



COMMUNITY-BASED MARINE CONSERVATION CMCG ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024



PARTNERS





INTRODUCTION

Community Marine Conservation Groups (CMCGs) are a proven approach to empowering local communities and building capacity in marine management and conservation.

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals highlight the need for a community-based approach to management and conservation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

As a signatory of these international conventions, Malaysia is similarly encouraged to take a holistic approach to management of its Marine Parks that involves the participation of local communities. This is reflected in the National Policy on Biological Diversity and RMK 12 (the long term Malaysian economic planning system). CMCGs provide the vehicle for this to become a **reality**.

HOW IT STARTED...

Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) established its first community-based conservation group on Tioman island in 2015. Named the Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG), it was set up in response to demand from local islanders who were keen to participate in management and conservation of their island's marine resources. TMCG now has over 80 trained volunteers – all local islanders – who regularly participate in conservation activities including coral reef monitoring, ghost net removals, coral predator management, mooring buoy management and coral rehabilitation programmes.

In early 2020, the Department of Fisheries (DoF) introduced the Reef Care programme, which was designed to give limited responsibility for coral reef management to suitable local community groups. RCM and the TMCG were appointed Reef Care partners in Tioman; Fuze Ecoteer and Anak Pulau were appointed Reef Care partners in Perhentian. Recognising the importance of this approach, RCM applied to DoF to establish new community groups in Mersing and Redang and we were able to collaborate with Reef Care partners in Lang Tengah and Langkawi, growing the network to new locations.

At the same time, RCM was introducing the community-based conservation model to communities in Sabah, and the groups are now operating in four islands in the south of Sabah: Larapan, Selakan, Mabul and Kulapuan.



CMCG GUIDELINES

Following a series of consultations in 2023 with DoF, Reef Care partners and other stakeholders, advisory guidelines for community-based conservation were published. The guidelines are intended to support communities seeking to establish their own community conservation programmes. The generic title “Community Marine Conservation Group” was adopted to ensure broader inclusion of groups other than those in the original Reef Care network.

Collectively, these CMCGs are leading the way in showing just how the involvement of local communities in marine ecosystem management can have significant conservation outcomes, as well as creating a way to mainstream environmental protection at community level.

PARTNERS

REEF CHECK MALAYSIA

Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) is part of the worldwide Reef Check network. Since it was registered in 2007, RCM has become established as a leader in coral reef conservation in Malaysia. Our activities are organized around four core programmes: EcoAction – training survey divers and conducting coral reef surveys at over 300 locations around Malaysia to monitor coral reef health; Management – working with stakeholders to improve the management of coral reefs in Malaysia to secure long-term conservation goals; Science – conducting studies on reef resilience and rehabilitation to better understand coral reefs and impacts; and Advocacy – raising awareness of the importance of coral reefs and the valuable ecosystem services they provide.

RCM has field teams based in five locations around Malaysia. Through these field offices we support CMCGs in seven locations: Tioman, Redang, Mersing, Larapan, Kulapuan, Selakan and Mabul.

FUZE ECOTEER

Fuze Ecoteer leads conservation and community projects in Malaysia’s Perhentian Islands, protecting marine life and empowering locals. The Turtle Project safeguards sea turtles, the Eco Education Project nurtures young environmental stewards, and the Marine Research Station supports marine studies. The Anak Pulau Programme trains island youth in conservation and eco-tourism, shaping future guardians of their home. By uniting conservation and community, we drive lasting change.

PULIHARA

PULIHARA is a marine conservation organisation based in Terengganu. It carries out coral rehabilitation, maintenance and monitoring at one of its project sites which is Pulau Lang Tengah. PULIHARA is also a Reef Care partner and is involved in the annual Reef Check surveys around the island. Additionally, PULIHARA also carries out regular underwater clean-ups removing ghost nets, discarded fishing gear and other marine debris from the surrounding waters of Pulau Lang Tengah. It is also actively involved in outreach and awareness programmes.



Perhentian Marine Conservation Group (PMCG/ AnakPulau)



- Established in 2022
- 26 members trained

PULIHARA



- Established in 2023
- 3 members trained

Redang Marine Conservation Group (RMCG)



- Established in 2023
- 20 members trained

Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG)



- Established in 2014
- Over 80 members trained

Larapan Marine Conservation Group (LMCG)



- Established in 2023
- 15 members trained

Kulapuan Marine Conservation Group (KMCG)



- Established in 2023
- 10 members trained

Pemimpin Iklim Mabul (IKLIM)



- Established in 2021
- 15 members trained

Selakan Marine Conservation Group (SMCG)



- Established in 2023
- 15 members trained

Mersing Marine Conservation Group (MMCG)



- Established in 2024
- 10 members trained

SUMMARY OF CMCs 2024 PROGRAMMES OUTPUTS

REEF CHECK MONITORING SURVEYS	CORAL RESTORATION/REEF REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE	GHOST NET REMOVAL/ MANAGEMENT;	UNDERWATER CLEANUPS	BEACH CLEANUPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reef Check monitoring surveys conducted at 136 sites by 9 CMCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 17,000 coral fragments attached Monitoring and maintenance at 9 islands by CMCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 ghost nets and 1,600 pieces of fishing gear were removed Total weight over 4,000kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 underwater cleanups conducted 2,000kg of marine debris collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach cleanups were conducted by 6 CMCs Over 23,000kg of trash was collected

COTS/PREDATOR MANAGEMENT	MOORING BUOY MONITORING/ MAINTENANCE	DIVE TRAINING	SNORKEL GUIDE TRAINING	BLEACHING MONITORING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,162 COTs removed by 7 CMCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 mooring buoys installed/maintained by 9 CMCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 community members from 4 CMCs trained as EcoDivers, to conduct monitoring surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 snorkel guides trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bleaching monitoring conducted by 6 CMCs

CEPA	COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS	MARINE RESOURCE MAPPING	WATER QUALITY MONITORING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 115 school education and awareness programmes conducted at more than 15 locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultations conducted by 2 CMCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine resource mapping at 2 islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality testing by one CMC

CMCGS IN ACTION



“

*Empower CMCs, Invest in the
Future of Our Ocean*

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SUPPORT CMCs

PARTNER

with us to strengthen CMCs

SHARE

CMCs work with your network

DONATE

to support CMCs

COLLABORATE

with CMCs in their marine
conservation work

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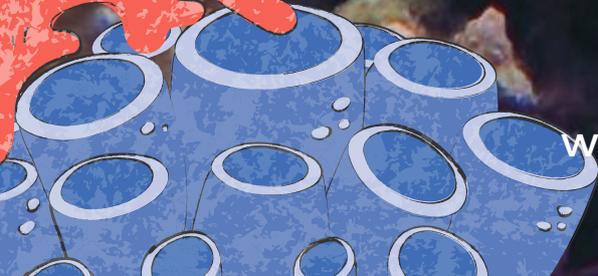
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MALAYSIA

Saving our marine ecosystems



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