

QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (JANUARY TO MARCH 2022)

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 First Quarter (Q1) of 2022: January to March 2022.

Progress Updates

River Care Programme

Under Yayasan Hasanah project, the first training sessions on Green Living and RIVER Ranger 2.0 (RR2.0) for communities and CBOs were conducted on February 26-27, 2022 at Riverfront Hotel's Lavender Hall and KRT Klebang Selatan respectively. Additionally, the KRT Klebang Selatan Community has carried out restoration as well enhanced their adopted Klebang River area by installing tyres and railing as stairs for easy access to the river for their regular river monitoring activity. Besides that, one activity specifically for Empowering Youth RIVER Ranger of Orang Asli Kampung Tonggang on Green Living Practices was carried out on February 19 at their One Stop Education Centre. The Orang Asli youths were introduced to green living practices: waste management, recycling and water-saving initiatives. The next day, a river monitoring activity has been carried out with the community of KRT Buntong 3 and 4, involving their Youth RIVER Ranger team. From March 21-27, an environmental assessment study covering water quality, macroinvertebrates, fish, flora and fauna within Kinta River Basin (KRB) has been carried out by GEC and an appointed expert team.



Group photo on the Healthy River Basin through Green Living Practices Series 1 training.

Under the Yayasan Hasanah Special Grant 2022, the enhancement of the existing track along Sg Seno'oi from Kg Makmur/Kg Lalang to the Korbu gateway is progressing well and is expected to be completed by the end of April this year. Aside from that, the work to enhance the mountain bike eco-trail and outdoor recreational space at Kg Tonggang also are well underway and is scheduled for completion by June 2022. Also a smart watering system has been installed at KRT Klebang Selatan herbs and community garden.



Construction of a mini chalet is well underway

Under the W.A.T.E.R. project, focus is more towards quantifying volumetric benefits of 2021 initiatives and 2022 planning work was ongoing.

The Symposium on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management in Malaysia was successfully held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 29 March 2022. The symposium was organised to provide an information-sharing platform on Best Management Practices (BMP) and the output from the Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management project in Malaysia covers three pioneer landscapes - Klang Basin (Selangor), Kinta Basin (Perak) and Segama Basin (Sabah) – as well as the module to mainstreaming biodiversity mainly on a holistic management of river basins through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The one-day symposium was attended by 80 participants from various stakeholders including government agencies, local communities, private sectors, universities and NGOs.



Symposium Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into River Management in Putrajaya

Aside from the symposium, the programme team also developed and distributed three (3) different posters, as well published a 60-page guideline for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into river Management in Malaysia.

Forest and Coastal Programme

The forest and mangrove conservation, protection, restoration and fire prevention activities were carried out on a small-scale, primarily with the involvement of the local community through the cooperation and support from the relevant local government authorities. The following are the key activities that have been carried out during this quarter:

- Community-based tree planting activities: Planting 3,900 peat swamp and 5,090 mangrove trees were planted in the degraded areas with the support from YP, HSBC Bank Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Ericsson Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Intercontinental Specialty Fats Sdn Bhd (ISF), Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) and YSD-Ministry of Finance projects.
- Raised 4,500 peatland trees and more than 15,000 mangrove trees at community-based peatland nurseries of Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU), Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT) and Komuniti Warisan Hutan Sg. Tenggi Selatan (KWHSTS) and mangrove nurseries by Sahabat Hutan Bakau Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH), Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tanjung Surat (SHBPTS), Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL) and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG) for the conservation and rehabilitation projects.
- On January 22, GEC organised a peer visit to the Orang Seletar Culture and Arts Centre at Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Temon, Sungai Danga, Johor Bahru for the Orang Asli Temuan community as learning opportunity discover how the local Orang Asli community can establish and run a cultural centre. In March, a series of four capacity development trainings was conducted for the Orang Asli young adults to empower them in the development of village maps and profiles at Kampung OA Pulau Kempas and Bukit Cheeding, Kuala Langat.
- In conjunction with World Wetlands Day 2022, on February 26, GEC organised its first monthly tree planting event for public participation in 2022 at RMFR in partnership with Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD), HSBC and SHGSU.

- The YSD project launching was held at Kuala Gula, Perak from March 18 to March 2.
- GEC conducted the bi-annual Annual General Meeting for the 2022-2024 term for SHBPPL, during which time a new SHBPPL committee was formed and officially appointed.
- On March 30, GEC conducted planting and awareness programme at Kg Dato' Hormat in Sabak Bernam, Selangor with SHBKDH for Ericsson Malaysia CSR programme.
- GEC completed and submitted to Johor State Forestry Department the Final Draft Report for Management Plan of Peat Swamp Forest for Johor for their review.



Visit from the National Peatland Agricultural Management Technical Committee to GEC-CoSPeC and RMFR



6 ha (3,600 trees) of tree planting at RMFR

Peatland Programme

At the local level, GEC continues our activities at Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL), Klias Peninsular Peatland Landscape (KPPL) in Sabah and Kg Buntal in Sarawak. Wildlife assessment under YP Plantation Holdings (YPPH) Recovery Project was conducted in north-eastern region of SEPPL including waterbird census along Sg Bebar in January and camera trap installation in March. In addition, GEC had conducted training in March on usage of Avenza Map smartphone application incorporated with community patrolling training for Kg Tanjung Kelapa, Kg Simpai and Kg Meranti. In Sabah, GEC has engaged Kg Lumat community in fire prevention and patrolling at/nearby Binsuluk Forest Reserve, and have increased number of patrollers for Kg Simpai and ongoing engagement for Kg Meranti at SEPPL.



Camera trap installation at SEPPL



Meeting with local state assemblyman (ADUN) of Beaufort, YB Dato' Hajah Azizah Mohd Dun during the Western Pacific Sustainable Peatland Management (SAGU) design mission undertaken by GEC.

At national and state levels activities, GEC continued to provide support to the national peatland project: Sustainable Peatland Management Ecosystem Malaysia (SMPEM). GEC has participated in several physical/online meetings and joined field visits conducted with Sabah and Sarawak State Project Management Offices (SPMO) to attend to detailed enquiries at respective landscapes in February 2022 during the Western Pacific Sustainable Peatland Management (SAGU) design mission undertaken by GEC.

Through the SAGU design mission in Sabah and Sarawak to KPPL, Kelabit Highlands/Bario and Maludam Peninsular Peatland Landscape, GEC worked closely with key stakeholders to ensure activities synchronise across existing programmes at landscape level. The SAGU is a regional programme that aims to halt or limit degradation and loss of peatland ecosystems in targeted lowland and upland landscapes of Borneo (Malaysia and Indonesia) and Papua New Guinea.

In terms of its regional level activities, GEC conducted an Initial Workshop on Investment Framework for Haze-Free, Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia on January 11 for Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) programme. This workshop brought together 180 participants to initiate discussion among ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders in developing investment framework for haze-free land management at national and regional levels in ASEAN. GEC also participated virtually at Lao PDR symposium on Peatland Ecosystem Management organised by IUCN from January 20-21. GEC presented on assessment of peatland degradation status and management issues.

In Indonesia, GEC's sister organisation i.e. Yayasan Gambut, supported the canal blocking activity in Sepahat Village. Yayasan Gambut also supported the planting of 1,000 *Rhizophora apiculata* mangrove seedlings for the rehabilitation activity in Buruk Bakul Village, Bandar Laksamana sub-district in Riau Province. Yayasan Gambut and Makmur Jaya Women's Farmers Group developed a demonstration plot of agroforestry for coffee in rubber plantation in Temiang Village, and planted 400 Liberica coffee seedlings.

Outreach and Partnership Programme

Through the HSBC Incitement platform, GEC secured donations over RM23,000 and distributed 24 sets of solar lights to 24 Orang Asli families in Pahang who have been long living without electricity supply.

Under the tree planting for YP Walk4Trees programme, the following activities were undertaken by GEC during this period:

- Cumulative number of trees planted in 14 sites across 11 states in Malaysia over the past year: 51,985 trees made possible through the help of community leaders and members and support of respective state and federal authorities.



YP-PETRONAS team on one of their recent visits at one of the planting sites

- On February 27, GEC collaborated with the Melaka State Water Resources Agency (BKSA) and Yayasan PETRONAS for a state-level event at Durian Tunggal Water Catchment, Malacca in conjunction with PETRONAS Walk4Trees Programme. The event was launched by Malacca Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Sulaiman Md Ali.



State event for YP planting site at Durian Tunggal Water Catchment site in Malacca

Visibility

Across media and social media platforms, GEC received coverage on 62 instances throughout the Q1 2022. The breakdown is as follows: RCP: 29, FCP: 16, PP: 3, OPP: 7; and General: 7. These coverages raked in a total PR value of RM1.76 million and a cumulative potential reach of 6.7 million people.

Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from April to June 2022:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
April 25	Mandarin Oriental Hotel	Mock cheque presentation to GEC by Aramco MD
April / May	Johor State Forestry Department	Organising few workshops for RPHPGNJ 2021-2030
Apr - Dec	Klias Peninsula Peatland Landscape, Sabah	Community livelihood project
Apr - July	Multiple landscapes	SAGU project design process
May 22	DID Perak	PWG meeting
May 28	Raja Musa Forest Reserve	Monthly tree planting
June	Sg Kinta Open Classroom, Perak	Education Hub launching
June	TBC	Tour Guide Training
June	TBC	IRBM training
June 25	Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve	Monthly tree planting