

IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group

2019 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Number of members

107

Social networks

Website:
<https://www.seewinter.com/research/sirenews/>

IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group



Mission statement

The mission of the Sirenia Specialist Group (SSG) is to contribute to increase current knowledge on the 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) revise West Indian Manatee assessment; (2) complete Dugong regional assessment.

Communicate

Communication: (1) publish *Sirenews* regularly; (2) ensure sirenian bibliography is readily accessible.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

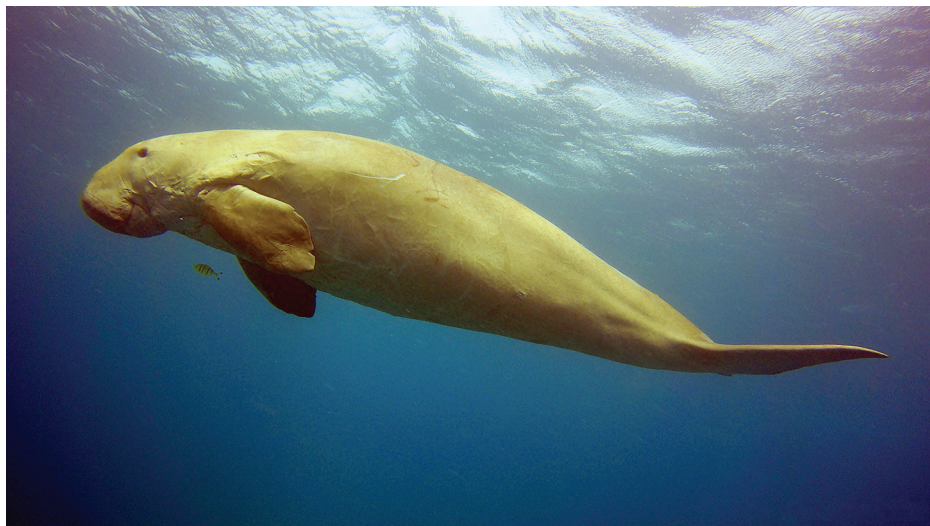
i. The regional Dugong assessment for Japan has resulted in that Dugong population being listed as Critically Endangered. Funding has been requested from the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (UNEP CMS Dugong MOU) to continue this work. (KSR #2)

Communicate

Communication

i. The newsletter was published in April and October. (KSR #28)

Dugong, *Dugong dugon*, resting mid-water in the clear waters of the Egyptian Red Sea
Photo: Ahmed Shawky



Caribbean manatees, *Trichechus manatus*, resting on the bottom in the sand clearing sites of the Mesoamerican Reef System
Photo: Luis F. Amezcua

Acknowledgements

We thank the NGO 'Save Our Seas' for organising and publishing the newsletter and Buddy Powell and Bob Bonde for their tireless work to produce a comprehensive newsletter. The US Marine Mammal Commission, Toba Aquarium Japan and the UN Environment Programme provided funding support to enable the listing assessment for the Japanese Dugong and the associated Action Plan to be completed. Many scientists also provided in kind support.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess 1 |

Communicate 1 |

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 28

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

KSR: Key Species Result