

QUARTERLY UPDATE (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023)

Introduction

This report provides updates on the progress of GEC's activities and finances for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2023: October to December 2023. Following are key activities carried out in Q4 2023:

River Care Programme (RCP)

On October 14, Friends of Sg Gombak (Kg. Batu 12 Orang Asli Gombak) carried out slope re-planting activity at Kg. Batu 12 Gombak under Berjaya Sompo Insurance Berhad's slope mitigation project. A total of 84 *Melastoma malabathricum* (Senduduk) and 450 *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (Vetiver) were planted by the local community of Orang Asli.

At the Sungai Penchala River Trail, in partnership with GEC, 40 students from Taylor's Livable Urban Cities (LUC) Lab installed five units of outdoor facilities along the Section 14 trail in Petaling Jaya on October 14, as part of the river beautification initiative under the Dutch Lady Milk Industries (DLMI). November 5, volunteers from DLMI staff, Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) Petaling officers and Section 14 community members conducted river trail cleanup and planted selected pollinating plants to establish a herb and pollinator garden.



On November 25, a River Care Education and Sg Way River Clean Up 3rd Series 2023 under W.A.T.E.R Project with the involvement of Monash University volunteers and local community. Participants were also introduced to the newly established of W.A.T.E.R project's Sg Way Urban River Open Classroom, which consists of three stations, namely education on river within river concept, river health monitoring and tour of Sg Way information centre.

In Ipoh, the "Planting Tomorrow Programme", a collaborative programme between Yayasan PETRONAS, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS with support from GEC was launched on October 29. Approximately 70 trees was planted with support of KRT Taman Universiti, Komuniti Orang Asli Kg. Sg. Tonggang, UTP students and lecturers.



Eco-tourism activities commenced at the OA communities in Ipoh with the kicked off of the Kayuh D' Tonggang Mountain Bike Track Programme at Kg. Sg. Tonggang on November 5. About 20 members from the Ulu Kinta Riders Association participated in a 7km-long trail with checkpoints and natural scenery attractions. This mountain bike trail is expected to become a key ecotourism attraction. At Kampung Makmur, the "Jok Bepihoy Mabeg @ Kampung Makmur" was launched on November 10. This initiative offers packages of Hiking Mount Korbu and River Nature Trail, which aims to promote ecotourism activities for the Orang Asli community in Sungai Kinta. This was

made possible following the close collaboration between GEC, DID Perak, Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA) and Perak Forestry Department with funding from Yayasan Hasanah.



Mountain bike eco-trail kick-off event on November 5 (left). Launching of “Jok Bepihoy Mabeg” package at Kampung Makmur by Tuan Harulnizam Bin Abd Rahman, Director of JAKOA Perak (right).

GEC organised a RIVER Ranger Training session with Carsem (M) Sdn Bhd at Sg. Meru, Perak on December 2023 1, as part of Carsem’s river adoption programme. GEC also helped to set up a composting site, recycling corner and rainwater harvesting system at Mr. Agro Plantation as their best management practices for agriculture.



RIVER Ranger Training Session conducted at Carsem (left). Composting site and recycling corner implemented at Mr. Agro Plantation (right)

Forest and Coastal Programme (FCP)

Ecosystem Restoration Success

- A total of 15,100 mangrove trees and 4,120 peatland and fruit trees were successfully planted during this period under different projects funded by various partners, including Yayasan Sime Darby (Phase 2), Aramco Malaysia, Aramco Indonesia, Prosper Holdings (Phase 1) and HSBC Malaysia.
- The inauguration of “Community-based Mangrove Conservation Programme” was conducted at Buruk Bakul Village in Bengkalis, Indonesia supported by Aramco Asia Singapore and GEC in partnership with Yayasan Gambut and the Kelompok Konservasi Sekat Bakau. A mangrove community nursery that can accommodate at least 8,000 mangrove saplings and a 100m long wave-breaker was established by Kelompok Konservasi Sekat Bakau (KKSB) through funding from Aramco.



Environmental Education Workshops and Programmes

- A 3D/2N 'Training of Trainers (ToT) Mentor Training: Educators of Mangrove Forest' was held from November 5 to 7, at Kompleks Kastam and Kem Jati Diri Tunku Mahkota Ibrahim, Tanjung Surat, Johor with the participation of 59 participants under the Mangrove Forest Ranger (MFR) project to nurture environmental awareness, promote conservation and encourage sustainable practices from an early age.
- A MFR-Mangrove Tree Planting Programme was conducted in collaboration with Aramco Malaysia, PPD Kota Tinggi and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pulau Tg Surat (SHBPTS) with the involvement of 10 schools (including secondary, national, Chinese, and Tamil schools) from Kota Tinggi District. A total of 231 participants including 60 students, 38 teachers, three district education officers, 27 SHBPTS members, and three GEC officers actively participated in the programme.



Group photo with all the MFR-TOT participants from 10 selected schools together with Aramco Malaysia, GEC, KTDOE officers JSFD.

Community- Based Initiatives

- A delegation from Indonesia conducted a study visit to Tanjung Surat Island and Parit Kassim, Muar from November to December 3.. The delegation comprised of 20 participants from various organisations and their visit was facilitated by 27 SHBPTS members and 15 members of Kelab Komuniti Bakau Parit Jawa (KKBPJ).
- A Temuan Culture Information Centre was successfully established at Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas and inaugurated on December 14 by Mr. Ananthan Ramaya, policy adviser to EXCO Selangor, V. Papparaidu. It was launched during the Hari Temuan celebration ahead of Hari Moyang, and was attended by 120 people including officials from government, NGOs, Community-based Organisations (CBOs) and Orang Asli community.



The launch of the Temuan Culture Information Centre (TCIC) and Hari Temuan Celebration at Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas and Bukit Cheeding.

- Two CBOs, Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Taman Nilam (SHBKTN) in Sungai Petani, Kedah and Kelab Komuniti Bakau Parit Jawa (KKBPJ) in Muar, Johor have been registered under the Registrar of Society (ROS), made possible through Phase 2 of YSD project.
- KKBPJ constructed a tidal channel to restore the hydrological system in the area. The mangrove nursery is currently well under construction by the community under Phase 2 of the YSD project.
- Mangrove-based products coffee and tea (pre-mix 3-in-1) is currently in progress. The pre-mixed coffee “Mangrove Brew” and pre-mixed tea “Tea Tide” are extracted from *Acanthus ilicifolius* (Jeruju putih) and *Sonneratia caseolaris* (Berembang).

Conservation Efforts and Partnership

- Developed and distributed the book and brochures of ‘Pelan Tindakan Pengurusan Tanah Gambut (Pertanian) Dalam Mengurangkan Risiko Bencana Banjir dan Kebakaran di Johan Setia’ and ‘Garis Panduan Pengurusan Pertanian di Tanah Gambut Sedia Ada’ to Department of Agriculture (DOA). The final coordination meeting with *Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pengurusan Pertanian di Tanah Gambut (JTPPTG)* was conducted on 22 November 2023 to finalise the final draft of the guideline.
- On October 16, Johor State Forestry Department (JSFD) and GEC signed a five-year partnership (2023-2028) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conserve Johor's peat swamp and mangrove ecosystems. The collaboration focuses on various initiatives supporting JSFD's efforts, community development programmes as well as research and development.
- A paper entitled “Keberkesanan Program Restorasi dan Konservasi Hutan dan Tanah Benca Berasaskan Komuniti: Pengajaran untuk Masa Depan” was presented at the the National Biological Diversity Conference 2023. The presentation showcased initiatives and success of community-based rehabilitation by GEC across various ecosystems in Malaysia.
- TH Plantations Berhad (THP) and GEC successfully launched the Conservation of Coastal Forest and Peatlands in Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Johor (2022-2029) on October 28, alongside the Arong Man Challenge Version 2 2023 (AMC V2 2023). The event was attended by over 600 participants and GEC together with SHBPTS sold community products and engaging activities to promote mangrove and peat swamp forest conservation.



Mock cheque presentation by THP to GEC; and VIP tree planting during the launch event.

Peatland Programme (PP)

Malaysia

In the Southeast Pahang landscape, DID Pahang, Pahang State Forestry Department (JPNP) and Department of Environment (DOE) acknowledged the collaborative effort to construct canal blocks by the contractor and local community, and financed by Enggang Holdings to prevent fire occurrences within Pekan Forest Reserve's buffer.). In addition, GEC conducted awareness campaigns on sustainable peatland management and fire prevention at two Jakun Orang Asli villages in October. The GEC Pekan team organised a successful refresher course on November 20, to strengthen the bond amongst community patrollers and introduce the new GEC staff at the Pekan Office.

In terms of livelihood improvement, the community in Kampung Meranti received 400 mushroom spawns for cultivation in their mushroom house, empowering them and promoting self-sufficiency beyond forest reliance. Additionally, biodiversity assessments for wildlife observation and river patrolling along Sungai Bebar to check on any land opening were conducted. A new community nursery at Kampung Cenderawasih focuses on cultivating Gelam (*Melaleuca leucadendra*) and other plant species.



In Sabah, biodiversity assessment funded by the Malaysian Wildlife Conservation Fund (MWCF) is ongoing at some parts of Klias and Binsuluk Forest Reserves. In addition, additional FDRS signboard and water level marker were installed at Kg Nukahan and Kg Luagan, and a refresher training course was conducted to community patrollers. Peat depth assessment was conducted with the community of Ladang Nenas Kg. Takuli and Kg. Nukahan as exposure to the peat soil profile to the community. A piezometer was installed in the pineapple farm of Kg. Takuli as an effort to monitor the water level in the agricultural area.



In Sarawak, GEC partnered with Maludam community to conduct a community peatland capacity training and a CEPA event on November 15.. For highland peat, GEC is engaging with the Bario Asal community for a pilot project to integrate planting of coffee and hill sago (pantu). GEC is also exploring other funding opportunity to undertake a feasibility study for connecting the Pulong Tau National Park of Sarawak with Kayan Mentarang Forest Reserve of Indonesia.



Regional and Global

Within the framework of regional capacity-building packages and national workshops, GEC through the MAHFSA Programme provided assistance to Myanmar through partnership with FREDA and Environmental Conservation Department of MONREC to carry out a haze-free programme in fire-prone areas within Shan State. Additionally, following the Training of Trainers (TOT) in Vietnam, GEC's partner Centre Ecology Science and Environment (CESE, associate Dr. Le Phat Quoi) played a leading role in developing training materials and a brochure on protecting the peatland ecosystem in U Minh Region, Mekong Delta. Furthermore, as part of the MAHFSA Programme and in collaboration with the EU-SUPA ASEAN Repeat Project and GEF-IUCN Mekong Peatlands Project, GEC organised an exchange visit to Kuan Kreng Peatland Landscape in Thailand in November 2023. This visit involved the participation of delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand.



GEC has been actively contributed to support regional and national result and data management system within ASEAN Region. GEC through the MAHFSA Programme supported the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MET Malaysia) and ASEAN Secretariat co-hosted a Webinar: Online Training: Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) and Applied FDRS for Peatlands on December 5 to 6. GEC extended support to Cambodia by financing integration of their existing air quality systems into one database for a centralised monitoring system. Furthermore, ongoing communication with the Natural Resources and Environmental Research Institute (NRERI) of Lao PDR, to support fire prevention and control and air quality monitoring system, including purchase of 10 units cost-effective air quality monitoring devices, 40 sets of fire-fighting light tools, engagement of consultant for multi-media for public awareness and support of consultation meeting with key

stakeholders on fire prevention measures for upcoming dry season. In Uganda, GEC actively supports Kojja Tojwe Environmental Conservation and Tree Planting Association (KECTPA) for a tree planting programme with youth and women groups including a curriculum activity with schools.

In Indonesia, GEC's sister organisation, Yayasan Gambut, has successfully implemented the coffee agroforestry programme in Temiang, Sepahat and Tanjung Kuras Villages. Yayasan Gambut with the community groups have been sharing experiences on agroforestry, zero burning and horticultural cultivation to Siak and Kuantan Singingi Districts, in collaboration with Faculty of Agriculture, University of Riau and organised by RECOFTC. A major milestone achieved for coffee production is in the area of packaging development to assist the peatland community to commercialise their product.



Outreach and Partnership Programme (OPP)

The tree-planting activities under the Yayasan PETRONAS Walk4Trees programme was successfully completed in Dec 2023. Under the project, a total of 74,652 been planted in 14 sites across 11 states in Malaysia in 60 ha of degraded area through the help of 27 community groups and support of respective state and federal authorities. The project benefitted 255 community members with a direct income of RM2.72 million.

As part of GEC's 25th Anniversary, GEC organised a Sg. Penchala River Adoption & Clean Up on Nov 3 which was participated by 30 GEC staff. The activities include unveiled of GEC's River Address signboard at the HQ, and the initiation of GEC Sg Penchala River Health Monitoring activity. GEC also launched GEC Community Partnership and facilities support for Damansara Bistari Flat neighbourhood.



The UNFCCC COP28 in UAE presented a timely opportunity for GEC to showcase our initiatives, particularly on sustainable peatland management, with a focus on ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze Free Sustainable Land Management. At the COP28, GEC co-hosted two discussion forums (at the Malaysian and Thailand Pavilion), participated as speaker and moderator and hosted one official side event. In addition, GEC also hosted a two-day exhibition on December 10 and 11 2023 at COP28.



On November 25, as a beneficiary of their Annual Garden International School (GIS)'s Garden Party, GEC was invited to set up a booth at GIS to showcase the initiatives undertaken by GEC in environmental conservation. More than 200 students, teachers and parents visited the exhibition booth to find out more about GEC's conservation efforts and safeguarding the environment through Nature-based Solutions.

Visibility

There were 49 media coverages on GEC between October and December 2023 (RCP: 24, FCP: 19, General: 6). These coverages had a total PR value of more than RM 1,097,099 and cumulative potential reach of more than 2,656,419 people.

Forest rehabilitation must be done with local communities

Local communities are the backbone of forest rehabilitation efforts, and their involvement is crucial for long-term success.



Forest rehabilitation is a complex task that requires the active participation of local communities. In the case of the Gunung Jerang Forest Reserve, the involvement of local residents has been instrumental in the success of the project. The local community has provided valuable insights into the local environment and the needs of the area, which has helped to shape the rehabilitation plan. By working together, the local community and the authorities have been able to create a sustainable forest management plan that takes into account the needs of both the environment and the local people.

The local community has also been instrumental in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan. They have provided labor and resources for the planting of saplings, and they have also been responsible for the maintenance of the forest. This has helped to ensure that the forest is protected and that the rehabilitation efforts are successful in the long run.

In conclusion, forest rehabilitation is a task that requires the active participation of local communities. By working together, the local community and the authorities can create a sustainable forest management plan that takes into account the needs of both the environment and the local people. This is the only way to ensure the long-term success of forest rehabilitation efforts.

3單位聯手 保護豐盛港阿榮山

【本報港九訊】柔佛州森林局、全球環境中心（GEC）及T11神龜（T11 Plantations Bhd）攜手合作，保護柔佛阿榮山（Gunung Jerang）森林保護區達4800公頃的針葉森林及附屬地。

這項計劃包括透過森林復育、休閒與生態旅遊、提升該區居民的生活、同時協助農民及社區，有效管理由3個單位為維護森林而开展的種植區。

這項計劃是根據可持續發展目標（SDG），支持柔佛州森林局和T11神龜森林保護區的保護工作。

此外，相關單位還通過視察水質...



保護柔佛阿榮山森林保護區計劃，涉及4800公頃。

Platform to showcase and preserve culture

New centre will enable Temuan promote talent, handicraft

A 1,000-sq-ft culture centre in Temuan, Pahang, has been set up to showcase and preserve the traditional handicrafts of the region. The centre, which is located in the heart of the town, will serve as a platform for local artisans to display their work and promote their products. It will also provide a space for the community to learn about their heritage and the skills of their ancestors.

The centre is a joint venture between the local government and the private sector. It is expected to attract tourists and investors, and to help to boost the local economy. The centre will also be used to promote the traditional handicrafts of the region, which are an important part of the local culture.

In conclusion, the new culture centre in Temuan is a significant step towards the preservation and promotion of the local handicraft industry. It will provide a platform for local artisans to showcase their work and promote their products, and it will also provide a space for the community to learn about their heritage and the skills of their ancestors.

Komuniti Ayer Pasir teruskan usaha memastikan sumber air Melaka bersih

ALOR STAR - Komuniti Ayer Pasir terus berusaha memastikan sumber air Melaka bersih. Mereka telah mengadakan program kemunculan sumber air di kawasan tersebut. Program ini bertujuan untuk memastikan bahawa sumber air tersebut adalah selamat untuk diminum. Mereka juga telah mengadakan program pendidikan mengenai kepentingan sumber air bersih kepada penduduk setempat.

Program ini telah mendapat sambutan yang baik daripada penduduk setempat. Mereka telah berminat untuk mengetahui lebih lanjut mengenai sumber air tersebut dan bagaimana untuk memastikan ia adalah selamat untuk diminum. Mereka juga telah berminat untuk mengetahui lebih lanjut mengenai kepentingan sumber air bersih kepada penduduk setempat.

In conclusion, the community in Ayer Pasir is committed to ensuring that the water source in Melaka is clean and safe for drinking. They have organized a program to launch the water source in the area, and they have also organized a program to educate the community about the importance of clean water. The program has received a good response from the community, and they are interested in knowing more about the water source and how to ensure it is safe for drinking. They are also interested in knowing more about the importance of clean water to the community.

Bersantai di kampung Orang Asli

SEKOLAH - Bersantai di kampung Orang Asli. Program ini bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan budaya dan adat istiadat Orang Asli kepada masyarakat umum. Program ini akan diadakan di kampung Orang Asli, dan akan melibatkan para pelajar dan masyarakat umum. Program ini akan berlangsung selama beberapa hari, dan akan diadakan di kampung Orang Asli.

Program ini akan melibatkan para pelajar dan masyarakat umum. Mereka akan diajak untuk mengunjungi kampung Orang Asli, dan akan diajak untuk mengenal lebih lanjut mengenai budaya dan adat istiadat Orang Asli. Mereka juga akan diajak untuk berpartisipasi dalam berbagai kegiatan yang diadakan di kampung Orang Asli.

In conclusion, the program is a significant step towards the introduction of the culture and customs of the Orang Asli to the general public. It will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the culture and customs of the Orang Asli, and it will also provide an opportunity for the public to participate in various activities that are held in the Orang Asli village.

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Planned events

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from January to March 2024:

Date (TBC)	Venue	Event
January 2024		
1 st - 2 nd week	Kuala Muda District Office	Meeting with Kuala Muda District Office (LE project implementation)
8/1/2024	Putrajaya, Malaysia	Meeting with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) (chaired by Minister) on peatland issues
10-11/1/2024	Kuantan	SMPPEM-Pahang stakeholder meeting for peatland fire prevention measures
13/1/2024	Section 14 River Trail	Section 14 Sungai Penchala River Walk
18/1/2024	Online	Water conservation talk session with FUJITSU Global
20/1/2024	Cyberjaya Lake Garden	Launching of Community-based ecological enhancement of Cyberjaya Lake Garden, Malaysia Project and initiatives
28-29/1/2024	Klang Valley	Community Peer Learning and Sharing Session for Ipoh communities
29/1/2024	Pusat Kreatif Kanak-kanak Tuanku Bainun, TTDI	GEC 25 th Anniversary Forum
22/1/2024	Bangkok/Jakarta	Discussion with GIZ on AIF-HFSLM linkages to Mekong Clean Air Programme
Jan-Feb	Tanjung Surat	Aramco mangrove tree planting
February 2024		
2/2/2024	Leader Energy Office, Sunway Pinacle	MOA signing ceremony between Leader Energy and GEC
3/2/2024	Kolam Sg. Pinji	Tree Planting with Quest
7/2/2024	Kg Dato' Hormat	Ericsson Clean-Up Day with SHBKDH
9/2/2024	Mount Korbu	Mount Korbu Expedition
24/2/2024	UTAR Kampar	Kinta River Health Monitoring Training with UTAR
TBC	Ipoh	River Ranger Training 2.0 with JPS, JAS and KKM
TBC	Kg Batu 12	Slope Replanting with OA community
TBC	Section 14 & 19 PJ	Young River Scientist with Section 14 & 19 community
March 2024		
TBC	Cyberjaya Lake Garden	Planting of wetland cells
March	Online	Go Live ASEAN Fire Alert Phone Apps Tool and User Training