

QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 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 July – September 2020.

Progress Updates

River Care Programme

RCP organized a two-day training for the local communities was conducted on 12 and 13 September 2020 at KEM ABC Janda Baik; attended by 25 community representatives from 13 community groups within the Klang River basin. A Guidebook for the Community-based Biodiversity Inventory based on GEC's RIVER Ranger 2.0 Field Guide experience was developed and used for this hands-on training session. Klang River Basin BioBlitz 2020 event was carried out concurrently at five (5) sites on 20 September 2020. The sites were Taman Warisan, Taman Melawati, AU2 Taman Keramat, Stretch of Klang River - Midvalley and Taman Tugu Project – Nursery where 60 communities participated in the event. The World River's Day 2020 celebration was organized with DID Malaysia on 27 September 2020. It was officiated by Dato Ir. Mohd Azmi Ismail, Deputy Director-General 1 (Business Sector) and focused on alien invasive species (AIS) in Malaysian Rivers.



Presentation



river monitoring – hands-on practice



benthic macroinvertebrates found at the stream



Under the ROLPOP5, the River Community Education Centre (RCEC) Sg Keroh was launched on 8 August 2020, to act as a platform for peer-to-peer learning with other like-minded individuals, associations or organizations from the Sungai Keroh river basin as well other basins who are keen to replicate the success stories of the river care initiative. Besides that, a peer-to-peer sharing among the schools was organized on 12 August 2020, participated by 39 schools and institutions to share the initiatives undertaken by the schools via the project.



Under W.A.T.E.R. project, the constructed wetland cells were revamped to suit heavier flow as well as bad weather. The Block 3 Desa Mentari community started chili farming as part of food security for post-Covid 19 period. Similarly, Block 1 Desa Mentari started aquaponics to support their food source initiative. Yayasan Hasanah's supported project in Upper Kinta BASIN (UKB) has finalized UKB Management Strategy (UKBMaS) which will act as living document. The project also conducted a workshop on financing framework for UKBMaS on 9 September 2020 in Impiana Hotel, Ipoh

attended by 35 participants from government agencies, private stakeholders and communities. A second Hasanah project to support community livelihood post Covid 19, managed to start construction of a trail to Gunung Korbu as well as initiate a urban farming production and processing centre in Ipoh. Through UNDP support, a bamboo nursery in Kg Tonggang Orang Asli village was set up. The Upper Kinta Biodiversity study was completed and the bio-engineering project was initiated and progressing well under GEF5 Kinta project. A two week scientific expedition was organized in Ulu Kinta in September, documenting wildlife, fish and flora including tiger and rare plant species.



Forest and Coastal Programme

All planned events, programs, and field surveys were carried out on a small-scale in line with the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO). On 26 July 2020, GEC was awarded as a Role Model for Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) (NGOs and Associations Category) by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) for its work on community based mangrove management over the last 15 years.



The following activities were successfully implemented:

- a) The Annual General Meeting for the 2020-2022 for SHBPTS and SHBKG was held on 13 August 2020 and 29 September 2020 respectively.
- b) About 15,000 mangrove trees were planted at Tanjung Surat by SHBPTS and Sungai Limau by local communities
- c) During the period July-September 2020, more than 5 government agencies have held visits to the SHBPTS Center and followed the activities provided by them (such as, FDPM, KEJORA, RTM, Ehsan Johor, MP Pengerang, Tourism Johor, Ministry of Rural Development etc.)
- d) Planting of 10 ha with 6,000 trees were carried out at RMFR in collaboration with UNDP, Innisfree & UPS Foundation.
- e) Conducted maintenance activities in 10 ha of planted sites in FC82 and FC 99, RMFR (such as weeding, lane cleaning and replanting with 1,000 trees)
- f) Conducted one site visit with the PROPSER management team on 26 August to FC 25 and FC 38, BBEFR.
- g) Wildlife monitoring at FC 3, 24 and 25 to identify the existence of wildlife species of conservation priority and to form the basis for identification of priority conservation areas in BBEFR. Currently, five cameras were installed at FC 24 and 25. These have captured pictures of sun bear, wild boar, mongoose, squirrel and the others.
- h) Patrolling and monitoring activities were conducted by SHGKLU & SHGSU at KLNFR & RMFR including daily updating FDRS boards, water table monitoring and patrolling at the adjacent forest reserve to prevent forest fire, illegal hunting and encroachment.
- i) A new community group from Felda Sungai Tenggi for the rehabilitation and protection of Bukit Belata (extension) Forest Reserve is being developed.



Site visit by PROSPER management team to Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve on 26 Aug 20.



Establishment of a new community from Felda Sungai Tengi for the rehabilitation and protection of Bukit Belata (extension) Forest Reserve

Peatland Programme

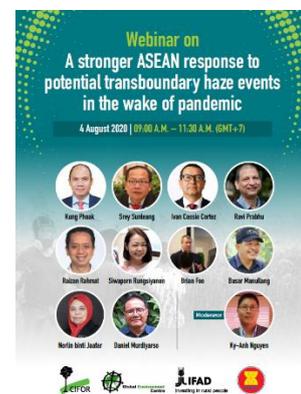
Rehabilitation effort in the Southeast Pahang Peat Landscape has been extended to the south of Pekan (Extension) Forest Reserve, 3 more canal blocks were constructed in Kampung Biak with involvement of local community. 136ha of degraded area has been rewetted after a month of the canal block construction. A patroller has been appointed in Kampung Simpai to monitor the degraded area in Nenasi (Extension) FR. Additional three (3) Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) signboards were installed in August 2020, making a total 5 signboards installed to raise awareness of the local community on fire risk. Training on sustainable peatland management with focus on water management and the FDRS was held in Kampung Simpai with participation of 22 villagers including women. 405 individuals of insects from 19 different species were collected from arthropod survey in rehabilitated peatland area in Kg Tanjung Kelapa cluster. The result



shows how diverse a peatland area can be. With positive implementation progress of the activities in Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape, GEC has initiated a discussion with Pahang State Forestry Department (JPNP) to work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 5 years. A draft MoU was shared with and feedback was provided by JPNP and the MoU to be targeted for signing before end of this year.

On regional level activity, GEC was occupied with the review of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS). The APMS is a strategy to guide action and support the sustainable management of peatlands in the region for the period of 2006-2020. The review of this APMS implementation is part of preparation for development of next APMS (2021-2030).

The MAHFSA Programme where GEC is an implementing partner, organised a webinar entitled “**A Stronger ASEAN Response to Potential Transboundary Haze Events in the Wake of Pandemic**” was held on 4 August. This webinar aimed to engage relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders to increase awareness and preparedness on transboundary haze events within and across sectors and disciplines through online platform.



In September 2020, the MAHFSA Programme with collaboration of SUPA organised a series of training sessions to “Strengthen the Capacities of the Northern ASEAN Member States on Peatland Assessment and Mapping, Land and Forest Fire Detection and Monitoring” with involvement of 54 participants from 6 ASEAN Member States.

Outreach & Partnership

Under the ROLPOP5, a media trip “Cycle & Learn through Sg. Klang Discovery” was organized on 6 Sept 20 where 18 representatives from 8 media companies to visit to the cycling track along the Sg. Klang in the city centre. For the UNDP Orang Asli project, a peer visit by Orang Asli community was successfully conducted to Taman Negara Johor Endau Rompin and Kampung Peta from 18 – 20 September 2020. This visit which aimed as capacity building strategy and eco-tourism training purposes was participated by 35 participants from three



indigenous communities from Ulu Kinta, Perak (Suku Temiar), Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape, (Suku Jakun) and Kuala Langat, Selangor (Suku Temuan).



On corporate fundraising, GEC was selected to be one of the HSBC Charity Partner under its credit card donation programme which will commenced starting Dec 2020 as well as being appointed by Yayasan Petronas to lead a community-based mangrove planting initiative.

Visibility

There were 92 media coverages on GEC between 1 July 2020 and 30 Sept 2020 (RCP: 73, FCP: 11, PP: 6 Others: 2). These coverages had a total PR value of MYR3,676,888 with cumulative potential reach of 2,590,020.

River of Life project success already visible

No more murky waters in KL

ROLOPOP5 (River of Life Project) has successfully completed its first phase of water treatment and distribution. The project, which aims to provide clean water to the city of Kuala Lumpur, has been a major success for the organization. The project has been implemented in several phases, with the first phase focusing on water treatment and distribution. The project has been a major success for the organization, and it is expected that the second phase will be completed by the end of the year.

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Broga Hill facing soil degradation

Influx of visitors threatens biodiversity, authorities to step in to preserve attraction

Broga Hill, a popular tourist destination in Kuala Lumpur, is facing a significant threat to its biodiversity due to soil degradation. The influx of visitors has led to the erosion of the soil, which is causing the death of many plants and animals. Authorities are now stepping in to preserve the attraction and prevent further damage to the environment.

Taman Melawati residents transform Sg. Klang riverbank

Influx of visitors threatens biodiversity, authorities to step in to preserve attraction

Residents of Taman Melawati have transformed the Sg. Klang riverbank into a beautiful green space. The project, which was initiated by the residents, has resulted in the planting of many trees and plants, creating a lush and vibrant environment. The project has been a major success for the community, and it is expected that it will continue to grow and thrive in the future.

Malaysia walks away from law to tackle firms over forest fires

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Malaysia has decided to walk away from a law that would have allowed the government to sue companies responsible for forest fires. The decision was made after a series of negotiations with the affected companies, which resulted in a settlement. The settlement allows the companies to continue operating, but it also includes provisions for the restoration of the affected areas.

Penyahwartaan Hutan Simpan Kekal Kuala Langat Utara

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The Kuala Langat Forest Reserve is being handed over to the state government. The reserve, which has been managed by the federal government for many years, is now being transferred to the state government. The transfer is part of a larger initiative to decentralize the management of natural resources in Malaysia.

Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events/activities in October – December 2020:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
21 Oct 2020	Virtual IGEM2020	Climate Action Forum: Peatland & Climate Change Mitigation: Fire Prevention & Monitoring
22 Oct 2020	Virtual IGEM2020	Climate Action Forum: River Stewardship: Why Take Action Now?
End Oct/early Nov 2020	TBC	Community product development training by Sidratul Enterprise (4 days 3 nights)
1-5 Nov 2020	Sg. Limau	TNB's mangrove planting programme
9 Nov 2020	Virtual	ROLPOP5 Award Presentation Ceremony
November 2020	Bukit Belata	PROSPER tree-planting activity involving SHGSU at FC 24 and 25, BBEFR.
November 2020	Bukit Belata	Formation of a Felda Community Group at Sungai Tenggi Selatan to implement community-based forest rehabilitation activities at BBEFR.
November 2020	Ipoh	Strategy on biodiversity finalization workshop
November 2020	Zoom	Training on biodiversity and bio-engineering
November 2020	Zoom	Education and awareness camp
4 - 6 Dec 2020	Manjung & Bukit Belata	Sime Darby GCEO visit to Manjung and Kuala Gula