



*This Project is executed by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund,  
with financing from the GEF, implementation support by UNEP  
and technical support from the CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat.*

## **Country presentation: Malaysia**

**2nd Executive Project Steering Committee meeting**

**1-2 November, 2016**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

# Key national objectives in Malaysia (MY5-2115: Lawas)

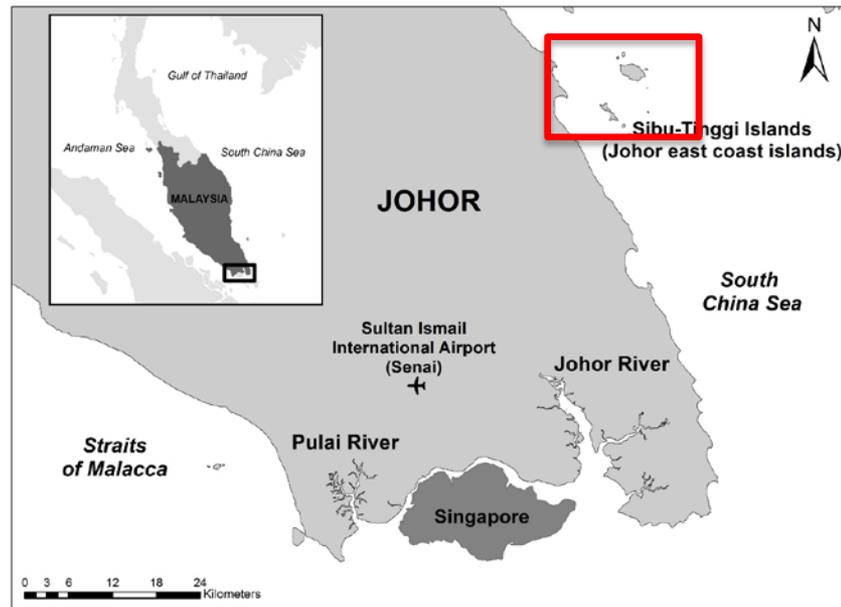
To gazette an area of 16,108 ha in the Bay of Brunei, Lawas, Sarawak, Malaysia Borneo as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) for Conservation of Dugong and Seagrass by the end 2018.

To gazette an area along the eastern coastal region of the state of Johor as Dugong Sanctuary

To establish the National Technical Working Group on dugong conservation and their habitats

To establish Management Plan on dugong conservation and their habitats at Sibiu & Tinggi Islands and Lawas

To Review the National Plan of Action on Dugong Conservation in Malaysia

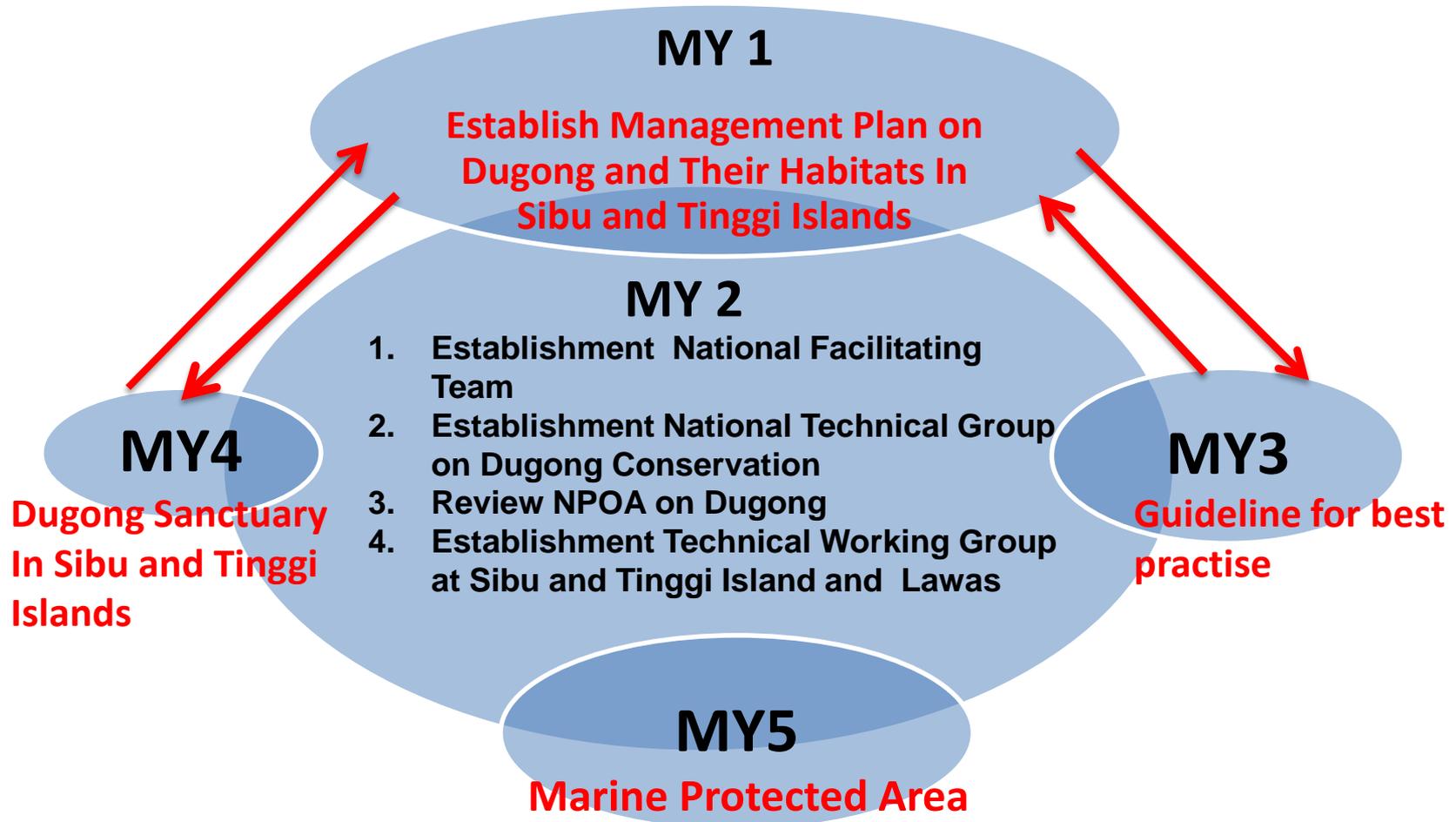
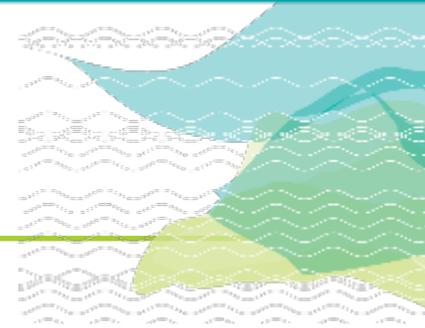


# Project implementation structure

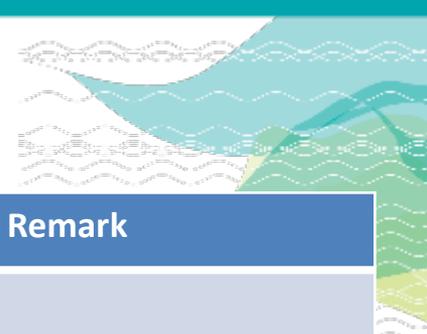


NO	Project	Implementing Partners	Collaborators	Role
MY1	Operationalizing the Malaysian National Plan of Action for Dugong in Pulau Sibul & Pulau Tinggi, Johor, Peninsular Malaysia	Reef Check Malaysia & Department of Marine Parks Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Fisheries Malaysia</li> <li>Johor National Park Corporation</li> </ol>	Management & stakeholders consultation
MY2	Establishment of the National Facilitating Committee and National Technical Working Group for Conserving Dugongs and Their Habitats Through Involvement of Various Stakeholders	Department of Fisheries Malaysia & Marine Research Foundation	Various government agencies, NGO, Universities and private company which related to dugong and sea grass	To facilitate and coordinate the role of various stakeholders for strengthening the action for protection and conservation of dugong and their habitats
MY3	Community Understanding and management of dugong and seagrass resources in Johor, Malaysia	University Science of Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Marine Parks Malaysia</li> <li>Department of Fisheries Malaysia</li> <li>National Park Corporation</li> </ol>	Enabling community based management and resort based management of the dugongs and seagrasses
MY4	A multi-pronged approach in overcoming knowledge barriers on the ecology and status of dugongs in Johor – Towards critical habitat protection	MareCet and University Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Marine Parks Malaysia</li> <li>Department of Fisheries Malaysia</li> <li>Johor National Park Corporation</li> </ol>	Research, stakeholder consultation for protected area establishment, engagement with decision makers
MY5	Overcoming the Knowledge gaps and involvement of Local Community to support the Establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) for Conservation of Dugong and Seagrass in Bay of Brunei, Lawas, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universiti Malaysia Terengganu</li> <li>Universiti Sains Malaysia</li> <li>Department of Fisheries Malaysia</li> </ol>	Establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) for the conservation of dugong and seagrass in bay of Brunei, Lawas, Sarawak East Malaysia

# Project implementation structure



# Malaysia achievements



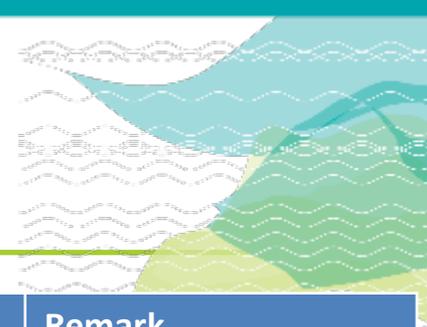
MY1	Activity	Progress	Remark
1	Established a field base and employed a full time, field-based community liaison officer	Ongoing	
2	Initial phase of stocktaking and understanding local stakeholders' attitude towards involvement in consultation of conservation of seagrass and dugong	Ongoing	
MY2		Ongoing	
1	Established National Facilitating Team which was successful organize two meetings in April and October 2016		
2	Establish the Johor State Technical Working Group on Dugong Sanctuary. Had organized twice meeting in March and October 2016	Ongoing	
MY3		Ongoing	
1	Stakeholders meetings and initiation of identifying community based conservation areas (all resorts and villages of Sibul and Tinggi Island) – cooperation from the community is promising based on two visits in October 2016		
2	Provide communications materials- posters, A4 stickers and Dugong story books were distributed to the communities of Pulau Tinggi during the education programme.	Ongoing	

# Malaysia achievements



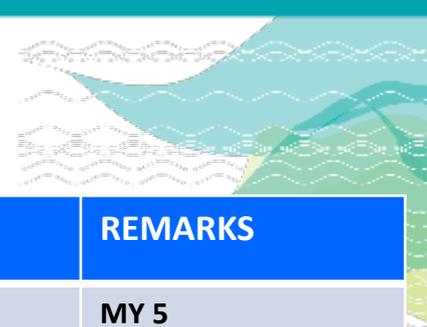
MY5	Activity	Progress	Remark
1	Comprehensive data collected on spatial and temporal distribution of dugongs, and seagrass occurrence and boundaries. Preliminary data collected on dugong feeding trails characteristics and seagrass nutrient composition. Initial engagement with local communities undertaken to gather feedback on proposed dugong and seagrass conservation actions. The data are in the processed of being sorted and analysed.	Ongoing	
2	Received interest and support from Johor State Government to delineate area as a “Dugong Sanctuary” and develop a management plan for the area. State-level Technical Working Group chaired by the Johor State’s Environmental Exco member established to oversee the “Dugong Sanctuary” initiative.	Ongoing	
3	Conducted an exhibition during Sultan of Johor’s visit to the area under invitation by the Johor State Government. Educational materials (e.g. posters, herbarium, sound clips) were developed and used to raise awareness to local communities, youths, and other stakeholders present during the event. Dugong postcards, stickers and button badges were distributed to the locals and schoolchildren during this event.	ongoing	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Johor State Government has committed to establish a “Dugong Sanctuary” and has appointed MareCet to lead the design and planning activity on behalf of the State.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	

# Malaysia achievements



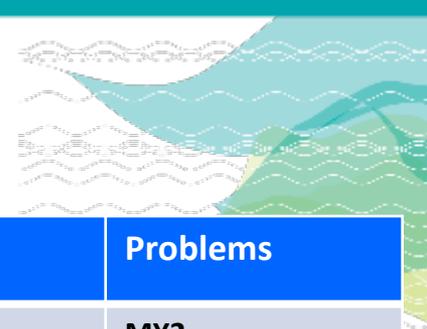
MY5	Activity	Progress	Remark
1	Develop module for Nature and U programme	Feb 2016	
3	Conduct community awareness programme (“Nature n U” ) to students in Lawas	April 2016	96 students from 4 schools
4	Develop methodology (survey techniques) for seagrass mapping and size estimation of seagrass in using UAVs	April 2016	2 flights
5	Develop methodology (survey techniques) for obtaining information (distribution, abundance and density ) of dugong using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drone	July 2016	3 flight 2 sightings 3 individuals
6	Determine the High Conservation Area of dugongs in Lawas, Sarawak by observing the spatial and temporal distribution patterns using drone	August 2016 Southwest Monsoon season (dry season)	4 flights 6 sightings 10 individuals

# Malaysia challenges



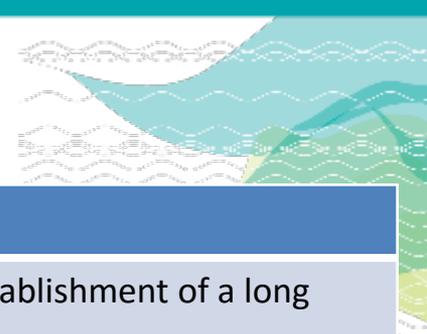
RESEARCH	REMARKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Drone experimental of new technology to find out ideal or suitable of survey techniques</li> <li>•Weather/season condition</li> </ul>	MY 5
Bad weather, rising costs of materials and services, and the occasional reluctance of local communities to participate and/ or cooperate during the engagement process.	MY 4
Challenge in recruiting suitable personnel to conduct TEV work, but we have a few potential candidates to recruit	MY 4
POLICY	
Unresolved dispute between state and federal agencies over the authority of managing marine protected area at project site.	MY 1
Conservation is not a priority among local stakeholders as they face more pressing issues such as lack of freshwater, consistent power supplies and livelihood.	MY 1
Interest and strong support/ willpower by Johor State Government has enabled the “Dugong Sanctuary” to be designed earlier than anticipated. However, jurisdictional issues arise due to the limit of State’s extent of territorial seas, thus requiring Federal Government’s involvement and support to make the Dugong Sanctuary a reality, however these jurisdictional issues may not be easily resolved	MY 4

# Malaysia challenges



COMMUNICATIONS	Problems
Strengthen the collaboration among the various national and state stake holders for conserving dugong and their habitats	MY2
Community interest in the project may be lacking in one to two resorts and communities (based on initial meeting but not confirmed)	MY3
Priority should be on the execution of the project and achieving the promised outcomes. Less priority should be on the development of the social media, administrative and other related matters and the number of meetings. Meetings should be focused with clear objectives and outcomes and minuted. This saves time and project funding	MY3
Limited coordination with Partners to streamline activities which have since been discussed in early October 2016;	MY4
Communication – both internal (with Partners and the Project Coordination team), and external	MY5
Difficult to find suitable time/schedule to carry out activities because of works commitment of Project partners, local community and politician	MY 5
MY5 project site located far from MY1, MY2, MY3 & MY4	MY5

# Malaysia - lessons learned



## What went well and why?

Settling into the community for the next phase of continuous stocktaking activity with the establishment of a long term presence on the island.

Streamlining between the ecological and management aspects of programme work were reviewed early to avoid redundant activities due to early initiative of some national project partners.

Design and production of communication materials went smoothly mainly because of the dedication and interest of the designer in the project and printing of the materials went well mainly because a good working relationship with the vendors concerned was established prior to this.

Good commitment and partnerships within the MY4 team, as well as good line of communications, networking and relations with relevant management authorities; research mostly successfully completed as planned without any major issues.

Successful in developing survey techniques for dugong and seagrass using UAVs or drone

Significant in cost reduction compare to aerial survey

## What went wrong and why?

Issue of overlapping programme of work due to the lack of communication between national project partners.

National project implementation is behind original schedule due to the issue of government policies resulting in original project partner being unable to receive funds.

Challenging task to conduct social science surveys with local communities as many feel that they have been sidelined for too long, whereby the management laws don't favour their livelihoods or welfares – as a result, many are reluctant to provide their feedback on dugong conservation efforts because they feel it would be another waste of time which will bring no benefit to them.

# Malaysia - lessons learned



## What went wrong and why?

**Project implementation not according to plan / schedule**

**Survey always hampered by bad weather condition**

**Community request to differ the project because of their work commitments**

**Short project duration - the first budget disbursement in Oct 2015**

**Budget constraints (USD 150 K) to get better information (more survey replicates)**

## How we can do better?

To conduct an induction and orientation session for project partners at the start of the Project to streamline the programme of work for each project component.

Problems have now been resolved and can be used as future reference for solution.

To remain a friendly and open project partner when it comes to communications; to keep innovating our work to suit ever changing local social and environmental conditions in order to achieve local conservation and management goals; be patient and to truly take the full effort in understanding the local communities' hardships, their community structure, and to constantly find better ways to reach out to them and also ensure that their welfares are not sidelined in the implementation of any dugong and seagrass conservation measures.

# Next steps

## MY 1

1. Preliminary understanding of local stakeholders' attitude towards involvement and establishment of Community Consultative Committee.
2. Support to keep national project partners to continuous co-operate

## MY2

1. Establish the National Technical Working Group on Dugong and Seagrass Conservation.
2. Review National Plan of Action for Protecting and Conserving Dugong and Seagrass in Malaysia
3. To collaborate with Indonesia partners which having similar project in Bintan Island

## MY3 2016;

preparation and printing of educaForm a consultative committee to provide advice on issues and challenges of each project

tional materials such as t-shirts, poster, A4 size stickers in both Malay and English

Text for info sheets for best practise (dugong and seagrasses) pending approval from Department of Fisheries Malaysia

Preparation of syllabus of English teaching and conservation learning using the Dugong story book entitled "The Adventures of Karum the Dugong"

Facilitating the education programme from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October at Pulau Tinggi

Finalizing the info sheets for best practises – meeting with Fisheries Department will be held end of November to present the information for best practise

Distribution and explanation of education materials especially posters, A4 stickers and t-shirts in Pulau Tinggi

Preparation of materials and activities for the best practise programme in Pulau Tinggi and Pulau Sibul (tentatively February and early March)

# Next steps



## MY3 2017;

1. Distribution and explanation of education materials especially posters, A4 stickers and t-shirts in Pulau Sibu
2. Carry out best practise programme early March
3. Start monitoring programme for Dugongs in March
4. Pretest of management solutions initiatives with local communities
5. Form a consultative committee to provide advice on issues and challenges of each project

## MY4

1. It is anticipated that the research data on dugongs and seagrass shall be analysed and some of it ready to be communicated both internally (within the GEF Project Partnership) and externally. By mid-2017, it is anticipated that local groups / management consultations will have been completed.
2. Establishment of a “Dugong Sanctuary” with preparation of delineation plan and the sanctuary’s
3. implementation and management plan currently ongoing, and overseeing other part.

## MY 5

1. To carry out surveys to map the seagrass distribution and estimate the area in Lawas Jan/February 2017
2. To conduct dugong surveys using drone in March/April 2017
3. To conduct training and appointment of Honorary Wildlife Ranger (HWR) to 90 participants from local community in January 2017



# Dugong & Seagrass

CONSERVATION PROJECT

