

Project Update: February 2018

- I attended the PADI member forum in Hurghada and met Mr Ahmed Sayed, PADI regional manager in Egypt. I talked with him about the new specialty course of 'Dugong Conservation' that approved by PADI and he was interesting with the course as a good product for divers and diver route to aware of this species and protect it worldwide.
- I conducted two dives in Marsa Abo Dabbab and record the fleeing behaviour of the dugong among snorkelers at surface. During dugong ascent, the snorkelers come over then the dugong turns and moves off quickly to avoid the snorkelers and continues to swim a little until it ascends to take a quick breath among snorkelers before diving again and travelling. Within a minute, the dugong returns back to the first location then ascends for taking another breath before diving. I recorded a video for the situation and takes snapshots for many photos to summarise the action in one poster.
- Next month I will focus on public awareness using the new outline of PADI Dugong Conservation Specialty. I will participate in the event of World Wildlife Day 2018 Egypt Event at Gezira Sporting Club 'on March 3rd with Egyptian Dugong Team (EDT).



PADI Member Forum 2018 in Hurghada



Steps of movements are shows the dugong fleeing in sequence in the presence of snorkelers while breathing at surface. © Ahmed M. Shawky.