



Welcome to Reef Check Malaysia's last newsletter of the year!

Hi everyone, welcome to Reef Check Malaysia's fourth and last newsletter of 2019. It has been a hectic year for our team, but we're very glad to see the progress in our areas of work. We've also just completed one of the biggest volunteer efforts for this year, the 2019 International Coastal Clean-up Day. Read on for more details!

EcoDiver Training and Surveys 2019

The 2019 annual Reef Check survey for Peninsular Malaysia has now ended with the completion of surveys in Pulau Aur and Pulau Pemanggil. These two surveys were done with the help of Marine Park officers.

We recently conducted an EcoDiver training course with eight students from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) as part of the university's graduate employment enhancement programme. RCM is also honoured to be involved in building capacity for other RC chapters in this region. In mid-September, RCM conducted an EcoDiver training course with Reef Check Brunei, which was just recently established. We'd like to welcome them into the growing network of Reef Check around the world!

Over in Sabah, we conducted an EcoDiver training with 10 volunteers from the Kudat Turtle Conservation Society (KTCS). This training was led by two trainers, Nadhirah of RCM and Shaleh of BCCS, and assisted by Eva of KTCS.



Training with KTCS volunteers (Photo credit: Gavin Jolis)



Training with UMT students

For those interested to become EcoDivers, please feel free to contact us at ecodiver@reefcheck.org.my. For more information on the EcoDiver training programme, please visit our website at www.reefcheck.org.my.

Coral Fun Run 2019

The 2019 Coral Fun Run was a charity event organised by the students of Semester 5, Diploma in Event Management (DEV5C@Getaera) with the help of Madam Nyi Imas Binti Muhammad Chong, the event supervisor. It was held in Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan, Johor, with the intention of raising funds for Reef Check Malaysia.

Some of the activities during this event included a futsal tournament, Zumba, performances, lucky draw and food stalls. RM5 from each participant fee was donated to Reef Check Malaysia, and we received a total of RM1850 in donation from the organisers.

We'd like to thank these students for their effort in fundraising for us, to help out with our programmes to conserve coral reefs.



Our colleague from Tioman, Shahir, receiving the funds raised from the run.

Tioman Island Programme – Cintai Tioman

We recently had a Recycling Collection Centre built in Air Batang village with the help of a team from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). This was done during RBC's visit to the island, which marks its 5th year of working with RCM on Tioman Island. In previous years, the RBC team has conducted activities such as installing grease traps, building recycling bins, fixing buoys, clean-ups of mangrove areas, removal of COTs as well as removal of drift nets. This year, the construction of the Recycling Collection Centre was the highlight of their visit, and it will assist the villagers of Air Batang with their recycling activities. There is now a place to store the recyclables collected, separate and pack them before they are shipped out of the island. We'd like to thank RBC and their staff for this effort, and the villagers of Air Batang for supporting and helping out with this programme.



Recycling centre in Kg Air Batang

You can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CintaiTioman> for regular updates on our programmes and activities on the island.

Updates from Mantanani

Our plastic recycling activities on the island are making great progress, especially since we've had the Mantanani Plastic Recycling Centre (MPRC). The weekly plastic bottle collection from every house has been going on since January 2019. The team on Mantanani have also conducted recycling educational programmes at the MPRC. In September, 58 bales of plastic bottles, weighing 930kg were sent out to the mainland to a recycling centre. This amount was a result of collection from April to September.

We also recently completed a Basic Computer Training with 13 locals and a Basic English Training with 14 locals. These community trainings began at the end of 2018, and only recently concluded with the participants being awarded certificates. More community trainings for the community are being planned.



Plastic bottles ready to be shipped out of the island



Some of the participants of the training with their certificates

You can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cintaimantanani/> for updates on this community programme.

Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project in Pulau Sibul, Johor

Our colleague in Pulau Sibul has been assisting in environmental education programmes through the PEDAS (Pasukan Pendidik Ekologi & Alam Sekitar) group. This group is a collaboration between Reef Check Malaysia, Tengah Island Conservation, Trash Hero Mersing, MareCet, Majlis Daerah Mersing, Cawangan Taman Laut & Pengurusan Sumber, Department of Fisheries Johor & PPD Mersing. To date, they have conducted 2 modules on marine ecosystem and marine debris in 5 pilot schools in Mersing. More modules will be delivered next year.



Some of the students involved in the PEDAS programme

International Coastal Cleanup Day (ICC) 2019 in Malaysia

On 21st September, Reef Check Malaysia, Yinson Holdings Berhad and Trash Hero Malaysia, along with other partners joined forces with thousands of volunteers across Malaysia to participate in a nationwide clean-up effort. This was done in conjunction with the 33rd International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day 2019, as well as the World Clean-up Day (WCD), which fell on the same day this year. Yinson Holdings Bhd was the platinum sponsor for the event this year, while Coca-Cola was our social media partner.

This year, expected turn-out was even higher than last year, with clean-ups planned in all 13 states plus Labuan FT. Slightly more than 11,900 volunteers came together to clean up almost 1,500km stretch of beaches in more than 100 locations. Almost 35,000 kg of trash was removed from beaches, with the most common items being plastic beverage bottles, food wrappers and cigarette butts. Plastic grocery bags was also listed as the top 5 most common items found, besides plastic bottle caps. Some organisers had to postpone the clean-up in their locations to October due to the haze. Final figures and data for the clean-up will therefore only be available towards the end of October.

We are currently part of a multi-stakeholder group that is working to develop a Malaysian Plastics Pact (led by MESTECC) to reduce plastic waste in our landfills and environment. As part of that, we are conducting a recycling pilot project in a neighbourhood in Kuala Lumpur to better understand why households are not segregating recyclables from general waste – in accordance with Act 672. We are looking into identifying mechanisms to incentivise households to segregate waste so that it can be available for recycling – rather than being dumped into landfills and then escaping into the environment.

Do join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msiamarinedebris/>) to receive the latest updates regarding ICC as well as our efforts in the battle against marine debris.



Platinum sponsor for the 2019 ICC in Malaysia



Volunteers in Tg. Aru, Sabah (Photo credit, Go Green Club)

Clean Up Summary	Total
People	11,904
Kilograms	34,664.99

Most Likely to Find Items	Total Items		Total Items
Cigarette Butts	59,418	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	137,865
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	77,075	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2,644
Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)	17,650	Beverage Cans	2,811
Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)	3,841	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	44,621
Bottle Caps (Plastic)	20,041	Other Plastic Bags	14,962
Bottle Caps (Metal)	450	Paper Bags	13
Lids (Plastic)	8,655	Cups, Plates (Paper)	73
Straws, Stirrers	9,058	Cups, Plates (Plastic)	3,339
Forks, Knives, Spoons	1,994	Cups, Plates (Foam)	637
Fishing Gear			
Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps	9	6-Pack Holders	0
Fishing Net & Pieces	2	Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	1278
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	2	Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	1
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	86	Strapping Bands	0
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)	1,791	Tobacco Packaging/Wrap	3
		Other Packaging (Clean Swell)	2916
Other Items			
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	1	Condoms	0
Balloons	762	Diapers	23
Cigar Tips	0	Syringes	0
Cigarette Lighters	146	Tampons/Tampon Applicators	0
Construction Materials	102	Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell)	1056
Fireworks	0		
Tires	5	Tiny Trash Less Than 2.5 cm	
Toys	882	Foam Pieces	150
Other Trash (Clean Swell)	9643	Glass Pieces	40
		Plastic Pieces	12,969

(*Data published based on reports received as of 30th September 2019. The top 5 items are highlighted in yellow.)

State	Clean-up Locations
Selangor	Pantai Aceh
	Pantai Aceh
	Pantai Tanjung Piai
	Pantai Redang
	Pantai Jeram
	Pantai Kelanang
Perak	Pantai Pasir Bogak, Pangkor
	Pantai Pasir Panjang, Manjung
	Teluk Batik, Lumut
	Teluk Katapang, Pangkor
Kedah	Pantai Merdeka, Kuala Muda
	Pantai Tanjung Dawai, Merbok
	Pantai Cenang, Langkawi
Pulau Pinang	Pantai Teluk Kumbar
Melaka	Pantai Kemunting
	Pantai Puteri
	Pantai Klebang
	Pulau Undan
Johor	Pantai Mawar, Endau
	Pantai Pasir Lanun
	Pantai Timur, Bandar Penawar
	Pantai Stulang
	Pantai Tanjung Balau
	Pantai Minyak Beku, Batu Pahat
	Pantai Tanjung Sepang Kota Tinggi
	Desaru Offshore Fishing
	Pantai Kampung Sedili Kecil
	Pantai Senibong
	Twin Beach, Pulau Sibul
	Pantai Batu Layar, Kota Tinggi
Negeri Sembilan	Pantai Saujana
	Pantai Purnama
	Blue Lagoon
	Pantai Teluk Kemang
	Waterfront, PD
Kelantan	Pantai Kandis
Terengganu	Pantai Batu Pelanduk, Dungun
	Pantai Sura
	Pantai Sura
	Pulau Kapas
	Pantai Pandak, Kuala Terengganu
	Pantai Teluk Ketapang
	Pantai Tok Jembal, Kuala Nerus
	Pantai Wakaf Tengah
	Pulau Perhentian

	Pulau Tenggol
	Pulau Bidong
	Long Beach, Redang
Pahang	Pantai Ayer Hantu, Tioman
	Mangrove Bay, Tioman
	Pantai Sepat, Kuantan
	Monkey Bay, Tioman
	Pantai Teluk Berus
	Pantai Indera Mahkota, Cherating
Sarawak	Pantai Belawai, Sibu
	Piasau Boat Club
	Sungai Kemena
Sabah	Pantai Bak Bak
	Mamutik Island
	Tanjung Aru, KK
	Kg. Tanjung Aru
	Pantai Tanjung Lipat
	Manukan Island Beach
	Pantai Merakit, Kampung Mengkabar
	Pantai Tanjung Aru, Sandakan
	Mabul Resort
	Pulau Kalapuan
	Pulau Bum Bum Semporna
	Pantai Teringai
	Pantai Dalit Beach
	Pantai Manis Papar
	Pantai Sabandar Tuaran
	Pantai Angkat SK Lambidan, Kuala Penyu
	Kg. Kibagu
	Mantanani Adventure Beach
	Kg. Padang
	Kg. Siring Bukit
	underwater, Mantanani Island
	Harbor square
	Tembok Sandakan