

## V2V THEMATIC WEBINAR SERIES 2026

### Exploring Small-Scale Fisheries Livelihood Strategy and its Association to Vulnerability: Case Study of East Coast Marine Parks, Malaysia

Malaysian fisheries are overexploited and the small-scale fisher in coastal regions earn low income from fishing. Here, fishers are not allowed to fish in the marine protected areas which are under strict regulations and zoning. Using case study approach, data for this study was obtained from local fishers and community groups in three MPAs on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Social-ecological vulnerability framework was used to understand how the social and ecological changes affect livelihood equity of small-scale fishers. The overall findings indicate that the scale of social and ecological vulnerability vary between the case study islands. Fisher communities were found to be less vulnerable on Kapas Island where fishers have fair access to fishing. Fishers in Tioman and Perhentian islands were found to be the most vulnerable both ecologically and socially due to strict fishing bans and inequitable access. Tourism contributes to the local economy, however major share of income from tourism goes to the investors and local elites. Tourism provides alternative employment opportunities for local people; women groups are increasingly engaged in tourism based small business. The results indicate that social factors are essential in improving the livelihoods of small-scale fisher households in an MPA context. The viability of the small-scale fisher's livelihood will require a well-coordinated approach that may protect the resources and provide fair access to employment and equitable distribution of income.

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## V2V COUNTRY CASE STUDIES IN FOCUS: MALAYSIA



### DR. GAZI MD NURUL ISLAM

**SPEAKER**

Gazi Nurul Islam is a Professor at the Tun Razak Graduate School, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Malaysia, specializing in environmental and natural resource economics. He holds a PhD in natural resource economics (fisheries) from Universiti Putra Malaysia. His research focuses on rural livelihoods, fisheries, environmental impacts on poverty, and community-based resource management. He is involved in collaborative research on small-scale fisheries in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, and is an active member of global networks such as the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership and Too Big To Ignore (TBTI). He has also worked with WorldFish Center and CIRDAP on rural development and environmental projects. Read more about Dr.Gazi [here](#).



**23 APR 2026**



**12:00 PM UTC to 1:15 PM UTC**  
**8:00 AM EDT to 9:15 AM EDT**



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