

Project Update: December 2017

The outline of PADI Specialty Course for dugong conservation was written in a standardised form and sent to the training department in PADI office for review.

The goals of Dugong Conservation Diver training are:

- A. To familiarise with the role PADI in preserving endangers species of the marine environment.
- B. Introduce the divers to dugong ecology, behaviour and distribution worldwide.
- C. To educate the divers about dugongs' population decline, importance of dugong to marine ecosystem and what they can do prevent further decline.
- D. To provide the divers with the knowledge and skills needed to encounter the dugong and record sightings.
- E. Provide an overview of dugong research and worldwide conservation status.
- F. To enable divers to plan, organise and execute a dugong dive in a safe, passive manner.
- G. To emphasise the importance of dugong monitoring activities and provide dugong conservation opportunities through participation in any dugong project conducting worldwide like Australia, South East Asia, Indian Ocean, Arabian Gulf and East Africa especially in the Red Sea.

The course consists of two sections:

A. Section One: Course Standard.

- This section includes the course standards, recommendations, and suggestions for conducting the PADI Dugong Conservation Diver course.
- These includes minimum instructor rating, prerequisites, minimum age, ratios open water, students and depth.
- Certification Requirements and Procedures for divers were included. Non-diver route like snorkelers was suggested to participate in the course by including at least one snorkeling dives and completing only the knowledge development portion.

B. Section Two: Knowledge Development.

By the end of knowledge development, student divers will be able to explain:

1. To introduce dugongs – including their taxonomy and description.
2. Original of mermaid legend.
3. Role ugongs play in the marine ecosystem.
4. Dugong distribution, biology, life history, habitat and threats.
5. To provide information on behavioural categories of dugong.
6. To prepare participants to passively interact with dugong.
7. To teach participants how to identify individual dugongs through their distinct markings.
8. To provide information on dugong research, monitoring activities and worldwide conservation status.

