

TURTLE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA NEWSLETTER 2012



A Message to our Members

There is no time like the present to join the crusade to help recover depleted wild populations of turtles, especially freshwater turtles, in Malaysia.

So many species are in a precarious position, caused by a multitude of threats, which is why the Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia (TCS) was formed in October 2011.

We aim to reverse this downward trend through partnerships with like-minded organizations, individuals and local communities as well as through its own programmes, and we look forward to your support.

Here we proudly present our inaugural annual newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about our activities and achievements in the past year.

If you are already a member, we thank you for your continued support and hope that you will reach out to your family, friends and colleagues and encourage them to join TCS today!

Sincerely,
Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia Committee 2011/12

Photo © Chen Pelf Nyok



An adult female River Terrapin.

Introducing our Flagship Species

Eighteen native species of freshwater turtles and tortoises are found in Malaysia. One of these, i.e. the River Terrapin (scientifically known as *Batagur affinis*), is classified as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

The Turtle Conservation Coalition, based in the U.S, also lists the River Terrapin as one of the Top 25 Most Critically Endangered Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in the World. In Malaysia, the recent Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 lists the River Terrapin as a Totally Protected species.

Our involvement with the River Terrapins dates back to 1999, when Dr. Chan Eng Heng was a Lecturer in Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (then known as Universiti Putra Malaysia Terengganu). In 2004, Dr. Chan initiated a River Terrapin Recovery Project in Setiu and in 2010, Dr. Chan and Chen Pelf Nyok initiated a similar project in three villages in Kemaman.

In the Recovery Projects, River Terrapin eggs are collected for incubation -- thus taking them out of the consumption and trade market. Upon emergence, some River Terrapin hatchlings are released into the respective rivers; the remaining hatchlings are head-started for about five to six months before they are released into the rivers. Each River Terrapin that had been released had been given a unique notch that allows each of them to be identified individually.

River Terrapin Research and Conservation Projects

TCS is currently leading two River Terrapin Recovery Projects in the Setiu and Kemaman Rivers. Community engagement is crucial in such projects, as consumption and trade of River Terrapin eggs still continue, despite recent improved legal protection.

This year, in Kg. Mangkok, Setiu, a total of 227 eggs from 12 nests were incubated, resulting in a total of 180 hatchlings (hatching success of 79%). These hatchlings were raised by Kazlina bt. Mat Ali, a villager hired by the project, and were released into the Setiu River on 3rd November 2012.

Photo © Chan Eng Heng



Kazlina bt. Mat Ali and her daughter, Nurqis checking the River Terrapin nests undergoing incubation in Setiu.



Dr. Chan Eng Heng and Nurqis measuring and weighing the newly hatched River Terrapin hatchlings in Setiu.



Local children holding River Terrapin hatchlings.

In Kemaman, three villages are involved in the project, *i.e.* Kg. Tok Kapor in Binjai, Kg. Pasir Gajah and Kg. Dadong. A total of 1,468 eggs from 126 nests were incubated this year, producing 975 hatchlings.

To date, more than 680 River Terrapin hatchlings from Kg. Pasir Gajah have been released into the Kemaman River. The remaining River Terrapins are currently being head-started by the local villagers.

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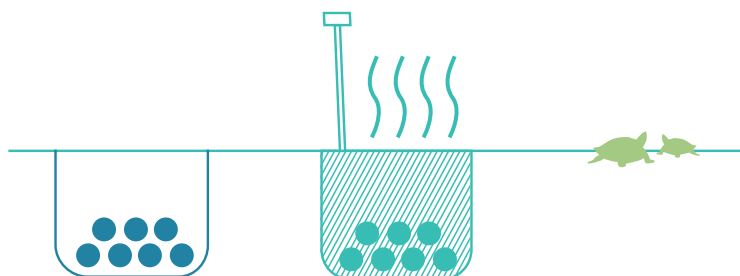
nests

1,468

eggs incubated

975

hatchlings



The River Terrapin eggs are incubated outside the house of a local villager in Kemaman. Each wooden stake marks a nest.



Photo © Chen Pelf Nyok

To study the nesting ecology of the River Terrapins, we micro-chipped 55 female River Terrapins that emerged to nest during the nesting season in February/March this year. We also weighed and measured the length and width of these females; as well we record the GPS locations of each nest.



Photo © Hannah Xavier

All post-nesting River Terrapins are checked for abnormalities, measured and weighed before they are released back into the river.



Photo © Chan Eng Heng

Chen Pelf Nyok and local villagers measuring and weighing the River Terrapin eggs in the camp site.



Photo © Lai Kow Lian

Local village children helping to load the River Terrapins onto the lorry before they are transported to the release site in Kg. Pasir Gajah.



Photo © Lai Kow Lian

Head-started River Terrapins are released into the river. Such Terrapin release events serve to promote awareness on the River Terrapins to local villagers as well as tourists.

Outreach and Educational Projects

Apart from the field-based projects, TCS actively conducts outreach and educational projects to reach out to the wider sector of the community. Projects ranged from participating in exhibitions, giving presentations, and conducting awareness programs for general audiences at environmental and community-based events, as well as more targeted groups, such as school students.

A complete list of projects is included below, but we would like to highlight the Turtle Discovery Trips, as these are open to members of the public, and provide a rare window into the world of turtles. The trips are conducted by Chen Pelf Nyok and include visits to the Cherating Turtle Sanctuary in Pahang, which houses several species of marine and freshwater turtles; to the TCS project site in Kg. Pasir Gajah, Kemaman; and followed by an after-dark visit to Monica Bay, also in Kemaman, to witness the nesting of green turtles. In 2012, five trips were conducted in May and July for a total of 22 participants from Kuala Lumpur, Sungai Petani and Singapore.



Photo © Wee Seng Whatt

Participation in Exhibitions

The newly registered TCS participated in its first outreach activity by taking part in an exhibition in conjunction with the “Environment Week” celebrated in October 2011. Very recently, TCS was also invited to participate in a Sea Turtle and Marine Biodiversity Awareness Program at the Maritime Museum in Melaka.



Photo © Chen Pelf Nyok



Photo © Chen Pelf Nyok



Photo © Chen Pelf Nyok

Fund Raising Events at International School of Kuala Lumpur

The first-graders from the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL) organized a turtle event and raised some funds for TCS. Lim Puay Aun received the cheque on behalf of TCS in March 2012. Following this, Lim Puay Aun, Chen Pelf Nyok and Life Member Lai Kow Lian represented TCS and conducted an outreach programme with the first-graders in April 2012.

Photo © Lai Kow Lian



Tioman Clean Up Day & Tioman World Ocean Day

TCS was invited by Berjaya Tioman Resort to participate in their Tioman Clean Up Day in March 2012 and Tioman World Ocean Day in June 2012. Dr. Chan Eng Heng and Chen Pelf Nyok attended these events and conducted two Turtle Awareness Programmes for the students of S.K. Tekek on both occasions.

Photo © Lai Kow Lian



Photo © Chan Eng Heng



Earth Day Carnival

TCS celebrated Earth Day Carnival in Penarik Inn with the villagers of Kg. Mangkok and Kg. Penarik in Setiu. Our hosts in Penarik Inn had arranged a full day of events that included an early morning aerobics session, beach clean-up, singing, creation of artwork using recycled materials, coconut bowling and a drawing competition. Dr. Chan Eng Heng organized the tree-planting event, palm printing by the kids, and airing of the animated version of "Little Turtle Messenger" by Life Member Heinz Hawel.

Photo © Wee Seng Whatt



Photo © Wee Seng Whatt



Turtle Alley

Turtle Alley is a 45 m long alleyway located in Kampung China, Kuala Terengganu. It is decorated with colourful turtle mosaics on its walls as well as along the walkway. 'Little Turtle Messenger' a book written by Dr. Chan Eng Heng with a powerful turtle conservation message is reproduced in metallic plates and mounted permanently on one wall.

Turtle trivia and conservation messages are also provided. The project was funded by the office of Terengganu State Executive Councillor, Y.B. Dato' Toh Chin Yaw while the mosaics were created and assembled by Dr. Chan Eng Heng with help from Chen Pelf Nyok, Meg Perry, Lim Puay Aun, Tan Yi Sin, Janet B.L. Tan and Wee Seng Whatt. The alley has become a popular tourist attraction in Kampung China.

TCS, together with the Kampung China Co-operative and the Young Malaysians Movement (Terengganu Chapter) have jointly adopted Turtle Alley to organize events associated with the alley and help maintain its cleanliness.

2013 Turtle Calendars



Photo © Chan Eng Heng

Our year-end fund-raising project came in the form of a 2013 Turtle Calendar featuring the turtle mosaics mounted in Turtle Alley, Kuala Terengganu. The project has been successful, judging from the 3,000 calendars sold to date.

We take this opportunity to thank our many supporters who have come from all walks of life in Malaysia. The calendars were frequently ordered in bulk to be given away as gifts to family and friends. We have also received orders from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Qatar, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



Photo © Chan Eng Heng

Thanks are also due to Amos Tai who designed the cute and appealing calendars and to Wee Seng Whatt who did the photography work. Dr. Chan Eng Heng, Lim Puay Aun and Chen Pelf Nyok were the three key persons who marketed the calendars.

List of Milestones and Activities

6th October 2011	We're now a registered NGO in Malaysia!
18th October 2011	Exhibition @ Taman Tamadun Islam, Kuala Terengganu
28th November 2011	Inaugural General and Committee Meetings
15th January 2012	Dialogue Session with the villagers of Kg. Mangkok, Setiu
2nd - 4th March 2012	Berjaya Tioman Resort's Tioman Island Clean-up Day
2nd March 2012 & 18th April 2012	Cheque Presentation Day and Turtle Conservation Program at the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL)
24th March 2012	Terrapin Release @ Sungai Pinang, Kemaman
20th April 2012	Earth Day Carnival @ Setiu
10th May 2012	TCS on Bernama Today
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th May & 7th July 2012	Turtle Discovery Trips
19th May 2012	World Turtle Day Celebration (release of 200 River Terrapins)
31st May 2012	Sailors' visit and terrapin release
29th June - 1st July 2012	Berjaya Tioman Resort's Tioman World Ocean Day
20th July 2012	Launching of Turtle Alley, Kuala Terengganu
19th September 2012	Exhibition @ Maritime Museum, Melaka
13th October 2012	Terrapin Release @ Kg. Pasir Gajah, Kemaman
November & December 2012	2013 Turtle Calendar fund-raising project

What Can You Do To Help Us?

As a newly-established organization, we need all the support that we can gather from you in order for us to continue and intensify our turtle research, conservation and outreach projects. Following is a list of ways in which you can support our work and projects.

If you would like to discuss a potential Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project or an internship opportunity with us, please email us at contacts@turtleconservationsociety.org.my.

Sign up as a TCS Member

As a member, you will be a part of a new and exciting partnership that contributes to the protection and conservation of turtles in Malaysia. You may also participate in all the outreach activities that the Society carries out as well as receive an annual e-newsletter.

The description and membership rates for the various membership types can be found on the TCS website (www.turtleconservationsociety.org.my)

“Like” our TCS Facebook page

Please like our TCS Facebook page for frequent updates, announcements and details of our planned activities at <http://www.facebook.com/TurtleConservationSocietyofMalaysia>

Volunteer your Time and Services

There are numerous ways in which you could help us. If you are a film-maker, you could help us produce a TCS promotional video. If you are a writer, you could write about TCS and the work that we carry out. If you are a designer, you could help us design our educational posters or T-shirts. If you are a school teacher or lecturer, you could organize trips for your students to visit us and learn about the River Terrapins first-hand.

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer your time and services as we appreciate any help that we can get!

Subscribe to updates on the TCS website

Besides posting updates on Facebook, we also provide more detailed accounts of activities that the Society carries out on our website. Additionally, the TCS website also contains information sheets on some Malaysian turtles as well as educational posters that might be useful for you and your children/students. We would also like to encourage you to subscribe to our website to receive updates in your mailbox.

Tell your friends about TCS

What better way to spread the news (and love) for TCS than to tell your family, friends and colleagues about us? If you have participated in any of our Outreach Projects, please share your experiences with your contacts. Who knows, you might discover a turtle lover among them!

Participate in our Outreach and Fundraising Projects

From time to time, we may organize Outreach Projects such as Turtle Discovery Trips as well as Fundraising Activities. Members of the public not only get to participate in our Outreach Projects, they are also encouraged to spread the words about TCS to their family and friends.



Friends of Turtle Conservation Society

INDIVIDUALS

LIFE MEMBERS

Ahmad Faizal b. Mohd. Zain (Prof. Ir. Dr.)
 Aini Hasanah bt. A. Mutalib
 Alfred Chuah Tiong Eng
 Anne Chew Yii Huei
 Bakhtiar Balhah
 Beh Kim Chin
 Chan Bee Bee
 Chan Eng Heng (Dr.)
 Chan Kean Eng
 Chan Sow Lei
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 Chan Wai Kee
 Chang Kew Fong
 Chark Ling Wei
 Charmaine Loke
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 Chong Chin Kian
 Chong Soon Fun
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 Dora Khoo
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 Ellen Whyte
 Elok Robert Tee (Dr.)
 Emily Wong Jia Yee
 Farha bt. Mohamed Nor
 Florence Soh Yin Ying
 Foo Ee Lin
 Foo Ee Ying
 Foo Jong Wee (Ir.)
 Foo Tiang How
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 Gan Yew Sun
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 Heinrich Hawel
 Hiew Wai Phang, Kevin
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 Julian Hyde
 Justina Sim
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 Kho Sheue Hee
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 Khoo Hai Chew
 Krista Goon
 Lai Kow Lian
 Law Siew Hoong, Lorenz
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 Lee Mei Khuan
 Lee Mei San
 Lee Sok Khoon
 Leong Chiok
 Leong Yuan Jian
 Liew Hock Chark (Assoc. Prof.)

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 Lim Hwee Chin
 Lim Puay Aun
 Lim Xin Yu
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 Loretta Ann Soosayraj
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 Mah Yin Ling
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 Mary Ann Quevado Hee
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 Mohd. Hafiz b. Abdul Majid
 Mohd. Nasarudin b. Harith @Abdul Nasir
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 Nattana Simon
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 Ng Seow Ying
 Nicola Everitt
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 Sea Shin Tyun (To' Puan)
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 Tan Chun Hong, James
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 Tan Kayzen
 Tan Poh Liang
 Tan Seng Chye, Michael
 Tan She Yong
 Tan Teik Wei, Eric
 Tan Yee Siang
 Tengku Zainal Abidin
 Teoh Hui Chieh
 Teo Swee Keng
 Toh Chin Yaw (Y.B. Dato')
 Too Chee Hung
 Tor Pee Ping
 Vicki Chew Yii Ching
 Victor Tham Yu Heng
 Wan Ahmad Azimi b. Wan Azmin
 Wee Seng Whatt
 Wong Ee Lynn
 Yang Teng Teng
 Yap Wyn Ne
 Yeo Pey Wen
 Yeo Sin Soon

ORDINARY MEMBERS

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 Foo Khi Khing
 Heng Wei Khang
 Toh Seng Cheng
 Vallerie Ng Yuet Ling
 Wee Hwee Ling
 Yee Woei Shyan
 Norul Rafiq b. Namas Khan

STUDENT MEMBERS

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 Felicity Kuek Wen Ik
 Lee Ettiene
 Lim Xiao Yu

Joel Soh
 Sandy Pok
 Toh Yin Li
 Wee Lim

TERRAPIN ADOPTIONS

Adrian Chan Yong Qian
 Anuar McAfee
 Ariffin b. Hassan (Pak Su Cherating)
 Beh Kim Chin
 Callum Toh W.J.
 Chen Ee Lin
 Chen Foo Choo
 Chen Ling Khew
 Chen May Yoong
 Chen Pelf Yeen
 Chloe-Ann Toh J.S.
 Choo Cindy
 Dora Khoo
 Eddy Lee Kwong Fei
 Ho Choa Har
 Jeffrey Chan Tuck Fook
 Joanne Chan Ee Mun
 Lam May Wan
 Lee Yoke Keong
 Renee Ng May Sum
 Sea Shin Tyun (To' Puan)
 Toh Chin Yaw (Y.B. Dato')
 Toh Yin Li
 Vicki Chew Yii Ching

TURTLE DISCOVERY TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Adi Nikmat
 Anthony Lee
 Bernard Chan (Dr.)
 Charmaine Loke
 Choi Yar Wen
 Chu Pui See
 Dora Khoo
 Gerald Lim
 Jaclyn Low
 Jason Choi
 Jenny Tang
 Joseph Chan
 Karen Lim
 Lee Sze Ching
 Leong Chow Pong
 Marcus Teoh Zhen Ye
 Ma Siew Ling
 Melanie Lim
 Nancy Tan
 Norazlina bt. Abdul Rashid
 Rozita bt. Abdul Rani
 Toh Yin Li

PARTNERS

Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Malaysia
 Local communities in Setiu and Kemaman

DONORS

Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
 Turtle Conservation Fund
 Malaysian Nature Society



Coming up next...

The Setiu and Kemaman projects will continue, and the Turtle Discovery Trips will be enhanced in 2013; we hope to offer at least one trip each month.

We will also celebrate World Turtle Day 2013 in Kuala Terengganu with a half-day event. And perhaps the most exciting news is that we are actively working towards developing our own Terrapin Centre in Kemaman, which will serve as a resource and education centre for the locals and visitors – and TCS members!

Details of these planned activities and more will be announced from time to time on our official TCS website and Facebook page. Please make sure you are subscribed to our updates!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:
Tan Sri Dr. Salleh b. Mohd. Nor

Vice President:
Dr. Chan Eng Heng

Secretary:
Chen Pelf Nyok

Assistant Secretary:
Lim Puay Aun

Treasurer:
Wee Seng Whatt

Committee Members:
Chan Wai Kee
Jasmine Steed
Lim Xin Yu
Loretta Ann Soosayraj

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www.turtleconservationsociety.org.my



Membership Form

Name	
I/C Number	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email	
Registration Fee	* RM5 for all Membership Types (Paid only once)
Membership Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary (RM15 per annum) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (RM5 per annum) <input type="checkbox"/> Life (RM100 one-off) <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate - Organization (RM500 per annum) <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate - Individual (RM100 per annum)
Mode of Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque / Money Order No.:
For Office Use:	Membership No.:

Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia | www.turtleconservationsociety.org.my | contactus@turtleconservationsociety.org.my
Tel: +6012-696 8238 (Chen Pelf Nyok) or +6016-206 9098 (Dr. Chan Eng Heng)



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Name	
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Mode of Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque / Money Order No.:
For Office Use:	Membership No.:

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