



和平島 地質公園

HEPING ISLAND GEOPARK

世界秘境

Category: Tourism Destination Resilience (Asia Pacific)
Project title: Alabao Bay Secret Land Reappearance Plan
Organisation: Tourism Bureau, Republic of China (Taiwan)

Table of contents

01 Project background

02 Take action

03 Future prospect



Alabao Bay Natural Environment

- Alabao Bay is hailed by CNN as one of the 21 most beautiful sunrise viewing spots in the world. Due to years of weathering and erosion and the impact of waves, the coastal terrain is rich in sea erosion, including tofu rocks, sea erosion platforms, mushroom rocks and other special natural landforms. It is rare to have complete and neatly arranged tofu rocks in northern Taiwan.
- Alabao Bay is located on Heping Island in Keelung City. It is an important scene for Taiwan to enter the global history. The Pingpu aborigines, Chinese fishermen, Spaniards, Dutch, Japanese, etc. have left a variety of historical and cultural overlaps and stories on Heping Island.
- In addition to ecological trails, Alabao Bay is also the residence of Amis people from Chenggong and Donghe towns on the east coast of Taiwan in the 1960s. The traditional culture gradually lost.



Alabao Bay Settlement

Gabion walk

intertidal zone

Reasons for Alabao Bay to be closed



- Alabao Bay is located at the northeastern tip of Taiwan, on the windward side of the northeast monsoon. Every year after September, it will be affected by strong wind and rain. It is also a rockfall area with fragile rock formations. In order to ensure the safety of tourists, Alabao Bay The geological area was closed for seven years before reopening under rezoning management in 2018.
- Due to the lack of management in this area at that time, many tourists broke into the closed area privately during the closed period, barbecued in Alabao Bay, harvested creatures, etc., which not only destroyed the local natural ecology, but also damaged the precious cultural history and landscape Resources, such as the relics left by the Dutch in the 17th century - Dutch Cave is full of tourists' graffiti.
- Beginning in 2018, Heping Island Geopark reopened Alabao Bay in the form of management, and opened it in the season with relatively stable weather (May-September) every year. By limiting the upper limit of the daily flow of people, it is necessary to ensure the ecology of Alabao Bay Under the premise of maintenance and personnel safety, tourists can enjoy the beauty of Alabao Bay again, and the park can also effectively control it. Heping Island Geopark cooperates with the Taiwan Geological Park Association every year to monitor the falling rocks to ensure that Alabao Bay can be opened under safe conditions.

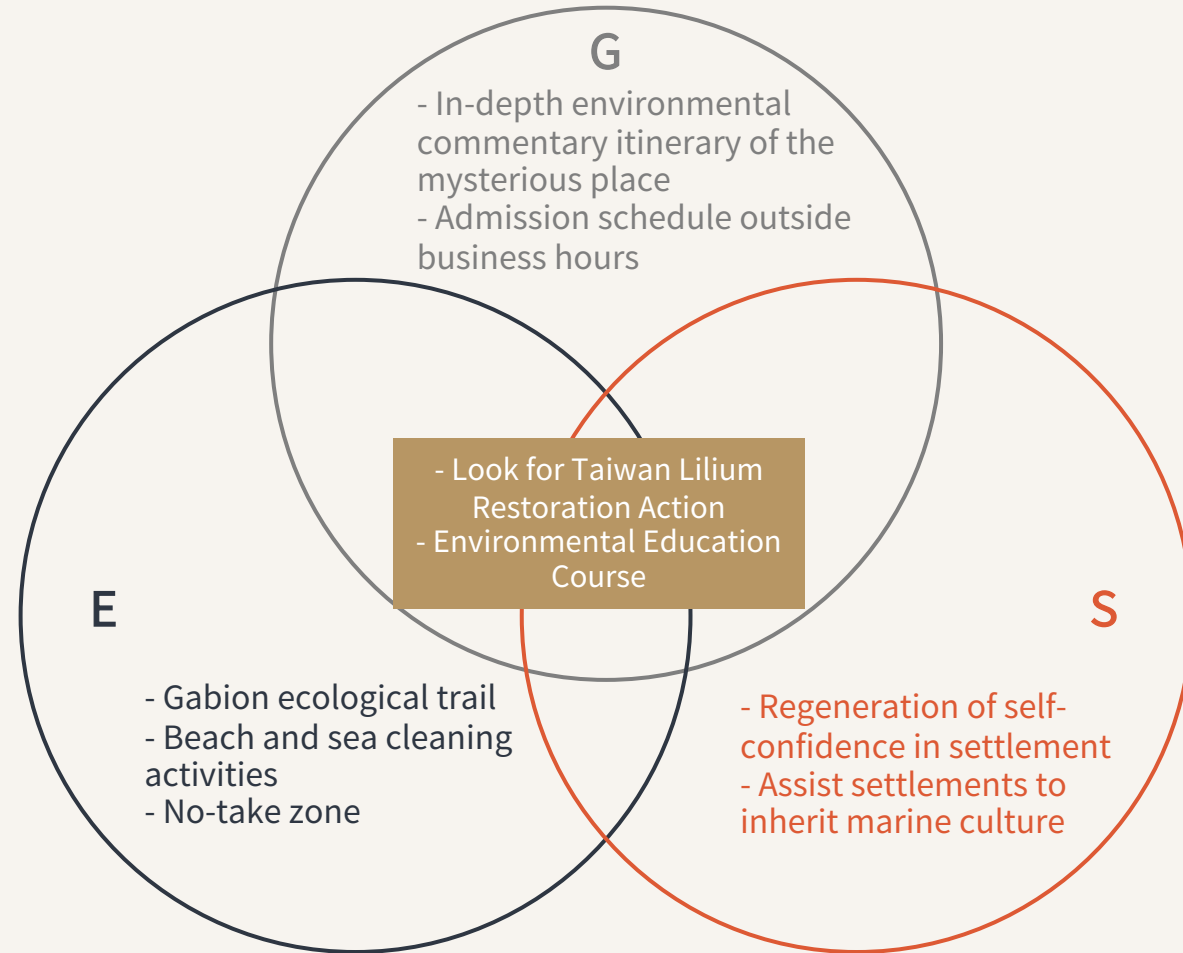
The Epidemic Strikes

- The new crown pneumonia epidemic COVID-19 is raging around the world. On March 19, 2020, the Taiwan government announced the restriction of entry by non-Taiwanese nationals. The number of tourists in Taiwan fell to zero, and the number of visitors to Alabao Bay was greatly affected.
- In 2021, the new crown pneumonia epidemic broke out in Taiwan. In May of the same year, in order to cooperate with the government's three-level alert, Alabao Bay must be temporarily closed. Even after switching to the second level of alert, tourists have reduced going out due to fear of the epidemic, and the number of tourists throughout the year has directly decreased by 35%.
- During the epidemic period, Heping Island Geopark hopes that more tourists can understand the beauty of Alabao Bay and drive the local economy, so it is preparing to cooperate with the community to launch the "Alabao Bay Secret Land Reappearance Plan" to increase marketing highlights to attract tourists, and during the epidemic Afterwards, 450,000 tourists were attracted to the Heping Island Geopark through the reconstruction plan, returning to the level before the epidemic.



Restarting Alabao Bay brings new highlights

- Alabao Bay used to be mainly a recreational place for local people. Most people came here to play in the water or fish for aquatic organisms, which caused ecological damage and lacked a long-term management strategy.
- After reopening, we re-emphasized the core values of Alabao Bay, and developed in three dimensions: "environmental, social, and economical", and attracted tourists through different itineraries and media volume, thereby bringing substantial benefits to the place.
- Through environmental education and on-site itineraries, while increasing tourists' stickiness to Heping Island and opportunities for return visits, the point-to-point tourism mode is replaced by walking and reading, leading tourists to have a deeper understanding of the community and promoting the island's economic development.



In-depth environmental commentary itinerary of the mysterious place

- During the period from May to September, Heping Island Geopark will launch a guided tour of the secret land. The maximum number of participants per day is 300 people. Through explanations and courses, everyone will have the opportunity to learn more about this land.
- Trained local elderly elders act as guides to lead tourists into Alabao Bay, explaining the rocky landscape and cultural history along the way, bringing popularity to Alabao Bay and actually increasing the income of local elders.

Admission schedule outside business hours

- Alabao Bay is formed by sea erosion due to grids of box-shaped rocks. When the golden sun shines at sunrise, it forms a very beautiful picture and becomes a popular shooting spot. It was even selected as "21 Most Beautiful Sunrises in the World" Observation point".
- The park makes good use of the marketing characteristics of Alabao Bay in the early morning to launch an activity itinerary outside business hours. With the assistance of security guards, a fixed number of tourists can arrive at the big platform of Alabao Bay to enjoy the sunrise before sunrise.



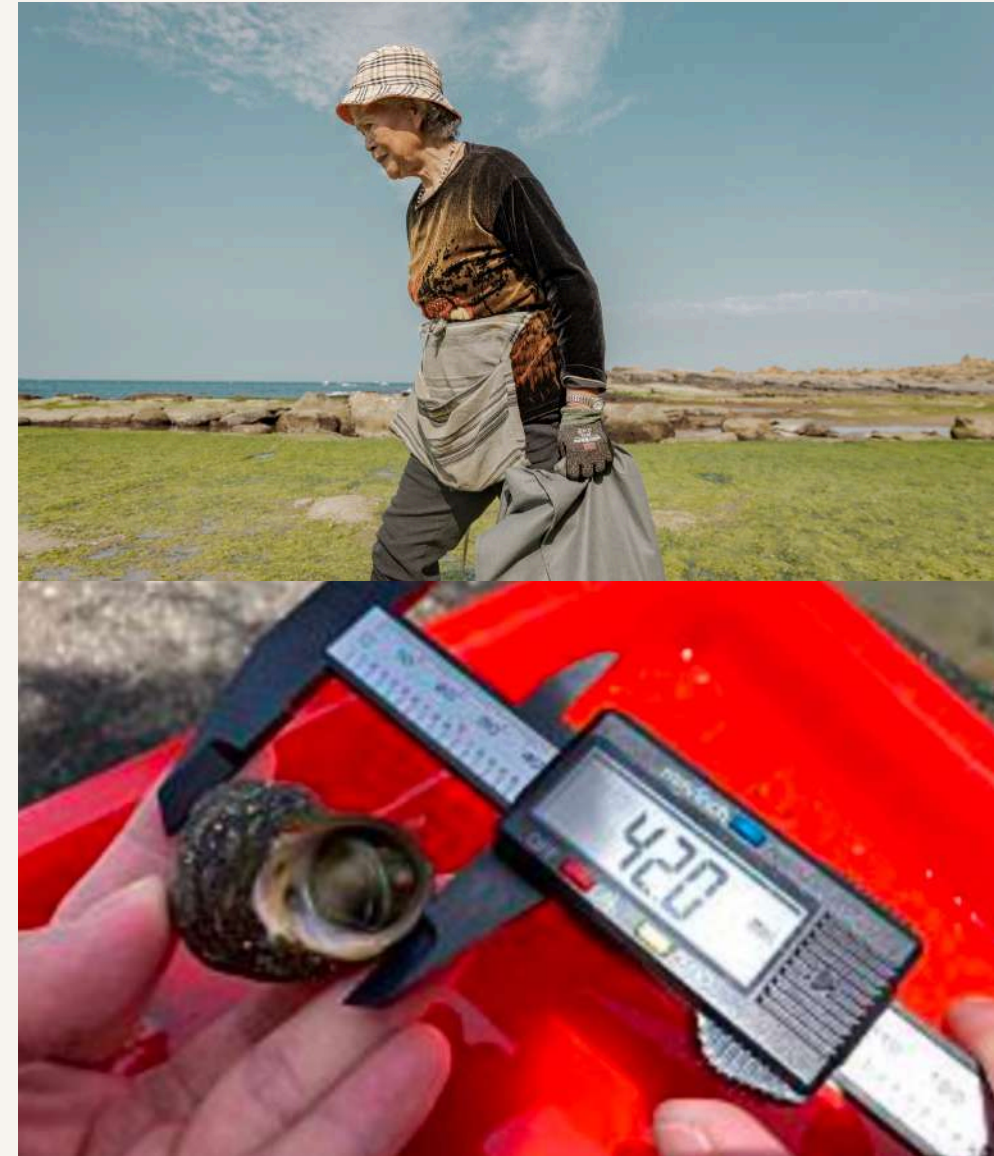
Total revenue generated by guided tours

- In 2022, a total of 49 local senior commentators will be on duty.
- Carried out 689 guided tours, interpreted for 21,720 tourists, and generated \$2,133,440 in revenue.
- Cooperate with 21 schools to bring students unique learning opportunities of Heping Island's history, culture and rock knowledge.



No-take zone

- Alabao Bay is a completely no-fishing area, and no creatures in the no-fishing area can be caught. However, the female divers culture is one of the important traditional cultures of Alabao Bay. Therefore, under the condition of management, the Heping Island Geopark is open to local residents. Seaweed and algae can be collected, so that the ama culture can be preserved and passed on.
- It is completely prohibited to bring fishing nets or fishing tools in the park area, so as to minimize the possibility of man-made fishing activities.
- According to the Citizen Scientist Ecological Investigation Program of Heping Island Geopark, comparing the observation results in 2022 with the statistical records of the previous year, the algae species in Alabao Bay have increased from 6 to 11 species, and the coverage rate has also increased from 14.95% to 30.04%. The growth rate reached 101%.
- Benthic organisms in the intertidal zone increased from 16 families and 18 species to 20 families and 28 species, and the population density also increased from 61.8 individuals/m² to 232 individuals/m², a growth rate of 275%.
- At the end of 2021, the largest pearl snail ever recorded in Taiwan was discovered in Alabao Bay, and its body length exceeded the existing records in Taiwan.





The first coastal gabion ecological trail in northern Taiwan

- In 2021, due to the discovery of sporadic large rockfalls, in order to ensure the recreational safety of island fans and maintain ecological balance, after discussing with experts, the park chose construction methods to reduce ecological impact and adopt environmental impact on some road sections in the rockfall area of Alabao Bay. Smaller "Ecological Gabion Trail".
- The "Ecological Gabion Trail" avoided the tide pools with rich ecology. Ecological monitoring was also carried out before and after construction to assess the degree of impact of construction on the environment. At the same time, most of the processes of the Gabion Trail were completed by the park partners. Ensure that the impact of the construction process on the environment is minimal.
- Gabion walkways have the properties of high tensile strength, high corrosion resistance, proper deformation and not easy to disperse. At the same time, stay away from the rockfall area to ensure the safety of tourists.
- The space between the gabions can allow the environment to develop naturally, which is conducive to the habitat of organisms.



Beach and sea cleaning activities

- As the northeastern tip of Taiwan, affected by the intersection of ocean currents and the Oyashio tide, it is difficult to remove sea drift waste. Sea drift waste from all over Asia easily enters Alabao Bay along the current and accumulates along the coastline.
- Since Alabao Bay is open for a limited time, and the difficulty of cleaning work is affected by the weather, a large amount of sea drift is easy to accumulate during winter. When the weather conditions permit, the park will open to apply for beach cleaning activities to lead the public to maintain the natural ecology. At the same time, the concept of "reducing waste by changing habits in daily life" was passed on to the participants.
- In 2022, more than 1,000 participants will carry out 291 beach cleaning activities, and clean up 20,362KG of marine garbage. At the same time, 6 sea cleaning activities were held, and 127 participants cleaned up 500KG of seabed garbage.

Launch related itineraries in conjunction with local settlements

- In mid-2022, the park will cooperate with the Alabao Bay Aboriginal Settlement to launch the "Nga'ay ho! Alabao Bay In-Depth Tour". Tourists walk into the daily life of the aborigines in Alabao Bay, learn about the history of the Amis relocating to the new settlement, experience the daily activities of the tribe, and learn the traditional culture and skills of the aborigines.
- In addition to the traditional culture and skills, the itinerary also includes the traditional food of the Amis. The meals are guided by the Taiwan Ecological Food Design Center, and the wild vegetables grown by the settlement are used. The dishes are unique. Present the Amis culture to tourists in a way that is closer to life. The traditional cuisine of the Ami people, the meals are guided by the Taiwan Ecological Diet Design Center, and the vegetables grown in the village are used. The dishes are unique. Re-present the Amis culture in front of tourists in a way that is closer to the lives of tourists.



The cultural inheritance of settlement.

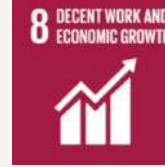
Homemade
Pickled
Peppers

Ami
traditional
bow and
arrow

Amis flavor
experience
meal

Since many old people who are familiar with traditional skills are no longer alive, young people almost grew up in the city. Through the itinerary planning, some traditional cultures of the settlements are repackaged into experience activities, so that the culture can be passed on, and the young people in the settlements can enhance their sense of cultural identity. Increase public awareness of Aboriginal culture.





Changes in Itinerary and Settlement

- In 2022, a total of 514 tourists will participate in the "Nga'ay ho! In-Depth Tour of Alabao Bay", generating income of NT\$362,892 for the settlement.
- In addition, different courses are set up for the tribesmen in the settlement, so that the tribes can learn three different skills in the 20-hour course, and transform them into new experience content, attracting more tourists to participate; at the same time, the five-day course at the Taiwan Ecological Food Design Center Under this circumstance, the tribe also created the exclusive ecological food menu of Alabao Bay.
- In addition, the park also assists the settlement ethnic groups to establish associations, allowing the aborigines to conceive new itineraries by themselves, communicate with the participants, and gradually implement the plan and operate independently. At the same time, it provides marketing and sales channel assistance to let more tourists know the settlements and itineraries.
- In November 2022, Ms. Tsai Ing-wen, President of Taiwan, personally went to Alabao Bay to experience the itinerary and understand the changes and progress of the tribe during the itinerary.





Look for Taiwan Liliun Restoration Action 2022

- In the fall of 2022, the North Coast and Guanyinshan National Scenic Area Management Office of the Tourism Bureau of the Ministry of Communications and the Heping Island Geopark will jointly organize the "Looking for Taiwan Lily Rehabilitation Action", and cooperate with Mr. Luo Mingyong from Taiwan Lily Studio to restore Taiwan Lily. For conservation and planting, nearly 1,800 Taiwan lily seedlings were planted along the road in Alabao Bay.
- In addition to the participation of employees of Heping Island Geopark, more than 30 local residents of Heping Island and Alabao Bay tribesmen also participated in the process.
- The local residents of Heping Island and the tribes of Alabao Bay first learned how to plant and care for Taiwan lilies from the lecture on Taiwan lily, and then carried out the restoration and planting by themselves. After the event, the local residents of Heping Island and the tribes of Alabao Bay also Take responsibility for the follow-up care and maintenance of Taiwan Lily.

Taiwan Liliun
Knowledge Lecture

Taiwan Liliun
Restoration Action

Taiwan Liliun
follow-up care

Intertidal Environmental Education Course

- Cooperate with the environmentally friendly seed team to establish the "Slow Island Travel" marine education brand. Through the itinerary-oriented education program, let everyone understand the local area in a "slow" way, and tell the story of the island in the "island" language. Through "travel" to fulfill the concept of environmental friendliness.
- Slow Island Travel courses include Alabao Bay Intertidal Zone Ecological Survey and Haenyeo Cultural Experience courses, making good use of the rich ecological and cultural resources of Alabao Bay to bring income while also providing good learning opportunities for students to understand sustainable development importance.

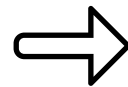


Intertidal Environmental Education Course Outcomes

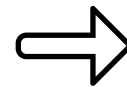
- In 2022, a total of 3,681 people participated in 151 environmental education courses, with a total income of more than NT\$1,470,000.
- Cooperated with 30 schools to hold intertidal environmental education courses for 3,228 students, to receive high-quality environmental education in the natural environment, and to bring the concept of sustainability into the lives of participants.
- After consensus meetings, resource inventory, environmental education program planning and design, and energy accumulation of environmental education services, it will finally obtain the certification of environmental education facilities in October 2022.



Peripheral Stakeholders



Joint development
of Alabao Bay



Create more than 100 job opportunities,
Generate over \$3,900,000 in direct
income.



Repackage the traditional culture of the
settlement into experience activities,
so that the culture can be passed on,
enhance the sense of cultural identity of
the youth in the settlement,
and increase the public's understanding
of the culture of the aboriginal people.

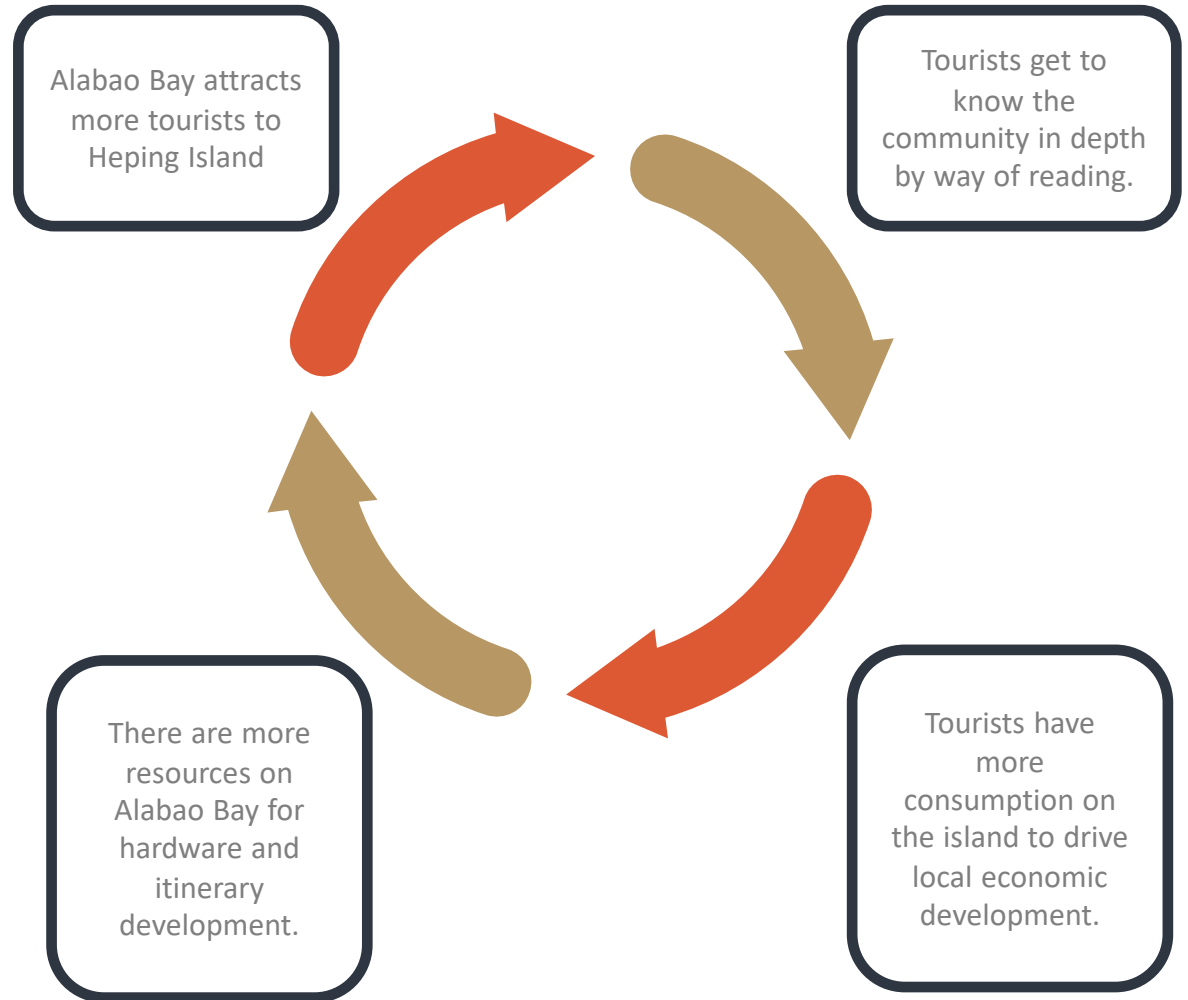


Maintain the ecological diversity of
Alabao Bay. Rehabilitation of more than
1,800 Taiwan lily seedlings.

Make good use of Alabao Bay to develop
environmental education and provide
151 environmental education courses.

Future Direction

- The park hopes that Alabao Bay can become the starting point of the economic development cycle of Heping Island, and bring more marketing and gold viewing resources to the island by attracting more tourists. Tourists can also drive the local economy while gaining a deeper understanding of the community develop.
- Through a positive cycle of economic development, Heping Island will get rid of the inherent impression of a single itinerary and a fleeting look in the past.
- Peripheral stakeholders felt the substantial changes and results brought about by Alabao Bay and Heping Island, and invested more resources to build Heping Island into an "international sustainable tourism island".





Future Development Blueprint

- Continuous monitoring of rockfall in Alabao Bay to ensure the safety of all personnel.
- Add more marketing highlights to attract more tourists to visit and explore the beauty of Alabao Bay.
- Carry out the restoration plan of Daye Shanlan (Daye Shanlan was the first specimen collected and named by Japanese botanist Tomitaro Makino on Heping Island in November 1896).
- Invest more resources in ecological survey and environmental education in Alabao Bay to create an environmental education base in a secret environment.
- Assist settlements to inherit marine culture and maintain the operation of existing associations.