







## Photo Quiz

Have a guess at what it  
is that we are looking at?

Maybe it's:

- > a well feed dolphin
- > a hippo going for a swim
- > a walrus
- > a sea lion

Answer:

its a dugong dugon!

## Notes

### What do we know about dugongs?

- > Dugongs are enormous aquatic mammals that can weigh over a tonne.
- > They could hardly be described as beautiful but they do have a certain grace underwater.
- > The dugong is also known as the 'Sea Cow'.
- > Over time, their bodies have evolved to become streamlined and they have lost their hind limbs as part of this process. They have unusually dense bones that probably help them stay submerged.
- > The UAE waters are the world's second largest home for the marine mammal.
- > The dugong is an endangered species.
- > Dugongs are long lived, and the oldest recorded one reached age 73.
- > The dugong is currently facing a number of threats due to human related activities such as:
  - > increased marine activity
  - > being caught in discarded fishing nets
  - > impact with boats
  - > marine pollution,
- > As well as a decline of its critical natural habitat – underwater sea grass beds.

### Did you know?

- > It is believed that mermaid legends may have stemmed from sailors catching glimpses of dugongs.
- > Dugongs can be found in at least 48 countries.
- > 7,000 dugongs live in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea, making it the largest dugong population outside Australia.
- > 40% of the Gulf and Red Sea dugong population is in UAE Waters.