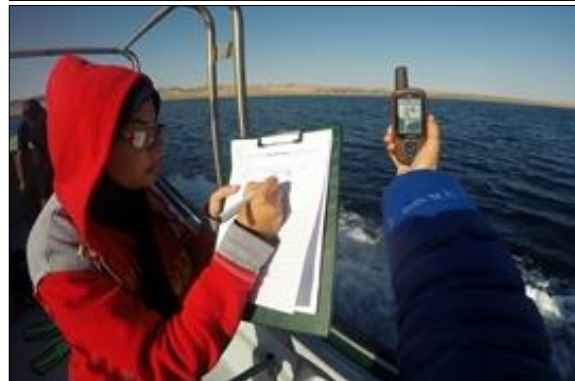


Project Update: March 2016

- After conducted the 1st workshop for WGNP Rangers with marine science students (the dugong team), they become qualified to conduct the dugong survey very well. The Dugong Team using WGNP boats were conducted the dugong survey in different sites within Wadi El Gemal National Park like Shams Alam Beach, Torpha South, Umm El Abass and Hamata Harbour. The survey conducted in different groups; SCUBA diving, snorkeling and surface observation from the boat.
- Several individuals of dugongs were sighted in different sites from surface and underwater in early morning and at the evening especially at the high tide. The GPS coordinates were taken for each sighting. Several photos and videos were taken from underwater by divers and snorkelers teams as well as from the surface on board.
- One big male dugong (around 3m length) was sighted several times in front the beach of Shams Alam Resort (24.689475° N and 35.086991° E), one small dugong (around 2 m length) near to the beach at (24.636248° N and 35.101024° E) for one time and 3 dugong together (2 big and one calve) in Hamata Harbor sighted several times at (24.289724° N and 35.380294° E), which related to some sighting gain from the questionnaire survey. All the sighting points will be representative on GIS map.
- Photo Identification was conducted to the dugong individuals focusing on the flippers (Left and Right), tail and the scars on the dorsal view as well as the dugong sex was identified. The big male of Shams Alam Beach was identified from underwater using SCUBA diving, while the other three dugongs together were identified only from the surface due to its fast swimming, where we couldn't met them underwater. The small dugong of Torpha south swam fast, so no photos taken for it.
- The Dugong Team participated in the event of World Wild Life Day Egypt 2016. The team introduced the Dugong Conservation Awareness to the visitors in different ways. We printed a banner discussed our field work as a story. Also, we discussed the my dugong project objectives like questionnaire survey, feeding ecology, dugong identification using Photo ID techniques, public awareness and how use it for management. Afternoon, I present a presentation about our project activities, field work and awareness. All the audience were so happy with this project which is the first in Egypt in this issue.



Surface observation team during dugong survey



Photo Identification (Photo ID) of 3 dugong from surface in Hamata Harbor



Left Flipper



Right Flipper



Tail



Dorsal View



Sex Identification

Male Dugong

(Anus and Genital Opening are a part)

Dugong Identification using Photo ID techniques underwater



Dugong sighting underwater



Dugong Team during the open area (Booths) activities



During the presentation in the conference room