africa. (KSR #2)

#### Communicate

##### Communication

**i.** New editorial team of *Sirenews* assembled and functional. (KSR #28)

**ii.** Host universities to host sirenian bibliography identified and approached.



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

### Summary of activities 2018

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Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

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Assess **2** 

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Communicate **2** 

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Main KSRs addressed: 2, 28

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Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-011,  
WCC-2016-Res-039, WCC-2016-Res-060,  
WCC-2016-Res-085

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KSR: Key Species Result



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