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Children's dugong book to support Torres Strait marine management

A children's book, "Dhyum the dugong", about dugongs by James Cook University Super Science Post Doctoral Fellow, Mariana Fuentes, will be launched during the International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns on 11 July 2012.

The book written to educate children about the importance of conserving dugongs will be distributed to the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and to schools across the Torres Strait.

The main character of the book Dhyum the dugong is based on a dugong which was satellite tagged on Mabuiag Island in 2010 and named by the local kids.

Author, Mariana Fuentes, consulted with the TSRA Land and Sea Management staff to make sure the book was culturally appropriate and portrayed key messages.

The TSRA Chairperson, Toshie Kris, said the book was a great example of collaboration between Torres Strait Islanders and the scientific community.

"To have scientists and TSRA staff working together on communication products that benefit the broader Torres Strait Islander community is tremendous," he said.

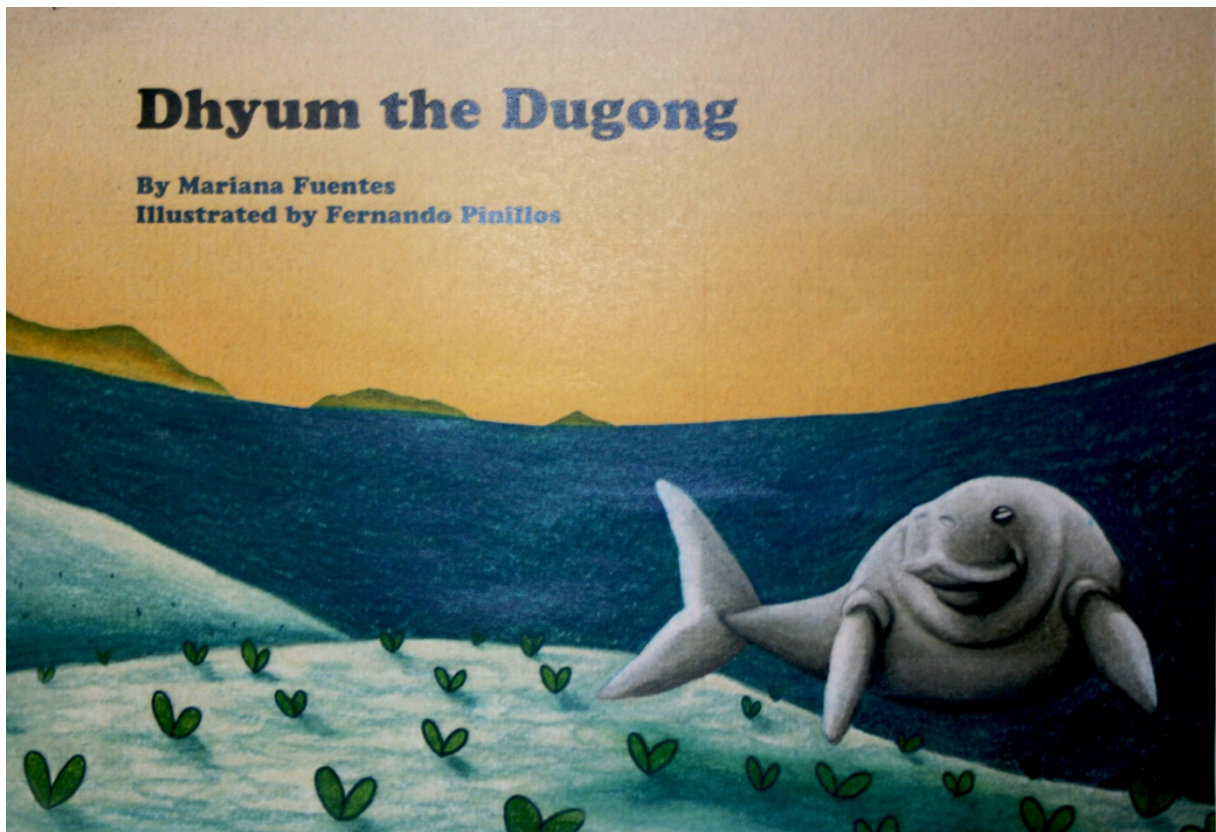
"Dugong conservation is a vital issue for Torres Strait Islanders and Dr. Fuentes's book will help children understand the importance of looking after these endangered mammals."

"Teaching kids to look after sea country, including fish, turtles and dugongs, is a vital step in creating a sustainable future for Torres Strait Island communities."

"This book will be a valuable resource for TSRA's Land and Sea Rangers as they work with communities to protect and conserve dugongs."

"On behalf of the TSRA I would just like to thank Dr. Fuentes for giving us the opportunity to work with her on this important book. We look forward to the July launch."

Limited copies of the book will be available at the launch. After the launch copies of the book can be downloaded at the author's website <http://marianafuentes.com>



Caption: The children's book, "Dhyum the dugong", will help children understand the importance of looking after the mammals

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