



DUGONG
MOU

An Incentive Based Approach to Dugong and Seagrass Conservation

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Dugong MoU Secretariat

A UNEP/CMS PROJECT



Convention on Migratory Species Office – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

- Funded by United Arab Emirates Government
- Hosted by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- Provides Secretariat and technical support to:
 - **MoU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range**
- Provides Coordinating Unit and technical support to:
 - MoU on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Birds of Prey
- Provides technical support to:
 - **Other regionally important marine species (e.g. marine turtles, inshore dolphins, sharks)**



Australian Government (GBRMPA)

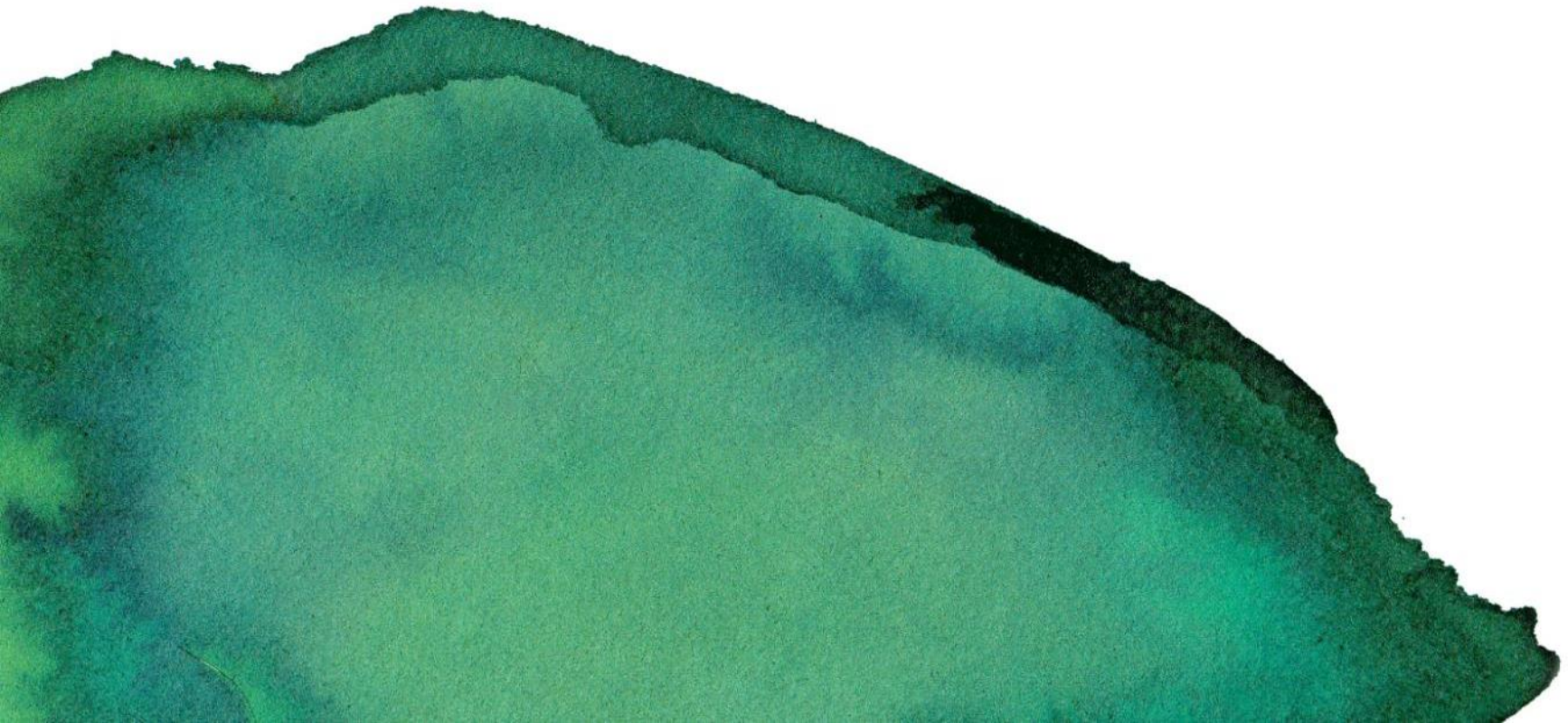


Andras Kovacs



Nicolas Pilcher

A Complex Problem

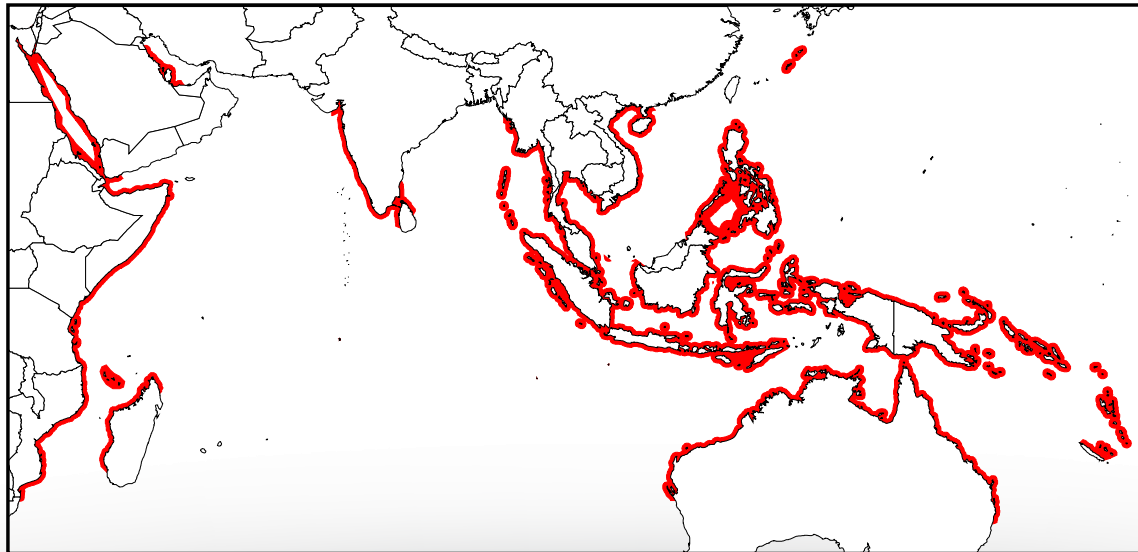


A Complex Problem: Dugongs, Seagrasses and People

The majority of the dugong's range is coincident with seagrass beds along the coastlines of developing/least developed countries.

Coastal communities in developing/least developed countries are largely dependent on marine resources for income, food and cultural tradition.

Human activity/interactions in seagrass beds at these locations is high.



Threats to Dugong Populations and their Seagrass Ecosystems



Current key threats to

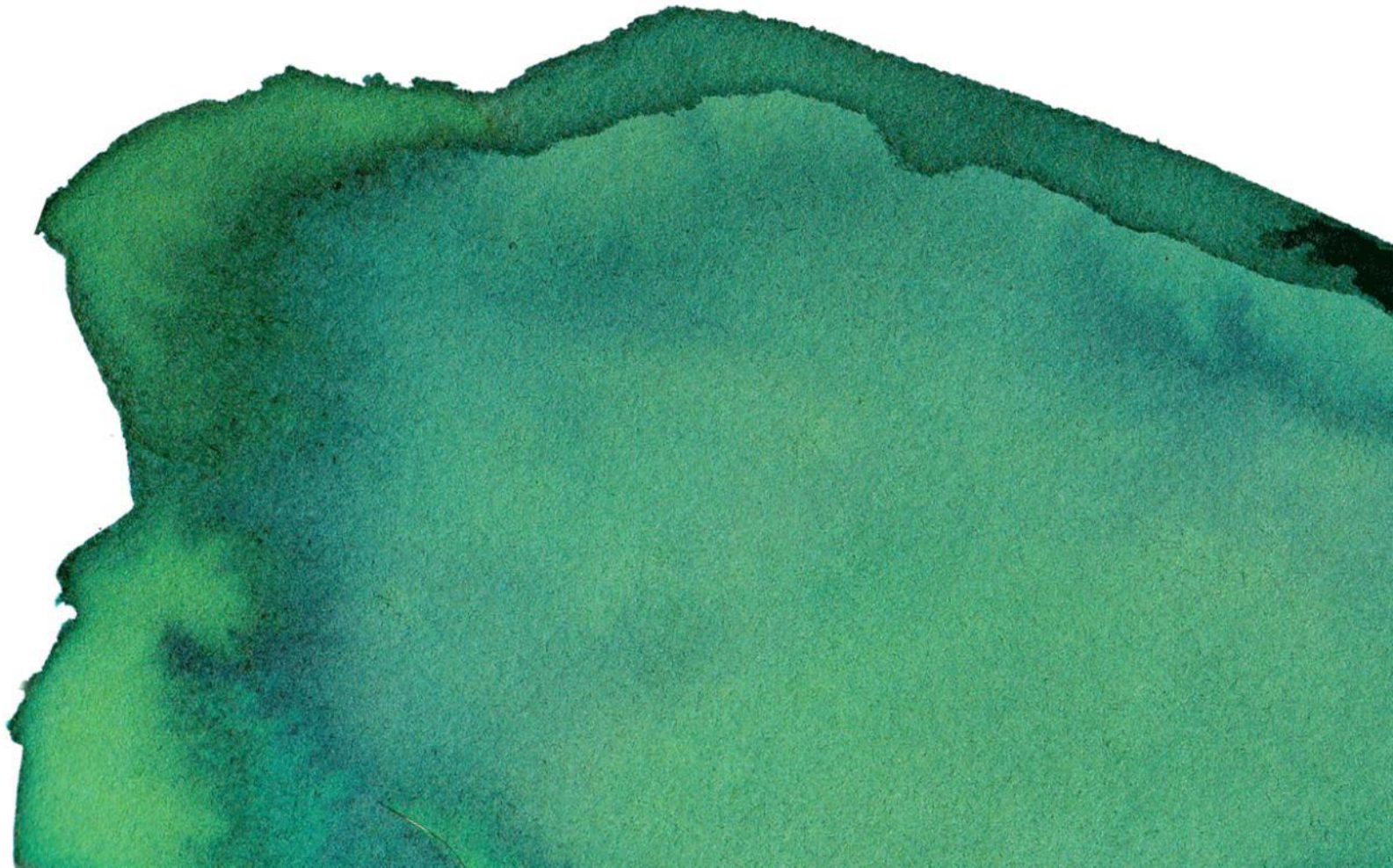
Dugongs:

- Bycatch
- Direct catch
- Vessel strikes
- Seagrass habitat loss/degradation

Seagrasses:

- Destructive fishing methods
- Land use impacts
- Cyclone damage

Finding Solutions



The Dugong, Seagrass & Coastal Communities Initiative (DSCCI)



An Implementation Tool for the Dugong MoU Conservation & Management Plan

Through the DSCCI, the Dugong MoU Secretariat aims to:

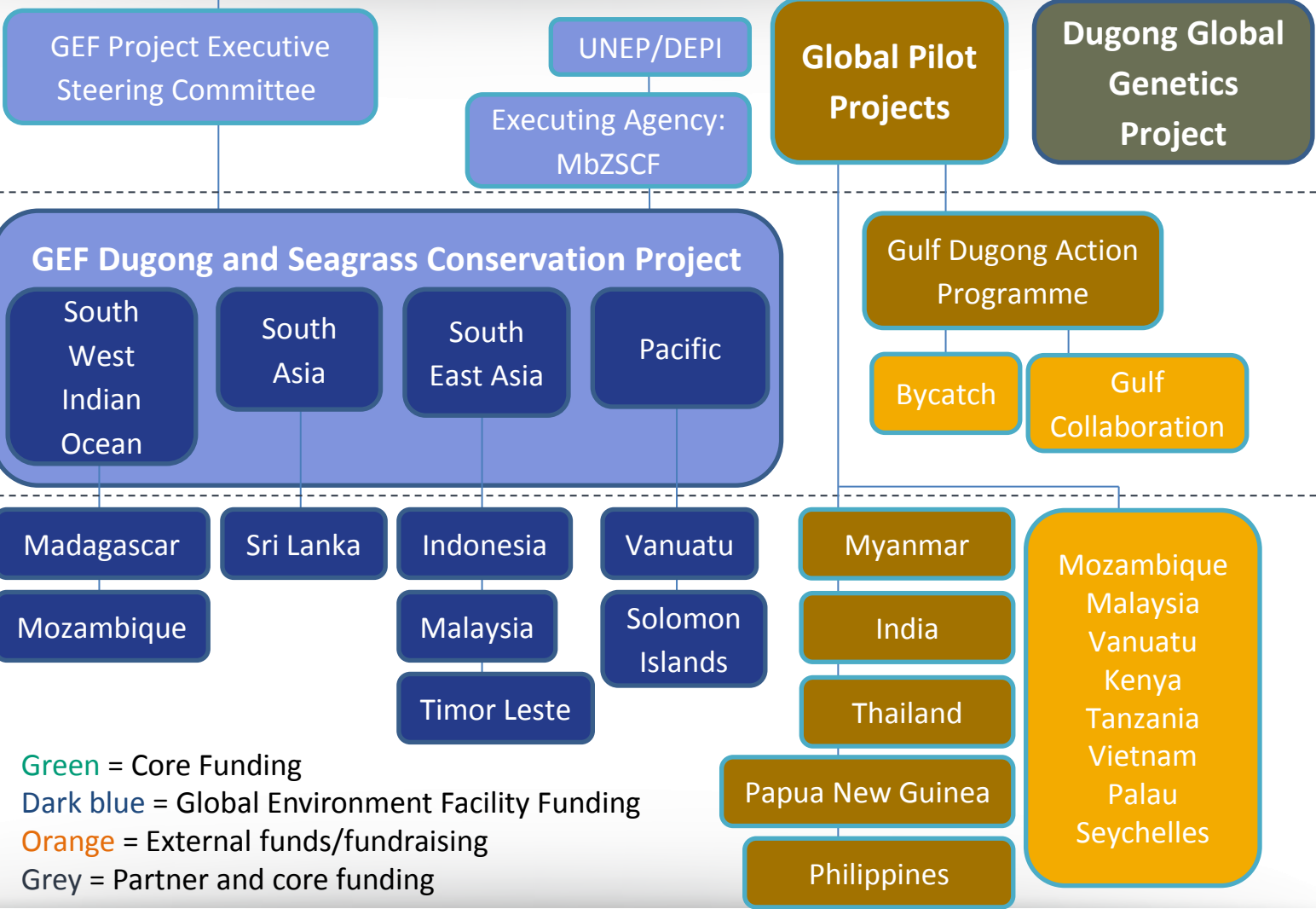
1. **Coordinate conservation efforts** across over 40 countries
2. **Raise awareness** of key threats
3. Develop & apply innovative **Conservation Tool Box** (including incentives)
4. Provide access to world's best **technical & conservation expertise**
5. Facilitate **capacity building** for conservation
6. Generate **positive change** to safeguard dugongs & seagrasses
7. **Seek funds** for conservation programmes, e.g. **Global Pilot Projects**



Dugong, Seagrass & Coastal Communities Initiative

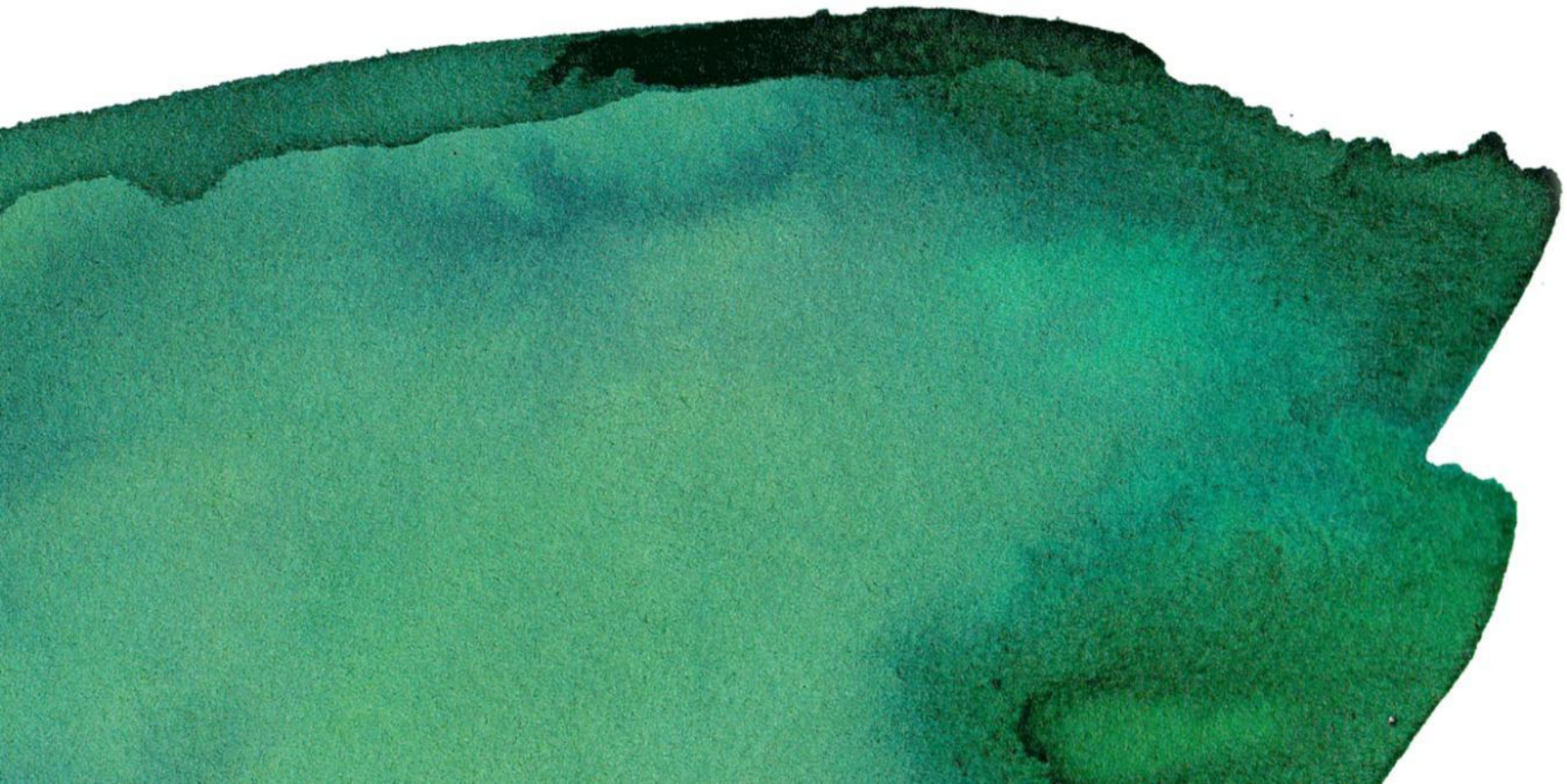
International

Standardised Dugong Catch Questionnaire



Green = Core Funding
 Dark blue = Global Environment Facility Funding
 Orange = External funds/fundraising
 Grey = Partner and core funding

A Simple Questionnaire





Dugong, Seagrass & Coastal Communities Initiative

International

Standardised Dugong Catch Questionnaire

GEF Project Executive Steering Committee

UNEP/DEPI

Executing Agency:
MbZSCF

Global Pilot Projects

Dugong Global Genetics Project

Regional

GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

South West Indian Ocean

South Asia

South East Asia

Pacific

Gulf Dugong Action Programme

Bycatch

Gulf Collaboration

National

Madagascar

Sri Lanka

Indonesia

Vanuatu

Myanmar

Mozambique
Malaysia
Vanuatu
Kenya
Tanzania
Vietnam
Palau
Seychelles

Mozambique

Malaysia

Solomon Islands

India

Timor Leste

Thailand

Papua New Guinea

Philippines



A Simple Questionnaire

Standardised Dugong Catch Survey Questionnaire

- Developing countries often lack resources to conduct site surveys
- A simple, low-cost questionnaire is an ideal way to gather baseline data to:
 - Assess marine mammal populations
 - Identify fishing effort including gear, location, time
 - Quantify bycatch of marine mammals
 - Identify conservation 'hotspots'
 - Target conservation activities, where necessary

STANDARDISED DUGONG CATCH/BY-CATCH QUESTIONNAIRE
Data Sheet Serial Number: _____
Interviewer Name: _____ Date: _____
Town: _____ Province: _____

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

My name is _____ I work for a project run by the _____ (insert location) that supports research to help protect which is an organization based in _____ (insert location) that supports research to help protect the ocean for fishers and wildlife. The goal of this project is to learn more about capture of dugongs and any other marine wildlife in coastal fisheries of _____ (insert location) in most countries where dugongs and other marine mammals and sea turtles occur, numbers are small and believed to be declining if we wait too long before initiating conservation actions, they will have disappeared before we get the data to understand the problem. We need to be able to identify the areas where the likelihood of dugongs being killed is greatest due to hunting, capture in fishing gear and vessel strikes, so that dugongs can be protected. We hope that your participation in this study will help us learn more about this information from our research. Your data is used to help reduce the capture of dugongs, sea turtles and marine mammals maybe through community support for our goals of possibly through more effective regulations and enforcement. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and confidential. We will not record your name or any personal information you share with us unless this is ok with you. Individual answers will be collated and reported on as a group to provide a general idea of current status, and we will absolutely not share your individual answers to anyone outside of the research team. You do not have to answer questions you do not want to.

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND

1. Name: _____
2. Age: _____
3. Gender: Male Female
4. Have you previously participated in interviews related to:
Fishing Marine Mammals MPAs Ecotourism Sea Turtles Other None
When did you participate? _____ Grandparents? Yes No
Describe: _____
5. For how many years has fishing been your occupation? Yes No
6. Were your parents fishers? Yes No
7. Is fishing the only way you earn a living? Yes No
8. Is fishing the only way you earn a living? Yes No
If No, what is (or are) your other occupation(s)? _____ days (peak season)
9. Which months do you normally fish (but of the last 12)? _____ days (low season) _____ days (peak season)
(if seasonal, indicate season start and end) _____ days (low season) _____ days (peak season)
10. How many days each week do you fish? _____ days (low season) _____ days (peak season)
11. How many days each week do you fish? _____ days (low season) _____ days (peak season)
12. What is your position on the boat? The captain A crew member We have no fixed positions
13. How many fishers, including yourself, work on the boat? _____ (if yes) Inboard Outboard
14. How long is the boat? _____ meters
(Note to interviewer: convert and provide answer in meters) Yes No
15. Is the boat motorized? Yes No
16. What is the horsepower of the motor? _____
Note: Please tick the boxes to the left of any questions not asked. Provide appropriate ID charts and maps for interviewee to point to during the interview.

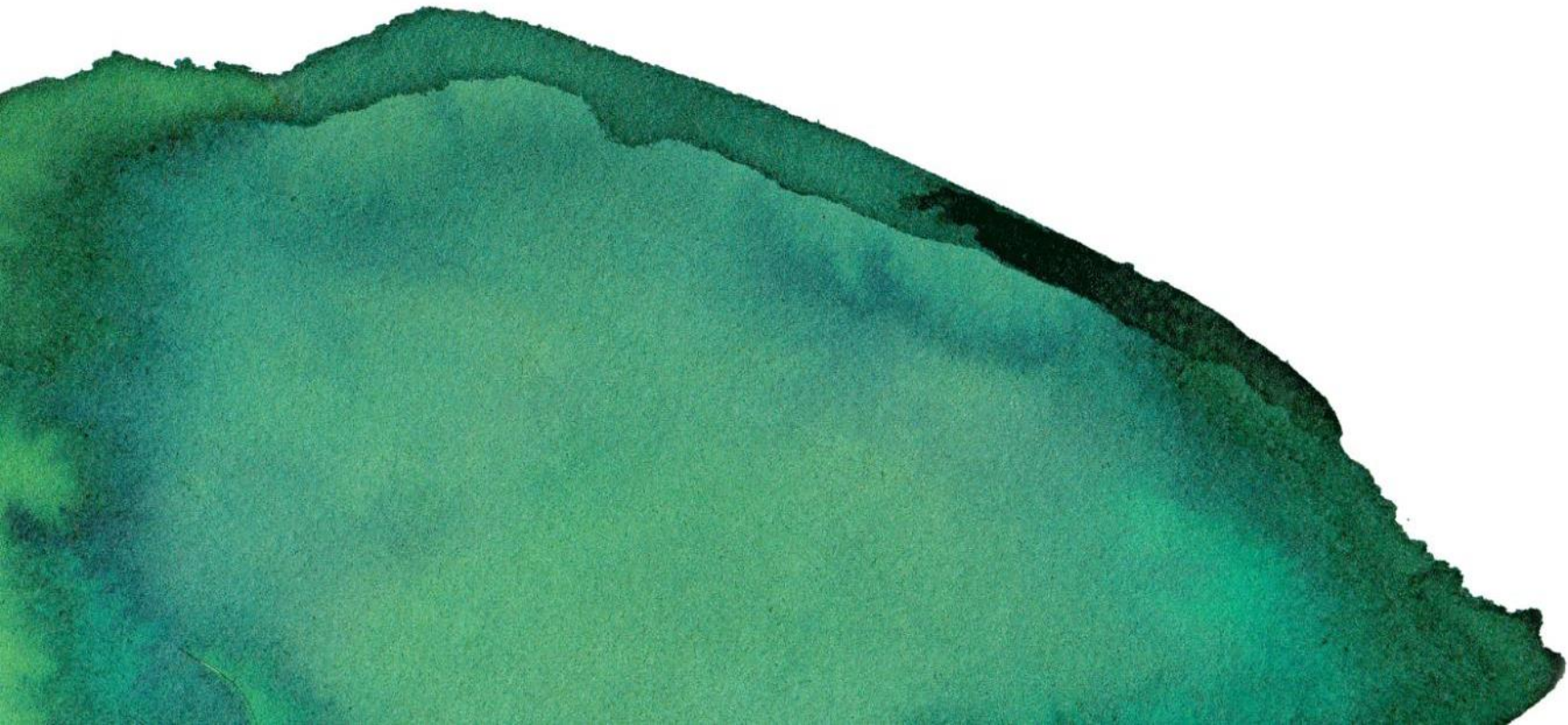
Standardised catch survey questionnaire

Deployed in four geographic areas:

- 18 Countries
- 6153 Respondents
- US \$5000 - \$10000

South West Indian Ocean	South Asia	South east Asia	Pacific
Kenya 75	Bangladesh 68	Cambodia 200	New Caledonia 254
Madagascar 295	India 2017	Malaysia 580	Palau 201
Mozambique 146	Sri Lanka 239	Myanmar 151	Papua New Guinea 350
Tanzania 206		Philippines 240	Solomon Islands 109
		Thailand 622	Vanuatu 12
		Vietnam 400	

An Incentive Based Approach

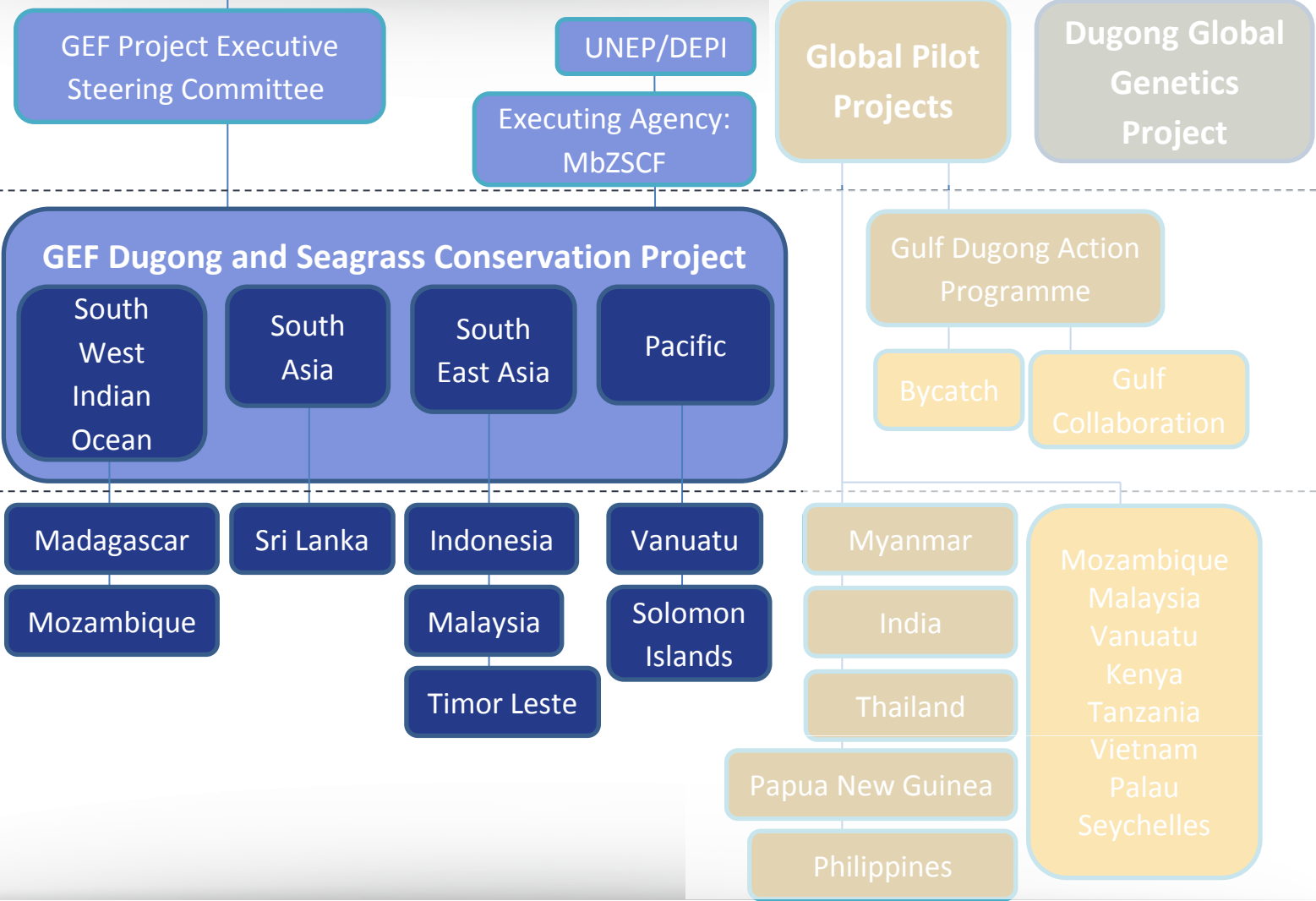




Dugong, Seagrass & Coastal Communities Initiative

International

Standardised Dugong Catch Questionnaire



GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

Goal

To improve the conservation status of dugongs and their seagrass habitats across the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins

Objective

To enhance the effectiveness of conservation of dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems across the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins



GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

Project Partners and Supporting Partners

Eight Partner Countries

Indonesia	Madagascar
Malaysia	Mozambique
Solomon Islands	Sri Lanka
Timor Leste	Vanuatu

Supporting Partners

Australia	India
Kenya	Myanmar
Papua New Guinea	Philippines
Seychelles	Tanzania
United Arab Emirates	CMS
SPREP	UNEP ROWA



GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced **community-based stewardship** of dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems
2. **Sustainable fisheries practices** widely adopted through uptake of innovative incentive mechanisms and management tools
3. Increased availability and **access to critical knowledge** for effective decision-making (population status, distribution, threats)
4. Conservation priorities and measures incorporated into **relevant policy, planning and regulatory frameworks**



GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

Approach

Work with Partners to:

- Identify baseline status, threats and conservation priorities:
 - National meetings with local NGOs
 - National and international reviews on dugong conservation status
 - International workshops
- Identify root causes of the identified threats
- Develop multilateral project activities to address causes
- Draw on global/regional skills, networks and experience



GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

Anticipated Project Legacies include:

- Clearing House Mechanism (internet based platform) established to:
 - Share knowledge among Range States
 - Encourage community involvement
 - Report conservation successes
 - Access technical expertise
- Raise profile of dugongs and community-based marine resource management, globally
- Leverage funds for conservation
- Contribute to Conservation Toolbox:
 - Successful approaches and self-sustaining incentives for positive behavioural change to be extended to other range states through



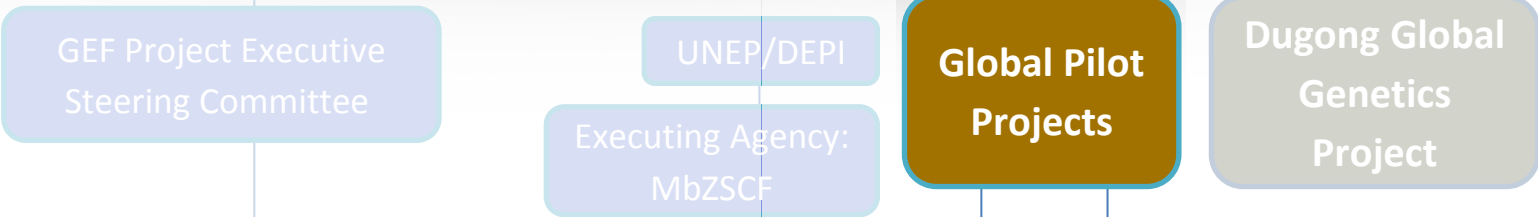
Global Pilot Projects



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Standardised Dugong Catch Questionnaire



Regional



National



Global Pilot Projects

Goal

To extend support to community-based dugong and seagrass conservation projects in all range states

Objective

Ensure the ongoing existence of dugongs and seagrass ecosystems for future generations

Expected Outcomes

1. Market-based incentives for responsible fishing methods implemented
2. Self-sustaining alternative incomes to relieve pressure on seagrass fisheries established
3. Community stewardship of dugong populations and seagrass ecosystems enhanced



Global Pilot Projects

Approach

Work with Partners to:

- Determine baseline status, threats and conservation priorities:
 - Address information gaps (research, media etc)
 - Stakeholder Meetings (community groups, NGOs, Gov.)
- Identify root causes of the identified threats
- Determine needs of:
 - Dugongs
 - Seagrasses
 - Coastal community



Global Pilot Projects

Project Legacies include:

- Community-led solutions to conservation problems:
 - Tailored solutions for targeted problems
- Increase capacity of local fishers, NGOs, eco-tourism operators
- Raise profile of dugongs and community-based resource management
- Leverage funds for conservation
- Contribute to Conservation Toolbox:
 - Closed conservation loop: self-sustaining incentives which reinforce positive behaviour



Josh Donlan

Thank you for your attention

Any Questions?

