Biodata – Dr. Leela Rajamani

Dr. Leela Rajamani was the first person to be trained in dugong ecology and conservation in Malaysia. She graduated in 2009 with a Ph.D. on dugong and seagrass conservation and has been working with marine mammals since 2002. She is currently Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Her key interests include dugong, seagrass and dolphin ecology and conservation and involving local communities in the research, conservation and management of marine mammals. Notable appointments include being a Member of the IUCN-SSC Sirenian Specialist Group, Visiting Scholar at James Cook University and participating in the global GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation project from 2015 to 2018. She is currently working on an ecological project on inshore dolphins in Penang and on a new project on offshore marine mammals in Sabah. Her aim is to inform a balanced and equitable approach to the management of coastal and marine resources.