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News from the Dugong & Seagrass Conservation Project Newsletter - Issue 1 - 2018

Happy New Year!

In 2017 we critically reviewed our achievements and acted on lessons learned to improve the dugong and seagrass conservation project. [Read a message from the Project Coordination Team about the way forward.](#)

Timor-Leste's community-based marine protected areas

Anselmo Lopes Amaral, Marine Programme Manager for Conservation International in Timor-Leste, [answers our questions about CBMPAs](#). We also interviewed CI's Trudiann Dale. [You can listen to a recording of our interview with Trudi here.](#)



Community-based marine protected areas in Timor-Leste

Arifin Putra, Indonesian movie star, supports the Project

At the invitation of WWF Indonesia, Arifin Putra is the Indonesian Ambassador of the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. [Read more here.](#)



Arifin Putra endorses the Dugong & Seagrass Conservation Project

Insights about the Fishers of Bazaruto, Mozambique

Who are the fishers of Bazaruto - a beautiful island of stunning biodiversity? There are four families which make up a community of roughly 3,500 people. Our Partners at EWT interviewed them and learned so much. [Read the report.](#)



Download! Presentations from EPSC3

In November we organized the Third Executive Project Steering Committee Meeting in Trang, Thailand. What a beautiful destination! [Download the presentations here.](#)



Participants in the Third Executive Project Steering Committee in Trang Thailand

Businesses interested in supporting the Project

Two companies, Minor Hotel Group and EnerGaia, are interested in supporting our Project. Meet company representatives, John Roberts and Saumil Shah, and [learn more about why dongongs and seagrasses matter to them.](#)



Aerial surveys in Mozambique reveal marine mega-fauna

Aerial surveys are a great way to see the big picture. With science and experience, important questions about dugong populations can be answered.

[Read the report here.](#)



View from 500m of Bazaruto, Mozambique

App alert! Record sightings of marine animals

Citizen-science applications are becoming more popular with the widespread diffusion of smart phones. Our partners in Mozambique have an App for that.

[Read more here.](#)



A sperm whale shows its tail

Sri Lankans see value in marine conservation

A survey organized by the IUCN found that fishermen in Northern Sri Lanka believe in the importance of regulation and many are concerned that marine resources will decline if nothing is done. [Read the full results.](#)



Net mending in Sri Lanka

Poachers in Madagascar punished for 'DINA' violations

Illegal taking of marine resources in this community now results in significant fines and loss of equipment, thanks to the work of our Project partners in Madagascar. [Read more.](#)



Small-scale fisheries key to marine conservation

Our affiliates at Community Centred Conservation called our attention to a recent paper in *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries*. Small-scale fisheries, like those operated from our partner communities, are key to dugong and seagrass conservation. [Read the abstract and find article here.](#)



Upcoming Events

Seagrass-Watch training, Nosy Be, Madagascar, 18 to 21

March 2018

CMS Dugong Technical Advisor and founder of Seagrass Watch, Len Mckenzie and his team, are going to Nosy Be to deliver Seagrass-Watch training to our Partners and field conservationists from 18 to 21 March.

Regional Workshop on dugong and seagrass conservation, Munda, Solomon Islands, 5 to 8 March 2018

Workshop organised by the Project Partners and supported by the Solomon Islands Government and SPREP. Participants include reps from Australia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands & Vanuatu, SPREP, CMS Dugong MoU and technical advisors. Work will focus on the 2018-2022 Regional Marine Species Programme Dugong Action Plan.

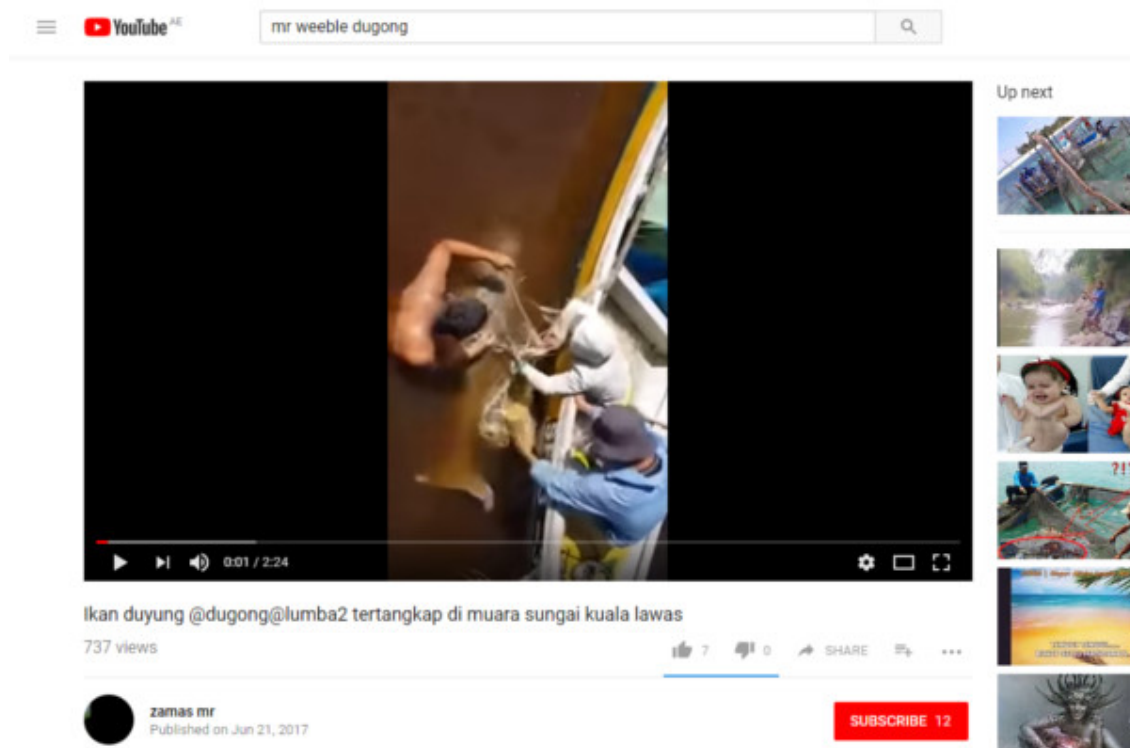
5th International Marine Conservation Congress in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 24 to 29 June 2018

Thanks to World Fish Centre, one of our Partners in the Solomon Islands, the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project has been approved to host a symposium about “integrating cultural values of dugongs in conservation” at the [5th IMCC Congress #IMCC5](#).

News from Around the Web

WATCH! Video Malaysian fishermen release dugong

[Watch the fishermen work feverishly to cut the net and release the dugong](#). It's amazing how fast the dugong swims away after being untangled.



The image is a screenshot of a YouTube video player. At the top, the YouTube logo is visible on the left, and a search bar contains the text "mr weeble dugong". The main video frame shows a group of fishermen on a boat, working together to cut a net that has trapped a dugong. The dugong is visible in the water, partially obscured by the net. Below the video frame, the video title is "Ikan duyung @dugong@lumba2 tertangkap di muara sungai kuala lawas" and it shows 737 views. The channel name is "zamas mr" and it was published on Jun 21, 2017. There is a "SUBSCRIBE 12" button in the bottom right corner. To the right of the video player, there is a "Up next" section with several video thumbnails.

Click the image and watch the video on YouTube.

WATCH! Dugong animated music video by MrWeebl

[With nearly 5 million views this is the most popular dugong video on YouTube.](#)



Click the image and watch the (annoying) video on YouTube



This Project is executed by The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, with financing from the GEF and implementation support by UNEP. The project execution is technically supported by the UNEP CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.

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