

Project Update: August 2010

Regular monitoring of two seagrass plots has been ongoing at Lion Village. Significant changes in the amount of seagrass cover in those plots have occurred during the year. The pattern of those changes suggests that seagrass cover increases during the dry season (approximately November to April), but decreases during the rainy season (May to October). Continued monitoring is needed to verify that conclusion. The survey and mapping of the meadow has shown that 9 species occur there. *Halophila ovalis* is a small species that covers the greatest area of the meadow, and is dominant in the monitored plots. It is the favoured food of the dugong, a large herbivorous mammal that is rare in Thailand. Unexpectedly, we have seen regular evidence of dugong feeding in the meadow at Lion Village. They dig up the roots of the seagrass and leave distinctive tracks in the meadow where they have fed.

