

## Project Update: June 2016

- During the field survey, we have new sighting record at Wadi El Gemal Island, where found dugong feeding trails in front of the island beach.
- The weather is hot and no wave action, where the sea state is flat and we can observe the trails from the boat. I take several photos from the boat to record the trails with the island.
- I did SCUBA diving from the boat and survey the area from underwater, where many trails were recorded and photographed.
- I measured the sediment compaction by measuring the sediment penetration using 1.2 m rod which was very small, not more than 14 cm covered with fine sediment.
- I calculate the percentage cover of the seagrasses and abundance using 0.25m<sup>2</sup> quadrat and the main species was *Halophila ovalis* and *Halodule uninervis*, the main two seagrass species favored by the dugong.
- Feeding trails were measured and I found that three different measurements, which ensure that this area visited by three dugong individuals, one of them is calf (I think three dugongs are big female with calf and another adult dugong that may be male).
- For dugong selectivity, I calculated the number of seagrass species inside and outside the feeding trails using 0.1 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats.
- I invited from Nature Conservation Sector, Ministry of Environment to introduce a presentation about "Dugong Conservation" in the celebration of World Environmental Day 2016, under the slogan "Go Wild For Life". The presentation included our activity in dugong conservation with Dugong Team as an example of conservation the wild animal. At the end, I show a small video for the dugong recorded by me in the field of Wadi El Gemal National Par.
- I invited by a dive center from Marsa Alam (outside of WGNP) to introduce a presentation about the dugong to some of the tourists (English and German peoples). They were very happy with this new information and with our project activities. Two of the tourists takes the design to introduce any help and support by photos or videos when they meet the dugong during their dives. Also, they were very happy to be belonging to the Dugong Team.



Landscape for Wadi El Gemal Island and the dugong feeding trails appears from the surface in front of the island beach



Field measurements of seagrasses and dugong feeding trail in Wadi El Gemal Island





Many of dugong feeding trails show three different sizes for three different individuals



Presentation for the Dugong Conservation, World Environmental Day 2016 Celebration





Dugong presentation at one of the diving center in Marsa Alam and photos with some tourists belonging to the Dugong Team