



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India



First South Asia Sub-regional Workshop of UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range in South Asia

6-7, June 2011, Tuticorin, India

In a major step towards enhanced regional cooperation for the conservation of the Dugong (Sea Cow), India hosted the **first South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs** on 6th and 7th June 2011, in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the Wildlife Institute of India jointly organized the workshop. Policy and conservation management experts from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, experts from UNEP/CMS Secretariat, the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, State Forest Departments of Tamilnadu, Gujrat and Andman & Nicobar Islands, field officers of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, representatives of the Taminadu Fisheries Department Central - Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Wildlife Trust of India, Reefwatch Marine Organization, Wildlife SOS, GEER Foundation and various other stakeholders attended the workshop.

Workshop recommendations

To significantly progress implementation of the Dugong MOU in the South Asia region, the participants of the First South South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop:

1. Strongly encourage the Governments of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to sign the Dugong UNEP/CMS MoU early, and latest before second meeting of the Signatory States;

And decided to:

2. Develop and deliver a practical and resource-efficient strategy to collaborate in, and implement regional conservation and management initiatives for the conservation of dugongs and their habitats;

3. Enhance communication among participating countries and organizations so that issues, opportunities and management interventions related to the trans-boundary conservation of dugongs and their habitats can be addressed in a collaborative, effective and timely manner; and,

4. Identify individually and collectively, the financial and technological resources to support implementation of these recommendations.
