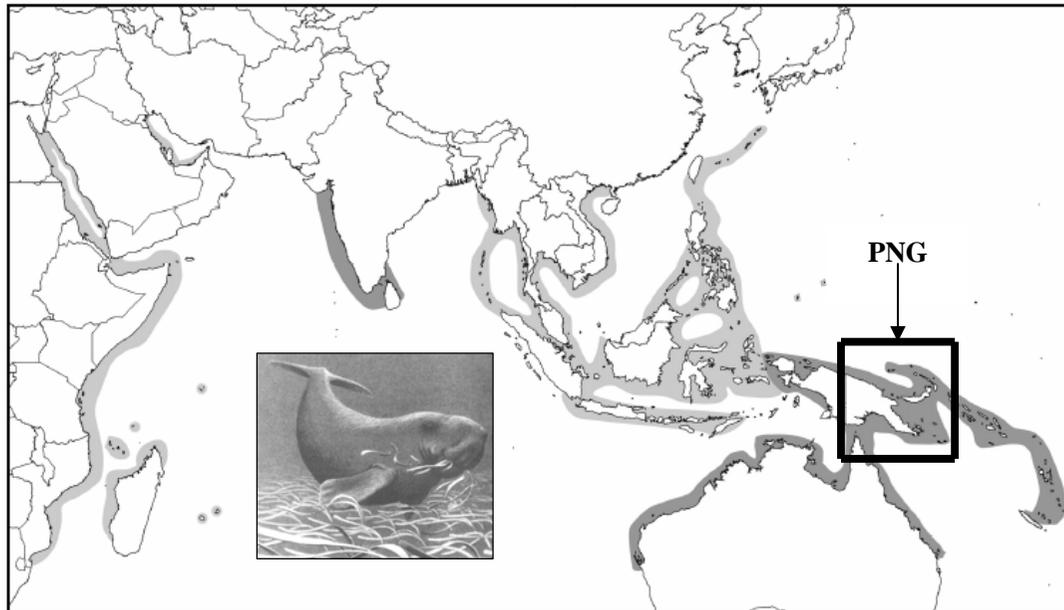


Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) - Bulmakau long solwara

Colour: Medium grey, with lighter coloration on belly. Presence of bristles on snout and a few small hairs all over body.

Body length: Ranges from 1 m when new-born to 3.3 m as an adult.



Life History: Dugongs can live to up to 70 years of age. They become sexually mature between the age of 10 to 17 years. Female dugongs give birth to 1 calf (child) every 2 to 7 years. For dugongs, pregnancy lasts for about 11 to 13 months before birth. The mother will breast feed its calf (like a baby) until it is 18 months old and will look after it until it reaches sexual maturity and it can then go off and start its own family..



Distribution range: (Dark shading represents known remaining populations)

Dugongs have a high biodiversity value and are vulnerable to extinction. Survey's suggests that dugong numbers have decreased throughout most of their range. PNG is one of the last places to still have some dugongs.

Harvesting: Dugongs are easily hunted because they feed in areas that have seagrasses. Because of their life history, even if just one dugong dies, this death can cause a decline in the overall population.

Government Protection: Under the PNG Flora and Fauna Act, dugongs are Protected animals. This means that you can be fined K 500 for: 1. Killing a dugong, and 2. Buying or selling dugong meat or teeth.

