



**NATIONAL
RIVERCAREFUND**

REPORT ON CYCLE 1

OCT 2015 - SEPT 2016

Prepared by: NRCF Secretariat



**Global Environment
Centre**

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FOREWORD

National River Care Fund (NRCF) is one of Global Environment Centre's (GEC) long-term project as a pledge to show their commitment in supporting community based or non-profit organisations and institutions to protect and preserve our environment especially rivers.

Through this publication, we are pleased to share the projects funded in the Cycle I, including the outputs and some of the key achievements. The projects have demonstrated that partnerships between different organisations work in synergy to conduct their projects under NRCF umbrella. We invite stakeholders from different sectors, public, private and non-profit organisations to read this report and offer guidance and continued support in ensuring our journey to affect and change the lives of people stays on track.

The journey of empowering local communities is long and takes time and we have only just begun. Please continue to engage and support us in fostering meaningful partnerships to ensure the best results in our efforts to protect, rehabilitate and restore our rivers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the success of the NRCF, especially Global Environment Centre for initiating this programme, and other stakeholders especially Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia and my fellow Advisory Committee members for their support.

Thank you.

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock

Chair, Advisory Committee of National River Care Fund



**Global Environment
Centre**

ABOUT GEC

The Global Environment Centre (GEC) was established in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global importance. The Centre is registered in Malaysia as a non-profit organization (Reg. no. 473058-T) but works regionally and internationally both directly and through many partners. It supports information exchange and capacity building as well as undertakes strategic projects particularly in developing countries.

It works in partnership with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

It is active in the fields of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, water resources, agriculture and forestry. It has worked actively on issues related to AFOLU including global and regional assessments on peatlands and climate change, sustainable agriculture, forestry and plantation management, REDD+ as well as forest conservation and rehabilitation. GEC coordinates a number of regional and global networks, including the GEF-CSO Network which links organisations in more than 140 countries working to address global environmental issues and is currently the Secretariat for the LEDS AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Landuse) Working Group.

MISSION

To support the protection of the environment and sustainable use of the natural resources to meet local, regional and global needs, through strategic partnerships with communities and like-minded organizations.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To promote integrated management of biodiversity and water resources with a focus on community involvement and biodiversity conservation.
- ii. To promote the protection and sustainable use of forests and wetlands with a focus on integrated management for biodiversity and climate change.
- iii. To enhance awareness, understanding and capacity as well as partnerships between different organizations and sectors to address environmental issues.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock (Chair) is a board member of Global Environment Centre and the current President of the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM). Prior to that, he had served in the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID) for 36 years until his retirement in June 2014. His last official role in JPS was that as the Director of the Coastal and River Basin Management Division at the DID Malaysia. Dato' Ir. Lim is also the Chairman of the Malaysian Capacity Development Network (MyCDNet), a board member of Cap-Net UNDP and member of several other professional associations including the Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM), the Malaysian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, the Malaysian Hydrological Society and the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research. He is also an Exco member of the Malaysian Water Partnership and a member in the Board of Engineers, Malaysia (BEM).

Dato' Ir. Haji Hanapi Mohamad Noor is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Malaysian Water Partnership (MyWP) and Steering Committee Member of the Global Water Partnership-South East Asia (GWP-SEA). He retired from the public service in January 2016 after serving for more than 35 years with the Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Malaysia in various capacities including State Director of Perlis and Penang, Director of River Basin Management and Director of Water Resources and Hydrology Division. Dato' Hanapi is also actively involved in NGOs and is currently the Chairman of Water Resources Technical Division, Institution of Engineers Malaysia, Vice President of Malaysian Hydrological Society (MHS) and President of the Netherlands Alumni Association, Malaysia (NAAM).





Hj. Md Khairi Selamat is currently the Director of River Basin Management Division, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). He has been with DID for over 36 years, serving in various capacity in the State of Terengganu and Melaka, Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory, Corporat Division and River Basin Management Division of DID headquarter at the federal level. Among the projects and program he was involved namely are river bank protection, coastal erosion monitoring, drainage, river improvement, flood mitigation, Integrated River Basin Project Collaboration Malaysia and Denmark and Love Our River Campaign. He was posted to

Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) as Senior Assistant Director and later as the Director of LUAS. Over the years, he has gained vast experience and knowledge in planning, design, project implementation, human resources management, costing and budgeting. His area of interest are river basin planning and implementation for sustainable development in term of future water resources sustainability and environmental conservation. His current involvement is in river cleaning component of the River of Life (ROL) project in Greater KL/Klang Valley, development of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) plans for several rivers, model law of water resources bill, managing various public outreach programs to improve the attitude and behavior of target groups in river care and preservation to reduce pollution and improve river water quality. He also actively involved in Malaysian Water Partnership (MyWP), Malaysian Capacity Development Network (MyCDNet) and Network of River Basin Organisation (NARBO).



Faizal Parish is the founder and Director of the Global Environment Centre, a Malaysian non-profit organization working throughout East and Southeast Asia on forest and peatland management, biodiversity, water resources and climate change. He is an internationally recognised expert in environment and natural resource assessment and management with

specialism in coastal, wetland, river basin and water resources. He has more than 20 years in working with intergovernmental environment Conventions especially the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Working Group (2013-2016).

Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlin bin Mokhtar is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation Affairs), UKM (January 2014-now). Prior to that, he served as Director for the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), UKM (2005-January 2014). Dato' Mazlin is currently the Chairman of the Environment Quality Council Malaysia. He is also a committee member of the Merdeka Award (Environment Category) and the National Steering Committee member of the UNDP Small Grants Programme. Dato' Mazlin is also the Founding Committee of the Malaysian Water Partnership, and MyCapNet for MyWP.



Dr. Rahmah Elfithri is a Senior lecturer and Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). She is currently involved as Core researcher, Project Manager and / or Project Leader in numerous water resources management related research projects under LESTARI, UKM and / or in collaboration with some partners and networks at National and International levels. She served as Executive Committee Member in various networks and partnership in Malaysia.



ABOUT NATIONAL RIVER CARE FUND

National River Care Fund (NRCF) is a small grant programme initiated by Global Environment Centre (GEC) in 2015 to empower communities by creating a society equipped with knowledge and capability on how we should manage our rivers through monitoring, protection and rehabilitation activities.

The nature of this programme is to fund local community, community based, non-profit organisations or learning institutions that are financially inadequate but passionate and committed about environmental issues and wish to take actions.

This initiative is targeted to benefit the local communities and residents living nearby river basins or depend on rivers for resources through partnership with community based or non-profit organisations and learning institutions.

Selected organisations or institutions are granted with a grant up to RM5,000 to design and execute community capacity programmes with consultation from GEC and other related agencies. From the grant received, they will be collaborating with stakeholders esp. local communities to conduct their own river care activities at their river basins.

Along with the grants, the grantees will also be provided with environmental education training programmes (if required) by GEC such as DRH2O (water conservation programme), RIVER Ranger (river conservation and management programme), SMART Ranger (integrated solid waste management programme) and FLOOD Ranger to educate participants on conducting and managing sustainable environment activities.

Through projects conducted by selected organisations or institutions, NRCF hopes to empower stakeholders, especially local communities, with awareness and skills of best river management practices as well as to develop a sense of ownership among local communities of their own river basins as motivation in taking care of the rivers.

ABOUT NRCF CYCLE I

NRCF Cycle I is the first round of NRCF projects. It was open for application from October 2015 until January 2016 and has received a total of 9 applications. With contribution from GEC, a total of 6 local community organisations were chosen to be granted with a grant up to RM 5,000 each. Each of these awarded organisations was given guidance and support from GEC to design and construct their own river care activities with local communities.

In addition, the fund also supported several trainings under the River Care Activity led by GEC's River Care Programme on RIVER Ranger, SMART Ranger and DRH2O for schools in Perak, Selangor, Pulau Pinang and Kelantan.

The summary of the projects are shown below:

GRANTEES	LOCATION	PROJECT TITLE
RIVER CARE COMMUNITY GRANT		
Awareness raising and community participation activities		
Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK)	Kuala Lumpur	Awareness and Capacity Building on River and Waste Management
RIVER Ranger Sungai Udang	Klang, Selangor	Community Flood Preparedness and Awareness Training
Recreation Association Taman AU3	Kuala Lumpur	AU3 River Linear Park Clean Up and Beautification Programmes
Riverine Biodiversity conservation/habitat creation/river conservation and protection		
Resident Recreation Association Kampung Taman Warisan	Klang Gate Dam, Selangor	Upstream of Sungai Klang Rehabilitation Programme.
Sustainable livelihood focussing on river conservation		
Resident Association PPR Raya Permai	Kuala Lumpur	Sustainable Community Empowerment and Livelihood
RIVER Ranger / SMART Ranger / Island Ranger / DRH2O programme		
Society of Eco Greater Melawati	Taman Melawati, Selangor	Outreach Programme for Schools in Taman Melawati
RIVER CARE ACTIVITY		
River Care Programme (GEC)	Perak	RIVER Ranger training
	Selangor & Kelantan	SMART Ranger Training
	Pulau Pinang	DRH2O programme Training



YAYASAN CHOW KIT (YCK)

Tel: 03 2602 0892 Email: admin@yck.org.my
Web: www.yck.org.my

AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON RIVER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



Located in the area around Chow Kit, YCK aimed to infuse environmental education into existing curriculum for the children that they are fostering and to equip them with knowledge about environmental activities.

PROJECT SITE:

Kemensah River GPS Coordinate: 3.2147221,101.7725061

ACTIVITIES:

- Various activities have been conducted, including Training of Trainers (ToT) for teachers and students, educational outreach to children and hands-on and field exploration of rivers around the area.
- Besides that, YCK also implemented waste recycling and zero waste concept at their centres, conducted recycling exhibition and carried out river monitoring on Kemensah River.
- Through these activities, the children were able to learn about river conservations and apply the knowledge whenever needed.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The children were educated about river conservation activities;
- Produced a documentary of 50 pages about "The Social Life of the Kemensah River"; and
- Produced 3 videos about water testing, green recycling and innovations.

IMPACT:

- The children are now spearheading river conservation initiatives with local community and facilitating trainings with local communities and students on river conservation.



RIVER RANGER SG UDANG

Tel: 016 277 6307 (Hj. Ghaffar)
Email: ghaffarjali@gmail.com

COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND AWARENESS TRAINING



RIVER Ranger Sungai Udang, a community based organisation in Klang, Selangor undertook the project with goals to train the local community on how to act during flooding and to develop flood hazard maps as their area is flood prone.

PROJECT SITE:

Sungai Udang, Klang GPS Coordinate: 3.0379692,101.4228816

ACTIVITIES:

- The organisation has conducted a half-day flood preparedness training programme attended by 52 local community members and has developed and distributed flood hazard maps as guideline for local community, informing them on flood risk area and how to face it.
- In addition, the RIVER Ranger Sungai Udang has also shared the hazard maps to local authority.
- These activities enabled local residents to be empowered in facing flood in the future.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- 52 local community were trained on flood preparedness; and
- Developed and distributed community based flood hazard map to local residents, local authorities and district offices.

IMPACT:

- The project has built a disaster-resilient community to flood.
- Members of RIVER Ranger Sungai Udang are working together with local authorities to mitigate flood risk and disaster. They have become a local champion for local authorities and other community groups on climate and disaster – resilient community.



RECREATION ASSOCIATION TAMAN AU3

Tel: 019 242 1798 (En. Razak)

AU3 RIVER LINEAR PARK CLEAN UP & BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMMES



Located in Taman AU3, Kuala Lumpur, the committee of the Recreation Association aimed to clean-up and beautify their river area.

PROJECT SITE:

Taman AU3 Keramat GPS Coordinate: 3.182301,101.7592158

ACTIVITIES:

- A river clean-up activity participated by local residents in the area was conducted to engage, educate and gain the local's interest on river adoption and monitoring programme.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Transferring of knowledge to local communities on how to conduct river clean-up activities; and
- The community has the capacity to conduct their own river clean-up activities in the future.

IMPACT:

- As the result of the programme, community members of Taman Keramat AU3 are consistently integrating elements of environmental responsibility in their community social events.



RESIDENT RECREATION ASSOCIATION KG TAMAN WARISAN

Tel: 016 496 9743 (En. Mazelan)

UPSTREAM OF SUNGAI KLANG REHABILITATION PROGRAMME



The goals of this community-based organisation are to have a vibrant and lively stream, to encourage local community to take ownership of the river and waste management through engagement and outreach programmes, to restore aquatic ecosystem and habitat and to reduce solid waste dumping.

PROJECT SITE:

Kampung Taman Warisan GPS Coordinate: 3.2329056,101.7490093

ACTIVITIES:

Three main activities were conducted involving stakeholders and local community:

- Wetland planting along Klang River;
- River rehabilitation activities such as river clean-up; and
- River monitoring activities to ensure the water quality is maintained at Class I.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Outreach to approximately 140 local communities specially youths on the importance of keeping the river clean and healthy;
- Enhanced biodiversity of the river, turning it into a healthy, vibrant and living one; and
- Community takes ownership of the upstream of Klang River by taking care of the river and reducing the pollution load into it.

IMPACT:

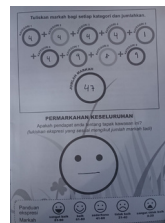
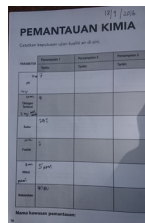
- They are now managing the River Open Classroom and hosting river monitoring and auditing activities on regular basis with school children and corporates through CSR initiatives.



RECREATION ASSOCIATION PPR RAYA PERMAI

Tel: 018 372 6176 (Ustaz Azizan)

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOOD



Located near the Midah River, the resident association of Raya Permai aimed to empower the local community on river management and pollution control, to build sustainable platform for potential revenue, to improve water quality of the river and to profit from waste management.

PROJECT SITE:

PPR Raya Permai GPS Coordinate: 3.0599435,101.7056204

ACTIVITIES:

- A training of trainers (ToT) workshop was organised to build the capacity of local communities on river auditing and monitoring and integrated waste management.
- Subsequent to the training, the local communities has taken lead to monitor the Midah River and implemented waste segregation from source.
- The local communities have also built an irrigation system that uses the river water for their herb garden along the river bank.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- 500 residents were engaged in river care activities and reducing pollution source.
- Established alternative water supply for their garden

IMPACT:

- The local community of PPR Raya Permai are working with various stakeholders especially DBKL LA21 in promoting riverside herb garden and create a sense of ownership among public towards protecting rivers.
- Managed to reduce 78% on their dependency to use treated water for their garden.



SOCIETY OF ECO GREATER MELAWATI

Tel: 012 315 7825 (Dr. Dhileepan)
Email: info@ecogreatermelawati.org
Web: www.ecogreatermelawati.org

OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS IN TAMAN MELAWATI



The project focused on illuminating students about the importance of healthy environment and river, training the students on best environment and water resources management practices and engaging and driving communities to practise green life.

PROJECT SITE:

Taman Melawati GPS Coordinate: 3.2164445,101.7506424

ACTIVITIES:

Two main activities were successfully conducted:

- They are the Training of Trainers (ToT) for students, consisting RIVER Ranger; and
- SMART Ranger training programmes and community outreach programmes to schools and universities, communities and societies, organisations and NGOs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT:

- Conducted outreach programmes to nearly 800 communities including school children and corporate sector.
- Established corporate partnership and sponsorship for project sustainability.

IMPACT:

- They are actively involved in facilitating and training environmental education programmes with schools and local community. As well as independently organising their own green and educational events to raise awareness among general public.

OVERALL IMPACT

In total, the fund has enabled 6 community-based groups to conduct river care programmes in their areas and provided trainings to more than 500 students (from 28 schools). Among the impacts from the Cycle 1 funding are:

1. INCREASE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

The funded projects have imparted knowledge and understanding on river environment issues and the importance of river protection to more than 750 local residents and 500 school students. This has increased their awareness, knowledge and skill on good river conservation and management practices.

2. EMPOWERMENT

The funding has strengthened the capacity of 6 community based organisations and more than 750 residents to be more actively involved in the protection of rivers. Five community groups have taken ownership adopted the river stretch at their areas and do regular monitoring to protect the river quality. In the case of the Sungai Udang community, they develop localised community based flood hazard map and most of the community members are now prepared and know what to do in case of flood.

3. ALTERNATIVE INCOME GENERATION

In reducing waste loading into the river, two organisations have converted waste to revenue (by recycling and collection of used cooking oil) and selling herbs and vegetable from community garden. This has provided them with alternative income and served as an incentive for them to continue their efforts.



4. ENHANCED RIVER ENVIRONMENT

The biodiversity of upstream Klang River is enhanced through the wetland planting by the Taman Warisan community and Society of Eco Greater Melawati. This contributes to the River of Life initiative of turning the Klang River into a healthy, vibrant and living river.

5. FORGING PARTNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

The projects provided a platform for community groups to work with government agencies, non-governmental and corporate companies. Two of the communities successfully sustained their projects in partnership with relevant agencies and corporate companies. This contributes to the success and sustainability of their initiatives.

6. CREATING LOCAL CHAMPIONS ON RIVER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

The projects have produced five local champions groups i.e. Yayasan Chow Kit, Society of Eco Greater Melawati, Resident Recreation Associate of Kampung Taman Warisan, Resident Associate PPR Raya Permai and RIVER Ranger Sungai Udang. These groups are actively involved in facilitating, training and empowering others to care for rivers in Malaysia and creating a multitude of positive changes that lead to producing river care society in Malaysia.

YAYASAN CHOW KIT (YCK)

Local champion for river awareness, protection, conservation and monitoring.



RIVER RANGER SG UDANG

Local champion for flood preparedness and river monitoring.



SOCIETY OF ECO GREATER MELAWATI

Local champion for river monitoring, education, protection and rehabilitation.



LOCAL CHAMPIONS

OF NATIONAL RIVER CARE
FUND 2015-2016

RIVER CARE ACTIVITY

The National River Care Fund has also funded several environmental education trainings for schools that are keen to implement river care activities but unable to do so due to lack of resources and know-how knowledge. The trainings were led by GEC's River Care Programme.

As many as 222 students and teachers from 21 schools in Kelantan, Perak, Penang and Selangor were trained on river conservation, integrated solid waste management and water conservation to become RIVER Rangers, SMART Rangers and DrH2O.

The RIVER Ranger training is focused on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and exposure to the real situation on water quality monitoring by using physical, chemical and biological indicators. This training also will enhance the community to appreciate of rivers and waster as valuable and limited natural resources as well as reconnect them to the river. While, SMART (Start Managing All Resources Today) Ranger training is an Environment Education Programme about sustainable environment management in Malaysia. It is focused on solid waste management through zero waste approaches. DRH2O training is focused to instill good potable water conservation behavior through systematic water auditing and sustainable water conservation initiatives.

RIVER RANGER TRAINING IN PERAK



SMART RANGER TRAINING IN KELANTAN



SMART RANGER TRAINING IN SELANGOR

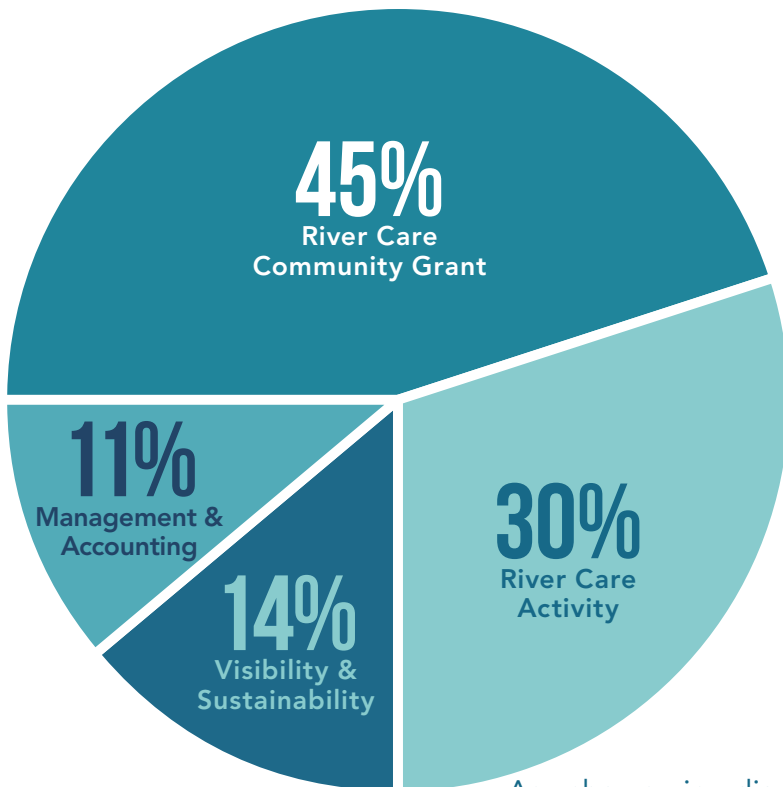


DRH20 TRAINING IN PENANG



FINANCIAL REPORT

A total sum of RM100,000 (One Hundred Thousands Ringgit Malaysia) was spent for the Cycle 1 of NRCF. The amount was fully funded by GEC. The breakdown of expenditures for the NRCF Cycle 1 is shown below:



As shown in diagram above, 75% goes towards the River Care Fund activities while 14% for sustainability and 11% for management and administration.

GLOSSARY

GEC Global Environment
Centre

NRCF National River Care Fund

NGO Non-Government
Organisation

ToT Training of Trainers

YCK Yayasan Chow Kit



JOIN & SUPPORT US!

HEALTHY RIVERS FOR A
HEALTHIER SOCIETY

Be part of our efforts to care and protect rivers in Malaysia. We cordially invite you to join us as new partners, stakeholders or participants to embark on opportunities to contribute to healthy rivers for a healthier society in Malaysia.

Contact us at 03 7957 2007 (Adelaine Tan) or simply visit our website at www.gec.org.my