



## QUARTERLY UPDATE (JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023)

### Introduction

This report is submitted to the Board of Management and Advisory Council of Global Environment Centre (GEC) to provide updates on the progress of GEC's activities and finances for the third quarter (Q3) of 2023: July to September 2023. Following are key activities carried out in Q3 2023:

### River Care Programme (RCP)

Two river restoration and clean-up activities were conducted with corporate partners. One with the employees from Luno Malaysia around Lembah Subang Flat on July 5, and the other with PPB Group Berhad at Tmn Tugu on July 14. A river clean-up and young river scientist session was held with the community at Block 1 Desa Mentari on Sept 23.



Slope tree planting (a bio-engineering initiative) was carried out on July 23 by GEC and Berjaya



Sompo Insurans Berhad, in partnership with the Department of Drainage and Irrigation (DID) Gombak, Gombak and Petaling district offices of Department of *Orang Asli* Development, Jungle School Gombak Malaysia, Friends of SG Gombak. About 20 Berjaya Sompo employees and 15 OA community members of Kampung Batu 12 Gombak planted a total of 732 plants including Simpoh air, Senduduk, Vetiver, Buluh Sumpit, and Gapis at two slope areas,

as well as at a selected riverbank stretch.

Under the W.A.T.E.R project, a river walk at Bukit Kiara and tree planting at Raja Musa Forest was conducted with SPARK Foundation employees on Aug 5 and Aug 19 respectively.

A RIVER Ranger 2.0 training was carried out by GEC with Fujitsu Malaysia in partnership with University Malaya (UM) Water Warriors involving 33 participants involving Fujitsu employees, local communities and UM students at Samali Tree house, Universiti Malaya, Aug 26. A theoretical flood preparedness training was held with students from Taylor's University on Sept 26. Sixty students attended the training on flood and the importance of taking proactive measures in flood preparation.



A National River Trail event in conjunction with World River Day was held at Sg Batu by Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) in partnership with GEC. Riverbank and surrounding clean-up activities, planting of herbs and pollinator plants

along the riverbank and the newly established community garden, mural painting and Young River Scientist activities were among the activities conducted.



On Aug 24, Malaysia's Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim visited to Kampung Tonggang, Tanjung Rambutan, Perak on a Working Visit. The concerns of the Kampung Tonggang community were brought to his attention by Batin Che Wan Bin Alang during his speech, and he was introduced to the implementation of the GEC-supported Kayuh D' Tonggang local tourist attraction, and the efforts of the Kg Tonggang OA youths who are actively taking care of the environment and the Kg Tonggang river.

Several training events were conducted in Ipoh. This includes the RIVER Ranger 2.0 training on Aug 20 for selected community under Friends of Kinta River Basin (FOKiRB) and a SMART Ranger programme conducted on Sept 19 in SMK Kg. Pasir Puteh, Pengkalan Barat 18, Ipoh together with KLIK (Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad).

On Sept 24, GEC in collaboration with JPS Perak and with the support of Yayasan Hasanah and Quest International University held the Perak State Level World River Day 2023 Celebration and the launch of the Friends of Kinta River Basin Association. The programme was attended by approximately 500 people including local community, members of the public, university students, as well as government agencies and departments who attended the programme.



## Forest and Coastal Programme (FCP)

In addition to the monthly tree planting sessions at Raja Musa Forest Reserve (July 22) and Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (Aug 26 and Sept 23), which involved 256 volunteers who planted a total of 1350 trees (2.25 ha), FCP also facilitated the following activities and programmes:

- A total of 5,000 mangrove trees were successfully planted with the involvement of more than 350 volunteers with support from Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) Phase 2 project (1,700 trees), Aramco Malaysia (2,000 trees), Ericsson Malaysia (500 trees), SJKC around Sabak Bernam District (300 trees) and ISF (500 trees).
- A total of 600 trees were successfully planted under the SPARK Foundation in Raja Musa Forest Reserve and maintenance activities at two hectares (1200 trees) in FC99, RMFR.
- Two HSBC volunteer tree planting programmes were held, where 2,000 trees were planted at Kampung Dato Hormat, Sabak Bernam (1,000 trees) and Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Cheeding (1,000 trees) with the participation of 190 HSBC volunteers, 20 and 14 community members from Sahabat Bakau Kampung Dato Hormat and Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan respectively.





*HSBC volunteer and monthly tree planting programme at KLNFR*

- A 14-day RMIT International Students Study Visit was conducted from Aug 19 to Sept 2 at Sungai Sireh Homestay and CoSPeC with the participation of 15 RMIT students and two lecturers. The visit was designed specifically to include various activities, programmes and stakeholder engagements (SSFD, community groups and schools) including site visits, fieldworks and assessments to understand the peat and mangrove ecosystems, effectiveness of community participation in the environmental conservation and livelihood programmes that have been implemented successfully by GEC for more than 20 years.



*15 RMIT international students, and their two lecturers participated in a 14-day study visit from Aug 19 to Sept 2.*

- Phase II Forest Tree Planting Programme at Durian Tunggal Water Catchment (EDT) commenced. It was jointly organised by Malacca's Water Regulatory Authority (BKSA) and the Malacca Chief Minister's Office, with GEC as its implementing partner and with sponsorship received from Airbnb Community Fund. A total of 149 individuals from various organisations including students participated in planting a total of 600 trees over a one hectare parcel of land.



*Restoration of the Durian Tunggal Water Catchment programme, which involved the planting of 600 trees in a one hectare parcel of land at the site.*



- The IOGP-Ipieca<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Peer-to-Peer Programme conducted a site visit to the Yayasan PETRONAS (YP) planting sites in support of PETRONAS Walk4Trees Challenge in Raja Musa Forest Reserve on Sept 22. The purpose of this visit was to showcase one of the efforts of PETRONAS and YP in the restoration and conservation of peat swamp forest and biodiversity in collaboration with GEC, Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD) and Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) as well as to promote the positive impact on the socio-economic improvement to the local community.



*The IOGP-Ipieca Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Peer-to-Peer Programme on Sept 22*

## Peatland Programme (PP)

In the Southeast Pahang landscape, GEC collaborated with Enggang Holdings to construct multiple canal blocks within the peat swamp forest reserves and its buffer area to increase water level to prevent and fight fires. Some of the canal blocks constructed incorporated wooden piles, geobags and rockfill – to strengthen the blocks against erosion in the coming wet season. They were constructed with active involvement and support from local partners including nearby communities.

In addition, GEC team collaborated with stakeholders of the Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL) including Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPPEM)-Pahang project team, Pahang's Department of Environment, the Fire Department, and YP Plantation Holdings Sdn Bhd in organising fire prevention awareness events with the indigenous and local communities and monitoring previously burned areas to prevent any recurrence of fires. Biodiversity assessment sessions were conducted to assess biodiversity across the landscape.



<sup>1</sup> International Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) and Ipieca is a global not-for-profit oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues.

In Sabah, a biodiversity assessment project for part of Klias Peninsula and Binsuluk Forest Reserves, funded by the Malaysian Wildlife Conservation Fund (MWCF) was initiated in September 2023 and is scheduled for completion in December 2024.

Under the Technical Assistance and Knowledge Exchange (TAKE)-SMPEM project, GEC actively participated in the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and provided recommendations for the implementation of the SMPEM project. In conjunction with the World Ozone Day, GEC partnered with Sabah Forestry Department and SMPEM-Sabah to organise the "Plant for Tomorrow" CEPA event at SMK Gadong, on Sept 23 and attended by 120 participants.



In Sarawak, GEC participated in the 16th Bario Nukanen Festival from July 27 to July 29. GEC set up a booth to showcase the collaboration with the Bario Asal community, shared outreach materials such as project brochures and videos.

In Maludam Peninsula, initial work to promote Community Engagement Strategy (CES) has started. Separate meetings with the Maludam's State Administrative Officer (SAO), heads of villages within the landscape, and some local agencies were carried out to promote and gain feedback on the strategy and potential way forward.



At regional level, MAHFSA organised a Consultative Meeting on the Guidelines on Information and Data Collection and Result Management for Fire and Haze in Southeast Asia on July 5 to July 7 in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop reviewed the draft Guideline

for Information and Data Collection and Results Management with the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and respective expert agencies. In July, GEC also participated in ASEAN Task Force on Peatland (ATFP) and Fifth Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings for Mekong Peatlands project and the MAHFSA Programme. In Vietnam, a Training Course for Capacity Building Sustainable Management of Forest and Peatlands in the Lower Mekong Delta was conducted on July 12-14 for government officials and national parks management teams. GEC associate, Dr Le Phat Quoi was the main trainer for this training.



GEC also hosted the Final Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management (AIF-HFSLM) in Putrajaya in July, back-to-back to the ASEAN Haze-free Roadmap Task Force Meeting and a policy dialogue to promote the Roadmap. The AIF-HFSLM, ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) and Roadmap were all endorsed in August 2023 by 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) in Lao PDR.





GEC in collaboration with its sister organisation in Indonesia, Yayasan Gambut, held a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Community-based Fire Prevention, Sustainable Livelihood and Paludiculture Practice at Riau Province on Aug 8 to Aug 11. This regional capacity building for communities was attended by representatives from eight AMS with aim to provide a platform of knowledge exchange adhering sustainable forest and peatland management from Indonesian communities and local government.

### **Outreach and Partnership Programme (OPP)**



Through funding support from Yayasan PETRONAS and Airbnb Community Fund, GEC organised a four-day peer learning forum cum site visit from July 10 to July 13, to bring together leaders from 25 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) established by/working with GEC on the Yayasan PETRONAS Tree Planting Activity in conjunction with PETRONAS Walk4Trees Challenge and several other CBOs working alongside with GEC in tree planting initiatives nationwide. The forum provided a platform to brainstorm and exchange ideas, experience, knowledge and best practices to enhance forest management and develop systematic operations of community groups: to be the stewards and guardians of the nearby mangrove, peatland and inland forests.



The study visit was a showcase of the best management practices (BMP) and successful community-based management of peatland and mangrove forest. The programme aimed to derive inputs and insights from the community members themselves on the exit strategy for the Yayasan PETRONAS project that will serve as an impetus to build the capacity of the local communities that have been involved in the project to enhance and sustain their livelihood beyond the project tenure.

Coinciding with the site visit and in conjunction with GEC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, a Media Familiarisation Trip was organised for selected/invited members of the media to introduce them to the project and as an effort to generate media coverage for the project, particularly by highlighting the strength of community engagement. This one-day activity generated at least 17 media coverages across various media platforms both print and online.



On August 19, GEC facilitated the participation of our UKB indigenous community at the national level, World Indigenous Day celebration at Kg Bawong, Slim River, Perak. The event was a joint initiative of the Department of Orang Asli Development and United Nations Development Programme. This year's theme "Orang Asli Youth as Agents of Self-Change". A village head of one of GEC's community partners in Perak, Tok Batin Che Wan Alang from Kg Tonggang, Perak was on the panel of guest speakers for the event, while GEC was also selected to be the jury for the photo essay competition for this event.

On Sept 3, GEC set up a booth at a public exhibition during a day-long Eco-Bazaar at a Picnic in the Park event at Taman Tasik Permaisuri in Cheras, to increase GEC's visibility and enhance environmental awareness among KL cityfolk. The event attracted about 200 visitors from in and around the Klang Valley.



# Visibility

Between July and September 2023, GEC received 65 media coverages (RCP: 35, FCP: 10, PP: 3, General: 17), with a total PR value of more than RM 1,713,975 and cumulative potential reach of more than 6,050,169 people.

## Nature's heroes

By rising up and tackling conservation issues, these kampung folk are proving to be the new nature heroes, discovers **Hena Kosdy**



The members of the High River Project have been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of protecting the river and its surrounding environment. They have been successful in securing funding for various conservation projects, including the planting of trees and the installation of water filtration systems.

At the heart of the High River Project is the belief that everyone has a role to play in protecting the environment. The project has been successful in mobilizing a large number of volunteers, many of whom are from the local community. This has helped to create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the river and its surroundings.

The project has also been successful in raising awareness about the importance of water conservation. Through a series of educational programs, the project has helped to teach people how to conserve water and protect the environment. This has led to a significant reduction in water usage in the area.

Finally, the project has been successful in creating a sense of community. Through a series of social events and activities, the project has helped to bring people together and create a sense of shared purpose. This has been a key factor in the project's success and has helped to ensure its long-term sustainability.

## Berjaya Sempu In collaboration with GEC kicks off river slope mitigation through tree planting initiative

**NATION** Thursday, 03 Aug 2023 1:36 PM MYT

### Related News

**NATION** 13h ago **State polls: Don't forget the Orang Asli, Ramli tells candidates**

**METRONEWS** 21 Jul 2023 **A focus on education among Orang Asli kids**

**NATION** 5h ago **'Amend Perak's forestry laws to safeguard**



Volunteers from Berjaya Sempu together with programme officers from GEC and the orang asli community at kickstart of the river slope mitigation through tree planting to protect water resources at the Klang River Basin initiative.

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Berjaya Sempu Insurance Bhd (Berjaya Sempu), together with Global Environment Centre (GEC), in partnership with the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Gombak, Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA) Gombak and Petaling District, Jungle School Gombak Malaysia and Friends of Sungai Gombak Batu 12 at Kampung Batu 12, Gombak has embarked on a river slope mitigation through tree planting to protect water resources at the Klang River Basin Initiative.

## 尼查：一旦露水法案通過 設管理機構監督生水

【本報訊】霹靂州立法會議員尼查（Nehal）日前在霹靂州議會提出一項動議，要求霹靂州政府儘快通過「露水法案」（Dew Water Bill），以確保霹靂州的水資源得到妥善管理。

尼查指出，霹靂州的水資源日益短缺，而目前的法律框架並不足以保護這些資源。他呼籲政府採取行動，通過立法來加強對水資源的監管。

根據動議，一旦露水法案通過，將設立一個專門的管理機構，負責監督霹靂州的水資源。該機構將與霹靂州環境發展部合作，制定水資源管理計劃，並確保這些計劃得到有效執行。

尼查表示，這項法案的通過將對霹靂州的水資源保護產生深遠影響。他呼籲公眾支持這項法案，共同為保護霹靂州的水資源做出貢獻。

## 3,300 pokok lindungi Empangan Durian Tunggal

**SIAM** 07/08/2023 09:34AM, 8 BERS 10727 47 30 50

**DURIAN TUNGGAL:** 8 Gagal - Sebanyak 3,300 anak pokok hutan ditanam sekitar Empangan Durian Tunggal sebagai usaha melindungi, mengedarkan dan memelihara kawasan perairan air itu.

Exco Kerja Raya, Infrastruktur, Kemudahan Awam dan Pengangkutan negeri, Datuk Harwood Hydreen Kanji Saheer berkata, penanaman pokok rebus ini adalah inisiatif Festival Empangan Durian Tunggal itu dijalankan dengan kerjasama badan bukan kerajaan (NGO).

Harwood berkata, kesepakatan antara Kerajaan Negeri dan NGO itu secara tidak langsung menyokong Agenda Nasional Negara iaitu, Kempen Penanaman 100 juta Pokok menjelang 2025.

"Dalam menjayakan program penanaman pokok hutan di Empangan Durian Tunggal, Komuniti Ayer Rastir disubuhkan.

"Ini komuniti ini berperanan memulakan dan membantu tanam sebanyak 2,700 pokok hutan yang ditanam ketika Fasa 1 dan tambahan 600 lagi pada Fasa 2.

"Bagi Fasa 2 enam jenis anak pokok hutan ditanam iaitu, Wauwan Sapat Jantan, Kana, Kuning Naran, Perak, Kapor dan Kelada Kelai Paya," katanya.

Berku berkata demikian ketika merasmikan Program Penanaman Pokok Hutan Fasa 2 Festival Empangan Durian Tunggal, di Durian Tunggal, di sini.

## Getting youths involved in protecting peat ecosystem

**SABAH**

**IN COOPERATION** with World Centre for Sustainable Development (WCS) organised a comprehensive educational and public awareness programme called "Baka for Tomorrow" at SMK Gadong.

Some 120 people including students and teachers from SMK Gadong, Roselin, government agencies and community members participated in the effort.

"The programme was co-organised and supported by Sabah Forestry Department (SFD), Department of Environment (DOE) Sipit and Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and DOE respectively. The programme also involved students and local communities in the area of peatland ecosystem and climate change.

Resident DOE explained on its social media efforts and recycling initiatives which SFD described the importance of planting peat using tree species to rehabilitate degraded peatland areas. Students also got hands-on experience on peatland rehabilitation activities by planting 14 trees in the school yard.

"These initiatives are aimed at expanding students and local communities on the importance of peat ecosystem and its linkage to climate change.

This is because they live in so-called peatland landscapes including the LohMu Kluai Forest Reserve and 13,100ha Reservoir Forest Reserve. Christopher A. Manojan, who launched the event, said it was important to involve youths in caring for the environment.

"We need to foster a society who cares about their surroundings, are capable of protecting the environment and are using it sustainably," he said.

"In this way, the Sabah generation will be able to reap many benefits from the environment."

GEC, National Programme manager Teresa Lee Sim Yee said, "Unfettered peatlands in good condition contribute to climate change mitigation by storing tonnes of atmospheric carbon in peat soil, along with other vegetation types combined.

"Conversely, burning peatlands contributes to climate change by releasing carbon into the atmosphere at a high rate, generating smoky haze that can affect basins as well as biodiversity health.

"The dual action, a green and effective way to reduce emissions significantly is by growing healthy peatlands and rehabilitating degraded ones."

Right: Students planting trees at SMK Gadong, Roselin.

## 20 ekar masih terbakar di hutan Kompartmen 99, Hutan Simpan Raja Musa - Bomba AWANI

**AWANI**

20 ekar masih terbakar di hutan Kompartmen 99, Hutan Simpan Raja Musa - Bomba AWANI

watch on DW/MCOON

Masih terdapat baki 20 ekar kebakaran di hutan gantung di Kompartmen 99 Hutan Simpan Raja Musa, Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor yang memusnahkan hutan bakau, pada Sabtu.

September 16, 2023 11:04 MYT



## Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from October to December 2023:

| Date (TBC)           | Venue   | Event   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <b>October 2023</b>  |   |   |
| 7 Oct                | Blok 3 Desa Mentari                           | Blok 3 Desa Mentari river clean up activity   |
| 9 Oct                | Sungai Kinta, Batu Gajah                      | Fish release and river health monitoring with FOKIRB and KRT Sg Terap as well as Fishery Department.                      |
| 11 Oct               | Kg OA Bukit Cheeding                          | HSBC Tree Planting Programme  |
| 12-15 Oct            | Mersing and Bandar Penawar, Johor             | FCP Staff Training  |
| 14 Oct               | Tebuk Mendeleng                               | Mangrove tree planting with UITM, DID Sabak Bernam and DOE Sabak Bernam at Tebuk Mendeleng                                |
| 14 Oct               | Kolam Rekreasi Sg Pinji                       | Tree planting with Qiu (University)   |
| 16 Oct               | Opero Hotel Southkey, Johor                   | MoU signing ceremony between JSFD and GEC   |
| 19 Oct               | Lao PDR                                       | Workshop on Disseminate Information on Forest Fire, Open Burning and Health Impact to Government Authorities, Stakeholder |
| 20-22 Oct            | Indonesia                                     | Aramco's Indonesia Project Launching  |
| 22 Oct               | Pejabat Penghulu Mukim Batu                   | Sg Batu Flood Training at Mukim Batu  |
| 23-25 Oct            | Putrajaya                                     | National Biodiversity Conference 2023   |
| 28 Oct               | Taman Tasik Cyberjaya                         | SER Volunteering Event  |
| 28 Oct               | KLNFR   | Monthly Tree Planting   |
| 28 Oct               | GSFR, Mersing                                 | Tabung Haji Plantation Project Launching  |
| 29 Oct               | UTP   | Tree Planting with YP and UTP (VVIP)  |
| 30 Oct               | NSPSF   | Nottingham University visit to NSPSF  |
| October              | Maludam, Sarawak                              | Pilot test- Peatland demonstration plot   |
| October              | Klang Valley                                  | DOE Follow up PTO and Pelan Induk Workshop  |
| October-November     | UPM, Taylor University/GEC                    | Workshop on Specimens Preservation using Resin and TOT for volunteers   |
| <b>November 2023</b> |   |   |
| 3 Nov                | Sg Penchala                                   | GEC Employees' Sg Penchala Adoption & Clean-Up Event in conjunction with GEC 25th Anniversary                             |
| 4 Nov                | Tanjung Surat                                 | Aramco mangrove tree planting   |
| 5 Nov                | Sg Penchala                                   | DLMI Clean Up Event   |
| 5-7 Nov              | Kastam Tg Surat                               | TOT programme   |
| 10-14 Nov            | Tg Surat / Muar                               | Peer Visit by Indonesian Delegation to Johor  |
| 14-15 November       | Bangkok                                       | Launching of ASEAN peatland management Strategy 2023-2030   |
| 15 November          | Maludam, Sarawak                              | Communication, Educational, and Public Awareness (CEPA) event   |
| 20-24 Nov            | Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand                 | Mekong Peatlands Project – SUPA – MAHFSA: Exchange Visit to Kuan Kreng Peatland Landscape, Thailand                       |
| 25 Nov               | Garden International School                   | GEC – GIS Service Learning Week   |
| 30 Nov – 12 Dec      | Dubai, UAE                                    | UNFCCC COP28  |
| November             | Petaling Jaya                                 | User Acceptance Test (UAT) on ASEAN Fire Alert Phone App Tool   |
| November             | TBC   | Flood preparedness training with community Ulu Kinta  |
| November             | TBC   | Guidelines finalization workshop by DOA with stakeholders   |
| <b>December 2023</b> |   |   |
| 14 Dec               | Kg. OA Pulau Kempas                           | TCIC Launching  |
| 19 Dec               | Pusat Kanak-kanak Kreatif Tuanku Bainun, TTDI | GEC 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum and Dinner   |