

BENEFICIARIES

Local communities

The project will enhance the sustainability of land management and reduce fire risk by working directly with the targeted local communities at the selected site to establish mechanisms and incentives for their involvement in the conservation and sustainable use of the resource.

Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD)

The project will assist SSFD in enhancing engagement of local communities in the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan for North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest 2014-2023).

National and International Community

The project will benefit the national and international community through conservation of biodiversity and reduction in GHG emissions.

BENEFITS



Introducing peatland fire prevention and management measures including hydrology management, stakeholder engagement and community empowerment.



Reduction of fire risk in Bukit Belata (ext.) Forest Reserve and adjacent lands.



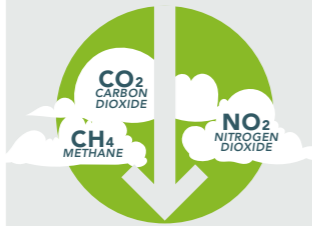
Support forest protection and sustainable peatland management via best management practices by the communities living within the forest buffer.



Rehabilitation of 200 ha of forest through natural regeneration and selected replanting through partnership with PROSPER and local communities.



Biodiversity conservation of the endemic and endangered species in the rehabilitated peatlands.



Reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.

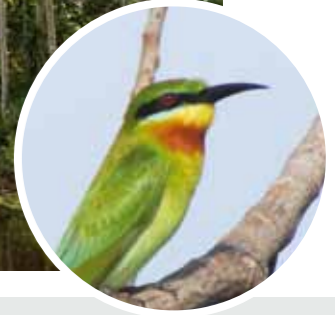


Contribution to the review and update of Integrated Management Plan of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest 2014-2023.



CONSERVATION OF SOUTHEAST PORTION OF NORTH SELANGOR PEAT SWAMP FOREST

PHASE 1 - BUKIT BELATA (EXT.) FOREST RESERVE (BBEFR) 2020-2023



INTRODUCTION

Prosper Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd (Prosper) is a medium-sized Malaysian-owned player in the oil palm sector with a total of 10 palm oil mills and 20,000 ha of oil palm plantations under its management in Malaysia. In 2019, Prosper adopted a No Deforestation No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) Sustainable Palm Oil Policy. Subsequently it modified its internal procedures and initiated a process to develop a "recovery project" to make a positive contribution to forest conservation.

In March 2020, Prosper established a partnership with the Global Environment Centre (GEC) (www.gec.org.my), a Malaysian non-profit organization with more than 20 years' experience in peatland and forest conservation and restoration throughout Southeast Asia. Through this partnership, Prosper is financing a Recovery Project in the form of a long-term conservation initiative to be undertaken by GEC in a portion of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest (NSPSF) in Selangor State, Malaysia. NSPSF is one of the largest contiguous peat swamp forests remaining in Malaysia, covering 81,000 ha (larger than Singapore). This area is of global significance for biodiversity conservation and very important for carbon storage and water resource management. Biodiversity includes Tapir, Malayan Sun Bear, Black Panther, False Gharial (freshwater crocodile), hornbills and 124 species of fish including 6 endemic species found no-where else in the world.



PROJECT SITE

The project will focus on the long-term protection and rehabilitation of the Bukit Belata (Ext.) Forest Reserve (BBEFR), which covers an area of 3,140ha of lowland dipterocarp and peat swamp forest, in the SE portion of the NSPSF. This forest reserve is facing increasing challenges from drainage, fire and degradation linked to development of small-scale plantation and agriculture along its boundary as well as encroachment and drainage within the reserve. More than 350 ha of forest and peatland have been degraded by fires and encroachment in recent years. The project site includes intact and degraded areas within the forest reserve as well as the adjacent agricultural land. The forest is still facing increasing challenges associated to forest fire, drainage issues and agricultural developments along its boundary. Therefore, the recovery project is supporting the state forestry department to

monitor and protect the intact portions of the reserve as well as manage and rehabilitate the degraded portions of the forest reserves.

The selection of the proposed site has been made for the following reasons:

- The rehabilitation site is located within 1km of Tagar Properties Sdn Bhd, a plantation partly owned by Prosper for the ease of monitoring.
- It is located within Bukit Belata (Ext.) Forest Reserve. Therefore, the rehabilitated forest will be legally protected over the long term.
- Portions of the site are degraded and are very prone to fire. The rehabilitation will prevent peatland fires and haze and reduction in GHG emissions.
- The activities can be scaled-up to include an additional adjacent portion of Raja Musa Forest Reserve in the longer term.

GOAL

To enhance the conservation of lowland forests and peatlands in Bukit Belata (Ext.) Forest Reserve.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

To develop rehabilitation strategy and initiate rehabilitation measures in targeted forest areas.

Rehabilitation of 200 ha through rewetting and assisted natural regeneration and selected planting in priority portions of the Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve.

Support action by local community and stakeholders on peatland management and fire prevention.

The project will be managed under the framework of the MoU between GEC and the Selangor State Government (2016-2023) for multi-stakeholder engagement in the protection and rehabilitation of forests in Selangor.

ACTIVITIES

1. To assess forest conservation status and develop rehabilitation plan for targeted forest areas

- Undertake appropriate assessments on key issues including identification of degraded peatland areas, drainage canals, water management, areas prone to fire risks and issues impacting the biodiversity.
- Develop a plan for rehabilitation of the degraded peatland areas.
- Reporting results of rehabilitation measures including enhancement of vegetation and wildlife.
- Contribute to the review of the Integrated Management Plan of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest.

2. Rehabilitation of 200 ha through rewetting, assisting natural regeneration and selected planting in priority portions of the forest reserve

Peatland rehabilitation via:

- Blocking selected drainage channels and raising water levels in fire prone areas.
- Periodic monitoring of water levels.

Encouragement of natural regeneration in 200 ha via:

- Seedling procurement and nursery establishment.
- Land preparation and marking for tree planting activities.
- Periodic tree planting activities with PROSPER staffs, volunteers and community groups.
- Maintenance of the planted trees.

3. Support action by local community and stakeholders on peatland management and fire prevention

- Development and distribution of information materials on fire prevention
- Meetings with stakeholders, local communities and landowners to discuss on sustainable management of peatland and fire prevention measures.
- Promoting the Malaysia Good Agriculture Practices (MyGAP), Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Standard and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) BMP Manuals for peatlands.
- Training of local community on peat water management appropriate to best management practices for agriculture including crop selection
- Establishment/guidance of local fire prevention and monitoring team to monitor and communicate with relevant authorities
- Boundary signage and protection past establishment
- Installation of fire danger risk warning signs at fire prone sites.

