



REHABILITATION OF NORTH SELANGOR PEAT SWAMP FOREST

From 1998 to 2008, a portion of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest (NSPSF), including some Permanent Reserved Forests was encroached and cleared for agriculture. In 2008, the Selangor State Forestry Department evicted the illegal settlers and reclaimed the forest lands. Over the years, NSPSF has faced many challenges such as fires and forest degradation inside and outside the forest reserves. GEC is working together with the Selangor State Forestry Department and Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) to rehabilitate and manage the peatland ecosystem in Selangor based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The main objective of this MoU is to create a cooperative programme which is more integrated, mainly in the preservation and conservation of peat swamp forest in Selangor, besides improving the involvement of local communities in the ongoing efforts to implement conservation programmes and peat swamp forest fire prevention.

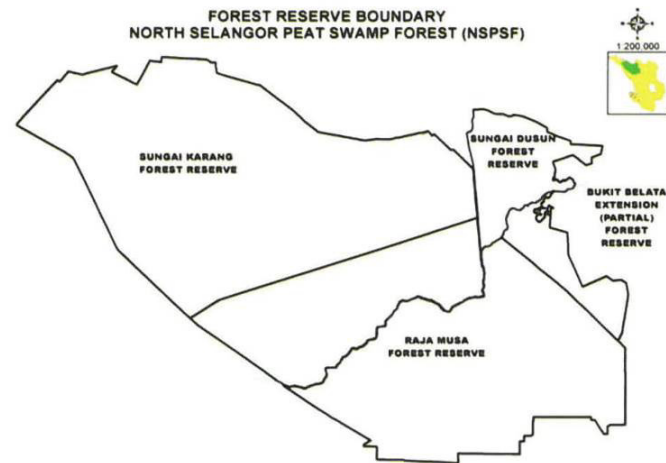
Through Integrated Management Plan for NSPSF (2014-2023) Volumes I & II, GEC supported the preparation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) which was developed by the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia and Selangor State Forestry Department. It was funded through the ASEAN Peatland Forest Project (IFAD-GEF) and SEApeat Project (EU) and it was adopted by the Selangor State Government in December 2014. The document significantly updates an earlier IMP previously prepared with support from DANCED in 1999. The current plan will cover the next 10 years from 2014 to 2023 and incorporates the findings from a number of studies and activities undertaken through the Smart Partnership programme of the APFP Malaysia between 2011 to 2014.

Through North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest (NSPSF) Centre of Excellence, GEC assisted the Selangor State Forestry Department in developing information boards for this centre which is located in Forest Compartment 73, Raja Musa Forest Reserve. Established in 2014, the objective of this centre is to educate the public about peat swamp forests. Community Based Rehabilitation Programme in NSPSF aims to promote local community ownership and participation in forest rehabilitation work. Among the activities being undertaken by the programme are seedling production, forest planting, post planting treatment and monitoring of threats such as encroachment and fire. Rehabilitation strategies are chosen according to site characteristics. The degraded areas are now much improved, thanks to the collective effort of government departments, NGOs/ GEC, corporate partners, volunteers and local community members. Since 2008, 17,000 volunteers have planted ±102,100 saplings on ±172 hectares of degraded land. Through the Friends of North Selangor Peat



Swamp Forest, local community participation is a key part of buffer zone management, rehabilitation and the cooperative fire management plan. Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) was established in August 2012 to engage the local community in caring for the Raja Musa Forest Reserve. And through Peatland Forest Ranger Programme (PFRP) and Junior Peatland Forest Ranger Programme (JPFR), environmental education programmes aim to educate school students about peatlands through visits and demonstrations. It also instils the spirit of scientific inquiry into young children. Currently 40 students and eight teachers are involved in the PFRP. A total of 120 students and 24 teachers is involved in JPFRP.





Noor Azura Ahmad

Global Environment Centre (GEC),
2nd floor, Wisma Hing, No.78, Jalan SS2/72,
47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

azura@gec.org.my & nagarajan@gec.org.my (Mr. Nagarajan Rengasamy)

Tel : +6019-267 4896 / 012-296 8438