

# Tun Sakaran Marine Park



Tun Sakaran Marine Park was gazetted in 2004 and is the largest marine protected area in Malaysia. The aim of management is to ensure that the natural environment is protected and resources are used wisely.



Over 2,000 Suluk, Bajau, and Bajau Laut live in the park, and this unique mix of people adds a further dimension to the area through their cultures, lifestyles, legends and skills.

A unique feature of the Park is an ancient volcano, now partly submerged by the sea, leaving three high islands, a submerged arc of coral reef and a deep lagoon. Around this central feature are five other islands and large expanses of coral reef, reaching from the surface to depths of over 50 metres. The dramatic and beautiful islands and reefs support exceptional biodiversity and the area is valued as a source of natural products, including fish, shellfish and seaweed.



The main activities are seaweed cultivation, fishing and cultivation of fruits and crops. Recreational use is growing and there is enormous potential for tourism, provided development is carefully managed.



The coral reefs in the TSMP are unfortunately not in pristine condition - like others in the Semporna area, they have been damaged in particular by over-fishing and blast fishing. But now they have a real chance of recovery under the protection of the Park.



## Semporna Islands Project Conservation action for people and the environment



Marine Conservation Society

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Sabah Parks, Bubul Road Mile 1.5, P.O.Box 163, 91307 Semporna.

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# Semporna Islands Project



The Semporna Islands Project has been working with Sabah Parks since 1998 - first helping to establish the Tun Sakaran Marine Park and now assisting with the implementation of the conservation management plan.



### Promoting sustainable resource use

Fish and other natural resources in the Park have been badly over-exploited and everyone agrees that future use needs to be managed properly. As part of this process, SIP is supporting and promoting the introduction of 'no-take zones' where fish such as snappers, groupers and sweetlips will have a chance to grow and breed, so boosting fish populations throughout the Park.

### Safeguarding biodiversity

SIP is working with Sabah Parks and local communities to ensure that biodiversity is protected and over-exploited species are given a chance to recover. One part of the SIP programme is a rescue plan for giant clams, especially the huge (1m+) *Tridacna gigas* which used to be abundant on reefs in the Park, but now is almost extinct. Baby clams are being cultured at the Park Hatchery and farmed clams will soon be available to re-stock the reefs.



### Monitoring reef health and resource use

SIP is collaborating with Sabah Parks and local communities to monitor the health of the coral reefs and the way that resources are being used. This is a vital part of Park management because the results provide clues about what is working and what more needs to be done.

### Promoting alternative livelihoods

SIP is promoting alternative livelihoods for local fishing communities that will help take pressure off the over-exploited coral reefs in the Park. Local communities are being given the opportunity to get involved in seaweed farming and plans are proceeding for the ranching of marine animals such as giant clams, abalone and oysters.



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# Information and code of conduct

## Diving, snorkelling and recreation in the Tun Sakaran Marine Park

Don't let the reefs suffer!

How you can help make the Park a success



- Please remember you are a visitor. Respect local customs and traditional uses of the reefs, but please report any illegal activities - particularly fish blasting.
- Keep to sand channels when walking or snorkelling in shallow reef areas so as to avoid damaging marine life.
- Never stand, sit or rest on living corals. They are living animals and easily damaged.
- Maintain perfect buoyancy control when diving so as to keep clear of the reef.
- If you need to steady yourself use finger tips on bare rock - gloves are not permitted.
- Avoid kicking up sand. It may settle on corals and other reef animals and suffocate them.
- Enjoy taking a close look at reef life, but please don't touch, remove or molest animals for amusement, photography or souvenirs.
- Anchoring in coral areas is prohibited.
- Avoid motoring over shallow areas, especially at low tide.
- Use of water skis and jet skis is not permitted.
- Recreational fishing is not permitted.
- All litter must be taken away and disposed of properly on the mainland.

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