

## MARINE CONSERVATION

# VOLUNTEERS PUT UP 40 CORAL FRAMES OFF MABUL

Project seeks to restore island's coral reefs, support community's adaptation to effects of climate change

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**G**REEN Semporna, a volunteer organisation involved in marine conservation, and leaders from the youth organisation, Iklim, installed more than 40 coral frames off Mabul Island to mark World Oceans Day on Wednesday.

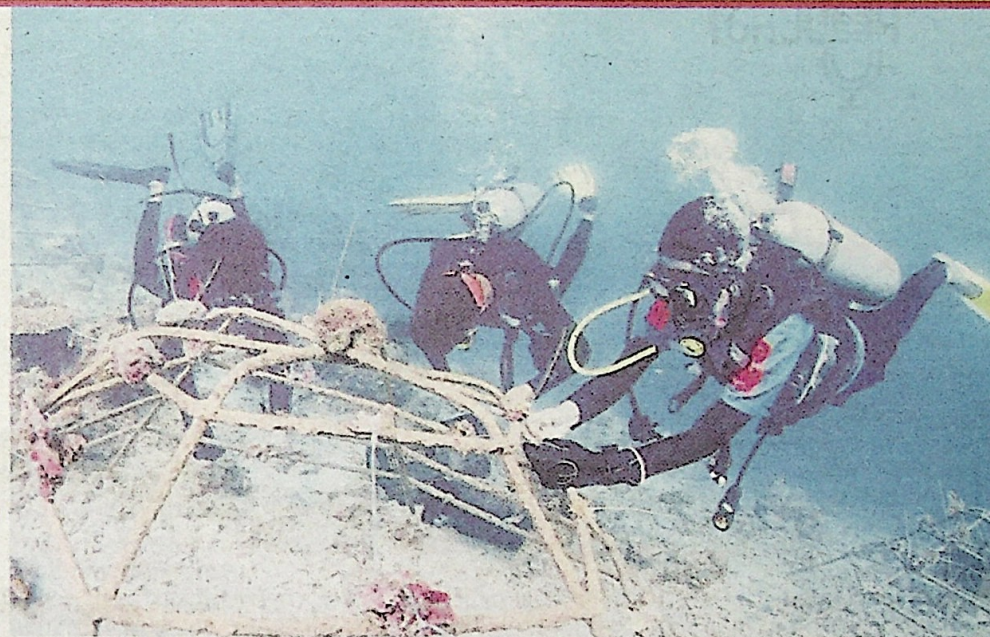
The project was a continued effort to restore the island's coral reefs and support the community's adaptation to the effects of climate change.

The distribution of coral reefs is decreasing because of global warming and human threat.

Green Semporna provided the necessary training and guidance to Iklim to carry out the coral reef restoration activities on the island.

The programme seeks to boost the islanders' skills and awareness of the importance of conserving coral reefs.

The restoration effort is also one of the long-running projects by Green Semporna in collaboration with the World Wide Fund For Nature-Malaysia and Reef Check Malaysia.



*Iklim members inserting small coral fragments onto a metal frame during the marine conservation project off Mabul Island recently. PIC COURTESY OF GREEN SEMPORNA*

It was funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme under United Nations Development Programme Malaysia and the state Tourism, Culture and Environment Ministry.

"Coral reefs play an important role as a source of economy and livelihood for the islanders.

"At the same time, coral reefs are increasingly threatened and need to be protected. "As youth leaders, we play a role to jointly conserve these coral reefs through the restoration initiatives with Green Semporna," said Iklim Mabul youth leader Hanafi Garwas.

Green Semporna founder Adzmin Fatta said the programme was crucial because it involved the participation of the local community in protecting their marine treasures.

"I hope everyone will begin to realise the importance of the sea and play a role together in caring for it because the sea is our future," said Adzmin, who is also Reef Check Malaysia programme manager.