Malaysia has recognized the need for integrated planning and management of both land and sea to control and minimize adverse impacts on the marine environment. The principal goal in the establishment of MPAs in Peninsular Malaysia is "to protect, conserve and manage in perpetuity, representative marine ecosystems of significance in order that they remain undamaged for future generations and to inculcate public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Malaysia's marine heritage" (Yaman 1993).

Malaysia has 9,323 km of coastline and 3,600 km² of coral reef area. The coral reefs in Peninsular Malaysia are mostly protected as Marine Parks under the Fisheries Act (1985) and managed by the Department of Fisheries. Fishing is not allowed on the reefs within the Parks, except for non-extractive activities, and reef fisheries are currently nonexistent and unmonitored (Wilkinson 2004).

The study indicates that Malaysia has established 83 MPAs. 51.8% of the MPA sites are coral reef MPAs. The coral reef MPAs in Malaysia are established primarily through its Department of Marine Park (37 MPAs), through the Sabah Wildlife Department (5 MPAs) and through the Forest Department (1 MPA) with the total area of 14,167.634 km².

Malaysia's MPAs are managed by different levels of government. The study indicates that the MPAs in Peninsular Malaysia are managed by national government, whereas the MPAs in Sabah...
and Sarawak are managed by their state government. It is a challenge to secure consensus between all levels of government in the development of MPAs system.

Peninsular

**Peninsular Malaysia** has a number of National Parks, but only 37 designated coral reef MPAs.

Sabah & Sarawak

**Sabah** has a number of National Parks, but only five designated coral reef MPAs:
1. Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area
2. Tunku Abdul Rahman
3. Pulau Penyu (Turtle Islands)
4. Pulau Sipadan
5. Pulau Tiga

**Sarawak** has a number of National Parks, but only one designated coral reef MPA:
1. Talang-Satang

Thus, there are total 43 Coral Reef MPAs in Malaysia. The first marine protected area in Malaysia was Tuanku Abdul Rahman Park in Sabah. Declared in 1974, it established a 49.29km² area by Sabah state government. Malaysia has 37 MPA sites established more than 20 years. Only 4 MPA sites established last decade ago (Figure 2). The no-take area of MPAs in Malaysia was reported as only 2309.52 km². This is most likely underestimation. The dominant habitat in Malaysia is coral reef (warm water).
Figure 1. Management Scale of MPAs in Malaysia

Figure 2. Time (years) since establishment of MPAs in Malaysia
References
