



CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE  
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



SOM19  
2024

# THE 19TH SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE | 4-5 DECEMBER 2024

[www.coraltriangleinitiative.org](http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org)

Country Report:

MALAYSIA

Dr Tan Beng Hoe,

Representative of Committee Senior Official (CSO)

Ms Nur Farahin Binti Safar,

Representative National Coordination Committee (NCC)

Mr Lawrence Kissol Jr,

Deputy Director of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOFS)

Mr Ernest Jinaut,

Principal Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOFS)



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A photograph of an underwater scene. In the foreground, a large sea turtle with a patterned shell is swimming towards the right. In the background, a diver with a light is visible against the deep blue water. The scene is set near a coral reef.

# Country Focal Points 2023-2024

| WORKING GROUP                   | FOCAL POINT  | AGENCY   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| National Coordination Committee | Ms. Roslinda Binti Ulang,<br>Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division,<br>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.   | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.  |
| Seascape                        | Mr. Azhar Kassim,<br>Director of Fisheries Conservation and Protection,<br>Department of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Sabah  | Department of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Sabah   |
| EAFM                            | Mr. Azhar Kassim,<br>Director of Fisheries Conservation and Protection,<br>Department of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Sabah.   | Department of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Sabah   |
| MPA                             | Dr. Maklarin Lakim,<br>Director Of Sabah Parks, Sabah Parks<br>Ms. Rimi Repin,<br>Principal Assistant Director of Research and Education<br>Division, Sabah Parks<br>Alternate: Mr. Adam Malik bin Masidi,<br>Marine Research Officer, Sabah Parks | Sabah Parks  |
| TSWG                            | Mr Dato' Adnan bin Hussain,<br>Director General Department of Fisheries,<br>Department Of Fisheries.   | Department Of Fisheries  |
| CCA                             | Ms. Roslinda Binti Ulang,<br>Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division,<br>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability<br><br>Alternate: Dr Ejria Saleh, Borneo Marine Research Institute,<br>Universiti Malaysia Sabah | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.<br><br>Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah |

| WORKING GROUP               | FOCAL POINT  | AGENCY   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| FRWG                        | Ms Datuk Noryahati Binti Awang,<br>Deputy Secretary General Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.  | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability |
| MEWG                        | Ms Datuk Noryahati Binti Awang,<br>Deputy Secretary General Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability.  | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability |
| IRC                         | Ms. Roslinda Binti Ulang,<br>Undersecretary, Environmental Management Division,<br>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability  | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability |
| WLF                         | Dr. Aazani Mujahid,<br>Senior Lecturer, Universiti Malaysia Sabah  | Universiti Malaysia Sabah                                      |
| CT Atlas                    | Dr. Maklarin Lakim,<br>Director Of Sabah Parks, Sabah Parks<br>Ms. Rimi Repin,<br>Principal Assistant Director of Research and Education<br>Division, Sabah Parks<br>Alternate: Mr. Adam Malik bin Masidi,<br>Marine Research Officer, Sabah Parks | Sabah Parks  |
| CTMPAS Nomination Committee | Ms. Mary Isidore Malangking<br>Deputy Permanent Secretary I<br>Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment<br>Sabah   | Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment<br>Sabah          |

# Country Profile

# Country Profile

## Biophysical profile:

- Malaysia, located at the western boundary of the Coral Triangle, is a critical player in marine conservation, given its rich biodiversity and extensive coastline.
- The Coral Triangle is known as the global center of marine biodiversity, housing 76% of the world's coral species, and Malaysia contributes significantly to this diversity with its unique coral reefs and abundant marine species. Coral reefs of Malaysia cover approximately 3,600 square kilometers, mainly concentrated around the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and the waters of Sabah in East Malaysia including fringing reefs and atolls, form crucial habitats for a variety of marine organisms.
- The region supports over 550 species of reef-building corals and about 1,200 species of reef fish, underscoring its status as a biodiversity hotspot.
- Malaysia's marine environment is also rich in other significant species, including marine mammals like dugongs, sea turtles, dolphins, and whales.





# Country Profile



## Socio-economic profile:

- Malaysia's socio-economic profile is characterized by its diverse demographic structure, robust economic performance, and significant reliance on coastal communities for livelihoods.
- As of 2024, the population of Malaysia is approximately 35.56 million, with a male-to-female ratio of about 109.9 males for every 100 females.
- Economically, Malaysia has shown a strong growth trajectory. In the first half of 2024, the GDP growth rate was recorded at 5.1%, with economic framework focuses on enhancing economic resilience, promoting inclusivity, and addressing structural challenges, positioning Malaysia to better navigate global uncertainties while pursuing long-term development goals.
- The socio-economic landscape of Malaysia is significantly influenced by its extensive coastal zones, home to more than 30% of the Malaysian population, playing a crucial role in the nation's socio-economic activities.
- These regions are particularly vital for the fisheries sector, with tens of thousands of fisherfolk relying on the rich marine resources for their livelihoods. The fishing industry not only contributes to the country's food security but also supports the economic well-being of many coastal communities. Traditional and commercial fishing activities are widespread, particularly in the states of Sabah and Sarawak, which are part of the ecologically rich Coral Triangle.



# Country Profile

## Government profile:

- The Malaysian government has made substantial progress in marine conservation through its **National Plan of Action (NPOA)** under the **Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)**.
- The NPOA focuses on five main areas: **sustainable management of seascapes, implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), climate change adaptation, and the protection of threatened species.**
- This comprehensive plan aims to integrate marine conservation with sustainable development goals across Malaysia's coastal and marine zones.
- Key government departments involved in conservation activities include the **Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF)**, **Department of fisheries Sabah (DOFS)** which leads projects related to fisheries management, and the **Sabah Parks**, overseeing protected marine areas like Tun Mustapha Park.
- Malaysia has also established financial mechanisms to support these conservation initiatives such as the **National Conservation Trust Fund for Natural Resources (NCTF)**, provides financial resources to ensure the implementation and scaling up of conservation activities.
- Through these efforts, Malaysia continues to work towards achieving its conservation goals under the Coral Triangle Initiative, aiming for a balanced approach to marine resource use, habitat protection, and sustainable fisheries management

The background of the slide is a photograph of an underwater scene. On the left, a diver is visible, illuminated by a bright light, swimming towards the right. In the center-right, a large sea turtle is resting on a coral reef. The water is dark blue, and the coral is various shades of brown and orange. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the diver's light providing the main source of illumination.

# Technical Working Groups' Progress/ Accomplishments Towards NPOA

# Seascapes

## Activities organized/attended related to Seascope:

- Seascapes Technical Working Group Meeting  
4th March 2024
- Discussion with NCC Malaysia on the Implementation of the "Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope Approach To Coral Reef Sustainable Livelihoods" (SEACONNECT) Project  
8th May 2024
- Sulu-Sulawesi Seascope (SSS) Regional Exchange 2 and the Bismarck Solomon Sea (BSS) Regional Exchange, back-to-back with the Seascope Technical Working Group Meeting  
12th – 16th August 2024
- Discussion on the implementation of GIZ-SOMACORE Project with WWF-Malaysia  
21st August 2024

# Seascapes

## Challenges:

- ❖ Time constraint for project implementation
- ❖ Lack of dedicated personnel for implementation of matters related to CTI



# Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

## EAFM Marine Awareness Program for Stakeholders

3 programs :-

- ❖ 29 February 2024 (Sandakan District)
- ❖ 29 July 2024 (Semporna District)
- ❖ 14 August 2024 (Kota Belud District)



# Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

## EAFM Marine Awareness Program for Schools

3 programs: -

- ❖ 5 Jun 2024 (S.K. Timbou, Tambunan)
- ❖ 19 July 2024 (Kinabalu Japanese School)
- ❖ 26 September 2024 (S.K. Timbou)



# Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

Essential Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries

Management Training for Stakeholders  
25-28 September 2024



# Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management

## Challenges:

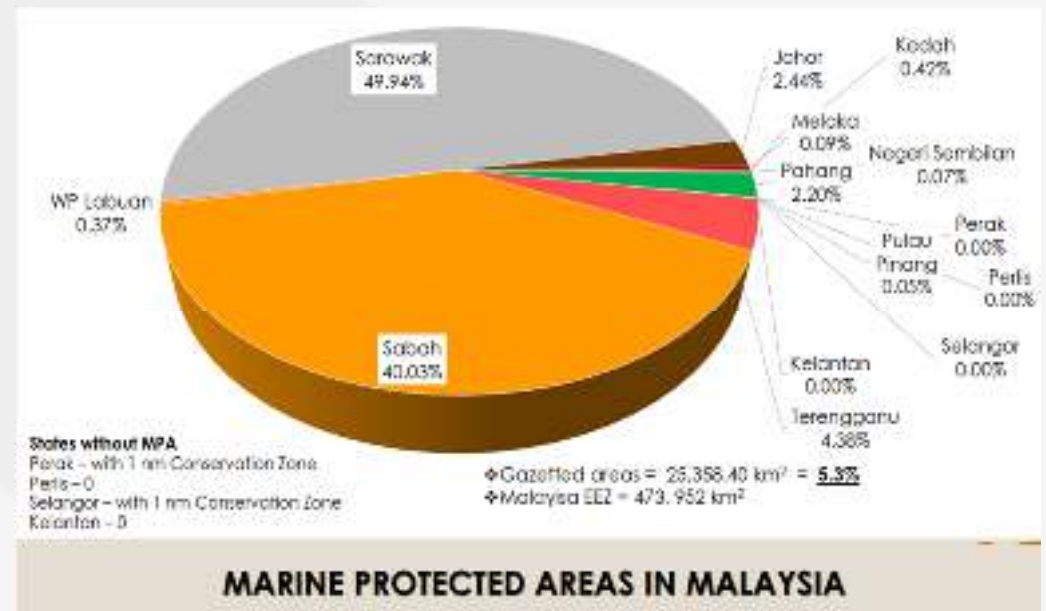
- ❖ Time constraint for project implementation
- ❖ Lack of dedicated personnel for implementation of matters related to CTI



## Marine Protected Area -

- Number of MPAs gazetted: 51
- Total coverage of MPAs: 25,358.40 KM<sup>2</sup> (5.3%)
- Target of MPA coverage by 2030: 10%
- MPA categories\* and coverage:
  - ✓ MPA: 2 ; total coverage: 16,370.78 KM<sup>2</sup>
  - ✓ MPA: 4 ; total coverage: 8987.62 KM<sup>2</sup>

\*based on MEAT-MPA Malaysia



## Marine Protected Area

- 2 sites nominated for IUCN Green List Standards: Tun Mustapha Park, Kudat & Turtle Islands Park, Sandakan
- Site(s) nominated for MPA of Excellence/Learning Site: Pitas Coral Bar, Tun Mustapha Park & Turtle Islands Park
- Turtle Islands Park, part of the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area, submitted to the ASEAN Heritage Park Committee has been submitted by both Malaysia and The Philippines as an ASEAN Heritage Protected Area



# Marine Protected Area

## Gazettement of new MPAs

- ❖ In-progress of the gazettement of 3 parks:
  - Mantanani Islands (196,998 ha) – management plan complete, zoning plan in-writing
  - Darvel Bay Park (103,393 ha) – public hearing in process
  - Tun Juhar Park – baseline data collection to begin 2025



Mantanani Island Park, Sabah (to be gazetted 2025)



Darvel Bay Park (to be gazetted end of 2024)

# Darvel Bay Gazettement Process

Workshops and meetings with Lahad Datu District stakeholders





# Marine Protected Area

## Corporate Involvement

- “Borneo Ultra Ocean Cleanup 3” held in conjunction with Ocean Celebration Day 2024 in Kota Kinabalu (29<sup>th</sup> June)
  - Program organized by the Malaysian Navy as part of their CSR program
  - In partnership with various dive companies & sponsored by local brands
  - Cleanup within the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Sabah Parks MPA
- Underwater cleanup sponsored by SAIL Malaysia (Malaysian yacht organization) (18<sup>th</sup> July)
  - Held in Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Kota Kinabalu with Park, NGO and dive company divers



# Marine Protected Area

## Youth Activities

- “Junior Park Rangers”, 2 marine-based environmental education programmes involving primary and secondary school children
  - “Virtual Tours – Wonders of Sabah Parks: From the Land to the Sea”, online through Zoom (24 Aug)
  - “Ocean Explorer, Turtle Islands Park 2024” – Sandakan District program (22 – 27 September)



# Marine Protected Area

## Other Activities

- “Coral Frame Adoption program”
  - A platform for public and companies to directly contribute to reef restoration started 2021
  - MYR 50 per coral fragment & MYR 150 per frame
  - Frames are planted in selected restoration sites throughout Marine Parks in Sabah
- “Turtle Nest adoption program”
  - A platform for public to support Turtle Islands Park conservation program
  - MYR 150 per nest, with certificates & updates through email
  - 90 nests adopted in 2024, with MYR 13,500 income



# Marine Protected Area

## Challenges:

- ❖ Lack of trained assessors for MPA – will be rectified after MY NPOA finalization
- ❖ Severe coral bleaching due to warmer than normal worldwide temperatures

# Climate Change Adaptation

- Existing vulnerability studies:
  - ❖ Seasonal Influences on Small Island Shoreline Erosion Vulnerability between Marine Parks in East and West Coast Sabah
  - ❖ Assessing Ecosystem Services and Socio-Ecological System Impacts and Outcomes of Mangrove Habitat Protection and Restoration in Malaysia
  - ❖ Local Early Action Plan for Batu Sirih, Pulau Balambangan, Kudat, Sabah.
  - ❖ Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Impact in Sabah.
  - ❖ Localized Sea Level Rise using Hydrodynamic Tools by States in Malaysia
- Relevant regulations for CCA:
  - ❑ The National Climate Change Policy 2.0 - Malaysia





# Climate Change Adaptation

Activities organized/attended related to CCA:

- Seagrass awareness for communities  
30 June 2024
- Mangrove planting in Sandakan Sabah  
24 August 2024
- Climate Change assessment with Community in  
Kudat, Sabah
- Climate Action: Nature based Solution  
Community in Semporna, Sabah



# Climate Change Adaptation

## Youth involvement / Corporate involvement

- World oceans day and CTD  
30 June 2024
- Climate Change awareness campaign  
12 June 2024
- Local Early Action Plan Assessment at  
MPA area



# Climate Change Adaptation

## Challenges:

- ❖ Lack of expertise to implement and monitor project
- ❖ Lack of funding for long term research project

## Threatened Species

Updated list (2024) of threatened species in the country sorted by IUCN categories:

- The recent IUCN assessment will soon list green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) as Least Concern, reflecting the positive impact of conservation efforts in regions such as Malaysia and the Philippines, particularly in the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA), the Northwest Shelf, and the Wellesley Group of Islands in Australia. This marks an improvement in the species' status from Endangered to Least Concern.

# Threatened Species

## Success in enforcement activity(ies):

- The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) of the Kudat Maritime Zone succeeded in thwarting an attempt to smuggle out the meat of an endangered species believed to be dried sea turtles meat in 2023 (865kg) and 2024 (160kg).
- The Marine Police Force (PPM) Sabah confiscated various species of endangered marine life worth more than RM5.2 million including nine metric tons of dried turtle meat in 2023





# Threatened Species

## Activities organized/attended related to protection of Threatened Species:

1. National and regional capacity-building for tracking, monitoring, and addressing illegal wildlife trade in Sabah
  - Training programmes for law enforcement to combat transnational organized crime, focusing on identifying illegal wildlife products and understanding trafficking networks.
  - Training on the care and management of confiscated wildlife, ensuring proper welfare, rehabilitation, and release of animals seized during operations.
  - Development of a rapid reference guide on illegal wildlife trade for law enforcement agencies in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.



# Threatened Species

Activities organized/attended related to protection of Threatened Species:

## 2. Assessment of threatened species

- Sharks and rays data collection at main jetties
- Study of shark and ray nursery ground using monsoon trawl at Nenasi (Pahang) – collaboration with MFRDMD/SEAFDEC
- Sea turtles tagging
- Sea turtles data collection – landing, hatch, release
- Research on hatching rate of sea turtle eggs in Malacca



# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

- Addressing marine megafauna bycatch through the deployment of electronic monitoring cameras in Sabah & Sarawak
  - Monitor and assess bycatch of threatened species in trawl fisheries and other fishing gears across Sabah and Sarawak.
  - Establishment of time-area closure to protect endangered hammerhead sharks and wedgefish
  - Number of marine threatened species especially green and olive ridley turtles, critically endangered scalloped hammerhead sharks and bottlenose wedgefish captured as bycatch in trawl fisheries, including specific data on capture rates and trends
  - The establishment of the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) i.e. East Tun Mustapha Park & Beluran.



# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

- Implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) to reduce bycatch of threatened species – sea turtles.
  - Bycatch reduction measures such as TEDs are actively being implemented to minimise accidental capture of threatened species.
  - Increased awareness and education among fishers on the use of TEDs.
  - Currently mandatory during the monsoon season in some states in Peninsular Malaysia (Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor) but still needs to be fully implemented in other states in Malaysia.
  - Effectiveness of measures are being assessed and able to inform effective measures to be adopted for usage.



# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

- Comprehensive threat mitigation and conservation programme for priority threatened species
  - Incubation of turtle nests in Terengganu and Sabah in support to Department of Fisheries, Sabah Parks and Sabah Wildlife Department.
  - Completion of boat-based surveys using photographic identification and line-transect methods to estimate dolphin populations in Rajang-Belawai-Paloh Delta, Sarawak
  - Completion of 12-months fishers on-board monitoring of dolphin bycatch incidents in Rajang-Belawai-Paloh Delta, Sarawak
  - Mapping of critical habitat for marine turtles in Semporna, Sabah using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs) and GIS technology





# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

- Monitoring study on dolphin in Penang Waters
  - Determine the dolphin habitat areas by mapping the species distribution within the study area.
  - Collect data and information as a baseline study for dolphin conservation actions in the identified areas.
  - Field monitoring to assess areas identified as dolphin 'hotspots'



# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

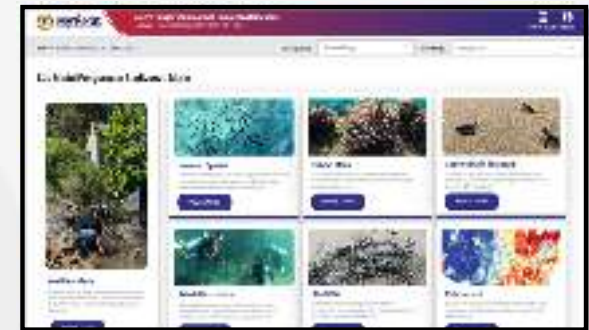
- Development and implementation of Marine Plastics Program
  - includes deploying surface cleanup vessels in Sabah, conducting underwater cleanups, and running awareness campaigns
  - This activity involves MRF's marine plastics program, initiated in 2022, which focuses on combating marine pollution through coordinated efforts such as underwater cleanups and surface vessel cleanup operations in collaboration with the City Hall of Kota Kinabalu (DBKK) and partners from Japan.



# Threatened Species

## Technological advancement:

- Developing Malaysia Fisheries Resource System
  - This system will serve as a support system to aid decision-making and improve the efficiency of managing marine parks and the country's fisheries resources
  - Consists of 10 main modules including Marine Biodiversity Management
  - This system is expected to be operational by the second quarter of 2025.



# Threatened Species

## Youth involvement:

- Sabah Parks Junior Park Rangers Program:
  - A program designed to educate school children about environmental conservation within parks in Sabah, fostering environmental awareness from a young age.



# Threatened Species

## Challenges:

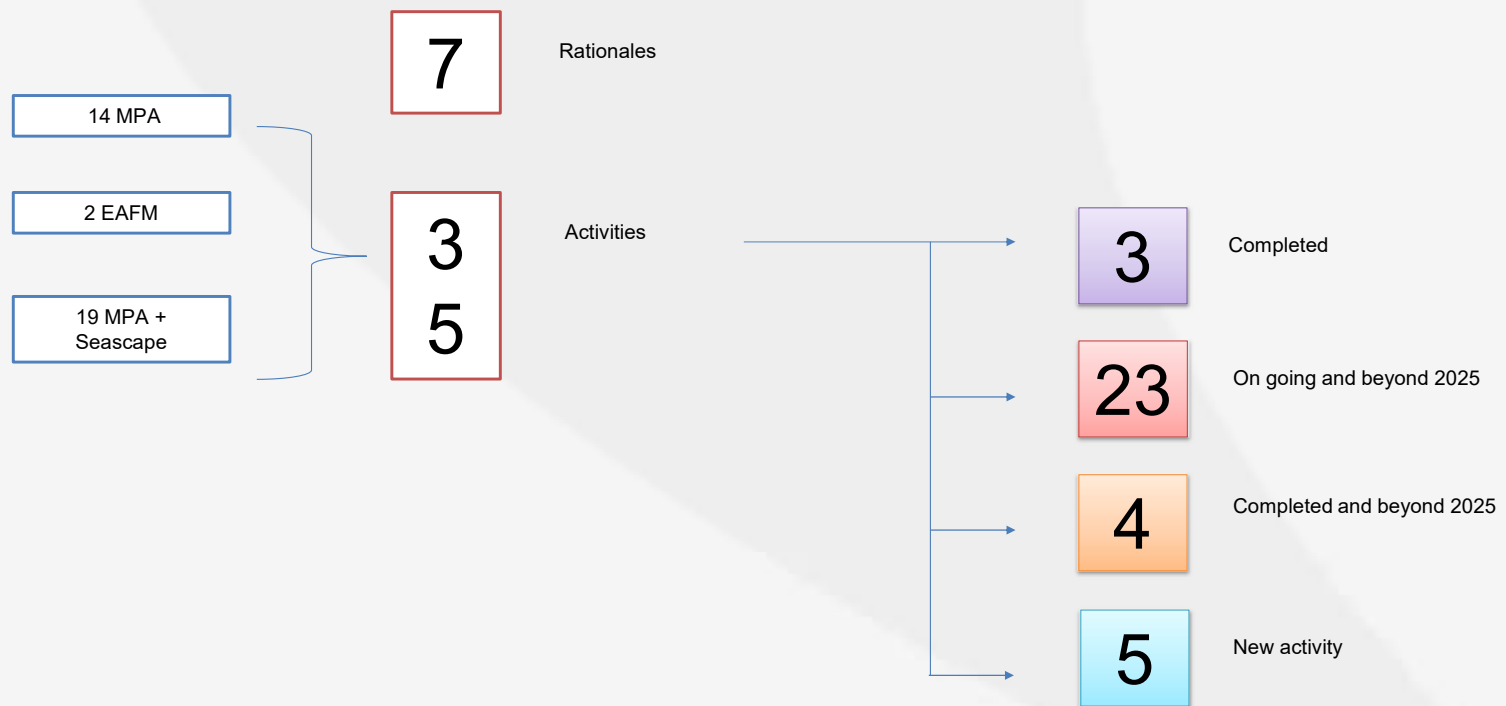
- ❖ Insufficient expertise to identify sharks and rays and their derivatives
- ❖ Lack of information and scientific data to develop policies and strategies related to endangered species
- ❖ Insufficient financial allocation to carry out management and conservation activities for endangered species
- ❖ Uncontrolled development and excessive bureaucracy often lead to conflicts between economic interests and environmental sustainability
- ❖ Overlapping powers and legal jurisdiction between the federal and state governments in the management of endangered species
- ❖ Timely access to government agencies to provide options for species conservation
- ❖ Regular changes in government officers requiring starting from the beginning in some cases
- ❖ Slow adoption of conservation measures restricts progress rate



# Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

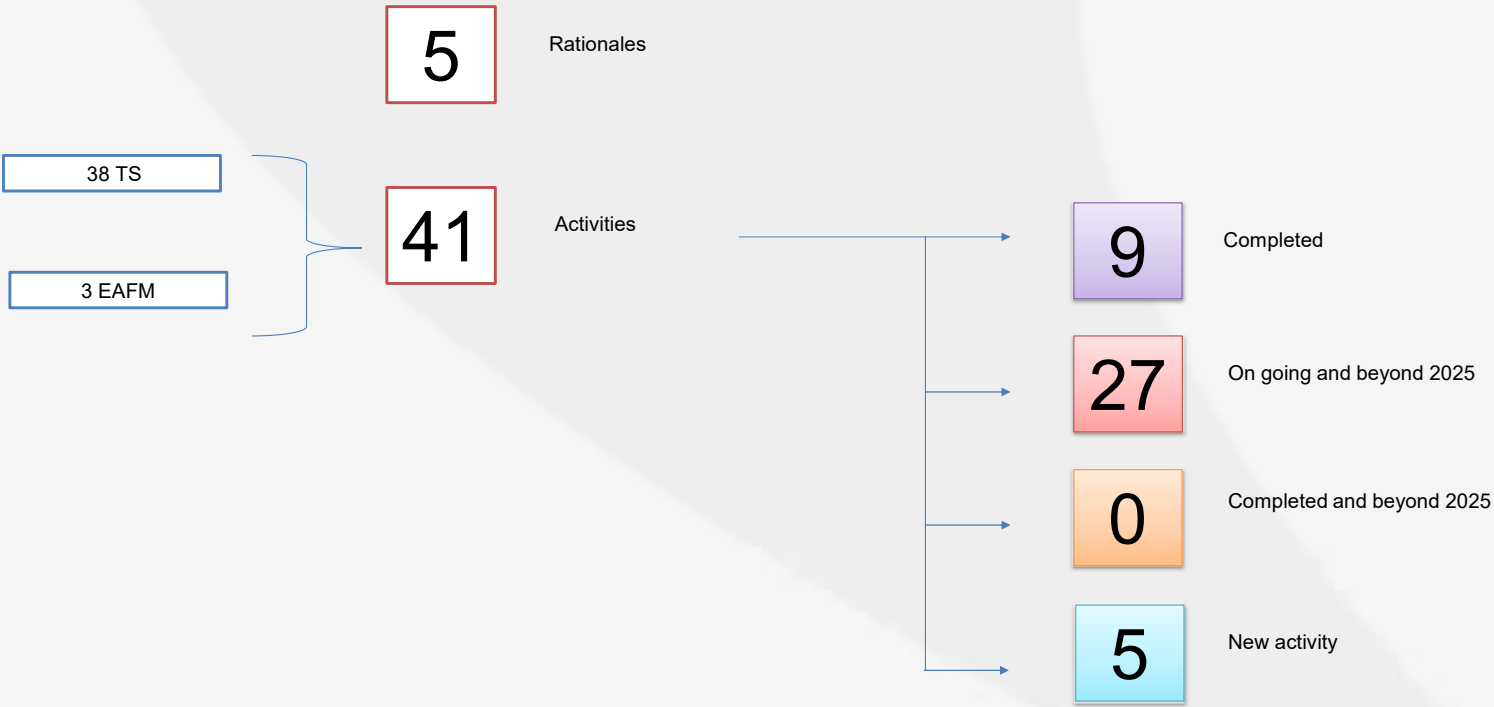
**Objective A: By 2030, health of coastal and marine ecosystems, priority threatened species and fisheries in the Coral Triangle region are improved through effective management actions**

**Target A1: Coral Reefs, Mangroves, and Seagrass Beds**



**Objective A: By 2030, health of coastal and marine ecosystems, priority threatened species and fisheries in the Coral Triangle region are improved through effective management actions**

Target A2: Threatened Species (Threatened Species as defined in the IUCN Red list, and in particular the priority flagship species, marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks, and rays)



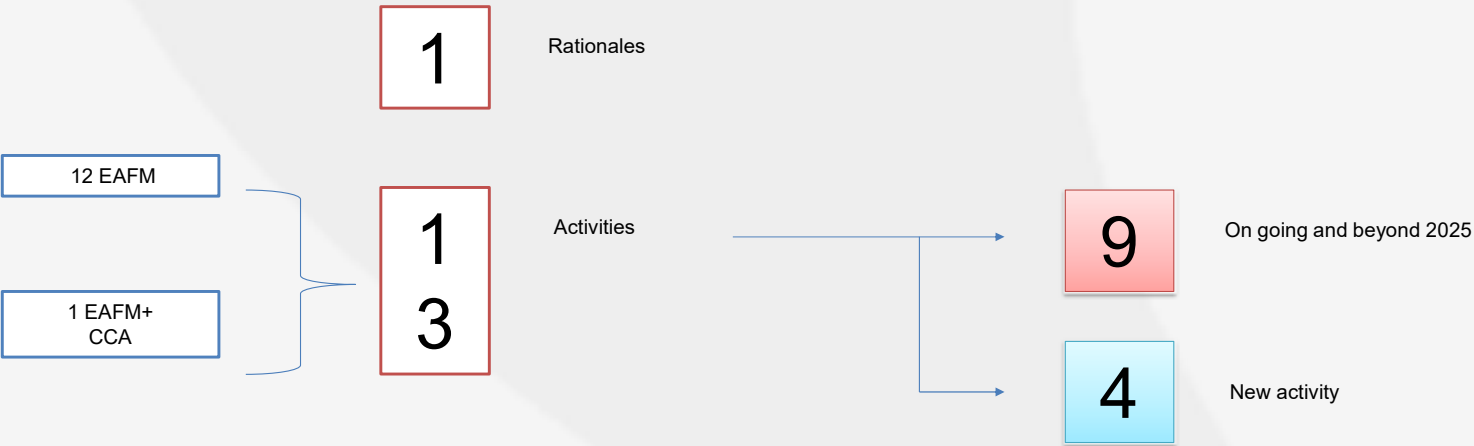
Objective A: By 2030, health of coastal and marine ecosystems, priority threatened species and fisheries in the Coral Triangle region are improved through effective management actions

Target A3: Healthy and Productive Fisheries



**Objective B: By 2030, Risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, in particular food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities living in the Coral Triangle region are improved**

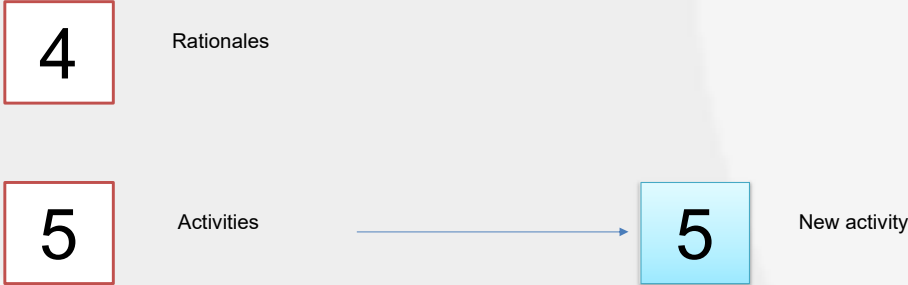
**TARGET B1: Food Security and Coastal Livelihoods**





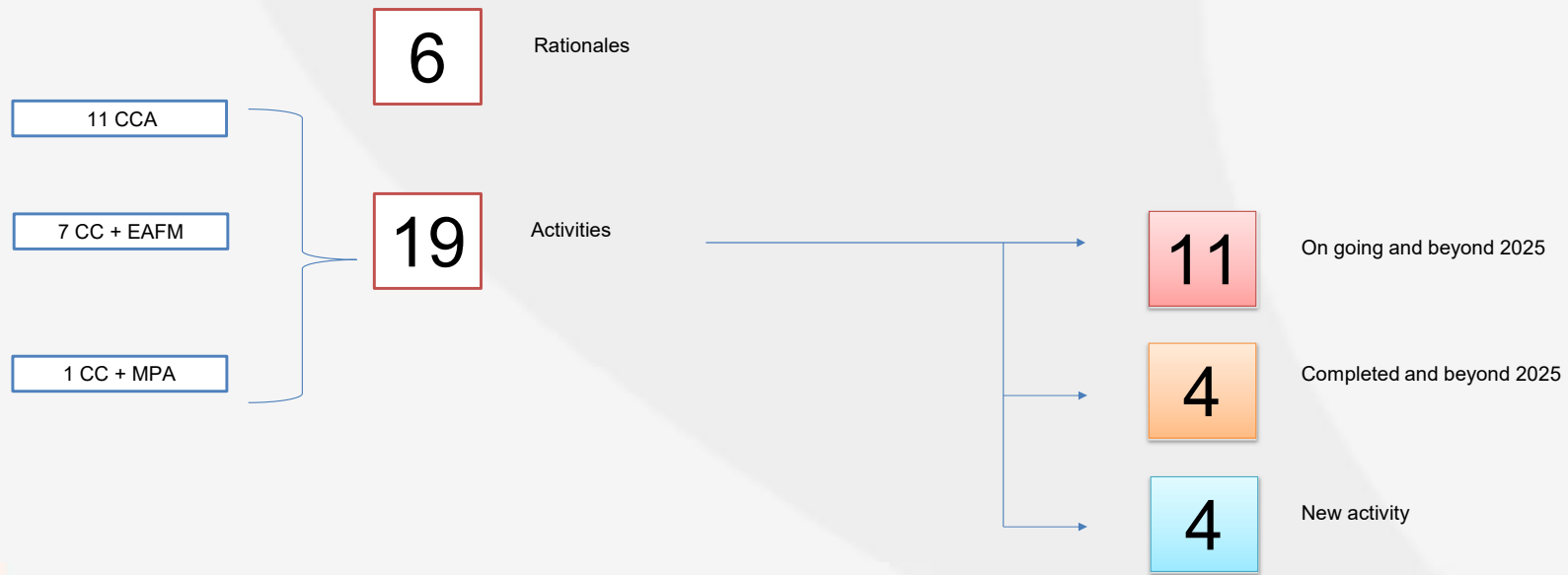
Objective B: By 2030, Risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, in particular food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities living in the Coral Triangle region are improved

TARGET B2: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)



Objective B: By 2030, Risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, in particular food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities living in the Coral Triangle region are improved

TARGET B3: Climate-Resilient Communities



| OBJECTIVES   | TARGETS  | # Regional Activities | *# RPOA2.0 Expected Outcome and Output Indicators | MY Achievement (2021-2024)<br># of frequency of RPOA2.0 indicators met by activities implemented |                                       |                                       | Total frequency of RPOA2.0 indicators met by activities implemented and proposed | MY Programs and Activities 2025-2030<br># of frequency of RPOA2.0 indicators met by activities |           | Total frequency of RPOA2.0 indicators met by activities implemented and proposed |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|--|
|  |  |                       |   | Completed  | On-going (to be brought over to 2025) | Proposed (to be brought over to 2025) |  | On-going   | Proposed  |  |
| Objective A: By 2030, health of coastal and marine ecosystems, priority threatened species and fisheries in the Coral Triangle region are improved through effective management actions  | Target A1: Coral Reefs, Mangroves, and Seagrass Beds   | 3                     | 35  | 9  | 23                                    | 4                                     | 36   | 23   | 4         | 27   |
|  | Target A2: Threatened Species (Threatened Species as defined in the IUCN Red list, and in particular the priority flagship species, marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks, and rays) | 3                     | 42  | 9  | 25                                    | 4                                     | 38   | 27   | 5         | 32   |
|  | Target A3: Healthy and Productive Fisheries  | 1                     | 12  | 1  | 18                                    | 3                                     | 22   | 18   | 3         | 21   |
| Objective B: By 2030, Risk resilience and socioeconomic conditions, in particular food security and coastal livelihoods, of communities living in the Coral Triangle region are improved | Target B1: Food Security and Coastal Livelihoods   | 2                     | 30  | 2  | 9                                     | 3                                     | 14   | 9  | 3         | 12   |
|  | **Target B2: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion  | 1                     | 18  | 0  | 1                                     | 0                                     | 1  | 0  | 0         | 0  |
|  | Target B3: Climate Resilient Communities   | 2                     | 17  | 17   | 23                                    | 4                                     | 44   | 23   | 4         | 27   |
| Objective C: Good Governance, Effective Leadership and Partnerships  | ***Target C1: Good governance, effective leadership and productive strategic partnerships achieved   | 5                     | 60  | 0  | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |  | <b>17</b>             | <b>214</b>  | <b>38</b>  | <b>99</b>                             | <b>18</b>                             |  | <b>100</b>   | <b>19</b> |  |

**NOTES:**

\*# RPOA2.0 Expected Outcome and Output Indicators are a combination of regional and national indicators. For MY reporting, some indicators are not relevant for national reporting and/or no activities/program implemented and/or planned that meet with the indicators.

\*\* Target B2: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. Most of the RPOA2.0 indicators are regional-based and directed for the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. Most of the activities in MY does not include GESI as part of the project design, however, some include GESI-related groups (e.g. women, youth, PWD and other marginalised communities) in terms of participation. Purposeful data collection are not designed and no analysis done for GESI. The only reported 'On-going' activity under this Target is the integration of CTI-CFF GESI Policy into the planned NPOA2.0 for Malaysia. It is proposed that activities that are in the 'proposed' phase to include GESI elements.

\*\*\*Target C1: Good governance, effective leadership and productive strategic partnerships achieved. Most of the RPOA2.0 indicators are regional-based and directed for the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat. National-based actions as per the RPOA2.0 under this objective shall be embedded in the activities in objectives A and B undertaken by implementing agencies and organizations with support from national and regional partners.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group

### Challenges:

- ❖ Resources (Financial, expertise)
- ❖ Coordination, monitoring & evaluation of the implementation
- ❖ Return of Investment (RoI)- Translating efforts into profits & Social Impact
- ❖ Time constraint for project implementation.
- ❖ Lack of dedicated personnel for implementation of matters related to CTI.
- ❖ Lack of scientific information and data to make informed and scientifically sound policy and plans.

# Potential Regional Program and Support Required



## SEASCAPE & EAFM

- Implementation of Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Approach to Coral Reef Sustainable Livelihoods (SEACONNECT) Project
- Implementation of Solutions For Marine and Coastal Resilience In The Coral Triangle – SOMACORE
  - Capacity building and participatory stakeholder dialogues on marine conservation based on EAFM.
  - Capacity building and support for eco-tourism development as means alternative livelihood – economic matching of small-scale fisheries and sustainable environment-friendly eco-tourism in support of biodiversity and ecosystem services leading to upscaling of community-based ecotourism
  - Knowledge sharing of fish bombing detection application and its application in Sabah (to other transboundary States)
- To support and implement activities and programs in line with RPOA 2.0 and NPOA 2.0

## Marine Protected Area

- Community training for OECEM & LMMAs
  - a) Courses on management plan writing
  - b) Zoning planning
  - c) Community economic activities (handicrafts, homestays, etc.)
- Community coral restoration programs - Tun Mustapha Park & Semporna
- Development of sustainable financial plans for Tun Mustapha Park

# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## SEASCAPE:

1. Implementation of Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Approach to Coral Reef Sustainable Livelihoods (SEACONNECT) Project
1. Implementation of Solutions For Marine and Coastal Resilience In The Coral Triangle – SOMACORE
  - Capacity building and participatory stakeholder dialogues on marine conservation based on EAFM.
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  - Knowledge sharing of fish bombing detection application and its application in Sabah (to other transboundary States)



# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## Ecosystem Approach For Fisheries Management:

1. EAFM Marine Awareness Program for Stakeholders – 2 programs
2. EAFM Marine Awareness Program for Schools – 2 programs
3. EAFM Law & Enforcement Workshop for stakeholders – 1 program





# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## Marine Protected Area

1. Increase habitats to be recognised as LMMA & OECMs outside MPAs
2. Establishing National and State Framework for OECM
3. Blueprint for MyMPA covering Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak
4. Management effective assessment for the proposed Darvel Bay Marine Park
5. SOMACORE project (in collaboration with Department of Fisheries Sabah)



# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## Marine Protected Area

- Ongoing activities going beyond 2025
  - Increase MPA via gazettelement of Darvel Bay Park (12,475.16 ha)
  - MyIMCA (Malaysian Important Marine & Coastal Area) - collaborative project to identify important marine areas in Malaysia
  - Identification of new marine areas with key biodiversity areas & habitats
  - Identify & map seagrass areas
  - Use of METT 4 for protected areas management assessment
  - Continuing gazettelement of new parks
  - Pilot community-based Coral Adoption Program in Tajau Laut village, Kudat
  - Tun Mustapha Park Business Plan development
  - Sabah Blue Economy Framework
  - Use of communication platforms to protect coral reef from blast fishing
  - Annual reef monitoring & Green Fins certification
  - Citizen science programs with Marine Research Foundation
  - Development of SABIIS (Sabah Biodiversity Integrated Information System) under SaBC
  - International Coastal Cleanup Day, coordinated by Reef Check Malaysia participated by various national agencies and NGOs

## National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

### Marine Protected Area

- Completed, but to continue activities beyond 2025
  - ❖ Review of action or strategic plans for marine habitats and biodiversity protection
  - ❖ Identified 10 key mangrove areas under the National Forestry Act 1984
  - ❖ Establishing an LMMA in Pitas, Sabah under the Berungus Marine Managed Area

# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## Threatened Species:

### 1. National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Shark (2024-2030)

- The Policy and Planning Committee of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia has approved the proposal for the publication of the NPOA Shark Plan 3. The plan is scheduled to be printed in December 2024.

### 2. Development of Blueprint MyMPA document

- to produce a basic guideline for Malaysia's efforts and planning to achieve the management and protection of 10% of the country's waters, along with recommendations for potential areas and governance for managing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) through a holistic approach of Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The report will be published in 2025
- This report has included IMMA in the recommendations: Brunei Bay, Perak and Langkawi



# National Roadmap 2024 (for each Working Group)

## Threatened Species:

3. Gazettement of Dugong Sanctuary Reserve Zone
  - The regulations and amendments for the establishment of the Dugong Sanctuary in Johor are at the final stage of drafting.
4. National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sea Turtle (2024-2030) and National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Dugong (2024-2030)
  - In the process of finalizing the information retrieved from agencies and NGO's
  - These plans are expected to be published in 2025
5. Collection of data and information from reports, journals and survey on giant clam conservation in Malaysia
6. Amendment of Fisheries (Control of Endangered Species of Fish) Regulations 1999, Fisheries Act 1985 [Act 317]





# Coral Triangle Day Celebration



# Coral Triangle Day Celebration ( 10 Jun 2024 in Kuala Terengganu) officiated by Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability

## NRES AND UMT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CELEBRATION AND FORUM





# Communication and Publications

# Communication and Publications

1. Developed six educational films and accompanying reports
  - to raise awareness of endangered marine species and their conservation needs in Sabah. These films serve as outreach tools to highlight threats and promote conservation within the community.
  - Borneo Ocean Diaries by ScubaZoo featuring MRF's Projects
2. Radio interview with the Director General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia on World Sea Turtle Day to raise awareness about the importance of sea turtle conservation
3. Newspaper insert focused on raising awareness about marine species at risk
4. Fact sheets and posters about marine threatened species
  - Distributed via Turtle Conservation and Informative Centre and any other fisheries awareness programmes



# Communication and Publications

## 5. Malaysia Marine Ecological Gap Assessment Report

- focuses on several endangered marine species in Malaysia, including the marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and giant clams.
- aims to create a comprehensive inventory of marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks and rays in Malaysian waters, identify data gaps, and propose protected areas and ecological corridors for their conservation.



## 6. Publication on the marine turtle trade in Sabah based on desktop research and market surveys.

- report analyzes trends, key stakeholders, and the conservation implications, providing an understanding of the trade's scale, dynamics, and its impact on marine turtle populations.
- The findings will form the basis for targeted conservation efforts and policy recommendations to address the illegal trade in marine turtles.





# Communication and Publications

## 7. Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA)

- identify important threatened species areas for regional and trans-boundary collaboration for the conservation of CTI priority threatened species
- identification and mapping of Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) in Malaysia. These efforts contribute to the protection of sharks and rays through the identification of critical habitats in collaboration with neighboring countries
  - IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (2024) East Tun Mustapha ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.  
<https://sharkrayareas.org/portfolio-item/east-tun-mustapha-isra/>
  - IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. (2024). Beluran ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.  
<https://sharkrayareas.org/portfolio-item/beluran-isra/>



# Communication and Publications

- 8. Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) published:
  - Species Conservation Action Plan for Marine Turtles in Sarawak (2023-2027)
  - Sea Turtle Hatchery Management Guidelines
  
- 9. Department of Fisheries and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) published data collection on sharks and rays by species in Malaysia
  
- 10. Darvel Bay Scientific Seminar Proceedings
  
- 11. Mamut Scientific Seminar Proceedings
  
- 12. “Dark Tourism within Sabah Parks: Potential and Challenges”
  
- 13. Sabah Parks Nature Journal Vol 13 & 14 (23 scientific papers, terrestrial & marine topics)



## Communication and Publications

### 12. Other publications:

- Wahidah, M.A., Hamizah-Nadia, A., & Abd-Haris-Hilmi A. A. 2022. Part II. Issues and Challenges in Sustainable Development of Fisheries of the Southeast Asian Region, Aquatic Species Under International Concern, Sharks and Rays. In: SEAFDEC. (2022). The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. Page 74-75
- Wahidah, M.A. & Hamizah-Nadia, A. 2022. Conservation and management of Sharks and rays. In: SEAFDEC. 2022. SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Bangkok, Thailand. Page 41-45.
- Armstrong, O. H., Wong, R., Lorenzo, A., Sidik, A., Sant, G., and Chng, S. 2023. Illegal Wildlife Trade: Baseline for Monitoring and Law Enforcement in the Sulu-Celebes Seas. TRAFFIC, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.  
[https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/21879/illegal\\_wildlife\\_trade\\_baseline\\_for\\_monitoring\\_and\\_law\\_enforcement\\_in\\_the\\_sulu-celebes\\_seas\\_2023.pdf](https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/21879/illegal_wildlife_trade_baseline_for_monitoring_and_law_enforcement_in_the_sulu-celebes_seas_2023.pdf)

## Communication and Publications

- Khalid, L., Pilcher, N.J & Phu, J. (2019). Yayasan Sime Darby Final Report - Saving Sea Turtles by Operationalising Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in Sabah (2019).
- Feature article. Guardians of the Irrawaddy dolphins. 23 July 2024. <https://www.wwf.org.my/?32845/Feature-Article-Guardians-of-the-Irrawaddy-Dolphins>
- Shark News. Newsletter of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group #10. September 2024. [https://issuu.com/iucnsharkspecialistgroup/docs/iucn\\_ssc\\_ssg\\_shark\\_news\\_issue\\_september\\_2024\\_sps\\_1](https://issuu.com/iucnsharkspecialistgroup/docs/iucn_ssc_ssg_shark_news_issue_september_2024_sps_1)
- Divers, Fishers and Scientists Map Sharks and Rays to Save them. Macaranga. 14 October 2024. <https://www.macaranga.org/divers-fishers-and-scientists-map-sharks-and-rays-to-save-them/>
- Where the Sharks Swim. Macaranga. 14 October 2024. <https://macaranga.org/embed/isra2024/sharks.html>

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dominated by a large, flat, brownish-orange coral structure in the upper center. Below it, there are various other coral species, including a prominent white, textured coral in the foreground. The water is a deep blue, and many small fish are visible swimming in the background. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, typical of an underwater environment.

thank you

COUNTRY REPORT - MALAYSIA

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