

NEWSLETTER



REVISITING THE WILD

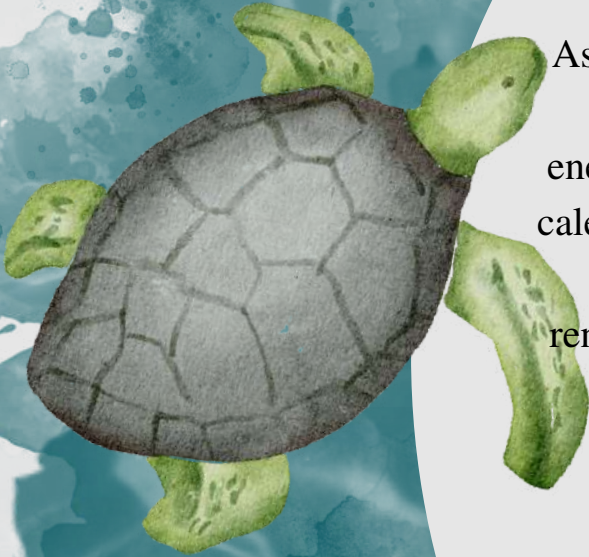
Hello again from the shores of Terengganu!

As we step into a brand-new season of conservation, our hearts are full of hope, gratitude, and renewed energy. The turn of the year brings more than a fresh calendar — it heralds the return of nesting turtles, the warm welcome of new faces to our teams, and a renewed commitment to protect the fragile beauty of our marine world.

Building on the incredible momentum of 2024 — where together we relocated over 30,000 precious eggs and watched more than 26,000 tiny hatchlings begin their journey home to the sea — we step into 2025 with spirits lifted and dreams even bigger.

And the best part?
We're doing it with you by our side!

PULGHARA
Team x



BOOTS, BUCKETS, AND BIG DREAMS

Inside our pre-season preparations!

If you thought January and February were sleepy months, think again! Behind the scenes, it's been a whirlwind of brushes, boots, and buckets across our project sites.

At Tanjong Jara, our hatchery received the royal treatment — our team rolled up their sleeves to give the hatchery a sparkling clean-up, realign the plots, and bolster the fencing — ensuring our little hatchlings have a safe start to life.

Over at Chakar Hutan, it was all hands on deck as the team erected their hatchery for the season. The team also channelled their inner treasure hunters together with the Geng Plastik Ija (GPI) team, combing the 1.4 km stretch of beach for monsoon debris — from the usual plastic suspects to some truly baffling finds. Nest markers were prepped, patrol kits sorted, and we rolled out the red carpet for our newest staff members stationed at Chakar Hutan.

Meanwhile, across the waters at Lang Tengah, it was all systems go: solar panels were serviced, research equipments were recalibrated, and patrol routes re-established — ready for the first signs of turtle landings. We also have new faces on board this season!

It might seem like the quiet before the storm, but make no mistake — these early days are where the season's success is forged. A well-prepped site means safer turtles, smoother operations, and countless opportunities for conservation magic to unfold.

After all, as we like to say, a little elbow grease now sets the stage for miracles later!



Say hello to our 2025 team!

Hailing from all walks of life — from budding biologists and passionate educators to community connectors and beach-loving adventurers — this year’s team brings with them fresh energy, diverse perspectives, and a shared love for conservation.



They’ve traded city lights for starry patrols, office chairs for hatchery stools, and spreadsheets for sand in their shoes — all in the name of something bigger. Get to know the faces who will be working tirelessly across our three project sites to protect Malaysia’s marine heritage, one turtle at a time.



Chief Executive Officer



Accounts & Administrative Coordinator



Project Manager Lang Tengah



Project Manager Tanjong Jara



Project Manager Chakar Hutan



Senior Outreach Officer Tanjong Jara



Outreach Officer Lang Tengah



Marine Officer Lang Tengah



Marine Officer Chakar Hutan



Hatchery Liaison Officer Chakar Hutan



Field Assistant Chakar Hutan



Field Assistant Chakar Hutan

We are over the moon to announce that not one, but TWO I.S.T.A. Turtle Trunks have made their way to Malaysia!

These mobile educational toolkits, developed by the Inwater Research Group, are designed to turn classrooms and community halls into interactive conservation spaces.

One trunk now proudly resides at Chakar Hutan, generously funded by CIMB Foundation, while the second has found its home at Tanjong Jara, thanks to the incredible support of the International Sea Turtle Society Innovation Grant.

**A TRUNK FULL OF
LEARNING**



So, what's inside these magical boxes? Each Turtle Trunk is a treasure chest of hands-on learning materials, including:

- Life-sized juvenile turtle models complete with flipper tags and examples of epibiota (organisms that live on a turtle's shell), giving students a realistic glimpse into turtle biology and ocean life
- Callipers for measuring curved carapace length and width — just like real marine biologists do in the field
- 3D-printed skulls of four species: leatherback, green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles, along with examples of their natural food sources
- Interactive activity sheets that immerse students in tasks like identifying turtle species, conducting mock health assessments, and understanding ocean threats

And many more tactile, thoughtfully curated materials that let young learners step into the flippers of a marine scientist!

BUT THE REAL MAGIC?

Definitely when watching young minds come alive when the ocean's mysteries are placed right in their hands! At Chakar Hutan, our team has led multiple outreach and education sessions with kindergartens across Kerteh — and the impact has been nothing short of heartwarming. With callipers in hand and turtle models laid out before them, children eagerly measured shells, compared turtle diets, and learned how turtles can swim so fast underwater. They asked thoughtful, curious questions — the kind that signal not just interest, but the beginnings of environmental empathy.

Over at Tanjong Jara, the arrival of the I.S.T.A. Turtle Trunk has been just as transformative. The life-sized models, 3D skulls, and interactive tools have helped guests, both young and old, visualise the science and soul of conservation. What once may have seemed abstract or distant is now tangible, relatable, and deeply engaging. From hands-on exploration to thoughtful conversation, the trunk's presence has elevated our guest education efforts, sparking new levels of awareness and appreciation for the sea turtles that call our coast home.



A heartfelt shout-out goes to Dr. Uzair Rusli of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), who went the extra mile — quite literally — by hauling these precious trunks all the way from Ghana, where the 44th International Sea Turtle Symposium took place, back to our shores. We are deeply grateful for his extraordinary effort!



A HAND AFTER THE STORM

Post-monsoon repairs at Lang Tengah

As the nesting season winds down and the east coast monsoon rolls in, our research station on Pulau Lang Tengah temporarily closes its doors — only to reopen again in late February or early March, ready for a new season of conservation. But reopening after months of wind, rain, and salt is no easy task.



This year, we were fortunate to receive the generous support of KakiDIY.com, a hands-on volunteer crew led by the ever-resourceful Johnson, alongside Vincent and Alvin. Over the course of three incredibly productive days, the team helped restore our weather-worn camp — mending broken doors, securing loose locks, repairing walls, kitchen cabinets, and even the humble sleeping hut.



More than just their time and skills, they also left behind thoughtful gifts: tents, camping equipment, tools, and repair kits — items that will serve us well through seasons to come. We're eternally grateful for their kindness, generosity, and the spirit of community they brought with them.

Sometimes, nature sends us sobering reminders of the challenges we face. Mid-March dealt us just such a moment.

A TROUBLING TREND



On 14 March 2025 at 12:50 AM, our patrol team on Chakar Hutan discovered the first stranded turtle between Sections 14 and 15. Later that same evening, at 8:50 PM, a second turtle was found between Sections 21 and 22. By the next morning, 15 March at 7:13 AM, a third stranded turtle was spotted between Sections 23 and 24.

All three were male, all three were found deceased, and all were bloated — suggesting possible internal gas build-up prior to stranding.

Initial examinations revealed no visible injuries on the first two turtles; no signs of entanglement or trauma on their carapaces. However, the third turtle bore a deep laceration across its shell — possibly the result of a boat strike or an injury inflicted by fishing activities.

The team moved swiftly, collecting vital biometric data (curved carapace length and width, flipper tagging) and filing immediate reports to the Department of Fisheries. Each turtle was subsequently buried in a designated location to prevent duplication in future stranding record.

The three strandings occurred within a mere 450 metres along the coastline. A stark, chilling proximity that speaks volumes: these are not isolated incidents. They are symptoms of a greater crisis — a wake-up call that our oceans are still under siege.

Plastic pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and reckless boating behaviours continue to cost precious lives. These losses are preventable. But only if we choose to act — decisively, urgently, together.



Let these fallen guardians remind us why every patrol matters; why every beach clean-up, every awareness talk, every outreach session is a lifeline for those who cannot speak for themselves.

For more images, please visit our social media pages. Viewer discretion is advised.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A STRANDED TURTLE...

Whether found alive or deceased, encountering a stranded turtle is a critical moment. Here's what you should do:

- Do not attempt to move the turtle unless it is in immediate danger (e.g. being hit by vehicles).
- Take note of the exact location, time, and any visible injuries or signs of entanglement.
- Photograph the turtle from a safe distance if possible — this helps with identification and documentation.
- Immediately contact the Malaysian Department of Fisheries (DoF) Hotline at 03 8888 5019.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across all three project sites, our teams have worked through rain and rising tides — protecting nesting individuals, relocating nests, and reclaiming beaches from the grip of pollution. Every patrol, every egg saved, every piece of plastic lifted from the shore is a quiet act of rebellion against indifference. This is more than conservation; it's devotion. A promise that as long as the turtles return, so will we.

These are the milestones we're proud to share.

**Figures are current as of April 30th 2025*

TOTAL TRASH REMOVED



1,061 kg



EGGS SAVED



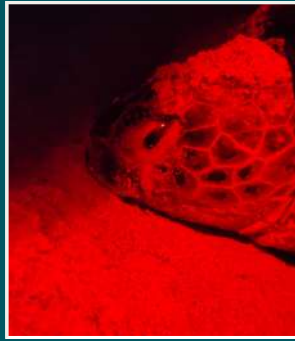
RECYCLABLES



NESTS SAVED



NON-RECYCLABLES



SNAPSHOTS

A stylized, hand-drawn illustration of a vintage camera, positioned centrally within the text block.

FROM THE PROJECT SITES



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://pulihamalaysia.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*