

TANJUNG PIAI AND PULAU KUKUP, JOHOR “THE NATURAL PARADISE”

Sheriza Mohd Razali



Introduction

“Tanjung Piai” is located at Peninsular Malaysia, is one of a Ramsar site, located at the southern-most tip of mainland Asia. The area consists of mainly of mudflats and mangrove forests reported by Nor Aslinda Awang *et al.*, (2014). A short visit to Tanjung Piai National Park was conducted at 30 and 31 May 2016 for conducting a research entitles, “Mangrove health assessment using vegetation stress indices at mangrove forests”. Research on stress of mangrove forests is a very important issue as reported by many scientists. We took about 30 minutes to arrive the area from our accommodation at Gelang Patah town, Johor. The forest manager of Tanjung Piai gives us a complete explanation of the history, development and rehabilitation activities of the mangrove area.



Tanjung Piai, the south-most tip of mainland Asia.

Mangrove is among the most important ecosystems on earth and playing a major role in balancing ecological ecosystems. The National Park is under management of Tourism Johor that is currently under close proximity to offshore petroleum and petrochemical hub and maritime industrial park construction. It is located at a very strategic location which one of the busiest international shipping route of Straits of Malacca (Johor, 2015).



Tanjung Piai, close proximity to offshore petroleum and petrochemical hub and maritime industrial park construction.



Issue on mangrove. Source: Newspaper cutting (February 22, 2014)

Tanjung Piai has experienced a huge change because of the construction caused soil erosion, and also soil loss because of modification of waves. The area is actively under restoration activities sponsored by many organizations such as universities, schools, non-profit organizational (NGOs) and several of agencies.



Example of restoration programs by Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd Company

"PULAU KUKUP"

Pulau Kukup is another important mangrove area for the south of peninsula. It is located adjacent to Tanjung Piai which is an environmental sanctuary as a home of many flora and fauna species.



The largest mangrove tree is located in Pulau Kukup.



Restoration plot

Pulau Kukup is surrounded to many species of birds and mangrove dwellers such as crabs, beady-eyed, mudskippers and crab-eating macaques (Jaswar, Rashidi, & Maimun, 2013). The area was celebrated the World Wetlands Day 2015, with "Wetlands for Our Future" theme in 2015. This make this small island very significant to sea community for fishing, aquaculture activities and also sight-seeing.

Because mangrove forests are often stressed beyond their limits of survival for a number of reasons for instance hydrological change and climatic variability (Lewis et al., 2015), the area have faced a similar problems to Tanjung Piai. However, during our visits we found the degree of the destruction at the area is moderately less than what happens in Tanjung Piai. Pulau Kukup also has similar restoration activities conducted by many agencies.

References

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Author:

Dr. Sheriza Mohd Razali

Research Officer

Laboratory of Sustainable Bioresource Management
Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products (INTROP)
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Email: sherizasmr@gmail.com