



# Boating Guidelines

If a dugong approaches a **stationary vessel** closer than 15 metres, the vessel **need not withdraw**.

When moving **away** from a dugong, idle at a **low speed** until you are at least 15 metres away, then accelerate gradually to no wake speed.



Speed may be increased once you are 100 metres away.

## NO APPROACH ZONE



15 metres

100 metres



No wake speed



Minimum distance between a vessel interacting with dugongs and other vessels is **100 metres**



Go slow in dugong habitat





# Dugong Code of Conduct

## Why protect dugongs?

Dugongs are considered to be endangered marine mammals, and all over the world, their populations are declining. In the past, dugongs were present in many parts of East Africa but now, most of those populations have been wiped out or seriously reduced. The dugongs that live in the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park are thought to be the **last viable population anywhere in East Africa**.

Because of this, dugongs are strictly protected in the park. All tour operators and visitors are required to adhere to this Code of Conduct, to help us protect our dugongs and their habitat.

## Some facts about dugongs

Common name: Dugong (En) dugongo (Pt)

Scientific name: *Dugong dugon*

- Dugongs are mammals they breathe air and give birth to live babies which feed on their mothers' milk
- A dugong calf stays with its mother for the first 18 months of its life
- Dugongs are herbivores - they eat seagrass. They can stay underwater for 6 minutes before surfacing
- Dugongs spend much of their time alone or in pairs, though they are sometimes seen gathered in large groups, known as herds
- They can live for about 70 years
- They grow up to 3 metres (10 ft) in length
- Dugongs can weigh up to 500 kg (1,100 pounds)