COMMUNITY-BASED MANGROVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME IN JOHOR

FOREST TYPE: Mangrove Forest. A type of vegetation that lives in coastal areas, estuaries, around islands where influenced by the tides. It is characterized by periodic inundation by the sea, soft sediment conditions (muddy). Mangrove grows in soil that is more or less permanently waterlogged, and in water whose salinity fluctuates. It is a wetland area.

AREA: Approximately 1,500 hectares (mangroves)

LOCATION: Pulau Tanjung Surat, Johor

SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE: One of the islands are inhabited by local people and is surrounded by rivers and mangrove forest coverage with a variety of species. The riverine mangroves of Tanjung Surat and Sg. Belungkor area have great potential as a tourist attraction. They are amongst the best mangroves in Johor River in terms of density, species diversity and ecosystem health. The Tanjung Surat Island is also very attractive to tourists with great historical stories. The area is a complex ecosystem that provides food and habitat for unique plant and animal species.

THREATS: In Tanjung Surat there is a mangrove forest area that has been cleared for development purposes and is now abandoned due to failures. It needs to be restored and conserved for their beauty, play a role in maintaining ecological balance, their role in providing resources to local communities. Climate change and sea level rise poses a major threat to mangrove ecosystems through sediment erosion, inundation stress and increased salinity at coastline zones (intertidal zone).

THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME: Get involved in the rehabilitation programme to support the restoration of 140 hectares through establishment of community-based nursery, planting at severely degraded areas, participate in capacity building and environmental education programme to raise awareness and help rural communities with the necessary skills to take responsibilities for their actions to protect themselves from increased coastal problem, erosion, flooding, sea level raise and others. Support from companies/volunteers will help implementation towards achieving of the following indicators:

i. Protection of coastal areas - Planting mangroves can reduce coastal erosion and can protect coastal communities against coastal flooding, high winds and waves, tsunami and sea level raise.
ii. Restoration of a mangrove ecosystem - The aim is to support livelihood without destroying the mangrove forest. This means sustainably harvesting mangrove marine products such as crabs, fish, shells and others.
iii. Conservation of existing mangrove forests - This provides breeding grounds for fisheries and preserving biodiversity. This can be achieved through the creation of protected sites via Permanent Reserved Forest.
iv. Carbon absorption (sink) - Mangroves absorb more carbon than the other land-based forests.