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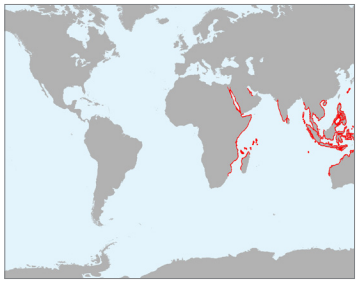

Geographical range

Knowledge
Experts
Action
Get Involved

Amazing Species: Dugong

The **Dugong**, *Dugong dugon*, is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Its range spans 48 countries within the tropical and subtropical coastal and island waters between east Africa and Vanuatu in Oceana. Dugongs are represented by diminished remnant populations, many of which are close to extinction.

Dugongs are particularly vulnerable to anthropogenic disturbances because of their long life span (of 70 years or more) and their slow rate of reproduction. Populations worldwide have suffered overexploitation primarily due to direct capture for its meat, hide and oil, and also because of habitat loss (silting of sea grass beds). The most significant threat to Dugongs is fatalities caused by gill nets which entangle them as bycatch. Other threats include pollution, boat traffic and illegal hunting.

A listing on Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) prohibits or limitis the trade of this species or its parts. However, despite having legal protection in many countries, the Dugong remains extremely vulnerable to continued human pressure and applying conservation policy to legally address gill netting regulations is urgently needed.

IUCN RED LIST Guiding Conservation for 50 Years

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