

## SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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**Title: Conservation Of Marine Resources And Sustainable Coastal Community Development**



Environmental degradation is a serious barrier to economic development in today's world, resulting in detrimental effects on lives, livelihoods, development of human society, and the conservation of natural resources. The blue economy is an emerging concept in the economic sector which promotes the use of the ocean and its resources for sustainable economic development. The ocean is a vital contributor to sustainable economic development as more than three billion people worldwide depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. The blue economy could be a new driver of economic growth for coastal countries like Malaysia. The conservation of marine resources contributes to food security, job creation, economic and social benefits, cultural exchange programs, as well as awareness and knowledge of environmental sustainability. To stimulate the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, global policymakers have introduced Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG-14). To achieve SDG-14, MPAs can play a substantial role, which is considered the cornerstone of a blue economy due to their substantial economic, social and environmental contributions. Within MPAs in Malaysia, however, ineffective management, environmental degradation, and poor socioeconomic conditions are the main impediments to sustainable economic growth, social development, conservation of natural resources as well as community development. The main objective of this study is to explore the perceived determinants of sustainable use of natural resources within marine protected areas (MPAs) and to examine the relationship among the variables. The research was conducted as part of the questionnaire survey using a sample of 300 households from the MPAs. The data were analyzed using the structural equation model (SEM). The study found that economic, social, cultural, and ecological development has a significant influence on sustainable use of natural resources. The political and technological development does not have any significant relationship with sustainable use of natural resources. It might be because of MPAs is not politically and technologically developed yet according to community expectation. The evidence shows that policymakers in MPAs should accelerate economic, social, cultural and ecological development, create environmental sustainability awareness, and form favorable environmental attitudes among marine park communities to increase sustainable use of natural resources.