

October 2020

Research and Monitoring

Temporal assessment of seagrass

31/10/2020

- Using a trawl boat, 9 points on one transect were surveyed for air and water parameters using drop-down quadrat and grab. Sediment samples were collected.



Image 1. Performing drop down quadrat and van veen grab method for temporal seagrass assessment

November 2020

Research and Monitoring

Temporal assessment of sea grass

2/11/2020, 7/11/2020, 28/11/2020

- Temporal assessment of seagrass survey.
- 13 points on 2 transect were surveyed using a trawl boat on two different days (2nd and 7th November)
- 9 points were surveyed on one transect using traditional fishing vessel on 28th November.
- Drop down quadrat and grab methods were conducted at every points and sediment samples were collected.



Image 2. Preparing quadrat for drop down quadrat method for sea grass assessment

6/11/2020

Mass Boat Survey to Sight Marine Mammals and Litter survey.

- A team of 5 people on 5 trawl boats set off from Kottaipattinam fishing harbour, each boat surveyed 20 sq. kms, covering an area of 100 sq. kms.
- 2 dugongs, one dead turtle, jellyfishes were found and a lot of litters was also found near the shore.



Image 3. Mass Boat Survey to Sight Marine Mammals and Litter survey

22/11/2020

Stranding of sperm whale carcass.

- The team collected a tooth and tissue sample from the carcass of a stranded sperm whale on Attrankarai beach, Palk Bay.



Image 4. Tooth collected from the stranding of sperm whale carcass

Outreach and awareness – scholarship

5/11/2020

Scholarship examination

- The last scholarship examination was conducted at Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Thondi.



Image 5. Scholarship examination is being conducted

Capacity building

17/11/2020 – 22/11/2020

Special Hands-on Training Course was conducted in Underwater Biodiversity Monitoring, with SCUBA Diving.

- It was a 5 days workshop with 1st day of inaugural program graced by by Mrs. J. Jayanthi IPS, Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Group, Tamil Nadu, Mr. A.S. Marimuthu IFS, Wildlife Warden, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Mr. Arun Kumar, District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram, Mr. T. Elamvaluthi, Deputy Director of Fisheries and Mr. S. B. Aravind Director.
- The remaining 4 days were conducted in the wildlife warden office consisting of diving lessons with few techniques instructions to the fishermen communities as well.

- The final examination for the participants was conducted in the afternoon at the Thangachimadam Forest Guest house. It was attended by the Ramanathapuram District Collector, Mr. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver IAS and Mr. T. Elamvaluthi, Deputy Director of Fisheries, who presented the participants with the course completion certificate and a memento, and delivered a speech.



Image 6. Inaugural programme of 5 days workshop special Hands-on Training Course



Image 7. Glimpses of 5 days workshop from 17th to 22nd November

December 2020

Research and monitoring

9th, 12th, 15th, 17/12/2020

Temporal assessment of sea grass survey.

- 12 points on 4 transect were surveyed using trawl boats on 4 different days (9th, 12th, 15th, 17th)
- Drop down quadrat and grab methods were conducted at every points and sediment samples were collected.



Image 8. Performing van veen grab method for temporal sea grass assessment

11/12/2020

Stranding of sperm whale carcass

- The team collected a tissue sample from the carcass of a stranded sperm whale on Azhagankulam beach, Palk Bay.



Image 9. Stranding of sperm whale carcass

12/12/2020

Stranding of dugong carcass

- The team collected tissue, bone and skin samples from the carcass of a dead dugong calf on Kanyakumari Beach, Gulf of Mannar.



Image 10. Stranding of dugong carcass on 12th December 2020

January 2021

Research and monitoring

21/01/2021, 22/01/2021, 30/01/2021, 31/01/2021

Temporal assessment of sea grass survey

- 33 points on 4 transect were surveyed using trawl boats on 3 different days (21st, 22nd, 31st)
- 10 points on one transect was surveyed using traditional fishing vessel (30th)
- Drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab methods were conducted. Sediment samples were collected.



Image 11. Preparing quadrat for drop down quadrat method for sea grass assessment

6th, 15th, 29/01/2021

Stranding of dugong carcass

- Tissue samples and morphometric measurements were collected from the carcass of a stranded female sub adult dugong, adult dugong, and again a female sub adult on the 3 respective dates.



Image 12. Stranding of dugong carcass



Image 13. Necropsy is being performed on dugong carcass



Image 14. Necropsy on Dugong carcass was performed

February 2021

Research and monitoring

12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 28/02/2021

Temporal assessment of sea grass survey

- 45 points on 6 transect were surveyed using a traditional fishing vessel on 6 different days (12th, 16th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 28th)
- 33 points on 3 transects were surveyed using a trawl boat on 3 different days (13th, 17th, 18th)
- Drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab methods were conducted. Sediment samples were collected.



Image 15. Performing drop down quadrat and van veen grab method for temporal sea grass assessment



Image 16. Temporal assessment of sea grass survey is being performed

March 2021

Research and monitoring

15th, 16th, 21st, 29/03/2021

Temporal assessment of sea grass meadows

- A total of 20 points were surveyed using trawl boats and traditional fishing vessels in 3 different days (15th, 16th, 29th)
- Drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab methods were conducted. Sediment samples were collected.
- The survey off Rameshwaram Island, Palk Bay was unsuccessful due to turbid waters and unpredicted turbulent seas on 21st.

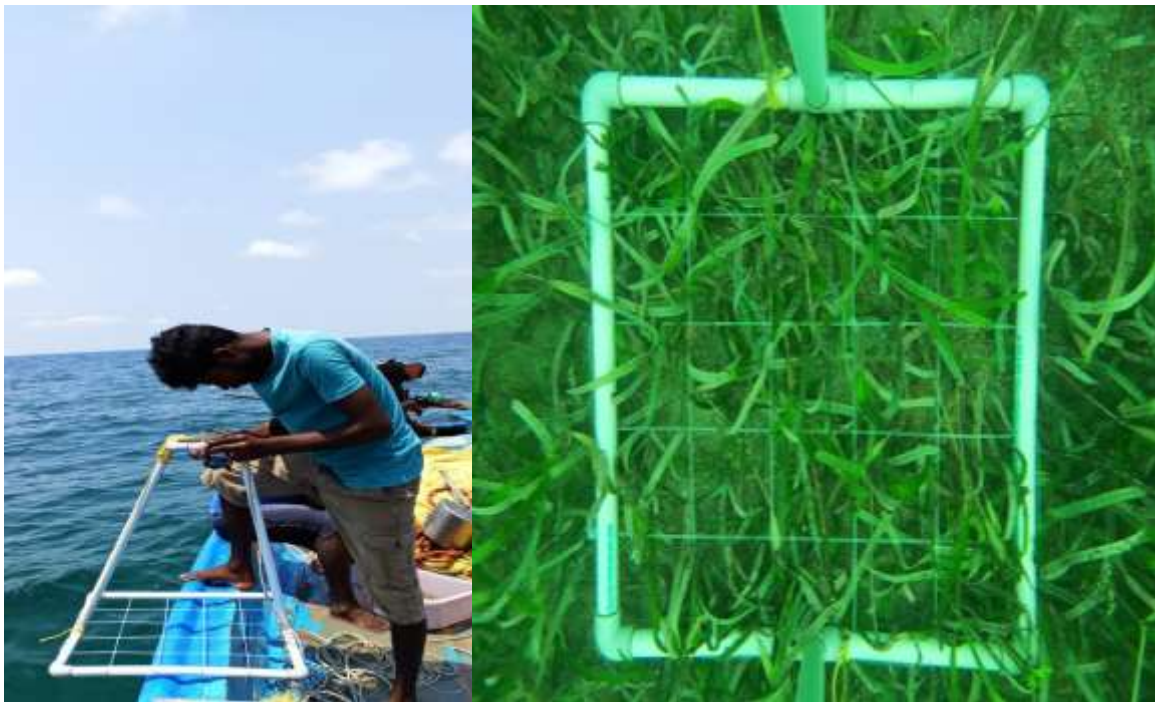


Image 17. Temporal sea grass assessment was done using drop down quadrat method

Fish market surveys

18th, 22nd, 23/03/2021

- 3 fish market surveys were carried out at Nambuthalai of middle Palk Bay, Thiruppalaikudi of middle Palk Bay, rocky and sandy habitats near Manoli Putti island respectively.
- Fish catch at each vendor were recorded for location of fishing, number, size class and cost.



Image 18. Fish market surveys were done

Marine mammal sighting and threat mapping

- On 19th March, 2021, 5 traditional fishing boats set off and surveyed a total of 100 sq. kms.
- There were several records of live fishing activity in the area.



Image 19. Marine mammal sighting and threat mapping

July 2021

Research and monitoring

13/07/2021

Temporal assessment of sea grass meadows

- A total of 10 points were surveyed using trawl boats and traditional fishing vessels
- Drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab methods were conducted. Sediment samples were collected.

October 2021

Research and monitoring

23/10/2021, 24/10/2021

Seagrass, Marine Mammals, macrobenthos and Threat survey in North Palk Bay Region

Velivayal, North Palk Bay (23rd)

- 5 points were surveyed on one transect for sea grass characterization, marine mammals' presence and threat mapping. (Velivayal, North Palk Bay (23rd))
- Drop down quadrat and veen grab method were conducted and 15 sediment samples each for macrobenthos and nutrient analysis were collected (*Halodule sp.*, *Halophila sp.* and *Cymodocea sp.*).
- Styrofoam and plastic litter were recorded from the area.
- Same process was conducted on 24th in Rajamadam, North Palk Bay. No sea grasses were found in the surveyed area.



Image 20. Seagrass, Marine Mammals, macrobenthos and Threat survey in North Palk Bay Region



Image 21. Hydrophone testing conducted near Rajamadam, North Palk Bay (24/10/2021)

- A hydrophone was tested for acoustic monitoring of dugongs, other marine mammals and boat traffic. The hydrophone was deployed for half an hour for passive recording. The recording was checked for noise levels and presence of any mammals.

Dugong carcass stranding

22/10/2021

- Samples were collected from a female dugong calf carcass that had stranded on the temple beach at Thiruchendur, Gulf of Mannar. The calf was 1.5 metres in length and weighed 25 kilograms.



Image 22. Dugong carcass stranding at Thiruchendur, Gulf of Mannar.

Outreach and awareness

02/10/2021

Coastal Clean-Up Day Celebrations

- The team was involved in an awareness and coastal & underwater clean-up event conducted by Alagappa University. We helped mainly in carrying out the underwater clean-up, assisting scholars and students in the same.



Image 23. Coastal Clean-Up Day Celebrations on 2nd October

Video outlining the structure and components of the Dugong Conservation Reserve

22-10-2021 & 26-10-2021

- We traversed the coastline to shoot videos of the coastal villages bordering the reserve to make a video for the UNESCO project on Alternative Livelihood Options, being carried out by Surabhi Foundation, Mumbai. This was to create a basic understanding of the region to facilitate efficient decision making regarding the Dugong Heritage Centre.

Capacity building

Field Training for State Forest Service Officers from CASFOS, Coimbatore

07-10-2021

- We demonstrated and explained state forest service officers during their field visit to OMCAR Foundation at Mallipattinam.
- We helped explain about the importance of coastal sea grass ecosystems and the proposed dugong conservation reserve, also about the key marine concepts and instruments used in marine research.



Image 23. Field Training for State Forest Service Officers from CASFOS, Coimbatore

Demo of Drone operation to Marine Police Thondi and drone Orientation Workshop

11/10/2021, 23/10/2021

- A small demo of drone usage was given to Thondi Marine police. The demo consisted of explaining structure and functioning of drone for marine mammal surveys and threat mapping.



Image 24. Demonstration of drone operation to Marine Police Thondi

- The WII team conducted 2 workshop on 23rd (Thanjavur) and on 27th October (Pudukottai) which was attended by 18 frontline staff of the Thanjavur forest department and 21 frontline staff of the Pudukottai forest department.
- The workshop covered topics like an introduction to UAV's, DFO and some other participants flew the drone for a hands-on experience.



Image 25. Drone Orientation Workshop was conducted

November 2021

Research & Monitoring

1. Seagrass, Marine Mammals, macrobenthos and Threat survey, North Palk Bay

06/11/2021, 23/11/2021, 26/11/2021, 29/11/2021

- Total 3 surveys were conducted on 3 different days (6th, 23rd, 29th) at 3 different areas (Velivayal, North Palk Bay, Manamelkudi, North Palk Bay, Ammapttinam, North Palk Bay) respectively.
- Five-point counts on transect T4 offshore, Six-point counts on transect T18, six-point counts on transect T20 were conducted in respective days (6th, 23rd, 29th).
- Drop down quadrat and van veen grab methods were used for sea grass characterization, 15 sediment samples were collected for macrobenthos and nutrient analysis.
- *Halophila sp.*, *Syringodium sp.*, *Halodule sp.* and *Cymodocea sp.* were found in the surveyed areas.



Image 26. Seagrass, Marine Mammals, macrobenthos and Threat survey, North Palk Bay

26/11/2021

Setubawachhatiram, North Palk Bay

- The hydrophone was deployed for half an hour for passive recording. The recording was checked for noise levels and presence of any mammals. Drone survey was also conducted to detect dugongs in the area.

Seagrass Temporal Assessment Surveys

22/11/2021

- Total of 18 points were surveyed off Therukku Pudukkudi using drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab methods in traditional fishing vessels.
- Sediment samples were collected.



Image 27. Seagrass Temporal Assessment Surveys were performed

Outreach and Awareness

World Fisheries Day Awareness Programme

21/11/2021

The WII team member gave a talk at the world Fisheries Day Awareness Programme for the fisher community at a community meeting at Jambuvanodai, Thiruvarur District. The event was conducted by the TN Fisheries Department, along with the TN Coastal Security Group. Even the Forest department was part of the event. The community meeting was followed by a coastal clean-up event



Image 29. World Fisheries Day Awareness Programme

December 2021

Research & Monitoring

Seagrass, Marine Mammals, macrobenthos and Threat survey in North Palk Bay Region

1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26/12/2021

- A total of 64 points on different transects were surveyed over 8 days for sea grass characterization, marine mammals presence and threat mapping.
- Drop-down quadrat and van veen grab methods were used, (12, 15, 30, 30, 15, 30, 15, and 30) sediment samples were collected respectively.
- *Halodule sp.*, *Halophila sp.*, *Syringodium sp.* and *Cymodocea sp.* species were found in the surveyed areas.



Image 30. Van veen grab was used to collect data



Image 31. Secchi disk was used for checking the turbidity



Image 32. Point counts for Marine Mammals and Threat survey

Fish Market Survey at Kattumavadi, north palk bay

20/12/2021

We surveyed retail fish market at Kattumavadi for documenting fish diversity in seagrass area. Fish species, number of individuals and cost of the catch sold by each seller was recorded.



Image 33. Fish Market Survey at Kattumavadi, north palk bay

Seagrass Temporal Assessment Surveys

2nd, 19th, 30th, 31/12/2021

- A total of 32 points were surveyed using drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab. Sediment samples were collected.
- On 30th and 31st there were 4 dugongs sighted (2 dugongs each day)



Image 34. Quadrant was being prepared for sea grass assessment surveys

Capacity Building

Felicitation for 5 Dugong Rescuers

23/12/2021

- 5 dugong rescuers were felicitated with a sum of Rs. 10,000/- and honoured by the Honourable Minister of Forests of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of District Collector of Thanjavur District, 11 Members of the Legislative Assembly, 2 Members of the Parliament, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Tamil Nadu, Chief Conservator of

Forests of Trichy Circle, Thanjavur District Forest Officer, Fishermen Society Head of Nagapattinam District.



Image 35. Felicitation for 5 Dugong Rescuers

January 2022

Research & Monitoring

24th, 25/01/2022

Fish Market survey North Palk Bay

- We surveyed auction fish market at Manamelkudi and Setubawachhatiram respectively for documenting fish diversity in seagrass area.
- Single species cluster as well as mixed species cluster of fish catch was observed in the market. All fish sold in Manamelkudi market were caught from nearshore seagrass area. Fishes belonging to families Gerreidae, Mullidae, Carangidae, Hemiscyllidae, Siganidae, Latidae and Sphyaenidae were recorded.



Image 36. Fish Market survey at North Palk Bay



Image 37. Fish catch was recorded

Sea grass temporal assessment surveys

13th, 14/01/2022

A total of 18 points were surveyed for air and water parameters using drop-down quadrat, water sampler and grab. Sediment samples were collected.



Image 38. Temporal Sea grass assessment was being conducted

Outreach and Awareness

Tamil Nadu Synchronized Bird Census-Phase I

27th – 29th Jan

- WII Team and 10 volunteers from Alagappa University conducted first ever synchronized bird census by Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- 5 areas were surveyed; Nearly 20000 birds of about 80 species were sighted and recorded. Several bird experts joined the survey.



Image 39. Glimpse of Tamil Nadu Synchronized Bird Census-Phase I

February 2022

Research & Monitoring

08/02/2022

Fish Market Survey at Setubawachhatiram, North Palk Bay

- We surveyed auction fish market at Setubawachhatiram for documenting fish diversity in seagrass area. Fishes belonging to families Hemiramphidae, Mugilidae, Gerreidae, Mullidae, Carangidae, Hemiscyllidae, Siganidae, Latidae, Sphyraenidae etc were recorded.

Fish netting survey in seagrass areas

18th, 19th, 21/02/2022

- Fish netting was done at T4, T6, T16 transect on 3 different days at (Velivayal, North Palk Bay, Manora, North Palk Bay, Krishnajibattinam, North Palk Bay) places respectively, using 30 mm, 55 mm and 70 mm mesh size on two-point counts to document fish diversity in seagrass areas.
- Bycatch collected through the netting was weighed and fishes belonging to families were recorded.



Image 40. Fish netting survey in seagrass areas was being conducted

Outreach & Awareness

12th and 13th February 2022

Synchronized bird census of Tamil Nadu state, Phase 2

WII Team participated in the second phase of the first ever synchronized bird census conducted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

5 areas were surveyed, and several bird experts were part of it as well.



Image 41. Glimpses of Synchronized bird census of Tamil Nadu state, Phase 2

March 2022

Research & Monitoring

02/03/2022, 25/03/2022

Fish netting survey in seagrass areas

- Fish net sampling was done at T10 and T12 transect on 2 different days at Somanathanpattinam, North Palk Bay, using 30 mm, 55 mm and 70 mm mesh size on two-point counts to document fish diversity in seagrass areas.
- Fishes belonging to families Terapontidae, Gerreidae, Hemiscyllidae, Latidae, Tetradontidae, Ostraciidae and Mullidae were caught in this survey. Jelly fish, urchins, Mantis shrimps, sea stars, shrimps, crabs, seaslugs, sponges were recorded as bycatch.



Image 43. Netting survey in seagrass areas was conducted

Fish market surveys

21/03/2022, 22/03/2022

- We identified retail fish market locations from Manamelkudi to Mimisal in North Palk Bay for future surveys on 21st March.
- We surveyed auction fish market at Kattumavadi for documenting fish diversity in seagrass area on 22nd March. Fish species, number of individuals and cost of the catch brought by each individual fisher was recorded.
- Fishes belonging to families Hemiramphidae, Mugilidae, Gerreidae, Mullidae, Carangidae, Hemiscyllidae, Ariidae, Latidae, Sphyraenidae, Serranidae etc were recorded.



Image 44. Species recorded at fish market surveys

Fish gut content analysis

29th – 31st March 2022

- Gut of seagrass associated fish collected from net sampling at North Palk Bay region were extracted. Analysis of gut contents of these fish was conducted at lab facility at Alagappa university.
- The fragments found in gut content of seagrass associated fish were segregated. A ratio of segregated fragments was obtained in reference to total fragment count in the gut.



Image 45. Fish gut content analysis was performed

Dugong Stranding

14/03/2022

- A carcass of a fully grown male dugong washed ashore at Indira Nagar Beach, Periyapattinam, Gulf of Mannar on 13th March 2022. Necropsy was performed by a forest veterinary doctor on 14th

March 2022. Tissue, gut and bone samples were collected by the team in the presence of forest staff.



Image 46. Necropsy being performed of dugong carcass

Outreach and awareness

04/03/2022

Meeting with Thanjavur District Forest Officer regarding Palk Bay Dugong Conservation Reserve

- The team met with Mr. Akhil Thambi IFS, DFO, Thanjavur district, to discuss the preparation of a detailed project report and budget split for the sanctioned Rs. 25 lakhs for preparation of the DPR.

- We also listed out all necessary activities that need to be carried out in order to prepare the DPR. Mr. Anbu, OMCAR Foundation and forest officials were present during the meet



Image 47. Meeting with Thanjavur District Forest Officer regarding Palk Bay Dugong Conservation Reserve

Reimagined Sustainable Livelihoods Post COVID-19 in Gulf of Mannar World Marine Biosphere Reserve – UNESCO Phase 1 Workshop

05 – 11/03/2022

- A video literacy workshop for 14 participants from the local fisher community was conducted by Surabhi Foundation as Phase 1 of the project.
- WII team gave a talk on underwater photography and videography in the workshop.
- The participants made videos in 2 days (last 2 days of the 6-day workshop) where they received field training in shooting and editing

videos. The videos were then judged and the best 3 were awarded with certificates. All videos were chosen to be published on Newsreel Asia.



Image 48. Reimagined Sustainable Livelihoods Post COVID-19 in Gulf of Mannar World Marine Biosphere Reserve – UNESCO Phase 1 Workshop

Training Video on Seaweed Cultivation using Rafts for local coastal communities

09 – 15/03/2022

- The team helped renowned photographer, Mr. Anirban Duttagupta, Project Director, UNESCO-Reimagined Livelihoods in shooting of the training video on seaweed cultivation. Other partners were CMFRI, Mandapam, CMSCRI, Mandapam, Sea6 Energy, Mandapam, DHAN

Foundation, Rameshwaram, and seaweed cultivators from Mandapam, and Rameshwaram.



Image 49. Training Video on Seaweed Cultivation using Rafts for local coastal communities



Image 50. Training Video on Seaweed Cultivation using Rafts for local coastal communities

World Forest Day Celebrations

21/03/2022

The team was invited by the Ramanathapuram Forest Range Officer to give a talk to school children of Karangkadu village to mark World Forest Day. WII team member gave a talk on the importance of coastal habitats- mangroves and seagrass, and on the issue of littering.



Image 51. World Forest Day Celebrations

April 2022

Research & Monitoring

01/04/2022 – 10/04/2022

Fish gut content analysis

- Gut of sea grass associated fish collected from net sampling at North Palk Bay region were extracted and analyzed at Alagappa University.
- The fragments found in gut content of sea grass associated fish were segregated. A ratio of segregated fragments was obtained in reference to total fragment count in the gut.



Image 52. Gut content of *Psammoperca waigensis* and observing it under the microscope.

Outreach & Awareness

27/04/2022

Underwater biodiversity awareness and Beach Cleanup for National Stand-up Paddle athletes in Partnership with Quest Asia Water sports academy

- In light of Dugong Day, on 27th April we conducted underwater biodiversity awareness and Beach Cleanup for National Stand-up

Paddle athletes in Partnership with Quest Asia Water sports academy, Ocean Ambassadors, Yolo kayak, Gopro, Tamil Nadu tourism and JKR group at Kurusadai Island. All participants traveled to island by a stand-up paddle making the event more eco-friendly.



Image 53. Stand-up paddling to and fro to the Kurusadai Island and conducting beach cleanup with the athletes.

Awareness workshop for underwater biodiversity and its monitoring with cameras for water babies program of Quest Asia water sports academy

30/04/2022

- On 30th April, we conducted workshop for underwater biodiversity and its monitoring with cameras for water babies program of Quest Asia water sports academy and Ocean Ambassadors NGO.
- Water babies are school kids of local fisher folk who are trained for different water sports. Wildlife Warden Mr. Jagdish Bakan attended the workshop to encourage the kids.



Image 54. Training water babies for monitoring underwater biodiversity with cameras

May 2022

29/05/2022, 30/05/2022

Dugong Stranding's

- 3 dugongs were found stranded on 2 different days. A small dugong got stranded at manora, palk bay (29th). The cause of death could not be confirmed as carcass was decomposed.



Image 55. Stranded Dugong necropsy was performed at Manora, Palk bay

- An adult dugong was found stranded on Kilakarai Beach. Necropsy was done by the forest department.



Image 56. Stranded Dugong necropsy was performed at Kilakarai

- A sub-adult dugong got stranded at Kottaipattinam. Necropsy was performed by the veterinarian and our team. The cause of death could not be confirmed as carcass was decomposed.



Image 57. Dugong necropsy was performed at Kottaipattinam

Dugong sighting

Dugong sighting at off Adhipattinam coast, Palk Bay

29/05/2022

- A herd of 5 dugongs were sighted by fishermen, who gave images of the same to our team. Herding and high number of human-dugong

encounters (over the years) may suggest a lekking season in the month of March in Palk Bay.



Image 58. Dugong herd sighted at off coast near Adhipattinam

Outreach and Awareness

23rd to 25th May 2022

Conducting awareness programs for fisher community

- We arranged an awareness programs and 2 small fisher community meetings in different places. Dugong Conservation reserve was the main theme for all awareness programs.
- We have thanked the local fisher community for their efforts yet again and encouraged them to keep up the good work at Rajamadam where many dugongs have been released before.



Image 59. Conducting awareness programs for fisher community at different villages.

Underwater and Beach Cleanup programs and awareness rally

27/05/2022

- We conducted underwater and Beach Cleanup programs at kodimunnai, Manamelkudi today. Forty school kids rallied to the Cleanup site with dugong banners along with DFO & RFO, Pudukkottai district, Fisheries inspector Manamelkudi, Ecotourism village head, Manamelkudi, team Temple Adventures, pondicherry and local volunteers.
- We collected 10 gunny bags of trash nearby watchtower in Kodimunnai. The trash was handed over to local Panchayat for further disposal. School kids were encouraged to learn various techniques like diving, snorkelling, rescue trainings.

- Small tree plantation drive was also conducted after the clean-up.



Image 60. Underwater cleanup program along with team Temple Adventures and fishers



Image 61. School kids rallied and beach cleanup conducted along with DFO & RFO, Pudukkottai district

Dugong day celebration

28/05/2022

We were invited for the Dugong day by the OMCAR Foundation at their Palk Bay centre.

A painting competition themed 'life underwater' for village kids was arranged. Kids from age 9 to 15 participated. We gifted stickers and t-shirts to the winners of competition. A scholarship distribution for fisher widow's kids was given by OMCAR foundation on the same occasion.

A village meeting at Somanathanpattinam was arranged in joint efforts with Forest Department, OMCAR Foundation and our team. OMCAR Foundation distributed solar lights to the fisher community. We have been whole heartedly welcomed by the villagers.



Image 62. Dugong day celebration with OMCAR Foundation

June 2022

Research and monitoring

Dugong stranding at multiple locations

5th, 7th, 27/06/2022

- Several dugongs were found stranded at Setubawachattaram (5th), Pamban (7th) and at Rajamadam (27th).
- Necropsy was performed by the veterinarian and our team. Tissue samples were collected by the team.



Image 63. Dugong stranding at Setubawachattaram on 5th June 2022



Image 64. Dugong stranding at Pamban on 7th June 2022



Image 65. Dugong stranding at Rajamadam on 27th June 2022

Dolphin stranding at Therukku pudukudi

- On 7th June, Dolphin was stranded at Therukku pudukudi. WII team visited the site with forest department for proper disposal of carcass.



Image 66. Dolphin stranding at Therukku pudukudi

Fish point count at kodimunnai Beach, Manamelkudi

22/06/2022

On 22nd June, we conducted Fish point count using GoPro at kodyimunai beach, Manamelkudi. The camera was setup for fish species observations in seagrass meadows.

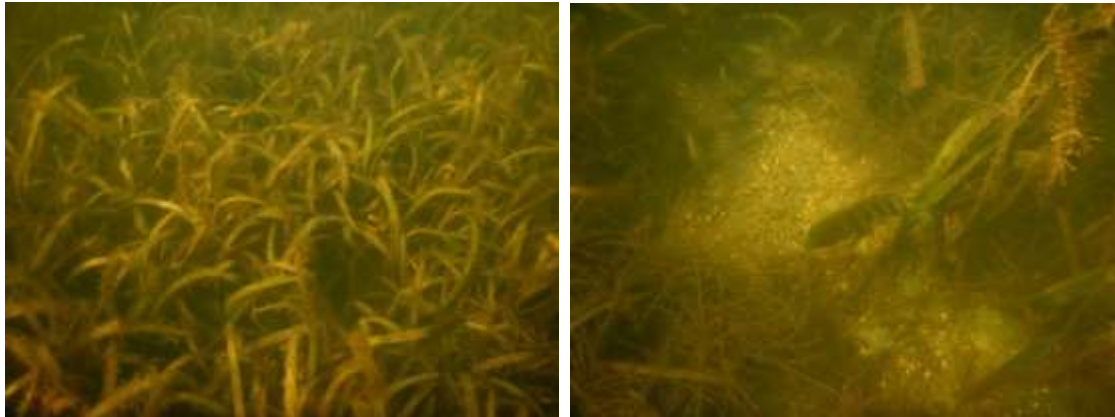


Image 67. Fish point count at Kodimunnai beach, Manamelkudi

Outreach and Awareness

World Environment Day Activity

05/06/2022

- An awareness event was organized by the CAMPA-Dugong project team at Arichalmunai where a sand sculpture depicting a dugong surrounded by other marine fauna, such as turtle, sea cucumber, starfish, crab and shrimp was made by the CAMPA-Dugong project team along with volunteers from Alagappa University.
- The CAMPA-Dugong project team at TN, students from Alagappa University, volunteers from the fisher community of Dhanushkodi along with around 80 members of the Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Security Group and Revenue Department, Pondicherry, formed a human chain signifying the quote “Only One Earth”.



Image 68. World Environment Day celebration

July 2022

Research & Monitoring

16/07/2022

Porpoise stranding at PV Pattinam

- On 16th July, Porpoise stranding took place at PV Pattinam. Whole carcass was preserved for marine mammal stranding workshop.



Image 69. Porpoise stranding at PV Pattinam

Dugong stranding at Avudiyarpattinam

26/07/2022

- On 26th July Dugong was stranded at Avudiyarpattinam. Necropsy was performed by the veterinarian and WII team. Tissue and gut content samples were collected.



Image 70. Dugong stranding at Avudiyarpattinam

Outreach and Awareness

01/07/2022

Opening ceremony of Kodimunnai Ecotourism in Dugong conservation reserve area

- On 1ST July, The WII team was invited as a guest for the opening ceremony of the Kodimunnai ecotourism centre which is part of Dugong conservation reserve area.



Image 71. Opening ceremony of Kodimunnai Ecotourism in Dugong conservation reserve area

Visit to quest academy with Pudukkottai Range Forest Officer for ecotourism center

06/07/2022

- On 6th July, the WII team along with RFO, Pudukkottai district, visited Quest Asia water sports academy at Pirapanvalasai to discuss about the planning for water sport activities at the Kodimunai ecotourism center.



Image 72. Visit to quest academy with Pudukkottai Range Forest Officer for ecotourism center

Diploma IFS training course field work in Gulf of Mannar

11/07/2022 – 14/07/2022

- From 11th to 14th July, Diploma IFS training course students along with Scientists from WII were taken for snorkelling at Kurusadai Island and Olaikkuda Beach.
- We explained the marine biodiversity and habitats around the area. We also briefed them about Dugong, seagrasses, its habitats and gave dugong souvenirs to them.



Image 73. Diploma IFS training course: Field work in Gulf of Mannar