



Giant Clam Eco-trail and re-introduction programme 2011

The Giant Clam Eco-trail features these charismatic animals because they are examples of globally endangered species that have been badly over-exploited in Sabah and are the focus of a rehabilitation programme in Tun Sakaran Marine Park. The trail gives visitors the opportunity to learn about coral reef ecology and other forms of reef life.

The site selected for the trail already had 'resident' giant clams belonging to 5 species and we have introduced adult specimens of the other two species. The trail is about 100m long and follows the reef rim at a depth of between 3 – 5m depth. There are signs illustrating each species, and these are strategically placed next to the relevant live specimens.



Underwater sign at the beginning of the trail



Diver inspecting one of the large clams on the trail.

Several cages containing juvenile clams have also been put along the trail so that people can see and understand the processes involved in raising the clams and re-introducing them to the wild.

More detailed, illustrated nature notes have been produced and laminated for use underwater. Visitors can use these to learn more about what they are seeing on the trail.

Posters illustrating coral reef biodiversity of the Park have also been designed, with the aim of enhancing people's understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

Fish sign on the trail.

