

Annual Report
Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia
Reporting Period (6th October 2011 – 14th October 2012)

Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia (TCS) was registered as a Society on 6th October 2011.

Registration Number: 4454-11-TRG

Registered Address: 56-2/1, Pangsapuri Cerong Lanjut, Jalan Cerong Lanjut, 20300 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.

Management Committee: The Committee was elected at the inaugural General Meeting held on 28th November 2011.

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
Comm. Members:	Chan Wai Kee
	Jasmine Steed
	Lim Xin Yu
	Loretta Ann Shepherd

MEMBERSHIP

TCS currently has 138 members, of which eight are Ordinary members, seven are Student members and 123 are Life members.

RIVER TERRAPIN RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

One village along the Setiu River was involved in the river terrapin research and conservation project, *i.e.* Kg. Mangkok. In 2012, a total of 227 eggs from 12 nests were secured for incubation. Of these, a total of 180 hatchlings were produced (79%), and these hatchlings are currently being raised by a villager hired by the project.

In the Kemaman River, three villages were involved in the project, *i.e.* Kg. Tok Kapor in Binjai; Kg. Pasir Gajah and Kg. Dadong. In 2012, a total of 55 female river terrapins from Kg. Pasir Gajah were micro-chipped, weighed and measured. A total of 128 nests were incubated in Feb/March this year, *i.e.* 26 in Kg. Tok Kapor, 97 nests in Kg. Pasir Gajah and five in Kg. Dadong.

A grand total of 1,468 river terrapin eggs were incubated in the three villages, *i.e.* 323 in Kg. Tok Kapor, 1,080 in Kg. Pasir Gajah and 65 in Kg. Dadong. A total of 975 hatchlings were hatched from the three villages, *i.e.* 266 in Kg. Tok Kapor (82%), 685 in Kg. Pasir Gajah (63%) and 24 in Kg. Dadong (37%).

PAST ACTIVITIES

The following activities were carried out by TCS since its establishment.

No.	Activity / Date / Description
1.	We are now a registered NGO in Malaysia! 6th October 2011 After months of preparation and numerous trips to the Registrar of Societies in Kuala Terengganu, we were finally registered as a legitimate NGO in Malaysia! Our official name is “Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia” and in Malay, we are known as “Persatuan Pemuliharaan Tuntung, Kura-Kura dan Penyu Malaysia.” Almost immediately after our registration, we started working on a couple of things, and in just two weeks, we launched our website (www.turtleconservationsociety.org.my) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TurtleConservationSocietyofMalaysia). We also started to recruit new members to join our society, as well as prepare for our inaugural General and Committee Meetings.
2.	Exhibition @ Taman Tamadun Islam, Kuala Terengganu 18th October 2011 The newly-registered TCS participated in its first outreach activity by taking part in an exhibition in conjunction with the “Environment Week” celebrated on the national level. We would like to record our thanks to Mr. Yeo Sin Soon for helping transport the turtle kites, Mr. Wee Seng Whatt, Ms. Erica Chang and Mdm. Mah Yin Ling for helping set up our booth as well as being there during the exhibition, and Ms. Shayna Sapri and Mr. Dean Bangsy for coming all the way from Kerteh and KL, respectively, to help out during the exhibition.
3.	Inaugural General and Committee Meetings 28th November 2011 Our inaugural General Meeting was a smallish and intimate affair, attended by 22 close friends, supporters and turtle-enthusiasts. The protem President gave a welcoming speech and a short introduction that led to the establishment of TCS. Everybody present was given an opportunity to introduce themselves, after which the protem Secretary and Treasurer read their respective reports. The main item on the agenda that day was the election of the Committee Members. The following members were elected as the office bearers for 2011-2013. President: Tan Sri Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor Vice President: Dr. Chan Eng Heng Secretary: Chen Pelf Nyok Assistant Secretary: Lim Puay Aun Treasurer: Wee Seng Whatt Ordinary Committee Members: Chan Wai Kee, Jasmine Steed, Lim Xin Yu and Loretta Ann Shepherd We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Dr. Maketab Mohamed and Ms. Maye Yap from the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) for consenting us to use the Auditorium as the meeting venue, free of charge!

4.	Dialogue Session with the villagers of Kg. Mangkok, Setiu 15th January 2012 A new Wildlife Conservation Act which provides significantly higher penalties and mandatory jail terms for wildlife crimes came into effect in Malaysia in December 2010. We felt that it was appropriate to organize a dialogue session between one of the agencies responsible for enforcing the new wildlife act, which is the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) and the active terrapin egg collectors in the villages. Hence a dialogue session was successfully held on Sunday, 15th January 2012 at the new Community Hall in Kg. Mangkok, Setiu. A total of 20 egg collectors attended the dialogue session. A detailed explanation regarding the terrapin-related offences and penalties under the new Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 was given by En. Edley Jiliun, Senior Assistant Wildlife Officer based in Besut while questions regarding the wildlife act and the dos and don'ts were answered by En. Mohd. Hashimi b. Ahmad Abidin and En. Mohd. Hafiz Anuar b. Abdul Hamid, Enforcement Officers from the Perhilitan Office in Kuala Terengganu.
5.	Tioman Island Cleanup Day 2nd - 4th March 2012 TCS was invited by Berjaya Tioman Resort to participate in their Tioman Clean Up Day. Dr. Chan Eng Heng gave a talk entitled "Giving the critically endangered river terrapins a voice through the Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia." We ran a turtle awareness program for 50 school kids from S.K. Kg. Tekek in Tioman. Thanks are expressed to Mr. Michael Tan for the invitation, Mr. Abel Nelson Nang for coordinating our activities, the media for covering the event and Mr. Wee Seng Whatt for being the official photographer for TCS.
6.	ISKL Cheque Presentation Day 2nd March 2012 The first-graders from the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL) organized a (turtle event) and they managed to raise some funds for TCS. On the 2nd March 2012, Mr. Lim Puay Aun represented TCS in the cheque-presentation ceremony. Following this, Mr. Lim Puay Aun, Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok and Mdm. Lai Kow Lian represented TCS and conducted an outreach program with the first-graders on the 18th April 2012.
7.	Terrapin Release @ Kg. Tok Kapor, Binjai, Kemaman 24th March 2012 Twenty-one 10-month-old river terrapins were released into Sungai Pinang, Kemaman.

8.	Penarik Earth Day Carnival 20th April 2012 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. TCS organized the tree-planting event, palm printing by the kids, and airing of the animated version of "Little Turtle Messenger" by Mr. Heinz Hawel. Our heartfelt thanks to Penarik Inn, Ms. Loretta Shepherd (for providing the ketapang saplings) as well as to Mr. Wee Seng Whatt and Mr. Heinz Hawel for making the event a success. The villagers, especially those representing Persatuan Wanita Kampung Mangkok Setiu (Pewanis) and all the kids who came are fully acknowledged.
9.	TCS on Bernama Today 10th May 2012 TCS was invited for an interview by Bernama, and we were represented by Mr. Lim Puay Aun, who among others, talked about the river terrapin conservation projects that TCS is carrying out, the challenges that we face and how the general public could help save our turtles.
10.	Turtle Discovery Trips 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th May and 7th July 2012 Five Turtle Discovery Trips had been held in May and July 2012 for a total of 22 participants from KL, Sg. Petani and Singapore. Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok gave an introduction to the various types of turtles at the Cherating Turtle Sanctuary before we headed to the River Terrapin Conservation Project site in Kg. Pasir Gajah. After dinner, we proceeded to Monica Bay to witness the nesting of green turtles.
11.	Terrapin Release @ Kg. Pasir Gajah, Kemaman 19th May 2012 A total of 200 river terrapins were released into the Kemaman River in conjunction with World Turtle Day that is celebrated on the 23rd May every year.
12.	Install signages at Turtle Alley in conjunction with World Turtle Day 23rd May 2012
13.	Sailors' visit and terrapin release 31st May 2012 On the 31st May 2012, Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok and Mdm. Lai Kow Lian hosted a group of 22 sailors from the "Sail Malaysia 2012" program by giving them a short brief about the River Terrapin Research and Conservation Project carried out by TCS in the Kemaman River. After the briefing, we all proceeded to the river bank to release 40 one-month-old terrapin hatchlings. The sailors also collectively made a donation to TCS. Special thanks Pak Su for contacting and connecting us.

14.	Tioman World Ocean Day 29th June – 1st July 2012 TCS was invited by Berjaya Hotels and Resort to participate in their inaugural Tioman World Ocean Day 2012 celebrations. Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok conducted a turtle workshop for 50 students from S.K. Kg. Tekek, Tioman, with the help of Fimie Don, a child celebrity. The students were given a talk on turtles, the dangers that the turtles face as well as how they can help save turtles. After the talk, the “Duta Kecil Penyu” animation was shown before the students were engaged in a fun and educational role-playing game. We would like to thank Mr. Michael Tan for the invitation, Mr. Abel Nelson Nang for making the necessary arrangements, Fimie Don for assisting in the turtle workshop, the media for the covering the event, and Mdm. Lai Kow Lian for being the official photographer for TCS.
15.	Exhibition at the Maritime Museum in Melaka 19th September 2012 TCS was invited by the Melaka Museums Corporation to participate in an outreach program to highlight the importance of the Malaysia's sea turtles and natural heritage. TCS was represented by Ms. Chen Pelf Nyok.
16.	Terrapin Release @ Kg. Pasir Gajah, Kemaman 13th October 2012 A total of 413 five-month-old river terrapins were released into the Kemaman River in a simple ceremony officiated by Y.B. Wan Abdul Hakim b. Haji Wan Mokhtar. This was the largest river terrapin release event ever held in Kemaman. About 70 people turned up for the release ceremony, after which everybody was treated to some light refreshments prepared by the Kg. Pasir Gajah Village Development and Security Committee. We would like to thank Y.B. Wan Abdul Hakim for officiating the ceremony, Haji Mohd. Nor and the Village Committee for organizing the release, and Mdm. Lai Kow Lian for being the official photographer for TCS.

Report prepared by:



CHEN PELF NYOK
Co-founder and Hon. Secretary
Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia