



KLNFR LOCATION

Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR) currently covers about 958 hectares. The KLNFR ecosystem has lowland forests and peat swamp forests. This ecosystem also supports biological diversity such as various species of 'Critically Endangered' and 'Endangered' (in the Malaysia Plant RedList) Dipterocarp trees including "Meranti Bunga" (*Shorea teysmanniana*), "Meranti Bakau" (*Shorea uliginosa*) and "Mersawa Paya" (*Anisoptera marginata*). This forest hosts many wildlife of conservation priority such as Malayan Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), Selangor Pygmy Flying Squirrel (*Petaurillus kinlochii*) and the rare Langat Red Fighting Fish (*Betta livida*). The forest is also of significant importance to the local Temuan communities (indigenous people) that has been their home for more than 150 years.

The KLNFR has the capacity to store up to 1,600 tonnes of carbon per hectare. The total carbon stock capacity of KLNFR is approximately 1,500,000 tonnes of carbon. An estimated 5.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions can be avoided if the KLNFR is maintained as a Permanent Reserved Forest.

IMPORTANCE OF KLNFR:

- Protects ecosystems and biodiversity including critically endangered species of fauna and flora;
- Protects people's right to a healthy local living environment, resulting in sustainable production systems;
- Preserves the cultural identity of forest-dependent populations (Orang Asli Temuan); and
- Maintains the free ecosystem services provided including biodiversity maintenance, rainfall generation, carbon sequestration and soil stabilisation.

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Printed in 2021.



**Global Environment
Centre**



**PERTUBUHAN
SAHABAT GAMBUT
ASLI TEMUAN (SGAT)**
PPM-016-10-27052021





INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN KUALA LANGAT

The Temuan people are one of the largest and the most widespread *Orang Asli* ethnic groups or tribes in Malaysia. The community is mainly indigenous to the states of Selangor, Pahang, Johor, Negeri Sembilan and Malacca with their largest population located at Kuala Langat, Selangor. These indigenous tribes are classified into groups of Proto-Malay. Their origin is believed to be the result of the mixed marriage of several indigenous tribes with migrants from Sumatra and Jawa. They speak in a dialect of Malay that originates from Jambi, Southern Sumatra.

Simplicity and asceticism is the way of life for the *Orang Asli* Temuan people. They prefer to live the basic life, near a forest and away from the cities. Their lifestyle that depends on natural resources for necessities, rituals, cultural and traditional knowledge develops a genuine connection and love for the forests. They also believe that *Muyang* (God) places them on Earth with a sacred duty to guard the rainforest; if failed to do so, the world will turn upside down, and humanity will perish. They are the forest-dwelling indigenous people who have been depending on KLNFR for food sources, medicines, water and others.

The *Orang Asli* Temuan have lived in the area for more than 134 years (at least since 1886). Therefore, to the local *Orang Asli* Temuan people at KLNFR, the forest is of significant importance as it holds pronounced cultural, livelihood and ancestral values to them. Currently, they are residing on the west side next to the forest in few different villages namely Kampung Orang Asli Busut Baru, Bukit Cheeding and Pulau Kempas.

ABOUT PERTUBUHAN SAHABAT GAMBUT ASLI TEMUAN (SGAT)

In 2016, a community group known as *Pertubuhan Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan* (SGAT) PPM-016-10-27052021 was established to promote local indigenous community participation in KLNFR conservation and rehabilitation programme and serve as a medium for smart partnerships among government agencies, corporations, private sectors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities in preserving and conserving the KLNFR. The members of the group comprise of different villagers from Bukit Cheeding, Pulau Kempas and Busut Baru.

Global Environment Centre trained and empowered the members of SGAT to safeguard the forest and assist in the conservation and protection as well as fire prevention of KLNFR and the surrounding landscape. They have been working with the Selangor Forestry Department and other organisations in carrying out rehabilitation and conservation activities of the area since 2015.

SGAT OBJECTIVES

- To nurture environmental stewardship and sustainability among the local indigenous Temuan people;
- To monitor and initiate conservation and rehabilitation activities related to KLNFR located adjacent to their villages;
- To support and collaborate with the government, corporate, private sectors and NGOs in preserving and conserving the KLNFR; and
- To support programmes and activities organised by Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, Selangor State Forestry Department, Local Authorities and Global Environment Centre.

SGAT ACTIVITIES

- Indigenous community participation in peatland water management and forest rehabilitation work in KLNFR
- Patrolling and monitoring of the KLNFR to prevent encroachment and peatland forest fires;
- Support the implementation of Forest Fire Management Plan for the KLNFR; and
- Capacity building for Junior Peatland Forest Ranger (JPFR) to improve personal skills in term of communication, learning and awareness creation (focusing *Orang Asli* pupils in SK(A) Busut Baru & SK(A) Bukit Cheeding).



SGAT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of a patrol team, which consists of 2-motorbike riders to patrol around KLNFR for 3 to 4 days in a week and monitor along the forest buffers to prevent open burning, encroachment and illegal hunting.
- Established an indigenous community nursery in Pulau Kempas. To date, the nursery has produced about 15,000 saplings for tree planting activities at KLNFR.
- Established a team to undertake planting activity at KLNFR. As of today, 15 hectares of degraded peat areas have been planted with more than 15,000 trees at KLNFR.
- Conducted more than 10 training programmes for capacity building of SGAT members.
- Produces handicraft products made from natural resources as part of their sustainable livelihood alternative.
- The JPFR programme was successfully carried out at Sekolah Kebangsaan Asli Bukit Cheeding and Sekolah Kebangsaan Asli Busut Baru from 2015 until 2020 that includes an annual JPFR camp, school level activities and many others.