

The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project

(Full Title: “Enhancing The Conservation Effectiveness of Seagrass Ecosystems Supporting Globally Significant Populations of Dugongs Across the Indian and Pacific Ocean Basins”)

This GEF Project is executed by The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (The Fund), with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implementation support by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and technical support from the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (Dugong MoU) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

Project Goal:

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

Project Objective:

The GEF Dugong and Seagrass Project will enhance the effectiveness of conservation efforts for dugongs and their seagrass ecosystems across the Indian and Pacific Ocean basins.

What is the overall Project investment?

US \$5.88 M GEF (US \$99 M co-finance)

What is the Project duration?

Four years (48 months from January 2015 to December 2018)

What is the Significance of this Project?

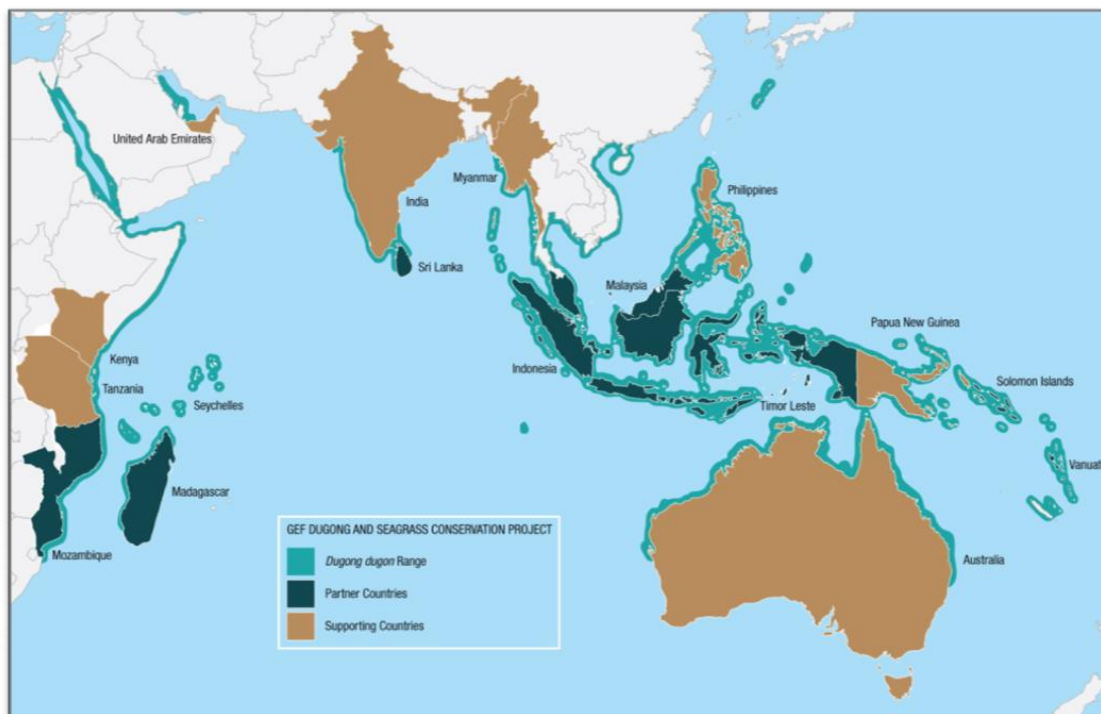
Dugongs are vulnerable to extinction because they are killed directly or indirectly by human-related activities, which include fishing, coastal development and hunting. The seagrasses on which they depend are thought to be one of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth. Protection of the dugong as an icon or flagship species will have a wider conservation impact by addressing seagrass ecosystem conservation as well as the socio-economic needs of communities dependent on these ecosystems.

How will this Project be implemented?

Overall execution of the Project will be managed by The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species’ Dugong Memorandum of Understanding and under supervision of UNEP, as the GEF Implementing Agency of this Project. The Executive Project Steering Committee, which includes members from the Executing Agency (The Fund), national government representatives and the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat and UNEP in an advisory role, provides oversight to the Project.

This Project will be achieved through 38 individual projects in collaboration with 26 Project Partners in the following eight Project Countries: Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

Project Map



What will this Project do?

This Project focuses on building the capacity of stakeholders at local-community, national, regional and global levels to protect dugongs and their seagrass habitats. To achieve this, the Project will:

1. **Encourage community involvement in and responsibility for targeted protected areas by:**
 - Establishing community based governance structures
 - Building capacity for communities and raising awareness
 - Developing community monitoring and conservation management plans
2. **Encourage sustainable fisheries practices among local fishing communities by:**
 - Introducing a range of innovative incentive mechanisms and management tools
 - Raising awareness and marketing sustainable practices as viable alternatives
3. **Remove barriers to the knowledge needed for effective conservation by:**
 - Identifying critical gaps in knowledge and initiating surveys to gather information
 - Developing good practice guidelines
 - Collating and sharing conservation-relevant information and guidance
4. **Incorporate dugong and seagrass conservation priorities and measures into national and regional policy, planning and regulatory frameworks by:**
 - Identifying knowledge gaps and developing recommendations
 - Building capacity to develop and implement advocacy programmes for improved national and regional conservation policies, planning and management
 - Improving the national and regional capacity to contribute to global policy processes