

## **December 2021 to June 2022**

### ***Boat based grab sampling and Intertidal surveys for Seagrass meadow characterization***

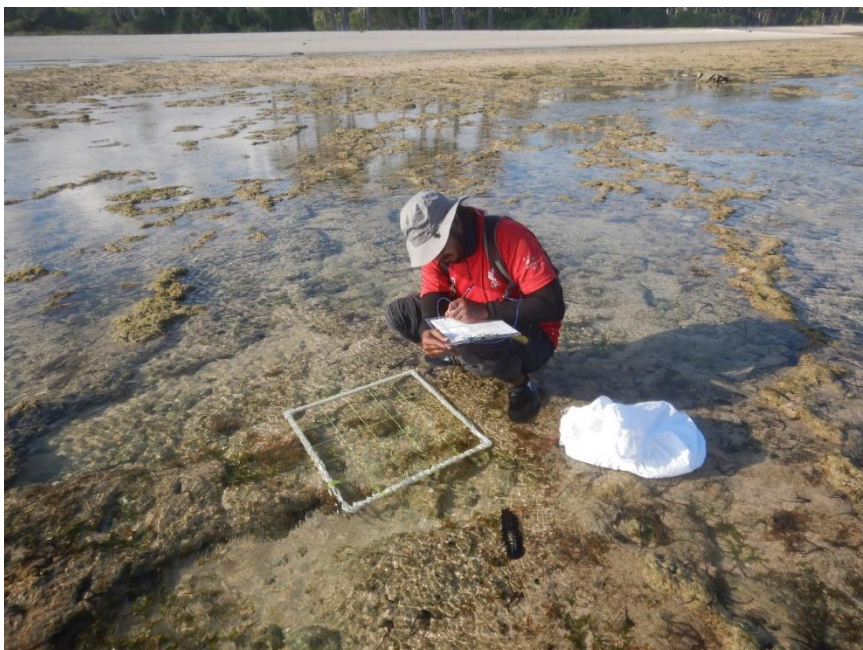
This field season, expanding our efforts to Little Andaman and the Nicobar archipelago, our team conducted grab sampling, subtidal surveys using SCUBA and intertidal surveys, to assess the seagrass composition and status at Little Andaman, Nancowry group of Islands and Great Nicobar



**Duration:** 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Site:** Little Andaman

**Grab Sampling at Light house,  
Little Andaman**



**Duration:** 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup>  
February 2022

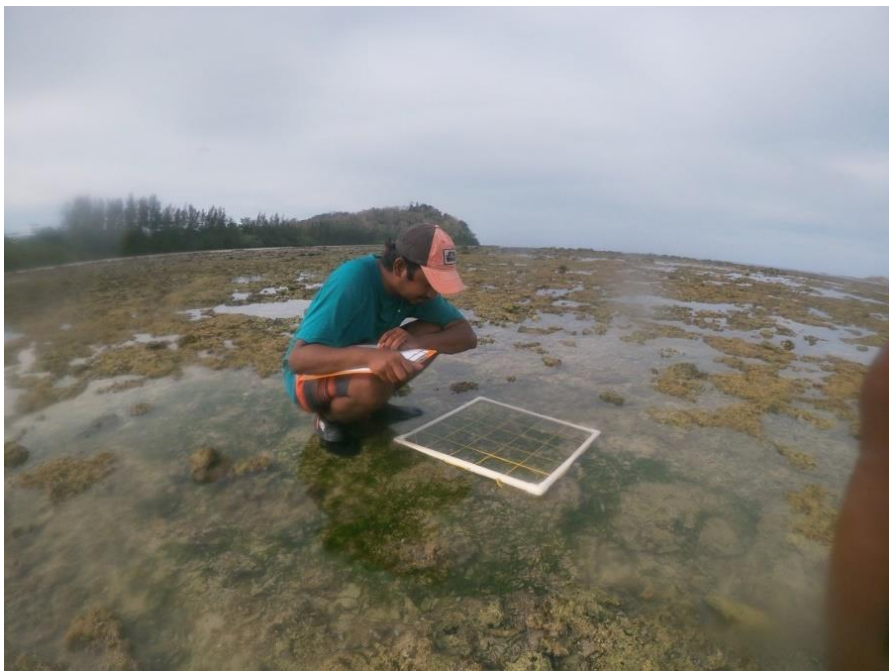
**Site:** Little Andaman, Intertidal  
surveys

**Duration:** 20<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Site:** Nancowry group of Islands (Subtidal surveys)



**Subtidal surveys  
for seagrass  
meadow  
characterization at  
Altaiyak, Nancowry**



**Duration:** 25<sup>th</sup> May  
to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Site:** Intertidal and  
Grab based surveys,  
Great Nicobar

## ***Sensitization, community engagement and Capacity Building***

With a total of 17 capacity building, community interactions and sensitization programs, with schools (n=3), fishers (n=3), defence bodies (n=6), forest department (n=3), tribal protection police force (n=1), and local communities (n=1), in this field season we have spread awareness about dugongs and seagrass habitats, across a spatial scale, with efforts reaching till Great Nicobar, the Southernmost Island of the archipelago and Indian territory.

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2022:** Sensitization cum Capacity building program conducted with the Indian Coastguard unit DHQ-10, in the Great Nicobar





## 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022: World Environment Day Celebration



**Beach Clean up at Shastri Nagar, Great Nicobar. A total of 10 bags of solid waste was hauled from the 35km beach, with the support of the local administration, and the forest department.**



**28<sup>th</sup> May 2022:**  
Community awareness program with fishers at Rajiv Nagar, Great Nicobar

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** One day orientation cum capacity building program with Indian Navy (INS KARDIP) and Indian Coastguard (ICGS Kamorta) in Central Nicobar



**27<sup>th</sup> March 2022:** Dugong awareness cum capacity building program with the Tribal Protection Police Force unit, Tirur







**12<sup>th</sup> February 2022:** One day orientation program on' Dugong awareness, stranding response and dugong monitoring program' with Little Andaman Forest Division



**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022:** One day dugong sensitization program with Government Senior Secondary School, Harminster Bay, Little Andaman

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2022:** Collaborative 'Community Interaction Program' with the Indian Coastguard with fisher community, Farm Tekri- Little Andaman



**21<sup>st</sup> December 2021:** Capacity building program with the flying unit of Indian Coastguard, Port Blair



**21<sup>st</sup> December 2022:**  
Community Workshop  
with fishers in  
Guptapara, South  
Andaman



**20<sup>th</sup> December 2022:** One day 'Students Workshop on Island Biodiversity and Dugong Conservation' with Government Middle School, Wandoor



**16th December 2021:** One day orientation program on 'Dugong awareness, stranding response and dugong monitoring program' with South Andaman Wildlife Division





**8<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Follow up capacity building program conducted with Indian Navy,  
INS-Utkrosh



**January 2021 to April 2021**

***Seagrass meadow characterization surveys***

**26<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021: Threat mapping surveys to critical dugong habitats, in North Andaman**



In the seasonal replicates for threat mapping, we carried out boat-based surveys in Mayabunder and Diglipur to estimate the density of threats (vessel traffic and plastic debris). Near shore and off shore grids of 2km x 2km were selected randomly for this purpose and sampled. Threats in terms of boat traffic and plastic litter were quantified from the critical dugong habitats.



**2<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

***Location:*** Shaheed Dweep, Mayabunder and Diglipur



Our team, conducted seagrass meadow characterization s LIT surveys (LITs) in the intertidal and subtidal meadows. LITs allow us to perform fine-scale habitat characterization and study seagrass distribution.

**Intertidal seagrass meadow characterization using Line Intercept Transects at Laxmanpur, Shaheed Dweep**



**Post processing of seagrass samples, Paget Island**

## ***Sensitization, community engagement and Capacity Building***

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022: Community workshop conducted with Wandoor Fishing colony**



**14<sup>th</sup> April 2022: Community awareness program with fishers Durgapur Fishing Colony**





**12<sup>th</sup> April 2021: One day orientation workshop on 'Dugong awareness, Stranding response and Monitoring Program', with Diglipur Forest Division**



**6<sup>th</sup> April 2021: Capacity building program conducted with Indian Naval Services INS KOHASSA, Shibpur**



**4<sup>th</sup> April 2021: Capacity building program conducted with Indian Coastguard, DHQ-  
9 Aerial Bay**





**10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022: Sensitization and Capacity Building programs in Mayabunder, Diglipur and Port Blair with different stakeholders**



**Capacity building program with frontline forest staff and police staff posted at Interview Island**



**Capacity building program conducted with Indian Coastguard, Rampur.**



**Capacity building program conducted with Marine Police**



**20<sup>th</sup> March 2022: Community awareness program with fishers Mayabunder Fishing Colony**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2022: Mass sensitization and community interaction, Karmatang**





## **12<sup>th</sup> February 2022: Capacity building program with the Police Marine Force, Port Blair**

In the first engagement with the Marine police, we conducted a sensitization program with the PMF unit, at the headquarters in Port Blair and briefed the patrolling staff about dugongs, and their conservation importance.



### **Capacity building of frontline forest staff, and defence bodies:**

**20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021:** In three different capacity building and training programs, we sensitized defence bodies (INS Utkrosh and ICGS Port Blair), and frontline forest staff of South Andaman territorial division, Wimberlygunj. Collectively 80 personnel from afore mentioned stakeholder groups were sensitized and involved in the citizen science based '*Dugong Monitoring Program*'.



**Dugong sensitization programs with Indian Navy (INS Utkrosh, above) and ICGS Port Blair (Below).**



**Capacity building program with the frontline forest staff of South Andaman territorial division, Wimberlygunj.**



**26<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Republic Day to Remember!**

On the auspicious occasion of the 71st Republic Day of India, the CAMPA\_Dugong team of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) took their dugong awareness program, a step ahead. On the 26th January 2021, with the help of local support groups like media and Rotary club of Port Blair, a mass sensitization program was conducted which successfully sensitized more than 300 people from the local masses.

In yet, another mass sensitization program, our team was given an opportunity to interact with the Karen fishers of Karmatang, (North Andaman) in the Sunday mass, and sensitize around 300 people about dugongs.



**Mass sensitization through dugong awareness program conducted at Flag Point, Marina Park. The Member of Parliament of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sh. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, addressing the crowd at Flag point, Port Blair, urging the masses to save dugongs!**



**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021:** We conducted a sensitization program with the Grade 11 kids of the Navy Children School, Port Blair, and sensitized the kids about their state animal DUGONG.

Distribution of awareness material to the principal Mrs. Anita Devi, of the Navy Children School, Port Blair



**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021:** We conducted a community workshop with the fishing community of Manjery village for dugong awareness. Manjery, is one of the dugong distribution hotspots in the Islands, and the fishers here are consistently engaged towards community-based dugong conservation

