

## **Groundwater challenges in small islands : a review and examples from Malaysia.**

### **ABSTRACT**

Small islands in Malaysia are gifted with attractive features as outstanding tourist destinations. Moreover, small islands play a crucial role in Malaysian tourism and economy. The purpose of this paper is to give an overview perspective of groundwater challenges in Malaysian small islands. Groundwater challenges in Malaysian small islands are divided into two categories which are natural challenges and challenges associated with human settlement. Natural challenges are such as climate change and sea level rise. Challenges associated with human settlement are such as overpumping and seawater intrusion. This review has updated the limited knowledge existing on groundwater challenges in Malaysian small islands. The groundwater challenges of Malaysian small islands are important to be identified as it influences the future sustainable ecotourism development. Sustainable ecotourism is the key for a good relationship between small islands, environment and tourism.

**Keyword:** Malaysia; Small islands; Groundwater; Challenges; Environment; Tourism.