

QUARTERLY UPDATE TO GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 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 final quarter (Q4) of 2022: October to December 2022. Following are key activities were carried out in Q4 2022:

River Care Programme (RCP)

October 6: Opening ceremony of Kinta River Basin (KRB) Environmental Education Hub and Guided Trip in conjunction with the World River Day 2022 at KM45.9, FT185, Simpang Pulai–Cameron Highlands Highway. The hub features three components namely the River Open Classroom of Kinta River, Slope Bioengineering Site, and Tree Planting and Monitoring Education Site .



October 16: An awareness programme conducted in conjunction with Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd (DLMI) Sustainability Week. One key activity was the riverbank clean-up along Sg Penchala near Millennium Square, Petaling Jaya in which almost 151kg of waste was collected, segregated, weighed and transported out to recycling and the landfill with the support of the KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd.



November 6 & 7: An on-site and practical field-based two-day Empowerment Workshop to help OA communities identify options, implement and operate eco-tourism initiatives was held at Teratak Bernam Riverview Tanjung Malim Perak.

November 7: The launch of the tree planting programme at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) was attended by about 70 guests including management from Yayasan PETRONAS, UTP, students, community members, media representatives and GEC. The programme, inaugurated by UTP Chancellor, included the planting of 20 trees.



November 23: To support sustainable eco-tourism and recreation in Kinta River Basin, the Friends of Kinta River Basin (FOKiRB) members released a total 175 local fishes into Seno'oi river in Kg Tonggang. They were joined by Kg Tonggang's Orang Asli, Youth RIVER Ranger Kg Tonggang and GEC officers.

December 11: A waste management training for business owners from Desa Mentari and community members from Petaling Jaya was held under the W.A.T.E.R. project. The session was officiated by MBPJ's Director of Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Department, Mr Lee Lih Shyan.

Forest and Coastal Programme (FCP)

September to October: The planting of 1,020 Tenggek Burung (*Melicope lunu-ankenda*) by Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) members was conducted in collaboration with Innisfree Malaysia in Forest Compartment 99 of Raja Musa Forest Reserve (RMFR) while a total of 11,500 mangrove trees were planted at three mangrove locations.

November 8 to 10: A 3-day, 2-night training programme focusing on the Best Management Practices (BMP) targeting water management and fire prevention was carried out successfully in support of Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD) and Technical Assistance and Knowledge Exchange for Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (TAKE-SMPEM) and participated by 50 SSFD officers and staffs at Amverton Cove Golf & Island Resort, Pulau Carey.

November 29: GEC presented a talk on mangrove and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) in conjunction with Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad (BPMB)'s 49th Anniversary Celebration at BPMB's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. At the exhibition, GEC promoted and sold to the guests the mangrove-based products, 'Coolega' and 'Mangroovist', produced by the local communities.



From left, YBhg Tan Sri Nazir Razak (Chairman of BPMB), FCP's Mr. Nagajaran Rengasamy, Datuk Ali Abdul Kadir (Chairman of Amanah Lestari Alam - ALAM), Dr. Aldrie and Wan Faizah Che Din (CEO ALAM).

December 9: A small-scale tree planting activity of 200 *Melicope lunu-ankenda* trees was organised at FC 25, Bukit Belata (Ext) Forest Reserve (BBEFR) for Komuniti Warisan Hutan Sungai Tenggi Selatan (KWHSTS) in collaboration with Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD) and Prosper Capital Holdings Sdn. Bhd.

October to December: Three visits from foreign delegates (governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR; the UK Government's International Trade Select Committee (Member of Parliament from United Kingdom); and RSPO delegates) to GEC-Community Sustainable Peatland Centre (CoSPeC) and RMFR were hosted in Q4 2022 as part of a sharing and training session to understand the best practice approaches for the sustainable peatland management in the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest including community-based peatland restoration programmes as well as fire prevention and monitoring work as part of nature-based solutions (NbS):



December 28 & 29: Supported the Hari Moyang celebration in Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas and Bukit Cheeding – a festival to honour the Temuan ancestors and to pray for protection of the community and villages against all forms of catastrophes.

Peatland Programme

Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL)

- Ahead of the year-end monsoon, food baskets were distributed to 58 households in 5 communities (i.e. Kg Meranti, Kg Tanjung Kelapa cluster, RPS Runchang, Kg Simpai and Kg Wah Wah).
- Two mushroom houses were built by the OA of Kg Meranti and 200 mushroom spawns were provided to each house for initial stage for trial in order to familiarise the farming techniques and to generate funding for the following round of spawns. The participants have started harvesting and selling the mushroom in the village.
- Two fire prevention talks and fire suppression simulation were conducted for Kg Cenderawasih and Kg Meranti. Department of Environment, Pineapple Industry Board and Bomba gave talks and interacted with the communities on matters related to land preparation and management practices.



October 4: GEC facilitated a Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPEM) Workshop in Sabah to discuss programmes and activities undertaken within the SMPEM Project. GEC shared the share work experience, and expertise in developing the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).



October 10 to 15: At regional level, GEC and MAHFSA Programme co-organised a Mekong Study Visit for 24 people to Malaysia with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) under the Mekong Peatlands Project. The visit by government officials of Cambodia and Lao PDR to study the Malaysian experience in sustainable peatland management, peatland governance and stakeholder engagement.



November: GEC co-organised two workshops at the Conference of Parties of United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP-27) in Sharm el Sheikh Egypt, in partnership with the Government of Malaysia, under the Malaysian Pavilion. The first discussed strategies to mobilise finance to halt peatland degradation and forest and land fires that have been causing transboundary haze in Southeast Asia. It was organised with ASEAN Secretariat and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia (MAHFSA) Programme



The second forum, held on 10 November, was officiated by HRH, The Regent of Pahang, Crown Prince Tengku Hassanal, and focused on options for sustainable management and rehabilitation of peat swamp forests in Southeast Pahang State, Malaysia. It was undertaken with support of the Technical Assistance and Knowledge Exchange- SMPPEM (TAKE-SMPEM) project.



GEC also co-organised an official COP27 I Side Event on 14 November: a forum in partnership with Wetlands International on “Enhancing Climate Action Through Peatlands”.

December: Yayasan Gambut organised planting of 800 trees supported by Benihbaik.com in Riau and Bengkulu Provinces, alongside NGOs as implementation partners - SANDI in Riau and Ulayat in Bengkulu. Yayasan Gambut also supported agroforestry efforts with coffee in Temiang Village and mangrove planting in Buruk Bakul Village, in Giam Siak Kecil Landscape, Bengkalis District in Riau Province.



Outreach & Partnerships Programme

November: The UNFCCC COP27 event in Egypt presented a timely opportunity for GEC to showcase our initiatives, particularly on sustainable peatland management and community engagement in Malaysia and the ASEAN region. Aside from a two-day exhibition slot (**Nov 14 & 15**) at the COP27 Exhibition, GEC was also given space to display our exhibits at the Malaysian Pavilion at COP27.



Aside from the printed display materials, we also shared videos showcasing our success stories and best practices on sustainable peatland management and reforestation efforts together with handcraft items made by OA community members of the Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT). GEC sponsored Temuan Orang Asli artist and activist Mr Shaq Koyok to showcase his work at COP27.

December 6: GEC hosted an official visit by United Nations (UN) delegation headed by its Under-Secretary General and UN Development Programme (UNDP) Associate Administrator, Ms Usha Rao-Monari from the HQ in New York, to Bukit Cheeding and Pulau Kempas OA villages in Kuala Langat, Selangor. The visit gave the UN representative an opportunity to witness first-hand the impact of GEC’s recently concluded UNDP-funded project on Empowering Targeted OA communities in Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods.



December 19: GEC hosted its year-end lunch with GEC Board of Management/Advisory Council Members and employees at a hotel in Petaling Jaya. The event also marked the start of GEC's 25th Anniversary celebrations.



Visibility

There were 17 media coverages on GEC between 1 October and 31 December 2022 (RCP: 9, FCP: 5, Peat: 3). These coverages had a total PR value of RM 1,063,788 and cumulative potential reach of more than 3,231,267 people.

NINETY OCBC Bank (M) Bhd (OCBC Bank) employees planted 90 mangrove trees at Tebuk Mendeling in Sabak Bernam, Selangor.

Led by chief executive officer Datuk Ong Eng Bin, the activity was part of the bank's plan to plant 3,000 such trees at the Siba site which will be monitored and nurtured over three years.

The RM654.53M initiative, to mark OCBC Group's 90th anniversary on Oct 30, is expected to give a total carbon sequestration of over 90 tonnes by 2025.

Mangrove trees are reputed to have among the highest carbon sequestration levels compared to other trees in the country. The three-year initiative is in partnership with 2022 Merdeka Award recipient non-governmental organisation Global Environment Centre (GEC) as well as Friends of Kampong Dato Hormat Mangroves, better known locally as Sabahat Hutan Bakau Kampong Dato Hormat (SHBKDH).

It is designed to be carried out entirely by the local community under the guidance of GEC, and will benefit local residents of Mukim Sungai Air Tawar in Sungai Besar, Sabak Bernam.

SHBKDH was established by the local community with the support of GEC and the local authorities to facilitate protection and rehabilitation of mangroves in their village. SHBKDH generates income for the local community through a mangrove nursery and rehabilitation activities with the support of corporate partners and Selangor government.

Bank staff take part in tree initiative in Sabak Bernam

"Restoring mangrove areas directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and guards against the impact of climate change."

Faizal Parish

"Restoring mangrove areas directly reduces GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions and guards against the impact of climate change," said GEC director Faizal Parish. "Mangroves act as storm barriers that strengthen the resilience of coastal and estuary zones from climate-related hazards such as storm surges and sea level rise, and reduces coastal erosion. "In addition, mangroves act as 'carbon sinks' by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which helps reduce global warming," he added. Ong said the bank was pleased



that the initiative would benefit both the environment and economy of the local community. "What excites us about the project is that it is not only about the environment but the community as well. Community involvement has been the theme of our existence these past 90 years.

"We are actively looking forward to involving the local community of Tebuk Mendeling in the mangrove tree-planting and management exercise, to develop a sustainable source of livelihood for the local people and contribute to the improved governance of the natural resources around them. The project will not only

encourage the locals to enhance their efforts in managing the mangrove forests in their locale but also sustain both the newly-planted mangroves and existing ones. "This project will increase local participation in mangrove forest protection and development by considering greater community approaches as well," said Ong.

ESG (Updated)

COP27: Malaysia to focus on adaptation, climate finance and showcasing local solutions

Tan Zhai Yun | theopmarkets.com
November 07, 2022 16:58 pm +08



COMMENT by Dr Lee Jiehor

Malaysia can make a difference through SDGs

"When many people take small steps towards change, the world will transform and become a better place for our children and future generations."

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set the stage for a new approach to economic cooperation, when all 193 United Nations member states, including Malaysia, agreed on 17 economic, social and environmental objectives to transform our world by 2030.

As outlined in World Progress Indicators in 2020, Malaysia has made significant progress in addressing and reducing the country's carbon footprint.

Three challenges inhibited poverty, education, mental health and well-being and environmental and climate action.

Poverty has been the primary issue both in Malaysia and around the world.

As a result, the students organized a fundraising event for the SDG community's children this year. The event was held at the SDG community's children's center in May this year for charity and NGOs, aiming to raise money for the SDG community and the SDG community.

For, especially the homeless and low-income families around Klang Valley. This is in harmony with the government's effort to create poverty in the country. Education is another important aspect of the global agenda.

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help for stress-related challenges have increased by almost five-fold in 2021 compared with 2019. Recognizing the seriousness of a mental health crisis, the SDG community has organized a series of workshops to create awareness and support for mental health.

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Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from January to March 2023:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
JANUARY		
3 to 6 Jan	Manjung/Kuala Gula, Perak	Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) audit visit
6 Jan	Tebuk Mendeleng, Selangor	Program Alam Sekitar DID Sabak Bernam
9 to 10 Jan	UKM Bangi, Selangor	UKM-YSD Climate Change Action @ UKM
10 to 14 Jan	Gunung Arong Forest Reserve	Peatland and coastal survey
18 to 20 Jan	Tebuk Mendeleng	Mangrove survey and stakeholder engagement with JPS Sabak Bernam and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato Hormat
19 to 23 Jan	Mersing and Bukit Tinggi, Johor	Rapid blackwater fish assessment in peatlands and its adjacent area
20 Jan	Sg Penchala Information Centre, PJ	Launching of Towards Healthy Watershed 2030 initiative
20 Jan	Beaufort, Sabah	YP Walk4Trees – New planting at Binsuluk Forest Reserve
24 to 26 Jan	Pasir Panjang Laut	YSD video shooting with community
25 Jan	SFD Kimanis, Sabah	Discussion with SMPPEM & SUPA Officer for upcoming program in KPPL
27 Jan	Sungai Samak Estate	Peatland survey and stakeholder engagement
FEBRUARY		
TBC	Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar	Peatland management training and peat assessment
TBC	Pekan, Pahang	Asian Waterbird Census
TBC	Pekan, Pahang	YPPH Trial planting
TBC	Bario, Sarawak	Initial community nursery and trial wilding collection
TBC	Manila, Philippines	Stakeholder discussions on support by MAHFSA Programme
TBC	TBC	Community entrepreneur training
8 Feb	Ladang Nenas Takuli 2, Beaufort Sabah	MyGAP Hands-on programme
13 to 17 Feb	Mount Korbu, Perak	Mount Korbu Expedition
25 Feb	FC 32, Raja Musa Forest Reserve	Monthly Tree Planting in conjunction with World Wetlands Day Celebration
27 Feb	Perak	KRHT Workshop
28 Feb	Perak	Business community training
TBC	Section 14	Launching of Section 14 Eco-trail
MARCH		
6 Mar	Sabah	Upland peat ground survey
8 Mar	Kampung Tonggang Ulu Kinta Perak	Launching of mountain bike trail and outdoor recreational space.
11 & 12 Mar	Perak	Urban Farming and Healthy diet training.
18 Mar 2023	FC 32, Raja Musa Forest Reserve	Monthly Tree Planting in conjunction with International Forest Day
TBC	Selangor	W.A.T.E.R Project Working Group meeting
Mid March	Virtual/physical	ASEAN Expert Meeting for Information and Data Collection and Results Management for Fire and Haze in ASEAN
Mid March	Virtual/physical	FDRS Training for ASEAN Region by MET Malaysia
March/April	Philippines	Peatland assessment training