

Project Update: December 2015

According to the timetable of my field work, social survey was conducted from first of December 2015 and will be continue until the end of January 2016. I used the standardised dugong catch/bycatch questionnaire developed with the support of the CMS-UNEP Dugong MOU. The interviews were conducted with fishermen from the local communities in three different villages within Wadi El Gemal National Park (WGNP); Abo Ghoson (three persons), Qulaan (three persons), Wadi El Gemal village (five persons) and the harbour of tourism boats in Hamata village (four boat captains). I used an open-ended question to encourage a full, meaningful answer using the subject's own knowledge and / or feelings. The results of the surveys can assist in determining the distribution and abundance of dugong, help identify and map areas of important dugong habitat such as sea grass beds, as well as fishing area.

I collected a lot of information on the occurrence of dugongs within WGNP, threats to the dugong and its habitat, status of artisanal fisheries, attitude of fishermen towards the dugong, etc. were collected and saved in excel sheet for analysis. I collected satellite maps for the coast line of WGNP and print it in a big banner, and I used it to show the interviewees to tell me where he saw the dugong exactly in each area as well as determine the sea grasses area. I collected a data for dugong sighting in the present and the past, then added these results on a Google Earth Map and save it as KMZ file. After finishing the social survey at the end of January 2016, I will start the marine survey with my team work to search about the dugong to ensure the results gathered from the interviews in these areas.

In January 2016 I will train the team how to conduct this questionnaire with the local communities. I will try to add few girls to my team to conduct the interview with the women, so we will have different gender with different respond to the interviewer. Women tend to avoid talking to strangers, especially if no local men are present. So when these girls will join to our team, women will agree to participate and they may feel comfortable only with female interviewers.



Personal interview in WG village



Personal interview in Hamata Harbour



Group interview in Qulaan village



Group interview in Abo Ghoson village