QUARTERLY UPDATE
GEC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY COUNCIL
(JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026)

Forest and Coastal Programme

GEC continued to achieve significant progress in ecosystem restoration across mangrove, peatland and lowland terrestrial ecosystems in Malaysia during the third quarter of 2026. A total of 14,200 tree seedlings were planted in the quarter including 12,100 Mangroves, 1000 peatland and 1,100 other trees. The mangroves were mainly planted in Kedah, Selangor and Johor, Malaysia with assistance from Leader Energy, UNIQLO Malaysia, Yayasan Sime Darby, Sime Darby Property, Bumi Armada Berhad, Intercontinental Specialty Fats Sdn Bhd and Aramco Malaysia.

To support future restoration activities, community-managed nurseries established 28,000 mangrove propagules through direct sowing. Managed by four community groups, these nurseries contribute to long-term rehabilitation efforts by ensuring a sustainable supply of planting material. Routine forest patrols, tree survival assessments and maintenance activities were also undertaken by community groups to strengthen ecosystem protection, fire prevention and biodiversity conservation.



Environmental Education and Public Awareness

Environmental education remained a key programme focus through exhibitions, public outreach and youth engagement initiatives.

The Peatland Forest Ranger Carnival 2025/2026 Closing Ceremony, held in Selangor, celebrated the achievements of students participating in state-level environmental competitions and brought together students, teachers and community representatives. Throughout the quarter, GEC participated in multiple public exhibitions and environmental events across Johor and Selangor, including:

- Mersing International Conservation Day 2026;
- Karnival Alam Kita 2026;
- Climate Combat: Empowering a Sustainable Generation;
- Pesta Tanglung in Bestari Jaya; and
- Malaysia Clean-Up Day and Love Our Rivers Campaign 2026.

These programmes provided platforms to showcase ecosystem restoration initiatives, promote peatland and mangrove conservation, and increase public awareness of community-led environmental stewardship.







Community Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods

GEC continued to strengthen community resilience through capacity-building, peer learning and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

The Temuan community group, Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT), shared its experiences in Indigenous ecological knowledge and sustainable conservation practices through a dialogue session organised by Yayasan Gamuda. Community representatives from North Selangor also participated in an ecotourism learning exchange programme at the Temuan Culture Information Centre, enhancing their understanding of community-based tourism opportunities.

Training programmes focused on entrepreneurship and sustainable land management included:

- A Train-the-Trainers programme on effective sales management for mangrove communities;
- A community entrepreneurship forum under the Yayasan Sime Darby-supported mangrove conservation project; and
- A workshop on sustainable peatland management, climate resilience, sustainable water management and peat fire prevention for smallholders operating near Raja Musa Forest Reserve.

The Indigenous Village Tourism Package (IVTP), facilitated by SGAT, hosted 13 visits, community programmes and exhibitions during the quarter, generating RM24,578.90 through tourism activities, community products, handicrafts and agricultural produce.

Partnerships, Policy Development and Regional Recognition

Strategic partnerships continued to support the expansion and sustainability of FCP initiatives. Key engagements included discussions with Prosper Capital Holdings on future peatland conservation efforts in the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest, progress reviews with the Melaka Water Regulatory Body and monitoring visits involving TH Plantations Berhad, the Johor State Forestry Department and community partners.

A notable policy achievement was the submission of the Selangor State Action Plan for Peatlands (SAPP Selangor) 2026-2035 in both Bahasa Malaysia and English. The action plan was subsequently

endorsed by the Technical Working Group and State Steering Committee and is now progressing towards final consideration by the Selangor State Executive Council.



GEC also launched several important knowledge products during the quarter, including:

- *Bakau Kami, Cerita Kami* documentary;
- A commemorative publication documenting the 2023-2026 Yayasan Sime Darby mangrove conservation programme; and
- The Mangrove Nursery and Planting Module.

The programme received significant regional recognition when GEC was named an ASEAN Green Initiative (AGI) Awardee 2026 under the Large-Scale Category for its multi-stakeholder ecosystem restoration work across forests, peatlands and coastal landscapes in Malaysia. The award recognised GEC's community-centred restoration approach, which has collectively restored 103 hectares through the planting of more than 161,000 trees, benefitting communities across Johor, Kedah, Melaka, Perak and Selangor in 2024-2026.

GEC further shared its experience and lessons learned at the ASEAN Heritage Parks Forum 2026, highlighting over 27 years of community-led ecosystem restoration and the application of Nature-based Solutions, sustainability frameworks and multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve long-term conservation outcomes.

Outreach & Partnership Programme
Zainudin Ismail GEC Community Impact Grant (ZIGGIC)

This quarter marked the closing of ZIGCIG Cycle 1 and the commencement of ZIGCIG Cycle 2. Grantees of Cycle 1, KRT Sg Terap and Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH) submitted their final reports in September after completing the projects within the grant timeline. GEC's Grant Secretariat then generated evaluation reports providing valuable feedback for enhancement before the payments were issued to the grantees.

Additionally, the ZIGCIG Advisory Committee together with some of GEC Management and Advisory Council members participated in a field visit (Sept 19-20) to project sites of community-led Initiatives in Ipoh, including KRT Sg Terap, in Batu Gajah, KRT Chemor Idaman, KRT Klebang Selatan, Kg Tonggang and Kg Kenang.

During this quarter, two communities of Cycle 2 grantees received RM20,000 grant each for their respective projects:



1) **Johor-based Kelab Komuniti Bakau Parit Jawa's Mangrove Trails: Exploring the Importance of Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems** (*Jejak Bakau: Eksplorasi Kesedaran Kepentingan Ekosistem Hutan Paya Laut)*; and

2) **Ipoh-based KRT Taman Chemor Idaman's Kuang River Conservation in the Kinta River Catchment and Community Environmental Awareness Programme (***Pemeliharaan Sungai Kuang Tadahan Sungai Kinta dan Pendidikan Kesedaran Komuniti Mengenai Penjagaan Alam Sekitar*).

During the site visit by GEC and ZIGCIG officials in September, KRT Taman Chemor Idaman was presented with the mock cheque for the ZIGCIG grant they received.

GEC Community Network (Jaringan Komuniti GEC – JKGEC)



Forty-two representatives from eight JKGEC communities from across Malaysia and Indonesia, participated in a Peer Learning Visit Programme to Enhance Community-Based Ecotourism and

Cultural Heritage Tourism Among GEC Community Partners from Aug 9-12, 2026 in Janda Baik, Pahang and Kuala Langat, Selangor. They were joined by representatives from Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Persatuan Sahabat Alam Tampik Janda Baik (SATJB) as well as GEC staff in a peer learning programme aimed at strengthening Community-Based Ecotourism (CBET) through knowledge exchange practical learning and attractions as well as product interpretation.

Ninth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-9) Planning Workshop for Asia

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Lao PDR's Ministry of Agriculture & Environment hosted the Ninth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility) Planning Workshop for Asia (GEF-9 Planning Workshop for Asia in Vientiane from Sept 29-Oct 2, with participation from representatives from 16 countries to strengthen regional cooperation and help shape priorities for the new GEF programming cycle.

GEC Director, Faizal Parish, who is GEF Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Network Regional Focal Point for Southeast Asia as well as Chair of the GEF CSO Network actively participated in the Workshop and also facilitated a half-day working session for 38 CSOs from Asia on engagement of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities as part of the workshop to formulate targeted recommendations to GEF recipient countries and GEF agencies.



Over the four days, government focal points, civil society, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, GEF Agencies, the private sector, and other partners shared experiences and explored opportunities to translate national priorities into impactful, scalable, and sustainable programmes.

Discussions covered the GEF's integrated programming approach across biodiversity, climate change, chemicals and waste, land degradation, and international waters, alongside priorities including stakeholder engagement, private sector participation, and results monitoring.

Peatland Programme

During the Q3 of 2026, GEC advanced peatland conservation, restoration and sustainable management in Pahang, Sabah and Sarawak, while strengthening regional technical cooperation and community-based action in Indonesia. Key achievements included state action planning, biodiversity monitoring, ecological restoration, fire prevention, livelihood development and regional knowledge sharing.

Pahang

GEC conducted three peatland awareness programmes in RPS Runchang, Kampung Cenderawasih and Kampung Landai. The programmes involved the Department of Environment, the Sustainable Managementt of Peatland Ecosystems Malaysia (SMPEM) Project Team, the Department of Fisheries, Meteorological Services Department of Malaysia (METMalaysia), Enggang (Pekan) Sdn. Bhd. and the Pekan District Office. Participating agencies shared information on peatland protection and management through talks and community information booths.



In collaboration with the Pahang Department of Agriculture, GEC conducted follow-up vanilla cultivation training on fertiliser application, pest and disease management, and vine maintenance. Field visits and practical demonstrations enabled plot-specific technical advice. GEC will continue to monitor the plots and coordinate further support where required.



From Aug 10-13, GEC and Naturetech conducted a dry-season fish survey in Sungai Bebar and Sungai Merchong within the Southeast Pahang Peatland Forest. Sungai Bebar recorded 44 species, including four Near Threatened, one Vulnerable and two Endangered species. Sungai Merchong recorded 29 species, including one Near Threatened, one vulnerable and two endangered species. Water quality parameters were also monitored to assess habitat conditions and fish distribution.

GEC finalised the Pahang State Action Plan for Peatlands and presented it to the Pahang State Peatland Technical Committee. The plan covers an estimated 201,693 hectares of peatland, including approximately 5,643 hectares of upland peat in Cameron Highlands, and supports coordinated management, conservation, fire prevention, community engagement and sustainable financing.

Sabah

Field activities commenced at Binsuluk Forest Reserve with a symbolic tree-planting programme organised with the Beaufort Forestry Department and attended by L'Occitane representatives. A total of 350 sago palms (*Metroxylon sagu*) were planted in community areas. Under the MPOGCF project, GEC also completed the planting of 3,000 indigenous trees by the end of Aug 2026 and installed 25 camera traps to monitor wildlife and strengthen baseline biodiversity information.



GEC supported government- and agency-led initiatives by delivering awareness on peatland fires and the potential effects of El Niño during an MSPO certification programme organised by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board. GEC also contributed technical input to the Sabah State Action Plan for Peatlands on July 30 and participated in an ecotourism training programme organised by the Beaufort District Forestry Office (Sept 22).



Sarawak

GEC continued developing the draft Sarawak Action Plan for Peatlands through hybrid stakeholder engagements and field visits to Miri, Bintulu, Mukah and Sibu. The consultations gathered technical and site-level information on current management practices, challenges and priorities. A Final Stakeholder Workshop on Sept 18 reviewed proposed actions and obtained recommendations for finalisation.

In the Bario landscape, GEC continued efforts to reactivate the Tagang programme in Pa' Ramudu. Discussions with the Miri Department of Agriculture explored support for fish fingerlings, while engagement with the Ramudu

community strengthened participation, ownership and practical implementation planning. The initiative aims to reinforce community-based resource management and sustainable livelihoods.

Regional Cooperation

Under the EnCORE Wetlands Project, GEC continued to provide technical and coordination support for peatland carbon assessment and landscape-level management planning in Agusan, the Philippines. On July 1-2, GEC participated in the Collaborative Action Planning Workshop in Agusan del Sur, supported the development of an ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity-led grant proposal for community-based peatland management, and presented preliminary findings on carbon emissions and management interventions.

From Sept 9-11, GEC organised the Final Technical Workshop on the Development of a Toolkit for Estimating Carbon Stocks and Emission Levels in Peatlands in the ASEAN Region in Petaling Jaya. The workshop brought together 18 technical experts and was officiated by Ts. Dr Khairul Naim bin Adham, Undersecretary of the Biodiversity Management Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability. It marked an important milestone towards finalising the toolkit by improving consistency, addressing technical gaps and refining methodologies.

Yayasan Gambut, Indonesia

Yayasan Gambut strengthened community-based peatland management and sustainable livelihoods in Riau Province. On July 25, Liberica coffee nursery training in Dayun Village, Siak Regency, equipped 43 participants with practical knowledge of seed selection, germination, nursery management and good cultivation practices.



Peatland fire prevention was strengthened through the installation of Fire Danger Rating System indicators in Temiang Village (Aug 24) and Pedekik Village (Aug 30). In Pedekik, system management and maintenance were formalised through Village Head Decree No. 27/2026. On Sept 20, Yayasan Gambut and community members completed a canal block (2m X 3m X 2m) in Temiang Village, Bengkalis Regency. A multi-stakeholder kick-off meeting for the Dayun agroforestry programme was held on Sept 14 at the Mandiri Sejahtera Social Forestry area. Stakeholders reviewed pineapple cultivation, maintenance and fertilisation constraints, production performance and priorities for future technical assistance.

From Sept 21-23, Yayasan Gambut conducted a seedling production and maintenance programme at the Makmur Jaya Women Farmers Group nursery in Temiang Village. The programme provided 10,000 Liberica coffee seeds, 10,000 planting-media packages and nursery equipment. Twenty-seven women received hands-on training in peat-based growing-media preparation, seed planting, watering, fertilisation, and pest and disease identification. The initiative strengthened women's capacity to produce seedlings independently while promoting zero-burning cultivation and reducing peatland fire risks.



On Sept 24, Yayasan Gambut distributed 1,000 Liberica coffee seedlings to support restoration, locally managed agroforestry and sustainable livelihoods in the Ghimbo Pomuan Customary Forest, Kampar Regency.

River Care Programme

W.A.T.E.R Project



Bukit Kiara River Walk on July 23 at Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur involved 30 participants aged between five and 77 years. Participants explored the Keladi Trail through four interactive learning stations covering the source of Sungai Penchala, characteristics of healthy streams, the ecological importance of river meanders, and water quality monitoring. Through guided observations and simple testing activities, participants gained practical knowledge of river health assessment, biodiversity conservation, and the role of natural river systems in reducing erosion and improving water retention.

Following the upgrading of the Taman Suria Community Hall under the Selangor River Basin Initiative, the first community activity was held on Aug 5. A yoga session attended by local residents encouraged healthy lifestyles, strengthened community interaction, and demonstrated the hall's potential as a shared community space.

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the GEC-SPARK Foundation partnership, the SPARK Youth Water Grant 2026 was launched on Sept 23 2026. The initiative provides RM120,000 in seed funding and capacity-building support for university student groups, youth organisations, start-ups, and social enterprises to develop innovative solutions addressing water conservation and river protection challenges. The grant application period ends on Nov 30.



Community-based activities under the Selangor River Basin Initiative continued at Sungai Way Community Garden, Rantau Panjang Community Garden and Taman Suria. Activities focused on garden maintenance, harvesting, riverbank planting, upkeep of rainwater harvesting systems, and social enterprise initiatives such as pickle and herbal incense production. These efforts contributed to environmental stewardship, food security, community well-being, and local economic empowerment.

GEC also participated in the Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) organised by *Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia* (PEMSEA) with DID, Kedah State Water Resources Board and USM, presenting the River Care Programme and its community-based river conservation initiatives. The session highlighted river monitoring, environmental education, the River Ranger Kit, and community-led recycling efforts, including the production of recycled keychains.

Sungai Kayu Ara River Protection Project

The Healthy River Drawing and Colouring Competition was held on 9 August 2026 at Atria Shopping Gallery, attracting 60 participants, including children and their parents. The programme provided an engaging platform for children aged 4-12 years to express their understanding of healthy rivers through creative artwork while promoting environmental awareness.

Implementation of SMART Ranger projects continued across five schools, comprising two primary schools and three secondary schools. Evaluation visits were conducted from Aug 12-13 by representatives from GEC, OSK Foundation and the Petaling Utama District Education Office to assess project outcomes for the Anugerah SMART Ranger Tadahan Sungai Kayu Ara 2026. The award ceremony is scheduled for Oct 24.



The Cleanliness and Beautification Competition at PPR Lembah Subang 1 was implemented from August to September 2026 to encourage community participation and environmental action. Residents enhanced common areas through murals, upcycling projects and other creative environmental initiatives. Evaluation visits were conducted on Oct 4, with the prize-giving ceremony scheduled for Oct 24.

Rehabilitation of Taman Aman Lake Project



On Sept 26, World Lake Day was celebrated at Taman Aman Lake, Petaling Jaya, attracting more than 300 participants from MBPJ, Google, GEC, Friends of Taman Aman (FOTA) and partner organisations. Launched by the Deputy Mayor of Petaling Jaya, the event coincided with World Cleanup Day and marked the second World Lake Day celebration at the site.
A key milestone was the launch of the Lake Care Education Centre (LCEC), which serves as an environmental education hub, community meeting venue and small laboratory for lake health monitoring. Activities included a lake stewardship walk, children's colouring competition, invasive alien fish fishing competition, a floating constructed wetlands exhibition, and the release of 250 tinfoil barb (lampam sungai) to support lake ecosystem rehabilitation.

The newly established Taman Aman Lake Education and Stewardship (TALES) initiative further strengthened environmental education efforts through six interactive learning stations, dedicated educational resources, a pollination garden featuring native plant species, and floating constructed wetlands to improve water quality through nature-based solutions.

SER-Microsoft Ecological Restoration Project

Routine maintenance continued at Cyberjaya Lake Gardens to ensure the site remains safe, functional and suitable for future educational and community activities. Maintenance activities included cleaning, facility inspections, minor repairs and pollination garden upkeep.

Restoration works at the River Open Classroom (ROC) commenced on Aug 12 and remain ongoing. Activities include river channel enhancement, creation of river meanders, wetland planting and habitat improvement measures. Upcoming volunteer activities will support wetland planting efforts, providing opportunities for students and community members to participate in ecological restoration while increasing awareness of river biodiversity and water quality conservation.



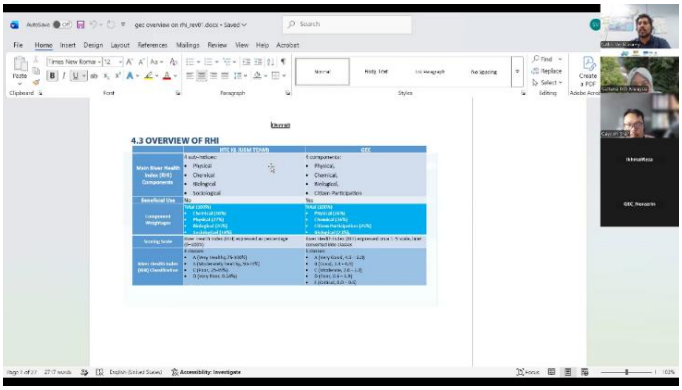
Sungai Johor Water Conservation and Stewardship Project

Water quality and hydrological monitoring were conducted across the Johor River Basin and Sungai Pelepah Sub-basin from July to Sept 2026. More intensive monitoring commenced in August, covering Sungai Pelepah, Sungai Panti and selected tributaries. The monitoring programme includes water quality sampling, hydrological measurements and sediment assessments to support river health evaluation.

Field investigations were also undertaken to identify pollution hotspots and environmental pressures within the basin. Data collected are being analysed to support water quality modelling, pollutant load assessments and the identification of suitable Best Management Practices (BMPs) for river conservation and pollution management.

Monitoring activities will continue until October 2026, followed by final data analysis, water stewardship assessments and preparation of the project's final report, scheduled for completion by November 2026.

River Health Index (RHI) and Community-Based IRBM for River Health Care (Sungai Kinta Catchment)



Since the Second Consultation Meeting in May 2026, the development of the Enhanced River Health Index (RHI) has been underway with discussions focused on harmonising indicators, assessment methodologies and technical components to strengthen consistency and support wider adoption of the framework at state and national levels. During this quarter, preparations are being made to showcase the Enhanced RHI during the National World River Day 2026 Celebration in Sibu, Sarawak, on Oct 24. Further capacity-building initiatives, including a national workshop and symposium, are planned for 2027.

Community-based Integrated River Basin Management (Cb-IRBM) initiatives were implemented across 16 existing and new community groups, including Orang Asli communities. Activities included river monitoring, community gardening, used cooking oil collection, awareness programmes and environmental clean-up activities.

A Community Guided Field Visit was organised on Aug 12 for 43 participants representing 15 community groups. Visits to the Sultan Azlan Shah Dam, Sungai Kinta Water Treatment Plant and Papan 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant provided participants with practical exposure to water resource management, treatment processes and river health issues, while strengthening understanding of Cb-IRBM and the application of the River Health Index.



Empowering Local Communities for Flood Preparedness and Response Project (L'Oréal Climate Emergency Fund)

Project implementation commenced with a kick-off meeting involving L'Oréal, GEC, government agencies and key stakeholders to align expectations, implementation approaches and reporting requirements.



A stakeholder coordination meeting was subsequently held with the Malaysia Civil Defence Force (APM) Negeri Sembilan on Aug 6 to discuss project implementation, including Training of Trainers (ToT), Community-Based Flood Hazard Mapping (CBFHM), Town Watching exercises and target community selection. Port Dickson and Seremban were identified as priority areas for further assessment.

A multi-stakeholder coordination meeting was later convened at the Port Dickson District and Land Office on 7 October 2026 with representatives from APM, JPS, JKM and NADMA. Linggi was identified as the primary implementation area due to recurring flood risks. Stakeholders endorsed the proposed Flood Ranger approach and agreed to utilise existing community networks, including CDERT volunteers, community leaders and local committees, to support the development of community flood risk maps, evacuation routes and local preparedness plans.

Visibility

There were 55 media coverages on GEC between July and September 2026 (FCP: 11, RCP: 37, PP: 6, General: 1). These coverages had a total PR value of more than RM 1,766,955.



Early warning systems are not enough

EARLY warning systems are only effective when they are linked to resources and effective action on the ground because a warning alone cannot prevent a fire, says Global Environment Centre (GEC)'s peatland programme manager Serena Lee Siew Yin.

"Better prediction can certainly help, but it is not the only factor in reducing peatland fires and haze.

"In many cases, we already know which peatland areas are particularly vulnerable to fires, especially areas that have been drained, degraded, or are frequently affected by human activities.

"What early warning system technologies can provide is more timely information on when these areas are becoming particularly high risk, allowing preventive measures to be prioritised," she points out.

Lee cautions, however, that a warning is only useful if there is the capacity to act on it.

"This means having effective enforcement, adequate resources, proper peatland and water management, and trained teams on the ground.

"For example, when a high fire risk is identified, authorities and land managers need to have the resources to increase patrols, maintain water levels, prepare firefighting equipment, and respond quickly to any signs of fire.

"Community participation is equally important, particularly because many peatland fires are linked to human activities," she adds.

Communities, says Lew, need to be involved in monitoring, prevention, and reporting, while landowners and private-sector operators in peatland areas also have an important role in maintaining fire prevention measures within and around their areas of operation, and to also provide support to monitor the buffer zones if possible.

Hence, preventive infrastructure and preparedness measures, she says, need to be in place before high-risk conditions occur.

"For example, installation of canal blocks and other rewetting measures such as activation of tube wells can help maintain or increase soil moisture levels in peatlands and reduce fire risk.

"Maintaining access to tube wells and other water sources can also ensure that sufficient water is available for firefighting efforts by the Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia," she says.

"Therefore, technology should be viewed as a decision-support tool rather than a standalone solution," says Lew in an e-mail interview.

Early warning systems, she adds, can provide valuable time for communities and authorities to take preventive actions before a fire starts.

With advance warning, authorities and communities can shift from responding to fires to preventing them, says Lew.

By combining information from satellite observations, drone monitoring, weather conditions, rainfall, peatland water levels, and fire risk indicators, these systems can help identify areas where conditions are becoming increasingly vulnerable to fires.

"Machine learning could further improve this by identifying patterns and predicting areas that may be at higher risk," she notes.

The greatest benefit comes when early warnings are translated into timely preventive action, supported by appropriate infrastructure, adequate resources, effective enforcement, and active participation from stakeholders, she says, adding that these technologies can be very useful when they are connected to practical peatland management on the ground.

Using the Internet of Things (IoT)-based environmental monitoring at the Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor, as an example, Lew says it has been used to regularly collect information such as peatland water levels, temperature, and rainfall.

"Changes in these conditions can provide an early indication that an area is becoming drier and increasingly vulnerable to fire.

"This information can support managers in deciding when additional monitoring, water management, or other preventive measures may be needed," she says.

Set up in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global importance, the GEC is a non-profit organisation working regionally and internationally on a number of programmes, including peatland, where many of the fires occur in Malaysia and Indonesia.

At the regional level, GEC has also facilitated the development of the Asean Fire Alert Tool, which brings together information such as hotspot data from the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre and the Fire Danger Rating System from the Malaysian Meteorological Department, as well as weather conditions, and wind direction.

Lew says while similar early-warning approaches could be expanded across fire-prone peatlands in South-East Asia, the system should be adapted to the local context, risk profile, and capacity of each area.

"There are already examples in the region that demonstrate how technology can be linked to action," she says, citing, among others, Indonesia's Sistem Informasi Perlindungan dan Pengelolaan Ekosistem Gambut and Asap Digital in Jambi where CCTV cameras are used to surveil high risk peatland areas, with information fed through a central command at the local police station.

Another approach focuses on prevention rather than detection: In Thailand and Laos digital tools provide farmers with information on fire risk and whether conditions are suitable for agricultural burning.

"These examples demonstrate that early warning technology can be scaled across the region, but technology itself is only a part of the solution.

"It needs to be supported by clear mechanisms, trained personnel, enforcement, firefighting resources, and strong stakeholder participation so that warnings are translated into timely action," she says.

Lew contends that while an early warning system is one important piece of the puzzle, the real impact is when useful information is combined with strong implementation, enforcement, responsible land management, and cooperation between government, communities, and the private sector.

On the Asean Fire Alert Tool, Lew says the wind information is particularly useful because it helps authorities and communities understand the potential direction of smoke movement from areas gutted by fires.

"For instance, ASMC's wind forecasts can help stakeholders anticipate where smoke haze may potentially travel, enabling them to prepare accordingly," Lew says, referring to the satellite-based monitoring system used by the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre.

"Such data does not necessarily predict potential fires, but they provide near-real-time information and indicators of changing fire risk that can support monitoring and decision-making," she explains.

Lew says in the future, integrating these different datasets with machine learning could potentially improve the ability to identify patterns and forecast areas at higher risk.

However, asked if there are obstacles to further develop the technology, Lew warns there are challenges ahead.

The first is the availability, quality and cost of data.

"Developing a reliable prediction system requires consistent and sufficient detailed data, including weather, rainfall, peatland conditions, hotspot information and historical fire records, and regular and consistent satellite imagery.

"Some of these datasets can also be costly or have restrictions on access and sharing," she says.

The second challenge is having the technical capacity and resources to manage the system because, says Lew, it is not enough to set up the technology once and leave it running.

"A dedicated team is needed to collect, manage, and analyse the data, maintain and monitor the equipment and systems, interpret the results, and continuously improve the prediction models," she says.

And, once again, she points out that there must be reaction on the ground.

"Even if a system can accurately identify high-risk areas, the warning will have limited value if there are insufficient resources, personnel or clear procedures to respond.

"Effective enforcement is also important, particularly where fires are associated with illegal or uncontrolled burning," she says.

Finally, data sharing and timely coordination between different agencies and stakeholders can be challenging, Lew points out.

"Fire and haze management involves government agencies, communities, landowners, and the private sector, and these parties need to be able to share information and respond timely in a coordinated way.

"So the challenge is not simply developing a better prediction model. We need to build the whole system around it – from reliable data and technical capacity, to clear response mechanisms, and timely enforcement."



Sparking change for clean water

Foundation's RM120,000 youth grant to help actualise impactful solutions



馬莫森林種逾1.7萬紅樹

吉州通過紅樹林保育計劃

莫哈末尤索夫（前排中）与各参与单位代表合影，标志着活动圆满落幕。（取自UPDA）

（双溪大年8日讯）吉打州政府通过“红树林保育及社区第二阶段计划（2023–2026）”，迄今在马莫森林保护区种下超过1万7000棵红树。

吉打州公共工程、天然资源、水供与水务、环境事务委员会主席拿督莫哈末尤索夫昨日为这项计划主持闭幕仪式。参与单位包括全球环境中心、森那美基金会、吉打州森林局及当地社区。

莫哈末尤索夫说，红树林保育工作意义深远，不仅能在沿海地区发挥防浪屏障、抵御侵蚀的关键作用，也是多种海洋生物赖以栖息与繁殖的重要场所。

他说，这项倡议也与吉打州苏丹端姑沙烈姆丁殿下所推动的绿化计划相呼应，目标是在未来数年内于州内种植220万棵树。

他说，尽管计划已进入阶段性尾声，保育工作不能止于植树，已种下的树木仍需持续监测与照护，以确保存活率，已复育的地区也必须获得长期维护。

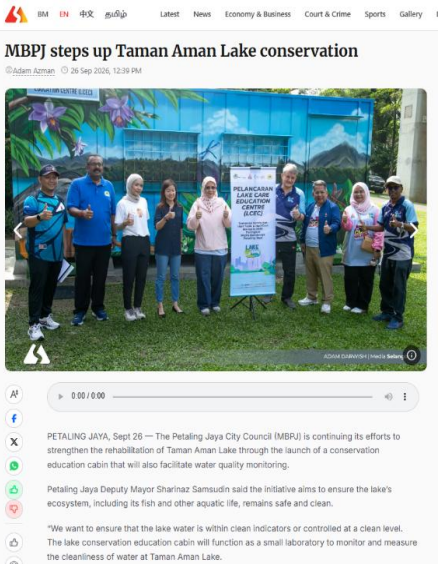
他强调，政府机构、非政府组织、私人界与社区之间的持续合作至关重要，如此红树林的保育成果才能为环境及后代带来长远效益。

Where Nature Thrives, Communities Flourish – L'OCCITANE Malaysia and GEC'S Initiatives

Oct 7, 2026 | CSR Stories

L'OCCITANE Malaysia has continued to support biodiversity conservation initiatives that help restore ecosystems and strengthen the connection between people and nature. Through its collaboration with the Global Environment Centre (GEC), with engagement of Sabah Forestry Department and local community in Beaufort Sabah, a RM70,000 contribution has been supporting the planting of 350 sago palms; helping to restore local habitats, promoting biodiversity protection and contributing to healthier and more resilient ecosystems.

The contribution reflects L'OCCITANE Malaysia's approach to biodiversity, recognising that protecting nature can also create positive outcomes for local communities. The project is sourcing saplings from tree nurseries operated by local communities, providing income opportunities while encouraging greater community participation in environmental restoration.



MBPJ steps up Taman Aman Lake conservation

Adam Azman · 26 Sep 2026, 12:39 PM

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PETALING JAYA, Sept 26 — The Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) is continuing its efforts to strengthen the rehabilitation of Taman Aman Lake through the launch of a conservation education cabin that will also facilitate water quality monitoring.

Petaling Jaya Deputy Mayor Sharinaz Samsudin said the initiative aims to ensure the lake's ecosystem, including its fish and other aquatic life, remains safe and clean.

"We want to ensure that the lake water is within clean indicators or controlled at a clean level. The lake conservation education cabin will function as a small laboratory to monitor and measure the cleanliness of water at Taman Aman Lake.



Renjer sungai semai budaya hijau

Planned events for Q4 2026

The following are the planned GEC events and activities from October 2026 to December 2026:

Date	Location	Planned Event
OCTOBER		
2	Kampung Dato' Hormat, Selangor	Site Visit to Kampung Dato Hormat by Dr. Mary Ann from the Philippines
6-8	Serdang, Selangor	Focus Group Discussion on Pelan Induk Rangkaian Ekologi Central Forest Spine 2022 at MARDI
9	Kuala Langat, Selangor	HSBC Volunteers Tree Planting at Kuala Langat
9	Zoom Online	National Webinar on River Health Index in conjunction with World River Day 2026
10	Kebun Komuniti Pusat Maklumat Sungai Way	Community Volunteer Programme at Kebun Komuniti Pusat Maklumat Sungai Way with LEO Club
11	Taman Suria, Bestari Jaya	Community Planting and Engagement Programme at Taman Suria, Bestari Jaya, Sungai Selangor
12	Kayuh D'Tonggang, Ipoh	Stakeholder Empowerment Training on River Health Index for Kinta River Catchment
13	Kuala Lumpur	Bank Negara Malaysia's Financial Education Workshop on 'Embedding Financial Well-being in Community Work'
13	Agusan Del Sur, Philippines	Dialogue with IPLCs on community engagement in emission reduction activities
16–18	Tanjung Surat, Johor	Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Taman Nilam (SHBKTN) and KEDA Peer Learning Visit to Tanjung Surat, Johor
17	Cyberjaya Lake Gardens	Wetland Planting and River Clean-up Volunteer Event at Cyberjaya Lake Gardens (1st cycle)
19-30	Armenia	Multiple side events at Conference of Parties 17 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
24–26	Gunung Korbu, Perak	YSD Knowledge-Sharing Session
24	Shah Alam, Selangor	Cultural performance and exhibition at Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negara (JKKN) Shah Alam
24	Mersing, Johor	Heart of Lifewear Donation, Kampung Tenglu Laut
24	Atria Shopping Gallery	Sungai Kayu Ara River Protection Project Appreciation and Award Ceremony
24	Sibu, Sarawak	River Health Index Roadshow during National World River Day 2026 Celebration
26	Kuala Gula, Perak	State-Level Mangrove Forest Conservation Day Celebration
27	Selangor	Prosper Supply Chain Visit to BBEFR and GEC-CoSPeC
28	Maludam, Sarawak	Dialogue with IPLCs on community engagement in emission reduction activities in Maludam, Sarawak
30	TCIC, Kuala Langat	Visit from Jeju, South Korea to TCIC
31	Selangor	PMHaze Programme at RMFR GEC-CoSPeC and RMFR
NOVEMBER		
1	Cyberjaya Lake Gardens, Selangor	Wetland Planting and River Clean-up Volunteer Event at Cyberjaya Lake Gardens (2nd cycle)
2-5	Bandar Penawar, Johor	School and Environment Education Programme at Vita Tenggara
7	Cyberjaya Lake Gardens	Wetland Planting and River Clean-up Volunteer Event at Cyberjaya Lake Gardens (3rd cycle)
9-20	Turkiye	Multiple side events at ASEAN Pavilion, Malaysian Pavillion at COP 31 to the UN Climate Change Conference
12	Pekan, Pahang	First Aid Training with Community Patrollers in Pekan
15	Cyberjaya Lake Gardens	Wetland Planting and River Clean-up Volunteer Event at Cyberjaya Lake Gardens (4th cycle)
18	Kuala Langat, Selangor	IVTP visit by JTB and Yokohama Science Frontier High School to TCIC
21	Pantai Morib, Selangor	Cultural performance and exhibition during Pesta Morib

Date	Location	Planned Event
21	Ipoh, Perak	Community Training on Integrated River Basin Management Series 2
27	Kuala Langat, Selangor	Visit from Hong Kong to TCIC
29-30	Kuala Langat, Selangor	Monash Global immersion Guarantee (GIG) 2026/2027 (Block 1): GEC-CoSPeC and TCIC
TBC	Satun Province, Thailand	Visit to project site, Ban Tha Malai, Satun Province, Thailand
TBC	Riau, Indonesia	Visit to project sites, Riau, Indonesia
DECEMBER		
1	Kuala Langat, Selangor	Monash Global immersion Guarantee (GIG) 2026/2027 (Block 1) GEC-CoSPeC and TCIC
13-15	Kuala Langat, Selangor	Monash Global immersion Guarantee (GIG) 2026/2027 (Block 2)
TBC	Jakarta, Indonesia	SAGU Launching