



QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (APRIL TO JUNE 2020)

Introduction

This report is submitted to the Board of Management and Advisory Council of Global Environment Centre to provide updates on the progress of GEC and its activities and finances for the period April – June 2020. During this period, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and associated MCO/CMCO/RMCO imposed by the Government of Malaysia, the GEC office was closed from 18 March 2020 until end of May 2020 and staff were working from home during this period. Public events and activities during this period were also limited.

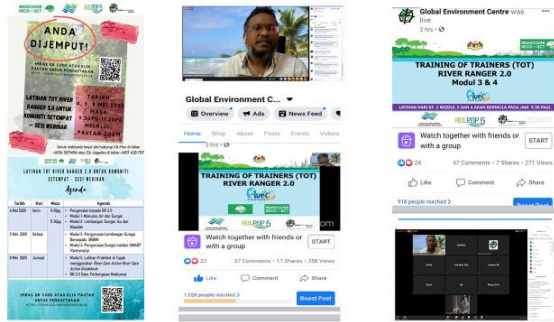
During the MCO, GEC with the support from several project partners donated RM45,000 worth of food and other supplies to 530 families from B40 and Orang Asli communities, linked to GEC programmes, in 5 states (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Perak, Johor and Pahang). This support helped to lighten their financial burden and reduced their need for movement to the outside, thus reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19.



Progress Updates

River Care Programme

With the limitation to conduct any face-to face activities during this period, most of the planned trainings under the ROLPOP5 were conducted virtually. Two trainings were conducted (i) RIVER Ranger Training of Trainer (ToT) 2.0 on 4, 5 and 8 May 2020 (ii) Training of Trainer (ToT) for the Kindergarten teacher on 22 April 2020. In addition, a Science and Technology Innovative (STI) for educational institutions 2020 was also launched on April 18.



The Sg Klang Component of GEF-supported Riverine Biodiversity project kicked off with a rapid assessment of the Upper Klang Basin focused at three sites (i) Taman Melawati (ii) AU2 and (iii) PA Seri Terengganu. Online discussions were also held with Friends of Klang River Basin (FOKRB) to introduce the project and get their feedback. While for the Upper Kinta Basin component, a series of discussions and consultations with relevant agencies and targeted Orang Asli communities as well as special sub-committee members were conducted. The GEC team together with JAKOA Kinta officer and Orang Asli community members conducted a site visit to study sites and proposed bioengineering demo site on 20 and 21 May 2020.



Suluh, Ulu Kinta

For the UKB project, one online webinar on Community River Monitoring was conducted on 14 May for local communities and agencies, focusing on sharing of community monthly river monitoring data and current river status in Malaysia and Perak due to MCO. The first training for the Orang Asli community on RIVER Ranger 2.0 programme was conducted on 21 June.

April to June 2020 was a challenging period for the W.A.T.E.R project as most of the community-based initiatives could not be conducted on site. During the lockdown period, the focus given to enhance the visibility of the project initiatives and welfare of the community partners. The river water quality improvement of Sg Way due to MCO captured in video and received good media coverage.

Forest and Coastal Programme

Although activities were restricted due to the MCO, the community-based conservation and rehabilitation projects in Selangor, Perak and Johor states continued to be conducted online and through discussions and limited field activities in partnership with local communities.

The following activities were successfully implemented during the MCO period:

- About 6,000 mangrove trees were planted in Sungai Limau degraded areas by local community members for the TNB mangrove project.
- In Johor, several small scale mangrove tree planting activities were successfully conducted at Tanjung Surat on 8-12 June 2020 and 1,500 mangrove trees were planted by 10 SHBPTS members over the 5 days.
- At Raja Musa Forest Reserve, patrolling and monitoring activities as well as wildlife monitoring were conducted by SHGSU.
- Meanwhile in the KLNFR, patrolling and monitoring activities were conducted by SHGKLU. In terms of alternative livelihood, the community developed promotional items for local community products such as handicraft items, animal traps package and community nursery species.
- Field assessment was also carried out at Bukit Belata Tambahan Forest Reserve through drone and ground survey to select suitable areas to implementing the project activities. The assessments were focused on biodiversity, drainage, degraded areas, fire risk areas and others.



Field assessment at Bukit Belata (left), Training was organized for SHBPTS members on the development of local tourism products in Pulau Tanjung Surat (centre), mangrove rehabilitation by SHBPTS at Tanjung Surat (right)

Peatland Programme

The rehabilitation programme at Bukit Leelau Mini Landscape area and Pekan (Extension) Forest Reserve is ongoing and has been expanded to nearby peat areas with continued support from the Bursa Bull Charge (BBC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) OA Micro Grant Facility and IFAD supported TAKE-SMPEM. The landscape has been fire-free for 16 months resulting from rehabilitation activities and awareness programs with the local OA community. Further work has been undertaken in Q2, including assessing for possible extra sites and developing a plan for the rehabilitation work including constructing another canal block in a new area with a critical history of fire (in HS Pekan). The nearby OA community was engaged for fire prevention in as part of a new partnership of the community. During the RMCO period, GEC distributed food supplies to 16 OA families as well as 9 kitchen sets (stove and gas tank) in order to support the community welfare and reduce reliance on wood for cooking.



Extension of rehabilitation to Pekan Forest Reserve (part of Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (left). FDRS signboard installation and on-site briefing (centre). Food supply contributed to the OA community (right)

In spite of the COVID19 pandemic and implementation of MCO, GEC at the regional level completed a project on developing a Catalogue of Methods for Sustainable Peatland Management in Malaysia under the EU-supported SUPA programme. This catalogue documented 34 different BMP methods available and applied on peat. The catalogue will be used to support Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) in Malaysia. Other ongoing Projects include a review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 (APMS) as a preparation in the development of next APMS (2021-2030). GEC continues to work on IUCN-GEF funded Mekong Peatlands Project for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar; contributes to RSPO Peatland Working Group (RSPO-PLWG), Independent Smallholders Subgroup of RSPO-PLWG to support development of ISH BMP on peat, updating the RSPO Drainability Assessment Procedure and flood risk assessment. GEC also have become a technical member of the Malaysian HCV Technical Working Group, providing input for review of HCV Malaysia Toolkit, as well as submitted inputs and being invited for core group member of the UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration 2021-2030.

Outreach & Partnership

During the MCO, OPP continued to raise awareness among the public on environment through GEC website and social media and in particular, shared green messages during the World Biodiversity Day (22 May) and World Environment Day (5 June 2020).

GEC has also ventured into online platform for its outreach and education programme and has participated in several webinars, including in the Peat Festival (31 May) and Global Green Festival (5 June) and organised an online regional web forum on “Biodiversity in Peat Swamp Forests in Southeast Asia” on 5 June in conjunction with World Environment Day.

ON THIS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2020, 2.30-4.00PM (UTC+8)

Global Environment Centre WILL BE HOSTING A WEB FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY IN PEAT SWAMP FORESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Peatlands sustain a rich and unique range of habitats and species across the world with a high economic value due to their resources – high quality timber, fish and peatland plants (e.g. rattan and grasses for weaving mats and baskets). Southeast Asia has more than 25 million ha of peatlands or 60% of the open tropical peatland resource. However, large scale clearance and drainage of peatlands for agriculture, forestry and infrastructure development has severely affected the natural values and function of peatlands. In line with the theme for this year's World Environment Day, "Time for Nature", the Forum will bring together different stakeholders to discuss the significance and importance of biodiversity conservation in peat swamp forest in Southeast Asia.

IT IS TIME TO SPEND SOME TIME FOR NATURE

Please register at bit.ly/GECwebforum to receive the zoom link

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PRESENTERS:

- Dr. Sidiqul Hossain, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Fisheries, Bangladesh
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- Dr. Sidiqul Hossain, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Fisheries, Bangladesh
- Dr. Sidiqul Hossain, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Fisheries, Bangladesh

MODERATOR:

- Paiton Parfitt, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Fisheries, Bangladesh

Visibility

There were 34 media coverages on GEC between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 (RCP: 22, FCP: 4, PP: 2 Others: 6). These coverages had a total PR value of MYR 819,222 with cumulative potential reach of 1,354,057.

Dirty rivers now clean
Communities living near waterways report clearer waters after MCO paid off

Home > Community > Effort to adopt zero waste lifestyle for schools paid off with more...

Effort to adopt zero waste lifestyle for schools paid off with more than 45,000KG of recyclable waste collected from 17 participating schools

By Newstream Editor • June 17, 2020

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Community garden to the rescue

Kepong flat residents thankful for vegetable supply to tide them over in difficult times

Battling Covid-19

With Covid-19 spreading fast, many people are staying at home and avoiding going out. This has led to some challenges, especially in obtaining fresh vegetables. In the community garden, residents are growing their own vegetables to tide them over in difficult times.



Cleaner waterways and rivers during MCO

JYK's facilities manage 8.1M sewage treatment plants to ensure that the sewerage system operates smoothly throughout the MCO



Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events/activities in July – September 2020:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
1-5 July	Kuala Gula and Lekir, Manjung	YSD-GEC working visit to Kuala Gula and Lekir, Manjung
5-9 July	Tanjung Surat, Johor	Small-scale 1,500 mangrove tree planting by SHBPTS for Aramco project
8-18 July	Online	Supervision of Uganda National Oil Palm Programme
10 or 11 July	Zoom	FOKRB Mutiara Magna Virtual Tour
13 July	Zoom and MNS UCF Open Classroom	River Monitoring Live Streaming at Open Classroom MNS UFC
14 July	Impiana Hotel, Ipoh	Technical workshop Bio-engineering
15 July	Online	ROLPOP5 2020 Award Open for Nomination
July	Manjung, Perak	Sungai Limau Community Training
July	Zoom	STI Proposal Writing Workshop
By July 15	One to One	Support for the Recycling Corner and Green Initiatives for Ranger Squad Schools
18 July-26 July	Ulu Kinta & Simpang Pulai	UKB Detailed Assessment Study
July 20	KL	Tour to Fasiliti Inovasi Kitar Semula (FIKS) Alam Flora Sdn Bhd for ROLPOP5 Industry Players
July 21 or 23	Zoom	Peer to Peer Sharing Session for ROLPOP5 schools
2 August	Ulu Kinta	Forest monitoring training for Orang Asli

3 or 4 August	Kebun Komuniti Mutiara Magna	RCEC Mutiara Magna Community Garden ROLPOP5 Launching
7 or 8 August	TBC	GEF5 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Workshop for Local Community Workshop
14 or 15 August	TBC	GEF5 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Workshop for Stakeholders
August	TBC	SHBPTS community Training
14 August	Impiana Hotel, Ipoh	UKBMaS financing mechanism workshop
19 August	Ulu Kinta	Riverine biodiversity and bio-engineering training for Orang Asli
8 September	TBC	Riverine biodiversity and bio-engineering training for Agencies
September	TBC	UKBMaS financing mechanism recommendation workshop
September	Zoom	Online training for Penchala communities on urban food security and WASH
Week 1 September	TBC	AIS Mainstreaming Event
September	Kuala Gula	Sungai Limau community's peer visit to Kuala Gula
September	KL	ROLPOP5 Media Trip to Bicycle Trail along Sg. Klang in KL
September	KL/Selangor	ROLPOP5 Award Presentation Ceremony
September	TBCc	Celebration of World Rivers Day 2020