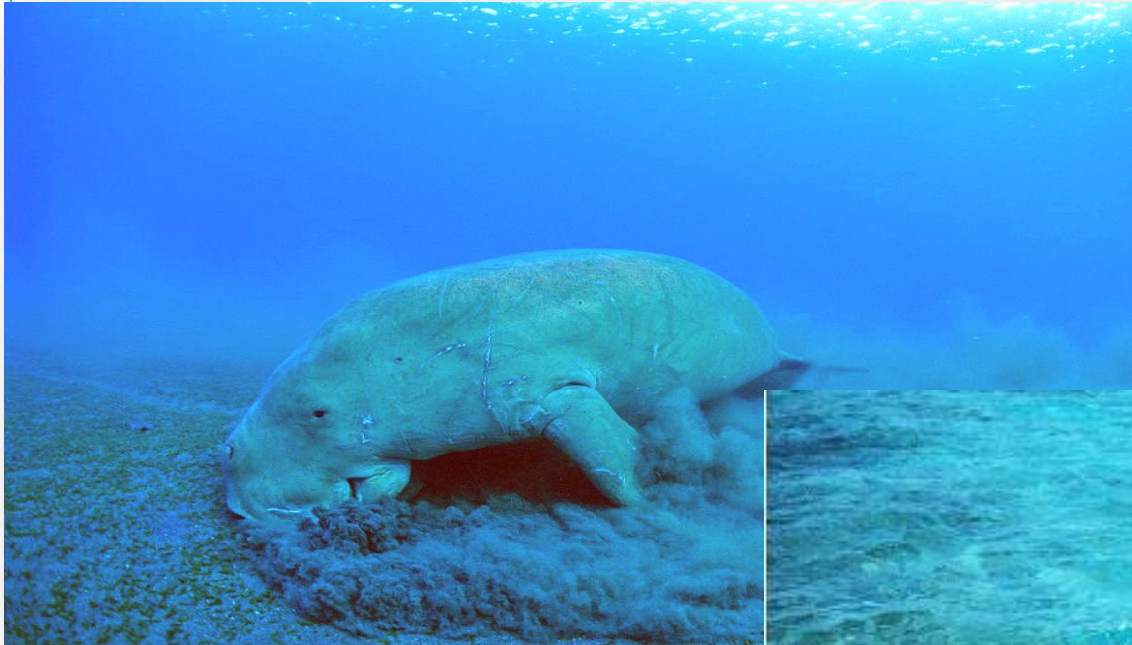


Species Forum, Day 3: Dugong & Seagrass Conservation Project



DUGONG & SEAGRASS

Dugong (*dugon*) Known as “**Sea Cow**” or “**Lady of the Sea**”



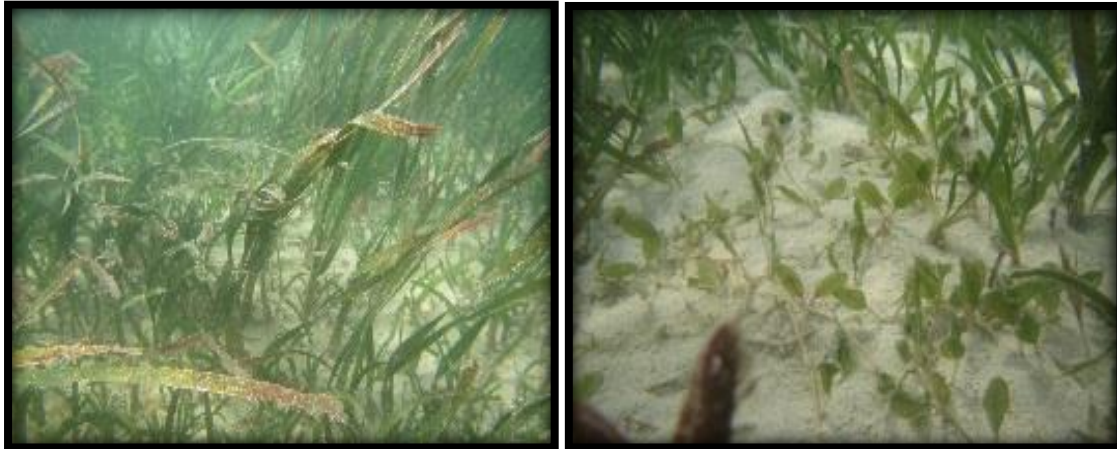
Halophila ovalis



SEAGRASS

Seagrass is different from seaweed

Seagrass



Seaweed





Previous Studies

- **Survey for dugong sightings/occurrence in 6 Provinces (2009, dugong Surveys of the SI)**
 - North-east Choiseul,
 - Honiara bay,
 - Malaita,
 - Marovo Lagoon
 - Isabel Province
 - Western Province.

Previous Studies

1. 1970 – Womersley & Bailey – identify 7 species
2. 2004 – SI Rapid Ecological Assessments (Mckenzie et al.2006)
 - 10spp. confirmed (80% known species in region)
 - Largest seagrass meadow found in Malaita Province (>1000ha)

PARTICIPATORY SEAGRASS MAPPING IN LAU LAGOON, MALAITA

Mapping activity

- Scoping trip to Lau in early 2016
- Focus group discussions with men and women in five communities in the Lau Lagoon
- Collection of local stories from Lau and Temotu for booklet of local stories on dugongs



PARTICIPATORY SEAGRASS MAPPING IN LAU LAGOON, MALAITA

Pebble Distribution Method

- Pebble distribution is a ranking method utilizing photographs as visual aids
- Conducted three exercises:
 - a) PDM of important species for food
 - b) cash and
 - c) culture

RESULT: local stories on dugongs



RESULT: local stories on dugongs

SAFEGUARDING LAU LAGOON

La'u Lagoon is the largest mangrove forest in the Lau Islands. Dugongs, fish and people depend on it. We support the people who live in the lagoon to protect the dugongs, fish and people who depend on it. We support the people who live in the lagoon to protect the dugongs, fish and people who depend on it.

10

Many communities in the lagoon are actively managing their fisheries. People plant coral reefs and mangroves to protect their fisheries. This is an effective way to conserve marine resources. It is important to support these initiatives to ensure that fisheries in Lau Lagoon meet the needs of the people now and in the future.

9

Fish plays a central role in the diet, economy and culture of the Lau Lagoon. Sea products from the lagoon are used for food, medicine and for trade. It is important to ensure that the lagoon remains healthy and productive. This is a particular concern for the health of women and children.

8

Seagrass is not only important for fish, but also for farmers. Waterbirds are an important agricultural commodity in the Lau Islands, and the waterbirds from Lau are important for the local economy. Seagrass is used to improve the soil fertility of their gardens. This leads to larger and sweeter water.

1

The dugong is a large animal that lives in the sea. Dugongs are also known as manatee. They are found in many parts of the world. Dugongs can be found in shallow areas near the coast. They can live for more than 30 years. Female dugongs give birth to only one calf. The calf stays close to its mother for several years. Dugongs take a long time to give birth to their calves. They take a long time to give birth to their calves. They take a long time to give birth to their calves.

2

Some tribes in Lau Lagoon consider dugongs to be sacred animals. People tell the story of a woman called Laka, who was only found by her mother in Lau. She was found in Lau Lagoon. She was found in Lau Lagoon. She was found in Lau Lagoon.

3

In the past there were a lot of dugongs in the lagoon. They grazed on the seagrass. The dugongs made a deep channel through the seagrass. People used this channel to paddle to the mangroves. But when people killed the dugongs for their meat, the channel filled up with mud. Now it is difficult for people to reach the mangroves during low tide.

4

Dugongs, turtles and many other animals depend on seagrass for food and shelter. Seagrass is important because it provides a nursery ground for fish, shells and other marine organisms. They seagrass keeps the water clean and protects the coast. The dugongs are important for the people in Lau Lagoon. They are important for the people in Lau Lagoon.

5

Another fish that depends on the seagrass in the lagoon is the mori, or daily cabbfish. It is a body fish with few scales. Daily cabbfish form large groups to breed. In the lagoon, they seagrass. They seagrass. They seagrass.

Map of Lau Lagoon showing numbered locations: 1. FOMALAU, 2. FOMALAU, 3. LAKA, 4. LAKA, 5. LAKA, 6. LAKA, 7. LAKA, 8. LAKA, 9. LAKA, 10. LAKA.

7

Lau Lagoon is famous for its main-made islands. These settlements are built by manually hauling and piling up coral rocks on shallow reefs or in the mangroves, often more than 3 meters high. There are around 65 artificial islands in the lagoon. Over the past century many people have left the artificial islands. They left the artificial islands. They left the artificial islands.

6

The behavior of people depend on fish and other marine resources for food and income. But behavior in the lagoon are under increasing pressure. Overfishing is threatening important commercial species such as sea cucumbers, beche-de-mer and groupers. The use of trawling nets, or 'trawling nets', is impacting the habitats and resource behavior. And the cutting of mangroves is destroying nursery grounds and exposing the coast to storms. Several communities in Lau Lagoon have taken steps to use their marine resources more wisely. The village of Fomala'u, for example, has declared a locally managed marine area.

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management
 Department of Marine Resources
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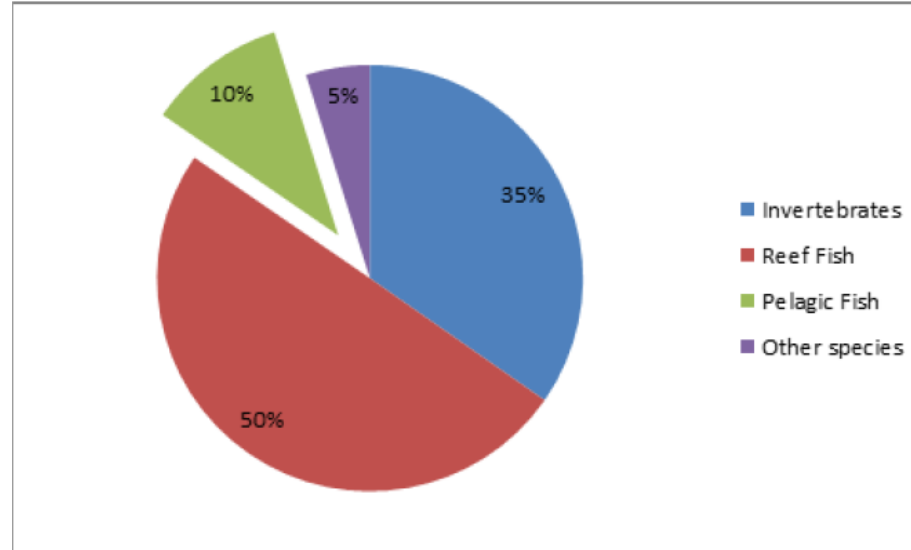
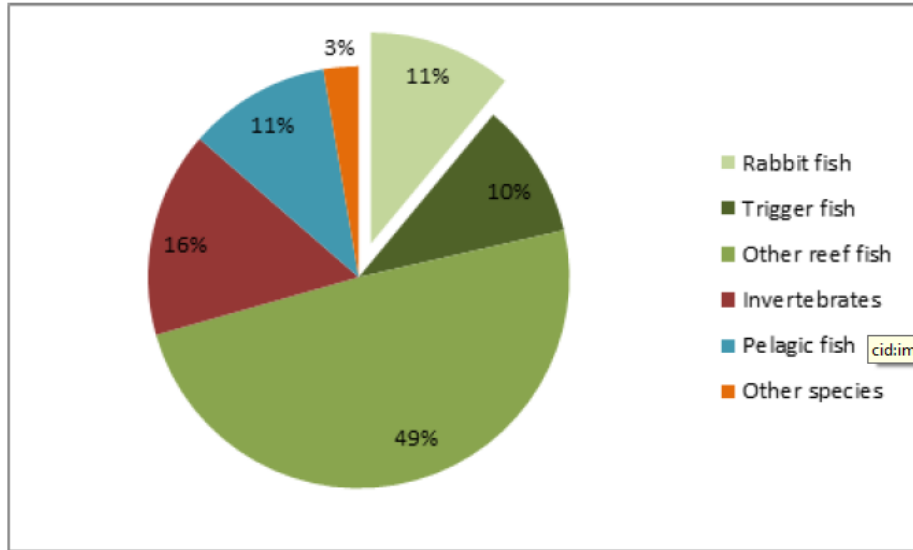
Ministry of Health
 Department of Health
 P.O. Box 11, Suva, Fiji
 Phone: +677 332 1111

Dugong Seagrass
 ADB
 WorldFish

RESULT: local names of dugongs and seagrass

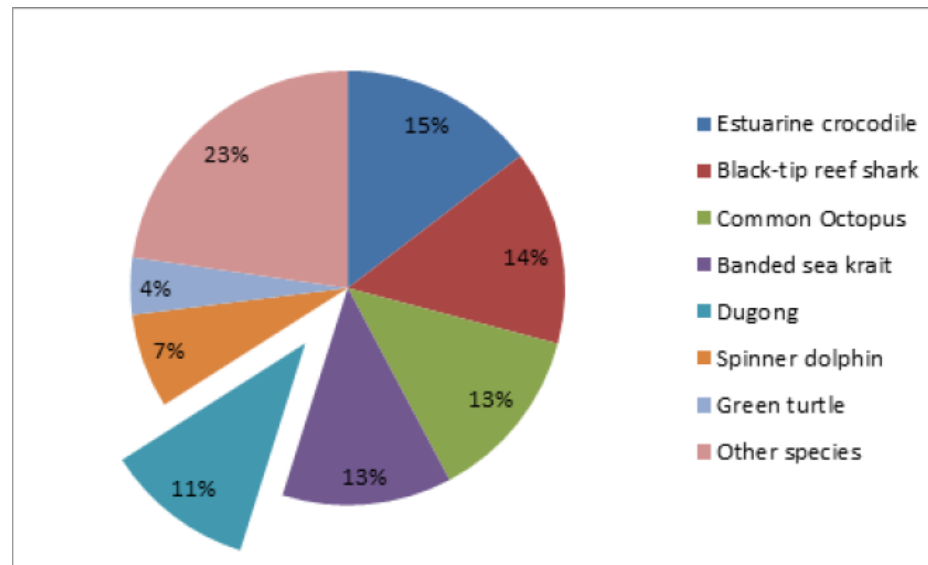
SEAGRASS		DUGONG	
Local name	From	Local name	From
Kokolie	Choiseul	latekwa	Lau, Malaita
Bamu	Russel Islands	Vena	Maringe, Isabel
Kulikuli	Roviana, Kia	Rumu	Roviana, Marovo, Kolombangara, Kia
Checheu Pa Idere	Marovo	Haehu	Ulawa, Makira
Kingnekobe	Vanikoro	Haihu'u	West Are'are
Namaga	Utupua	Taehu	South Malaita
Kalokalo	Duff Islands	Tou	Shortland Is
Nga	Reef Islands	Te Sire	Gilbertese
		Rungu	Ranongga
		Kelekel	Russell Is
		Anive	Vanikoro
		Lolwe	Utupua
		Kimokimo	Duff Is
		Tekumo	Reef Is

RESULT – Pebble Distribution Method



Reef fish is the key important species **for cash**

Rabbitfish is the key important species in Lau Lagoon **for food**, followed by triggerfish



Crocodile and sharks is the key important species **for culture**

PARTICIPATORY SEAGRASS MAPPING IN LAU - Groundtruthing



- Utilized Seagrass Watch methodology
- Approximately 30 transects, 10 quadrants per transect
- Data is still being analyzed



SICCP

Solomon Islands Community
Conservation & Partnership

SICCP Current Work being done in Western Province

West Parara, Ropa and Chubikopi

Seagrass Monitoring in West Para

**Capacity building:
Training women to conduct
seagrass monitoring**





Monitoring at Ropa

Monitoring at West Parara



Development of Locally Managed Marine Areas - Seagrass



SUMMARY – key messages

- Dugong is a mammal and threatened
- Seagrass is an important breeding and feeding habitat
- There is limited information on dugongs and seagrass in Solomon Islands
- This work will feed into national strategy development for Dugong and Seagrass Management
- MFMR is developing a Fisheries Regulation for dugong banning the sale of dugongs, consultations to come