



Newsletter of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project - a global effort to conserve dugongs and their seagrass habitats.
Issue #2 of 2017

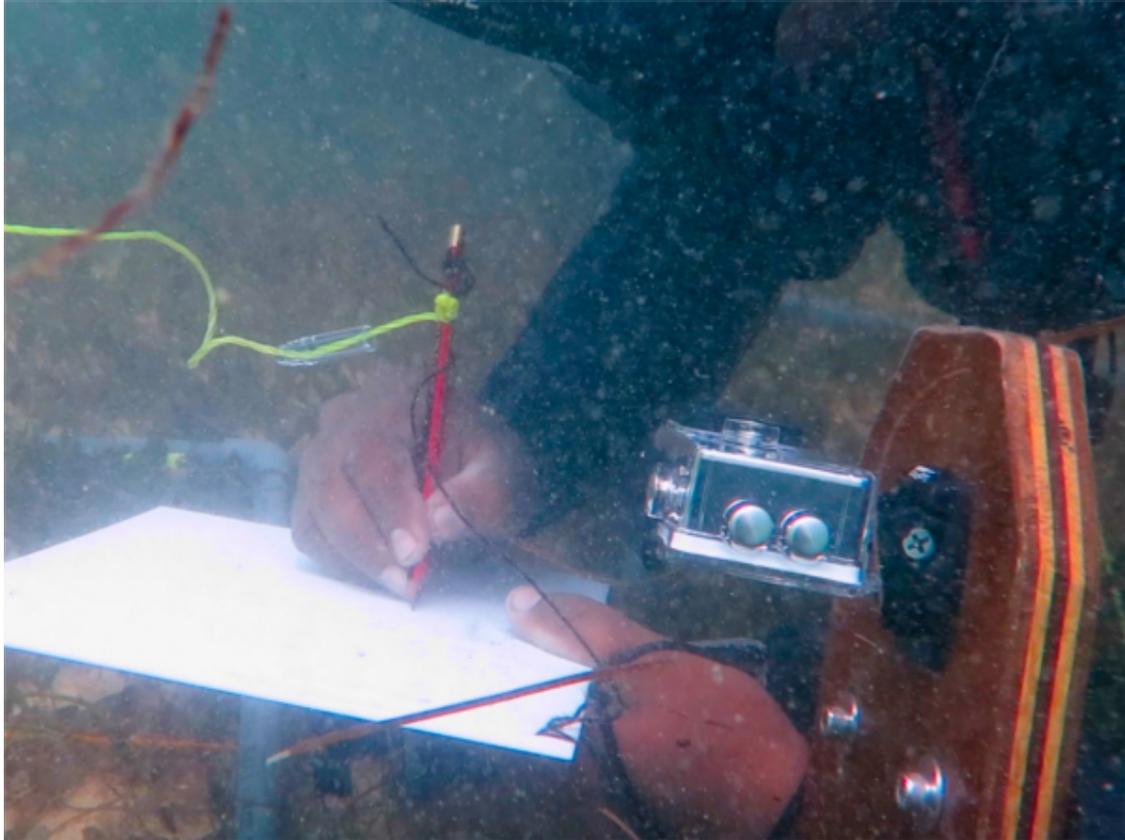
Art Series Highlights Conservation Issues

Our Solomon Islands partners commissioned John Limaito'o to create art to inspire discussions among fishermen and coastal community members. [Read this interview with Johan van der Ploeg](#), environmental anthropologist working for WorldFish in the Solomon Islands, and find out how each art piece sets the topic for conservation.



Midterm Review of Project Complete

In December 2016, the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project underwent its Mid-Term Review (MTR) in the eight Project countries. The review was completed by a team of external examiners. This means that the Project, which started in early 2015, is now halfway through its lifetime! [Read more here.](#)



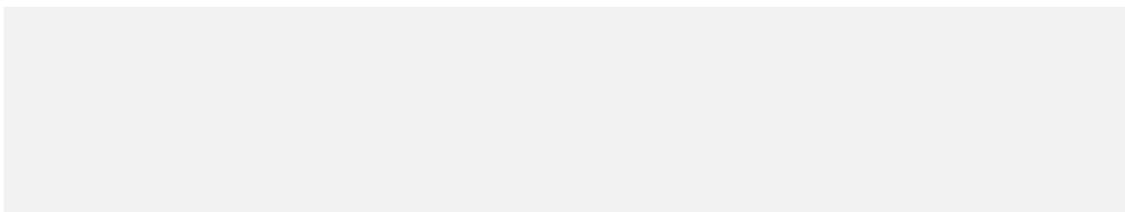
Scuba diver records seagrass characteristics in Northwest Sri Lanka

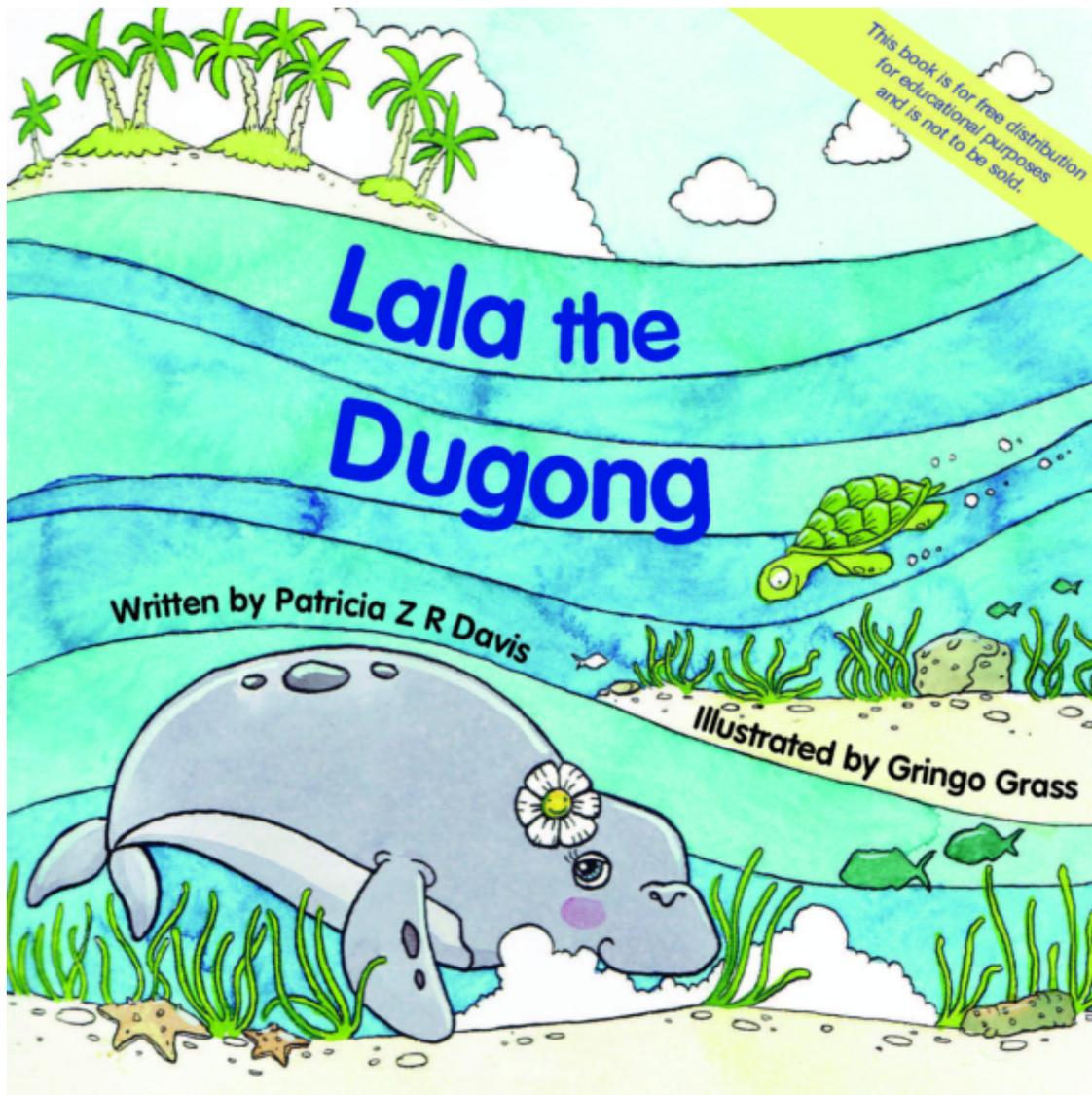
News from the Project

An illustrated children's story from Madagascar

Children are important to conservation. Our project partners in Madagascar just published an illustrated children's story featuring Lala a resident of the Nosy Hara Marine Park. The book is free to download and distribute.

[Get your copy here](#) or click the image below.





An illustrated children's book by Madagascar partners is free to download and distribute. It is also available in Malagasy.

Watch! New film highlights our model for dugong and seagrass conservation

How do you begin to save dugongs and seagrass in subsistence communities along the Indian Ocean and into the Pacific? We work from a model of conservation that includes 4 interrelated parts: Research, Policy, Education, Social and Economic Incentives. [Watch the film here](#) or click 'play' on the image below.





This documentary shows how we do conservation – shot, edited and produced in coordination with UN Environment and our Sri Lanka Partners.

Meet the New Project Coordinators

New team members joined the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in the last 6 months. Learn their names and a little [more about each by clicking on this link](#) or one the images below.



3rd Meeting of Signatories to the Dugong MOU

More than 20 Project Partners visited Abu Dhabi to Attend MOS3

Our Project Partners visited Abu Dhabi to participate in MOS3 and the Project Coordination Team took lots of [photographs of the team and the dugong](#).



DSCP Project Partners attended MOS3 Abu Dhabi 2017

Download! Project Posters at MOS3

Our Project Partners highlight their projects at MOS3 Abu Dhabi with poster presentations. These efforts represented a substantial summary of the progress of each project to date. [View each here](#) or click on the poster images below.

DSCP-INDONESIA

Dugong & Seagrass CONSERVATION PROJECT

Project Summary

The Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Indonesia focuses on support and enforcement of national legislation, to promote and sustain national awareness on decreasing threats to dugong population, to increase technical research capacity in conducting dugong/seagrass survey/monitoring program, also to provide local communities with incentives to encourage sustainable small-scale fishing practices and community involvement in dugong/seagrass conservation.

Three sub-projects within DSCP are:

- **DS1:** Strengthen and Operationalize National Policy Strategy and Action Plan for Dugong and Seagrass Conservation
- **DS2:** Improving National Awareness and Research of Dugong and Seagrass in Indonesia
- **DS3:** Community based conservation and management of dugong and seagrass habitat in Banten, Alor, Toloiti and Kotawaringin Barat, Indonesia.

DSCP is national partners and currently focusing on their collaborative efforts to DS3 implementation.

Results

How has DSCP improved sustainable fisheries practices among local fishing communities?

1. During both seasons, for advanced science and public consultation, there was one particular topic emphasized on dugong conservation services. Sustainable benefit from dugong/seagrass interaction should be demonstrated to all visiting participants, in order to raise public understanding about the benefit of healthy seagrass ecosystem maintained by digging to sustain livelihoods and stable coastal.
2. Methods on survey and monitoring of dugong and seagrass habitat has been developed and promoting the use of sustainability of digging, seagrass and also their livelihood.

How has DSCP improved benefits to the knowledge needed for digging & seagrass conservation in coastal areas and of women in coastal areas and their empowerment?

1. From National Symposium in April 2016, DSCP got information about issues on digging, hunting and killing practices in Kotawaringin Barat and Toloiti.
2. commitment from local government to support the implementation of the project.
3. Several training has been developed and promoting the use of sustainability of digging, seagrass and also their livelihood.

Main Activities

DS1: (1) Facilitate national symposium to collect baseline data and project final status; (2) Develop Dugong and Seagrass National Plan of Action; (3) Establish and operate National Dugong Conservation Committee; (4) Participate in Executive Project Steering Committee.

DS2: (1) Facilitate awareness level survey before and after campaign; (2) Facilitate National Conservation Strategy Workshop; (3) Participate in national events; (4) Prepare map on status, distribution and threats on dugong and seagrass; (5) Prepare standardized method for seagrass and dugong research and monitoring; (6) Facilitate preliminary survey for updating the projects status; (7) Facilitate training on seagrass and dugong survey and monitoring methods.

DS3: (1) Establish community surveillance group (KOMASWAG); (2) Facilitate capacity building for POMASWAG; (3) Facilitate community based monitoring and research; (4) Develop conservation action plan in sites; (5) Facilitate study for incentive mechanism; (6) Facilitate design of incentive and tools for sustainable behavior; (7) Develop MOU for implementing incentive; (8) Implement incentive for sustainable fisheries; (9) Develop lesson learn from incentive; (10) Integrate seagrass and marine biodiversity into CSR policy of private sector in Banten; (11) Implement in-depth research of dugong and seagrass for supporting pilot; (12) Implement in-depth research of dugong and seagrass for supporting pilot; (13) Implement in-depth research of dugong and seagrass for supporting pilot.

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

- DS 1 will be started in the first quarter of 2017 to develop monitor program for traditional fishing communities in Kotawaringin Barat, Toloiti, and Alor. In DS3 activities will be engaged with local communities to study their perception, awareness and knowledge of dugong and seagrass.
- Conduct dugong and seagrass monitoring in Banten, Kotawaringin Barat, Toloiti, and Alor.
- Encourage and provide technical support to local communities in conducting dugong/seagrass monitoring, including first response to rescue live-stranded dugong.
- Several stranded events were recurring at project sites before DS3 implementation is started (Mar 2016 - Feb 2017). Failure in securing the survival of live-stranded dugong has become serious lessons learned for near-future collaboration between local partners in Banten, Kotawaringin Barat, Toloiti and Alor.

About Our Organization

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
 Research Center for Oceanography – Indonesian Institute of Sciences
 Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science – Bogor Agricultural University
 WW-Indonesia

MIHARI

Fisher knowledge, awareness & behaviour change for the conservation of dugongs & seagrass

Dugong & Seagrass CONSERVATION PROJECT

Project Summary

The MIHARI network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) was established in 2012 to provide a platform to support and represent Madagascar's rapidly-growing network of community-managed marine and coastal protected areas. The platform now comprises >100 LMMAs throughout the north, west and southern coasts of Madagascar, and as such provides a valuable framework for engaging with communities across a full cross section of Madagascar's marine and coastal environments. The MIHARI network of community-managed marine conservation sites is being used to collect information about, and raise awareness of, both dugongs and seagrass habitats in the Malagasy coastal zone whilst also serving as a conduit for positive social change with respect to seagrass and marine biodiversity conservation.

Main Activities

Facilitate networking and learning exchanges between LMMAs associations. Raise awareness about importance of key habitats and species for marine resource management, including seagrass and dugongs. Pursue relevant opportunities to build community capacity and local leadership. Ensure fishers' voices are heard by policy makers. Engage closely with the Government of Madagascar to ensure a strong and supportive legal framework for local marine management. Develop simple systems for tracking and monitoring progress of LMMAs across Madagascar. Explore options for securing the financial sustainability of LMMAs and the MIHARI network. Communicate the impact of LMMAs in Madagascar to key stakeholders.

Results

Five priority sites for seagrass and dugong conservation have been selected in the north west of Madagascar: Nosy Faly (Antananarivo), Ankaobombona (Antsiranobe), Analalava, Ampasindava and Anjanjivy (both north of Mahajanga).

MOUs signed for collaboration with key NGO partners.

An education and awareness day was organised during the MIHARI Regional forum in Nosy Hara, Diego, in July 2017. The event was co-organized with CS and MNP Nosy Hara and attended by over 70 people (LMMAs members, regional authorities and NGOs).

Public awareness on the importance of dugongs and seagrass during Madagascar's third national day of fisheries and aquaculture in September 2017.

MIHARI was invited to the dugong festival at Nosy Hara.

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

Lessons learned: Local leaders have been identified at the 5 priority sites who will be involved in the participatory mapping training sessions, so they can support the MIHARI team across many activities and also act as focal points for the project within each of the villages. Collaborating with the other national partners in this project has allowed MIHARI to learn from their experiences and share materials and tools.

Next steps: Develop educational and awareness-raising tools and materials. Training in participatory mapping to 15 fisher representatives from each priority sites in NW Madagascar. Organization of a national dugong festival in the NW, gathering all 6 project partners.

About Our Organization

The MIHARI network is a partnership initiative between the NGOs and local communities engaged in marine resource management in Madagascar. The MIHARI network supports Madagascar's LMMAs managers in four major areas: building local leadership, sharing best practice, securing financial sustainability and making small-scale fishers' voices heard. The MIHARI network currently includes 150 communities, organised into 64 discrete management associations distributed around the coast of Madagascar.

Official CMS Summary Report of the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Dugong MOU

The Dugong MOU Secretariat has posted its Report of the Third Meeting of Signatories to the Dugong MOU (Dugong MOS3) online and [it is available for download here.](#)

Project in IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group Newsletter

Sirenews published a story about our Project in its latest newsletter. [Download the newsletter here.](#)



April 2017 Funded by the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission Number 67

The Sirenews is the newsletter of the IUCN Sirenia Specialist Group

UN Environment Organizes Sri Lanka Media Trip

4.8 million people reached! Media Puts Project in Focus

Dugongs and seagrass are getting more attention these days as global attention was directed toward the Dugong and Seagrass of Sri Lanka in April. Stories appeared across 13 countries and reached an estimated 4.8 million people! [Read the stories, here.](#)

Watch! Awesome Satellite TV Coverage from NDTV (India)

Click the image below ([or click here](#)) to watch a fascinating 20-min broadcast about our efforts to conserve dugong and seagrass in Sri Lanka.



Watch! NHK Japan News Report about Project

Click the image below ([or click here](#)) to watch a news report featuring the efforts of our Sri Lankan partners to save the dugong in the country's northwest.





Upcoming Events

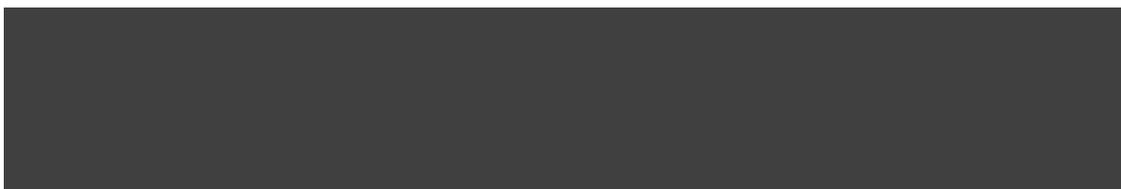
Third *Executive Project Steering Committee* from 22 to 24 November 2017 in Madagascar

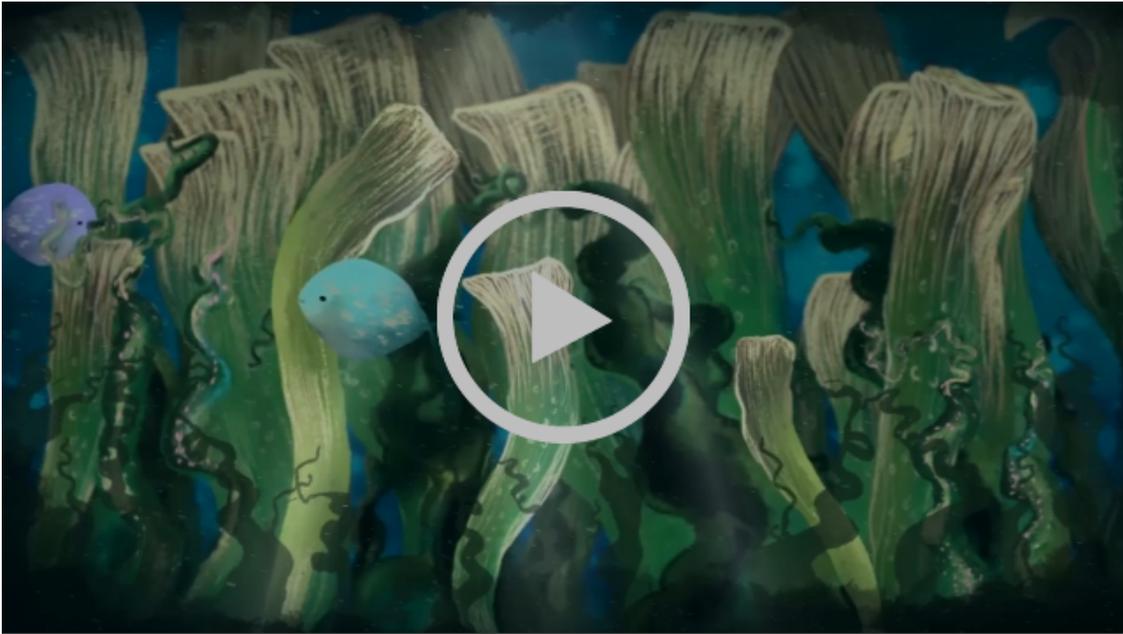
'EPSC3' will occur from 20 to 24 November, 2017 in Madagascar. Its objective will be to assess the overall progress of the national projects in the eight Project Countries and to provide guidance to the Project on a global level. Reserve the date - especially if you are a member of the EPSC. More information will be available soon.

News From Around the Web

The Fishes in the Seagrass (Wheels on the bus re-make)

A catchy seagrass song that will keep you and your children amused for days. This music video was created by our friends at Project Seagrass.





'The fishes in the seagrass' is a seagrass inspired version of the children's classic tune 'Wheels on the bus'



This Project is executed by The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, with financing from the GEF, implementation support by UN Environment and technical support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.

Contact:

For project related/general enquiries, please contact: myacout@mbzfund.org

Please contribute to the Project by sending news updates, articles, photos and comment to: kduthler@mbzfund.org

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