

# SiGHTiNGS!



An Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) spyhops out of the water in Kuala Perlis

**Flukes For Thought** - New MareCet Blog

**Virtual Dolphin Tour Launched**

**A Pavilion of Knowledge Built**

**Fintastic Marine Mammals and Where to Find Them** - Published!

# Words from the Helm



If we thought that 2020 was one heck of a challenging year, then we had thought wrong! It turned out that 2021 was even more of a year filled with challenges and frustrations due to extended periods of pandemic-related restrictions. The beginning of the year seemed promising when we managed to make our way to Langkawi, Pulau Sibul and Pulau Tinggi for some fieldwork, however shortly after, movement control order (MCO) came back into place.

At MareCet, we can never sit idle, and while the MCO meant that we had to cancel and/or postpone all the fieldwork planned for the year, it did not stop us from pivoting our work into different formats that we could use to reach people who were also stuck working at home just like us.

Working from home afforded us the opportunity to finally assemble and curate our Dolphin Virtual Tour, which we went on to run for various groups of children; from local care homes to international schools and everything in between. We also managed to launch our blog that we've named "Flukes for Thought" where we share bite-sized easy-to-read articles on important topics of marine conservation while infusing our own experiences into the stories. We worked with a talented local artist to raise funds for our work through an art for marine conservation campaign during World Ocean Day, and we took our social media followers on a magic carpet ride around the world through our "Marine Mammals Around the World from Home Lecture Series".

With the MCO, our opportunities to generate income for our operations were reduced to a trickle. Yet we've managed to survive the harrowing 2021 because of the generosity of many donors in Malaysia and abroad - there are simply no words to express our gratitude sufficiently, but we remain so thankful for all the love and support we have received from all our followers and supporters. TERIMA KASIH!

As we roll into 2022 (our 10th year!), we enter into it with some caution, yet we remain pumped and hopeful that we can accomplish many things this year. We look forward to better growth and impactful conservation. Please continue to stand by us and support us, for it is with your assistance that we can continue standing, and standing tall at that.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter!

*Louisa & Fairul*

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# Best of MareCet's 2021



**4 international** webinars, **6 local** webinars and lectures delivered.



Hosted **6 talks** by **6 international marine mammal researchers** in MareCet's "Marine Mammals Around the World from Home" Lecture Series, with **9,616 audience reach and engagement**.



**10 Virtual dolphin tours** conducted for **269 participants** from **8 types of groups** based across **3 countries**.



**38 days** spent across **3 project field sites**, amounting to **179 hours** of effort and observations, community engagements with **14 local stakeholders**, and **16 hours of video data** post-processing.



**6 scientific papers** published in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.



**1 educational activity book for children** published in **2 languages** (English and Bahasa Melayu).



**1 blog site** named "Flukes for Thought" launched in **2 languages** (English and Mandarin), with a total of **5 blog articles** to date.



**3 features** in international media platforms and **2 features** in a local news/media platform.



**139.5 hours** spent across **15.5 days** constructing a wooden gazebo (wakaf) for the **25 kids** of Geng Bersih Kampung in Kampung Padang Putih, Langkawi.



**Appointed as a member** of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Working Group for the **2021 - 2023** term.



**1 MareCet council member graduated with a PhD** in dolphin ecology from Universiti Malaya, with her work largely supported by MareCet.



**1 Scientific Officer** appointed and **1 new project staff** hired.

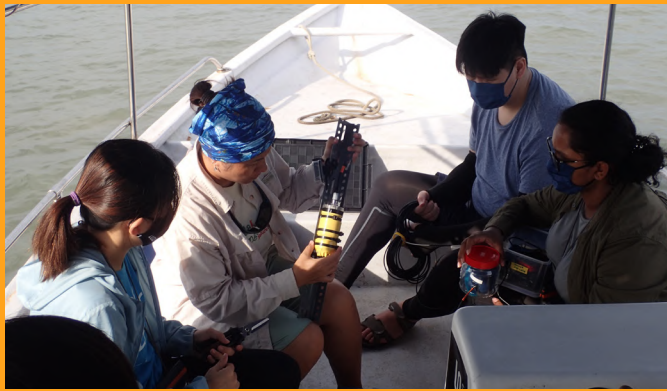


**1 Marine mammal stranding response** animated video co-created with students of Taylor's University in Selangor, in **2 languages** (English and Bahasa Melayu).



Virtual Sea, Science and Schools programme conducted for **5 national schools**, reaching **364 students**.

## Langkawi Dolphin Research & The WHALE Project



**“12 October 2021. 8:45am. Bunting Island Bridge. HydroMoth number three deploying now.”** Dr P spoke into the HydroMoth, an aquatic acoustic recorder, before she lowered it into the turbid coastal waters of Kedah. This marks the start of the Langkawi Dolphin Research (LDR) survey that the MareCet team hadn't been able to conduct for 20 months since the COVID-19 pandemic first hit. The team felt elated to be out in the field but also nervous about trialling new equipment; one of which includes the long-term deployment of the HydroMoth. The HydroMoth was anchored to the seabed for three days to record the marine soundscape round the clock. Such sound can tell us about the area and shed light on what is happening to the present ecosystem in the vicinity.

As the boat slowly pulled away from the deployment site, all heads turned to have one last look and quietly prayed for safe retrieval of the HydroMoth, before heading out in search of dolphins and porpoises. After hours of searching, we were greeted by the first group of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins. Their grey with pink specks chunky body glided below the water surface, with just the fins breaking the surface. The team immediately extended the acoustic devices out from the side of the research vessel, towing in the water as we followed the group of dolphins. The acoustic devices picked up whistles, clicks and burst pulses, and even sounds produced by snapping shrimps. Some ultrasonic sounds produced by the dolphins, which are inaudible to human ears, were also recorded by the SoundTrap, a larger acoustic device. We are eager to explore and understand the function of these ultrasonic sounds. A quick look at the long-term acoustic recording from the HydroMoth, and we found interesting sounds from other marine life too such as fishes that sounded just like owls (hooo-hoooo)! These owl-like sounds were slightly haunting (in a good way) but also peaceful at the same time. We can't wait to go through all the recordings thoroughly and who knows what other interesting sounds there are!



During this survey, we also brought along our drone, Dora, aboard the boat in hopes of observing the animals' behaviours from the air. Deploying and flying Dora on the boat is always a challenge. Not only does our team have to keep our eyes peeled for the animals' ever-changing locations in the water and guide our drone pilot to them, but also constantly look out for Dora's whereabouts in the sky. With so much going on, were we confident that we could capture any decent or action-packed footages? Probably not. But to our surprise, we did! We had a clear birdseye view of a group of Indo-Pacific finless porpoises swimming in the waters of Langkawi. We even captured a rare heart-warming moment of a finless porpoise calf rolling over its mother's back and swimming in synchrony afterwards. Witnessing these interesting social behaviours through the lens of Dora was easily the highlight of LDR 2021, as this otherwise elusive species is often hard to document from the boat. We also captured drone footage of a group of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins hunting for squid in Langkawi, which we only realized when we reviewed the clip and saw a sudden appearance of squid ink in the water. Such discoveries exemplify the importance of innovating and combining emerging technologies in marine mammal research to break the limits of what our eyes can see from sea surface level.



One of the memorable sightings we had during the dolphin survey was of a group of surface-active Irrawaddy dolphins in Perlis, unbothered by our presence around them as they engaged in sexual/mating behaviour and spyhopped multiple times out of the water. We also collected three fresh, blood-oozing catfish heads while following some humpback dolphins nearby, which is indicative of feeding activities among the group. We continue to see some of the regulars, such as Fairy Godmother, Sharky and Split, to name a few. We were thrilled and relieved to see them and some newborn dolphins after a long break from the field.

# Langkawi Dolphin Research & The WHALE Project



My name is Ng Sher Lynn. I am the new Project Manager of the Langkawi Dolphin Research Project. I love to explore the outdoors, indulge myself with good food and occasionally crack a few dad jokes. Unlike the rest of the MareCet team, I did not grow up as an ocean lover or wishing to work with animals. I was (still am!) deeply in love with outer space that I read books after books on astronomy and memorized the distance of every planet from Earth. But as I became older and learned more about the ocean, I realized that they are not too different after all – both are vastly unexplored and remain a huge mystery to humans. The ocean began to intrigue me as much as outer space, maybe even more as I discovered the diversity and beauty of marine life and strived to protect them as well as their habitats. After seeing my first humpback whale in 2014 and completing an internship where I assisted with dolphin research in the USA, I was only left with more questions and a desire to further study these creatures! It has only been a few months with MareCet, but I have been given so many opportunities to be involved in many aspects of MareCet's efforts, and to actively learn from various projects. I have seen first-hand the behind-the-scenes hard work and challenges in pushing for marine conservation; how important the organization's research efforts are and how these research data could translate into conservation management and public awareness. I am excited to be on the frontline of conservation with this team of passionate and inspiring individuals, and I look forward to expanding my horizons and growing with them in MareCet!

New Staff Member



# Langkawi Dolphin Research & The WHALE Project



After 3 weeks of dolphin survey, we embarked on the whale survey in the offshore waters of Langkawi. During our week-long survey, we were fortunate to observe some Bryde's whales bubble-net feeding! Large schools of anchovies were corralled near the water surface due to the whale's feeding behaviour, and countless seabirds were flying around and foraging on these small fishes too. We were also greeted by a pleasant surprise during the survey – a huge pod of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins appeared right ahead of our boat while we were having our lunch break, which we estimate to have approximately 80 individuals of mixed age classes.



Besides the highs, we also had some lows last year. In September 2021, we received five stranded marine mammal reports from the local community in Perlis, of which two were live strandings and three were dead. The two live strandings were of uncommon species in the shallow tidal waters of Perlis – a mother and calf pair of dwarf sperm whales (*Kogia sima*) and an Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*), respectively. These two species are found offshore and in deep water, especially the dwarf sperm whale. It is the first record of *Kogia* spp. in Perlis' coastal waters. The MareCet team remotely provided support and guidance to the local community members who responded to the live stranding of the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin. After 2 hours of hard work and dedication, they successfully refloated the dolphin back to the sea. It was truly awe-inspiring to see their efforts, which accentuates the importance of working closely with local community members and of capacity-building for conservation. This series of stranding events prompted us to conduct a stranding workshop with the local community members in Perlis in the following month.

All this work would not have been possible without the support from the Morris Animal Foundation, Yayasan Sime Darby, Telaga Harbour Terminal, and the cooperation from the local community members, members of Perlis Wildlife and Nature (PNW), our boat skippers and volunteers. Thank you!



## Yayasan Sime Darby Sponsorship Awarded to MareCet

We are thrilled to announce that MareCet was awarded sponsorship from Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) in May 2021. Established in 1982, YSD is the main philanthropic arm of Sime Darby, offering funding support to individuals and organizations dedicated to delivering sustainable impacts under the following 5 pillars: Education, Environment, Community and Health, Sports, and Arts and Culture. Since 2009, YSD has invested more than RM159 million in environmental and biodiversity conservation initiatives across Malaysia.

The grant from YSD will help us execute our multidisciplinary programme titled, "Marine Mammals Alive: Discovering, Monitoring and Conserving Whales and Dolphins in Malaysia", which focuses on scientific research, education and awareness, policy advocacy, and capacity building. Through this programme, we hope to further our research efforts and scientific understanding of dolphins and porpoises in Langkawi-Perlis-Kedah waters, especially on the impacts of underwater noises from human activities on the animals, and large baleen whales in the offshore waters of Langkawi. We also intend to improve the public's understanding of the marine environment and marine conservation issues through our Whales On-The-Wheels programme (where we are going on a nationwide tour in 2022 and 2023!), and the production of a children's e-storybook. Additionally, we will be working with local stakeholders and government agencies in Langkawi to develop a boating code-of-conduct and boating speed limit zones in Langkawi in areas that are core habitats of cetaceans. We will also be building capacity through a series of training workshops with government personnel, focusing on marine mammal stranding response, veterinary care, and rescue operations of distressed animals.

We would like to thank YSD for supporting our research and conservation work!

# IKI Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project

In 2021, the IKI project saw some considerable progress, given the continuation of the pandemic and all the constraints that came along with it. But with increased vaccination rates and the lifting of travel restrictions, the team were able to head out to our project sites twice this year. The initial trip saw us visiting Pulau Sibu and Pulau Tinggi, along with the business consultants for the project in an effort to further develop the business models that will be used to support local livelihoods and seagrass conservation. It was also on this trip that we established a new study site at Pulau Setindan, an island located just off the coast of Mersing town and which has considerable acreage of intertidal seagrass meadows on its leeward side. We are excited to begin work there as there isn't much existing data available on the area. In September, we made a second trip to Mersing, specifically to work around the Pulau Setindan area. This time, in anticipation of the impending baited remote underwater video (BRUV) work, we wanted to check out the underwater videoing potential in the Pulau Setindan seagrass.

As such, we tested by using some unbaited GoPros and had some positive outcomes, recording fish of different species in the intertidal meadows as well as on the windward side of the island across 16 hours of footage. Among the species of fish that "graced our screen" were Sagor catfish, rabbitfish, and barracuda! It was also on this trip that we began to initiate conversations with local community groups in Mersing, with the hopes of setting up a community seagrass monitoring programme at Pulau Setindan.

Discussions have continued with our technical partners, as we think about study design, acquire the necessary equipment and materials for fieldwork, and think about the outcomes of the data we collect. We have now also received our Open Ocean Cameras for the BRUV work that will be done in the three sites to assess biodiversity and ecosystem services of the meadow. We're excited to be working with some new technology for the fieldwork component and look forward to heading out to collect data in April 2022, including sediment samples for blue carbon analyses.



March 2021



# IKI Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project

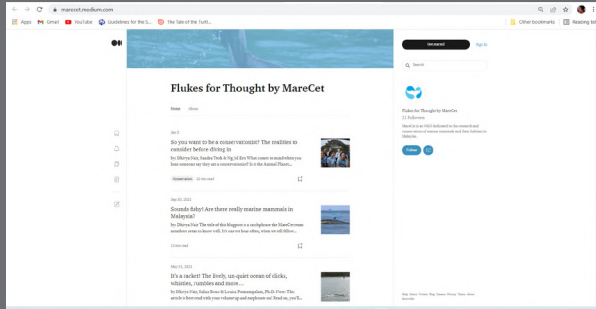
## October 2021



The *Year* That Was



## Flukes for Thought, A Blog by MareCet



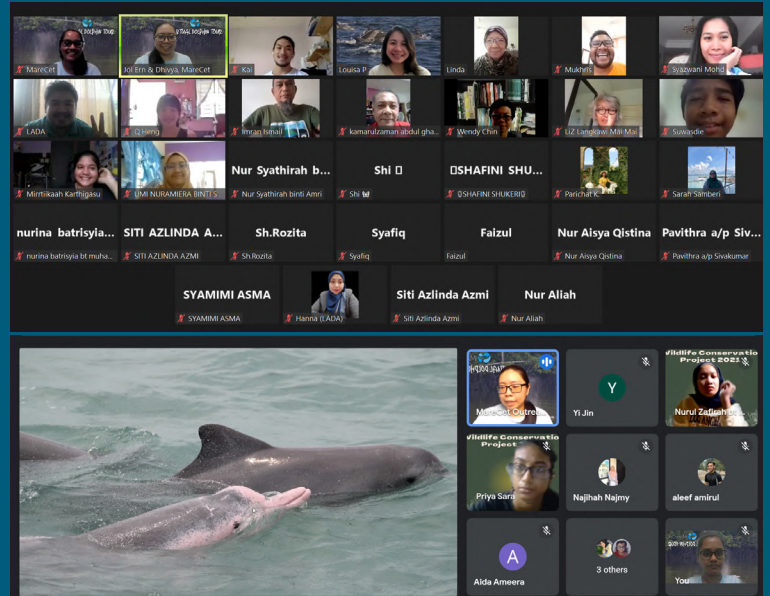
As 2021 saw us Malaysians subjected to a few more COVID-19 lockdowns, our team had more time at the desk to catch up on writing assignments of sorts. It was then decided that we would create a blog, where the purpose is to share about interesting and concerning topics of marine mammal science and conservation in an easily digestible manner, and to provoke thoughts and conversation that would hopefully inspire positive action. We are thus so proud to announce that our blog, Flukes for Thought, is now launched on Medium.

Our blog is currently available in English (<https://marecet.medium.com/>) and in Mandarin ([https://medium.com/@marecet\\_cn](https://medium.com/@marecet_cn)). This year, we will work on launching the Bahasa Melayu version of our blog, so please stay tuned! In the meantime, we hope you'll hop over to our blog sites and enjoy the variety of articles we've published there. Do give our articles a "clap" each if you enjoyed the reads.



## MareCet Virtual Dolphin Tour

MareCet's dolphin edu-tour goes virtual! You can now join us from anywhere in the world from the comforts of your home or classroom for a fun and educational online learning adventure about dolphin ecology and research! Exclusively curated by MareCet and run by our in-house dolphin researchers, the tour brings you through a virtual boat trip to learn about wild dolphins in one of our project sites in Matang, Perak, Malaysia, and how we study them there, followed by a virtual lab session where we have live sharing about the different aspects of a dolphin's ecology. This includes their sounds, skull morphology and diet, and discussion on the topics of marine threats and current conservation issues. Our virtual tour is suitable for participants aged five years old and above, ideal for school groups, independent learning groups, and even groups of family and friends. Since the launch of our virtual tour in 2021, we have conducted up to 10 sessions with different groups from around the country and abroad, including school students, general public and researchers.



# MareCet x Celine Tay Art for Marine Conservation Online Charity Auction

Art is increasingly becoming a valuable tool to promote and convey the message of conservation. For World Ocean Day 2021, MareCet teamed up with talented Malaysian upcoming artist Celine Tay to raise funds for our efforts in marine conservation. Using acrylic on canvas, Celine created the beautiful 2-piece artwork titled, "Tide in the Sky" for the MareCet x Celine Tay Art for Marine Conservation Online Charity Auction. The campaign lasted throughout June 2021, and finally fetched a sum of RM700 for the beautiful art piece. During the campaign, we also hosted Facebook and Instagram Live sessions with Celine, where the audience had the opportunity to ask the artist questions about her creative process for the piece. Thank you to everyone who put in a bid, and congratulations to Ow Ying Ying for winning the bid for the artwork.

To check out Celine's artistry: [instagram.com/celine.scapes/](https://www.instagram.com/celine.scapes/)



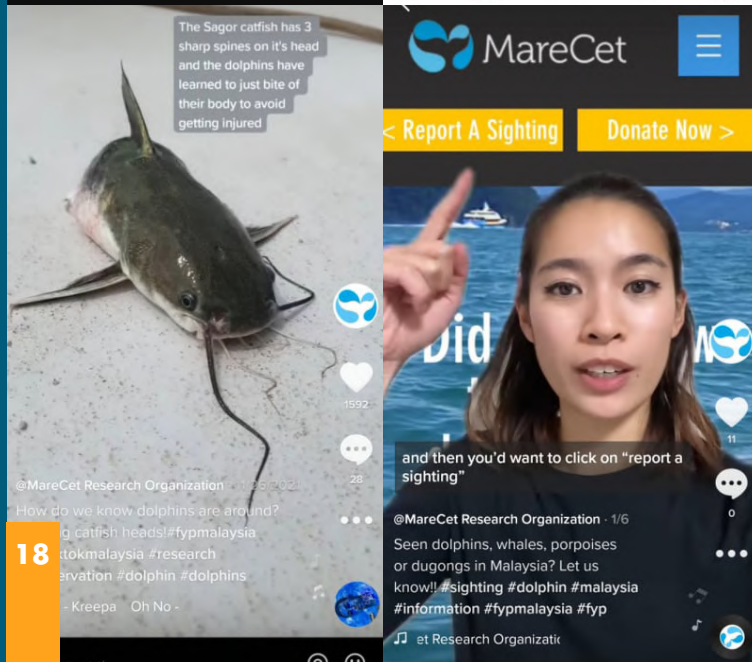
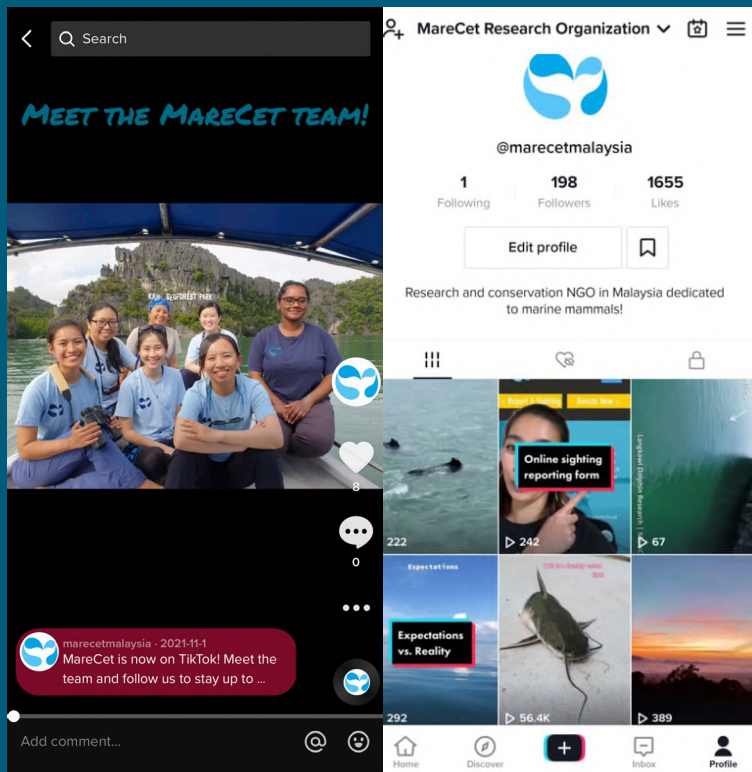
**Tide in the Sky**

Acrylic on canvas, 90cm x 120cm



## Launch of MareCet's TikTok Account

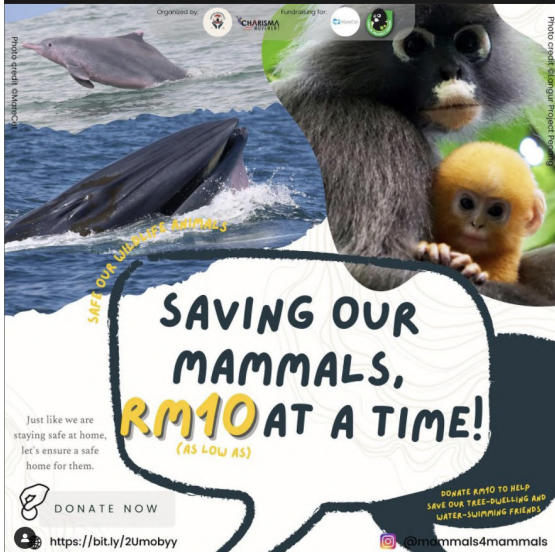
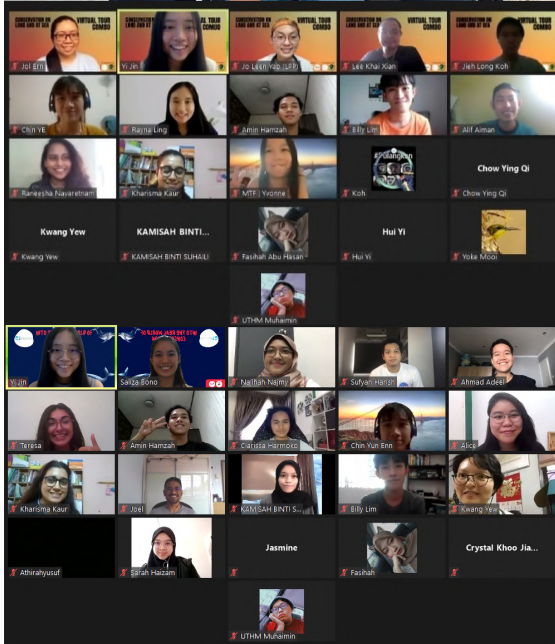
In our continuing efforts to reach a wider audience, MareCet is always trying out new mediums and ways to get our content and message out into the world. We recently ventured into the world of TikTok, which has seen a rise in popularity, especially amongst those who want to create awareness and find a wider reach. We hope to create videos that include bite-sized information of our marine mammals, showcase the fieldwork and research that we do, and to give the general Malaysian audience an insight into what MareCet does on a daily basis. We hope you are just as excited about this as we are, so please head on over to [@marecetmalaysia](https://www.tiktok.com/@marecetmalaysia) on TikTok and give us a follow!



## MareCet Featured on Astro AEC

The MareCet team hosted a film production crew back in February 2020 for a documentary filming for the show titled, 《一门深入 Stay Hungry Stay Foolish》 for Astro AEC, a local Mandarin-focused television channel. The documentary featured stories of outstanding Malaysian researchers in the field of science and technology, medical science, environmental ecology and wildlife conservation, in order to shed light on these important yet often-neglected fields, and also the hard work and devotion of those researchers behind the scenes. The documentary episode featuring MareCet's work in marine mammal research and conservation was aired on 14 March 2021. In that episode, Dr. P and Jol Ern shared about the dolphins and porpoises in the Langkawi Archipelago, the site of MareCet's ongoing studies on those endangered cetaceans and the challenges facing marine conservation.

# Generous Hands and Hearts - Fundraisers for MareCet



Despite the challenging time in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are extremely grateful to have groups of passionate and dedicated youth who helped to raise the much needed funds for us in support of our continuous work in marine mammal conservation.

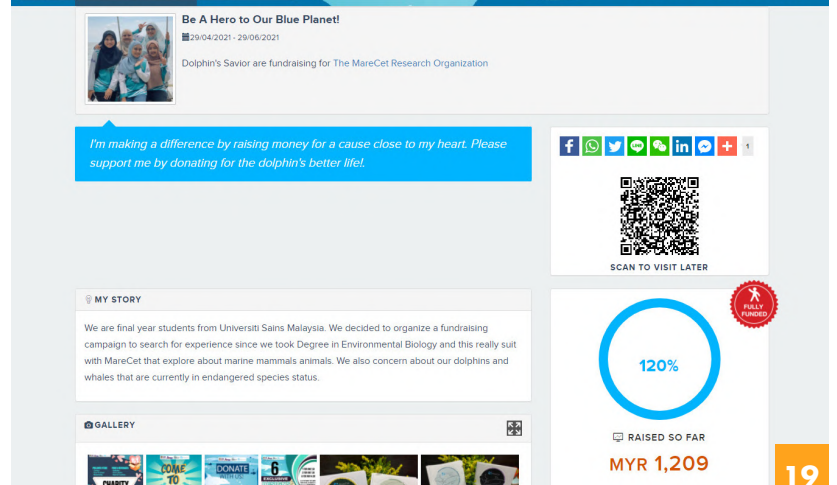
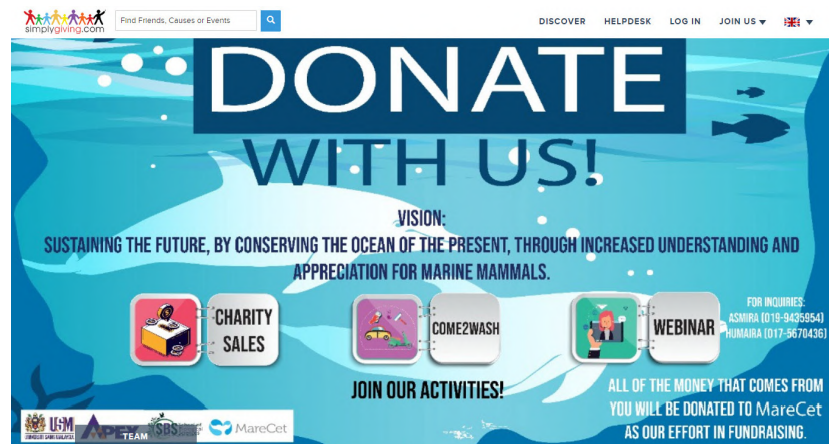
We would like to give a big shout out to Asmira Anis, Fatin Humaira, Najihah, Nurul Amirah and Shaza Fatiha Fatin (Environmental Biology students from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)), and Mammals4Mammals under Charisma Movement for their mermazing efforts in raising awareness for Malaysia's marine mammals and funds for MareCet! Funds were raised through various means including car wash services, charity sales, charity fitness classes, TikTok challenges, and virtual webinar and tours. We received a total of RM 1,209 from the USM student fundraiser and RM 2,377.41 through the Mammals4Mammals fundraiser. THANK YOU from the sea beds of our hearts!



Check out both their fundraisers for MareCet at:

<https://www.simplygiving.com/be-a-hero-to-our-blue-planet>

<https://www.instagram.com/mammals4mammals/>



# Marine Mammals *Around the World from Home* Lecture Series

**MareCet CLASSROOM ONLINE SERIES: Marine Mammals Around the World from Home**

**Saving Pesut Mahakam: A community's conservation of Indonesia's critically endangered freshwater dolphins**

By Danielle Kreb, Ph.D.  
Yayasan Konservasi RASI  
Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia  
<http://www.ykrasi.org>  
Instagram: #YKRASI  
Facebook: [ykrasi](https://www.facebook.com/ykrasi)  
E-mail: [ykrasi@gmail.com](mailto:ykrasi@gmail.com)

Speakers: Louisa, MareCet; Danielle Kreb; Jol Ern

**Beyond Song: Exploring Humpback Whale Calls on the Hawaiian Breeding Grounds**

Adam Pack (c) NMFS Permit # 14585-01, 23682-01

Sabena Siddiqui

Speakers: Louisa, MareCet; Jol Ern; Sabena Siddiqui

**Whale temples in Vietnam**

A unique culture adding in research and conservation of local marine mammal

Vu Long

Speakers: Louisa, MareCet; Jol Ern; Long Vu

**Leviathans of Ice and Fire**

Tom Grove

Speakers: Saliza Bono; Jol Ern; Tom

**Discovering the Forgotten Sirenian: The Mysterious African Manatee**

Lucy Keith-Diagne, PhD

AFRICAN AQUATIC CONSERVATION FUND

© Thomas Pesch

Speakers: Louisa, MareCet; Jol Ern; Lucy

**Common dolphins in the biodiverse waters of the Azores**

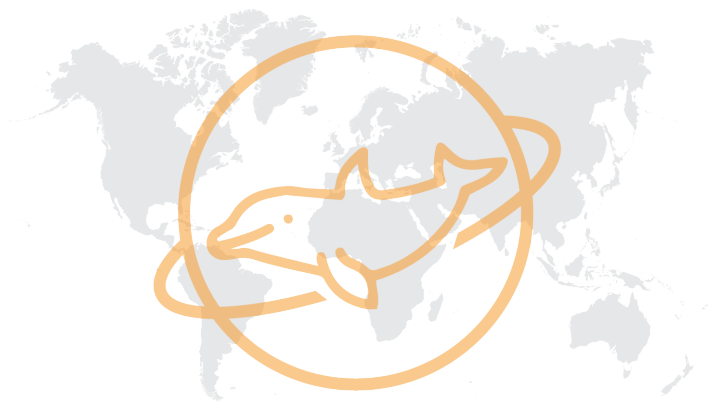
By Fadia Al Abbar  
PhD candidate  
Wageningen University,  
The Netherlands

Invited by MareCet

Funding & support: WAGENINGEN, LUCIE BURGERS, PRINS BERNHARD CULTUURFONDOS

Speakers: Jol Ern; Vivian; Fadia

As 2021 saw us Malaysians being under many months of extended movement control order which restricted a lot of our travels and increased our time at home, we decided to bring some travel cheer by running the “Marine Mammals Around the World from Home Lecture Series”, which began in June 2021 and ended in December 2021. We had 6 talks from different colleagues working on various marine mammal species across the globe in different seas and ocean basins, from Hawai’i all the way across to the Azores. The lecture series kicked off with Dr Danielle Kreb sharing about the Irrawaddy freshwater dolphins of the Mahakam River in Indonesia, followed by Sabena Siddiqui who talked about humpback whale non-song calls in the Hawaiian Islands. Next, we traveled to Vietnam, where Vu Long took us along the country’s extensive coastline to unique whale temples to uncover the local culture of whale worshipping and how those temples aid in science and conservation. The lecture adventure was followed on by a trip to Iceland, where Tom Grove told us all about cetaceans in the land of ice and fire and the research his team conducts on whale blow samples. Subsequently, we traveled to west Africa, where Dr Lucy Keith-Diagne waxed us lyrical with everything we could know about the mysterious and endangered African manatee. The final leg of this virtual tour brought us to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean where MareCet’s ex-volunteer, Fadia Al-Abbar shared with us about the cetaceans of the Azores Archipelago and the challenges associated with a booming dolphin-watching tourism there. Thank you to all our guest speakers from around the world for your generosity of time and knowledge sharing which made this lecture series a success!



These talks are all available for your viewing on [MareCet's Facebook Page](#)



## WAKAF ILMU: A Gathering Place for Knowledge Acquisition for Local Children

MareCet was successful in securing a MY Community Grant from Manulife Malaysia and some private donors in early 2021, which enabled us to work on a small community-centred project for the local children of *Geng Bersih Kampung*\* at Kampung Padang Puteh in Langkawi. The project focused on the construction of a gazebo designed in traditional Malay architecture style under the large tamarind tree situated in the village. The gazebo itself was designed by Mr Aaron Hyland, a renowned architect in San Francisco who generously volunteered his time and services for this project. The construction of the gazebo was carried out through a combination of workforce by a team of professional builders and MareCet's own team of marine conservationists (who turned into mini builders for a short period!). It took the entire team 15.5 days in November 2021 to complete the construction of the solar-powered gazebo from the ground up, complete with its finishings and basic furnishings. We want to say thank you to Manulife Malaysia and all external donors who contributed funds to make this gazebo a reality for the children of the village. Appreciation is also extended to the construction team led by Afham Nasir for their efforts in building up the gazebo excellently. A special thank you goes out to Mohd Syafiq and Syafiee for all their help in turning our plans into a beautiful reality for this project. The gazebo has since been named Wakaf Ilmu, which translates in English as the "Pavilion of Knowledge". Since December 2021, the gazebo has been regularly utilized for various learning activities, including English spelling and vocabulary lessons, batik painting, and lessons in marine mammal and forest ecology.

Separately, in December 2021, as part of this community project, the MareCet team took the Geng Bersih Kampung members to the sea in search of cetaceans around Langkawi. Although the northeast monsoon winds were quite gusty on the day, we are glad that the Indo-Pacific finless porpoises and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins decided to show up. All the children were incredibly thrilled, many of whom were seeing those animals for the very first time, despite being born and raised on the island. We are grateful to Telaga Harbour Terminal in Langkawi for the funding support which made this trip possible.

\*About *Geng Bersih Kampung*: A community group comprised of the local children from Kampung Padang Puteh in Langkawi, mentored by Kak Zuraidah and Suzana, who come together weekly to participate in educational activities that go beyond their typical school classroom. The children are provided with free art lessons, language learning, vocational skills training and special topic learning related to ecology, culture and much more from different guest speakers and facilitators. At the core of this community group initiative, the main intention is to provide the local children with learning opportunities they may not otherwise receive and to keep them occupied so as not to dabble in any vice. Geng Bersih Kampung was established by both Kak Zuraidah and Suzana in 2018. To follow their swath of activities, check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Geng-Bersih-Kampung-103568001666750>





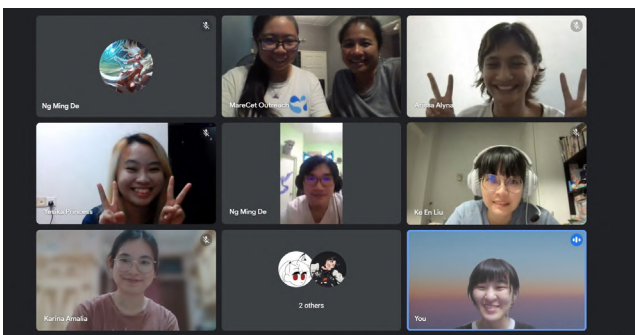


## Day Out with Dolphins and Beach Clean-Up

# New Video: MareCet x Taylor's University Students

As a maritime country with extensive coastline, strandings of dolphins, porpoises, dugongs and sometimes whales, is not an uncommon sight in Malaysia. Often, these strandings occur at locations where the stranding response team is unable to reach and respond in time. Therefore, it is crucial for the first respondent (first person who discovered the stranding incident) to take prompt actions during a live stranding to attend to the animal's wellbeing before the arrival of the stranding response team. On the other hand, dead strandings are considered as "treasures" in the eyes of researchers as a dead marine mammal provides so much valuable information about the species and serves as an ocean health indicator for the marine environment that they live in, thus, the first respondent also plays an important role in collecting useful information for researchers and local authority to better understand the stranding incident.

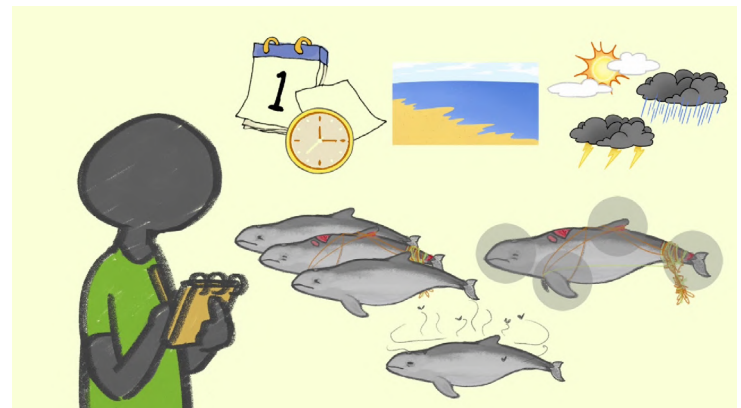
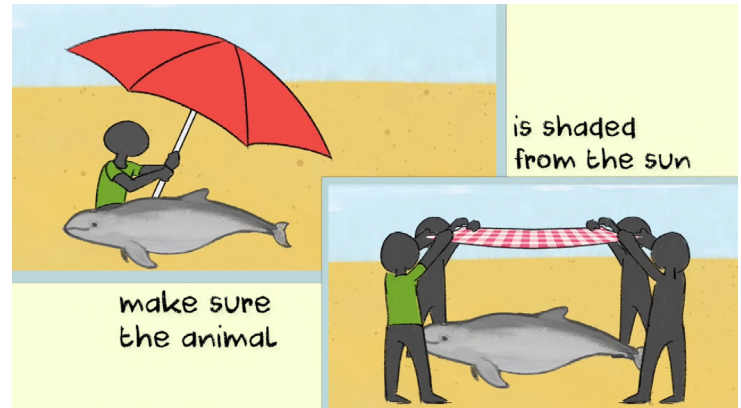
MareCet has been actively involved in raising awareness and providing guidance on marine mammal stranding response to the local authorities, fishermen and coastal communities, as well as the general public through various means including talks, informative posters, and training workshops. With the latest collaboration with a group of creative media design students from Taylor's University under their community service module, we produced short animated videos that illustrate and explain marine mammal stranding response in an easy-to-understand way, in both English and Bahasa Melayu, to spread the information to a wider audience in Malaysia. The English version of the video is now on our YouTube channel at the following link: <https://youtu.be/oHv-loLjD4k>



Taylor's University - Ramyeon Team



## What can I do when there's a marine mammal stranding?



Preview from the Marine Mammal Stranding Response Video



We did it! MareCet finally published her very first educational kid's activity book in December 2021! Our fintastic activity book is packed with various informative contents and fun activities that focuses on marine mammals and marine conservation. The book is great for kids to discover and learn about marine mammals and their marine habitats. This book was developed by MareCet, and illustrated by local artist Kok Ching Ying (from 牛勿 anything), with support from the ERM Foundation Malaysia. It is currently available in English and also Bahasa Melayu, the latter produced to be given as free giveaways to national school students, as part of our "Sea, Science and Schools" marine education programme. Get your fins on the English version of the book today!



A fun learning activity book for kids

Leave a nice message for marine mammals and the ocean here:

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Age : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

To learn more about MareCet, visit us at 

# Council Member Earns Her PhD

The year 2021 was a very memorable year for me! Reminiscing on my long and arduous journey, I am delighted and relieved that I am (Ph)inally (D)one, after crossing the finishing line and awarded with a PhD from Universiti Malaya. My PhD thesis is titled 'Ecology of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin and Irrawaddy dolphin in the Matang Mangrove and Adjacent Coastal Waters in Peninsular Malaysia'. While the PhD may have been the initial "destination", the moments during fieldwork and all the people that I have had the privilege to meet and work with over the years, are what I truly treasure the most. From someone who was interested in furthering my studies after volunteering for Langkawi Dolphin Research in 2010, I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to be involved in marine mammal research under the mentorship and supervision of Dr. Louisa Ponnampalam, and to become her "firstborn". Along the way, I have a few more "siblings" in the MareCet family, who have grown together both professionally and personally, with me.



My PhD would not have been possible without the support that I have received from MareCet over the years. From Dr. Louisa, who graciously took me under her wing (or shall I say, flippers) to navigate the ocean of knowledge together, to Jol Ern, who braved the rain, sun and waves with me in the field, and survived the boat capsize incident with me, to all Matang Dolphin Research (MDR) volunteers who provided assistance in the field. To Sandra Teoh and Saliza Bono, MareCet members who helped out in MDR and are currently pursuing their own PhDs with Langkawi as their study site, I have no doubt that they will be crossing their finishing lines, very soon! Thank you also to Fairul, for being our Zen master, and for keeping our sanity.

I hope that the experience in the field and sightings of dolphins and porpoises in Matang have been equally rewarding to those who were involved in MDR. I am also grateful to all the donors who have kindly donated to us to repurchase equipment that we lost during the capsizing incident, so that we can continue our research. I would also like to express my gratitude to my skippers in Kuala Sepetang, especially to Mr. Lim Eng Kee, and to locals (especially fishers) in Matang who have been very helpful and friendly to our team, whenever we are in the field. Last but not least, I am also very blessed to have amazing PhD supervisors like Dr. Amy Then and Prof. Dr. Chong Ving Ching from Universiti Malaya.

I have always believed that the opportunity to study marine mammals in Malaysia is a privilege that is not available to many, and therefore, it is my responsibility to utilize the knowledge and skills that I have acquired, to contribute towards marine mammal research and conservation. I look forward to continue to serve MareCet as her Scientific Officer, and also to work together with my fellow comrades in Southeast Asia for the marine mammals that we all fondly love and strive to protect. We still have a lot more to learn.

~ Dr Vivian Kuit Sui Hyang



## Meet Our New *Scientific Officer*

We are so pleased to announce that our newly minted Dr Vivian Kuit is now appointed as MareCet's Scientific Officer. In this role, she will oversee the quality of scientific research that MareCet undertakes to ensure that all our research is robust and scientifically sound. She will also assist Dr P in survey design and data analysis of the data collected from all our ongoing research projects.



## *Congratulations* to Dr P on Her New Professional Appointment

It is with great pride that MareCet, through Dr P, is now a member of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Working Group for the 2021 - 2023 term. This appointment was made by the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), and will see members of the working group contributing ideas and opinions for the better management and sustainability of the natural environment in Langkawi. We are excited to be a part of this and look forward to contributing for a positive impact in Langkawi, our second home!



## *Scientific Publications*

We are pleased to announce that our team members have published several peer-reviewed scientific papers in 2021 alongside our local and international collaborators. These papers are:

Heng, H.W.K., Ooi, J.L.S., Affendi, Y.A., Kee Alfian, A.A. and Ponnampalam, L.S. 2022. Dugong feeding grounds and spatial feeding patterns in subtidal seagrass: A case study at Sibu Archipelago, Malaysia. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 264: 107670. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2021.107670>

Kimura, S.S., Sagara, T., Yoda, K. and Ponnampalam, L.S. 2021. Acoustic identification of the sympatric species Indo-Pacific finless porpoise and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin: an example from Langkawi, Malaysia. *Bioacoustics*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09524622.2021.1998796>

Bono, S., Kimura, S.S., Kuit, S.H., Ng, J.E., Tanaka, K., Ichikawa, K. and Ponnampalam, L.S. 2021. Description of the first acoustic recording of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) from the northern straits of Malacca, Malaysia. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 150: 2189. <https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0006377>

McGowen, M.R., Vu, L., Potter, C.W., Truong, A.T., Jefferson, T.A., Kuit, S.H., Abdel-Raheem, S.T. and Hines, E. 2021. Whale temples are unique repositories for understanding marine mammal diversity in Central Vietnam. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* 69: 481–496. <https://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/11/RBZ-2021-0066.pdf>

Kuit, S.H., Ponnampalam, L.S., Hammond, P., Chong, V.C. and Then, A.Y. 2021. Abundance estimates of three cetacean species in the coastal waters of Matang, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 31: 3120 - 3132. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3699>



## MareCet in the *Media*

Despite a year where our team were mainly confined to desk work due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, our efforts got some media publicity and coverage:

In conjunction with World Conservation Day for 2021, The Edge Malaysia published their Conservation Issue, which featured the work of several wildlife conservationists and their conservation organizations in Malaysia in a series of articles. Have a read of the feature article on Dr P and MareCet titled, "[MareCet co-founder Dr Louisa Ponnampalam on championing marine mammal research and conservation in Malaysia](#)".

MareCet's bioacoustician, Saliza Bono was featured by the Lighthouse Field Station at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, in their #LHScienceWomen campaign. Read all about Saliza's work on harbour porpoises at her Scottish alma mater and dolphin bioacoustics in Malaysia, and her research journey thus far in this feature on [Facebook](#) and also [HERE](#).

MareCet was featured on the Dugong and Seagrass Hub website for the ongoing progress of the IKI seagrass ecosystems services project, of which we are a National Partner for Malaysia. The post details our trip to Johor in March 2021 and the next steps following the lockdown period. Read all about the [Exciting steps forward for SES project in Malaysia](#).

In 2020, MareCet celebrated the 10th year anniversary of the Langkawi Dolphin Research Project, our flagship project. The Conservation Leadership Programme traveled back through a decade with us and paid tribute to our project by featuring it in their CLP news article titled, "[The Langkawi Dolphin Research Project: A decade of discoveries, tribulations and triumphs](#)".





## The Year of *Webinars*

The year 2021 saw many of our team members giving public online talks and webinars across a variety of topics, for both local and international audiences. Here's a summary of all the presentations that were given:

Jan 2021: Dr P was invited to speak at the American Cetacean Society's virtual conference, where she presented a talk titled, "Cetacean Research and Conservation on a Shoestring — A Malaysian Example". Her insightful talk can be viewed [HERE](#).

Mar 2021: Dr V delivered a talk to school students for the Treat Every Environment Special (TrEES) World Wildlife Day Webinar Series 2021, with her talk titled, "Tickled Pink over Humpback Dolphins".

May 2021: Dr P was invited to speak at the American Cetacean Society San Francisco Bay Chapter's monthly talks. Her presentation was titled, "Caring for the uncharismatic - shining the spotlight on Indo-Pacific finless porpoises, with lessons learned from Malaysia" and can be viewed [HERE](#).

July 2021: Fairul was invited to participate as a panelist during the Global Climate Conference organized by Rotary International District 3300 Malaysia and District Action Group on Environmental Sustainability (DAGES). The panel session entitled Youth Plenary – Climate Change and Actions in Malaysia discussed the role of youth in addressing issues surrounding climate change and can be viewed [HERE](#). As a lead up to the conference, Fairul was also invited to present a talk entitled Ocean: The Forgotten Frontier in the Fight Against Climate Change.

Sep 2021: Fairul and Dr P were invited to deliver a talk on Econinja's Ocean Conservation Series and co-presented a talk titled, "Kenali Dugong", which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Sep 2021: Jol Ern was invited by the Malaysian Institute of Planners Training Centre (MIPTC) to speak at their "Re-imagining Planning E-sharing Session: Natural Heritage The Forgotten Ones", delivering her talk about Marine Natural Heritage.

Oct 2021: Dr P presented at the Wildlife Conservation Network Fall Virtual Expo, delivering her talk titled, "Caring for the uncharismatic - shining the spotlight on Indo-Pacific finless porpoises", which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Oct 2021: Dr P participated in the Society for Marine Mammalogy's Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Webinar titled, "Overcoming Challenges in the Lands of Dragons and Mermaids", alongside other marine mammal researcher colleagues from Asia. Her talk was titled, "It can be done on a shoestring budget! A Malaysian marmam research and conservation story".

Oct 2021: Saliza delivered a podcast titled, "Swimming with Dolphins" with the team from Beyond the Lab podcast. The session can be accessed [HERE](#).



*Thank You*  
**to Our Supporters!**

# Thank You to Our Supporters!

We would not have made it through the challenges of 2021 had it not been for your generous support for MareCet. We stayed afloat because you enabled us to.

Please know that we cherish each and everyone's contributions, no matter the size or form, and know that we could not do what we do, achieve what we achieve, and be without any of your help and support.

Thus we would like to close off *The Year That Was* and this newsletter by saying a huge TERIMA KASIH / THANK YOU / நன்றி / 谢谢 / TACK to all who have journeyed with us throughout 2021.

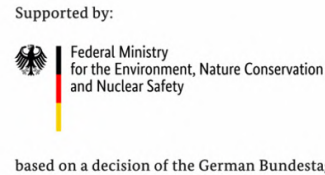


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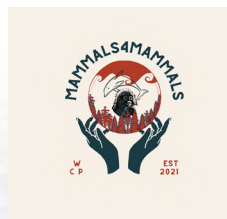
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YAYASAN



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



THE DESIGN SCHOOL



# Thank You to all our 2021 Donors!

Anonymous from USA  
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Caroline Ten Have  
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Jiha Harun  
Muniera Aiesya Meor Roslan  
Nawal Nor Said  
Nur Afrina  
Nuraina Syazana Sahariman  
Quin B  
Ryan  
Sufiyan Rawi  
Syikin Ghazali  
Yonce e  
Rojaniah binti Jawalani  
MBAHM Brenda Lim Thean I  
Siow Yen Min  
Wong Siew Lyn & Sumit Kumar  
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Low Jia Yen  
Oh Ying Ying  
Yap Ching Chwan  
Mohamed Naushaad  
Yap Poh Keong  
John Chia Sin Tet  
Chia Siew Ling  
Chung Jing Xiang  
Bernadette Chong Yin Wah  
Ahmad Fikri  
Yau Foong Hun  
Chia Hui Thian  
Hasnah binti Abd Rahman  
Choong Yun Cyn  
Afham bin Nasir  
Ng Kok Siong  
Siti Nabila  
Khairul Azly  
Carsten Andreas Bauer  
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Kumareson A/L Paranthaman  
Gan Yee Wei  
Lim Shook Hong  
Teoh Zhi Mei  
Leonie Gail Basnayak  
Gita Nair  
Jonathan Wong Jing-Thai  
Regina Lau May Ching  
Teh Ji-Nette  
Philip Chiam  
Adam Bin Ismail  
Fung May Wan

## List of interns and volunteers

As always, MareCet cannot do a lot of the work that we do without the generous time and help given to us by volunteers. So we want to say thank you to all the following amazing volunteers we had in 2021! The memories made and friendships forged will not be forgotten for a long time to come.

Toh Yi Jin  
Billy Lim Chun Ginn  
Stanley Tsng Hao Yuen  
Lim Yi Qi  
Cheng Si Va Sanggara  
Latiffa Aini Abd Latip  
Keith Coffey  
Goh Kai Zhi  
Syamil Abdul Rahman  
Fahmi  
Yara  
Shafiq  
Madam Nani  
myKP (Komuniti Perikanan)  
Membanteras dan Penjagaan Ekosistem Marin Perlis  
Tan Nian Wei  
Vun Wan Min  
Yesika Princess  
Arisa Alyna Shah binti Azlan Shah  
Karina Amalia Herfery  
Liu Ke En  
Maisarah binti Muhammad Zamri  
Melissa binti Mahazir  
Ng Ming De  
Asmira Anis binti Aminuddin  
Fatin Humaira binti Ahmad Fuzi  
Najihah binti TP Harun  
Nurul Amirah binti Zakaria  
Shaza Fatiha Fatin binti Sharuiddin  
Nurul Najihah binti Khairul Najmy  
Ahmad Adeel bin Ahmad Kairus Reza  
Nur Athirah binti Md Yusuf  
Jaspreet Kaur A/P Balbir Singh  
Sharon Ellie Tan  
Clarissa Harmoko  
Ng Sher Ying  
Vaishnavi Pillai  
Arisa Suraya Bt Zulfitri  
Nurul Syahirah Binti Othman  
Lee Jeong Woo  
Cheong Wei Xuan Bryan  
Sabrina Leong Ka Hei  
Fong Hurlee



## Intern/Volunteer Testimonials

### Most Volunteered Person - Syamil Abdul Rahman



"Assisting MareCet in their various conservation efforts in Perlis has been rewarding. MareCet has exposed me to the marine mammal realm, which allows me to gain a deeper knowledge of the different species and have close encounters with the animals. The MareCet team was also very helpful and readily available during the rescue of a few stranded marine mammals last year, which the local community members of Perlis and I were responding to. I enjoy volunteering for MareCet as the team is very passionate and dedicated to what they do."

Syamil



My internship with MareCet truly changed the way I perceived conservation work. Contrary to popular expectations, the conservationists at MareCet spend much more time analyzing data and raising awareness than observing dolphins on boat surveys. I, too, spent most of my time on dolphin photo identification, which inspired me to change my career focus from ecology to conservation technology. I am ever so grateful to have had the opportunity to work at MareCet and learn about the different needs in conservation.

Toh Yi Jin

MareCet offered a very welcoming environment and dedicated mentors who extended an opportunity for me to learn an immense amount of information about marine mammals. Over the span of two months as an intern, I have taken a liking to false killer whales. Despite working remotely, I gained valuable insight into the various fields of conservation pursued by these bright minds. The enthusiasm and passion of these conservationists ought to be aspired by many including myself to conserve the biodiversity and natural habitats around us and the world.

Billy Lim Chun Ginn



It is definitely a lifeworthy kind of experience for me and I really enjoyed the moment there. The best part throughout the trip was definitely the whales. It was cool to see so many whales in Malaysian waters. I really learned a lot from the survey. We usually listen to those technical terms or tools in class and now I could really understand them & even get my hands on the tools like refractometer or depth sounder after listening to their names for so many times in class. It is really interesting! Right before the survey, I did not really understand the idea of conservation. I thought that conservation is only about the animals, but it seems like it is more than that. This trip let me realise that conservation is not an easy task, many efforts are needed to realise the goal of protecting the environment and the animals.

Aside from that, it was great working with the team, everyone in the team is easy-going. I was basically zero at the beginning, but they were patiently guiding and teaching me through everything. The team is also very generous in sharing their own experiences and giving out advice. It really helped me in making up my mind and prepping me up for the future I might be facing. Hoping for more trips next time!!!

Lim Yi Qi

Joining MareCet on this Kedah-Perlis dolphin survey field trip is my first volunteering work in the conservation field. Being home-bounded due to the pandemic as a university student studying in this related field had limited my ability to experience hands-on operation and research field trip opportunity. By participating in this field trip, I've learned physical skills such as operating instruments, data collection methods and more that I was unable to gain much knowledge just by lectures alone. Besides that, I've learned more about the attitudes and responsibilities that we should possess when working from the team! For example, the discipline in cleaning and arranging equipment every day, always on high alert to ensure prompt reaction, teamwork to get everything done and so on. These traits are so valuable, which I believed would be beneficial to myself or others in all aspects of life. Most importantly, I've learned about the job scope and working environment of the conservation field. As an ordinary university student, academic-related tasks often consume the majority of the course and time, where I've always forgotten about the next chapter of my life after university: being in the industry itself, while still not really knowing which field that I am interested in or suitable to. Hence, after this opportunity with MareCet, the lifestyle to work in such an environment in this field is what I would love to be in the future. It has definitely secured its place on my list while I am on the journey of discovering my own interest. I also want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the team for willing to guide me, teach me, and share their personal experiences with me along the trip. The team's constant enthusiasm and optimism had made my entire trip fun and enjoyable. 1000/100 that I would join in another field trip with them again! ❤️

Stanley Tsng Hao Yuen

I went in not knowing much about dolphins and unsure if I could survive life as a volunteer. What can I say... I survived the 8 days of fieldwork and boat rides. Grand experience!!! During my stay with MareCet, I did learn a thing or two on dolphins, hung out with Dr Louisa, her team of brilliant researchers/scientists and fellow marine mammal enthusiasts. We had numerous interesting, fun, and deep conversations on life.

Highly recommended. Life as a volunteer in MareCet is a must-try at least once in a lifetime. Thanks MareCet for the awesome experience!!

Latiffa Aini Abd Latip

MareCet had surely given me a fun and memorable volunteer experience. Able to learn more about marine life had been a lifetime goal and MareCet had given me this opportunity to pursue my goal. I've learned so much about cetaceans onboard this trip. I would like to take this opportunity to thank MareCet team members who were willing to teach and guide me down this field. This trip had truly inspired me to discover more about marine mammals and to pursue a career relating to marine mammals. Although the long hours of boat ride and data collection were tiring, the sightings of dolphins, porpoises and whales were truly rewarding. Thank you again MareCet for letting me onboard this wonderful volunteer experience.

Cheng Si Va Sanggara



# Coming in 2022

## Dolphin Edu-tours and Marine Excursions

We are finally resuming our dolphin edu-tours and marine excursions after more than a year hiatus due to the pandemic. Stay tuned as we roll out more educational field trips including 'A Day Out with Dolphins with Dolphin Researchers' in Matang, Perak, and Junior Marine Explorer in Langkawi Island in 2022! Join us on our edu-tours and excursions to learn first-hand knowledge and experience with our very own dolphin researchers about marine mammals and their marine habitat. Our marine excursions are also available for private booking, contact us at [outreach.marecet@gmail.com](mailto:outreach.marecet@gmail.com) to find out more.



Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/marecetexcursions> for more updates and announcement of upcoming trips for next year!



## Whales On-The-Wheels Mobile Marine Education Nationwide Tour

In 2019, MareCet ran our first "Whales On-The-Wheels" mobile marine education event in Kuala Langat, Selangor. It has been our dream ever since then to conduct a Whales On-The-Wheels nationwide tour around Peninsula Malaysia. With the support from Yayasan Sime Darby, we are thrilled to finally make it a reality this year and commence our nationwide tour in February 2022!

The Whales On-The-Wheels mobile marine education nationwide tour is one of our latest large-scale outreach initiatives, believed to be the first of its kind in the country. The travelling exhibition features a 'Whale Truck' – a vehicle decked out with various educational materials and exhibits to promote awareness about the ocean, Malaysia's marine mammals, marine life and ecosystems, as well as marine conservation issues. There will be a variety of interactive and engaging educational activities, such as a mini marine laboratory, 'Be A Dolphin Researcher' experience corner, a curated marine mammal photo and skeleton gallery, 'The Ugly Truth: Marine Debris' learning corner, and more.

Although Malaysia is a country blessed with extensive coastline and incredible marine biodiversity and ecosystems, many Malaysians remain largely disconnected from the sea and may not know much about the importance of the sea to people and the presence of local marine species in Malaysia. Therefore we hope to "bring the ocean" to the people and make learning about marine mammals, the marine environment, and their conservation accessible to everyone in the country.

The nationwide tour will travel to all 11 states and 2 Federal Territories in Peninsular Malaysia throughout 2022 and 2023, so do look out for the tour schedules on MareCet's social media pages!

On our way to you soon...  
**Whales On-The-Wheels**  
Mobile Marine Education Nationwide Tour  
Feb 2022 . Jul 2022 . Oct 2022 . Apr 2023 . Jun 2023

Organized by  
MareCet

Supported by  
Sime Darby YAYASAN

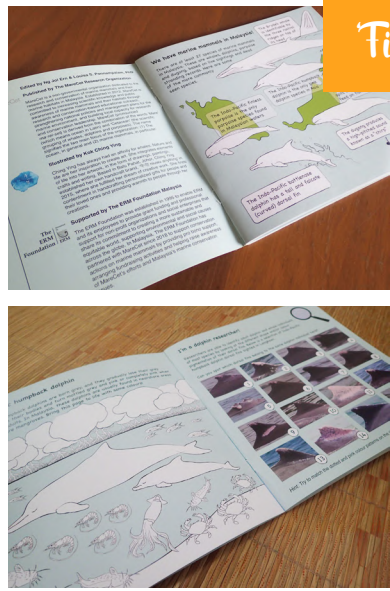
Coming in 2022

If you are interested in sponsoring our Whales On-The-Wheels nationwide tour, do contact us at [outreach.marecet@gmail.com](mailto:outreach.marecet@gmail.com) or +6011-1577 6802 to initiate a discussion or enquire further. We would love to hear from you!

# Lil' MareCet Shop

Lil' MareCet Shop is on Shopee! You can now browse the full range of our merchandise and place your orders on [Shopee](#). All proceeds from the purchase goes towards supporting our efforts in marine mammal research and marine conservation. Contact us at [shop.marecet@gmail.com](mailto:shop.marecet@gmail.com) or Whatsapp to +6011 1577 6802 for orders from outside of Malaysia and/or any merchandise related enquiries.

## 'Fintastic Marine Mammals and Where to Find Them?' Kid's Activity Book



### NEW!

MareCet finally published her very first educational kid's activity book in December 2021! Our fintastic activity book is packed with various informative contents and fun activities that focuses on marine mammals and marine conservation. The book is great for kids (even adults!) to discover and learn about marine mammals and their marine habitats. This book was developed by MareCet, and illustrated by local artist Kok Ching Ying (from 牛勿 anything), with support from the ERM Foundation Malaysia. Get your *fins* on the [book](#) today!

## Endangered Dugong Plush Toy

Our dugong plush toy makes a spe-shell gift for babies, kids and even adults! The plush toys are inspired by one of the marine mammal species which we study in Malaysia - the endangered dugong. These dugong plush toys are made by women in local communities in Malaysia at fair trade price. The purchase of these plush toys supports MareCet's conservation efforts for the endangered dugong population in Malaysia, as well as the livelihood and empowerment of local women.



## The Lumbatik Collection

## Do-It-Yourself Lumbatik Art Frame

### NEW!

Our *Lumbatik* print is now available on DIY art frames too! Get artsy and bring the piece to life with your own colour palette and creativity. The art frame set includes 1 *Lumbatik* art frame, 1 paint brush, 1 colour palette, and 4 colour dyes (mix and match the colours to get more colours!).

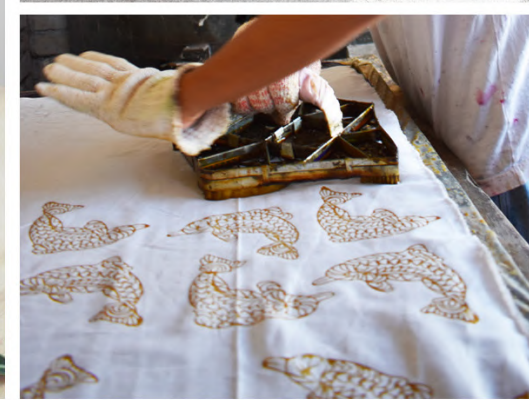


'*Lumbatik*' is an original designed batik fabric by MareCet. The name '*Lumbatik*' is derived from the combination of the words *lumba-lumba* (meaning dolphin in the Malay language) and batik. The batik design is inspired by the dolphin species that we study - the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, and traditional motifs in Peninsular Malaysia where we work. *Lumbatik* is made in Kuala Perlis, a coastal area on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, where we study and conserve the dolphins. Our range of *Lumbatik* products include different styles of bags, purses and pareos. The purchase of these products support both our marine mammal conservation efforts in Malaysia, as well as local artisans.

## Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin Plush Toy

### COMING SOON

Stay tuned for MareCet's next new plush toy, designed and developed based on our flagship study species - the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin!











Fintastic Book	RM20
Lumbatik Art Frame	RM30
Lumbatik Bucket Bag	RM300
Lumbatik Tote Bag	RM250
Lumbatik Sarong	RM200
Lumbatik Purse	RM60
Dugong Plush Toy	RM80

"The ocean nourishes us with abundance. She feeds our body and soul. She breathes life into us. She takes care of us. With all the ocean provides for us and this Earth, it is only right that we take up the role of being guardians and good stewards of the ocean - and that we exceed all expectations of this role."

*'Aunofu Havea Funaki, first female licensed captain in the Kingdom of Tonga and Polynesia, and Founder/President of the Tonga Voyaging Society*

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*Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (Sousa chinensis) leaping out of the water*