

# Terrestrial Life

**Terrestrial Fauna - includes variety of birds, reptiles, insects and small mammals.**

## Birds

Among feathered species recorded are the Pied Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*), the Metallic Pigeon (*Columba vitiensis*), the Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*), the Tabon scrubfowl (*Megapodius cumingi*), the Collared kingfisher (*Todiramphus halcyon chloris*) and the Pied Hornbill (*Antracoceros albirostris*). Others are Sea eagles, raptors, thrushes, flycatchers, sunbirds and bulbuls were also recorded.

## Mammals

The commonest large mammal is the Long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) which occurs in mangrove and forest areas. The Bearded pig (*Sus barbatus*), the Sambar deer (*cervus unicolor*) and Mouse deer (*Tragulus*) and Otter (*Lutra sp*) were also sharing their lives on these islands long time ago however, nowadays, most of the mammals are hard to be seen.

## Reptiles

There are only snakes and lizards were common. Five species of terrestrial snake exists namely, Green vine snake (*Ahetula prasina*), Dog-toothed cat snake (*Boiga cynodon*) and Pit vipers (*Trimeresurus spp.*), reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) together with six species of sea snake. Sea krait (*Laticauda colubrina*) are common around the jetty on Bohey Dulang, while the other species occur offshore. Skinks and lizards, including the common water monitor lizards occur on the main islands. The most conspicuous of the lizards is the Large tokay (*Gekko-gekko*).

## Insects

Butterflies (*Lepidoptera*) were particularly well represented, with a total of 52 species and about 5% of the Borneo fauna. While, Beetles (*Coleoptera*), sucking insects of herbaceous plants (*Hemiptera* and *Homoptera*) and stinging insects (*Hymenoptera*) are also fairly common.

## Flora

By virtue of their position at the extreme south-western and of the Sulu volcanic arc, the TSMP have interesting plant communities not found in other regions in Sabah or Borneo. The five main vegetation communities are present on the islands.

## Coastal Mixed Forest

This is the richest plant community found on the islands, represented by at least 95 species of tree found in 63 plant families. There are only three species of dipterocarps namely *Shorea guiso*, *Hopea beccariana* and *H. sangal* which can reach 30-40 m tall. Although, the smaller trees included individuals of *Antirhea edanoi*, growing to about 5m tall, a new record for Borneo and previously known only from Tawi-Tawi, Philippines.



## Scrub Vegetation

A scrub-like community is well developed on the two main islands, forming on the top of the major rock outcrops, on near-horizontal or gently sloping surfaces. The most distinctive life forms apart from a few dominant tree species in this scrub community include the yucca-like Cycad (*Dracaena multiflora*) commonly growing to 10m tall and a new record for the Bornean flora, previously documented only for the Philippines, palm-like *Cycas rumphii* and the Cactus-like succulent (*Euphorbia lacei*).

## Rockface Vegetation

The vegetation on rockfaces includes small patches of scrub, established on narrow ledges and in broad cracks, as well as a distinctive community that includes the true lithophytes (rock plants). *Selaginella tamariscina*, a small plant only 4-5cm high, growing on exposed to partially shaded gently sloping rockfaces on both Bodgaya and Bohey Dulang. *Cheilanthes javensis* is the small brown fern that grows in completely open conditions, forming thick tussocks in cracks and depressions on the rock face. Both are the new species record for Borneo (and Malaysia).

## Beach Vegetation

The typical sandy shore elements include a range of plants, but typical shore elements on the TSMP sandy beaches such as *Pandanus odoratissimus*, *Pandanus dubius* and *Ipomoea pes-caprae* were exceedingly rare. Other beach elements are *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Argusia argentata* and *Barringtonia asiatica*. But a new genus and species record for Borneo of a slender climber are *Rhyssosperis timoriensis*.

## Mangrove Vegetation

Like sandy beach vegetation, mangrove vegetation occurs mainly in spots around the islands sheltered from strong currents and in enclaves where some deposition of silt and mud is possible.



# Giant Clams and Invertebrates Hatcheries

Giant Clams and Invertebrate Hatchery (GCIH) was built in year of 2006 as a joint venture project between Sabah Parks and Semporna Islands Darwin Project (SIDP). Its operation since establishment is under supervision of Park Management, Tun Sakaran Marine Park (TSMP).

The main objective of the GCIH is to improve the population of endangered species of giant clams through aquaculture programs.

In July 2008, GCIH officially have been placed under management and supervision of Marine Research Unit of TSMP. The hatchery placed giant clam spawning tank area, algae culture room, office, exhibition room, brood stock garden and open sea cage. There is 7 species of giant clam that exist in GCIH namely, *Tridacna gigas*, *T. derasa*, *T. maxima*, *T. crocea*, *T. squamosa*, *Hippopus porcellanus* and *H. hippopuss*.



# Facilities

## Soccer Field/ Court Games

There is a soccer field in Tun Sakaran Marine Park complex which is regularly used by Sabah Parks staffs. However, visitor that keen to use it (rent), please obtain permission from park manager / officer in-charge.

## Accommodation

At present, there is no accommodation on Tun Sakaran Marine Park islands.

## Jetty

The main take off point from the mainland to Tun Sakaran Marine Park is by way of a tourist jetty at Kg. Bangau-bangau, Semporna. It takes about one hour to travel by speed boat. Jetties are available at all islands except Sibuan, Maiga, Bodgaya and Tetagan.



# Marine Flora & Fauna

The 35,000ha Tun Sakaran Marine Park (TSMP) is an area of very high biological diversity and is an active area of spawning, breeding and growth of various marine life. Extensive studies by Dr. Elizabeth Wood, a well known marine biologist based in Sabah, have recorded as many as 255 species of coral in the waters of TSMP, indicating the high value of coral biodiversity in this area.

There are now 12 sites of coral reef monitoring program around the reefs of TSMP which were monitored by Sabah Park's Marine Research Unit. This coral reef monitoring study administered annually to know up-to-date status and other information which related to enhance the management of coral reef in this marine park. As many as 528 species of reef fish and more than 240 species of marine invertebrate also recorded in this area.

During the Marine Scientific Expedition in the year of 2009, there were six species sea grass that has identified in this area. Among them is *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Enhalus acoroides* and *Ahalophila ovalis*. Selakan Island and Bohey Dulang Island have recorded as the highest abundance of sea grass in TSMP.

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## SABAH PARKS



**SABAH PARKS**  
 Lot 45 & 46, Level 1-5, Block H, Signature Office, KK Times Square, Coastal Highway, 88100 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.  
 P. O. Box 10626, 88806 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.  
 Tel: +6088-523500 Fax: +6088-484434, 484435, 484436  
 Email: sabahparks@sabahparks.gov.my, sabahparks@gmail.com

www.sabahparks.org.my

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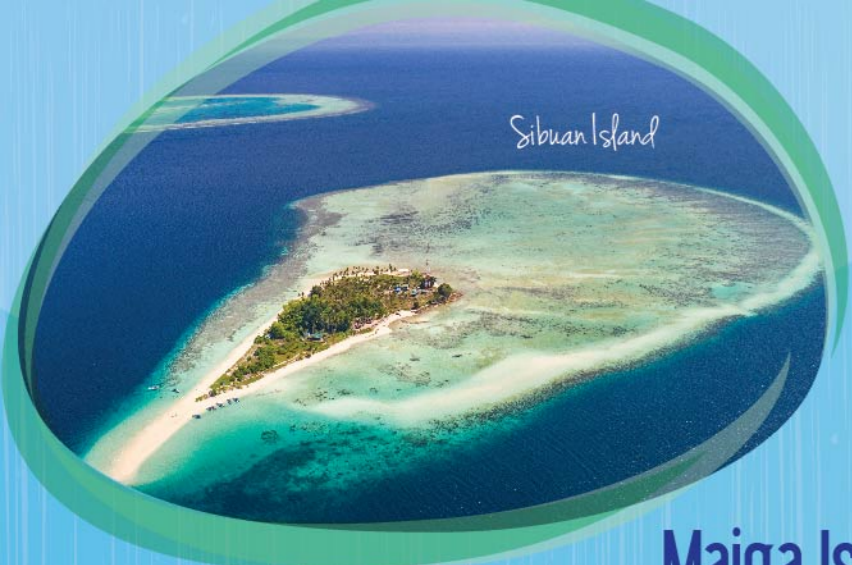
### About TUN SAKARAN MARINE PARK

Tun Sakaran Marine Park (TSMP) is situated at the entrance to Davud Bay, off the east coast of Sabah near the town of Semporna. It takes about 45 minutes by speed boat from the jetty of this small town to reach the marine park which is named after a former Head of State of Sabah. Tun Sakaran Daudat. It was gazetted in July 2004 as Sabah's seventh marine park covering 340 sq km marine, or sea and coral reef and 10 sq kilometers of land.

The park comprises of eight islands - Bodgaya, Bohey Dulang, Tetagan, Selakan, Sibuan and Maiga. Sabah and Malaysia - and their surrounding reef and sea. Its main objectives are to protect their environment and to promote sustainable use of natural resources. The rich marine life found in the waters around TSMP has made it a favourite spot for scientific studies carried out by Dr. Elizabeth Wood over the last 20 years have found that the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. There are also hills with ancient rock climbing activity and presence of the ruminant Begonia late forest species whose life on boat add to the uniqueness of the park.



# TUN SAKARAN MARINE PARK



Sibuan Island

## Sibuan Island

Sibuan is located at the south west corner of a reef stands alone to the north west of Bodgaya. It covers an area of 15.12 hectares. The island is a sandy cay that has probably built-up entirely from the eroded remains of the adjacent coral reef. It has an elevation above sea level of about 1-2m. Limestone beach rock has formed in several places, particularly at the northern end of the island. There are separate outcrops at various levels on the beach.



Maiga Island

## Maiga Island

Located north of Selakan, it covers an area of 20.16 hectares. Maiga is low, sandy island, rather than a raised limestone platform. However, it appears to be linked to the Sebangkat-Selakan formation, and presumably there may be volcanic rock many metres below the surface, with a craf of old reef limestone on top. There is a sandy beach running right round the island and deeper water fairly close to the shore. Erosion is occurring along the eastern side, especially in the south where the sand and soil at the back of the beach is cut away to a height of about 0.5m. There is sand and spit at the southern end of the island, and it is possible that the island is slowly growing in this direction.

## Sebangkat Island

Sebangkat is located on the south west corner of the Sebangkat-Selakan reef complex. It covers an area of 51 hectares. There are two tiny islets of reef limestone to the north of Sebangkat, in the middle of the reef top plateau. The island consists of coral limestone, raised a few metres above sea level. The limestone bed has been eroded and undercut to form a rocky shoreline around much of the island. There is a good sandy beach at the south west corner of the island and stretches for some distance along the south coast.

## Selakan Island

The island is located on the south east corner of the Sebangkat-Selakan reef complex. It covers an area of 32 hectares. The island consists of coral limestone, raised a few metres above sea level. The limestone bed has been eroded and undercut to form a rocky shoreline around much of the island. There are small stretches of sandy beach around the village, and also at north end of the island. Patches of mangrove occur along the north west coast.



# TUN SAKARAN MARINE PARK

Sibuan Island

Year Gazetted 2004

Total Area 35,000 hectares/101 km<sup>2</sup>

Coordinate 4°36'N 118°42'E



Mantabuan Island

## Mantabuan Island

Mantabuan is located about 2.5km from the north coast of Bodgaya, at the south western corner of the Mantabuan reef. It is the smallest island in the Tun Sakaran Marine Park, with an area of 10.08ha. The island is flat with a sandy beach running all the way round. The ground in the corner of the island is hard and compacted.



Bohey Dulang Island



## Bohey Dulang Nature Trail

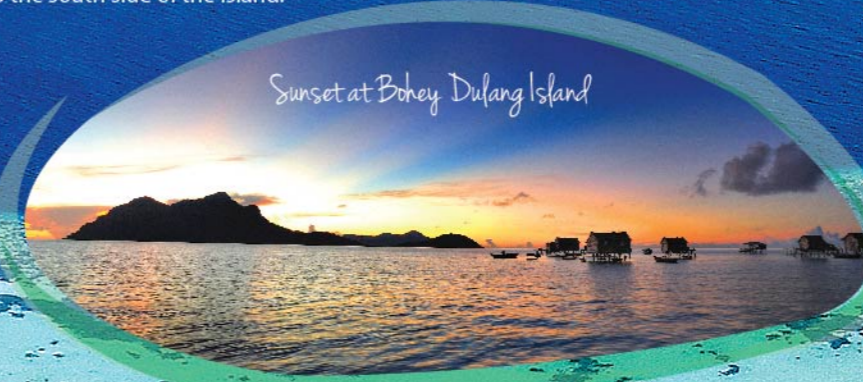
Visitors are encouraged to ascend the forest track in Bohey Dulang Island. During one hour journey climbing lava rock volcano, visitors often meet with common wild animal such as snakes, birds and monkeys. From the top of the rock visitors will be delighted to the beautiful view of insular formation of the islands of TSMP.

## Bohey Dulang Island

This is another high island formed from volcanic rocks, and has an area of 313 hectares. It is separated from Bodgaya by shallow channel. The ground slopes upwards from the shore, in some places very steeply. There is a ridge running along the length of the island and has three separate peaks. The Bohey Dulang Peak is the highest (353m). There are a number of rock pools on the east side linked by a stream. The pools are 2-3m across and some are fed by small waterfalls. Other streams form if there is heavy rain.

## Bodgaya Island

At 8km long and 1.5km wide, Bodgaya covering an area of 796.4 ha is the largest of the eight islands. This is a high island formed from volcanic rocks. The ground slopes steeply upwards from the shore, leaving a narrow, wave-cut shingle terrace. The main rock outcrops have steep slopes which begin at elevations of between 1100m above sea level and have average inclination of 45-60°. Mt. Bodgaya (one of two peaks) reaches a height of 455m at the western 'arm' of the island, while another peak at the eastern 'arm' reaches a height of 366m. The two 'arm' are separated by a valley, which cuts through from the north to the south side of the island.



Sunset at Bohey Dulang Island

## ACTIVITIES

### Scuba Diving & Snorkelling

Tun Sakaran Marin Park provides as much as 21 prestigious scuba dive sites. Divers satisfaction is assured with opportunity to meet with various attractive marine life such as turtle, eagle rays, barracuda, bumphead parrotfish, nudibranchs and some type of sponges that were only recently discovered. It is difficult to describe the thrills that divers experiences when encounter with marine's macro life in Bodgaya lagoon. For visitors that do not possess a scuba diving licence, marine life can still be appreciated by snorkelling among the coral reefs. However, for safety reason all snorkelling activity need to be informed to the TSMP management.



Semporna Town



Semporna Night View

