



QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (APRIL TO JUNE 2021)

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 second quarter (Q2) of 2021 i.e. April to June. In Q2, all events, programmes, and field surveys were carried out on a small scale - in adherence to restrictions under the Movement Control Order (MCO) set by the Government of Malaysia in January 2021 to break the chain of infection of COVID-19 virus. Between January and May 2021, GEC was able to operate with a permit from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which allowed us to maintain core operations and activities on key project sites in some states namely Selangor, Perak and Pahang. Most GEC staff continued to work from home (WFH) throughout this time and field activities were significantly reduced after 1st June under the (Full) MCO-3.

Progress Updates

River Care Programme



GEC's One Stop Centre (OSC) in KRT Klebang Selatan, Perak was successfully launched on 10 April 2021 by the Mayor of Ipoh with funding from Yayasan Hasanah (YH). The centre, which sells tapioca chips produced by KRT Klebang Selatan has generated income of around RM12,000 from September 2020 till April 2021. With additional YH support, an eco-trail for mountain biking activities at Kampung Tonggang and a trail to Mount Korbu were established for a community-based tourism programme. Under a

UNDP project, a One Stop Education Centre (OSEC) at Kampung Tonggang has been constructed to house educational facilities and teaching aids. Under the Global Environment Facility 5 (GEF5) project, soil stabilisation and tree-planting activities have been carried out at a new plot (Plot 5) – a bioengineering site at Simpang Pulai highway. On 5 April 2021,



GEC conducted a workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) for the upper Kinta basin with representatives of various local government agencies.



Under W.A.T.E.R. project, river water quality, biological water quality and hydrology studies carried out at three sites: Sg PENCHALA Open Classroom, Constructed Wetland Cell and Sg Way. The Sg Selangor (downstream) communities at Bestari Jaya managed to establish three community gardens as part of their food security initiative.

Under the GEF5 Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Riverine Management - Klang River Basin component, a post biodiversity study was conducted, which showed presence of an increased number of species at the enhanced riverine sites. The City Nature Challenge 2021: Klang Valley was held in collaboration with University of Malaya Water Warriors and Sekitar Kita from 30 April to 3 May 2021 to promote community participation in observing, recording and identifying the biodiversity within their riverine area or surrounding areas. In total, 35 Friends of Klang River Basin (FoKRB) members from 12 communities along the Klang River stretch participated in this challenge and 14 community projects were created to share their findings in the iNaturalist app.

Back to Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management - Klang River Basin

Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management - Klang River Basin

The project is focused on addressing the root causes and barriers to the conservation of riverine biodiversity through the development of strategies and promotion of best management practices and capacity building for key stakeholders. The problems range from rapid urbanization, river pollution, over extraction of natural resources and others. One common major problem at the proposed river basins is the rapid loss of riverine biodiversity due to habitat degradation and pollution.

Objective: To expand more demonstration sites and empower the Friends of Klang River Basin to promote integration of riverine biodiversity conservation into river management.

Created by: FriendsOfKlangRiverBasin - April 14, 2021

Project admins: FriendsOfKlangRiverBasin, zulkhazni, munkakhsia, marnipangpedesari

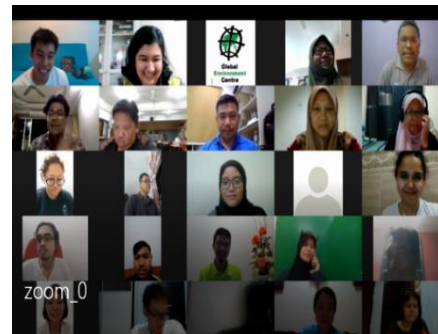
Projects Included

- Bod - Sungai Ampang (USA)
- Bod - Sungai Batu (Kg Kajang)
- Bod - Sungai Batu (PPN Batu Mulu)
- Bod - Sungai Bera-Bera (Taman Tugu)
- Bod - Sungai Gombak (Seri Terengganu)
- Bod - Sungai Kajang (PPN Beritang)
- Bod - Sungai Kemuning (Kg Chabok)
- Bod - Sungai Keroh (Obon Komuniti Maturu Magna)
- Bod - Sungai Klang (Friends of Sungai Klang Mid Valley River 3)
- Bod - Sungai Klang (Obon Komuniti AU2)
- Bod - Sungai Klang (Puchong)
- Bod - Sungai Klang (Taman Penghulu Kampar)
- Bod - Sungai Klang (Taman Warisan)
- Bod - Sungai Perchub (Taman Rimba Klang)



iNaturalist's Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management – Klang River basin project

Three online sharing sessions were conducted covering biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and bees as pollinators and its relationship with the river.



"Nilai Kepelbagaian Biologi bagi Konservasi Sungai di Malaysia – Kepentingan kepada Komuniti Tempatan dan Persekitaran" (4 March 2021)



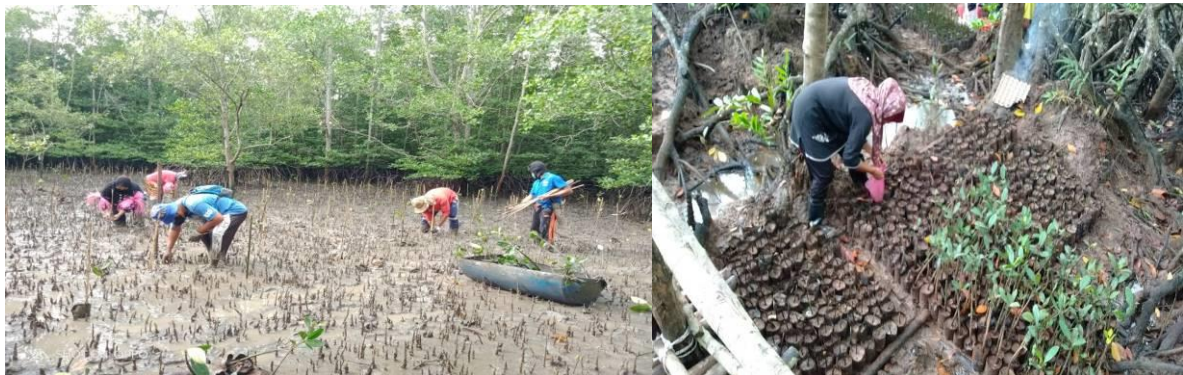
"Lebah & Sungai Saling Melengkap" (26 June 2021)

Forest and Coastal Programme

The following activities were successfully implemented during this period:

- **A total of 7,000 mangrove trees** was planted over sites totalling 3.5 ha. This includes 2,000 and 5,000 mangrove trees planted on a one hectare and 2.5 hectare of degraded land at Tg Surat and Kuala Gula by Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat (SHBPTS) and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG) respectively.
- **Community nursery:** The Komuniti Warisan Hutan Sg. Tenggi Selatan (KWHSTS) Nursery established at Felda Sg Tenggi Selatan, raised about 350 tree saplings to be planted at Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve (BBEFR). The community nursery of Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT) at Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR) was refurbished with netting, a sprinkler system, planting beds and equipped with an education corner, while community nursery of Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) was also upgraded with an additional water tank, netting and an essential planting equipment.

- **Six units of piezometers were installed** at Forest Compartment (FC) 3, FC 7 and FC 25 for water table monitoring at BBEFR.
- As a **measure to prevent and control fires in the RMFR & KLNFR**, **10 units of canal blocks** were constructed in collaboration with SHGSU and SGAT: eight units at FC 99 & FC 100 (RMFR) and two units at FC 6 (KLNFR). Locations for additional 10 units of canal blocks have been identified.
- **PFR Programme 2020/2021**: Interactive Online Learning sessions were completed via Zoom for Peatland Forest Ranger students, with 192 students in attendance. To enhance the interactive learning, there were competitions with prizes offered to winners including trophies, certificates and cash rewards.
- **Peer visit** of KWHSTS members to Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) Community Nursery and hands-on activities to explore the establishment and management of community nursery.
- **Patrolling and monitoring activities** were conducted by SHGSU (at RMFR), SGAT (at KLNFR) and KWHSTS (at BBEFR) including daily updating of Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) boards and weekly water table monitoring at the adjacent forest reserves to prevent forest fires, illegal hunting and encroachment.
- **Pertubuhan Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT) was registered to and received approval from** Selangor's Registrar of Societies office on 27 May 2021 as the **first Orang Asli (OA) - Temuan community group to safeguard the peat swamp forest in KLNFR** and the social interests of the community in Mukim Tanjung Dua Belas.
- **Two handicraft kiosks were established** in Kg. OA Bukit Cheeding and Kg. OA Kempas Island and equipped with handicraft production materials and interpretation signages under the United Nations Development Programme-Ministry of Finance (UNDP-MOF) project.



SHBPTS planted 2,000 mangrove trees under the Treasure the Mangrove Project at Tg Surat, Johor.



Constructed canal blocks at FC 99 & 100 (RMFR), Selangor



Community nurseries of SGAT and SHGSU refurbished with netting and sprinkler system

Peatland Programme

Work continued on various activities at Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL). Activities included: site assessment of the YP Plantation Holdings - GEC Recovery Project area, community nursery and lining planting trainings (Yayasan Petronas Walk4Trees programme), and community planting (UNDP and Walk4Trees). 1,700 *Macaranga* saplings were planted by Orang Asli communities in degraded peat swamp forest areas during the reporting period. GEC engaged in active discussions with Pahang Forestry Department (Jabatan Perhutanan Negeri Pahang, JPNP) to provide updates of activities undertaken within SEPPL. GEC also initiated discussions with TH Plantations Berhad on a potential Recovery Project. In addition, the GEC site office in Pahang was moved from Chini to Pekan on 19 April 2021.



There was significant progress in Sabah and Sarawak. Ongoing stakeholders engagement in Klias Peninsular Peatland Landscape (KPPL) included interviews with the village heads as well as engagement with district and forestry offices supported by Technical Assistance and Knowledge Exchange for Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (TAKE-SMPEM) Project. In addition, with the support of local staff and site facilitators in Sabah and Sarawak, we have been established community nurseries for the Walk4Trees initiative.

GEC continues to be involved in Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Working Group's discussions on the review of the MSPO standards. Additionally, GEC is involved in revising Independent Smallholder modules on peat for Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Peatland Working Group (RSPO PLWG) and updating the Drainability Assessment Procedure of RSPO. GEC joined focus group discussions on the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 on 16 and 18 June 2021 and provided significant input on the new policy development for 2021-2030. GEC participated in several virtual knowledge sharing sessions including documentation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and on SEPPL at local and international levels including the 16th International Peatland Congress (3 May to 6 May 2021) and GEC webinar (4 June 2021).

Our sister organisation Yayasan Gambut in Indonesia supported on-the-ground activities in Giam Siak Kecil landscape in Riau. GEC and Yayasan Gambut were involved in International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) Mid-Term Review Mission for the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Indonesia (SMPEI) project from 31 May to 23 June 2021 through site visits to four project villages in Riau, as well as virtual meetings with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

At regional level, our collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is progressing and the Training Module 3 (on field verification and mapping of peatlands for country use) was completed and is being translated into local languages in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. In addition, 3rd Programme Steering Committee (PSC) of ASEAN Peatland Programme meetings were held on 28 June (on GEF-IUCN Mekong Peatlands Project) and 29 June 2021 (on the Measurable Action for Haze- Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia Programme). Both the PSC meetings adopted indicative Annual Work Plan and Budgets

(AWPB) for 2022. Additionally, GEC also participated in the 6th Meeting of ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) on 30 June 2021.

Outreach & Partnership

In conjunction with World Environment Day 2021, GEC organised a web forum entitled “GEC’s Ecosystem Restoration Journey” on 4 June 2021. GEC leaders shared GEC’s experience and insights on environmental conservation and restoration under its various programmes. The forum was attended by 87 participants including representatives from government, private sector, community and civil society. The event also received news coverage from various local media.

Global Environment Centre
Healthier ecosystems, with richer biodiversity, yield greater benefits such as more fertile soils, bigger yields of timber and fish, and larger stores of greenhouse gases. Restoration can happen in many ways – for example through actively planting or by removing pressures so that nature can recover on its own.

In conjunction with World Environment Day 2021, GEC is organising a webinar to share GEC's experience in eco-system restoration, namely in forests and river rehabilitation, through multi-stakeholder partnership, particularly with the local communities.

GEC'S ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION JOURNEY

4 JUNE 2021 10AM - 12PM (GMT+8 KL)

REMAINING RESTORE

Open to all. Save the date and register now at bit.ly/g3fjwq.

 Moderator	 Manager of River Care Program	 Manager of Peatland Program	 Programme Officer	 Director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Art of Smart Farming for Sustainable River Management	Restoring and Managing Peatland Ecosystems	Community-based Mangrove Restoration and Sustainable Livelihood	Engaging the Public and Civil Society in GEC's Conservation Work	



On 5 May 2021, GEC received a visit from the Ambassador of Sweden, His Excellency Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt at GEC's office who was keen to learn about environment protection and climate change efforts in Malaysia and GEC's work. On advocacy work, GEC made issued a media release on 6 April 2021 to assert GEC's stand on the peat swamp forest in Selangor Smart Agro Park (SSAP). GEC also issued a joint- media release with partners (Yayasan Sime Darby - YSD and SHBKG) in support for the nomination of Kuala Gula-Matang Mangrove Forest as a 8th Ramsar site. The Star daily published a half-page report on this.

Under the Yayasan Petronas Walk4Trees tree-planting programme, 23 community groups have been involved in setting up nurseries which have prepared 53,321 seedlings to be planted in 14 sites across 10 states, and a total of 16,152 saplings were planted by community members in five sites between January and June 2021.



Visibility

There were 66 media coverages on GEC between 1 April and 31 June 2021 (RCP: 26, FCP: 27, PP: 1, General: 12). These coverages had a total PR value of RM2,256,301 and cumulative potential reach of 6,051,748 people.

Mangrove conservation
Sime Darby Ihd group chief executive officer Datuk Jeffri Salim Davidson (right) with Global Environment Centre director Faizal Panah during a mangrove planting project in Kuala Gula, Perak.

PETALING JAYA: Setting up a river basin authority will be a good way forward to sustainably manage important river basins in the country, experts say.

Water quality expert Dr Zaki Zainudin said disputes relating to transboundary river basins continued to be a matter of discussion in many parts of the world.

"It is not something new and the matter has been a topic of extensive research and discussion in Europe. I am not at all surprised that these matters are now arising in Malaysia."

"It is not just about water scarcity per se. With progress and development, the value of water has become tremendously apparent," he said.

He added that the approach of setting up a joint committee or authority had been deployed in other parts of the world, citing the example of the Rhine river which flows through nine European countries and which is managed by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine.

"Such an approach, however, is usually backed by a treaty or agreement that is mutually beneficial," he noted.

The setting up of such an authority, he said, will be the first in Malaysia and such an approach can be employed at selected river basins.

"In my view, to adopt such a move for all transboundary river basins is not feasible, simply because there are just too many."

"However, such a move can be adopted for certain key and critical basins," he added.

He noted that water resources usually came under the purview of the state authorities, under the Federal Constitution.

"This is why water authorities are usually set up at the state level and these state authorities are in charge of managing water resources such as rivers, groundwater, lakes and the sea within their respective state boundaries," he said.

Dr Zaki said a river basin authority must have representatives from all stakeholder

Experts back setting up of river basin authority

"With progress and development, the value of water has become tremendously apparent."

Dr Zaki Zainudin

should be protected.

"These people depend on the natural resources for daily life while also playing a role in the preservation of the sites."

"We also hope that this plan is not an attempt to distract from the move to designate other areas in the state," she said.

Global Environment Centre director Faizal Parish said that while the proposal "sounds very positive", the state government should do more to protect the existing parks and forests.

"For example, it has allocated very little resources towards the management of the Selangor State Park which is under the Selangor Forestry Department."

"It is crucial that adequate resources are allocated for the management of future grouparks," he said.

He added that engagement with local communities was needed if the state government was serious in pushing ahead with its plan.

Lisa Meerabadi, Faizal also stressed that grouparks should be reserved for certain activities only such as recreation, ecotourism and research.

Large-scale developments that disrupted the local flora and fauna, he added, must be completely off-limits.

Petruhanan Peitindang Khazanah Alam Malaysia national chairman Puan Sri Shariffa



The Gornbak Selangor Quartz Ridge is being considered as part of the groupark - Flegick

Sabrina Syed Akil said there was a need for a legally binding agreement to safeguard the status of these grouparks against degeneration in future.

"This will ensure that subsequent state administrations will continue to honour the status and not revert it to accommodate new developments," she said.

She stressed that it was important for grouparks identified by groupark gazettement not to exist in isolation amidst a sprawling urban landscape.

This, she explained, was to ensure continuity of the natural landscape and prevent it from becoming fragmented which would harm the ecosystem.

"Continuity is crucial for the wildlife to traverse the land when foraging for food, otherwise they may invade human settlements," she said, adding that fragmentation could also disrupt animal migratory routes.

Shariffa said a vast expanse of a natural landscape was necessary for wildlife mating and ensuring access to a diverse gene pool.

"If animals are confined to a limited area for an extended period, this can lead to inbreeding and cause extinction in the long run," she said.

For details on the Selangor Draft Local Plan 2020, call 03-4242-2800 or email ranangan@petronas.com.my

'STAY VIGILANT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS'

Covid-19 shows how vulnerable country is to degradation of ecosystems, says NGO

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As the country remains under total lockdown, Malaysians have been urged to remain vigilant against encroachment, illegal harvesting of natural resources and peatland and forest fires in the coming dry season.

The Global Environment Centre (GEC) director Faizal Parish said the Covid-19 pandemic had exposed how vulnerable the nation was to the degradation of ecosystems.

"Degradation of peatlands is leading to increased fires and haze, poisoning our air; loss of catchment forests releases soil that choke rivers and pollute our wa-

ter supplies. "Coastal developments wipe out mangroves and coral reefs, destroying our fisheries. "Destruction and over-exploitation of natural resources and forests have led to the evolution of new human diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, SARS and now Covid-19.

"Only by restoring the balance of the natural ecosystems can we reduce the risk of such future threats," he said during the "GEC's Ecosystem Restoration Journey" web forum yesterday. With World Environment Day observed today, Parish called on Malaysians to take action over the next 10 years to mitigate and eventually reverse the tide of environmental degradation.

Moderated by Parish, the web forum also hosted four panel members from GEC's management team who shared their experiences and insights on environmental conservation and restoration.

Among them were GEC's River Care Programme manager Dr Kalithasan Kalassan, who stressed on the proper use of drains to protect and preserve rivers.

"People often overlook that what they do in their kitchens and backyard is the primary cause of river pollution. "Drains are meant for rainwater only. If we can ensure that, the river can take care of itself. "You can still protect the rivers while staying indoors during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period. Clean your drains regularly, control your consumption and manage your resources wisely.

GEC's Peatland Programme coordinator Serena Lew said the rehabilitation of peat forests, through the 4R (restoration, reduction of fire risk, revegetation and revitalisation) approach, had reduced forest fires in Selangor by 90 per cent. "Similarly, no fire outbreak occurred in Pahang since March 2019 after an estimated 1500ha of degraded peat land in the state was rewetted.

"Peatland fires are rarely triggered by natural causes and usually originates from human activities, such as unsustainable farming or careless disposal of cigarette butts. "For farmers, we promote zero-



Destruction and over-exploitation of natural resources and forests have led to the evolution of new human diseases, says Global Environment Centre director Faizal Parish. FILE PIC

burning approach, encourage them to raise the water levels in cultivated land and to utilise crop residues from the previous harvest as fertilisers, she said. Lew said the revitalisation of peatlands, through community nurseries of wildlings, had contributed to the livelihoods of the local communities through seedling buy-back.

Her counterpart Nagarajan Rengasamy, the manager of GEC's Forest and Coastal Programme, said the 2004 tsunami disaster was a stark reminder that coastlines were the country's "first line of defence".

Citing a National Coastal Erosion Study in 2015, he said 1,348km of Malaysia's coastline was found to be eroding, with Perak's coastline as the worst-hit in Peninsular Malaysia.

Several projects, he said, had been undertaken to reverse the condition, such as the Kuala Gula mangrove restoration exercise. "Between 2006 and 2020, more than 12,000 volunteers were involved in planting 217,307 mangrove saplings to cover 70ha.

"Besides that, we emphasise on the participation of local communities through our sustainable alternative livelihood programme. "We encourage women groups, especially, to develop and commercialise crafts from plastic bottle, brooch and hair clips from seashells, tea drink from Acanthus leaves and souvenir from recycled materials.

"These community groups are registered with the Registrar of Societies," he said. Meanwhile, GEC's Outreach and Partnerships Programme coordinator Adelaine Tan said companies had also pitched in support through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Among the notable ones, she said, were Bridgestone's "One Tyre One Good Deed" campaign, tree planting for "Petronas Walk4Trees" programme and Innisfree's "Green Forest Campaign".

Since 1974, the World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 and the 2021 edition, themed "Ecosystem Restoration", will be hosted by Pakistan.



Proposed Ramsar recognition for Kuala Gula-Matang mangrove forest will boost conservation efforts >7

Support for listing of eighth mangrove site
Kuala Gula-Matang mangrove forests proposed for inclusion under international wetlands treaty

By MAHAJIT EKAR
KUALA LUMPUR

The United Nations Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) is a global treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only international treaty that focuses on the conservation and wise use of all wetlands and their resources, recognizing them as shared heritage of humankind. Wetlands are essential for the well-being of nations and the world as a whole. They are home to diverse and unique plants, animals and microorganisms, including many species of fish, birds and waterfowl. They also play a vital role in the hydrological cycle, providing water for agriculture, industry and domestic use. Wetlands also act as natural sponges, absorbing excess water and reducing the risk of flooding. They also help to filter pollutants and improve water quality. Wetlands are also important for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. The Ramsar Convention is a key instrument for the protection and management of wetlands and their resources. It provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, and for the promotion of sustainable development. The Convention is a global treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only international treaty that focuses on the conservation and wise use of all wetlands and their resources, recognizing them as shared heritage of humankind. Wetlands are essential for the well-being of nations and the world as a whole. They are home to diverse and unique plants, animals and microorganisms, including many species of fish, birds and waterfowl. They also play a vital role in the hydrological cycle, providing water for agriculture, industry and domestic use. Wetlands also help to filter pollutants and improve water quality. Wetlands are also important for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. The Ramsar Convention is a key instrument for the protection and management of wetlands and their resources. It provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, and for the promotion of sustainable development.

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Lack of enforcement causing more environmental damage, says group

By Jason Thomas June 5, 2021 10:06 AM



Several others have made the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu campus at Kuala Nerus their home during the MCO. (Photo by Yintang/Agenda)

PETALING JAYA: A green group says there has been an increase in land degradation, land grab and illegal logging and mining during the movement control order (MCO) period.

Speaking to FMT in conjunction with World Environment Day today, the Global Environment Centre (GEC) noted that state revenue had taken a hit from economic restrictions, with their budgets also dented due to stimulus packages, increased health expenditure and other measures to battle the pandemic.

'Rebuild natural support system for our planet'

IN CONJUNCTION with World Environment Day celebrated this month, Global Environment Centre (GEC) hosted a web forum titled Ecosystem Restoration Journey that was in line with the theme for the year, "Ecosystem Restoration".

As a participant of the global movement, #GenerationRestoration, GEC through this forum shared its experience in ecosystem restoration and raised awareness on the role and importance of partnerships with different stakeholders.

GEC is a Malaysian non-profit organisation and supports ecosystem protection and rehabilitation. GEC director Faizal Parish said the world's ecosystems sustained life on earth, which is home to an incredible diversity of plants and animals, including every species we depend on for food, fibre and resources for life.

"Without intact natural ecosystems, we will not have clean water to drink or air to breathe and global climate change will spiral out of control.

"Destruction and over-exploitation of natural resources and forests have led to the evolution of new human diseases such as Covid-19," he said.

He added that only by restoring the bal-

ance of the ecosystems could risk of future threats be reduced. "Amid the degradation that continues to threaten us, it is good stewardship and restoration of ecosystems that will help rebuild the natural support system for the planet.

"In Malaysia, we are facing key challenges that need to be addressed through such restoration. "Degradation of peatlands is leading to increased fires and haze that poison our air, while loss of catchment forests releases soil that choke rivers and pollute our water supply.

"Coastal development has wiped out mangroves and coral reefs and are destroying our marine life," he said.

He called on all Malaysians to take action over the next 10 years to slow and halt the loss of the remaining critical ecosystems, and slowly but surely reverse the tide of degradation.

Faizal also called on the government and people to maintain vigilance against encroachment and illegal harvesting of natural resources and prevent peat land and forest fires in the coming dry season.

"Malaysians must be more vigilant and stand up against the wanton and irresponsible destruction of the environment," he said.

Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from July to September 2021:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
August - November 2021	Planting sites in 11 states	Walk4Trees tree planting with indigenous people and local communities in various planting sites in 11 states.
3,17,31 July 14, 28 August 11 September	Online (Zoom)	Six sessions of webinar training on social media workshop from July 2021 to September 2021 for selected FoKRB members
10 July 2021	Online (Zoom)	W.A.T.E.R. Project: Webinar on River monitoring and pollution

		reporting
21 July 2021	Online (Zoom)	UNDP OA MGF Virtual Project Monitoring
July 2021	Online (Zoom)	Virtual meeting with stakeholders on peatland rehabilitation in Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape
28 July 2021	Online (Zoom)	Webinar on Food Security – in conjunction with World Population Day
4 August 2021	Online (Zoom)	Closing Ceremony for Peatland Forest Ranger's (PFR) Online Interactive Learning Sessions 2020/21
12 August 2021	IGEM2021 Online Platform	Water Resources Management : Redefining Sustainability under IGEM 2021
31 August 2021	Pengkalan Kampar, Klang	Launch of the RCEC Downstream Open Classroom
9 September 2021	IGEM2021 Online Platform	Peatland Ecosystem: Carbon Store or Carbon Source to Malaysia's Nationally Determined Contributions
26 September 2021	Online (Zoom)	Webinar on Community-Based River Monitoring in conjunction with World River Day 2021
September 2021	Simpang Pulai-Cameron Highlands, Perak	GEF5: River Walk in Sg Kinta Open Classroom