

## Project Update: October 2018

For 2 days, I conducted the first training course of PADI Dugong Conservation to increase the number of Egyptian Dugong Team (EDT). The new members received a powerful knowledge for dugong conservation that can allow participating in the field work especially for the current project.

The EDT conducted several workshops including questionnaire survey, feeding ecology, dugong behaviour, photo identification and public awareness. The participants performs each workshop in work group and entered the data on the computer in excel sheet.

For the questionnaire survey, the participants conducted several interviews between each other and entered the data on a standardised excel sheet. Also, they were trained on adding the dugong sighting, seagrass area and fishing area on Google Earth programme, then how to create a map that will use in dugong conservation and management by the design maker.

In the workshop of the feeding ecology, the team trained on how to calculate the seagrass densities, trails length and width, and the amount of seagrass grazed by the dugong. All members conducted several exercises separately and in work group as well. This workshop is very important for EDT to practice the feeding ecology techniques which is one of the main items of the current project.

The participants trained on how can perform the public awareness on the dugong conservation by conducting one presentation through a workshop with general discussion.

Regarding the current project, I offered one presentation for the using a new technique of laser photogrammetry, that will be useful in measuring the muzzle width and the body length of the dugongs. I teach the participants on how can this new technique used to get a relationship between muzzle width and trail width to examine the existence dugong in each area.

Finally, I visited the customs in the Cairo International Airport to finalize the procedures to get the laser photogrammetry unit soon.

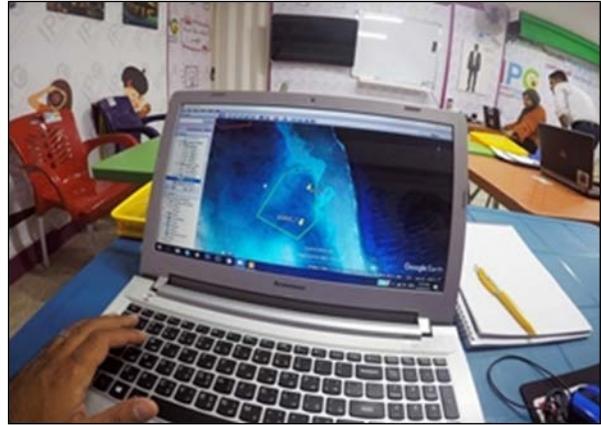


Opening the new course of PADI Dugong Conservation with EDT. ©Walid Abdallah.



Workshop of questionnaire survey. ©Heba Basem.





The EDT in working group and entering the data of the dugong sighting and habitats on Google Earth program. ©Heba Basem.





Workshop of feeding ecology. ©Heba Basem.



Discussion of using laser photogrammetry for dugong in the current project. Photo by: Heba Basem.