



**Global
Environment
Centre**



**2021
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**RECOVERY
+ RESET**

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Cover Rationale

The year 2021 is best described as the period of recovery and reset, as reflected both within the global and local context. This is marked by the global and nationwide rollout of COVID-19 immunisation programme exercise parallel with the gradual and steady decline in the number of Covid-19 positive cases and deaths registered by the end of 2021. On this same positive trajectory, GEC seized the opportunity in 2021 to embark on a recovery and reset mode to ensure that the entire operations and efforts resumed safely and sustainably – both for the good of the environment and for our all our stakeholders.

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Established in 1998, the Global Environment Centre (199801016929) (Registration no. 473058-T) works to address environmental issue of global importance. Registered as a Malaysian non-profit, tax-exempt organisation, we work regionally and internationally, both directly and through established partnerships. Our tagline is ***Building Partnerships for the Environment***. We support information exchange and capacity building as well as undertake strategic projects with other like-minded agencies worldwide.



Vision

A world where our environment is safeguarded and natural resources are conserved and used sustainably through equitable stakeholder partnerships for the common good.



Mission

To safeguard the environment and promote sustainable management of resources to meet the local, regional and global needs through smart partnerships with communities and like-minded organisations.



Overall objectives

- Promote conservation and integrated management of forest, river, peatland and coastal ecosystems through nature-based solutions to reduce vulnerability to climate change and disasters.
- Strengthen stakeholder capacity and mainstream participation in the sustainable management of natural resources for environmental stewardship and community welfare.
- Facilitate environmental protection and sustainable development through smart partnerships between governments, private sector, communities and other stakeholders.

GEC's Programmes and Objectives

River Care Programme

Promote and support integrated management of river basins and water resources with particular focus on community participation, biodiversity and wetland conservation and nature-based solutions.

Forest & Coastal Programme

Promote and support the protection, integrated management and sustainable use of forests and coastal resources with participatory approach to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

Peatland Programme

Enable sustainable peatland conservation and use through multi-stakeholder partnerships in ecosystem restoration and climate change mitigation.

Outreach & Partnership Programme

Enhance awareness, capacity and action as well as promote sustainable partnerships between different organisations and sectors to safeguard the environment. This programme area incorporates activities relating to general capacity building, environmental education, information exchange and awareness rising on global environment issues.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf the Board of Management of the Global Environment Centre (GEC), I am happy to present GEC's Annual Report 2021. The year 2021 was marked with significant challenges given that COVID-19 was far from over but at the same time it seemed to have been a year of **hope, solutions and resolutions**. **Hope** that we will see a better socio-economic climate and environmental improvement with the resumption of some on-site conservation activities. **Solutions** such as vaccines and aid took centre-stage to offer some reprieve from both the health and economic crises, here and around the world. For us at GEC, we quickly learned to innovate and further adapt to the new-normal. We transitioned from WFH to hybrid working arrangements which was a key enabler to for us to make significant progress in all GEC programmes and activities.

As the layers of COVID related restrictions were peeled away, we gradually were able to gain approvals from the various authorities to resume our on-site projects and activities. We hereby acknowledge the never-ending work of the front-liners (including healthcare workers, police and others) who worked tirelessly to keep us all safe, roll out the vaccine programme and control the spread of Covid-19. We also thank the various government departments, agencies and authorities - at federal, state and local levels, who provided timely support to secure these approvals and assist our operations. This was pivotal for us to proceed smoothly with our plans, with continued strict adherence to the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) throughout.

Similarly, we're grateful that funders and partners have not forgotten us and our work, even as they also continue to extend their aid to humanitarian-based, Covid-19-related relief causes. Many have maintained their level of support through the second year of the pandemic, for which we are immensely grateful.

As we hit the recovery and reset button, we hope to return to more normalcy, albeit with caution and prudence. Thank you to our funders, partners and supporters who are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us to rehabilitate, restore and conserve our environment until we all – both nature and ourselves are restored to good health.



**Let's keep in mind, that together
we're Building Partnerships for
the Environment!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Zainudin'.

Zainudin Ismail

Chairman

of Global Environment Centre

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Like most organisations, the Global Environment Centre started 2021 with cautious optimism. The year started with gradual easing of strict regulations for the Covid-19 Movement Control Order (MCO) set by the Government of Malaysia from January to March 2021. By Q2, all events/programmes and field surveys were carried out on a small-scale in line with MCO. GEC was able to secure an approval to maintain the core operation and activities in other states on key project sites in some states namely Selangor, Perak and Pahang. However, the strict lockdown from June to September limited field and community activities. Thankfully, GEC was able to restart its activities in mid-September albeit at a reduced level.

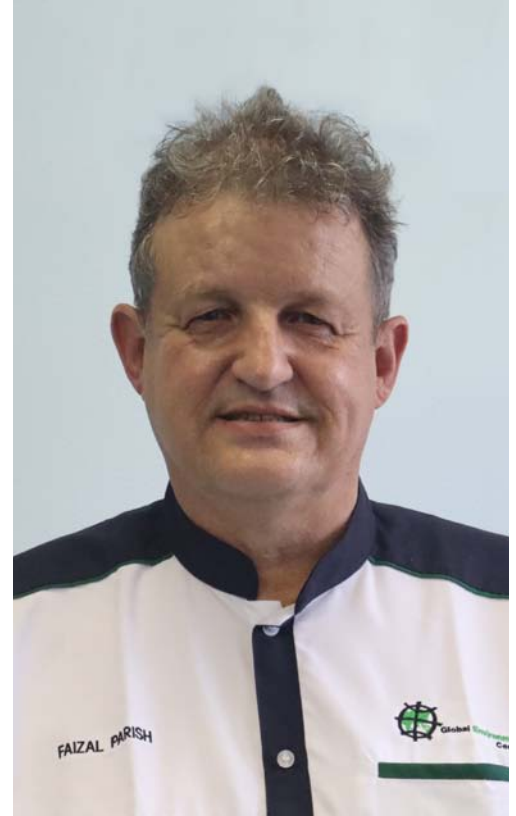
Despite the challenges, GEC was able to conduct a broad range of activities with training and outreach activities focused online and most team members working from home to manage projects and maintain activities through active communication with local partners.

During the year, GEC and partner communities prepared, planted and maintained more than 60,000 trees and helped protect and rehabilitate more than 25 forest, peatland and river sites. We also helped prevent fires in 60,000ha of vulnerable peatlands and guided policies and practices for peatland assessment and management in six ASEAN Member States.

We organised more than eighty online and hybrid workshops and outreach events at local, national, regional and international levels, engaging a broad range of stakeholders and stimulating collaboration and exchange.

We also worked to empower and enhance the welfare of more than 35 different communities through support for handicraft development, non-timber forest products, ecotourism, community vegetable gardens and forest nurseries. We have focussed on indigenous and vulnerable groups as well as active engagement with women and youth.

I would like to record our deep thanks to all our partners and stakeholders who kept working with us through the pandemic and supporting our actions. It made all things possible.



We're looking forward to an even more productive and sustainable 2022 — for our environment and for all humanity!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Faizal Parish'.

Faizal Parish

*Director of Global Environment
Centre*

GOVERNANCE

Advisory Council

To ensure check-and-balances are in place, the operations and management of GEC is guided by an Advisory Council comprising:



Mr Delmar Blasco
Former Secretary General,
Convention on Wetlands
(Ramsar, Iran 1971)



Tan Sri Razali Ismail
Former Special Advisor to the
Prime Minister of Malaysia

Former President of the United
Nations General Assembly
(1996/7)

First Chairman of the Commission
of Sustainable Development



**Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri
Zakri Abdul Hamid**
Science Advisor to Prime Minister
of Malaysia

Former Director, Institute of
Advanced Studies, UN University,
Japan

Former Chairman of SBSTTA,
Convention on Biological Diversity



Dato' Wong Sai Hou
Former State Assemblyman for
Kg Tunku



**Datuk Zul Mukhshar
bin Md. Shaari**
Former Director General Forest
Department of Peninsular
Malaysia



**Dato' Ir. Lim Chow
Hock**
Chairman, Malaysian Capacity
Development Network for
Sustainable Water Management
(MyCDNet)

Former Director of Department of
Drainage & Irrigation (River and
Coastal) of Peninsular Malaysia



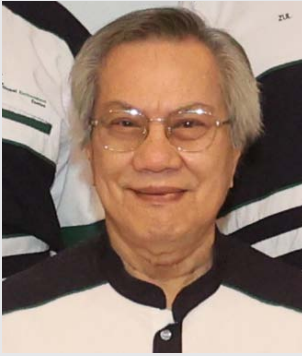
Dato' Halimah Hassan
Former Director General of
Department of Environment
Malaysia



Dr. Salmah Zakaria
Chair of ASM Climate Change and
Water, Board Member of Lembaga
Urus Air Selangor (LUAS),

Former Director General of
National Hydraulic Research
Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM)

Board of Management



Mr Zainudin Ismail

Chairman

Environmental Lawyer

Former Chairman of the KL Bar Council



Professor Mohd Ali Hashim

Department of Chemical Engineering, University Malaya, Malaysia

Staff and Volunteers

GEC is powered by a team of 41 full-time staff, based in our headquarters and four field offices across Malaysia. Our work is supported by many associates, part-time staff, volunteers and partners. GEC's endeavours and projects span over 10 countries mainly in the Asia Pacific region, operating either directly or through local partner organisations and communities. Our volunteers provide much-needed assistance in our work including rehabilitation of forests and peatlands as well as river clean-up. GEC currently has more than 1,000 volunteers.

Management Team

GEC management is overseen by a Board of management with legal and technical expertise together with a six-member strong, full-time, management team with 140 cumulative years of diverse experience.



Faizal Parish

Director



Victoria Louis

Admin and Finance Manager



Nagarajan Rengasamy

Manager, Forest and Coastal Programme



Dr Kalithasan Kailasam

Manager, River Care Programme



Serena Lew Siew Yan

Manager, Peatland Programme



Adelaine Tan

Senior Coordinator, Outreach and Partnerships Programme

FOREST AND COASTAL PROGRAMME

Throughout the 2021 the Forest and Coastal Programme (FCP) team worked with the state forestry departments of Johor, Perak and Selangor to lead forest and coastal restoration programme through planting of 41,280 trees – 29,000 in mangroves and 12,280 in peat swamp forests nationwide, with the support of corporates and funders from across Malaysia and internationally. This directly supported the implementation of the Malaysian Greening Programme which targets the planting of 100 Million trees between 2021 to 2025. FCP also worked to raise awareness among all key stakeholders on the importance of conserving and protecting forests for well-being and quality of life as well as efforts to improve ecosystems and biodiversity. During this time, three community-based nurseries were established, while seven existing community nurseries were refurbished and upgraded to supply forest replanting activities, while providing additional livelihood for the communities adversely impacted by pandemic.



KLNFR community nursery.

During the pandemic GEC secured approvals to enable forest replanting, patrolling and monitoring activities. These included daily updating of Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) boards and water table monitoring at the forest reserves to prevent forest fires as well as patrolling to stop illegal hunting and encroachment. Only one small (2 hectares) fire was recorded in 2021 in the forests patrolled by GEC and local community partners and it was swiftly controlled. No illegal hunting and encroachment activities were recorded in the year.

GEC manually constructed a 200metre tidal channel at Kampung Sungai Limau in Manjung, Perak to ensure seawater reached degraded mangroves to enable the survival of more than 75% of the planted mangrove saplings.



With support from Innisfree Malaysia, GEC enriched restored forest areas in Raja Musa forest Reserve (RMFR) with 600 high-quality peatland trees such as *Meranti Sarang Punai* (*Shorea parvifolia*) and *Meranti Tembaga* (*Shorea leprosula*).

GEC also seized the opportunity of the pandemic to pivot online with its partner-funder HSBC Malaysia, and to conduct four-distance learning programmes with the support of the Selangor Forestry Department and state education departments. Interactive Online Learning Sessions via zoom, as well as video, poster and essay competitions. The effort attracted and sustained the interest of almost 200 students from primary and secondary schools from three Selangor districts namely Kuala Langat, Kuala Selangor and Hulu Selangor, through the support of the respective district education offices.



GEC worked with Yayasan Sime Darby to help communities at Kuala Gula and Pasir Panjang Laut communities in Perak State through development and production of mangrove-based

beverages to enhance their livelihood. A bottled drink (Coolega) and a cordial (Mangroovist) were made from extracts of mangrove plants: *Acanthus ilicifolius* (daun jeruju) and *Sonneratia caseolaris* (buah berembang/ mangrove apple). Training in social entrepreneurship was also given to upskill the local communities and harness their entrepreneurial potential.



During this year, GEC with the support of Prosper Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd supported forest conservation activities at Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve (BBEFR). Surveys confirmed the presence of more than 20 rare wildlife species including: Sun Bear (V), Short-tailed Mongoose (NT), Panther/Leopard (CE), Malayan Tapir (EN), Great Argus (V) and Crested fireback (NT). Furthermore, a new CBO was established 'Komuniti Warisan Hutan Sungai Tengi Selatan' to facilitate participation in the forest protection and rehabilitation of BBEFR.

Another notable milestone was when *Pertubuhan Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT)* was registered to and received approval from Selangor's Registrar of Societies office on 27 May 2021 as the first Orang Asli (OA) - Temuan community group to safeguard the peat swamp forest in KLNFR and the social interests of the community in Mukim Tanjung Dua Belas.

GEC also conducted an online training on monitoring and maintenance of planted trees, data collection of carbon assessment and photography training for ten community-based organisations (CBOs), namely Penang Inshore Fisherman Welfare Association (PIFWA), *Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL)*, *Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG)*, *Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat (SHBPTS)*, *Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kg Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH)*, *Sahabat Setiu*, *Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU)*, *Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT)*, *Komuniti Ayer Pasir (Melaka)* and *Komuniti Bakau Kampung Taman Nilam (Kedah)*.

GEC-Community Sustainable Peatland Centre (CoSPeC), with the support of HSBC Bank Malaysia, hosted a number of virtual and physical peer learning visits and activities for the local communities, universities, corporate and government agencies as a platform to share and exchange the knowledge and experience on sustainable peat swamp and mangrove forest management through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and community participation. GEC CoSPeC also worked to enhance the environmental conservation and education as well as to promote low-impact nature-based tourism with appropriate partners to provide beneficial services. The centre's also created a backyard habitat to attract birds, insects, herpetofauna as an education experience.

In the wake of the devastating floods in December 2020, GEC mobilised flood relief and aid including food baskets, necessities and equipment as well as cash contribution, to 48 families from Kampung Orang Asli Busut Baru and Kampung Sungai Perdak affected adversely by the natural disaster.



RIVER CARE PROGRAMME

During first months of 2021, significant activities were carried out with support of communities and existing projects. GEC organised a webinar titled “Are we valuing water?” on 22 March 2021 in conjunction with World Water Day 2021 in partnership with Air Selangor, LUAS and WATER Project. In total, seven GEC community groups were nominated for Anugerah Khas Sumber Air Negara (AKSA) 2021 by Departments of Irrigation and Drainage (DIDs) for Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Perak.

GEC’s One Stop Centre (OSC) in KRT Klebang Selatan, Perak was successfully launched on 10 April 2021 by the Mayor of Ipoh with funding received under the Yayasan Hasanah (YH) Special Grant 2020. The centre, which sells tapioca chips produced by their community members has generated income of around RM12,000 from September 2020 till April 2021. In addition, an eco-trail for mountain biking activities at Kampung Tonggang and a trail to Mount Korbu were established for a community-based tourism programme.

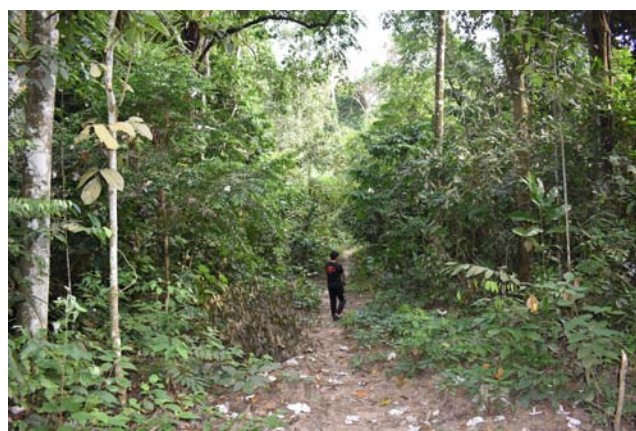
On 5th April 2021, a workshop to finalise the Cost-Benefit Analysis and Watershed Financing Mechanism for Upper Kinta Basin (UKB WFM) was successfully organised with total attendance 37 people from 18 government agencies, one local university and two organisations. This workshop was organised under the funding of YH. The final UKB WFM document was submitted to YB Mohd Akmal bin Kamarudin, EXCO Health, Science, Environment and Green Technology Perak on 27th May 2021.

Under DID Malaysia’s “Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Riverine Management” project funded by Global Environment Facility through UNDP, the activities mainly focused on networking as well as organising and online sharing sessions via Zoom platform. In total 15 webinars, talks and sharing sessions were organised through the project to the various target groups mainly within the Klang Valley.

In the Klang River Basin, key activities organised included: a briefing on recycling initiatives with selected local communities together with ESECO Sdn Bhd and Rotary Club (District 3300 District Action Group on Environmental Sustainability, DAGES) (31 July 2021); a workshop on River Monitoring for local communities (18 September 2021); the BioBlitz Riverine Biodiversity monitoring through partnership with Home River BioBlitz 2021 and an awareness talk on the impact of invasive species on the river ecosystems (26 September 2021).



Ipoh's mayor trying the community's product: tapioca chips.



Mount Korbu eco-trail.



Construction of Mount Korbu eco-trail.

Three global events hosted on virtual platforms in 2021, which prominently featured GEC's River Care Programme were: Malaysia International Water Convention 2021; with Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) UK; and with the Malaysia Water Special Interest Group (Water SIG).

By the last quarter of the year, “Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Riverine Management” project, more hands-on activities organised. Within this period, two open classrooms were established: the Sungai Klang Urban Open Classroom was launched on October 23 by Dato’ Ir Jamil Shaari, Director of River Basin Division, DID Malaysia, and the Sungai Kinta Open Classroom (SKROC) with a river walk to the source of the Kinta River. A One-Stop Education Centre (OSEC) to house educational facilities and teaching aids at Kampung Tonggang was constructed and furnished through funding from United Nations Development Programme – *Orang Asli/Orang Asal* (UNDP-OA) Micro Grant Facility (MGF) was entrusted to the care of the village chief (*Tok Batin*) and has since been fully operational.

As at December 2021, with support from the GEF5 project, the membership of Friends of Klang River Basin (FoKRB), more than doubled to 68 members. Within the Klang River basin alone, there are 19 Friends of Klang River groups empowered and supported under the FoKRB Network. An online session entitled “*Perkongsian Inisiatif Komuniti Sungai*” (Sharing on River Community Initiatives) was held to listen to and address the needs of these communities, who are at the forefront of ongoing initiatives related to mainstreaming biodiversity into riverine management: taking into account their progress, plans and their needs to sustain their ongoing initiatives.



Community biomonitoring activity within Klang River Basin.



Launching of Sungai Klang Urban Open Classroom.



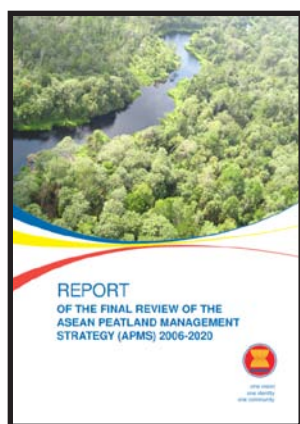
Exhibition inside the Sungai Klang Urban Open Classroom.



Recycling activity at Kampung Tonggang's One-Stop Education Centre (OSEC).

Overall in 2021, a total of 33 virtual programmes were organised by GEC through project partnerships, CSR support as well as through partnership with other NGOs and training platforms such as CapNet and MyWP.

PEATLAND PROGRAMME



One of GEC's greatest success at the beginning of the year was the adoption in January 2021 by the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands of the Final Review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020—prepared by GEC. This review recommended an extension of the APMS to 2030 and arrange of measures to strengthen and enhance its implementation.

On 23 February, GEC launched a new programme through signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pahang State Government in Kuantan City. This will help facilitate actions and collaboration to conserve and rehabilitate peat swamp forest in Pahang over the next five years to 2025. A virtual stakeholder meeting was organised on Aug 16, hosted by the Pahang Forestry Department (JPNP) which attracted 70 representatives from various sectors including government agencies, private sector, researchers, NGOs and indigenous representatives.

Shortly thereafter, GEC initiated a recovery project in partnership with the Yayasan Pahang Plantation Holdings to help prevent fires and protect and rehabilitate up to 4,800 ha of peat swamp forests in Pekan District Pahang. During the year, GEC supported measures to assess peatland degradation levels, to identify areas for rehabilitation and blocking of abandoned drainage canals and engage local Orang Asli communities and other stakeholders. Through collaborative action, peatland fires in the area were reduced.

GEC showcased its experience in peatland management in Malaysia and Indonesia at an international virtual conference on Renewable Resources from Wet and Rewetted Peatlands in Germany in March 2021. GEC also made four presentations at the 16th International Peatland Congress (May 3-6) on peatland management in Malaysia and Indonesia, and in ASEAN.

GEC has collaborated with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at a regional level through the Mekong Peatlands Project to successfully roll out a series of virtual training sessions on peatland assessment and mapping in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. GEC and IUCN also teamed up to develop training modules on field verification and mapping of peatlands for country use, which was completed and translated into local languages.

A regional workshop and consultation meeting for Capacity Building and Knowledge Product Development was co-organised with ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) on 16 March, under the framework of Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) Programme. The workshop attracted 83 participants from ASEAN government agencies, research institutes, international and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), as well as the ASEAN Peatland Partners.

Under the MAHFSA programme, the Capacity Development Needs and Gap Analysis (CDNGA) report was finalised and endorsed by ASEAN Task Force for Peatlands (ATFP) on 28 July 2021. The CDNGA report detailed the gaps that exist in data and result management for peatland management and haze prevention in ASEAN and made recommendations on capacity building options at both national and regional levels. The updated publication of the ASEAN Guideline on Peatland Fire Management was adopted by the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) on 13 Aug 2021 and is available through the ASEAN Haze Portal.

GEC made a significant contribution to dialogue at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). GEC as part of the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) programme with ASEC and CIFOR as well as other ASEAN Peatland Partners organised two side events, "Importance of ASEAN Peatlands in Contributing to Global Climate Change Mitigation" on 2 November, and, "Towards a Climate Adapted Southeast Asia through Integrated Peatland Management", the next day. At the behest of the Government of Indonesia, GEC also presented two papers at the Indonesian Pavilion and participated in Tzu Chi Foundation's press conference on sustainable land management.

GEC prepared three chapters published in a book entitled 'Tropical Peatland Eco-management' by international publishing house—Springer in May 2021 on the Role of RSPO in Tropical Peatland Management; Sustainable Peatland Management Focusing on Community-Based Peatland Rehabilitation in Malaysia; and National Strategies on Responsible Management of Tropical Peatland in Malaysia.

Our sister organisation in Indonesia i.e. Yayasan Gambut together with GEC were involved in International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) Mid-Term Review Mission for the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Indonesia (SMPEI) project from 31 May to 23 June 2021 through site visits to four project villages in Riau, as well as virtual meetings with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Through Yayasan Gambut, the publication of "Pertanian Lahan Gambut Tanpa Bakar oleh Masyarakat" (Zero-burning peatland agriculture by communities) was produced, detailing zero burning practices in Giam Siak Kecil Landscape in Riau Province, Indonesia.

GEC partnered with Yayasan Gambut to organise webinar on Community-based peatland management in Giam Siak Kecil and Kerumutan landscapes within Riau Province on 3 September. The webinar was a collaborative effort between Environmental and Forestry Agency of Riau Provincial Government, SMPEI project and communities from Giam Siak Kecil – Bukit Batu Peatland Landscape, with the support of IFAD. At the webinar, speakers shared the positive outcome of zero-burning peatland management activities such as bee farming and agriculture from the community.



OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The GEC Outreach and Partnership Programme (OPP) together with the Forest and Coastal programme took a lead role in actively campaigning against the proposed degazettement of the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR) for a mixed development. Together with coalition partners of the Coalition for the Protection of Selangor Forests (CPSF) and Pertahanan Hutan Simpan Kuala Langat Utara (PHSKLU) Coalition, GEC was active in engaging media, the public and other key stakeholders. Nearly 200 articles - online, print and broadcast media across mainstream and alternative media platforms helped reach many different groups. This resulted in the decision by the Selangor State government on 8 Sept 2021 to revoke their initial decision in May 2021 to degazette the forest reserve.

Understanding the value of water

Heineken Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to protecting water source

In conjunction with World Water Day 2021, Heineken Malaysia Berhad (Heineken Malaysia) is reinforcing its sustainability commitment this year, as it gears into the second stage of its Water Stewardship Agenda 2021-2023. As part of the brewer's efforts in caring for the environment, Heineken Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to become 100% balanced for water used in its production.

Understanding the value of water, Heineken Malaysia has sharpened its focus on water-related efforts by adopting the Every Drop Strategy, a triangular approach that looks at water protection in a more holistic manner. Through the Every Drop Strategy, Heineken Malaysia will channel its efforts on Water Stewardship 1 to fully balance the water used for the products, Water Circularity 2 for wastewater treatment, and Water Efficiency 3 to reduce water usage in production.

Roland Bala, Managing Director of Heineken Malaysia said, "This year's World Water Day is centred around the value of water and what it means to us. Water is a key ingredient in beer brewing and it is truly important that we protect our water source to ensure we have high quality water for our beer. More importantly, we believe that access to water is a basic human right. Often times, water is taken for granted as it is ever flowing. But it is a crucial shared resource that we need to protect together to ensure we have a continuous supply of clean water because every drop matters."

There is no doubt that water is essential to our business, and in doing our part, we ensure that 100% of our wastewater is treated before returning the clean water back to its source. Our works in the past have been river rehabilitation, but we have come to realise that there is an even greater need now to look at watershed health protection in a more holistic manner."



Left: Protecting the forest one tree at a time. Roland (left) and Faizal, Managing Director of Global Environment Centre.

he added.

In line with Heineken's global sustainability strategy, Brewing a Better World, Heineken Malaysia's water initiatives support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Among them include SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land. Essentially, the brewer aims to incorporate sustainability as an integral part of its business journey, while striving to be a champion for water protection.

ENVIRONMENT

BY FATHAH MANAF

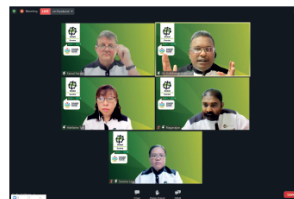
WORLD Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 every year as a United Nations initiative to encourage awareness and action to protect the environment. In conjunction with the celebration, Global Environment Centre (GEC) organised a web forum titled 'GEC's Ecosystem Restoration Journey' moderated by the director of the organisation, Faizal Perih.

GEC is an NGO that aims to promote the integrated management of biodiversity and water resources. It also encourages the protection and sustainable use of forests and wetlands and enhances awareness and partnerships capacity between organisations.

Faizal, an environmentalist with more than 50 years of experience, shared there were four programmes under GEC - River Care (RC), Forest and Coastal (FC), Wetland (W) and Outreach and Partnership (OPP).

The web forum featured four experienced panelists: Dr. R. Kalithasan (Manager of RC), Serena Lee (Manager of FC), Nazirah Baniyazam (Manager of W) and Adeline Tan (Senior Coordinator of OPP).

The speakers emphasised the importance of local engagement and ownership.



Ecosystem restoration journey

GEC aims to promote integrated management of biodiversity and water resources

grove rehabilitation, lacked local participation.

Nazirah stated, "Environmental problems, especially mangroves problem are local problems". Nazirah shared that about 1,548 km of Malaysia's coastline was found to be eroding. With this issue in mind, GEC then established many community-based programmes related to the various ecosystems. Under the mangrove programme, five Community Based Organisation (CBO) groups were found.

"We identify two key strategies which would help to sustain the community's long term active participation," said Nazirah.

He explained that the strategies were establishing and promoting the community-based forest management programme and the sustainable livelihood programme.

Through the community groups, GEC managed to rehabilitate more than 120 hectares of degraded mangrove areas.

Engaging the public and corporate sector in GEC's conservation work, Adeline highlighted that the focus of OPP was to establish partnerships with other like-minded organisations and sectors to address environmental issues. She said GEC worked on enhancing awareness and education through information dissemination.

"Some of the activities that we do under OPP include capacity building, environmental education and information exchange," shared the senior coordinator of the



Rangers keep up mission to raise river awareness

By MANJIT KAUR

manjitkaur@gmail.com

AMID the Covid-19 pandemic, members of a local community group continue to keep an eye on several main rivers in Ipoh, Perak, with one main objective - to check pollution.

The River and Smart Rangers, comprising eight youths, have made it their primary aim to stop pollution and improve the condition of rivers, mostly Sungai Kinta, Sungai Perak and Sungai Buning.

Group coordinator S. Jayagopi said they were making it a point to carry out their own river clean-ups by collecting rubbish, mainly plastic and other discarded household items.

If they spotted individuals dumping rubbish into the rivers or by the riverbanks, the group's members would advise them not to do so, he added.

"When we explain to them that the water we consume or use comes from the rivers, some of them understand and promise not to repeat their actions."

"However, there are still some who think that our rivers and waterways are dumpsites," said Jayagopi during an interview at the River Care Education Centre located at the Bunting 3 and 4 Bunkan

Group encourages more youths to be part of its efforts to shape mindsets, protect environment



Jayagopi mixing garden waste in the compost bin.

Tetangga (RT) base in Ipoh. Set up in 2012, it is an initiative by Malaysian non-governmental organisation Global Environment Centre (GEC).

Jayagopi, who is also an Ipoh City councillor, said generally 97% of water consumed came from rivers, and thus it was the rangers' mission and duty to educate the public to stop polluting rivers.

He said people must realise the importance of keeping rivers clean and it should check them to see water sources that are the colour of "hot milk".

"Waste dumped illegally contained toxic or dangerous substance

as destroying aquatic life in the rivers."

"Fish and other river creatures also might get caught or choke on plastic waste that could spell death for them."

Before the pandemic, river river clean-ups were carried out at least twice a year - in March during World Water Day and in September during World River Day. But since there are restrictions against gatherings now because of Covid-19, we are unable to do such clean-ups.

"Nevertheless, we still take every opportunity to remind the public not to throw unwanted items into rivers," he added.

Jayagopi, who is also Bunting 3 and 4 RT chairman, said he had been educating the public on the proper way to dispose of their household waste by tying up the bags of rubbish and putting the bin out only when garbage collectors were scheduled to do their rounds.

He noted that many people returned to dumping bulky household items like sofas and other old



OMAR Sidek menyerahkan bayaran terakhir Fasa 1 melibatkan penanaman 10,600 pokok bakau di Sungai Limau, Manjung, Perak kepada Pengurus GEC, R. Nagarajan, baru-baru ini.

TNB sasar tanam 7,000 benih bakau

100 Sthvithithirukum Athikmanan Thannanirai Seshimithu

Vennanikkenn Maleshiya Sathana

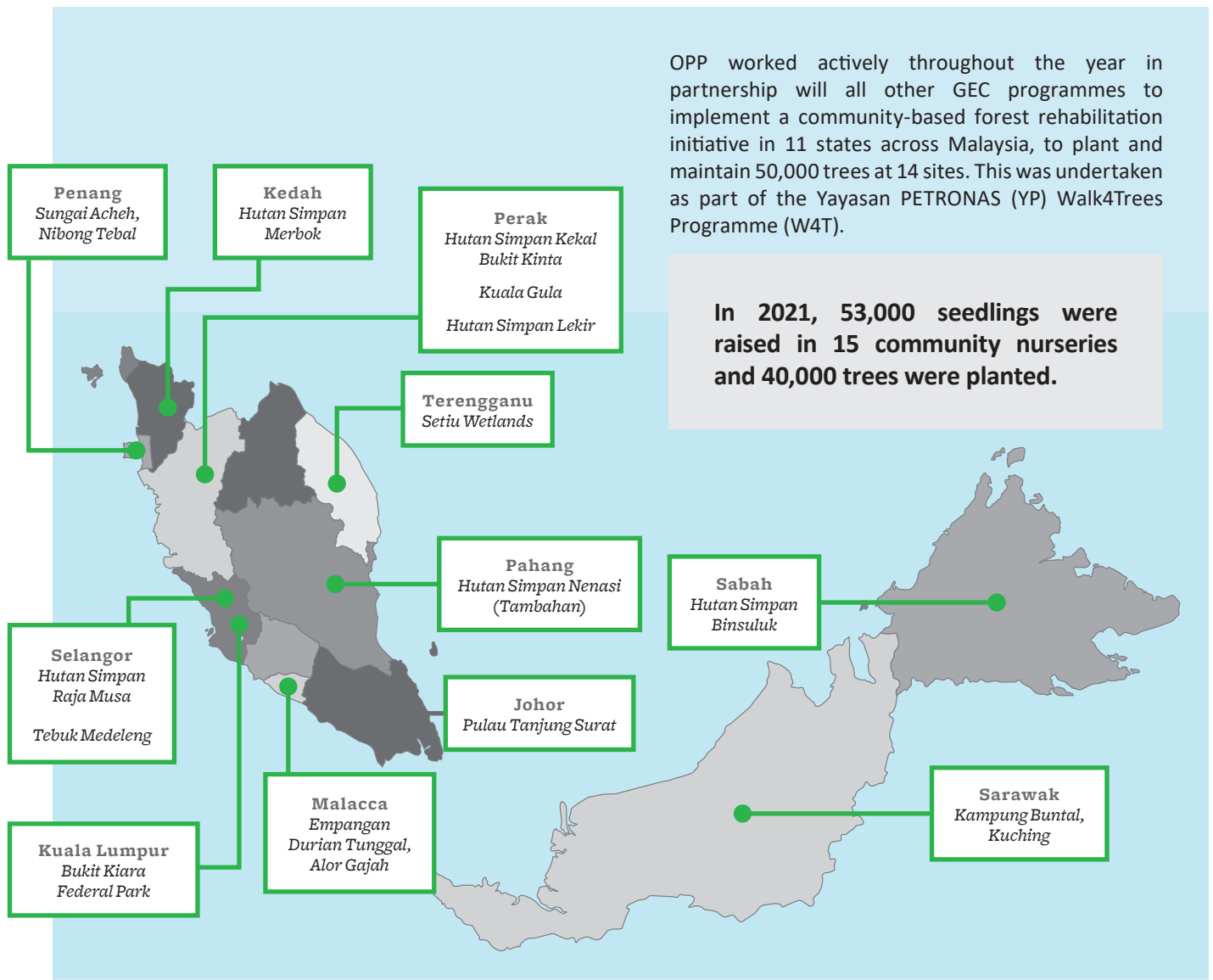
HEINEKEN

Water Balancing Report 2020

Water balancing is a key element of water stewardship. It involves understanding the water footprint of a product or service, and taking steps to reduce water consumption and improve water efficiency. Heineken Malaysia has committed to becoming 100% balanced for water used in its production by 2023.

The report highlights the company's progress in water stewardship, including the implementation of water-saving measures, the establishment of water stewardship committees, and the engagement of stakeholders in water conservation efforts.

Heineken Malaysia is committed to being a responsible water user and to contributing to the sustainable development of the communities in which it operates.



In conjunction with World Environment Day 2021, GEC organised a web forum entitled “GEC’s Ecosystem Restoration Journey” on 4 June. GEC leaders shared GEC’s experience and insights on environmental conservation and restoration under its various programmes. The forum was attended by 87 participants including representatives from government, private sector, community and civil society. The event also received news coverage from various local media.

The GEC Outreach and Partnership Programme (OPP) organised three sessions during the Virtual International Greentech and Eco Products (IGEM) on “Water Resources Management: Redefining Sustainability” “GHG emissions from Peatland Management in relation to Malaysia’s commitment under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change” and “Peatland Management: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change in Southeast Asia”. The line-up of speakers for the three virtual conferences included thought leaders and subject matter experts from the government and private sectors as well as researchers.

Throughout the year, OPP maintained active engagement with a broad range of media outlets resulting in 234 media reports related to GEC activities and outreach initiatives.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD

In 2021, as the country ramped up its COVID-19 vaccination efforts, while enhancing the livelihood of its people, GEC, through the support of our funders and partners, embarked on a series of initiatives to strengthen the capacity and livelihood of local communities within and around our project sites. Almost RM1.7 million was set aside for this purpose.

Of this, over RM1 million was disbursed to 254 community members from 21 community groups who are partners of the Yayasan PETRONAS Walk4Trees programme at 14 sites over 11 states nationwide. These B40 communities received this support to enhance their livelihood through ongoing engagement to establish and operate community nurseries, and undertaking planting and maintenance activities.

Similarly, through the support of Yayasan Sime Darby 43 community members from two communities benefitted from financial support amounting to over RM244,000 for conservation projects undertaken by the communities of Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG) and Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL) located in Selangor and Johor respectively.

Under the UNDP-MOF *Orang Asli/Orang Asal* Micro Grant Facility, almost RM114,000 was set aside to help boost sustained livelihood of 244 community members in three project sites namely UKB (Perak), KLNFR (Selangor) and Pekan (Pahang). This included supporting the production and marketing of handcraft through establishment of handcraft kiosks in Kg. OA Bukit Cheeding and Kg. OA Pulau Kempas near KLNFR, which offered alternative income for the communities there. Likewise, in UKB Perak, the project supports the 79 community members through eco-tourism and in Pekan, Pahang GEC is able to extend support to 28 community members through establishment trees nursery and mushroom farm.



Eco trail and nursery at UKB Perak.



Mushroom farm at Pahang.



Kuala Langat community products.



Melaka's community nursery under YAYASAN Petronas Project.



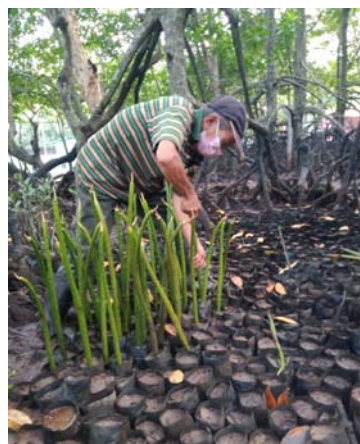
Kuala Gula visit with Yayasan Sime Darby.



Kuala Gula's community nursery under YAYASAN Petronas Project.



Planting mangrove seedlings with Yayasan Sime Darby.

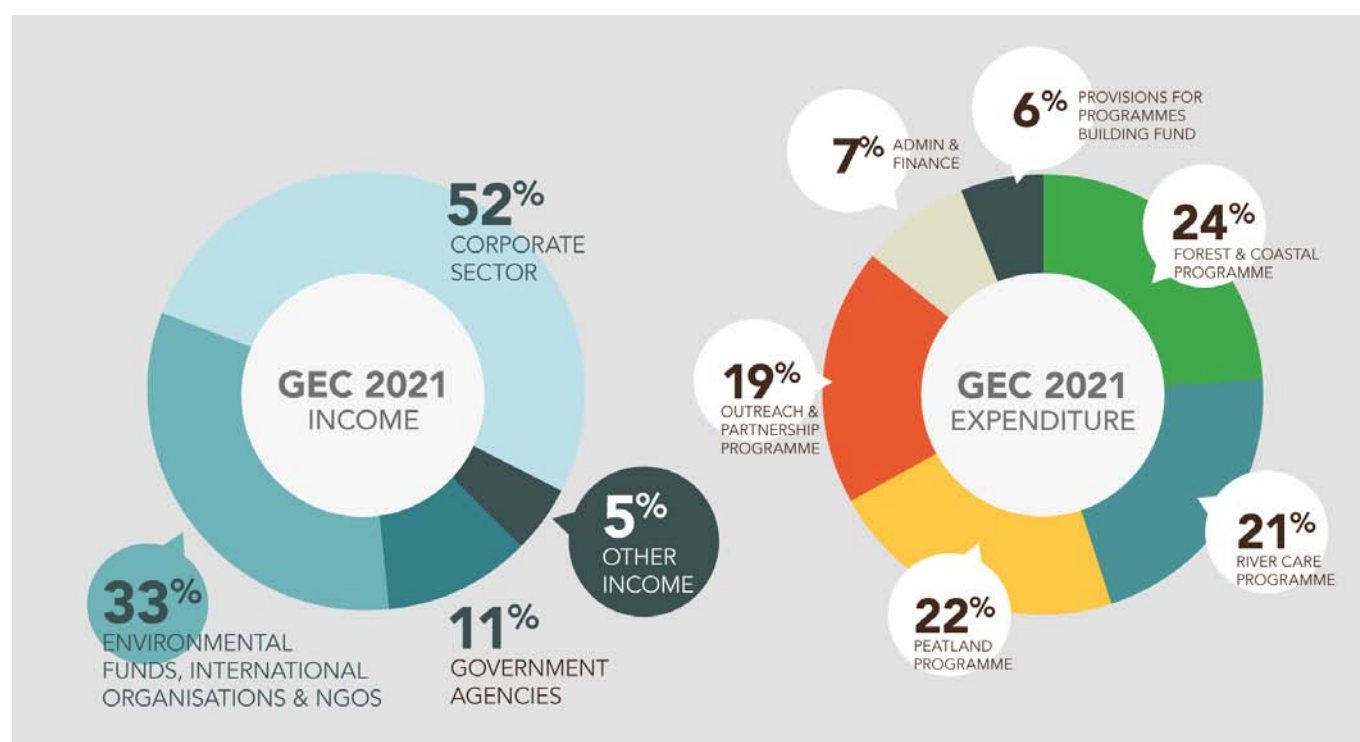


Community member taking care of mangrove seedlings at Tanjung Surat under YAYASAN Petronas Project.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME	2021	2020
Government Agencies	1,395,347.16	4,475,877.15
Environmental funds, International Organisations & NGOs	4,299,196.78	2,043,424.03
Corporate Sector	6,850,795.87	4,526,601.08
Other Income	662,743.31	696,167.25
TOTAL	13,208,083.12	11,742,069.51

EXPENDITURE	2021	2020
Forest & Coastal Programme	2,653,996.76	1,888,042.98
River Care Programme	2,321,556.12	2,355,911.23
Peatland Programme	2,500,504.33	2,597,551.65
Outreach & Partnership Programme	2,187,817.83	549,020.98
Admin & Finance	848,567.45	683,539.66
Provision for Programmes/Building Fund	720,000.00	1,960,000.00
TOTAL	11,232,442.49	10,034,066.50
NET SURPLUS	1,975,640.63	1,708,003.01



PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP

GEC relies on the generosity of individuals and companies to continue our conservation work and community education/building. Through corporate partnerships and donations, donors have funded our projects. GEC is fortunate to work in partnership with a number of dedicated organisations who are committed to protecting our environment. For their exceptional support during the past year, we gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following organisations:

For grants/contributions more than RM500,000

UNDP-MOF Orang Asli/Asal Micro-Grant Facility

Yayasan Sime Darby

For grants/contributions from RM200,000 and RM500,000

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Prosper Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd

SPARK Foundation

UNDP-GEF

Yayasan Hasanah

Yayasan Pahang

Yayasan Petronas

For grants/contributions of between RM100,000 and RM200,000

International Union for Conservation of Nature/GEF

Tenaga Nasional Berhad

For grants/contributions of between RM50,000 and RM99,000

Amorepacific Malaysia Sdn Bhd

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat

Synchronocity Earth (Shoal)

For grants/contributions of up to RM50,000

GIZ/EU-ASEAN SUPA Programme

HSBC Amanah Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Charity

Taylors College

Rotaract Sunway University

Simply Giving

UK Online Giving

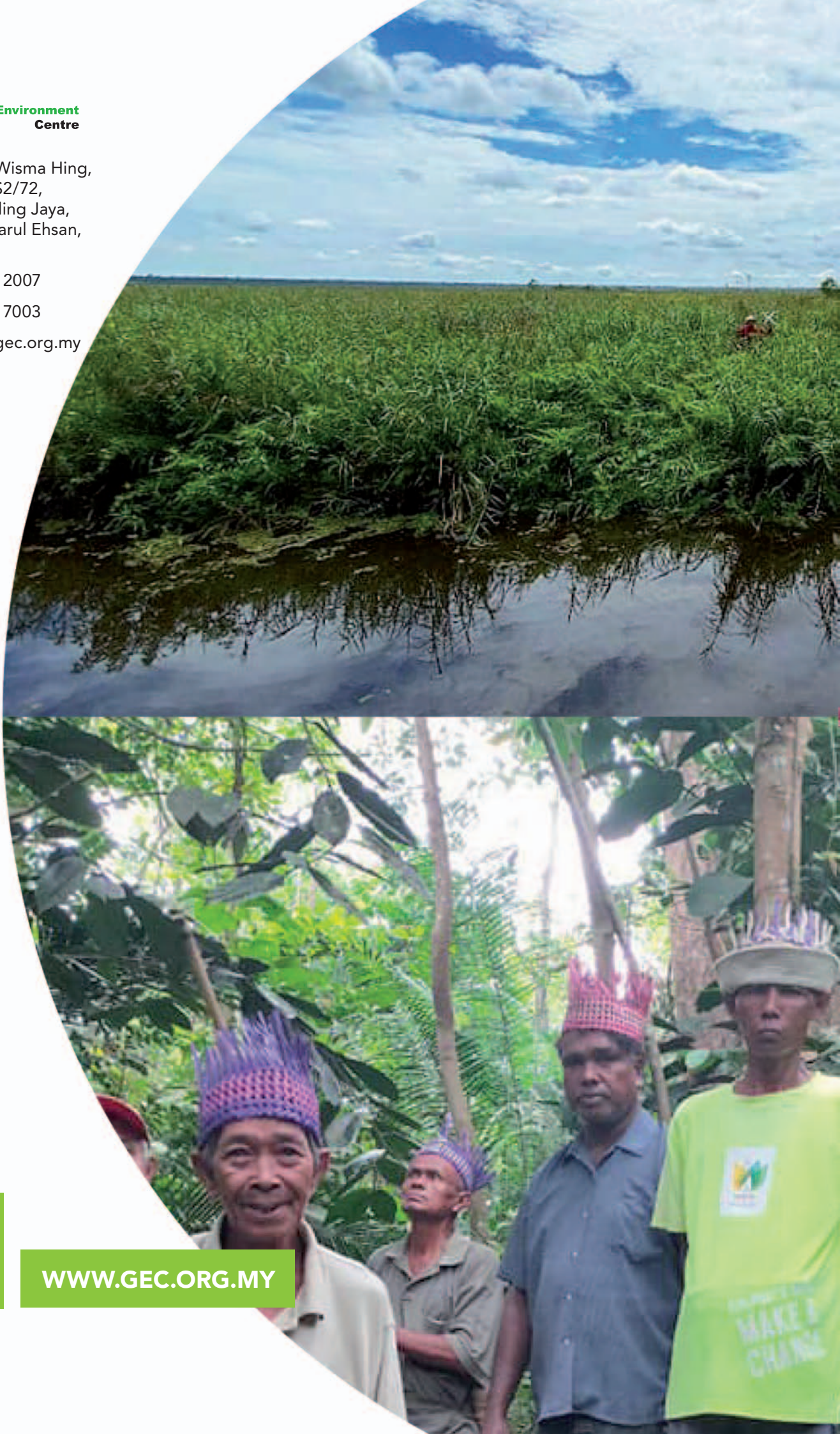
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