

February to June 2023

1st February 2023- Dead dugong stranded at Chuna Bhatta, North Bay

A dead stranded dugong was reported by a Scuba diver at north bay on 1st February 2023, with the help of the Forest Department and the veterinary Dr. Sam Vargheese. The team carried out the necropsy of the dugong. Dr. Baljeet Kaur performed the necropsy of the stranded dugong. Photographic documentation, morphometric measurements, and sample collection (tissue and blubber) samples were collected using standard protocols.



Capacity Building, outreach, and Awareness Activities

A total of 45 programs conducted which includes capacity building, community awareness, and sensitization Programme with multi-sea faring stakeholders, which is fishers (n=19), local communities (n=1), Schools (n=2), forest department (n=8), Marine Police (n=1), Indian Navy (n=1), Tribal Protection Police Force (n=1), Scuba diver Community (n=1). In this Field Season, our main agenda is to conduct an intensive capacity and sensitization Programme to spread awareness about dugongs and seagrass across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Around 1500 people were engaged and sensitized throughout the activities.

Capacity Building and Sensitization Programme

- 1) **6th-10th February:** One-week compulsory training course for Indian Forest Officers regarding management on “Management of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of India: Challenges and Prospects”.



- 2) **22nd February:** A sensitization cum capacity building Programme conducted with Tribal Protection Police Force, Tirur range, and the local fisher community at Colinpur Panchayat.



3) 26th February: A follow up Dugong Awareness Programme with Guptapara Fishing Village



4) 4th March 2023: A one Day Orientation cum Capacity Building Programme on Dugongs and emergency stranding response workshop conducted with frontline forest staff of the wildlife division, South Andaman Division at Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor



5) 21st March 2023: one-day dugong orientation cum capacity building program conducted with frontline forest staff of Diglipur territorial division, Aerial Bay



6) 29th March: Establishment of Mobile Marine Mammal Rescue Facility for Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department, Wandoor.



Inauguration Programme of Mobile Marine Mammal Rescue Facility at MGMNP, Wandoor

7) 30th March: Follow-up dugong sensitization program conducted with the Scuba Divers community in Shaheed Dweep Island.



8) 29th March: A collaborative beach cleanup program was organized by the Kachrewala Foundation and Wildlife Institute of India at Bharatpur Beach, Shaheed Dweep Island



9) 9th April: Sensitization cum Capacity building Programme conducted with Marine Police, Port Blair



10) 10th April: One-day Dugong Orientation cum Capacity Building Programme conducted with Frontline Forest warriors of South Andaman, Wildlife Division (Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park)



11) 20th April: Follow up Capacity Building Programme conducted with Indian Navy, INS Utkrosh- Port Blair



12) 22nd May: Follow-up dugong orientation cum stranding workshop conducted with Mayabunder Forest Department



Outreach and Awareness Programme

13) 8th March 2023: Community Interaction Programme on dugong and seagrass conducted with fishers at Panighat fishing jetty



14) 19th March: Community Awareness Programme on dugong and seagrass conducted at Shanti Nagar village



15) 20th March: Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with fishers at Gandhi Nagar, Diglipur



16) 5th April: follow up dugong sensitization program with the Government Secondary School, Shaheed Dweep Island.



17) 9th April: Community interaction cum sensitization program conducted with fishers in Wandoor community hall and Landing center



18) 22nd April- Community Interaction Programme conducted with fishers at Chidiatapu.



World Dugong Awareness Month (May 2023)

19) 15th May 2023: Dugong Awareness Programme in collaboration with the forest department conducted with the local community and PRI Members of Kishori Nagar Village



20) Awareness program on dugong and seagrass conducted at Kishori Nagar Bazaar



21) Sensitization program on dugongs and seagrass conducted with local communities at Parangara Village, Diglipur



22) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with fishers and the local community at Tal Bagan village



23) Awareness Programme on dugongs and seagrasses conducted with fishers at Paschim Sagar Village



24) 16th May: Sensitization cum Awareness Programme on dugong and seagrass conducted at Government Secondary School, Kalighat



25) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with local communities at Kalighat Panchayat



26) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with local tourists at Ramnagar Beach



27) Sensitization cum Awareness Programme conducted with the fisher community at Ramnagar Village



28) 17th May: Our CAMPA Dugong was invited by the Diglipur Forest department to participate in the Walkathon program to deliver a talk on dugongs and their importance to the ecosystem.



29) Dugong Awareness Rally conducted in collaboration with Forest Department to sensitize locals about their state animal, “the dugong,” and their importance to ecosystem at Aerial Bay



30) Awareness Programme on dugongs and seagrass at Durgapur fishing village



31) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted at Shibpur village with fishing communities.



32) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with the fishing community at Kalipur Village



33) 18th May: Dugong Awareness Programme was conducted at Jal Tikrey village with a fishing community



34) Dugong Awareness Programme conducted at Shyam Nagar with local communities.



35) 19th May: Dugong Awareness Programme conducted with school teachers and PRI Members at Diglipur Panchayat



36) 21st May Dugong Awareness Programme conducted at Mayabunder fishing colony.



37) Sensitization and Awareness program conducted with fishing communities at Lal Tikrey, Tugapur Village, Mayabunder



38) Sensitization and Awareness Programme conducted with the fishing community at Tugapur no. 6 village, Mayabunder



39) Sensitization program on dugong conducted with fishers at Rampur Beach, Karmatang

40) Community awareness program on dugong and seagrass conducted at Karmatang Village



41) Community Awareness program on dugong conducted at Webi Village



42) 28th May-

On the auspicious occasion of World Dugong Day, the Islanders celebrated dugong day at flag point, Marine Park- Port Blair. This program was organized jointly with Andaman and Nicobar Forest Departments with the help of volunteers from JNRM College and Local Media. The main agenda of the program is to create awareness about Dugong (The State Animal of Andaman and Nicobar Islands) among locals and tourists. Shri. Kamal Datta, IFS (Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest), Smt. S. Selvi (Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Corporation), Shri Dinesh Kannan, IFS (Chief Conservator of Forest, Territorial), Shri. Sanjay Waradkar, IFS (Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife), Shri. Sandeep Behera, IFS (Deputy Conservator of Forests), graced the event.



World Dugong Day Celebration at Flag Point, Marina Park- Port Blair

43) 11th June: A CAMPA Dugong team was invited to celebrate 50th World Environment Day by organizing a short trek to Mount Manipur National Park by Member of Parliament Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), where we brief the participants about their state animal “Dugong” and seagrass, the importance and need of conservation. Commanding officer Army NCC Lt. Col. Pankaj Modgil, Commanding Officer Naval NCC Lt. Cdr Ankit Pant, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Dakshin Foundation, Nature Conservation Foundation, Andaman Avians Club who attended and addressed the young crowds about the rich biodiversity of the Islands and Encourage them for biodiversity conservation. Around 250 youngsters, including Army and NCC Cadets and youths from the islands participated.



World Environment Day Celebration at Mount Manipur National Park

44) 16th June: a one-day orientation cum capacity building program for frontline forest staff of Manglutan Range. We briefed them about dugong biology, its importance, and the citizen science-based dugong monitoring Programme. They get trained in the first emergency marine mammal stranding response.

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45) **20th June:** One Day dugong orientation cum emergency marine mammal stranding response workshop organized for frontline forest staff of Garacharma Forest Range. We briefed them about dugong, seagrass, and its importance and also about citizen science-based dugong monitoring program.



Dugong Orientation Programme conducted with Garacharma Forest Range Division