

ENVIRONMENT

YSD dedicates itself to the protection and preservation of the environment and conservation of biodiversity, while preserving landscape and seascape. Priority is given to vulnerable and/or endangered species and the preservation of forest reserves and marine parks. The Foundation supports world-class scientific research, with the aim of translating results into action, while developing highly capable local scientists, researchers and custodians. YSD also supports initiatives and campaigns that encourage and empower communities to live sustainably by adopting green and sustainable practices in their lifestyle.



The amount committed since 2009:

RM206.6 million

The number of ongoing projects:

33

The number of organisations supported (FY2023):

30



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MENRAQ: A STORY OF INDIGENOUS CUSTODIANSHIP

YSD is taking proactive measures to support the urgent imperative of safeguarding the critically endangered Malayan Tiger in the Royal Belum State Park (RBSP). Persatuan Pelindung Harimau Malaysia (RIMAU) has thus received a sponsorship of RM1.2 million over three years to equip, train, and deploy two new Menraq patrol teams in addition to RIMAU’s existing three teams to combat illegal poaching activities in the area.

Comprising Orang Asli youth from the Jahai tribe, Menraq will support the existing forest rangers under Perak State Park Corporation (PSPC) in their anti-poaching efforts in RBSP. Despite their limited literacy and numeracy skills, these youths exhibit impressive aptitude in mastering the advanced Smart Monitoring System technologies to support conservation efforts.

On top of tiger conservation, YSD’s unique sponsorship also includes a stipend channelled to the village’s

community fund for the purchase of necessities and medication, among other things, while assisting those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Consistent with YSD’s dedication to providing access to quality education, 45 Orang Asli children are also being introduced to the Menraq Junior Rangers programme to inspire a new generation of wildlife protectors by improving their literacy levels and instilling a sense of interest in forest protection and biodiversity. Through YSD’s support, RIMAU is conducting an outreach programme with 55 identified schools in Hulu Perak, including Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Tiang in RBSP, to distribute 1,000 copies of ‘Hari Tanpa Ngauman’ book to enhance their literacy levels through creative storytelling. YSD’s support for RIMAU is intended to provide an alternative source of livelihood for the Jahai youths, which reflects YSD’s commitment to conservation, sustainability, and inclusivity.



“ The survival of our invaluable wildlife teeters on the edge. Just within my lifetime, we’ve borne witness to the tragic extinctions of the Sumatran Rhino and the Leatherback Turtle. I refuse to let another iconic species, the Malayan Tiger, slip away. With the support of YSD, our mission at RIMAU to protect and safeguard these tigers gains even greater strength. At the heart of our collaboration is the empowering involvement of the Orang Asli, who play an integral role in biodiversity conservation in RBSP as the protectors of the rainforest’s biodiversity. Through our collaboration with YSD, we strive not only to secure the survival of our precious wildlife but also to uplift the indigenous communities, creating a community-based solution to preserve the delicate balance of our ecosystem. ”

Lara Ariffin, RIMAU President



10 ORANG ASLI YOUTH EMPLOYED AND TRAINED.



RIMAU ORGANISED 3 TYPES OF TRAINING CAMPS TO EQUIP THE PATROLLERS: CAPACITY BUILDING, FIELD TRAINING, AND OFF-SITE TRAINING.



1,000 COPIES OF THE "HARI TANPA NGAUMAN" BOOK FOR DISTRIBUTION TO 55 IDENTIFIED SCHOOLS IN HULU PERAK THROUGH RIMAU'S SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMME.



LAUNCH OF THE MENRAQ JUNIOR RANGERS EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 45 ORANG ASLI CHILDREN AGED 10-14.



Menraq community-based wildlife protection patrol team made up of Jahai youth.



(L-R) En Shah Redza, PSPC Director; Datuk Helmy Othman Basha, Sime Darby Plantation Berhad Group Managing Director; Dato' Jeffri Salim Davidson, Sime Darby Berhad Group CEO; Dr Yatela, YSD CEO; and Ms Lara Ariffin, RIMAU President at the launch of Menraq Patrol Teams.



Orang Asli youth employed, trained, and equipped as Menraq patrollers.

RIMAU engages with Orang Asli children in RBSP to create awareness of wildlife conservation about the Malayan Tiger.



During the visit, YSD provided food aid and hygiene kits to 105 Orang Asli families in Kampung Sungai Kejar.



Hari Tanpa Ngauman book features Teega, a little Malayan Tiger who rules the jungle.

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WOMEN IN CONSERVATION: SAFEGUARDING MALAYSIA'S NATURAL TREASURES

YSD is proud to empower women who are passionate and dedicated to the important causes they believe in. Malaysia is certainly not short of these strong women, evident across all our pillars.

Within just the Environment pillar, we are in awe of the talent and tenacity of the female conservationists, community

members, teachers, assistants, project managers, and so many more who are at the core of driving positive and impactful change in our environment, towards increasing biodiversity and protecting Malaysia's precious flora and fauna.



Dr Ravinder Kaur
Scientific Director
Explore Gaia Enterprise (Gaia)



“I am unable to stand on the side and watch our wildlife struggle to survive. With YSD’s support and guidance, Gaia has expanded and done more for conservation and the local communities. We are now able to work in a bigger team and in more forested areas across Malaysia. This has not only allowed for personal development for each of us in the team but has also led to notable achievements, such as setting up the nest boxes in Terengganu with our partners and collaborators, PERHILITAN, Nature Based Solutions, and HUTAN-KOCP, intended for the two pairs of Great Hornbills that had lost their natural nesting sites.”



Wong Pui May
Senior Project Manager
Nature Based Solutions

“There are many challenges, but there are also opportunities to do things differently. With YSD’s support, this project has given me the opportunity to explore people-centred approaches to nature conservation and engage with local communities as partners, particularly the Orang Asli.

It has been a real privilege to witness the forest skills of the Batek people, who are Orang Asli that are traditionally hunter-gatherers. The people we often work with under this project, from Kampung Kuala Koh in Kelantan, continue to practice a semi-mobile way of life. Their expertise, rooted in their intimate connection with the rainforest, reveals fascinating skills and knowledge intrinsic to their daily lives.”





Juliana Adam Wong

Chief Executive Officer & Founding Partner
Biji-Biji Initiative

“YSD’s support has been the catalyst behind our remarkable achievements in environmental conservation, turning our vision of fostering sustainable communities into reality. Through our partnership with YSD, we have embarked on innovative projects, empowering individuals to embrace sustainable living and become passionate advocates for circular economy.

Witnessing the transformative journey of the Seruling community in Bandar Bukit Raja has reaffirmed our commitment and drive to improving lives; proof that with the right support, communities can lead the way in sustainable living. YSD’s invaluable support has strengthened our resolve to integrate responsible business practices with environmental stewardship, so we may leave a legacy that will endure for generations to come.”



Dr Louisa S. Ponnampalam

Chairperson, Co-Founder & Executive Director
MareCet Research Organisation (MareCet)

“I resolved within me that I needed to do my part for environmental conservation and that I would focus on the realm (marine) that I loved the most and on the animals (marine mammals) that I had been interested in for as long as I could remember.

Turning our long-held dream since 2015 into reality, we created a mobile marine educational exhibition on marine mammals and the ocean in 2022. With YSD’s support, we toured half of Peninsular Malaysia, bringing our Whale-On-The-Wheels Mobile Marine Education Nationwide Tour to local schools, towns, communities, and cities.

In 2019, we were also able to conduct a mini survey to confirm the presence of Bryde’s whales in the offshore waters of Kedah, but it wasn’t until the funding support from YSD in 2021 that we were able to really grow MareCet’s WHALE Project and collect vital information about the ecology and behaviour of these majestic creatures.”



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BEAUTY IN PERIL: CINTAI TIOMAN CAMPAIGN AIMS TO SAFEGUARD A NATURAL WONDER

YSD ramped up the Cintai Tioman campaign with Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) and Juara Turtle Project (JTP) to raise public awareness on the need to protect and sustain the ecological and social resilience of Pulau Tioman, a popular tourist destination off the coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The island is currently on its way to being certified and recognised as one of Malaysia’s first on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

Pulau Tioman to participate in beach clean-ups, coral planting, and preparation of coral blocks and recycling bins.

The trip also marked the official launch of the YSD Eco Citizen programme, an employee volunteering initiative aimed at engaging Sime Darby employees in environmental conservation efforts and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among participants.

As part of the campaign, YSD brought together YSD Eco Citizen volunteers from Sime Darby Plantation, Sime Darby Berhad, and Sime Darby Property, to

YSD ECO CITIZEN FOR CINTAI TIOMAN HIGHLIGHTS:

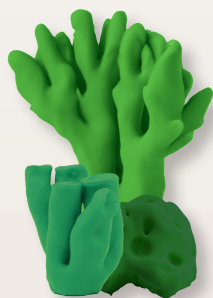


Through YSD’s decade-long partnership with RCM, the Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG) was established, consisting of local islanders passionate about marine and island conservation. The group has made significant contributions by collecting recyclables and conducting environmental awareness programmes

on the island. The TMCG also receives training to set up their own recycling business, thus being a part of YSD’s efforts at increasing alternative sources of livelihood. Additionally, the collaboration between YSD and JTP has increased the chances of survival for vulnerable sea turtles.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH RCM AND JTP TO DATE:

CORAL CONSERVATION



- Ghost nets removed: 160 weighing at over 24,000kg
- Coral fragments planted: 2,600
- Coral fragments replaced: 164
- Coral rehabilitation sites set up: 4
- Mooring lines installed: 69
- Crown of thorns removed: 6,427
- Coral bleaching surveys: 6

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION



- Beach Patrols Conducted: 1,200
- Turtle Nests Relocated by JTP: 64 nests with 6,453 eggs
- Sea Turtle Hatchlings Released: 4,910

RECYCLING ACTIVITIES



- Beach Cleanups: Beach clean-ups conducted: 17 sessions
- Recyclables collected: 100,000kg of plastic, aluminium, cardboard, e-waste, and glass

CAPACITY BUILDING



- 80 local islanders trained to be part of TMCG
- 794 local islanders participated in environmental awareness programmes



“ In addition to the current work we are doing on Pulau Tioman, the Cintai Tioman campaign we are leading is a vital stride towards a sustainable future for the island’s ecosystems and its local community. With continued support from relevant stakeholders, Tioman can become a model for sustainable tourism, preserving its natural heritage while fostering opportunities for the local community. ”

Alvin Chelliah, RCM’s Senior Programme Manager and Marine Biologist

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Stakeholders and partners from the Tioman Development Authority (TDA), Department of Fisheries (DoF), RCM, and JTP come together for the premiere of the YSD Cintai Tioman campaign video, united in their commitment to safeguard Pulau Tioman's natural heritage.

A demonstration on crafting recycling bins using mesh wire to promote sustainable waste management on the island by Shahir Yaman, Assistant Programme Manager of RCM and Founding Member of TMCG.



YSD Eco Citizens engaged in the creation of recycling bins.



Proud YSD Eco Citizens showcasing the recycling bins.



Volunteers actively participated in processing glass bottles to be repurposed into coral blocks that act as rehabilitation sites for damaged coral reefs.

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Dedicated volunteers dove into action, replanting corals and reviving existing coral blocks at the Tioman Marine Park.





Together with the volunteers, YSD collected 440 kilograms of trash from the secluded beach of Monkey Bay.



Scan the QR code below to embark on a virtual journey witnessing the beauty of Tioman and our collective efforts with project partners to preserve its natural wonders from excessive development:

