

QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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 fourth quarter of 2020 (October – December). In this quarter, all events/programmes and field surveys were carried out on a small scale in line with the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) set by the Government of Malaysia on 14 October 2020 as a preventive and control measure COVID-19.

Progress Updates

River Care Programme

During the CMCO phase, RCP was more focused on empowering the communities as well as follow-through community site-based initiatives under the GEF5 project. The sites were Taman Warisan, Taman Melawati, AU2 Taman Keramat, Stretch of Klang River and PA Seri Terengganu – Sg Gombak. Communities are empowered through training and workshops on mainstreaming biodiversity into riverine management. As an outcome, the communities actively monitored and shared the biodiversity observed at the river within their vicinity. In addition, a training for agencies on



mainstreaming biodiversity into river management was carried out on 11 November 2020 involving officers from agencies from both Klang and Kinta River Basin. Under the ROLPOP5, communities are empowered through Friends of Klang River Basin (FoKRB) where networking opportunities and capacity building platform were provided to support their environmental care. Currently the ROLPOP5 communities are actively carrying out their community garden initiatives, recycling and localised initiatives within their available resources.

Under W.A.T.E.R. project, a webinar on community gardening was carried out which managed to attract more than 300 participants as well as outreached to more than 150 participants in Facebook Live. Three (3) new edible community gardens were established in Sg Selangor river basin to enhance food security of communities. In Ulu Kinta Basin, a bio-engineering pilot demonstration site was successfully established in Section 45.9 FT185 of Simpang Pulai Highway with key support from Orang Asli from Kg Pawong village and JKR. With the support of Yayasan Hasanah's Special Grant on Post Covid alternative livelihood, KRT Klebang Selatan community group successfully brought their urban garden to the next level by producing tapioca chips, and generated revenue from the sales.



Forest and Coastal Programme

The following activities were successfully implemented during this period:

- GEC successfully established a community group namely 'Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut' (PSHBPPL) which will be registered under ROS in the middle of 2021. PSHBPPL is in the process of developing their own mangrove nursery at Manjung (state land) after obtained approval from Manjung District Office.
- About 7,000 mangrove trees were successfully planted in 5 ha of mangrove area in Tanjung Surat by 'Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat' (PSHBPTS) as small scale mangrove planting activities
- A total of 10,600 mangrove trees were successfully planted, monitored and preserved with support of TNB in an area of 3 hectares in Sungai Limau Manjung, Perak with a 77% survival rate.
- Planting of 14 ha with 8,400 trees were carried out at RMFR in collaboration with UNDP, BBC, Innisfree and UPS Foundation. The Sahabat Gambut Orang Asli Temuan (SGAT) community nursery at Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve was upgraded with signage and refurbished with water sprinklers, piping, netting and restructuring of sapling arrangements for better maintenance.
- For the HSBC-funded project, GEC conducted three 'Interactive Online Learning Sessions' via zoom for Peatland Forest Ranger students in December 2020.
- In Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve, field survey and wildlife monitoring were conducted to identify the existence of wildlife species of conservation priority to form the basis for identification of priority conservation areas in BBEFR. Among the recorded species were Sun Bear (V), Long-Tailed Macaque (V), Short-tailed Mongoose (NT), Panther/Leopard (CE), Tapir (EN), Great Argus (V), Crested fireback (NT) and others.
- Patrolling and monitoring activities were continuously conducted by SHGKLU and SHGSU at KLNFR and RMFR, including daily updating of FDRS boards and water table monitoring at the adjacent forest reserves to prevent forest fires, illegal hunting and encroachment.
- In the implementation of the SMPEM project in the state of Selangor, a 'Community Involvement Strategy' was developed in bilingual (Malay and English) in November 2020.



10,600 mangrove trees planted in Sungai Limau, Manjung Perak.



Small-scale mangrove planting activity by PSHBPTS as at Pulau Tanjung Surat, Johor

Peatland Programme

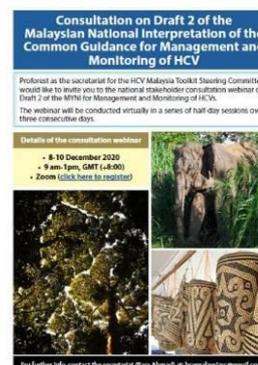
The rehabilitation work in the Pekan Forest Reserve continued with rewetting and community-based patrolling. 1500ha in Bukit Leelau Mini Landscape in Pekan (Extension) Forest Reserve have been rewetted and no fire incidences have been recorded since the programs started in October 2019. GEC also continue to support the Jakun community here with range of alternative livelihood activities such as catfish farming and community nursery. The video clips on canal blocking, stingless bee farming and community nursery can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGXoyQICOOoZsGUCXK0ZkjCTRoe0tapxJ> .

With extensive project development and expansion of activities within the Southeast Pahang peat landscape, a GEC site office was temporarily established in Chini, Pekan. There are



proposals/projects in pipeline and anticipate implementation in early 2021 including a recovery project with Yayasan Pahang to rehabilitate degraded peatland through multi-stakeholder and integrated approach. Moreover, there has been communication with international organisations for possible financial support a long term rehabilitation and carbon project in Pahang. An MOU and its Implementation Plan has been prepared and agreed upon between Pahang State Forestry Department and GEC and it is anticipated to be signed in Q1 of 2021 (upon lifting of MCO).

At the regional level, collaboration is on progress with IUCN in organizing series of virtual training on peatland assessment in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. The APMS Review has been finalised with inputs from ASEAN Member State and ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands with guidance from ASEAN Secretariat and GIZ (implementer of the EU funded SUPA Program Component 1). A Special Briefing on final report of the Final Review to COM AATHP was conducted on 28 December and the review was officially adopted by ASEAN in January 2021. In addition, review and update of the ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management is in final progress. GEC has been in close collaboration with Yayasan Gambut (sister organization established in Indonesia) to support on the ground activities implementation in Giam Siak Kecil landscape, Riau Island and work with local community in Sepahat to support agroforestry and paludiculture, facilitate improvement of sago market as well as support the local community in facilitating Village Forest (Hutan Desa).



Outreach & Partnership

In conjunction with Virtual IGEM2020, GEC co-organised 2 webinars with the Malaysian Climate Change Group (MCCG). The first webinar “*Peatland & Climate Change Mitigation: Fire Prevention & Monitoring*” was held on 2 October 2020 while the webinar on “*River Stewardship : Why take action now?*” was held on 22 October 2020.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epFY9UC2WFE>)



To culminate the ROLPOP5 programme which ended in December 2020, GEC organised a virtual ROLPOP5 Award presentation ceremony on 9 November 2020. The ceremony which was live-stream via Zoom and FB, saw more than 30 river champions recognized and rewarded with both monetary prizes and trophies.

The Yayasan Petronas Walk4Trees tree-planting programme kicked-off with site visits and engagement meetings/discussions with the government agencies (KeTSA, JPSM and state forestry departments in Perak, Penang, Kedah, Selangor, Johor, Melaka and Terengganu) and local partners (community-based organizations) from November to December 2020 to secure the collaborations and involvement for the project implementation.

GEC received a visit from the new Ambassador of Germany, *Dr. Peter Blomeyer* to GEC office on 20 November 2020 who is keen to learn about GEC work in peatland forest management and how the German Government can support it.



Visibility

There were 40 media coverages on GEC between 1 October 2020 and 30 December 2020 (RCP: 22, FCP: 14, PP: 4). These coverages had a total PR value of MYR 1,707,163 with cumulative potential reach of 3,664,133.



Launching Of Pokok Ilmu In Conjunction With World Rivers Day 2020 Celebration

By Newstream Editor - October 12, 2020



Kuala Lumpur, 12 October 2020 – About 150 urbanites residing in the Klang Valley were treated to half-day river educational activities happened concurrently at 150 m stretch of Klang River next to the AU2 Urban Community Garden. The highlight of the events saw Dato Ir. Mohd Azmi Ismail, Deputy Director-General 1 (Business Sector), DID Malaysia launching the Pokok Ilmu under the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation into River Management Project implemented by Department of Irrigation and Drainage (IDD), supported by UNDP and funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Global Environment Centre (GEC) as the implementing partner.

CRSM in state of readiness to provide disaster relief

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA's Crisis Relief Squad (CRSM) is all ready to assist authorities with flood relief work, with the organisation having entered a "response-ready state".

In a statement yesterday, Datuk Naitalie Lim Chung Ly, chair of CRSM, said this includes setting up a crisis relief committee to efficiently and professionally provide assistance to flooded areas at short notice.

"CRSM is now listed by the National Disaster Management Agency (Ndma) as a "Friend of Ndma"."

With the latest information from Ndma, CRSM volunteers across the nation are well-equipped for numerous disaster scenarios.

"Taking into account the pandemic situation, all preparatory work must observe the standard operating procedure (SOP) stipulated by the government."

"Our volunteers have attended two online training sessions recently: one organised by the Global Environment Centre (GEC) in June, and the other by Ndma on Dec 12," said Lim.

According to CRSM, Ndama had reminded all NGOs to approach the Disaster Operation Control Centre before providing aid to victims so all efforts could be better coordinated.

"Ndama added that NGOs play an important role in providing humanitarian aid in a disaster," said Lim.

On its part, GEC had recommended that those living in flood-prone zones to have at hand a 72-hour survival kit (72H kit), which contains water, dry rations, canned food, and survival gear.

"The organisation also urged flood victims to remain on high alert and obey the instructions by the relevant authorities during evacuations," said Lim.

"CRSM welcomes young people to join our ranks. Anyone interested can contact our secretariat at 03-22539379, or visit our Facebook page for more information."

Champions of Sg Klang

METRO NEWS
Wednesday, 18 Nov 2020
By JADE CHAN



malaysiakini
News and Views that matter

LETTER | CPSF calls on S'gor govt to stop development affecting forests

Coalition for the Protection of Selangor Forests
Published 21 Nov 2020, 3:04 pm

LETTER | The Coalition for the Protection of Selangor Forests (CPSF) vehemently opposes the proposed construction of a road connecting Setia Alam to Section 10/Bandar NusaRhu (the proposed road), the Duke 2A Highway, LRT 2 Circle Line, and MRT Extension.

The Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) in its Draft Local Plan 2035 has proposed a road connecting Setia Alam to Section 10 (Bandar NusaRhu).

Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events/activities in January - March 2021:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
13 Jan – 24 Mar 2021	Online	Implementation of online Peatland Forest Ranger (PFR) activities: poster competition, essay writing competition, implementation of school-level activities and presentation contest
31 January 2021	Virtual	Training on seed collection, wildings and nursery upgrading for Orang Asli in Upper Kinta Basin, Perak
4 th week of every month	Virtual	Virtual RCP Theme based Talk
February 2021	Pahang	MOU Signing ceremony with Pahang State Government ("Program kerjasama pemeliharaan dan pemuliharaan Hutan Paya Gambut di Negeri Pahang Darul Makmur")
January – February 2021	Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve	10 ha tree planting activity at FC 25
January to Mar 2021	10 states and 1 FT in Malaysia	Community nursery setup under the Yayasan Petronas Walk4Trees programme
17 February 2021	Virtual	Workshop on draft final Upper Kinta Basin Financing Framework
March 2021	Kuala Gula & Pasir Panjang Laut, Perak	Sime Darby Group CEO visit
February – July 2021	Sungai Limau and Kampung Sungai Tiram, Perak	Planting of 5,000 trees under TNB project (Phase 2)