

THE VALUE OF OUR MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

FACT SHEET



Ocean ecosystems provide a variety of “**ecosystem services**” that society depends on. They provide **food** from fisheries resources; fuel the **eco-tourism** industry; and provide for **coastal protection**, climate regulation and nutrient recycling.

Despite the benefits that marine ecosystems bring to society, they are being **degraded** by a variety of human activities.

Ocean health is critical for **people and nature**, and we stand to lose valuable services if we don't look after it better. Ocean policy needs to be guided by the science – and the **Call to Action** identifies solutions that will help to protect the ocean and its valuable ecosystems.



MALAYSIA'S INVALUABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

CORAL REEFS, MANGROVES,
SEAGRASS BEDS

ONE OF THE 12 MOST
BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE
COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

HOME TO 612 REEF
BUILDING CORAL SPECIES

APPROX. RM3.6 BILLION
ESTIMATED VALUE

CONTRIBUTED 23%
TOWARDS THE TOTAL GDP
OF MALAYSIA IN 2015



What benefits does the ocean bring to us?

The ecosystem services that the ocean provides include:



OXYGEN

produces 50% of the oxygen we breathe



INCOME

underpins household incomes from fisheries & tourism



FOOD

for millions of coastal communities



HABITAT

for 33% of all known fish species



CARBON SINK

absorbs one-third of the world's CO2



PROTECTION

against wave erosion & flooding

NURSERY & BREEDING GROUND

to 25% of all marine species



We stand to lose all of the benefits we derive from marine ecosystems if they continue to decline.

What's going wrong?

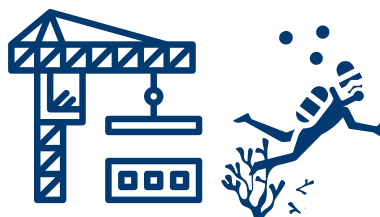
The main drivers of degradation are:

POLLUTION



from industry, agriculture and human societies

PHYSICAL IMPACTS



from land reclamation, infrastructure and other development, and tourism activities

CLIMATE CHANGE



which causes more severe storms, sea-level rise and ocean warming and acidification.

What are the solutions?

There are a number of steps we can take to reduce or reverse these threats:

01

ESTABLISH MORE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MPAs are a widely used tool to reduce impacts to marine ecosystems. Scientists agree we need to protect 30% of the ocean to ensure its future health.

02

MANAGE MPAS HOLISTICALLY

Create networks of MPAs that connect different marine ecosystems and protect the connectivity corridors between them.

03

FUTURE-PROOF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Reduce local impacts to marine ecosystems from tourism and other marine activities, to build their resilience to future shocks and strengthen their ability to continue to deliver ecosystem services.

04

INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS IN MANAGEMENT

Numerous studies support the participation of local stakeholders in management of marine resources, as it creates buy-in and improves compliance with regulations.

05

INTRODUCE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMMES

Numerous anthropogenic impacts are damaging marine ecosystems; addressing these issues will help to mitigate climate change impacts and help communities to adapt to "locked-in" changes.

MALAYSIA'S MARINE PARKS

COVER APPROXIMATELY
5% OF MALAYSIA'S
MARITIME WATERS

42 ISLANDS OFF
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
IN JOHOR, PAHANG,
TERENGGANU AND KEDAH

6 MARINE PARKS IN SABAH

8 MARINE PARKS IN SARAWAK,
INCLUDING THE LARGEST IN
MALAYSIA, LUCONIA SHOALS



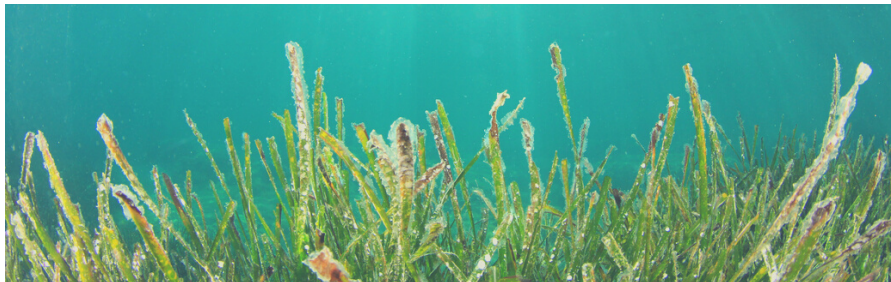


Call to Action

We need to move away from managing individual Marine Parks to managing all marine resources (mangroves, seagrass meadows and coral reefs) in a holistic manner.

Management should be on a seascape level, integrating no-take zones, connectivity corridors and fisheries and other maritime activities.

This will require a new approach to marine resource management, with decision-making in multi-stakeholder bodies shared between Federal, State and local stakeholders.



Malaysia recognises a number of national and international obligations regarding protection of marine ecosystems:

- The National Policy on Biological Diversity
- The Coral Triangle Initiative
- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Collectively, these provides targets and a framework for action to improve marine resource protection.

What will success look like?

If we are to succeed in strengthening marine resource management in Malaysia, the following steps could be considered:

Establishment of multi-stakeholder bodies to manage seascape-level protected or managed areas.

This would include Marine Parks, DoF, KeTSA, KASA, State EXCOs, MMEA, District Office, local communities and tourism businesses.

Introduce new legislation to provide for managing Marine Parks.

This could include a dedicated Marine Parks act to better define MPAs and management needs

Develop policy instruments that prioritise protecting ocean ecosystems.

A policy to holistically manage the ocean and all marine ecosystems and stakeholders.

REFERENCES: Lim A. G., Izarenah Md. Repin. n.d. Total Economic Value of Marine Biodiversity: Malaysia Marine Parks. Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia
Cheryl Rita Kaur; 2018; State of Oceans and Coasts: Malaysia.; Centre for Coastal and Marine Environment Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)