



QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (JANUARY TO MARCH 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 activities and finances for the period January–March 2020. In line with the Movement Control Order, made by the Government of Malaysia to prevent and control COVID-19, the GEC office is closed from 14 March 2020 until 14 April 2020 and staff are working from home.

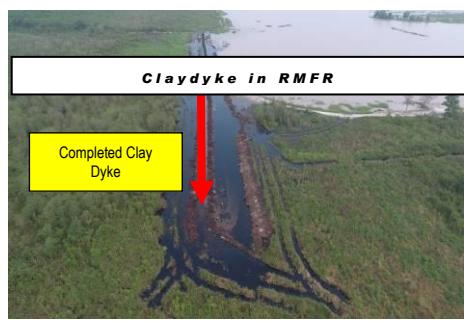
Progress Updates

River Care Programme

Under the Upper Kinta Basin (UKB) Management project, the project focused on community initiatives and monitoring as well as supporting community livelihood. KRT Taman Tasek Jaya launched their Community Recycling Corner on 15 February 2020 to increase awareness among the community on the importance of proper waste management as part of pollution reduction. The programme received good participation and support from local communities and agencies. The community also organized an outreach programme with kindergarten students on 13 March 2020 to promote best waste management practices among the kids. Meanwhile, KRT Klebang Selatan started their initiatives on community garden as part of community livelihood and KRT Kg Pengkalan Gate continues to adopt the river stretch by planting trees and monitoring the river.



Community Recycling Corner Launching and Mural Painting



For the first quarter, the W.A.T.E.R. project focused mainly on initiatives in Selangor River Basin. The biggest initiative was the construction of a 300m clay dyke in Raja Musa Forest Reserve (RMFR), which was completed in January 2020. The aims of the clay dyke are, a) water retention during the wet season for slow release especially during dry weather, and b) peatland fire prevention. The first GEC Lake Information Centre was set up in

January 2020 in partnership with LUAS near Off River Storage Pond (ORS) 1, Bestari Jaya. It is equipped with information materials and water quality monitoring tools and the first outreach activity was carried out on 5 January 2020 to promote ORS and HORAS as part of Selangor Water Supply.



Outreach activity at ORS Bestari Jaya

As for River of Life Public Outreach Programme Phase 5, activities were focused on engaging the public and the food operators under the best management practices during festivals – i.e. during the Thaipusam festival. Best management leaflets, poster, information sharing and engagement were carried out with support from DBKL and the Sri Maha Mariaman Temple Committee, together with Alam Flora and SWCorp. The GEC team also conducted three spot-based waste audit studies during the Thaipusam chariot procession to have a better idea on the waste characteristics. The waste audit was to determine the impact of the festival in terms of waste in order to target future action and BMP initiatives. Beside this, a Best Management Sharing Workshop was conducted for Industries and Automobile Workshop with the support of Department of Environment (DOE) WPKL. Prominent speakers from various industries as well as workshop players who are practicing the BMP

were invited to share and promote their ideas during the workshop. The ROLPOP5 team also conducted river water quality and the biomonitoring studies at twenty-five sites within the ROLPOP5 site in February as part of the project's river health study.



CLEAN BMP Sharing Session
with DOE WPKL



Thaipusam BMP Materials and
Waste Audit Study

Forest and Coastal Programme

In the implementation of community-based conservation and rehabilitation projects in the Selangor, Perak and Johor, various meetings, activities and events/programs were held to strengthen understanding, capacity and awareness for government agencies, stakeholders, private sectors, local communities and school students.



Press conference for the Save Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (left and centre). World Wetlands Day Celebration 2020 (right)

The following activities were successfully implemented before the MCO ruling: -

- GEC worked actively to save the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve, against the plan by the Selangor Government to de-gazettement of 931 hectares of the Forest Reserve for a mixed development project. GEC together with six other environmental and social NGOs [Centre of Orang Asli Concerns (COAC), Grass Malaysia, Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA), Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM), and Treat Every Environment Special (TrEES)] formed the “Coalition for the Protection of Selangor’s Forests” to object to the proposal. The coalition has collected 43,502 objections from the public and local residents of Kuala Langat district in just 20 days and presented to the State government (MB office, EXCO office and SSFD office) on 4 March 2020.
- Under the community-based mangrove conservation project in Manjung, a workshop titled “Mangrove Rehabilitation Programme at Sungai Limau” was conducted on 1 February 2020 aimed to nurture Sungai Limau community awareness and enthusiasm in volunteerism to support the rehabilitation of degraded area in Sungai Limau Mangrove. In addition, a total of 500 mangrove trees have been planted in degraded area of Sungai Limau
- In the southern region, the community group under the Aramco-funded project was officially registered as “Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat (PSHBPTS) under The Registry of Societies Johor States on 11 March 2020. The development of ecotourism

promotional materials such as SHBPTS brochure, JMR module, and tour packages are in progress.

- The World Wetlands Day Celebration 2020 (WWD 2020) was successfully conducted on 22 February 2020 at Raja Musa Forest Reserve and 1,200 trees were planted by 265 participants.
- GEC helped to facilitate a visit by the British High Commissioner and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources to Raja Musa Forest Reserve on 20 February 2020.



Peatland Programme

The rehabilitation and management of the Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape progressed well – through support from Bunge Loders Croklaan (BLC) and Bursa Bull Charge (BBC). The PP team installed an additional 2-in-1 solar power and water supply system for Orang Asli (OA) in Kg Melogo.. The tubewell system supports electricity, lighting and water pump and supply system, benefitting 1 indigenous extended family group with 10 persons. The existing OA community-based fire patrolling team has been carrying out regular monitoring of the fire prone and rewetted peatland area near to Pekan (Extension) Forest Reserve. A training programme on fire prevention and control was conducted in March, which benefitted 26 OA participants from 3 villages, i.e. Kg Tanjung Kelapa, RPS Runchang and Kg Gong. These initiatives have been extended to Kg. Simpai, Kg Sawah Batu and Kg Padang under a project being funded by UNDP OA Micro Grant Facility. Communication with local heads (Tok Batin) and local representatives started in January and site visits were made in March.

GEC is also represented in Smallholder sub-group for the RSPO Peatland Working Group (PLWG), working on simplifying the RSPO BMP Peat Manuals for the smallholders operating small-scale oil palm estates. GEC is also contributing to the review and update of the MSPO Standard which is still underway by the MSPO Review Technical Committee and the next public review is anticipated in the second quarter of 2020. Under the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA), GEC has been compiling available knowledge materials based on previous APFP-SEAppeat projects. Besides, GEC has been providing technical support to IUCN Mekong Peat Project (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) of which GEC is producing training modules on peatland assessment and mapping. In addition, GEC is supporting the Government of Malaysia (GoM) in preparing for implementation of the GEF-IFAD USD 9.5 million Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPEM) project – i.e. prepare Project Implementation Manual and Annual Work Plan and Budget, while awaiting official signing of Financing Agreement between the GoM and IFAD. With the change of cabinet, it is anticipated that the project will start in last quarter of 2020.

GEC has signed project contracts with Yayasan Gambut (the GEC Indonesia programme) for some work under IFAD-funded TAKE-SMPEM and APMS Review that involve works in Indonesia.



Visit to Kg Padang in March 2020



Tubewell drilling for the 2-in-1 solar system in Kg Melogo

