Project Update: July 2023

Summary the numbers of activities are shown in the table below:

Visiting Sites	Surface Observation	Underwater Observation	Manta Tow Survey	Feeding Trails	Underwater Laser Photogrammetry	Public Awareness	Trainees No.	Dugong Sighting
6	6	4	2	3	3	4		1

1. **Visiting sites:**
   A total of three sites are visited: Wadi Lahmi, Sharm El Luli, Ras Baghdady, Shams Alam, and Wadi El Gemal Islands, and Marsa Shona El Kebir.

2. **Surface Observations:**
   EcoPro Alumni of 8 persons used two powerful binoculars to look for the presence of any dugong at surface. A shift every 30 minutes takes place between two teams (i.e. each team 2 people) at different sides of the boat to avoid any missing of sudden sighting of the dugong while ascending for breathing at the surface.

3. **Underwater Observations:**
   Four sites of Wadi Lahmi, Ras Baghdady, Wadi El Gemal Islands and Marsa Shoni El Kebir were observed from underwater. Seagrass is reported in all sites except Wadi Lahmi, where it is mostly absent.

4. **Manta Tow Survey:**
   Only two surveys were conducted around Ras Baghdady and south - southwest of Wadi El Gemal Island.

5. **Feeding Trails:**
   It was reported in the south of Wadi El Gemal Island, north of Ras Baghdady and west of Marsa Shoni El Kebeir.

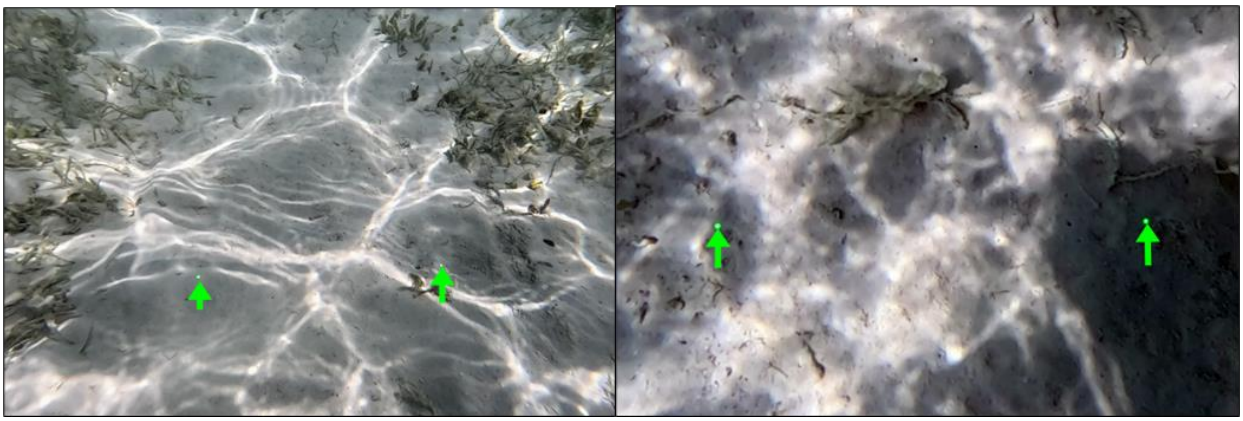
6. **Underwater Laser Photogrammetry:**
   This technique is used to measure the widths of feeding trails during snorkeling to save time in a wide area. It is conducted in Wadi El Gemal Island, Ras Baghdadi, and Marsa Shona El Kebir.

7. **Public Awareness:**
   Total of 40 participants were trained during four presentations: one group of EcoPro Alumni on board (7 persons), and other three groups from tourists/ volunteers in Marsa Shagra Eco Lodge (16 persons), Wadi Lahmi Eco Lodge (11 persons) and Marine View Marsa Alam Lodge (6 persons).

8. Dugong Sightings:

Using a professional camera Canon EOSRP-24-105 with SLR Lens SP 150-600 F/5-6.3 USD VC G2 150-600, one dugong is documented around Wadi El Gemal Island. I seem like a pregnant female, because it was moderate length with big belly. We were not lucky to take a clear picture, because the dugong was very shy. This is the benefit of using this camera, to document the presence of dugong even if in a far distance and travelling.

Surface observation for the presence of dugong in different study sites.



Measuring feeding trails widths using laser photogrammetry. Two laser dots are pointed by two green arrows.

Reporting the presence of dugong feeding trails in suitable habitats.

Dugong sighting at surface pointed by white arrow.