

# Dugong Action Plan in New Caledonia

*Phase 2 (2016-2021) Last developments*

[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)

# CONTEXT

## State of the Dugong population in New Calédonia



[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)

# State of the population

One of the biggest dugong population in the world, but with only hundreds of individual remaining. An isolated and vulnerable population

Population size



**750**

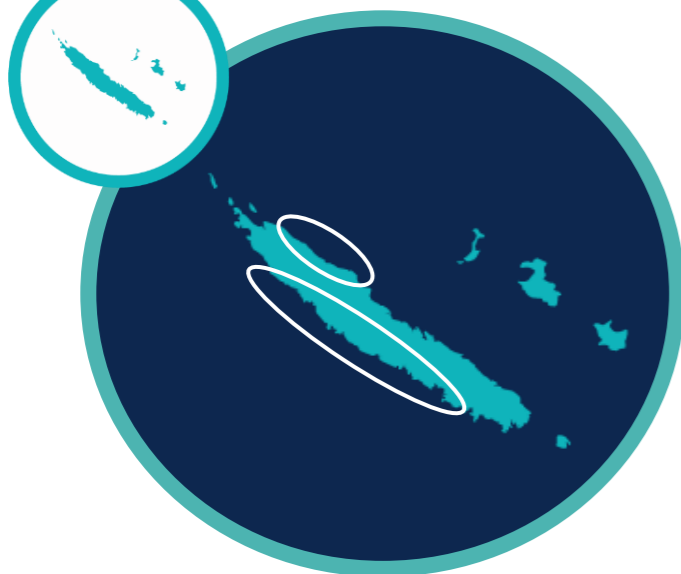
Demography



**Probably**



Distribution



Connectivity



**Isolated**



# Threats



## Main Threats



**Poaching**



**Bycatch**



**Collision**



**Habitat degradation**

Poaching has not been officially quantified to date, but the testimonies and information collected are numerous and recurrent

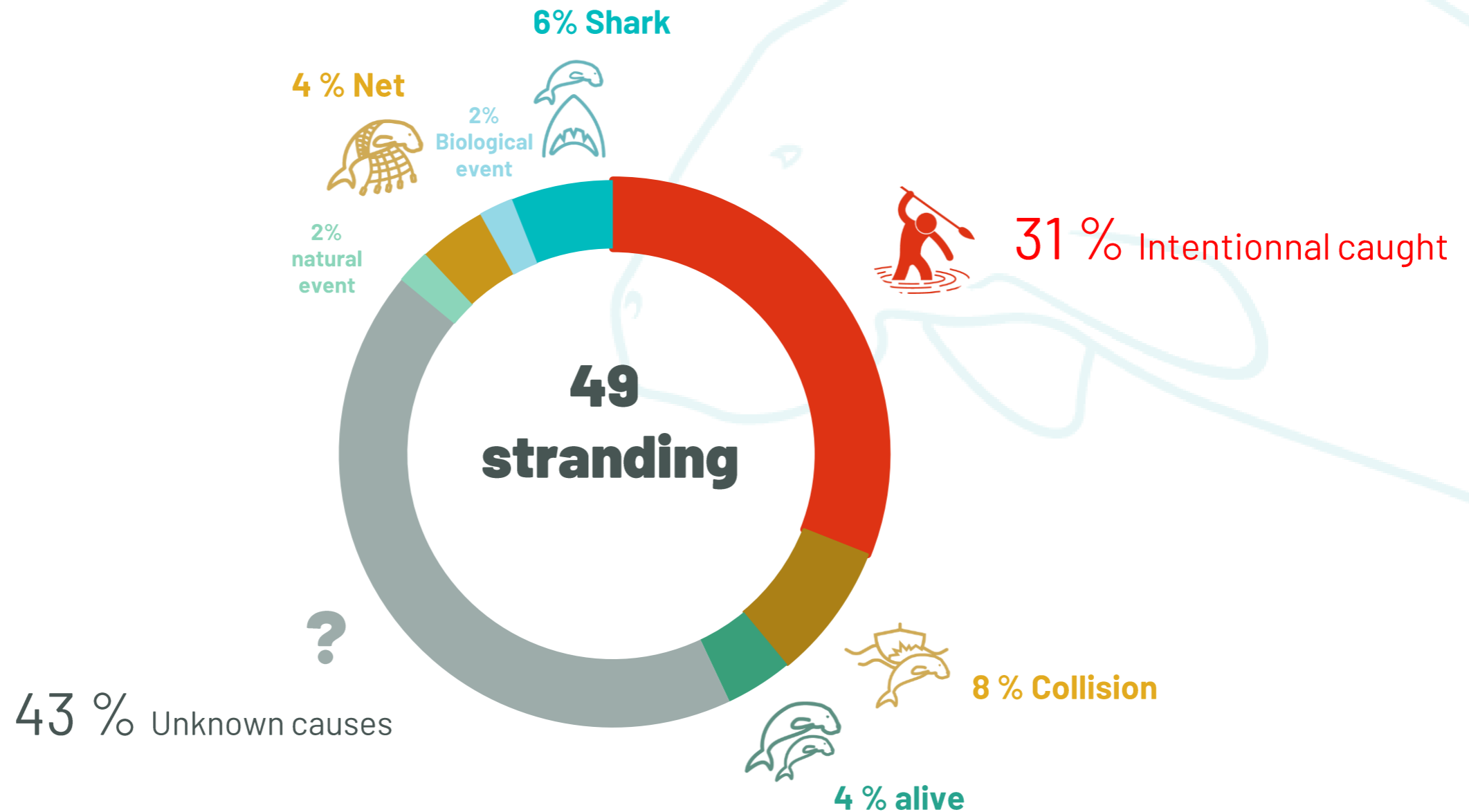
Scientific knowledge from recent years shows that, given the number of remaining dugongs in New Caledonia, **this population will decrease irrevocably as long as human threats will persist.**



# Threats



Opération Cétacé collected data on stranding :



# Action Plan



[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)



# Action plan



- **Dugong Action Plan – Phase 1 (2010–2015)**
- **Dugong Action Plan – Phase 2 (2016–2021)**
  - The Conservatoire d'espace naturel (CEN) took over the animation in 2016
  - Multiple members :



*Animated by :*



**Conservatoire  
d'espaces naturels  
Nouvelle-Calédonie**



[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)



# Exemple of actions: Population census

[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)



# Population census



## A census carried out in 2018-2019

Survey New Caledonia Dugongs and map their distribution  
A new protocol based on aerial imagery

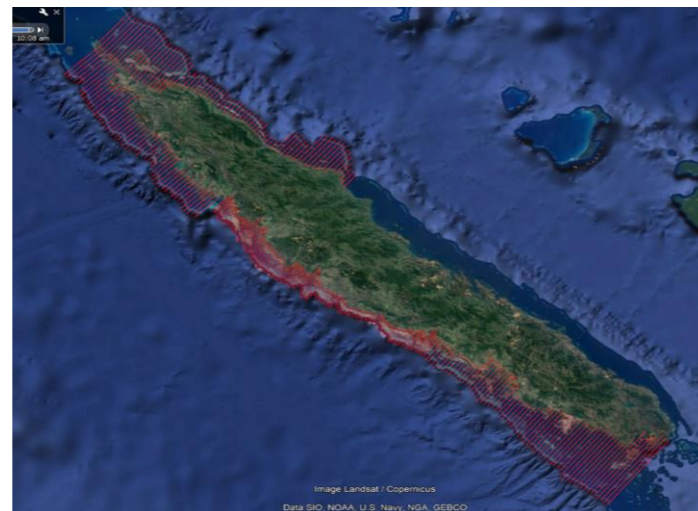
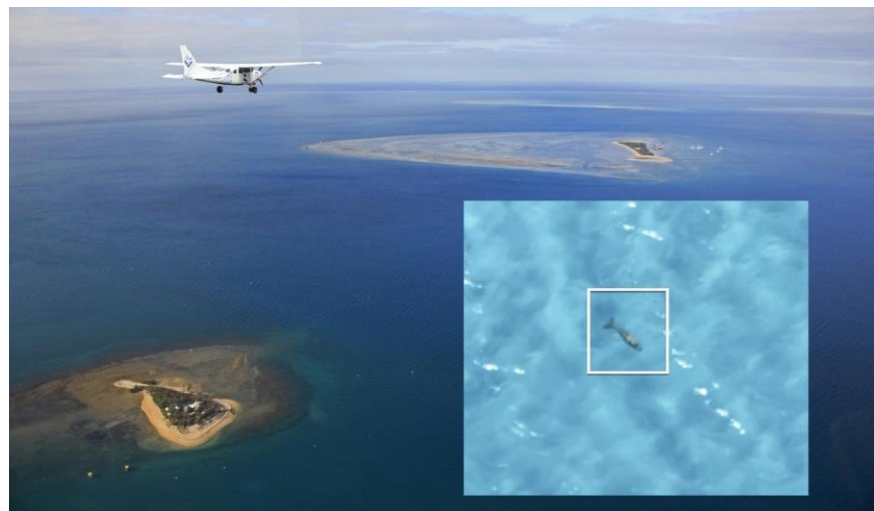
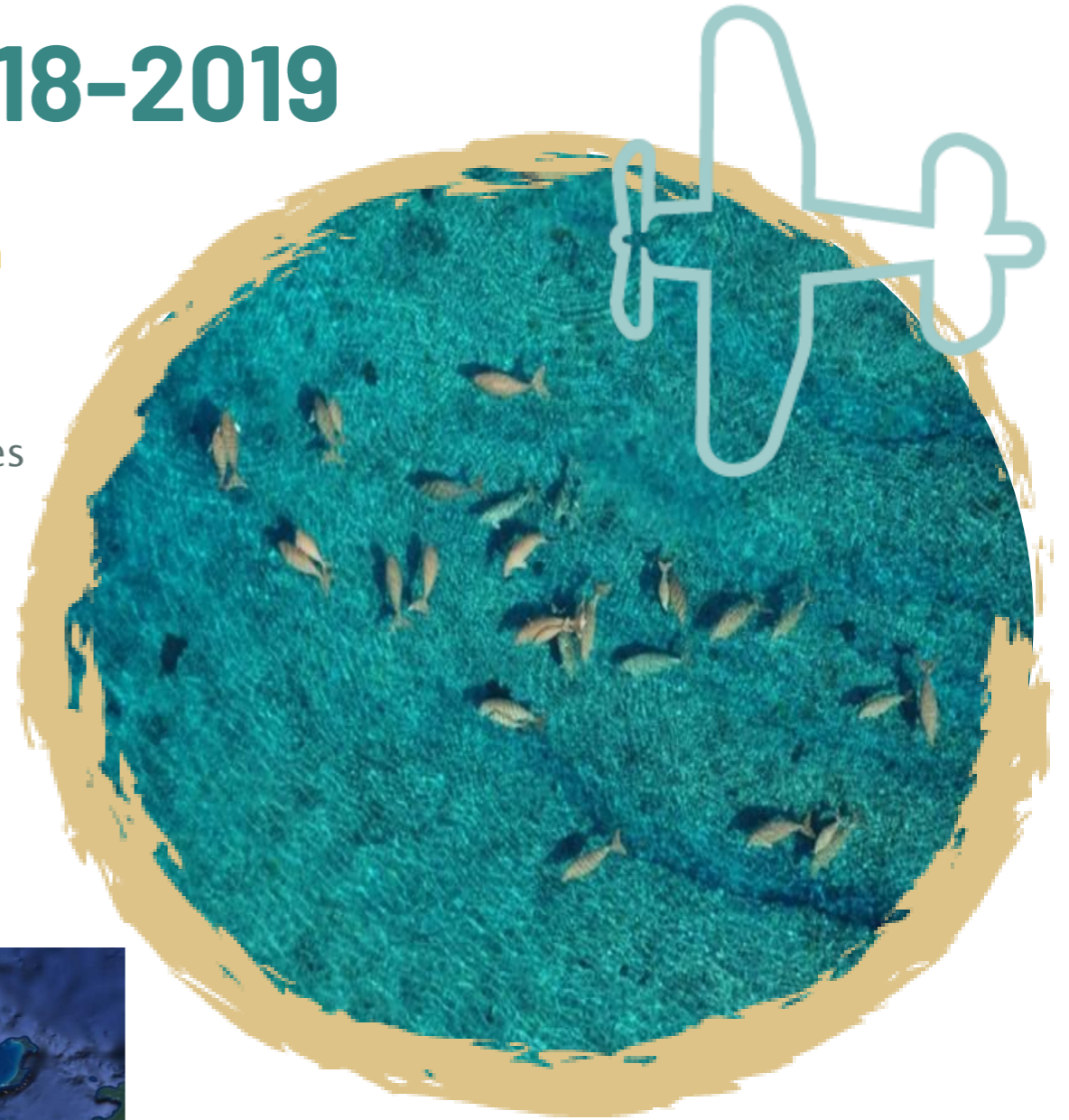
Realised by WIPSEA consortium (company specialized in images analysis for ecology)



Project manager



Funders



# Population census

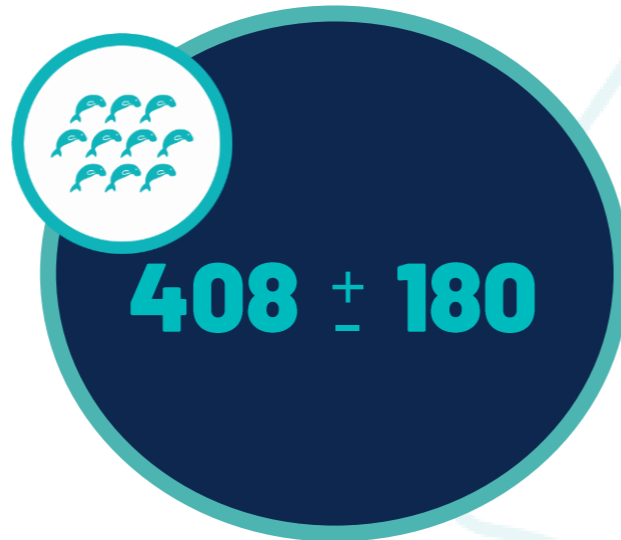


## Results

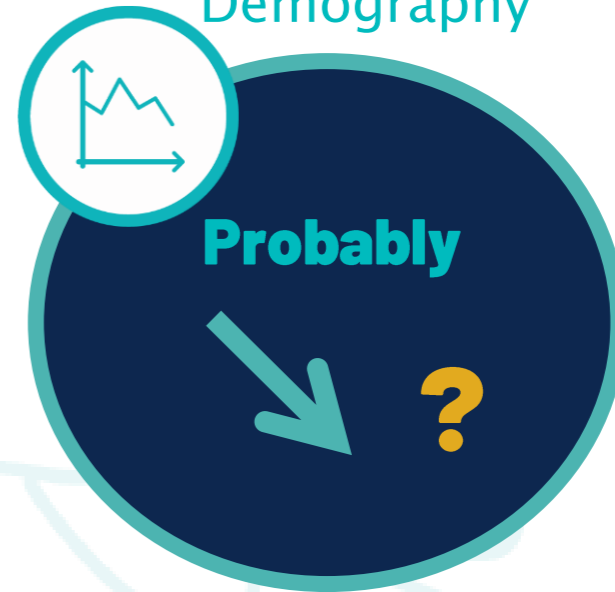
77 ind  
detected with certainty



Population size estimate



Demography



## HOWEVER :

Several biais :

- Environmental factors
- Dual counting
- Observer biais

Compatibility with « standard protocol »  
is still an open question !!

→ Not possible to compare these results  
with previous census campaign

*For the moment it raises more question than answers,  
But this is clearly the methodology of the futur and we do hope we will be able to link it to past  
methodologies... it certainly may require substential fundings*



# Raising awareness



School activities to raise awareness among children → through the CIE

Development of an information kit for schools (work started by the Aquarium des Lagons) → This project has been temporarily stopped and will have to be restarted

## Information & awareness stands



## A new logo and graphical chart for the Action Plan



Charte graphique Action Dugong - 2020



[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)



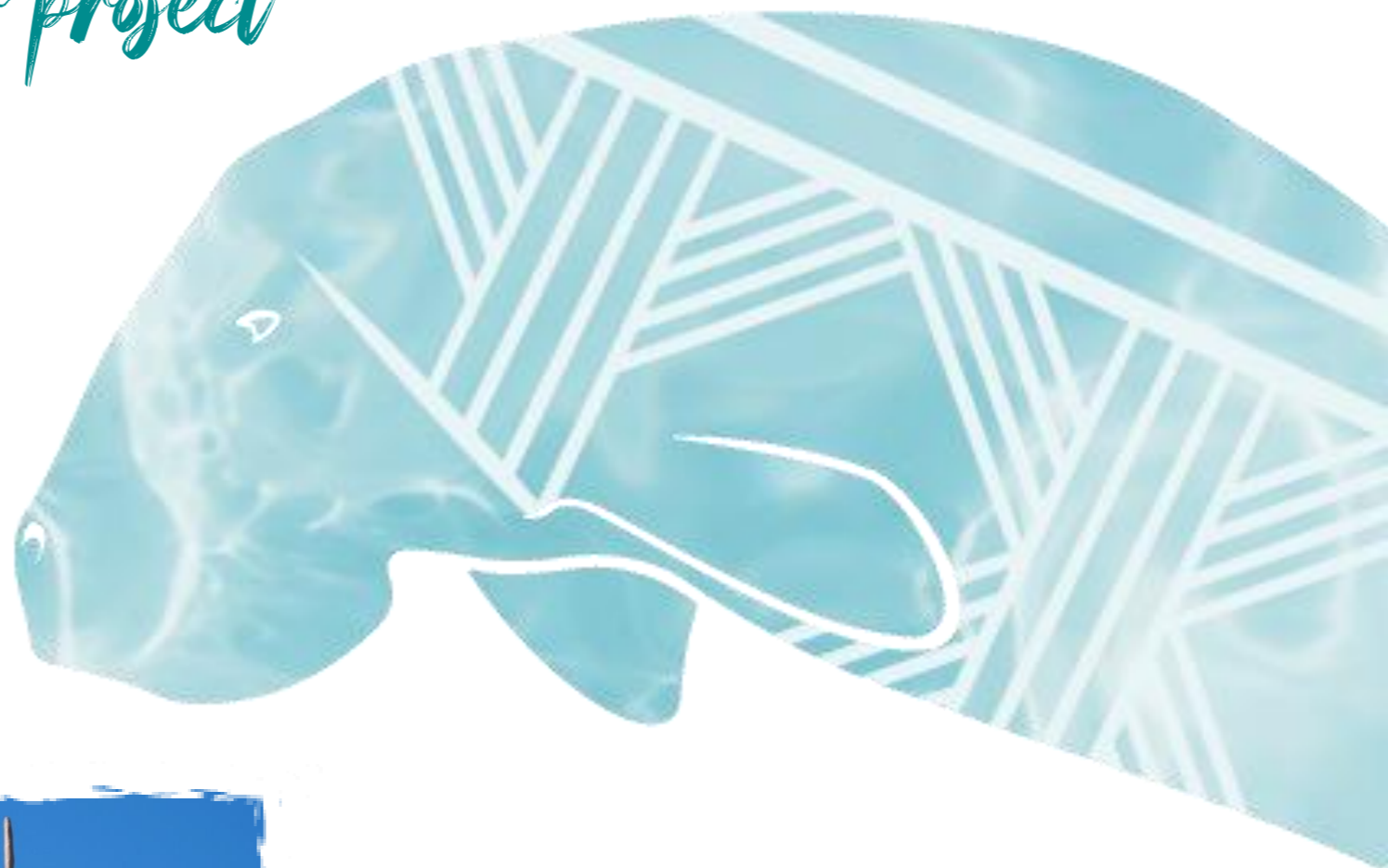
# Raising awareness



## *Futur project*

### Tribal surveys in order to :

- better understand the place of the dugong in the Kanak culture
- raise awareness and particularly to poaching



*"The preservation of the dugong is also important for the preservation of the culture"*



# IN THE FUTURE

The last years, we had difficulties to advance on the action plan due to lack of agent time.

To stop the dugong's decline, **it is urgent to invest more in the action plan !**

By :

- **The mobilization of funds** for the actions and especially :
- **The mobilization and the additional financing of human time of coordination**





THANK YOU  
For your attention



[WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG](http://WWW.CEN.NC/PLAN-ACTIONS-DUGONG)

*Animé par :*



Conservatoire  
d'espaces naturels  
Nouvelle-Calédonie

