

QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (JANUARY TO MARCH 2021)

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 its activities and finances for the first quarter of 2021 (January – March). In this quarter, all events/programmes and field surveys were carried out on a small scale in line with the Movement Control Order (MCO) set by the Government of Malaysia in January 2021 as a preventive and control measure COVID-19. GEC secured an approval as an essential organisation from MITI in January 2021, which aided it in maintaining the core operation and activities in other states. Most staff continue to work from home.

Progress Updates

River Care Programme

During first 3 months of 2021, significant activities were carried out with support of communities and existing projects. RCP organized a webinar titled “Are we valuing water?” on 22 March 2021 in conjunction with World Water Day 2021 in partnership with Air Selangor, LUAS and WATER Project. The webinar attracts 220 people. Seven (7) of GEC’s community partners were nominated for

*Anugerah Khas Sumber Air
Negara 2021* by DID
Selangor, DID KL and DID
Perak.



Under the GEF5 Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Riverine management - Klang River Basin component, awareness and engagement was carried out through two webinars. The first was on the “Community’s Role On Biodiversity” by Dr. K. Kalithasan and second webinar was on the “Value of Biodiversity for River Conservation in Malaysia:

Importance to Local Communities and the Environment” in partnerships with Mr. Quek Yew Aun from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) and was attended by 80 and 50 participants respectively. Beginning 2021, the project has expanded its pilot sites to cover both the midstream and downstream of Sg Klang – i.e. Sg Penchala and Sg Klang downstream@ Pengkalan Kampar. Further to the site expansion, the communities engaged via the ROLPOP in phases from 2012 to 2020 are continuously supported through the Friends of Klang River Basin (FoKRB) network. FoKRB is a network formed as part of the ROLPOP5 exit strategy and then supported to be empowered via the GEF5 project, now has more than 35 community groups, with 50 registered members actively implementing various initiatives such as community garden, recycling and localised initiatives within their available resources.



Under the W.A.T.E.R. project, a new community garden complete with rainwater harvesting system was established in Section 19, PJ. This is the 13th active river community engaged and established under W.A.T.E.R. project. For Perak, a successful auditing & maintenance visit to the new eco-trail (12.16km alternative trail to Mount Korbu developed by GEC

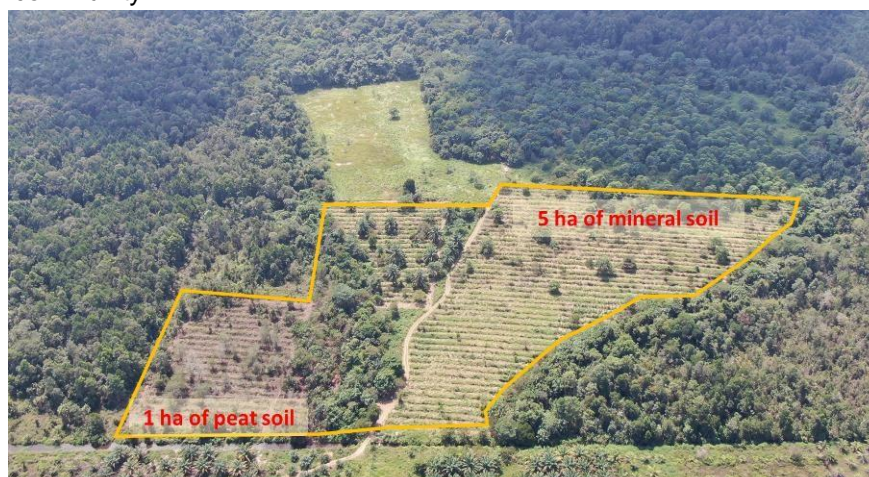
and the local Orang Asli Community) was carried out by Perak State Forestry, OA and GEC officers. Marketing platform training for peri-urban and OA communities within the project area was conducted on 21 March 2021 to train them how to market their products as well as services through digital platforms such as Facebook, Lazada, Shopee etc. A community product (Tapioca chips) were sold through the Shell Petrol outlet in Bercham, Perak. Both initiatives were funded by the ongoing Yayasan Hasanah Project.



Forest and Coastal Programme

The following activities were successfully implemented during this period:

- 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) through 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 at RMFR and 6 ha with 3,600 trees at BB(E)FR in collaboration with UNDP, BBC, Innisfree, UPS Foundation and Prosper Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd. About 800 trees were planted at 4 ha of FC 82, RMFR during the maintenance phase of the planted sites from Feb-Mar 2021 in collaboration with HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad.
- The Sahabat Gambut Orang Asli Temuan (SGAT) handicraft centre at Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve was installed with 3 signboards about the handicrafts they produced.
- For the HSBC-funded project, GEC conducted four distant-learning programmes including: 'Interactive Online Learning Sessions' via zoom, poster competition on the theme "Peatland Biodiversity and Climate Change", essay competition on the theme "Voice of Future - Peatlands and Humans" and a video competition for Peatland Forest Ranger students from December 2020 - March 2021.
- In BBEFR, field survey and wildlife monitoring were conducted to identify the presence of more than 20 rare wildlife species to form the basis for identification of priority conservation areas in the area. Among the recorded species of conservation priority 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. Identified and appointed two local community members of Felda Sg Tenggi Selatan as the patrollers for BBEFR (appointment in progress).
- Conducted a series of meetings and discussions with the community of Felda Sg Tenggi Selatan to form a community-based organization and implement planned activities with the community.



A total of 3,600 trees were planted on 6 ha of degraded sites in BB(E)FR

Peatland Programme

GEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pahang State Government through its State Forestry Department on 23 February 2021 in Kuantan. The MOU will facilitate actions and collaboration to conserve and rehabilitate peat swamp forest in Pahang for the next 5 years (2021-2025) (<https://fikrahpahang.com.my/2021/03/01/jpnp-kerjasama-gec-memulihara-paya-gambut-pahang-tenggara/>).



Site assessment and community engagement with 6 Orang Asli villages for rehabilitation activities have been undertaken during this reporting period. The engagement has been expanded to the northeast portion of the Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL) and received positive feedback from the community.

GEC continues to be involved in Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Working Group by participating meetings and workshops in finalising revised drafts of the standard documents. Meetings were held from 22 to 25 March (for smallholder and organised smallholder) and 29 March to 1 April (for estate and plantation). The revised draft standard documents are anticipated to be ready for public comment in May 2021.

GEC participated in several virtual sharing sessions including the 2nd Workshop on Techno-Socio Innovation On Sustainable Peatland Management hosted by Networked ASEAN Peat Swamp Forest Community (NAPC). GEC was also invited to share experience in ASEAN peatland management during Networked ASEAN Peatland Forest Communities (NAPC) Workshop on 20 January 2021 and its subsequent workshops on 4 March and 23 March. Apart from that, GEC presented a paper on nature-based solution in peatland management in Pahang and a poster on multi-stakeholder partnerships in Malaysia; and a poster by our sister organisation – Yayasan Gambut on local wisdom in peatland management for an international virtual conference of RRR – on renewable resources from wet and rewetted peatlands organised in Germany from 9-11 March 2021.



The updated publication for “ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management” has been finalised and pending approval from ASEAN Secretariat for publication. In conjunction with APMS Final Review, the main report and an executive summary have been prepared for production. Through Yayasan Gambut, publication of “Pertanian Lahan Gambut Tanpa Bakar oleh Masyarakat” (Zero-burning peatland agriculture by communities) has been prepared. This publication has described zero burning practices in Giam Siak Kecil Landscape in Riau Province, Indonesia.

At the regional level, collaboration with IUCN is progressing of which a series of virtual training sessions on peatland assessment and mapping with 3 participating countries in Mekong sub-region (i.e. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar). The virtual training sessions or discussions have been successfully executed despite the pandemic situation and political challenges in Myanmar.

A virtual regional workshop was co-organised with ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and CIFOR on 16 March, under the framework of MAHFSA Programme. The workshop involved 83 participants from relevant government agencies in ASEAN, research institutes, international and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), as well as the ASEAN Peatland Partners. The workshop used interactive tools namely Miro Board and Slido to collect inputs from the participants and received active engagement.



Outreach & Partnership



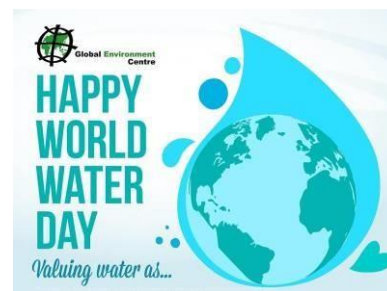
Under the Yayasan Petronas Walk4Trees tree-planting programme, 15 community nurseries have been set up with more than 40,000 seedlings in 12 sites in 9 states and 7000 trees have been planted between January – March 2021.

As part of welfare support during COVID-19 pandemic, Bursa

Malaysia sponsored school supplies (including stationeries and environmental education materials) to 2 schools and 121 Orang Asli school children in Kg. OA Bukit Cheeding and Kg. OA Busut Baru, Kuala Langat on 8 March 2021.



For awareness and visibility, GEC shared the UNDP OA-funded project experience during a UNDP workshop “Getting to Know OA MGF: 8 Projects, 8 Thematic Areas” on 10 Feb 2021. GEC also posted messages on social media in conjunction with International Day of Forests (21 March) and World Water Day (22 March).



Visibility

There were 56 media coverages on GEC between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021 (RCP: 12, FCP: 23, PP: 2, General: 19). These coverages had a total PR value of MYR1,171,903 with cumulative potential reach of 3,944,991.

Residents meet DBKL's 80% target in petition against new road

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The residents of Continental Heights Condominium and Taman Gembira submitting their latest petition to DBKL today. (Foto Hong Foo Pk)

PETALING JAYA: Residents who were told by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to return with a more robust petition to stop the construction of a road have done just that, reaching the benchmark set by DBKL in just six days.

malaysiakini news and views that matter



NEWS 51

Environmentalists fume over S'gor MB's remarks on degazetting forest

Martin Vengadesan & Faisal Asyraf Published 28 Jan 2021, 8:02 am • Modified 28 Jan 2021, 9:35 am

Several environmentalist groups have expressed anger and dismay over Selangor Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari's determination in considering the plan to degazette 931 hectares of peat forest in the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve to make way for development.

Yayasan Petronas komited tanam 50,000 pokok menjelang 2021



KUCHING: Yayasan Petronas mengumumkan komitmen untuk menanam 50,000 pokok menjelang 2021 sebagai sebahagian daripada inisiatif Sustainable Living, pemuliharaan alam sekitar.

Prisak yang melibatkan penanaman pokok dan pengambilan peredaran pokok di 14 lokasi dan melibatkan 11 agensi itu dijangka akan menghasilkan penanaman sebanyak 200 tan.

Di antara terasak ialah Yayasan Petronas, Nelly Francis Shariyah berakad, Petronas dan agensi-agensinya dalam melibatkan dan bekerjasama dengan pihak-pihak berkepentingan dan masyarakat setempat.

Isi daripada terasak termasuk memuliharaan hutan hujan di Bukit Ceylan, Sabah, memulihkan biodiversiti laut di kawasan konservasi, dan memulihkan hutan hujan di kawasan konservasi dan kawasan pembangunan.

Yayasan Petronas akan bekerjasama dengan agensi-agensinya dalam memulihkan hutan hujan di kawasan konservasi dan kawasan pembangunan.

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Kedah and Penang should put aside squabble; prioritise the health of Sg Muda

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THE water source dispute between the Kedah and Penang state government should be handled in a more diplomatic way. Threatening one another will only exacerbate the dispute, and also negatively impact the commercial values and economic activities of the people as well social obligations. The proposed riverside water storage project will affect the natural flow of the Muda River and will disrupt the ecology of the river and degrade the water quality and quality downstream within the Penang State boundaries.

BECAUSE FORESTS MATTER - DEFENDING THE KUALA LANGAT NORTH FOREST RESERVE

Amanda Ng, Programme Officer, EMPOWER Malaysia | Nagarajan Rengasamy, Manager, Forest & Coastal Programme Global Environment Centre
10-Feb-21 10:00

The Daily Digest
Because Forests Matter - Defending the
00:00 / 37:02

Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events/activities in April - June 2021:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
10 April 2021	Ipoh, Perak	Launching of Processing and Selling Centre of Tapioca Chips, KRT Klebang Selatan
mid-April 2021	Kampung Simpai, Pahang	Training on BMP for nursery management, site preparation and maintenance
early-May 2021	Kampung Tanjung Kelapa, Pahang	UNDP tree planting mini event with kids and families of indigenous community from Kg Tanjung Kelapa
25 April 21	Parit 4, HSRM	2ha - Tree planting for Yayasan Petronas "Walk4Trees" programme by SHGSU community
April – May 2021	BBEFR	Nursery establishment at Felda Sg Tenggi Selatan - MA132 - PROSPER
April-May 2021	10 states and 1 FT in Malaysia	MA137 YP - Tree planting event conducted by partners / community under 30,000 trees planting for Petronas Walk4Trees programme.
15 May 2021	Tanjung Rambutan, Perak	Launching of Environmental Education Centre in OA Tonggang Village
21 May 2021	PLSK Sg Batu	Celebration of WWD 2021 with FOKRB
end-May 2021	Kampung Simpai, Pahang	UNDP tree planting mini event with indigenous community from Kg Simpai
May-June 2021	Kampung Simpai, Pahang	Walk4Trees tree planting with indigenous community at Kg Simpai
May-June 2021	Sg Klang Downstream & Sg Penchala	Clean up and establishment of the mainstreaming biodiversity project sites – both midstream and downstream of Sg Klang
June 2021	Virtual	Participate in International Peatland Congress (IPC) with 4 accepted abstracts
June 2021	Virtual	Training for Capacity Development Package under MAHFSAs
4 June 21	Virtual	Ecosystem Restoration