Global Environment Centre

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Towards Community-led Climate Resilience & Adaptation

Cover Rationale

Towards Community-led Climate Resilience & Adaptation

This year's report celebrates the growing impact of community-driven action supported by GEC, alongside meaningful milestones in regional and international climate leadership. From advancing mangrove, peatland and river initiatives to strengthening civil society networks and contributing to global climate dialogues such as UNFCCC COP 30, these achievements reflect a shared commitment to shaping resilient ecosystems and empowered communities. Together, they underscore GEC's role in enabling locally grounded solutions with global relevance.

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Global Environment Centre

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Global Environment Centre (GEC) is an award-winning Malaysian non-profit organisation established in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global and local importance. GEC has supported policy making and community-based natural resource management throughout the ASEAN Region. It has been recognised by many organisations at national, regional and international levels. It works to build a sustainable partnership for the environment. It operates in Malaysia and across the ASEAN region as well as internationally. We support information exchange and capacity building as well as undertake strategic projects with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

VISION

A world where our environment is safeguarded and natural resources are conserved and used sustainably through equitable stakeholder partnerships for the benefit of people and the planet.

MISSION

To safeguard the environment and promote sustainable management of resources to meet the local, national, regional and global needs through smart partnerships with communities and like-minded organisations.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote conservation and holistic, integrated management of forest, peatland, river and coastal ecosystems to reduce vulnerability to climate change and disasters with emphasis on Nature-based Solutions;
- To strengthen stakeholder capacity and mainstream participation in the sustainable management of natural resources for environmental stewardship and community welfare; and
- To facilitate environmental protection and sustainable development through a whole of society (government, private sector, communities and other stakeholders) approach.

OUR VISION FOR THE PLANET IN 2050

HUMANKIND IS LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE PLANET

Aligned with many international agreements and targets set through the three Rio Conventions along with various national as well as ASEAN plans and policies.

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

2025 was a deeply fulfilling year for the Global Environment Centre (GEC), marked by meaningful progress, strong partnerships, and the unwavering commitment of communities working towards a more resilient and sustainable future.

Throughout the year, GEC continued to advance climate action, community-led conservation, climate adaptation, and nature-based solutions in Malaysia and across the wider region. By working closely with communities and partners, we helped protect vital ecosystems while strengthening sustainable livelihoods.

At the ASEAN level, GEC continued to support the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2023-2030) and the ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze Free Sustainable Land management. In the end of the year, it initiated development of national investment frameworks for Cambodia and Lao PDR in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute.

In 2025, GEC expanded its mangrove conservation programme across the ASEAN region with a new programme in southern Thailand joining other initiatives in Vietnam and Indonesia to complement our long history of mangrove conservation in Malaysia. The Malaysia mangrove programme stretches across four states (Johor, Kedah, Perak, and Selangor).

Our River Care programme achieved key milestones in 2025 including completion of the second phase on our community-based river basin management project in the Kinta River Basin and expansion of our collaboration with Orang Asli communities in Perak and Selangor on ecotourism and livelihood enhancement.

In 2025, we launched the Zainudin Ismail GEC Community Impact Grant in memory of our founding Chairman. GEC has committed to channel RM 500,000 in grants to encourage grassroots innovation and environmental stewardship in the coming years.

The end of 2025 marked the mid-point of our four-year term (Jan 2024 to December 2027) as the Chair of Global Environment Facility-Civil Society Organisation (GEF-CSO) Network. Throughout the year we actively engaged in the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility – the world's largest dedicated multi-focal environment fund. Through active participation in negotiation meetings in USA, France and Botswana as well as engagement with donor countries, GEC advocated for an ambitious replenishment and a greater role for CSOs, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The accomplishments featured in this Annual Report belong to everyone who made them possible: our communities, partners, donors, government agencies, corporate supporters, staff, volunteers, and friends. Your courage, generosity, and perseverance remind us that conservation is ultimately about protecting people, livelihoods, heritage, and the natural systems that sustain us all. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Dato' Halimah Hassan

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2025 was a marked with meaningful growth, stronger partnerships, and expanded regional and global engagement for us at Global Environment Centre (GEC). As we advanced our mission of community-based environmental management, we strengthened our local presence and broadened the reach and impact of our work.

Community empowerment remained at the heart of our efforts. In August, GEC and Yayasan Sime Darby convened a community-based mangrove forum involving more than 100 participants from six Malaysian community organisations and one Indonesian organisation. The forum enabled community leaders and practitioners to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and strengthen cross-border collaboration. It reaffirmed our belief that communities are not simply beneficiaries of conservation, but leaders, innovators, and custodians of vital ecosystems.

We also deepened our partnerships with Orang Asli communities in Selangor, Perak, and Pahang. In Perak, the award-winning Kayuh D'Tonggang ecotourism centre expanded its accommodation and activities, while trained mountain guides from Kampung Makmur led climbers along a community-developed trail to Gunung Korbu, Peninsular Malaysia's second-highest peak. Building on this progress, GEC and JAKOA began working with Kampung Orang Asli Kenong near Sungai Siput to develop another community ecotourism centre.

In Pahang, we expanded community forest and fire patrols across the Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape. These efforts supported multi-stakeholder action to prevent and control fires, restore degraded peat swamp forests, and improve the well-being of local communities.

Regionally, GEC supported initiatives in seven ASEAN Member States and contributed to planning and action through ASEAN mechanisms. Our work included mangrove conservation in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam; peatland conservation in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines; and the development of national investment frameworks in Lao PDR and Cambodia.

Globally, GEC continued to chair the Global Environment Facility Civil Society Organization Network. We contributed to two GEF Council meetings and represented developing-country civil society organisations in three meetings of the ninth GEF replenishment process. Through this engagement, we helped secure stronger commitments and additional resources for civil society organisations, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. At UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil, we also advocated for community-centred approaches to climate action, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and resilience.

These achievements reflect the trust, dedication, and collective efforts of our communities, partners, government agencies, donors, corporate supporters, Board members, and the GEC team. I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to our progress.

Looking ahead, GEC remains committed to strengthening its local presence and regional partnerships, while ensuring that community knowledge, leadership, and aspirations remain central to environmental action. Together, we will turn shared commitment into lasting impact for people, nature, and future generations.

Faizal Parish

GOVERNANCE

Advisory Council

Mr Delmar Blasco

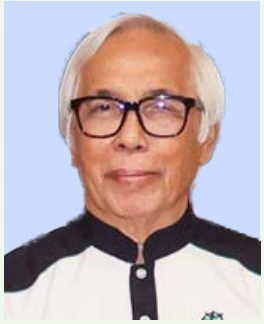
Former Secretary General, Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971)

Tan Sri Razali Ismail
(until Sept 2025)

Former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia

Former President of United Nations General Assembly

First Chairman of Commission of Sustainable Development



Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid
(until Sept 2025)

Former Science Advisor to Prime Minister of Malaysia

Former Chairman of Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Convention on Biological Diversity

Datuk Zul Mukhshar Md. Shaari

Former Director General Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia

Dato' Ir. Dr. Lim Chow Hock

Chairman, Malaysian Capacity Development Network for Sustainable Water Management (MyCDNet)

Former Director of Department of Drainage & Irrigation (River and Coastal) of Peninsular Malaysia

Dr. Salmah Zakaria

Chair of ASM Climate Change and Water Board

Board Member of Lembaga Air Urus Selangor

Former Director General of National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM)

Dato' Dr. Wong Sai Hou

Former State Assemblyman for Kg Tunku and Chairman, Petaling Jaya City Environment Committee

Ms Elizabeth Wong Keat Ping

Former Selangor State Executive Councillor (EXCO)

Former Legislator for Bukit Lanjan

Prof Emeritus Dato' ChM. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar

Deputy Head for Research at United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) Asian Headquarters at Sunway University

Co-Chair of the Science Panel for Borneo, Southeast Asia

Management Board

Dato' Halimah Hassan

CHAIRPERSON

Former Director-General of Department of Environment Malaysia

Prof. Mohd Ali Hashim

Department of Chemical Engineering, University Malaya Malaysia

Dato' Dr. Mohd Puat Dahalan

Former Senior Director of the Forest Management Division of Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia

Management Team

Mr Faizal Parish
Director

Ms Victoria Louis
Manager,
Administration & Finance

Dr. Kalithasan Kailasam
Manager,
River Care Programme

Mr Nagarajan Rengasamy
Manager,
Forest & Coastal Programme

Ms Serena Lew Siew Yan
Manager,
Peatland Programme

Ms Adelaine Tan
Manager,
Outreach & Partnerships Programme

GEC Team

Behind the remarkable achievements of 2025, stands our dedicated team whose unwavering commitment and expertise have made these transformative outcomes possible. Their tireless efforts, from community engagement to technical implementation, have been the backbone of our success. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to every team member who has contributed to advancing our mission of environmental stewardship and community empowerment.

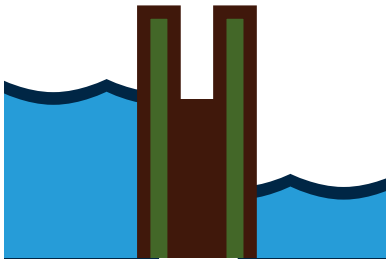
First row (seated, from left): Dato' Dr. Wong, Elizabeth Wong, Datuk Zul, Prof. Mohd Ali, Dato' Halimah, Faizal P., Dato' Ir. Dr. Lim and Prof Emeritus Dato' ChM. Dr. Mazlin.
Second row (from left): Shafiq, Prem, Mulyadi, Serena, Raj, Victoria, Dr. Kalithasan, Adelaine, Jagedeswari, Sathis and Norazrin.
Third row (from left): Bernard, Parthiban, Ily Aimi, Linda, Syuhadah, Afiatul, Annabelle, Nurashikin, Nurhafizah, Zulina, Lavanya, Ummi, Prasad and Faris.
Fourth row (from left): Viknesh, Nurhayati, Aida, Usun, Suriati, Fitriah, Aisyah, Henashwari, Ni Yan, Kamilia, Azira, Kamalhiswari, Aiman and Lian Lugun.
Fifth row (from left): William, Johari, Juhazman, Saiful, Syafiq, Logaraj, Ikhmalreza, Hafiz, Taufek, Qayyum, Luqman, Mahathir, Nazeri, Seedhu, Jonathan, Salleh and M. Faizal.

Not in picture (on mission): Leo

OUR MILESTONES

115,884
TREES PLANTED

- 103,500 in mangrove forests
- 3,814 in peatland forests
- 5,570 in inland forests



21 CANAL BLOCKS CONSTRUCTED & MAINTAINED TO RESTORE PEATLANDS

CONDUCTED

33 TRAINING COURSES — **1,316** PARTICIPANTS

131 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES — **11,393** PARTICIPANTS

52 ACTIVE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS/ LINKAGES

7 ACTIVE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

24 ACTIVE CORPORATE PARTNERS

89 COMMUNITY GROUPS ACTIVELY ENGAGED *(including JKGEC communities)*

43 COMMUNITY PATROLLERS — 4

40,535 HECTARES PEATLAND & MANGROVE AREAS SURVEYED

121 TOTAL MEDIA COVERAGE

153 TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Our Main Projects & Office Locations

GEC is working on key environmental projects with local communities, peatland conservation, and river basin management — with teams working at our headquarters and seven site offices.

KEDAH

- Merbok Forest Reserve
- Kuala Sungai Muda

PERAK

- Manjung
- Kuala Gula
- Ulu Kinta Basin
- Ipoh City
- Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Tonggang

SELANGOR

- Temuan Culture Information Centre (TCIC)
- Klang River Basin
- Kampung Dato Hormat & Teluk Mendeleng, Sabak Bernam
- North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest
- Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve
- Sungai Penchala
- Sungei Way
- Taman Aman Lake
- Cyberjaya Lake Gardens

FEDERAL TERRITORY KUALA LUMPUR

- Bukit Kiara
- Gombak River

MELAKA

- Durian Tunggal & Jus Water Catchments

PAHANG

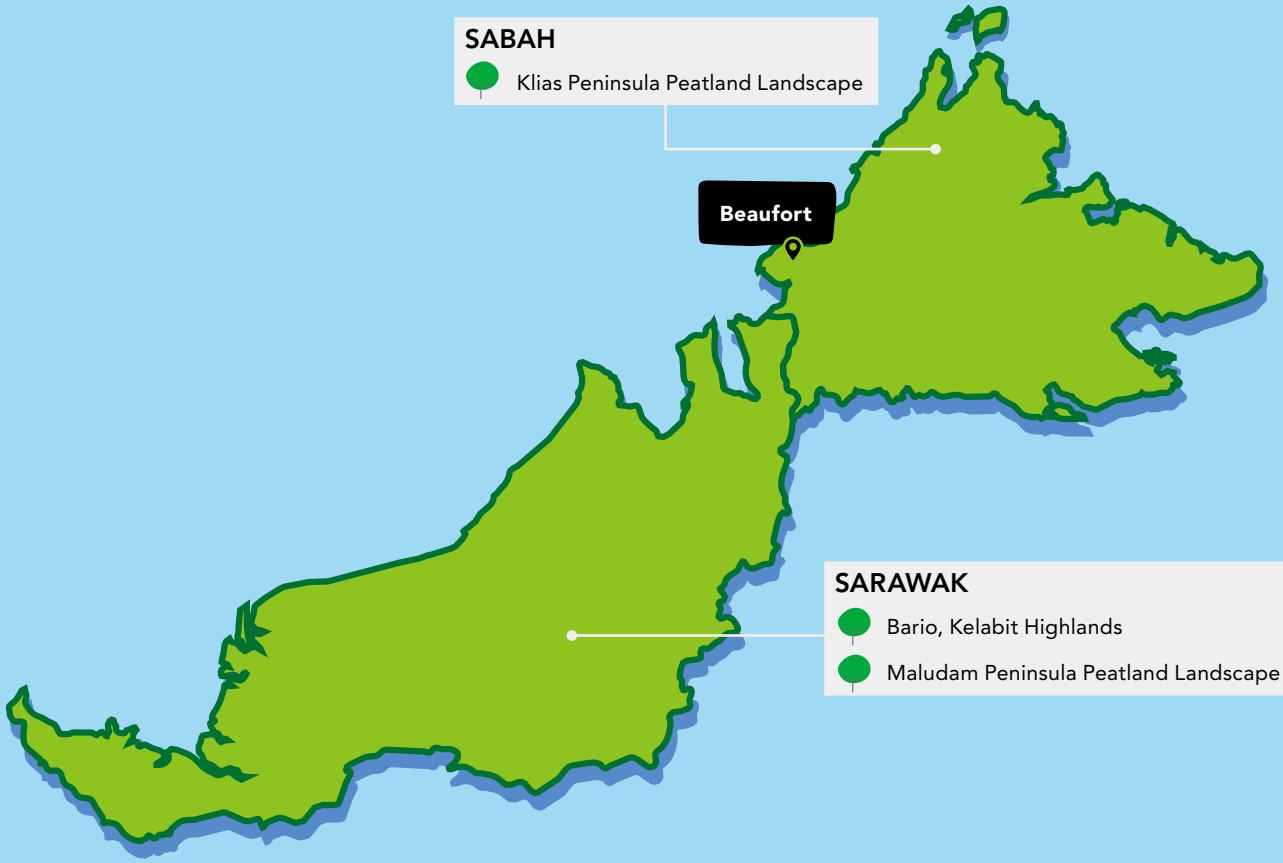
- Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape

JOHOR

- Pulau Tanjung Surat
- Parit Kassim, Muar
- Sungai Johor Forest Reserve
- Kampung Tenglu Laut, Mersing
- Gunung Arong Forest Reserve

Malaysia & Southeast Asia

SITE OFFICE | PEATLAND/INLAND FOREST | MANGROVE FOREST | RIVER



LEADING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

In 2025, GEC successfully promoted the importance of a whole of society approach, collective community-led nature-based action at the global level.

GEF-CSO Network Chairmanship

The year 2025 marked the mid-point in GEC's four-year term (Jan 2024 to December 2027) as chair of the Global Environment Facility-Civil Society Organisation (GEF-CSO) Network. Some of the notable achievements in 2025:

- Led delegations to key global meetings/platforms namely:
  - February: Ninth Global Environment Facility Replenishment (GEF-9) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meetings in Washington DC.
  - May: GEF-9 First Replenishment Meeting in Paris
  - June: 69th GEF Council Meeting, in Washington DC
  - August to November: Whole of Society (WOS) 4-part Webinar Series Talks As a chair of GEF-CSO Network, GEC took on an active role in various capacities including as organiser, moderator and speaker.
  - Oct: GEF-9 Second Replenishment Meeting in Botswana
- Secured funding from GEF Secretariat for the Network for use to grow its membership, enhance and update its website, and increase the support and capacity of the GEF-CSO Network Secretariat.
- Provided administrative and technical support to the Network, including enhancing the membership database system through the acquisition of a Salesforce account for use for GEF-CSO Network.

As GEF-CSO Network's Regional Focal Point (RFP) for Southeast Asia, GEC was able to showcase on global platforms, our thought leadership and ground level best practices in sustainable environment management and climate action through empowerment of civil society in Malaysia and in the Southeast Asian region.

UNFCCC COP30

During United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belem, Brazil in November, GEC assumed key roles as co-organiser, host, moderator and speaker in the following:

- **GEF-CSO Network WOS Webinar Talk (No. 4)** in its capacity as Chair of GEF-CSO Network.

- **ASEAN panel discussion:** Local Actions and Regional Strategies: Implementing ASEAN Frameworks for Peatland Management and Haze Control, featuring representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS), development partners, and technical experts. The session showcased progress in implementing regional peatland management and haze mitigation initiatives, shared national experiences, and highlighted opportunities for strengthening peatland management and haze prevention across the region.

  The session highlighted ASEAN's continued commitment to sustainable peatland management and haze mitigation through the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS), National Action Plans on Peatlands (NAPP), and ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management (AIF-HFSLM). AMS. Representatives from AMS and partners presented concrete progress and proven approaches, reinforcing the need for coordinated action and increased investment to achieve a haze-free and climate-resilient ASEAN.

  Key next steps include strengthening regional collaboration, mobilising technical and financial support, scaling-up successful practices, and enhancing knowledge exchange to advance implementation of ASEAN's peatland and haze-related frameworks.

The Peatland Breakthrough

The Peatland Breakthrough is a collaborative effort to mobilise action to conserve, rewet and restore, and enable the sustainable, wise use of the world's peatlands in ways that maintain their essential functions to support climate goals, water security, biodiversity, and people's livelihoods. Officially launched at COP30, GEC as an organising partner of The Peatland Breakthrough took an active role in organising these events, including one Official Side Event at the Blue Zone.

Together with other organising partners, we have a strong track record of working in peatland conservation, restoration, sustainable management, research, and policy development. The partners include Wetlands International, UN Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the Greifswald Mire Centre, in collaboration with the High-Level Climate Champions Team, the Convention on Wetlands and the Global Peatlands Initiative.

International River Symposium 2025

GEC participated as one of the speakers in a three-day International River Symposium in Brisbane, Australia in September, presenting a paper on GEC's River Health Index, which looks beyond just normal water quality but also takes into account biological health and community engagement as part of healthy river concept. The tool bridges the gap between the scientific assessment and citizen science (community-based river care). The presentation covered case studies of selected river care communities of GEC and factors affecting their pro environmental behaviour towards river care

The symposium which included 70 thought leadership sessions was an excellent platform for GEC to engage various potential partners including International River Foundation and Asian River Restoration Network, while showcasing our leadership role and best practices in sustainable river management through smart partnerships with stakeholder in Malaysia to a global audience.

These were among the various opportunities for GEC to showcase work on the global platform, while putting Malaysia on the global map as a leader in climate action.

OF CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

GEC's peatland restoration programme has long established its footprint within the ASEAN region. In 2025, GEC launched a series of mangrove forest restoration programmes focussed particularly coastal erosion and rehabilitation has taken off through smart partnership with regional partners.

Mangrove Rehabilitation and Community Engagement in Indonesia

In February, through Aramco Asia, GEC collaborated with its partner organisation, Yayasan Gambut to conduct a series of field visits and a training programme, including a peer visit to Malaysia, involving community groups from Indonesia's coastal villages in Bengkalis Regency. Aside from Yayasan Gambut, the participating communities from Indonesia were: Parit Seghagah, Sepahat Hijau, Tanjung Kuras Belatram, Sekat Bakau and Bahtera Melayu.

These visits were part of site mapping and community engagement activities aimed at mangrove rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods development. During this period, the communities constructed two new mangrove nurseries to support mangrove plantings planned for 2026, including a 100-metre-long wave-breaker structure to take advantage of areas with high sedimentation and improved wave protection. The planting was carefully timed with tidal conditions and aligned with seedling readiness from the community nurseries, reflecting a more adaptive and experience-based approach. In total, 4,000 mangrove trees were planted across the rehabilitated coastal areas in Bengkalis Regency. These activities highlight the communities' growing independence in safeguarding coastal ecosystems and strengthening the area's resilience to erosion.

In April, Yayasan Gambut was announced as one of 16 global finalists for the RestorLife Awards 2025, selected from 1,127 applicants worldwide. This recognition by RestorLife and the G20 Global Land Initiative highlights Yayasan Gambut's community-based efforts in restoring peatland and coastal ecosystems across Indonesia.

Phase 2 of Mekong Delta Mangrove Conservation Project in Viet Nam

Meanwhile, further north, GEC and Aramco Asia Singapore embarked on Phase 2 of the Mekong Delta Mangrove Conservation Project in April in Ben Tre Province, Viet Nam with key stakeholders from and provincial government representatives in attendance.

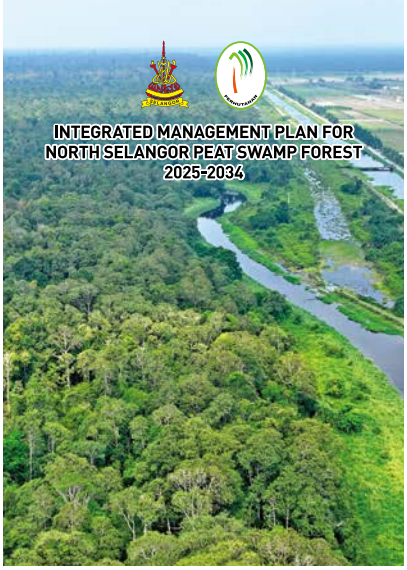
Following approval from the Provincial People's Committee and support from the Department of Agriculture and Environment, five hectares of degraded mangrove at the Ba Lai River mouth in Thoi Thuan Commune, Binh Dai District, were successfully rehabilitated in June and July.

A community mangrove nursery was established in Giao Thanh Commune, producing 14,000 *Sonneratia caseolaris* seedlings for planting. Thirty-four households participated in planting activities, with post-planting assessments in September 2025 confirming a 95% survival rate. Additionally, four tree-planting events engaged 479 participants who planted 12,000 trees across Ben Tre coastal areas. Capacity-building training programmes reached 59 households and 28 officials, strengthening local expertise in nursery management, planting techniques, and monitoring. The project has successfully enhanced community resilience and sustainable livelihoods whilst safeguarding coastal ecosystems.

NbS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH...

Fire Prevention

In Selangor, GEC, in collaboration with the Selangor State Forestry Department (SSFD) and Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPEM)-Selangor conducted a two-day Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in February, attended by 55 officers from 30 agencies and community groups, to discuss and provide inputs for the hydrology, fire prevention, and sustainable peatland transition management zone plans to finalise the Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) for North and South Selangor Peat Swamp Forests.



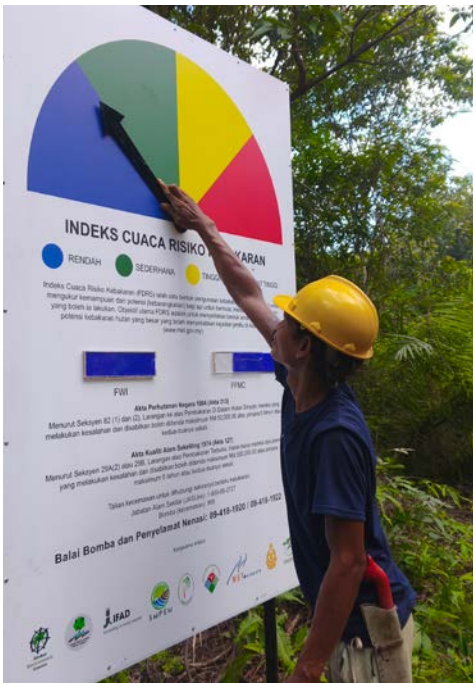
In May, GEC joined a FGD for the Johor State Forest Management Plan 2026–2035 contributing expertise on community-based conservation, peatland fire prevention, and sustainable hydrology, while advocating for ecological restoration, climate resilience, and community participation.

GEC constructed a total of 13 canal blocks for peatland water management and fire prevention in Selangor: Raja Musa Forest Reserve (RMFR) - FC 52 (six units), and FC 23/43 (three) and Bukit Belata (Extension) Forest Reserve (BBEFR) - FC 3 (four). GEC also constructed and monitored a 100-metre double-layer wave breaker in collaboration with KomPAS at Kampung Tenglu Laut, Mersing, Johor, which confirmed its stability after weeks of strong tides/winds, demonstrating its effectiveness and readiness for subsequent tree planting activities. This initiative has since been replicated in other parts of the Mersing coast.

Mersing, Johor.

Bestari Jaya, Selangor.

The integration of hydrology planning and canal blocking restores natural water regimes in peat swamp forests, reducing peat oxidation, land subsidence, and vulnerability to drought. Furthermore, coastal wave breakers function as NbS by reducing wave energy, protecting shorelines, and creating enabling conditions for mangrove and coastal vegetation restoration. Multi-stakeholder FGDs enhance cross-agency coordination and integration of NbS into formal forest management and land-use planning. Community involvement promotes local stewardship, knowledge exchange and long-term sustainability of NbS interventions. NbS approaches mainstreamed into state forest management plans and IMPs via official policy frameworks.



In Pahang, GEC collaborated with the Department of Environment (DOE), Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA), Pahang State Forestry Department (JPNP), YP Plantation Holdings (YPPH), and Enggang (Pekan) to support fire monitoring and provide technical assistance for peat fire suppression in Pekan. During the first three weeks of Ramadan, GEC actively supported a large-scale peatland fire control operation in Pekan District involving more than 150 personnel from over eight agencies. GEC also worked closely with community patrollers by maintaining safety equipment, distributing awareness materials, and installing canal blocks to strengthen peatland fire prevention measures.

In addition, two CEPA awareness programmes were conducted in collaboration with key stakeholders in Kg Cenderawasih and Kg Sawah Batu to enhance community understanding of peatland conservation, restoration, and fire prevention. GEC continued to work with agencies including DOE, JPNP, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), BOMBA, Pekan District and Land Office, Malaysian Meteorological Department (MET Malaysia), and Department of Agriculture (DOA) to support the protection and sustainable management of the Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL).

Ending the year on a sweet note, GEC won the coveted Special Award for Mersing Sustainability Achievement for year 2025 awarded by Mersing District Office, under Thrust 3 (cleanliness) for its peatland restoration and mangrove coastline rehabilitation initiatives in Mersing.

Conservation and Restoration of an Urban Lake

In the Cyberjaya Lake, GEC, with support from Microsoft and Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) together with Sepang Municipal Council (MPS), constructed wetlands and biofilters using native wetland plants to naturally filter stormwater and improve water quality rather than relying solely on engineered greywater systems. The project also saw the establishment of pollinator gardens and habitat features that strengthen local biodiversity, which is critical for ecosystem resilience.

Floating wetland cells, a creative nature-based as well community-based approach that supports water purification and aquatic habitat, were installed in the lake. The project also involved the establishment of lake/park trail with 10 learning stations/spots. These environmental education and stewardship programmes raise awareness about the role of wetlands and ecosystems in climate adaptation. Citizen science initiatives helped the community to monitor water quality and biodiversity by building local capacity to track/monitor environmental change over time, while volunteer planting and care activities strengthen a sense of ownership and ensure longer-term commitment to ecosystem care as well to empower the young generation on environmental care.

The project which is now going through its third phase has thus far shown improved water quality and biodiversity in Cyberjaya Lake Garden through establishment of wetland cells, biofilters, pollinator gardens, tree planting and local fish release, as well as greater awareness amongst public on the functions of Cyberjaya Lake Garden beyond recreational purposes.

- Protection and expansion of the natural wetland area with improved local biodiversity.
- Greater awareness amongst the public on the functions of the wetland area and importance of protecting it.
- The wetland area functioning as an education site through the establishment of the Cyberjaya Lake. Garden Biodiversity Trail and Cyberjaya Natural Wetland Conservation and Interpretation Programme.

Moving forward, GEC hopes to enhance a stream in the park to improve water quality and better support aquatic life, and establish a River Open Classroom which can be used for environmental education programmes, particularly river water quality and aquatic biodiversity monitoring, as well as for biodiversity to be mainstreamed in the management of the area resulting in improved flora and fauna biodiversity.

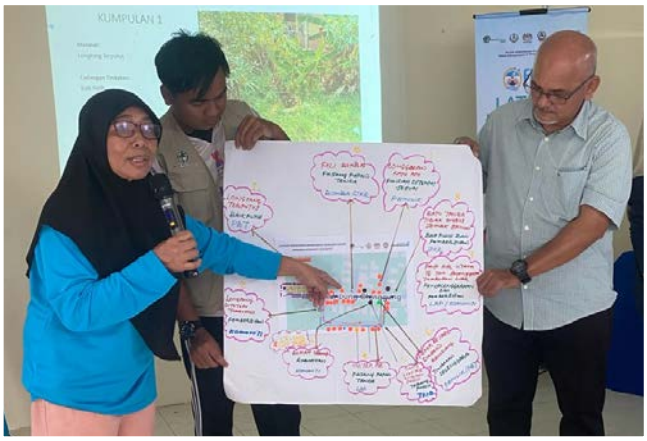
COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION & ADAPTATION

Enhancing Local Action in Disaster Preparedness and Response

Together with funding support from Yayasan PETRONAS, GEC carried out a two-day training programme in four states: Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Perak and Negeri Sembilan involving 125 community members and 44 government representatives.

Together with five communities/villages per state, GEC established the Community-based Flood Hazard Map (CBFHM) in Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Federal Territory, which they are able to utilise when floods occur in their area. The localised brochures for the respective states were made available with detailed emergency contacts too.

Meanwhile, 11 communities supported small-scale outreach sessions to share knowledge, enabling the communities to act during flood situations. A total of 195 members were engaged through the activities. Additionally, around 194 individuals comprising both community representatives and key agencies such as National Disaster Management Agency, the Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM), Drainage and Irrigation Department, and district offices as well as local authorities were involved in the respective four-state based peer to peer sharing sessions.



To raise public awareness on the climate action and disaster preparedness to the wider Malaysian audience, GEC developed various community-based flood care materials and videos. Besides that, GEC also hosted a six-part webinar series which saw public participation of 1,152 individuals including representatives from civil society and interest groups.

Ecosystem Resillience: From Durian Tunggal to Jus Dams

The restoration of degraded areas affected by encroachment at Durian Tunggal Dam was carried out using a shade net-planting technique, which improved tree survival rates and supported sustainable water resource management. Building on the success of Phase 1 at Durian Tunggal Dam, SMART extended the planting efforts to Jus Dam in 2024 and 2025. In both phases at Jus Dam, local communities successfully planted 5,000 trees in 2024 and 4,500 trees in 2025, with support from HSBC Malaysia.

The project was implemented by GEC in close collaboration with Melaka Water Regulatory Body (BKSA) together with NGOs and local government agencies to ensure effective restoration outcomes. Continuous maintenance was also carried out to enhance tree survival and ensure the long-term sustainability of the restored areas. The reforestation of degraded and encroached areas improved forest cover and accelerated recovery of degraded catchment areas, while tree planting in dam catchments enhanced water retention, reduced soil erosion and supported long-term water supply sustainability for the state.

The restored forest areas strengthened ecosystem resilience to climate impacts during droughts and extreme rainfall, while the use shade net-planting techniques and continuous maintenance improved tree survival rates and ensured lasting restoration outcomes. Replanted areas provided habitats for wildlife and improved ecosystem functions such as carbon sequestration.

The close cooperation among NGOs, government agencies, and partners further improved coordination, knowledge sharing and overall effectiveness of restoration efforts. Successful expansion from Durian Tunggal to Jus Dam demonstrates a proven approach that can be replicated in other degraded catchment areas.

Community: Key to Sustainable Fire Monitoring & Patrolling

GEC engaged 31 community patrollers across various peatland landscapes in Pahang, Selangor, Johor and Sabah. These include four female patrollers. Through regular patrols and monitoring activities, they helped detect fire risks, report incidents, and raise awareness on peat fire prevention within their communities. In April, GEC conducted a training course on Community-based Conservation and Preservation of Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape with the community to provide a better understanding of conserving the peatlands.

Additionally, GEC's Southeast Pahang Peatland Landscape (SEPPL) programme in Bukit Leelau Mini Landscape received notable mention in Malaysia's First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) to UNFCCC. SEPPL was recognised as a leading model for multistakeholder partnerships to protect peatlands from fires, highlighting the strength of multi-stakeholder partnership in preventing repeated peat fires which resulted in high emission avoidance. This was made possible through community patrols, water management, and sustainable livelihoods.

In Kedah, Perak, Selangor and Johor, 12 community patrollers are deployed regularly in mangrove forest sites to ensure monitoring coastal areas, protecting against illegal logging, managing community nurseries, and rehabilitating degraded coastlines.

Driving Sustainable Livelihood for Community Nursery

GEC has helped set up seven community nurseries in SEPPL to support restoration initiatives and enhance the community livelihood. Overall, the community managed to nurture 16,819 seedlings in the nurseries comprising forest, fruit and peatland tree species to support ecosystem restoration and enhancing food security. In November, GEC conducted a training course to sow *Gelam* species as it is a resilient species used in peatland restoration. The community nursery is led by a capable team of six female nursery owners, who have also built connections with stakeholders who are also potential buyers of their seedlings.

Grant Boost for Our Communities

GEC launched the Zainudin Ismail GEC Community Impact Grant in April to honour the late Haji Zainudin Ismail, founding Chairman of GEC, who passed away on December 10, 2023, after 25 years of service. The grant aims to support existing GEC-related communities drive medium and long-term community-based sustainable natural resources and environment management initiatives.

ZIGCIG was launched in April 2025 with the aim to empower grassroots action for community-based environmental restoration and sustainable resource management. GEC has committed RM500,000 to drive this initiative for the next 20 years and we also welcome corporate partnerships to sustain the initiative.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS

Though at the heart of GEC's work is environmental restoration, conservation and climate action, the work we continue to is driven and sustained by on-ground efforts by resilient and persevering communities.

International Recognition for Successful Localised Efforts

GEC's Temuan Culture and Information Centre (TCIC), led by the indigenous community group Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan (SGAT), received international recognition from the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and global partners, reinforcing GEC's credibility as a technical implementing partner for Orang Asli-led community empowerment and sustainable livelihood programmes. This recognition reflects the effectiveness of GEC's approach in advancing inclusive community development, capacity building, and income generation.

Under Phase 2 of the Yayasan Hasanah-supported programme, GEC focused on strengthening, scaling up, and enhancing existing livelihood initiatives, while creating new income-generating opportunities for the Orang Asli Temuan communities in Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas and Bukit Cheeding. Key interventions included the implementation of the Indigenous Village Tourism Programme (IVTP), operationalisation of the TCIC, and delivery of sustainable livelihood and capacity development activities.

During the reporting period, the TCIC facilitated 78 IVTP visits involving 2,100 visitors, supported by 13 SGAT members serving as the core operations team. To enhance the visitor experience and diversify community-based enterprise opportunities, new tourism activities, local products, and an interpretative trail with mountain biking facilities were introduced in Pulau Kempas. In parallel, six training sessions were conducted in 2025 for community members, covering beekeeping, digital marketing, and product enhancement.

The programme delivered measurable socioeconomic outcomes, with 52 direct beneficiaries reporting improvements in knowledge and income generation. Among them, 18 beneficiaries established new income streams, while 33 recorded higher earnings. By November 2025, approximately 70% of the 27 targeted beneficiaries had each achieved an income increase of at least RM250.

Overall, Phase 2 contributed to strengthening community resilience, expanding sustainable livelihood options, and promoting inclusive, community-led development.

Community-led Transformation for River Care at PPR Lembah Subang

In a major stride toward sustainable urban living, residents of two blocks of PPR Lembah Subang 1 (Block G and H) have successfully spearheaded an environmental transformation especially the river care that has improved both the local landscape and the community's quality of life.

Strengthening Community Awareness

The cornerstone of this initiative was a massive outreach campaign supported by OSK Foundation. By employing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and educational brochures, the project reached 2,352 residents. This awareness drive translated into action, with 424 participants—including students, residents, and the general public—actively joining hands-on events and training sessions.

A Visible Transformation

The physical impact of the project is most visible at the local monsoon drain. Key achievements include:

- Beautification: A 120m stretch of railing surrounding the drain was freshly painted and landscaped, turning a functional utility into a local landmark. As well the educational mural painted on wall of Blok H PPR Lembah Subang

- Improved Sanitation: Comprehensive cleaning of the surrounding drains and the monsoon drain has restored water flow and successfully eliminated foul odours, creating a healthier environment for families.

Building a Sustainable Future

To ensure these gains last for generations, the initiative focused on systemic change:

- Youth Education: seven schools participated in SMART Ranger training, equipping young leaders with the skills for holistic waste management.
- Business Partnership: 20 local business premises were outreached and engaged on BMP for river care, focusing on responsible waste management to prevent future pollution at the source.

With support from Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and DID Petaling, this project is a model of urban resilience - residents empowered with the right knowledge and tools, can transform their environment into a clean, safe, and vibrant space.

Leading River-based Orang Asli Communities through...

Ecotourism (Kayuh D'Tonggang)

Kayuh D'Tonggang (KDT) is a community-led ecotourism initiative in Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Tonggang, Tanjung Rambutan, Perak, developed through collaboration between the Global Environment Centre (GEC), the Temiar Orang Asli community, JAKOA Perak, JPS Perak, and other local partners. Supported by Yayasan Hasanah and the Ministry of Finance Malaysia, the project empowers Orang Asli leadership by creating sustainable income opportunities while promoting the conservation of river ecosystems and surrounding natural habitats.

KDT offers a range of low-impact recreational, educational, and cultural experiences, including mountain biking, river-based activities, forest trails, birdwatching, and authentic Orang Asli cultural showcases such as blowpipe demonstrations, traditional trapping and cooking, and the Sewang dance. These attractions position KDT as a unique destination for nature-based recreation, cultural appreciation, and environmental learning.

To strengthen community engagement and raise awareness on river conservation, GEC organised the "Santai Sungai Kayuh D'Tonggang" programme, bringing together local communities, stakeholders, and visitors to support efforts in establishing the Kinta River corridor as a sustainable adventure tourism destination.

Complementing these initiatives, biodiversity monitoring at KDT has recorded at least 35 bird species, highlighting the site's potential as a birdwatching and environmental education hub. Through community-led tourism, conservation, and cultural stewardship, KDT demonstrates how Orang Asli leadership can drive sustainable development and empower river-based communities to thrive.

Sustainable Food Security (Bukit Lagong)

At Bukit Lagong, Selangor, the Temuan Orang Asli community is leading a range of sustainable livelihood initiatives supported by the Global Environment Centre (GEC) in partnership with Yayasan Hasanah (YH) and the Ministry of Finance Malaysia (MOF). These community-driven efforts aim to strengthen food security, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability while building local leadership and self-reliance.

A key initiative is the establishment of an aquaponics system, which integrates fish farming and vegetable cultivation using water sourced from nearby hills. This water-efficient approach provides a sustainable source of food for the community while creating opportunities for income generation through the sale of fish and agricultural produce. To further enhance local food production, community vegetable gardens have been expanded, increasing access to locally grown fruits and vegetables while equipping community members with skills in cultivation, harvesting, and product marketing.

In addition, community members have received training in the establishment and management of forest nurseries, including seedling propagation, nursery operations, and horticultural techniques. These skills support sustainable forestry and ecosystem restoration efforts while creating alternative livelihood opportunities through the production and sale of plants and saplings.

Together, these initiatives showcase how Orang Asli leadership can drive community-based solutions that improve food security, diversify income sources, and promote environmental stewardship, empowering communities to build a more sustainable and resilient future.

MAKING EVERY *SEN* COUNT FOR COMMUNITIES

Monetary Boost for New and On-Going Initiatives

At the front and centre of GEC's conservation activities are the communities that drive our on-ground initiatives. To complement the timely ongoing support offered by GEC teams in the respective states, year-on-year, the monetary support from various funders enable us to empower the communities to persevere in their efforts. In 2025, over RM1.5 million was allocated for direct community grants, allowances or direct support for activities and facilities.

A grant from Yayasan Sime Darby supplemented by additional matching fund from the Ministry of Finance provided targeted support to six coastal communities to support mangrove conservation and enhancement of livelihoods. The grant enabled GEC to empower several communities to carry out for mangrove conservation and climate resilience efforts, namely Kelab Komuniti Bakau Parit Jawa (KKBPJ) in Johor, Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG) and Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL) in Perak and Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH) in Selangor.

Yayasan Hasanah provided significant support channelled through GEC to support Orang Asli communities in Selangor and Perak in 2025. This included development of a new ecotourism facility in Kampung Kenang near Sg Siput as well as ongoing support for the ecotourism at Kayuh d'Tonggang and Kampung Makmur in the Kinta River Basin. In Selangor, support was provided to enhance the TCIC at Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas and to enhance food security at Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Lagong.

Prosper Capital Holdings Sdn Bhd and Aramco Overseas Malaysia Sdn Bhd also strengthened GEC's community conservation initiatives. Prosper supported the maintenance and construction of canal blocks, as well as community monitoring and patrols in the Bukit Belata (Extension) and Raja Musa forest reserves. Aramco supported the Mangrove Forest Ranger Programme 2023–2025 and Mangrove School Carnivals in Kota Tinggi, benefiting hundreds of children and teachers.

In 2025, GEC allocated its internal GEC CSR Programme Fund to support various community-led initiatives. The programme implemented at the Kelabit Highlands, in Bario, Sarawak and Klias Peninsula Peatland Landscape (KPPL) in Beaufort, Sabah received the bulk of the monetary support. The allocation helped strengthen community engagement, enhance environmental awareness, and provided vital support to local facilities. Through activities such as the development of ecotourism trails and installation of signage, facility improvements, and awareness campaigns, these initiatives have empowered local communities, promoted sustainable practices, and fostered stronger collaboration among GEC, government agencies, schools, and local residents.

Meanwhile, another recipient of the GEC support was Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL) community. Ten families received flood relief support following severe flooding in November. As a result of continuous heavy rainfall, there was a rapid overflow of floodwaters into the residential area, affecting 10 families. The funds were used to provide the families with essentials, non-perishable food supplies and ensure the most immediate needs were met.

The KRT Taman Chemor Idaman community also received funding from the grant to mobilise and support their gotong royong activity at Sg Kuang involving 30 members of the community in December to pave the way for a monitoring site and water quality testing activities by the community's River Ranger group. The gotong royong exercise, participated by 80 individuals including students and KRT community members, also involved the planting of bamboo trees to prevent soil erosion, and fruit trees for landscaping.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Over the year, GEC's efforts have has gained significant attention from the public and the media increasing our visibility. We garnered 121 total media coverage across all printed, broadcast and online news platforms, and seven media releases, which resulted in an estimated Total PR Value of over RM4.4 million.

Journey through time and tradition

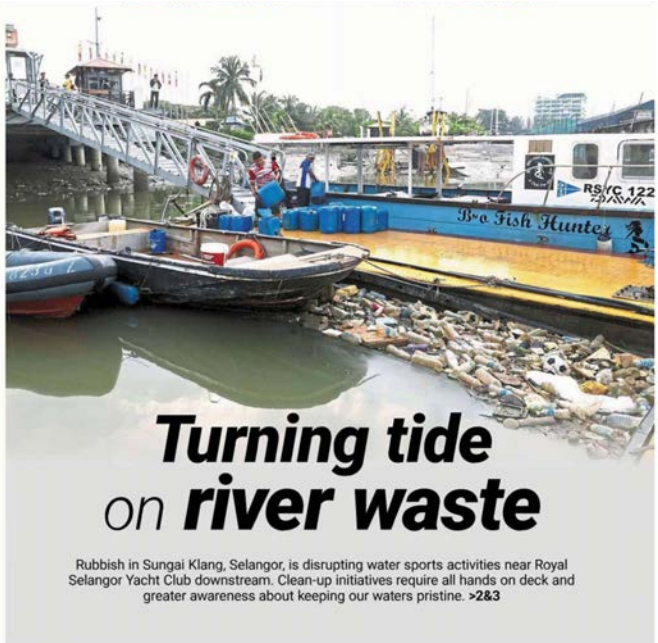
Here's a unique opportunity to explore the traditions, history and spiritual connection of the Temuan people, writes **Intan Maizura Ahmad Kamal**

A visit to Temuan Cultural Information Centre (TCIC) to learn the architecture of traditional leaf weaving. PICTURES COURTESY OF RUANG TEMUAN

Painting workshop for the children at TCIC.

A visit to TCIC for fieldwork.

Ruang Temuan team and TCIC group picture.



Turning tide on river waste

Rubbish in Sungai Klang, Selangor, is disrupting water sports activities near Royal Selangor Yacht Club downstream. Clean-up initiatives require all hands on deck and greater awareness about keeping our waters pristine. >2&3

in 1969.

Clean-up effort

When *StarMetro* contacted Klang Royal City Council (MRDK), a spokesperson said river cleanliness was not under the jurisdiction of the city council.

The spokesperson said it was mainly the responsibility of the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas).

When contacted, DID said Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) had been tasked with the river cleaning.

An LLSB spokesperson highlighted that some 91,684 metric tonnes of waste had been collected from Sungai Klang since 2016.

"This effort is part of the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) initiative.

"Through operations supported by assets like interceptors and log booms, we have successfully removed significant amounts of waste from Sungai Klang," said the spokesperson.

However, challenges persist, particularly during heavy rains or low tides when rubbish is carried downstream and accumulates in areas such as near RSYC.

"Moving forward, we are actively working to enhance our river-cleaning efforts by upgrading log booms to trap more floating debris, deploying additional mini interceptors at key locations to prevent rubbish from entering the main river besides strengthening coordination with other agencies and local communities to improve efficiency during critical periods," said the LLSB spokesperson.

The company also said that addressing river pollution required collaboration with other parties aside from public awareness.

"Tackling root causes, such as indiscriminate waste disposal, and improving upstream waste management are crucial to achieving long-term success.

"We appreciate RSYC's ongoing efforts to clean the river and welcome further collaboration with stakeholders to strengthen these initiatives.

"We also urge the media to help us raise awareness and educate the public on the importance of maintaining a clean river for the benefit of all, ensuring the long-term health of our natural resources," the spokesperson added.

River care

Global Environment Centre River Care Programme manager Dr Kalithasan Kailasan said the authorities faced a dilemma in terms of balancing activities along the rivers and caring for the environment.

"Some of the rubbish in the river could come from businesses that have long operated by the river.

"It is time the authorities ensure these businesses are licensed and comply with the rules.

"These businesses must understand their responsibilities towards the environment too," he said.

Kalithasan said he had witnessed improvement along rivers in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, once settlers moved away or were made aware of their role in keeping the environment clean.

Marshall says river protection awareness should be raised among business owners.

Kalithasan says some rubbish comes from businesses that have long operated by the river.

Waste accumulated at low tide near RSYC. — Courtesy photo

Empowering indigenous communities through tourism and conservation

BY **RAVINYAA RAVIMALAR**

The narrative surrounding the Orang Asli has often been confined to stereotypical roles such as labourers, craftspeople selling traditional wares or subjects of anthropological studies.

However, this narrative is being rewritten among the communities who live in the villages of Tonggang and Makmur, in the upper Kinta basin of Perak. The indigenous communities there have set up an ecotourism space that is run entirely by the community members.

The Kayuh D'Tonggang ecotourism and recreational site was established in 2023 through a partnership project with the Global Environment Centre (GEC).

"Initially, we planned to open a recreational site as we had activities and natural resources, but we just did not have the funds to do it. Then GEC came in during the first Covid-19 lockdown in 2020 and offered to help us set up the place. On Aug 29, 2023, we finally opened it to the public," says Che Wan Alang, president and job bai m (village head) of Kayuh D'Tonggang in Kampung Tonggang.

GEC, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to working on environmental issues, organised a media trip to the villages late last year.

Che Wan tells *ESG* that the Covid-19 pandemic and the Movement Control Order (MCO) in 2020 devastated the Orang Asli communities, who relied heavily on daily wages and foraging in the forest for survival. Many suburban communities in Klebang Selatan who engage in daily wage activities, such as sewing, contract work and construction, also faced severe economic hardship.

To address these challenges, GEC initiated a community empowerment project under the Hasanah Special Grant 2020 (HSG2020) to create an alternative livelihood for suburban and urban indigenous communities post-Covid-19.

Faisal Parish, founder and director of GEC, says the first phase of the project was to improve and create an immediate alternative livelihood for the indigenous people and address critical river care issues.

"We want to support the Orang Asli community in Kampung Tonggang to develop ecotourism as an additional income generating activity, that draws on their traditional knowledge. We want to empower them and bring back their motivation by recognising their skills and showcasing their knowledge about the forests they have lived in for hundreds of years. They are the rightful guardians of the forests. There is so much they can share with us," he adds.

With the help of the Ministry of Finance and HSG2020, which amounts to about RM1 million, GEC was able to enhance the facilities and mountain bike eco-trail as well as establish an ecotourism riverside recreation space for the indigenous communities in Kampung Makmur and Kampung Tonggang.

Since its launch, Kayuh D'Tonggang has welcomed more than 3,000 visitors and generated RM80,000 in revenue in its first year, says Che Wan.

"A unique point of our chalets is that we maximise forest-derived building materials and reduce the use of cement. For instance, we use a specific weaving method using leaves to build the roofs on our chalets. Other than that, we have various activities around the recreational area such as the hunting of wild animals, cultural dances and the Semoi river open classroom where we have a sharing session on ecology and river monitoring," he adds.

PROTECTING WATERWAYS

Kayuh D'Tonggang's success aligns with GEC's broader mission of promoting environmental sustainability through initiatives like the River Care Programme, which is supported by the National River Care Fund (NRCF) and Yayasan Hasanah.

The NRCF has channelled more than RM600,000 to support around 75 initiatives and training courses for local communities, community-based organisations, educational institutions and other groups, says Faisal.

He highlights that almost 5% of Malaysia's rivers are severely polluted, 42% are polluted and 50% of all rivers are classified as clean. This is primarily due to the lack of awareness of the general public about the country's water resources.

"In 2021-2022, we undertook a joint study of the upper Kinta river catchment, which is critical for providing water supply not only to the Orang Asli but more than half of Ipoh city. Our study showed that there is a massive pollution of the water source from soil erosion from the highway from Simpang Pulai to Cameron Highlands. The highway cuts across the water catchment and the silt washed from the slope has been steadily filling up the Sultan Azlan Shah Reservoir over the last 20 years," says Faisal.

He adds that every year, Lembaga Air Perak spends millions of ringgit to dig the sediment out of the reservoir but then new silt is washed in.

"We worked with the Public Works Department (JKR) and local Orang Asli community to establish a pilot site to showcase how to plant indigenous plants and trees on eroding slopes to stabilise them. It was successful in stopping erosion — but needs more resources to scale up. In our view, it is much more cost-effective than continually dredging the reservoir."

To create awareness among the general public, GEC created the River Ranger programme under the River Care Programme, which emphasises water resource management of rivers and river basins. It also involves indigenous youth in looking after the rivers in their villages.

"We have over 30 Orang Asli River Rangers here (at Kayuh D'Tonggang). They are youth, ranging from 18 to 30 years old, looking after the cleanliness of the river here. The quality of our water has improved since they started monitoring it," says Che Wan.

The River Care Programme was established in 1999 by GEC to promote and support integrated management of river basins and water resources through nature-based solutions as well as citizen-science approaches.

The NGO established 12 river open classrooms as well as educational centres and hubs that have benefited about 15,000 people through education and conservation activities.

"The River Ranger programme has provided work opportunities for the youth in our village, and they do not have to leave to look for a job. They live here, monitor our rivers and have a job at hand," says Che Wan.

The River Ranger programme emphasises water resource management of rivers and river basins. It also involves indigenous youth in looking after the rivers in their villages.

"A unique point of our chalets is that we maximise forest-derived building materials and reduce the use of cement. Other than that, we have various activities around the recreational area such as the hunting of wild animals, cultural dances and the Semoi river open classroom."
Che Wan, Kayuh D'Tonggang

"We want to support the Orang Asli community in Kampung Tonggang to develop ecotourism as an additional income generating activity, that draws on their traditional knowledge. There is so much they can share with us."
Faisal, GEC

2水壩"重植計劃"奏效

樹木存活率達93%

（马六甲13日讯）马六甲州政府积极推动森林复育行动，其于两大主要水坝推行的"森林重植计划"取得显著进展，整体树木存活率高达93%，成效令人鼓舞。

这项计划的进度于日前在马六甲水源监管机构（BKSA）办公室召开的进展汇报会上汇报。会议由全球环境中心（GEC）与"友好自然森林之友"（SMART）共同出席，旨在审视并总结森林复育行动的具体成果。

根据GEC提交的报告，榴槤洞葛水坝已成功种植3920棵树，而锐士水坝则已种植5000棵树，两地合计共8920棵。计划的树木存活率达93%，反映出良好的种植管理与生态条件。

此项森林复育行动亦是响应大马政府的"1亿棵树木种植计划"，旨在促进生态平衡、减缓碳排放及保护生物多样性。

会后，BKSA、GEC与SMART代表也前往榴槤洞葛水坝实地考察，了解树木的生长情况及该区作为碳汇（carbon sink）的潜力，以支持对抗气候变迁的长期策略。

此计划不仅强化水坝作为原水来源的角色，也进一步拓展其在生态修复与环境永续管理方面的重要功能。

■BKSA、GEC与SMART代表前往榴槤洞葛水坝实地考察，了解树木的生长情况。

NEW STRAITS TIMES BUSINESS TIMES

Firefighters battle remaining blaze after dousing 260ha peat fire in Pahang

By Mohd Rafi Mamat March 22, 2025 @ 11:03am

Firefighters are still battling to put out the last 18ha of a peat swamp forest fire near Kampung Cenderawasih and Palma Valley, after managing to douse over 260ha in the past 15 days. - NSTP/MOHD RAFI MAMAT

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PEKAN: Firefighters are still battling to put out the last 18ha of a peat swamp forest fire near Kampung Cenderawasih and Palma Valley, after managing to douse over 260ha in the past 15 days.

A total of 113 firefighters from nine stations across Pahang are on the ground, using high-pressure water to fight the underground blaze.

Local heroes lead green change with GEC grants

Sabak Bernam, Batu Gajah groups receive RM20,000 each to restore mangroves and beautify rivers

TWO grassroots organisations from Selangor and Perak have each received RM20,000 to carry out community-based environmental projects under a new initiative by the Global Environment Centre (GEC).

The initiative, known as the Zainudin Ismail GEC Community Impact Grant (ZIGCIG), was launched in April this year to support local groups involved in environmental restoration and sustainable resource management.

The recipients are Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato' Hormat (SHBKDH) from Sabak Bernam in Selangor and the Sungai Terap Bakau Tetangga (STRT) from Batu Gajah, Perak.

GEC said the two groups were selected from among 23 proposals from Malaysia and Indonesia, following a detailed evaluation by the centre's secretariat and advisory committee.

SHBKDH will use the funds to restore degraded mangrove areas by planting 1,000 mangrove trees and conducting awareness programmes with local communities to tackle coastal and riverbank erosion.

Meanwhile, STRT plans to adopt and enhance a section of the Sungai Terap riverbank through cleanup and beautification activities, a community garden project, composting, recycling and river monitoring efforts.

ZIGCIG advisory committee chairman Datuk Lim Chow Hock said the grant was designed to help active community groups start or expand their local environmental initiatives.

"The two selected projects focus on mangrove and river ecosystems, both vital for sustaining people and nature," he said.

"Mangroves act as a natural coastal buffer and provide breeding grounds for marine life, while rivers supply water, food and livelihoods."

The award presentation took place during a ceremony held in conjunction with World Rivers Day at the Drainage and Irrigation Department's (DID) Sungai Penchala information centre in Petaling Jaya.

The event, attended by more than 30 participants including GEC board and advisory members, marked the official launch of the first cycle of the grant.

GEC chairman Datuk Halimah Hussan said the programme also paid tribute to the organisation's founding chairman, the late Zainudin Ismail who led GEC for 25 years until his passing in December 2023.

"This grant not only honours his legacy but also reaffirms our commitment to empowering local communities to care for their environment," said Halimah.

The ZIGCIG recipients with representatives from GEC's advisory council, advisory committee and management team. — Courtesy photos

Climate Pause

How do microplastics end up in water systems? Mismanaged plastic waste from landfills contaminate the water systems and breaks down into microplastics, which are dispersed by water and air. Microplastics penetrate the food chain, impacting freshwater and saltwater ecosystems.

> "Mangroves act as a natural coastal buffer and provide breeding grounds for marine life, while rivers supply water, food and livelihoods."
>
> Datuk Lim Chow Hock

Halimah (right) and GEC director Faizal Parish visiting Sungai Terap RT's exhibition booth.

LAMAN WEB RASMI
MAJLIS KESELAMATAN NEGARA

13,000 POKOK 'HIJAUKAN' KAWASAN TADAHAN AIR MELAKA

19 November 2025

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Asahan – Usaha memulihkan ekosistem kawasan tadahan air terus diperkasa apabila lebih 13,000 pokok hutan asli ditanam di Empangan Jus dan Durian Tunggal sejak tahun 2021 dalam inisiatif restorasi yang dijalankan Kerajaan Negeri bagi mengembalikan fungsi hutan semula jadi.

SABANGMERAUKE NEWS.COM Daerah Nasional Ekonomi Politik Hukrim Umum Riau Sp

Abrasi Terus Mengancam, Komunitas Sekat Bakau-Yayasan Gambut Tanam 200 Bibit Mangrove di Desa Buruk Bakul

18/05/2025 | 21:19 WIB • Umum

Bagikan :

Komunitas Sekat Bakau berkolaborasi dengan Yayasan Gambut (YG) melakukan penanaman 200 bibit mangrove di Desa Buruk Bakul, Kecamatan Bukit Batu, Kabupaten Bengkalis, Minggu (18/5/2025). Foto: SM News

SABANGMERAUKE NEWS, Riau - Komunitas Sekat Bakau berkolaborasi dengan Yayasan Gambut (YG) melakukan penanaman 200 bibit mangrove di Desa Buruk Bakul, Kecamatan Bukit Batu, Kabupaten Bengkalis, Minggu (18/5/2025). Kegiatan ini juga didukung Global Environment Centre (GEC) dan Aramco Asia Singapore.

Cut carbon, not corners

Key strategies to make your business more sustainable

ENTREPRENEURS are nothing short of superhuman. Akin to parenthood, owners of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) juggle numerous responsibilities each day — from managing customers and cash flow to overseeing operations and inventory.

Adding climate goals to an already packed agenda can understandably feel daunting, often pushed to the bottom of the list when one is striving to keep the business afloat.

However, sustainability is undeniably a smart business strategy, and it may not be as complicated as it's often made out to be. Decarbonisation is one of the key strategies that businesses can adopt in their sustainability journey, offering both environmental benefits and potential cost savings.

A brief breakdown

In simple terms, decarbonisation means reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) released into the atmosphere. This can be achieved in several ways - like switching to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, or adopting technologies that capture and store carbon.

Malaysia's National Energy Roadmap (NETR) sets ambitious national targets: a 31% cut in emissions by 2025, 40% by 2035, and an impressive 70% by 2050—highlighting the country's firm commitment to climate action.

The long-term goal is to reach net zero—where the carbon emitted is balanced by the carbon removed. Businesses are well-placed to contribute to the nation's goals through setting corporate decarbonisation targets. This involves practical steps to shrink a company's carbon footprint—whether through greener energy, more efficient operations, or designing more sustainable products and services.

Some businesses also turn to carbon offsetting—investing in projects that reduce emissions elsewhere, such as tree planting, one of the most common nature-based offsets. While helpful, offsets should never replace real efforts to cut emissions. True corporate decarbonisation also means looking beyond internal operations to consider emissions across the full supply chain.

What's in it for businesses?

Cutting emissions helps the planet while lowering costs. Many companies have seen up to a 30% increase in revenue thanks to energy savings and greater efficiency. Implementing decarbonisation plans that are verified via external assurance also helps build trust and avoid the pitfalls of greenwashing.

With carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes on the rise, compliance may become a new challenge for businesses to avoid potential costs and penalties. The EU, for example, has seen a nearly 500% increase in carbon taxes between 2018 and 2023. Closer to home, Singapore and Indonesia are examples of jurisdictions that have introduced carbon taxes at an initial stage.

Internally, decarbonisation can improve employee engagement. Companies that take climate action often see higher productivity (up to 13%) and lower staff turnover (by as much as 50%) by increasing employee trust in company policies.

Clear action on emissions also strengthens a business's sustainability disclosures and transparency, which appeals to customers and investors alike.

According to Euromonitor, 54% of global consumers believe ethical purchases make a real difference. This means demand for sustainable products is only growing.

Sustainability also drives innovation by reshaping how energy, materials, water and waste are used in product and process design—often revealing opportunities for smarter, more efficient ways of working.

Jumpstarting strategies

The decarbonisation journey begins with gathering data—from energy use and travel to waste. This involves calculating the organisation's carbon footprint and provides a clear starting point for action.

Next comes setting measurable targets aligned with global climate goals, such as limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Establishing a baseline year is key to tracking progress and setting credible science-based targets.

For example, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd has introduced science-based decarbonisation targets for its financing portfolios in certain high-emission sectors. The bank is also phasing out project financing for new upstream oil and gas developments approved after 2021 and aims to cut absolute emissions in the sector by 35% by 2030.

Taking action means turning targets into real results. This involves identifying emissions hotspots, securing support from internal teams, and implementing practical, tailored solutions. Carbon offsetting can play a supporting role, but direct reductions must remain the priority.

Monitoring progress and reporting it transparently builds trust and accountability. Regular reviews help identify what's working and where improvements can be made. Using the right technologies, and engaging employees, partners, and investors, can help keep the momentum going.

A little help goes a long way

With the right support, starting a decarbonisation journey can be simpler and more rewarding than expected. A practical entry point for SMEs is OCBC Bank's SME Energy Assessment (SMEEA) tool.

This complementary tool helps businesses identify energy inefficiencies, reduce carbon emissions, and boost operational performance—while staying aligned with environmental standards.

SMEEA also introduces key concepts like Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, and offers tailored recommendations that can lead to cost savings and improved competitiveness. The results can be shared with stakeholders to build trust and collaboration.

As a proud member of the UN Global Compact Network Malaysia and Brunei, OCBC Malaysia supports efforts on follow-up guidance, resources, and access to green financing—empowering SMEs to make meaningful progress towards sustainability and long-term resilience.

The bank's wider commitment to responsible business is also reflected in its ongoing support as the main sponsor of the Star Media Group ESG Positive Impact Awards for three years running.

For businesses ready to take action, UNGC's MY Climate Action Guide is a great place to begin. It's packed with practical tools and resources to help businesses plan and make real progress on the road to net zero.

Mangrove trees are vital in combating climate change, and a collaboration in Teluk Mendeleng, Sabak Bernam, exemplifies this effort. OCBC Bank, alongside the Global Environment Centre (GEC) and Pertubuhan Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kampung Dato' Hormat (PSHBKDH), has planted 9,000 mangrove trees across 4.5 hectares.

From 2022 to 2025, OCBC will monitor and nurture these trees to ensure their long-term survival. This initiative addresses key ESG criteria:

- Environmental: Mangroves sequester four times more carbon than rainforests, aiding in greenhouse gas reduction and ecosystem revival.
- Social: Local villagers, particularly from B40 households, benefit through income and skills gained from mangrove nurseries and rehabilitation.
- Governance: Continuous care demonstrates a commitment to sustainability.

OCBC Bank's reforestation projects aim to absorb over 111 million kg of CO2, highlighting the importance of healing the present for a sustainable future.

As part of its ongoing quest to spread the word about sustainability, the bank organises an annual mass cycling event called OCBC Cycle Kuala Lumpur, which seeks to be more and more environmentally-friendly each year.

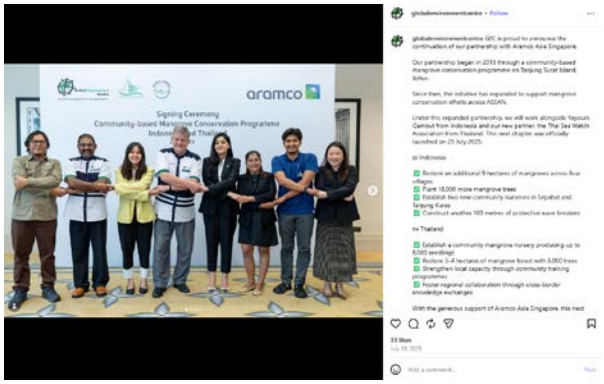
This is done by controlling the use of plastics and by instilling greater respect for the preservation of the surroundings while promoting the recycling agenda.

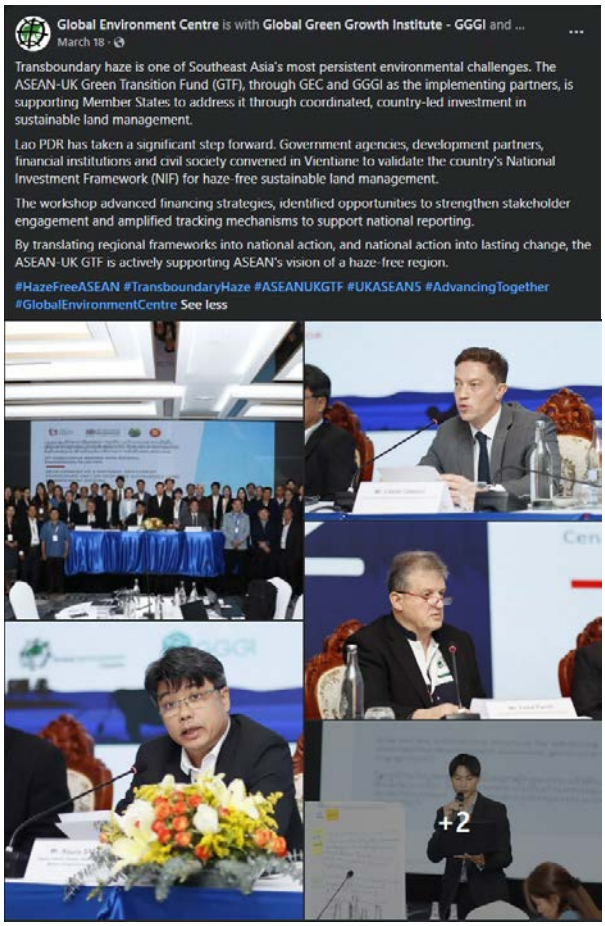
It has also been involved in KL Car-Free Morning and JB Car-Free Morning toward the same end.

OCBC
Unsure how to start your sustainability journey?
OCBC can help.
Do well. Do good. Do now.

ON SOCIALS

GEC's website attracted 74,106 page views from 25,585 active users throughout 2025, while we made our mark on social media platforms through its 153 social media posts garnering up to 369,414 posts view/impressions collectively across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and YouTube.





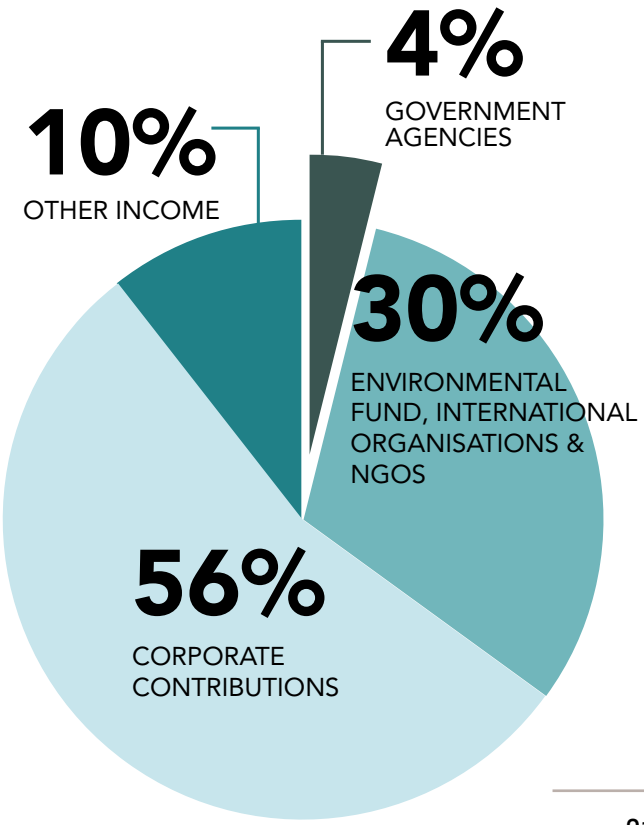
FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

INCOME	2025 (MYR)	2024 (MYR)
Government Agencies	832,120.43	512,719.71
Environmental funds, International Organisations & NGOs	6,663,545.05	5,165,576.73
Corporate Contributions	12,434,176.77	14,689,580.92
Other Income	2,120,414.94	2,219,879.31
TOTAL INCOME	**22,050,257.19**	**22,587,756.67**

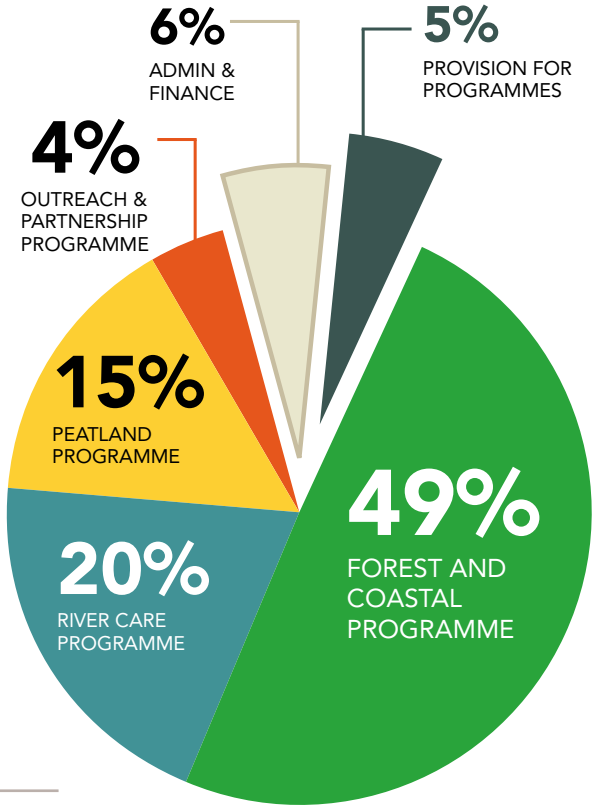
EXPENDITURE	2025 (MYR)	2024 (MYR)
Forest & Coastal Programme	10,230,629.13	9,573,032.99
River Care Programme	4,214,186.92	4,673,856.53
Peatland Programme	3,100,581.30	3,711,702.12
Outreach & Partnership Programme	909,055.41	1,206,717.24
Administration & Finance	1,158,978.82	1,002,842.89
Provision for Programmes	1,075,000.00	1,075,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**20,688,431.58**	**21,249,151.76**
NET SURPLUS	**1,361,825.61**	**1,338,604.91**

** based on audited accounts.*

2025 GEC Income



2025 GEC Expenditure



2025 CONTRIBUTIONS

GEC is grateful for the generosity of our multiple stakeholders: partner organisations, corporate sponsors and individuals whose contributions enable us to continue our conservation work and community education/capacity building.

Malaysia Government Funding Partners

- Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia
- Pahang State Forestry Department
- Perak State Forestry Department
- Forest Department Sarawak
- Selangor State Forestry Department

>RM500,000

- Aramco Asia Singapore Pte Ltd
- Bunge Loders Croklaan B.V
- HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Leader Solar Energy Sdn Bhd
- Leader Solar Energy II Sdn Bhd
- SPARK Foundation Bhd
- TH Plantations Berhad
- Yayasan Hasanah
- Yayasan Sime Darby

RM200,000-RM500,000

- ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund/ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- Prosper Capital Holdings Sdn Bhd
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
- Uniqlo (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd
- Yayasan PETRONAS

RM100,000-RM199,000

- GEF Secretariat
- Intercontinental Specialty Fats Sdn Bhd
- Monash University Malaysia Sdn Bhd
- OSK Foundation
- Vita Tenggara Food Industries Sdn Bhd
- YP Plantation Holdings Sdn Bhd

RM50,000-RM99,000

- Boat Noodle Sdn Bhd
- L'occitane Malaysia Sdn Bhd
- Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation
- OCBC Bank Malaysia Berhad
- PPB Group Berhad

RM10,000-RM49,000

- Arup Jururunding Sdn Bhd
- Garden International School
- IOI Corporation Berhad
- Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)
- PM Haze
- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- University of Malaya
- Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)

<RM10,000

- CAB International
- Earth Heir Partners
- INTI International University
- University of Wollongong Malaysia
- Stonex Financial Ltd
- TTMS Software Sdn Bhd
- UK Online Giving
- Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR-UMT)

All projects, whether to support the forests, peatlands, the rivers or the communities require substantial help and commitment. Making a contribution to Global Environment Centre helps us continue creating sustainable projects and endeavours, with the betterment of the environment in mind at all times. This also helps kickstart long-term environmental projects with local communities.

Donations to the GEC are tax deductible. Contributions can be made online:

gec.org.my/donation

THANK YOU
FOR BEING A PART OF OUR
2025

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