

Community understanding and management of dugong and seagrass resources in Johor, Malaysia



Project Summary

MY3 seeks to assist local communities in understanding the ecological and economic importance of conserving dugong and seagrass resources and to improve local capacity to manage these resources more effectively in harmony with social, cultural and economic needs.

The initiation of education programmes at the study area using posters, education materials and a dugong education book aimed to educate the community including school children, housewives and fishermen. Best practice associated with dugong and seagrass management will also be discussed with the local community. Awareness through education and the demonstration of best practice to the local stakeholders would prepare them for participation in a management plan.



Main Activities

- Stakeholder meetings and initiation of identifying community based conservation areas
- Distribution and explanation of education materials especially posters, A4 stickers and t-shirts in Pulau Sibiu and Pulau Tinggi to the communities
- Education programme at Pulau Tinggi - English teaching and conservation learning using the Dugong story book entitled "The Adventures of Karum the Dugong"
- Meeting with Fisheries Department to present and discuss on the Guidelines for Good Practices for Dugong and Seagrass Conservation

Results

- Production of T-shirt, A4 stickers and posters for community education
- A further refinement of the draft guideline on best practice for dugong and seagrass conservation for community to use
- Stakeholders' meetings and initiation of identifying community based conservation areas (all resorts and villages of Sibiu and Tinggi Island) – cooperation from the community is promising based on two visits in October 2016
- An education programme is initiated in Pulau Tinggi whereby posters, education materials and a dugong education book are distributed amongst all sections of community including school children, housewives and fishermen



Poster and A4 sticker distributed to the community



Meeting and discussion with Resort Manager



Discussion with Head of the Village at Kg Duku

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

- Training of best practices in dugong and seagrass habitat
- Dugong monitoring programme whereby locals monitor the presence of dugong
- A management solution discussion and pre-test regarding views on management with the local community

The various sectors of community, local villagers and resort staff alike had varying views on the concept of conservation. Therefore in order for them to understand the conservation of dugong and seagrass a thorough understanding of ecology conservation and management which are suitable for local conditions.



Community drawing dugong poster



English teaching and Dugong storybook interpretation

About Our Organization

The Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia was established in 1991 to undertake research and postgraduate training in Marine Science and Coastal Ecosystems. It provides the institutional mechanism for mobilising and integrating the University's considerable expertise and resources in marine science. The main objective of CEMACS is to enhance the capability of conducting integrated inter-and multi-disciplinary studies related to marine and coastal ecosystems.