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Organisation profile

The Global Environment Centre was established in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global importance. The Centre is registered in Malaysia as a non-profit organization (Reg. no. 473058-T) but works regionally and internationally both directly and through many partners. It supports information exchange and capacity building as well as undertakes strategic projects particularly in developing countries. It works in partnership with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

Objectives

1. To promote integrated management of biodiversity and water resources with a focus on community involvement and biodiversity conservation.
2. To promote the protection and sustainable use of forests and wetlands with a focus on integrated management for biodiversity and climate change
3. To enhance awareness, understanding and capacity as well as partnerships between different organizations and sectors to address environmental issues.

Mission

To support the protection of the environment and sustainable use of the natural resources to meet local, regional and global needs, through strategic partnerships with communities and like-minded organisations.

Message from the Chairman

As the Chairman of the Global Environment Centre, it is my pleasure to present GEC's Annual Report 2019. This report reviews the success and achievement of GEC in 2019, which made possible through a multi-stakeholder partnership with the like-minded funders, government agencies, private sector, civil society organisations and communities in protecting the environment.

Established in 1998, GEC has been rehabilitating, conserving and preserving forests, rivers and peatlands for 22 years producing various publications, designing multiple best management modules and trainings, empowering thousands of stakeholders on best practices, skills and knowledge and raising awareness on the best practices and importance of our precious environment.

In the year 2019, I am delighted to have witnessed the growing contribution and increasing awareness among people on the importance of preserving our rivers and forest through our activities. The activities include river rehabilitation involving river clean up, best practices to reduce river pollution, and forest and wetland rehabilitation, fire prevention, tree planting, local community commitment and volunteerism. The support has been tremendous and we hope it will continue to rise.

It is my pleasure to be with GEC and its dedicated staff along with other experienced and knowledgeable advisory council members. We will continue to advocate sustainable living, promoting the global importance of the environment through concerted partnership with various organisations, sectors and the public to make positive changes to the biodiversity and conditions of our rivers, forests and wetlands.

To all our funders, partners and supporters, we thank you for your involvement and commitment in 2019 for making the rehabilitation, conservation and preservation efforts possible. Please continue your support to GEC creating a sustainable world for our future.



Zainudin Ismail

Chairman of Global Environment Centre

Message from the Director

At Global Environment Centre, we believe in the strength of multi-stakeholder partnerships. GEC's success for the past 22 years in rehabilitating, conserving and preserving the environment are the result of concerted efforts between the funders and donors supporting rehabilitation and conservation activities, organisations sharing their expertise, government agencies providing resources and local communities' commitment.

The year 2019 saw GEC continue to promote sustainable management of our environment. Our regular tree planting activities at Raja Musa Forest Reserve (RMFR) to raise awareness among the public to conserve forest and wetlands has to date attracted more than 31,000 volunteers who have planted more than 315,000 trees at the degraded areas of RMFR. The efforts and commitment of our target groups engaged under the River of Life Public Outreach Programme Phase 5 (ROLPOP5) to conserve and protect our rivers were recognised by the former Minister of Federal Territories, YB Khalid Samad through ROLPOP5 Award. We also received recognition and the "SDG Goal 6 Champion" award from the Petaling Jaya Municipal Council on our efforts in river and water conservation in Petaling Jaya.

GEC also strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships with various sectors to conduct river care, water agenda and forest rehabilitation activities. In total there are more than five main corporates collaborated with GEC through our Forest and Coastal, Peatland and River Care Programmes with than 10 activities through Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) to conduct river clean up as well as forest restoration activities at degraded forest areas in Selangor, Pahang, Perak and Johor.

Regionally, GEC under its Peatland Programme has been appointed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to assist the Government of Malaysia to prepare and kick start implementation of a national peatland project being funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and facilitate knowledge exchange on sustainable peatland management with other tropical peatland countries including Indonesia and in Africa through South-South Triangular Cooperation. GEC is also working together with CIFOR to assist the ASEAN Secretariat to jointly implement the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) Programme to reduce transboundary haze and its impact in Southeast Asia.

We cannot thank our funders, supporters and partners enough for their support and commitment as well as our dedicated staffs, council and board members as well as volunteers. Thank you for supporting GEC's work in 2019.



Faizal Parish

Director of Global Environment Centre

Governance

Management Board



Mr Zainudin Ismail

Chairman

*Environmental Lawyer and
Former Chairman of the KL
Bar Council*



**Professor
Mohd Ali Hashim**

*Department of Chemical
Engineering, University
Malaya, Malaysia*

Advisory Council



Mr Delmar Blasco

*Former Secretary General,
Convention on Wetlands
(Ramsar, Iran 1971)*



**Tan Sri
Razali Ismail**

*Former Special Advisor to the
Prime Minister of Malaysia*

*Former President of the
United Nations General
Assembly (1996/7)*

*First Chairman of the
Commission of Sustainable
Development*



**Prof Tan Sri
Dr Zakri
Abdul Hamid**

*Former Science Advisor to
Prime Minister of Malaysia*

*Former Director, Institute
of Advanced Studies, UN
University, Japan*

*Former Chairman of
SBSTTA, Convention on
Biological Diversity*



**Dato' Dr. Wong
Sai Hou**

*Former State Assemblyman
for Kg Tunku*

*Chairman, Petaling Jaya City
Environment Committee*



**Datuk Zul Mukhshar
bin Dato' Md. Shaari**

*Former Director General
Forest Department of
Peninsular Malaysia*



**Dato' Ir. Lim
Chow Hock**

*Former Director of
Department of Drainage &
Irrigation (River and Coastal)
of Peninsular Malaysia*



**Dato' Halimah
Hassan
(from 2018)**

*Former Director General of
Department of Environment
Malaysia*



**Dr. Salmah Zakaria
(from 2018)**

*Chair of ASM Climate Change
and Water*

*Former Director General
of National Hydraulic
Research Institute of Malaysia
(NAHRIM)*

Staff and Volunteers

GEC's activities are coordinated through a secretariat currently with thirty five (35) staff. In addition, a broad range of associates and partners assist in the implementation of activities. GEC undertakes projects in more than 10 countries mainly in the Asia Pacific region either operating directly or through local partner organizations. GEC's effort is also widely supported by volunteers, for examples in rehabilitation of Raja Musa Forest Reserve, rivers cleanup and others. GEC currently have more than 600 people in its volunteer database.

Programme:

Forest and Coastal

headed by
Nagarajan Rengasamy



The program aims to promote and support sustainable forest and wetland management to conserve ecology, biodiversity and mitigate climate change. The Forest and Coastal Programme provides a wide range of technical services and activities related to forest and biodiversity assessment and management at the local and national levels. The programme also focuses on protecting and preserving environmental resources as well as providing a sustainable alternative livelihood options to local communities. This program is driven by participatory, process-oriented and science-based approach to addressing environmental issues.



GEC in collaboration with Selangor State Forestry Department are working to protect and restore 1000 hectare of degraded Raja Musa Forest Reserve continue to gain recognition and support from the local state government, local communities, corporations and public. After a decade of rehabilitating, we have managed to restore more than 230 hectares, enrich the degraded area with more than 315,000 local peat tree species known as *Melicope lunu-ankenda* (Tenggek Burung) and engaged with more than 31,000 volunteers to be a part of the rehabilitation effort.

Our long-term partnership since 2011 with HSBC Bank Malaysia has not only enabled us to implement sustainable management and wise use of peatlands, reduce risk of fire and associated haze but also contribute to the socio-economic development of local community and increase their local awareness on peatlands and its role in tackling the climate crisis. Among the achievements were rehabilitating 20 hectares of degraded forest area through planting by Friends of North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest and public volunteers that led to forest regeneration, nursery expansion to accommodate 8,000 saplings, building of 20 canal blocks within the fire-prone peatland areas with ongoing regular water level monitoring activities involving the local community.

On top of that, the rehabilitation activities and preventive measures carried out under the project have supported the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan for North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest 2014 – 2023.

Phase 2 of our partnership with Yayasan Sime Darby was completed in collaboration with Sime Darby Plantation and Selangor State Forestry Department. The project, which began in May 2017, aims to conserve and maintain Phase 1 rehabilitation of 70 hectares of degraded forest reserve at Forest Compartment 32 and Forest Compartment 70 at

Raja Musa Forest Reserve. The project involved planting and promoting natural regeneration through water management by blocking man-made canals as well as executing fire prevention and control. A total of 20 hectares were restored by planting trees with regular maintenance and over 50 hectares were restored naturally through water management and regular monitoring and patrolling. As a result, the degraded areas are covered with vegetation i.e. shrubs and ferns and starting to form low forest cover. This indicates our successful effort in rehabilitating the forest.

In addition, the Phase 2 Project also provides water supply to smallholders in Kampung Raja Musa. They were facing water shortage to irrigate their crops and oil palm especially during the dry season due to a large canal that was built near the village. By blocking the canal and channelised the water flow to the smallholder areas have helped them in improving their yields and socioeconomic status. This effort has benefited more than 50 smallholders.

For the last two years, Innisfree Malaysia has embarked on a green campaign concerning forest sustainability called Innisfree Malaysia's Green Forest Campaign and they have selected Raja Musa Forest Reserve to be part of the campaign by rehabilitating and protecting 3 hectares of the forest reserve for five years. The campaign includes annual tree planting and maintenance activity. A total of 1800 trees has been planted with 80% - 85% survival rate with regular maintenance since the commencement of the campaign.

In the last quarter of 2019, GEC has entered a one-year partnership with UPS Malaysia to plant 3000 of trees at 5 hectares of the degraded forest reserve with the participation of Friends of North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest.

The rehabilitation works of Raja Musa Forest Reserve has also been supported by Origins Malaysia and Selangor State Government through Selangor State Forest Department.

Protecting the remnant of South Selangor Peat Swamp Forest

Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve is a 957 ha area of peat swamp forest. It is habitat of various rare species of flora and fauna and has significant importance to the local and indigenous community that has lived in the area and harvested its resources for many years. Conservation of Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve is affected by its surrounding development and large portions have been impacted by fire in the past.

With generous support from BOH Plantation, GAMUDA Land and Yayasan Bursa Malaysia, GEC in partnership with Selangor State Forestry Department and Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA) implemented a range of peatland water management and fire prevention and control actions involving local communities to reduce fire risk in the forest reserve. Two training programmes for the Friends of Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (FKLNFR) were organised to build their capacity in implementing the rehabilitation and conservation efforts and socio-economic development programme of the local communities. Additional training was given to few members of FKLNPS that make handicraft to establish a platform for them to sell their local products.



In total, 10,200 of local peat tree species (*Melicope lunu-ankenda*) were planted with support of more than 300 volunteers. Frequent patrolling and monitoring along with the forest reserve buffers for any peatland fire incidents and illegal activities by the FKLNFR has resulted in zero fire and encroachment incident. The project activities have also supported the implementation of the Fire Management Plan for Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve & Kuala Langat South Forest Reserve 2016-2021.



Protecting the tidal forests of Malaysia

In Johor, GEC is currently implementing Community-Based Mangrove Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Pulau Tanjung Surat, Kota Tinggi Johor, which includes the planting of mangrove saplings, the establishment of mangrove nursery, community training and capacity building, support and empowerment of local communities that can lead to both improved livelihood and welfare of the local communities but at the same time can protect and enhance their natural environment. These efforts are benefited by Pulau Tanjung Surat community, namely Friends of Tanjung Surat Island Mangrove (FTSIM) (Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat). Generous funding from Saudi Aramco has enabled us to rehabilitate about 3.5 hectares with more than 5,000 mangrove trees planted in Phase 1 of the project (2018-2019) involving FTSIM, local communities and volunteers. GEC has entered Phase 2 of the project and anticipates a significant outcome to be made.

In Selangor, our work on conserving mangrove forest in Sabak Bernam was made possible through a generous contribution by Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) via Treasure the Mangroves Programme and Ericsson Malaysia. A total of 1,000 mangrove saplings were planted with the involvement of Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH) also known as Friends of Kampung Dato Hormat Mangrove. The project has recorded a high survival rate of the saplings with over 85%.

In Perak, Vale Minerals Malaysia continues to support our work in rehabilitating degraded mangrove area in Lekir Mangrove Forest Reserve and strengthening the Friends of Lekir Sitiawan Mangrove Forest position as a leading community group in rehabilitating the forest reserve.

In October 2019, GEC has established a year-long partnership with Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) to rehabilitate and maintenance of 10,600 mangrove trees at the degraded mangrove area at Sungai Limau, in Lekir Manjung, Perak. This project involves the participation of the local community in Sungai Limau and TNB community in the rehabilitation efforts to encourage volunteerism, improving livelihood and welfare of the locals and improving the surrounding environment. This project also supports the state government's effort to protect and conserve the mangrove ecosystem and resources through rehabilitation and sustainable management practices.

Our partnership with Yayasan Sime Darby continues with a three-year agreement on a mangrove project entitled Community-based Mangrove Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Programme in Kuala Gula – Kerian and Lekir – Manjung, Perak. The project aims to strengthen sustainable management of mangrove and coastal resource as well as enhance community engagement and social enterprise in Kuala Gula and Lekir, Perak. The project will be kicking off in February 2020.

Committed support from Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia and Perak State Forestry Department has enabled GEC to continuously support and work with the Friends of Kuala Gula Mangrove (known as SHBKG) since its

establishment in 2006. SHBKG is a community group in Kuala Gula that is committed to the community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation programme. Through this partnership, we have been facilitating more than 300 visiting groups, educating approximately 10,000 people on mangrove ecosystem and planted more than 120,000 mangrove trees with volunteers in approximately 60 hectares of degraded mangrove forest at Telok Rubiah in Kuala Gula.

In addition, GEC has recommended SHBKG and SHBLS be appointed as members of the National Mangrove Planting Program Committee (i.e. Treasure the Mangroves Programme). SHBKG and SHBLS have begun receiving small grant funding under the existing provisions from FDPM and they were reporting on the progress of their activities at National level meetings.

On October 21, 2019, SHBKG & SHBLS received an appreciation certificate from the Sultan of Perak for their efforts, contribution and support in carrying out the mangrove rehabilitation programme in Kuala Gula and Lekir Mangroves, Perak. It was a recognition for both group communities and an accomplishment for GEC that proved that empowering local community is vital to address the local environmental issue.

To date, GEC and State Forestry Departments are working towards building a network of community-based forest conservation groups especially wetland forests (e.g. mangrove and peatland) to further strengthen forest conservation efforts in the west and south coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Review of Malaysian Peatland of Fire Prevention Programme

The former Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) through Department of Environment (DOE) appointed GEC in April 2019 as a consultant to undertake a seven months project to review the Government peatland fire prevention programme at six states in Malaysia. The project was completed in November 2019. As a result, GEC has produced a comprehensive report entitled *"Kajian Impak Projek Pembinaan dan Naik Taraf Infrastruktur bagi Mencegah Kebakaran Tanah Gambut yang sering Terbakar untuk mengatasi Jerebu di Malaysia"*, updated the existing National Standard Operating Procedure for Peatland Fire Prevention to Prevent Haze in Malaysia, produced a Master Plan on Peatland Fire-Prone Management 2021-2030 and published a bilingual booklet on Malaysia's Peatland Fire Prevention Programme.

Empowering Young Generations on Peatland Conservation

In 2019, a total of 210 students and 42 teachers from 20 primary and secondary schools neighbouring to the Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve and Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve have joined the programme. The Peatland Forest Ranger Programme (PFRP) involved various activities such as tree planting activities, peat workshops, environmental camps and school level awareness programme. Introduced and implemented by GEC, this programme is the first school-level awareness programme for peat swamp forest in Malaysia in collaboration with Ministry of Education (MOE), Selangor State Forestry Department, State Education Department and District Education Office. PFRP aims to educate school students (primary and secondary) on the importance of conserving and protecting the peatland environment and to impart knowledge about the ecosystem through visits and demonstrations.

Programme: River Care headed by **Dr Kalithasan Kailasam**



The focus of this programme is to promote and support the holistic, natural and personalise on river management through IRBM, ecosystem services and Civic Science using HEART approach. One of the key focuses is community (stakeholder) empowerment and engagement in environmental management. The programme works on key water, river basin and river related issues management, and believes that every individual has a role to play in the environment.

National River Care Fund

The National River Care Fund (NRCF) is an initiative established by GEC in 2015 to support the local community, community-based organisations/non-profit organisations to pursue their river conservation initiatives. The goals are to establish and encourage a river care civil society can contribute and demonstrate the best management practices of River Care in Malaysia and to support establishment and sustainability of community-based water and river care programme in Malaysia. Grants or operation grants of RM2,000 to RM5,000 per project are given out to deserving organizations for categories such as awareness-raising, education and capacity building, riverine biodiversity conservation, river pollution and clean-up, river Rehabilitation and protection, sustainable livelihood, and best management practices to reduce the pollution.

NRCF has supported on-the-ground river and water conservation initiatives that have a substantial impact in creating healthy river ecosystems that will lead to cleaner river water and improving behaviour changes of the public towards river care. In 2019, GEC contributed to Cycle 6 of the NRCF grant. In total, NRCF has invested more than RM402,500 in grants and training, benefiting 37 community grant recipients, 9 follow-up grants focused on centralised training activities for community groups, education institutions and interest groups, 5 trainings on RIVER Ranger, SMART Ranger, DRH20 and Flood training, and 2 environmental talks.



Sustainable water balance for the future

W.A.T.E.R (Working Actively Through Education & Rehabilitation) Project is SPARK Foundation's flagship initiative for the environment. Since 2007, GEC has been a project partner for this initiative to protect and enhance urban rivers through local community ownership and business community engagement by promoting and supporting the local community, school and other stakeholder's' localise initiatives. Though adoption of GEC's Civic Science approach, the project successfully rehabilitated Sungai Way river water quality from Class IV-V to Class III and the success of this project is replicated at Penchala River in KL and Selangor and three main of Kinta River tributaries, i.e. Buntong River, Kledang

River and Senam River in Perak. Since 2018, WATER project focusing on WATER STEWARDSHIP AGENDA initiative which focusing on Water for Water (reduce water consumption) and Water for Quality Water (improve water quality). It focuses on intro basin : Penchala (Klang) and Selangor.

For Sungai Penchala River Education Programme in Selangor, GEC continues to work closely with local communities, food business operators and millennials on river education and monitoring, implementing best management practices and enlist young people to facilitate river educational activities. The project has also outreach to more than 1000 public, local communities through river clean-up events, talks exhibitions and training.

The support given by W.A.T.E.R project has enabled GEC to train and empower 16 community groups to monitor their local waterways and inspire three community groups from Desa Mentari Block 3 Resident's Association, Taman Tun Dr Ismail Resident's Association and Section 14 Petaling Jaya Resident's Association to expand their existing initiatives.

GEC in partnership with SPARK Foundation has embarked on a pioneer project to reduce stress on local water resource through water conservation measures at Sungai Penchala and ensure watershed security of Sungai Selangor River Basin. Among the measures undertaken are installation of water thimbles, a water-saving tool installed in faucets and shower hose to reduce water consumption up to 19L/day/capita, installation of rainwater harvesting system for non-potable usage, and protecting water source through education and establishing a clay dyke for future water storage.

To date, GEC has installed thimbles for 382 households (1660 beneficiaries) in Desa Mentari and Hulu Selangor area beside installed 1 rainwater harvesting system at Blok 5 Desa Mentari communities in PJ. Together with Friends of Bukit Kiara, we have engaged more than 1000 community members through talks and exhibitions on the importance

of protecting water source of Sungai Penchala. We have also established a constructed wetlands cell (CWC) with support of LUAS, DID Petaling and Friends of Sungai Penchala at Section 19, PJ to improve the river water quality and biological quality and planted 600 trees at the Raja Musa Forest Reserve with SPARK Foundation volunteers.

Other activities undertaken through this project include river restoration at the source of Penchala River, water quality and aquatic invertebrate study, and organising riverwalk activities along the upstream of Penchala River.

In Kinta, Perak, W.A.T.E.R Project has phased out in 2018 after 6 years work. The project has managed to establish a good relationship with agencies as well as initiating active community groups. As an outcome, one community group, Buntong 3 & 4 won the "Anugerah Khas Sumber Air Negara 2019" jointly organised by KATS, DID Malaysia and the Perak Government in conjunction with World Water Day 2019 celebration.

In addition to rehabilitating the rivers, SPARK Foundation and GEC are working together to further outreach the public on the importance of preserving water resources at communities and businesses through Mobile River Care Unit (MRCU).

Reconnecting people and rivers

In early 2017, GEC was engaged by Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia to implement a 4-year public outreach programme under the River of Life (RoL) Phase 5 Project for the purpose of improving Klang river water quality. The programme aims to promote a sense of ownership towards the river and initiates long term and sustainable change in behaviours towards protecting the river.

The Phase 5 project area covers 98.48km² of Klang River catchment areas (area of Gombak River, Batu River, Jinjang River, Keroh River and western catchment of Klang River).

We are working together with five target groups (i.e. general public; educational institutions; local communities; food establishment, hawkers, wet markets and workshops; industries, corporation and developers) to better understand their perception, concerns and issues about the river and implement strategies and action plans to curb the river pollution.

In 2019, we have managed to outreach to more than 30,000 target audiences in ROLPOP-related activities, extended community adoption by 6.8km river stretch, community monitoring for 14.1km stretch of river and established four environmental-based community education corners. Other successful programmes include waste recycling and collection of used cooking oil for biodiesel, school-based initiatives via the Squad Ranger and implementation of Best Management Practices in wet markets, restaurants, industries, corporation and developers.

Implementing sustainable waste management for schools

A generous contribution from the Coca-Cola Foundation has enabled GEC to collaborate with other partners like Recycle for Life (RFL) to implement a zero-waste programme at 80 schools in Klang Valley since 2018. The two-year programme is designed to address the issue of sustainable waste management – an area in which Malaysia is still lagging behind significantly due to lack of an effective recycling collection system. The programme encourages the participants to recycle using a buyback system where selected recyclables such as steel, paper, plastic, aluminium and electronic waste are purchased with cash-based on the recyclable market price.

GEC's SMART Rangers focuses on the Zero Waste Concept through the 4R2C Approach (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Composting and Closing the loop) while the RFL component engages with schools and students on rewarding cash through a smart card for their recycling activities. The programme has managed to outreach to 137 schools, local communities, and agencies in which 60,528kg of recyclables saved from ending up in the river or landfills.



Supporting the Central Forest Spine Initiative

Our effort in conserving the Upper Kinta River Basin (UKB) continues with generous support from Yayasan Hasanah to conserve the forest and riverine habitats. The project aims to establish develop and adopt a management strategy for forest and water resource protection of the basin and establish community engagement programs to address issues regarding forest management and river protection as well as pollution monitoring.

To date, we have managed to organise two capacity-building workshops involving more than 150 participants and two UKB Management Strategy Workshops involving 85 participants from main UKB key stakeholders to design the strategic management of forest and water resources. The project also had organised four centralised trainings involving more than 130 participants focused on RIVER Ranger training; small scale skill training on bamboo planting and ecotourism; and environmental management training for Urban as well Orang Asli community. Seven urban community groups are also active in monthly river water quality monitoring initiatives as part of their commitment towards the project.

Learning beyond the classroom at Taman Tugu Project

Our long-term collaboration with Taman Tugu Project on establishing an outdoor environmental learning centre focusing on river conservation has successfully outreached more than 500 people through 13 river care and awareness activities and three river restoration and clean-up activities with the corporate support to rehabilitate the stream.

Better access to clean and safe drinking water supply for indigenous communities in Perak

Generous contribution by HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad has enabled GEC to address the challenges faced by rural and indigenous communities in Upper Ulu Kinta Catchment for their potable water accessibility. The project is designed to educate and empower the rural and indigenous communities in safeguarding their source of water and establish a simple mechanism that allows them to have access to clean water.

To date, the project has provided accessible portable water to the Orang Asli community of 278 households from eight villages via installation of new water storage tanks and outdoor water filters. Six environmental committee groups were successfully established at different villages to take ownership and be aware of their local issues related to the environment including nearby rivers in order to ensure sustainable water supply. GEC has also organised five trainings to empower more than 110 Orang Asli community members on water conservation, water resource and pollution management, and operation and maintenance of water filter and water storage tanks.



Programme: Peatland headed by Serena Lew



The Peatland Programme aims to promote sustainable management of peatlands, especially in Southeast Asia. The programme works closely with various stakeholders to promote best practices in peatland management, fire prevention and rehabilitation.



Sustainable management of peatland forest in Pahang

On peatland conservation in Pahang, GEC continues to work closely with the Orang Asli communities in Pekan District, adjacent to IOI Bukit Leelau Oil Palm Estate to prevent occurrences of peat fires and rehabilitate degraded peatland at the boundary of Pekan (Extension) Forest Reserve. The location of the rehabilitation program is a portion of a larger peatland landscape of Southeast Pahang that is a national priority area.

The initiative involves blocking existing drainage canals to raise the water level to prevent and control fire, establishing community nurseries to collect wildings, raise suitable peat swamp saplings and implementing seedling buy-back system, and engaging the community for planting at the degraded area. Saplings raised by the indigenous community are bought by agencies for enrichment replanting activities at degraded peat areas that being rewetted. The indigenous community are also empowered with sustainable agriculture practices to increase their source of income.

To date, ten canal blocks were constructed by stakeholders to rewet an estimated 830 hectares of the degraded peatland area, which has resulted in a positive impact on the peat water table, and promoted the growth of the forest vegetation. The initiative has also established a community group known as *Sahabat Hutan Gambut Kampung Tanjung Kelapa* (SHGKTK) (Friends of Kampung Tanjung Kelapa Peatland Forest) in

March 2019 who are actively involved in the rehabilitation of the degraded peatland area, and monitoring and preventing peat fires occurrences. The SHGKTK together with IOI workers has planted 4,500 saplings at 9 hectares of the degraded area. Some of the SHGKTK members were brought to Selangor peatland rehabilitation area for a peer learning and knowledge exchange session.

The initiative also boosts the Orang Asli community's income by building their capacity and provide seed grants to establish alternative income such as stingless bee honey and mushroom farm. Two-in-one solar power and water supply systems for Kampung Sapai and Kampung Tanjung Kelapa was also established benefiting 30 local communities.

Implementation of this mini landscape initiative was made possible with generous contributions from Bunge Lodgers Crocklaan (BLC), Yayasan Bursa Malaysia, IOI Plantations, IFAD and support from key stakeholders such as Pahang State Forestry Department, Orang Asli Development Department (JAKOA), Department of Agriculture and Pekan District Office, Seri Jelutong Oil Palm Plantation, local enterprises on honey and mushroom production and the local OA communities, as well as TONIBUNG, a social enterprise from Sabah that has been supporting the OA communities with renewable energy technology in the country.

Climate Leadership – RSPO and COP25

In July 2019, the RSPO Best Management Practices (BMPs) Peat Manuals i.e. RSPO BMPs for Existing Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat (Volume 1) and Management and Rehabilitation of Peatlands (Volume 2) were successfully published and have been shared widely. In November 2019, GEC participated in Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) RT17 in Bangkok and led a submission of Resolution Paper to the RSPO 16th General Assembly (GA16) on peat inventory by all RSPO “Grower” and “Processor and Trader” members and the resolution was adopted.

GEC also co-organised a joint side event entitled “Avoiding loss of high-carbon soils through peatland mapping and monitoring for climate action” at UNFCCC COP25 Madrid on December 2, 2019 in partnership with Micheal Succow Foundation for the Protection of Nature and Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center (JIFPRO), with support from the Global Peatlands Initiative, Greifswald Mire Centre, UN Environment, FAO, IKI and IFAD. GEC was also invited to speak at the Indonesia Pavilion on peatland management in the Southeast Asia region, as well as participated at relevant platforms and side events to highlight the importance of peatland in context of climate change.

Implementation of ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE) and the Haze-free ASEAN Roadmap

Following the completion of ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) and Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia (SEapeat), GEC has been working together with the ASEAN Secretariat on securing funding to maintain the momentum of the ASEAN Member States in the sustainable management of peatland ecosystems. In November 2019, Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) Programme was successfully launched in Bangkok, Thailand. The programme is a five-year mission to build capacity and enhance results management systems for sustainable peatland management, as well as enhance regional coordination mechanisms for reducing transboundary haze pollution and its impact in Southeast Asia, funded by IFAD.

Technical support to Malaysia on a national peatland project

In 2019, IFAD with its internal resources, appointed GEC to technically support preparations and initial implementation of the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPEM) Project being executed by the Government of Malaysia. The Project is being funded by GEF through IFAD for four years, with the involvement of five peatland landscapes in four states (i.e. South Selangor Peatland Landscape, and North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest and its buffer; Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape; Klias Peninsular Peatland Landscape in Sabah; and Maludam Peninsular Peatland Landscape in Sarawak). The Project will support development of a new National Action Plan for Peatlands (NAPP) for 2021-2030 as the existing NAPP will expire in 2020. Further to that, the four project states will prepare State-level Action Plan for Peatlands (SAPPs) and review and update Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for the targeted peatland landscapes. In addition, GEC will facilitate knowledge exchange between Malaysia with our neighbour Indonesia, other tropical peatland countries in Southeast Asia and other regions.

South Ketapang Landscape Initiative recognised by Head of Ketapang District

GEC in with partnership with Aidenvironment and initial financial support from IOI Group has developed the South Ketapang Landscape Initiative (SKLI) that covers a peatland landscape of 750,000 ha of South Ketapang in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The SKLI Phase 1 was completed which has successfully engaged the key government agencies, more than 5 plantation groups (both the oil palm and forest plantations), CSOs and the local communities in conserving and protecting the vulnerable disturbed peatland area within the landscape. Three specific working groups were established for SKLI, namely Conservation, Fire Prevention and Control, and Village Development. The 150,000 ha Muara Kendawangan Nature Reserve and rare basin peatlands within the landscape have been threatened by conversion and fire. Action plans and strategies have been developed by the three working groups and presented at a stakeholder forum in November 2019 of which key recommendations have been suggested and agreed upon for implementation by the stakeholders, this will later contribute to the West Kalimantan Landscape Production, Protection, Inclusion (CCI) Strategy towards sustainable and green economic growth.

Programme:

headed by Adelaine Tan

Outreach & Partnership



The programme incorporates activities relating to general capacity building, environmental education, information exchange and raising awareness on global environmental issues.



20th Anniversary Forum

In conjunction with GEC's 20th Anniversary, GEC published its Anniversary book and organised a forum entitled "Building Partnership for the Environment" which was held at Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPA) on April 23, 2019. The book and the forum were launched by the former KATS Minister, YB Dato' Dr. Xavier Jayakumar. More than 100 participants comprising of government agencies, corporate and community partners attended the forum. To commemorate the anniversary, GEC staffs also participated in a river restoration at the River Open Classroom at Taman Tugu; the open classroom is a joint effort between GEC and Taman Tugu Project.



Empowering Indigenous Communities in Natural Resources Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods

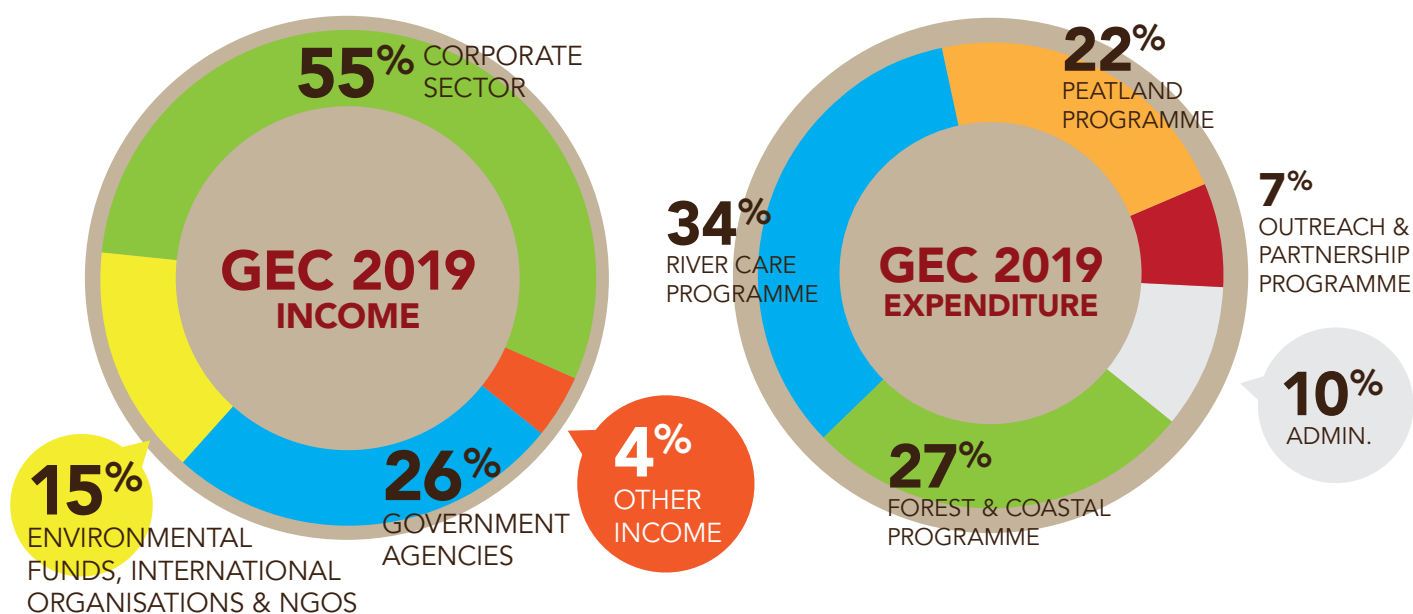
In December 2019, GEC secured funding from UN Development Programme (UNDP)/Ministry of Finance under the Orang Asli/Asal Micro-Grant Facility for Conservation and Livelihood to empower selected indigenous communities in Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape in Pekan, Pahang; Ulu Kinta Basin in Perak and Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve in Selangor to address land degradation surrounding the villages, and protect and rehabilitate forests, rivers, and peatlands important for conservation and community welfare. The project aims to demonstrate that when Orang Asli communities are suitably empowered, they can play a strategic role for stewardship of natural resources and make a real difference in forest and peatland rehabilitation while enhancing their livelihoods.

Financial Summary

INCOME	2019	2018
Government Agencies	2,066,469.27	2,377,804.65
Environmental funds, International Organisations & NGOs	1,248,370.50	494,204.19
Corporate Sector	4,467,405.90	3,503,211.77
Other Organisation	-	6,530.00
Other Income	294,615.00	233,055.82
TOTAL	8,076,860.66	6,614,806.43

EXPENDITURE	2019	2018
Forest & Coastal Programme	2,088,145.29	1,681,524.30
River Care Programme	2,605,244.11	2,215,548.32
Peatland Programme	1,709,391.16	963,692.69
Outreach & Partnership Programme	511,583.31	676,745.19
Admin & Finance	768,417.35	590,174.07
TOTAL	7,682,781.22	6,127,684.57
NET SURPLUS*	394,079.44	487,121.86

*excludes internal transfer of RM450,000 from previous year set aside funds



Partnership & Sponsorship

Global Environment Centre relies on the generosity of individuals and companies to continue our conservation work and community education/building. Through corporate partnerships and donations, donors have funded our projects. Key initiatives have included rehabilitation of North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest – from helping to rehabilitate the forest, prevention of peatland fire and haze and to provide sustainable livelihood for local community, and in river conservation and public outreach programme. GEC is fortunate to work in partnership with a number of dedicated companies who are committed to protect our environment. For their exceptional support during the past year, we gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following:

List of International & Government Partners:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)/Ministry of Finance, Malaysia
- ASEAN Secretariat
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI)
- International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
- Aidenvironment
- Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS), Malaysia
- Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Malaysia
- Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) Malaysia
- Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia
- Selangor and Pahang State Forestry Departments
- Department of Environment
- Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA)
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Health, Pekan, Pahang
- District Offices
- MyWater Partnership
- National Water Services Commission (SPAN)

List of Contributors: For grants/contributions more than RM100K

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) – Orang Asli/Asal Micro Grant Facility
- HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad
- Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) Malaysia
- Department of Environment
- IOI Plantations Sdn Bhd
- SPARK Foundation
- Aramco Malaysia / Singapore
- Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB)
- UPS Malaysia Sdn Bhd
- Vale Minerals (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd
- Yayasan Sime Darby
- Yayasan Bursa Malaysia
- Yayasan Hasanah
- Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
- Coco Cola Foundation
- Bunge Lodders Croklaan

For grants/contributions RM50K - 100K

- Boh Plantations Sdn Bhd
- Gamuda Land Bhd
- Ericson (M) Sdn Bhd
- Amorepacific

For grants/contributions up to RM50K

- Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia/Malaysian Water Partnership
- Proforest
- Bright Tree
- Croesus IT Solutions Sdn Bhd
- Origins Malaysia / TIDES
- BMS Organic



Building a green nation.



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