

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SECURITY
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
MARINE PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT**

Main Points

**What we
examined?**

- Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Malaysia consist of six categories, namely marine parks, fishing restricted areas, protected areas for sea cucumbers, state parks, national parks and conservation areas. The MPA management is under two administrative levels, Federal Government and State Governments through their own Act/Enactment/Ordinance. Based on the Master List of Protected Areas until 2016 there are 65 MPAs in Malaysia. Of these, DoF administers 51 MPAs consists of marine parks, fishing restricted areas and protected areas for sea cucumbers.
- The auditing are focussed on the MPA Conservation Programme that was funded through development and management allocations. In addition, programmes/activities are also funded through the Marine Park and Reserve Trust Fund.
- The Audit covered two main areas, namely programmeme performance and programme management. The evaluation of programme management consisted of six elements, namely allocation and expenses, marine park revenue collection, artificial reef mooring management, project implementation, building maintenance as well as coordination and public awareness programmes.

**Why is it
important to
audit?**

To assess the extent to which the MPA Conservation Programme is managed in line with the Strategic Plan 2021-2030 which is to develop and strengthen a network of marine protected areas through MPA gazettement and conserve aquatic ecosystems through restoration and rehabilitation approaches.

Conclusion

Overall, based on the scope and audit sample, it can be concluded that the management of the MPAs is satisfactory in terms implementation of restoration/rehabilitation programme and achieving coral reef coverage targets. However, the gazette aspect of the MPAs is less satisfactory as the gazette achievements are still low compared to the set targets.

NO.	AUDIT ISSUES	IMPACT	RECOMMENDATION FOR SOLUTIONS
1.	The MPA gazettement is still low, at 2,769.12 km ² (8.9%), compared to the set target of 31,261.25 km ²	Affecting the overall achievement of the MPA that needs to be protected	Intensify efforts to identify MPA locations for gazettement to ensure that the national MPA gazettement targets can be achieved appropriately, in order to ensure more effective control of marine ecosystems
2.	The MPA achievements contributing only 0.5% of the total national MPA, which amounts to 5.4%		
3.	Uncollected scuba diving activity fees in Johor Marine Park, Pahang, Perhentian Island and Redang Island for the period from 2019 to 2022	The government's revenue loss involves the collection of scuba diving fees amounting to RM0.49 million	Establishing mechanisms and engaging with relevant parties to ensure that revenue collection is conducted regularly
4.	Marine Park visitor fees are not charged for visitors entering Pulau Tioman Marine Park through Tioman Airport, visitors entering Johor and Terengganu Marine Park through private jetties in Mersing, Johor and Merang Terengganu Rivers and visitors at Kapas Pulau Marine Park		
5.	The front base that was completed in 2020 worth RM1.04 million cannot be fully used because the depth of the lagoon/jetty area is not suitable for the movement of DoF enforcement boats in and out.	The front base cannot be fully used as per project objective	Ensuring that building maintenance programmes are carried out regularly to ensure safe and efficient utilization
6.	Regular building maintenance is not carried out at the Tanjung Gemok Marine Park Branch Office (Pahang), resulting in high water pressure issues in the water reticulation system and water seepage effects on the building ceiling	The high water pressure and water seepage issues on the ceiling still cannot be resolved	