



MALAYSIA

TUN MUSTAPHA PARK

A long road to success

Aside from directly providing livelihoods for more than 85,000 people, Tun Mustapha Park is particularly significant due to its unique location – separating the South China Sea from the Sulu Sea by the narrow, Balabac Strait – which is critical for the distribution of coral larvae, marine organisms and migratory animals such as whales and dolphins. So when the Sabah state government officially declared the gazettelement of TMP on May 19, 2016, it earned universal praise for its commitment to international marine conservation.

CHARACTERISTICS

900,000ha

is the area that the TMP gazettelement covers.

13 years

of government and NGO negotiation, lobbying, capacity building, project work, scientific discovery and community outreach finally led to the formal gazettelement of TMP.

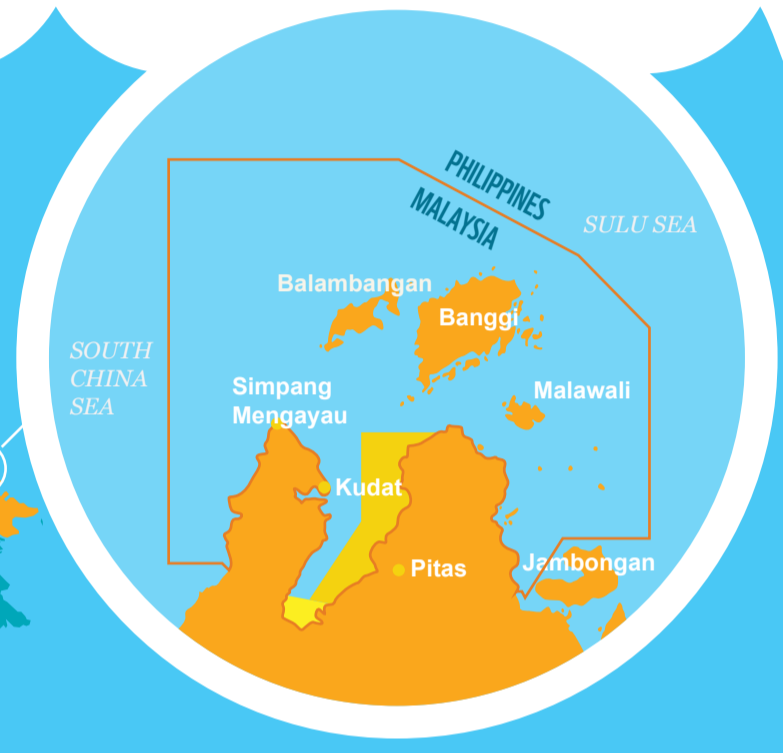
85%

of residents surveyed by WWF remarked that the gazettelement of TMP would have an overall positive impact on their communities, creating new job opportunities, a cleaner environment and an increase in fish populations.

Two new species

During a 2012 WWF-led scientific expedition, a new coral-inhabiting gall crab species and a new marine roundworm genus and species were discovered.

Sabah, Malaysia



TUN MUSTAPHA PARK

The area covered by TMP stretches from Kudat to Pitas and over 50 islands in the region, including the larger islands of Banggi, Balambangan and Malawali.

MPA Area

NOTABLE WINS & KEY LESSONS



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REGULATING TMP FISHERIES

When dealing with the vexed issues of fisheries management, discussion must be allowed to continue until a decision that is agreeable to all parties is achieved. This was far easier said than done but it was vital, especially when it came to resolving the encroachment of larger fishing vessels in the traditional three nautical mile TMP fishing zone. Ongoing discussions, supported and often facilitated by WWF, meant that some existing plans had to be revised, but the commercial fishing sector is an important part of the TMP economy and had to be productively managed.

“You can have a great management plan based on the latest conservation and biodiversity measures, but if you can’t implement it because the local people don’t adhere to the rules or because they don’t think it considers their needs, then it is practically useless and will fail to meet its objectives.”

Rebecca Jumin
WWF-Malaysia Marine Programme Head

FROM FISHERS TO WEAVERS

With fisheries declining and food security threatened, household budgets were being pinched, so many women were looking for additional means to make ends meet. Recognizing this, WWF-Malaysia with the Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) revived and adapted a weaving industry that enabled the women to earn extra money for household needs, reducing their dependence on income from fish. Skills have since increased and a regional market for woven products, and also training, has been established, laying a solid foundation for a profitable future.

WWF’S APPROACH IN TMP

- Working with community stakeholders to develop and agree on a zoning plan
- Consulting with commercial fishers to promote the virtues of sustainable fishing
- Evaluating the overall economic value of the TMP to analyse the costs and benefits of the proposed conservation plan
- Conducting scientific surveys to assess biodiversity and provide data on reef health and species populations
- Implementing public surveys and awareness campaigns to measure and build support for the TMP
- Facilitating livelihood development programmes to diversify incomes and lessen dependence on fisheries

WWF in the Coral Triangle

Over the past two decades, WWF has been working in the Coral Triangle to help safeguard the health of the region’s valuable resources and to ensure the wellbeing of the millions of people who depend on this globally significant ecosystem for food and livelihoods.

Learn more about WWF’s approach in TMP
panda.org/coraltriangle/mpa