

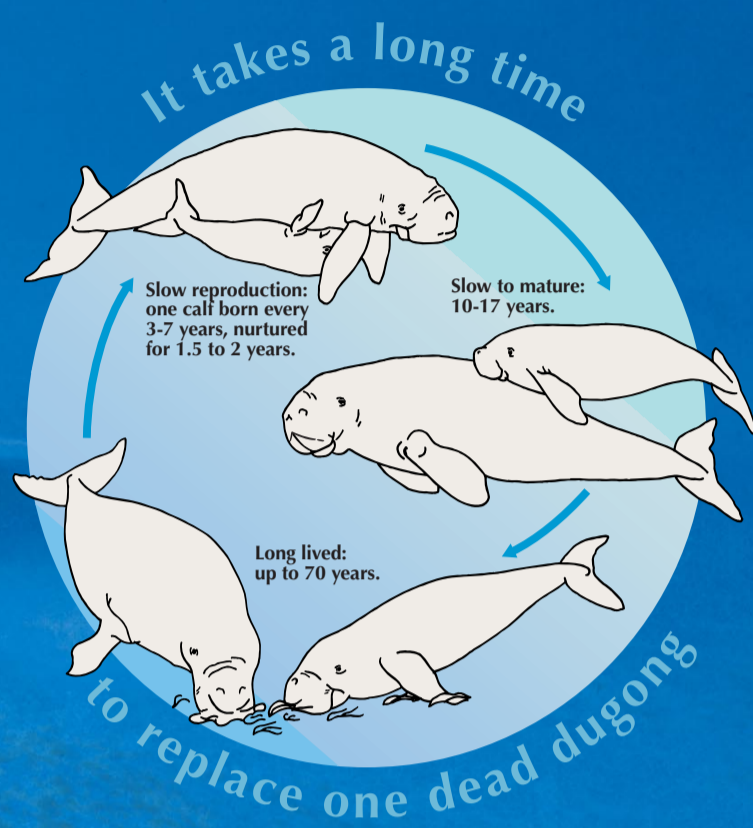
Dugong

A fragile life cycle

... where seagrass is the lifeline.

Every adult dugong (sea cow) eats around 30kg of seagrass (equal to about 60 lettuces) per day.

These fascinating grazing sea mammals leave telltale feeding trails in seagrass.



In trouble

Already extinct in some Pacific island waters the dugong population between Cooktown and Hervey Bay has halved since the 1980s.

Good management and your help — the dugong's best chance!



Stop your motor and watch — where there's one dugong there may be more!

Go slow for those below!

Fast boats in shallow water, especially over seagrass beds, can injure or kill dugong and damage seagrass. Heavy boat traffic and jetskis may impede dugong feeding.

At home

Farming, gardening, even household wastewater add silt and pollutants to rivers and stormwater. The 1992 Mary River flood smothered vast seagrass beds. Over 100 dugong starved to death and about 1000 were displaced.



Help prevent erosion — plant trees and reduce storm water.

Have your say on coastal development

Reclaiming coastal land, constructing boating facilities, dredging and spoil dumping at sea kill valuable seagrass beds.

Dugong-friendly netting

Many dugong have drowned in shark nets on swimming beaches and in fishing nets. In response...

- Key dugong habitats like Hervey Bay and Great Sandy Strait are now Dugong Protection Areas.
- Baited lines replace many shark nets.
- Special fishing practices reduce non-target catches like dugong and turtles. Commercial fishers are encouraged to report unusual dugong activity.

Aboriginal culture

Local Butchulla people place great cultural importance on dugong protection.

Boaters, fishers, residents, schools! Join your local seagrass monitoring program — contact Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.



You can report on 1300 360 898

Dead and stranded dugong



Tag numbers



Unusual sightings

