



V E S S  
VANUATU ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE SOCIETY

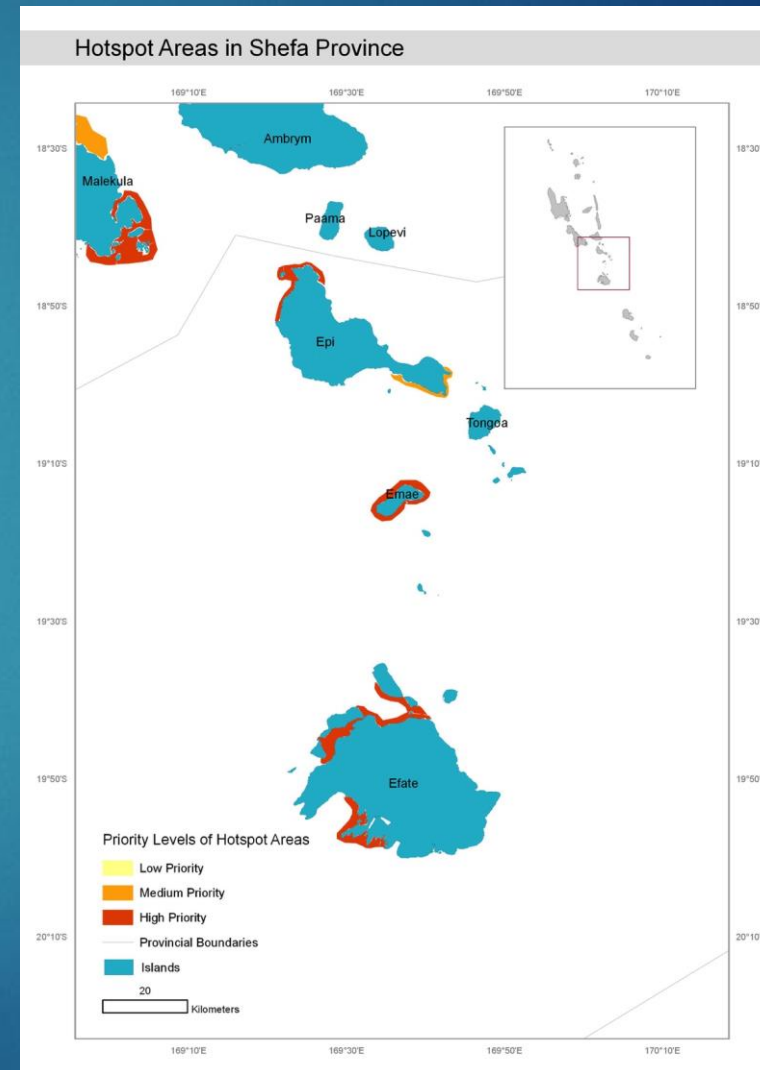
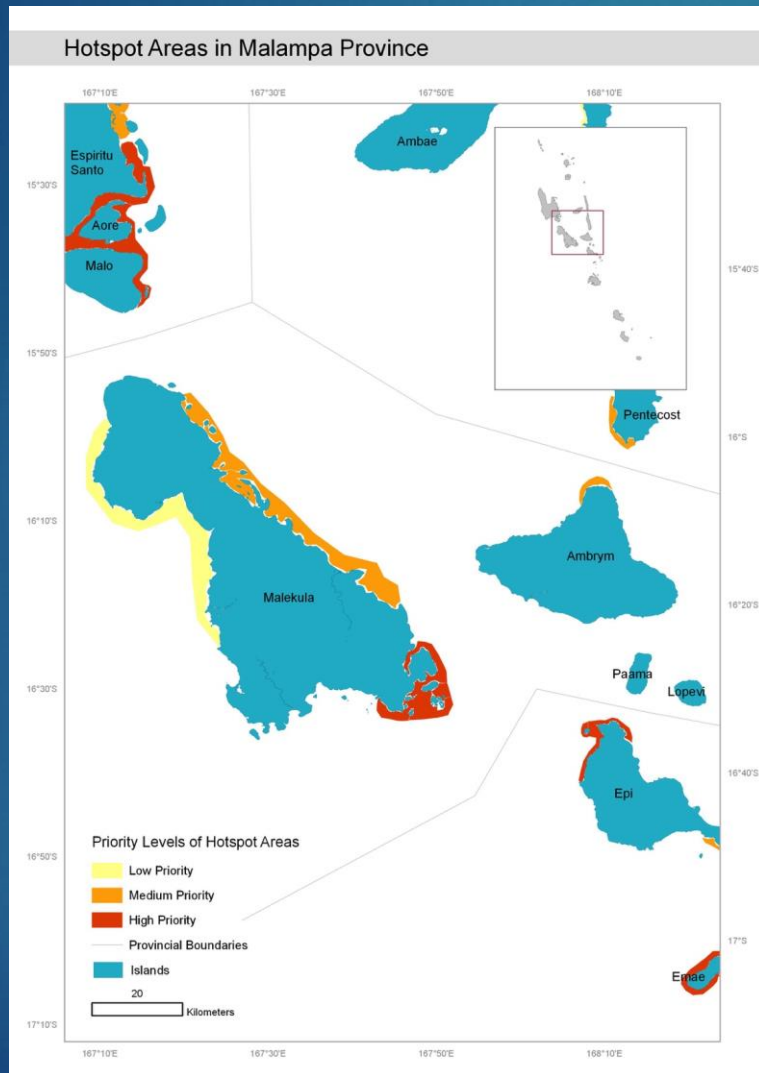
# Dugongs in the Pacific

# Regional initiatives



GEF funded Regional project involving 8 developing countries from 2014 to 2018

# Dugong hotspots in Vanuatu from questionnaire survey



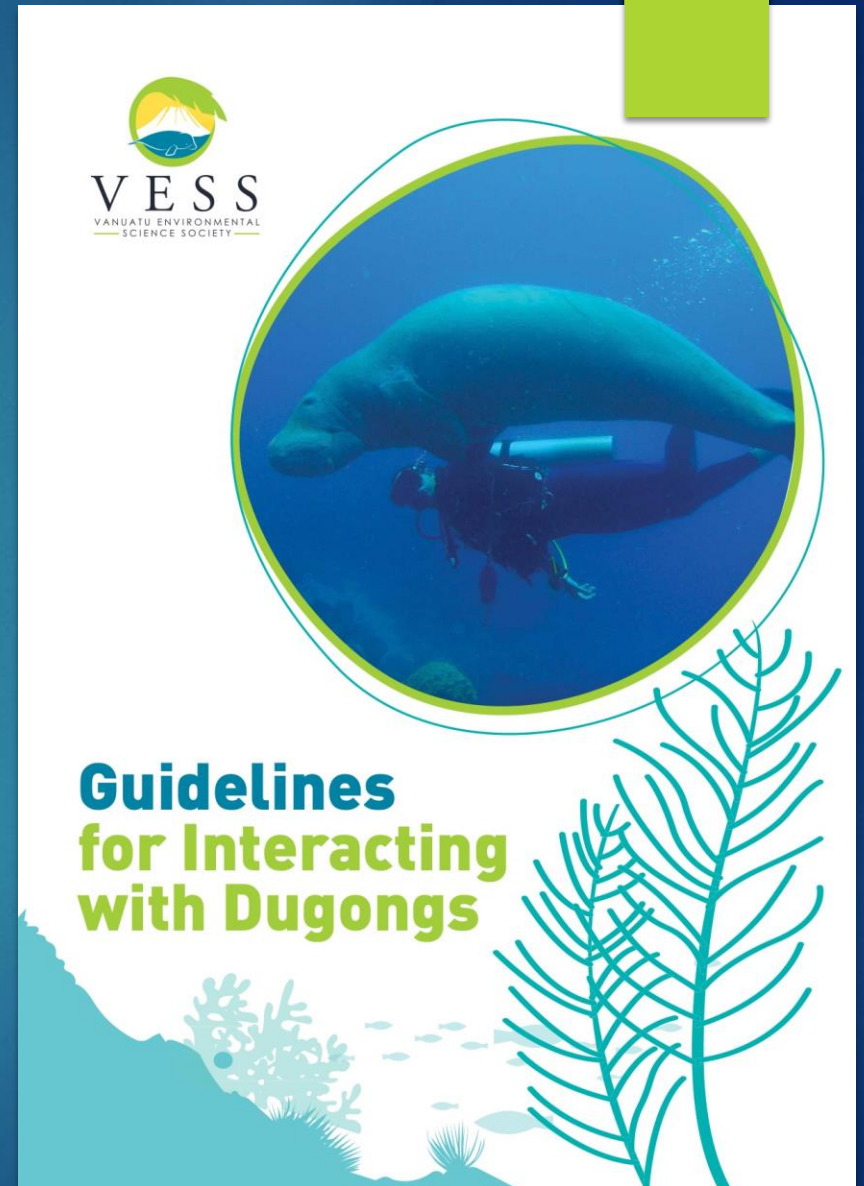
# Drone surveys



# Dugong guidelines

For people to have once-in-a-lifetime encounters with these fascinating marine mammals, every encounter with a dugong needs to be a positive experience for the dugong as well as for the people.

- ▶ Guideline booklet
- ▶ Code of conduct for tourism operator booklet
- ▶ Poster for swimming snorkeling or diving
- ▶ Poster for vessels without engines (Kayaks, canoes, sailing dinghies)
- ▶ Available in English, French and Bislama
- ▶ The guidelines are available to download on the VESS website:  
<https://www.vanuatuconservation.org/guidelines-for-interacting-with-dugongs/>





243° perpendicular to shore line MS: Medium Sand FS: Fine sand BS: Brittle star CS: coarse sand SC: sea cucumber  
 F: Fish SH: Shell S: sand GS: Gastropods CR: coral rubble SP: sponge C: coral WD: water Depth (cm)

### SEAGRASS-WATCH MONITORING

ONE OF THESE SHEETS IS TO BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH TRANSECT YOU SURVEY

OBSERVER: CS, AS, DK, MS DATE: 13/09/18  
 LOCATION: Laman Bay, EP1  
 SITE code: EP1 TRANSECT no.: 1  
 START TIME: 10:57am END TIME: 11:45am

START of transect (GPS reading)  
 Latitude: 16° 13.163' S Longitude: 108° 09.558' E

Quadrat (meters from transect origin)	Sediment (eg. mud/sand/shell)	Comments (eg. 10x gastropods, 4x crab holes, digong feeding trails, herbarium specimens taken)	% Seagrass coverage	% Seagrass species composition				Canopy height (cm)	% Algae cover	% Epi- cover
				CR	TH	HU	WD			
1 (0m)	MS, S	-	✓ 22	50	40	10	66	4,6,3	5	40
2 (5m)	S, FS, MS	GS X3	✓ 20	20	50	30	76	6,5,8	15	40
3 (10m)	S, CS	GS, C	✓ 18	70	10	20	80	5,4,4	5	24
4 (15m)	CS, S, CR	SP	✓ 15	20	50	30	85	7,9,4	8	48
5 (20m)	CS, S, CR	SP, C	✓ 20		40	60	90	4,7,7	10	42
6 (25m)	CS, S, CR	C	✓ 23		60	40	95	8,16,6	5	42
7 (30m)	CR, C	C	✓ 0	0	0	0	56	0,0,0	70	0
8 (35m)	CS, S, CR	C, SP	✓ 10		20	80	62	6,2,6	4	25
9 (40m)	CR, S, CS	SP, C	✓ 2		100		71	16,10,16	70	2
10 (45m)	CS, CR	SC, C	✓ 1			100	90	3,4,3	0	36
11 (50m)	S, CS, CR	F	✓ 8	10	90		96	11,13,12	10	25

END of transect (GPS reading)  
 Latitude: 16° 35.154' S Longitude: 108° 09.525' E

# Seagrass Monitoring with Seagrass-Watch



# Enforcement actions

- ▶ Vanuatu fisheries department have conducted enforcement activities
- ▶ A dugong calf which was being kept at a tourism property was confiscated in 2014.
- ▶ A penalty notice of Vt100,000 (approx. US \$1000) was issued to four fishers who caught a dugong in nets and consumed it.



# Creating capacity – Vanuatu example

- ▶ Two Ni-Vanuatu marine scientists have been employed on the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. 5 Ni-Vanuatu students assisted with the questionnaires
- ▶ 2 Ni-Vanuatu Scientists employed on the CEPF-funded dugong project
- ▶ 8 Vanuatu scientist have been trained in seagrass assessment and monitoring.
- ▶ 4 Fisheries officers have participated in seagrass monitoring events







Thank  
you for  
listening