

NEWSLETTER



WE MADE IT!

As we wrap up another remarkable year, we're excited to share the milestones, challenges, and plans that have shaped PULIHARA's journey in marine conservation. This edition is brimming with stories from our project sites, highlighting the tireless efforts of our teams, the resilience of our ecosystems, and the impact of collective action. Whether you've joined us as a volunteer, contributed through donations, or helped spread our mission, your role in this journey has been invaluable. Together, we're not just safeguarding marine life - we're building a legacy of hope for generations to come. Thank you for being an essential part of PULIHARA.

Let's dive into the highlights!

PULIHARA
Team X

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Milestones

Nesting Data

Ongoing
Research

Outreach
Initiatives

Stories of
Impacts

Get Involved

2024

**THESE IMPACTS WERE
MADE POSSIBLE WITH
YOUR HELP.**

All thanks to you!
Whether through
volunteering your time,
donating resources, or
supporting our adoption
programmes, your essential
contribution has helped fuel
our groundwork this year.



834.9 **KG**

30,286

turtle eggs were saved from various
natural and anthropogenic factors, some
relocated into the safety of our
hatcheries.

26,245

hatchlings released back into the sea.
We hope to see them again in 25 to 30
years!

329

nests were monitored throughout their
incubation period across all three
PULIHARA project sites.

Throughout the season, our team organised
a total of 74 beach clean-up sessions and 8
underwater clean-ups

From these clean-up sessions, we
successfully removed 503.4 kg of non-
recyclable trash and 190.6 kg of recyclable
materials. Hurray to everyone involved in
tackling the growing issue of marine
pollution!

75

NEW TURTLES SIGHTED.

Our photo-ID database is growing rapidly!

This season, all three PULIHARA project sites recorded sightings of previously unidentified turtles, adding exciting new entries to our expanding database.

Photo-ID is a non-invasive identification technique that relies on the unique patterns of facial scales on a turtle's face to distinguish individuals.

While these scales may grow or change in colour over time, their distinct patterns remain consistent throughout the turtle's life - much like a human fingerprint!

CHAKAR HUTAN | 66 INDIVIDUALS



LANG TENGAH | 6 INDIVIDUALS



TANJONG JARA | 3 INDIVIDUALS



PSST!

Many of our identified turtles are still waiting to be given a special name.

If you're searching for a unique and meaningful gift for your loved ones, why not name a sea turtle after them?

Learn more about PULIHARA's Name a Turtle Programme here:

<https://puliharamalaysia.org/adopt/>

FIELD NOTES

STORIES FROM OUR CONSERVATION FRONTLINES



CHAKAR HUTAN

Chakar Hutan concluded its nesting season with an incredible record of 311 nests - a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our team. From March to October, staff members, passionate interns, and vigilant rangers from the Department of Fisheries tirelessly patrolled the 1.4 km stretch of beach, ensuring the safety of nesting turtles and their eggs.

But the impact didn't stop at the shoreline. This season, Chakar Hutan became a hub of learning

and inspiration, welcoming visitors from all walks of life - students, local community members, and corporate partners - eager to delve into the fascinating world of sea turtles.





Through engaging outreach programmes such as the weekly *Kelas Penyu*, we shared the vital role sea turtles play in marine ecosystems and provided actionable steps for how everyone can contribute to their survival.



From interactive sessions with school groups to community workshops and hands-on volunteering opportunities for corporate teams, Chakar Hutan nurtured a deeper understanding of conservation and inspired many to join the fight to protect these endangered species. None of this would have been set in motion without the incredible support of our collaborators and visitors.



2025

CHARTING THE COURSE

As we look forward to another exciting season, our commitment to conservation and education continues to grow stronger. We have planned 10 engaging awareness programmes with kindergartens, alongside tours for primary and secondary schools.

In addition to our work with schools, we are expanding our outreach to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in conservation efforts. Starting this year, we will be offering Turtle Watching activities free of charge to members of the B40 community. This initiative is designed to provide greater access and exposure to the vital work we do, creating opportunities for more individuals to connect with and contribute to sea turtle conservation - instilling a sense of responsibility and passion for protecting sea turtles and their habitats.



Members of the public are also invited to join our Turtle Watching and Hatchling Release activities at Chakar Hutan. These unique experiences offer a rare opportunity to witness the beauty of sea turtles up close and learn about their critical role in marine ecosystems.

While there will be a fee for participation, the proceeds directly support our conservation efforts. For more details, visit our social media pages on Instagram and Facebook, or drop us a message - we'd love to hear from you!



LANG TENGAH

The rising sea temperatures of 2024 brought significant challenges to Lang Tengah's fragile marine ecosystem, resulting in widespread coral bleaching. Our assessments revealed stark survival rates for coral fragments around Tanjung Telunjuk after the bleaching events in Q3, ranging from just 8% to 31% depending on the species. These figures are a sobering reminder of the urgent need for action to combat climate change and protect our oceans.



Despite these setbacks, we remain hopeful in our efforts to restore the reefs in Tanjung Telunjuk. With the lift of moratorium on coral work issued by the Department of Fisheries in 2024, we hope to continue our coral replanting efforts this year, with renewed determination and hope for better survivability under improved conditions. Healthy reefs are essential not only for sustaining marine biodiversity but also for ensuring ecological balance.

2025

TURNING THE TIDES

To further amplify our conservation impact, we're excited to launch a new outreach programme designed to engage local youths from the Terengganu mainland. This initiative aims to provide an opportunity for young individuals - particularly those in transition periods, such as waiting for exam results or seeking employment - to immerse themselves in meaningful conservation work.

From April to September, these participants will join us on Lang Tengah to take part in hands-on activities, including beach patrols and sea turtle conservation, as well as learning the importance of coral rehabilitation. Through this programme, they will gain practical experience and a deeper understanding of the critical role turtles and corals play in marine ecosystems, food security, and the well-being of coastal communities.



This project, generously funded by Yayasan Hasanah, is about more than conservation. It's about empowering the next generation with knowledge, skills, and a sense of purpose. By engaging these young individuals in the stewardship of our oceans, we hope to inspire long-term advocacy for marine protection and instill a strong connection to the natural world.





TANJONG JARA

This season at Tanjong Jara saw a more subdued nesting period, with just 15 nests relocated to our hatchery. However, the Visitors' Hut remained a hive of activity, welcoming over 2,000 guests who participated in Turtle Talk and Nest Inspection sessions.

These meaningful interactions continue to raise awareness about protecting the critically endangered sea turtles and painted terrapins found in the area. The Visitors' Hut at Tanjong Jara Resort will reopen its doors in the second week of March 2025, ready to welcome more individuals eager to learn, connect, and be part of the journey to safeguard our marine heritage.



2025

PATH TO PROGRESS

This year also marks the start of two exciting projects!

PULIHARA at Tanjong Jara will launch a pilot study focusing on the painted terrapin (*Batagur borneoensis*). These freshwater turtles, known for their striking appearance and unique nesting behaviours, are among Southeast Asia's most threatened species. Protecting them requires not only safeguarding nesting beaches but also preserving the habitats they depend on throughout their life cycle.

Funded by the Turtle Conservation Fund and in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance, the study will map their populations and habitats in Dungun's rivers, providing essential data to guide conservation efforts.

While this research focuses on current distributions, PULIHARA



envisions future satellite tracking studies to unlock deeper insights into their movements and behaviours - steps that will be pivotal in securing their survival.

Adding to the momentum, PULIHARA is bringing the International Sea Turtle Ambassador (I.S.T.A.) Programme to Malaysia, in partnership with the Florida based Inwater Research Group.

This first-of-its-kind initiative, supported by the International Sea Turtle Society Innovation Grant, combines immersive fieldwork and innovative resources to educate youth, educators, and aspiring conservationists about sea turtle ecology. Launching in mid-2025, the programme will empower participants to lead conservation initiatives in their schools and communities, sparking a ripple effect of awareness and action.

2025

GET INVOLVED!

*Patrolling
the beach
at night in
search of
nesting
turtles*



SPRING INTO ACTION ON LANG TENGAH.

Become an essential part of our conservation efforts on the beautiful island of Lang Tengah. As a volunteer, you'll engage in nightly beach patrols, nest relocation and monitoring to protect the island's turtle population, and other exciting activities!

Volunteers should be relatively fit, able to swim, and ready for the adventure of living in a rustic, jungle setting. For more details on rates and requisites, visit our website:

<https://puliharamalaysia.org/volunteer-join-our-team/>

EXPERIENCE HANDS-ON FIELD WORK.

Embark on a transformative journey with our Internship Programme! This three-month immersive experience offers aspiring conservationists the opportunity to engage directly in vital fieldwork, from data collection to participating in research projects. Interns will also gain insights into awareness outreach and community engagement to protect Malaysia's precious marine life. If you're ready to make a tangible impact and develop invaluable skills in conservation, apply now to join the team.



*Get front-
row seats
in ground
work*

THANK YOU!

TO OUR FUNDERS, COLLABORATORS, SPONSORS, ADOPTERS, VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS, AND SUPPORTERS.

Your contributions have been the driving force behind our success, empowering us to make meaningful strides in marine conservation and community engagement. Every nest protected, every coral replanted, and every young mind inspired has been possible because of you.



A detailed list of funders, collaborators, sponsors, adopters and many more is included in the respective project sites' 2024 Annual Reports, which will be on their way to you soon!