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COASTAL SENSITIVITY OVERVIEW
OF THE
STRAIT OF MALACCA

Compiled by the World Conservation
Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
Cambridge

for

International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

May 1994



WORLD CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE

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The mission of the
World Conservation Monitoring Centre is to provide
information on the status, security and
management of the Earth's biological diversity.

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BACKGROUND

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) was set up in 1979 as an information centre to provide reliable scientific data on the state of the world's biodiversity. This work has been greatly facilitated by the WCMC's status as a joint venture between its three partners, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In order to monitor the world's biodiversity, large quantities of data have been collected and entered into extensive databases on a wide range of subjects. Each of the units within the WCMC, Habitats, Species and Protected Areas, have specialised in collecting data on a particular aspect of biodiversity. Today, these large data sets (tabular and GIS) contain some of the most accurate and detailed inventories of the world's biodiversity, a summary of which was published in *Global Biodiversity: Status of the Earth's Living Resources* (WCMC, 1992).

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre maintains a large amount of information relating to marine and coastal environments and their conservation, and is involved in a number of proposed and ongoing projects in this field. Increasingly, this information is being managed using GIS. Particular attention has been devoted to mapping sensitive coastal ecosystems and this information is of interest to oil companies for oil spill emergency response and contingency planning, and has been used in several such applications (see Section 7). Data relevant to coastal sensitivity mapping are held within the Centre's Biodiversity Map Library and comprise protected and unprotected important areas for conservation, mangroves, coral reefs, forests, wetlands and species. Additional information is held in the Centre's paper files and library - some of the information provided in this report are examples.

This summary report of the coastal sensitivity of the Strait of Malacca has been compiled as background material for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

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