



NATIONAL
RIVERCAREFUND

REPORT ON CYCLE 6

OCT 2019 - MAY 2021
(EXTENDED PERIOD)



Global Environment
Centre

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

CONTENTS

Foreword	i
About Global Environment Centre (GEC)	ii
Advisory Committee Members	1
About National River Care Fund (NRCF)	2
About NRCF Cycle 6	3
Faculty of Earth Science, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Jeli Campus	4
Faculty of Civil Engineering, UiTM Johor Pasir Gudang Campus	5
Society of Eco Greater Melawati (SeeGEM)	6
Lembah Bujang Lestari	7
Kawasan Rukun Tetangga Kampung Goshen	8
Overall Output from the Project	9
Financial Report	10

FOREWORD

It is with honour that I introduce the National River Care Fund (NRCF) Report: Cycle 6. Established in 2015, NRCF has been funding local communities, educational institutions and non-profit organisations to spearhead river and water management initiatives. The Sixth Cycle of NRCF awarded five grant recipients to implement river care initiatives across five states in Malaysia. At its core, NRCF Cycle 6 highlights the importance of river care awareness and community empowerment to ensure sustainable efforts.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to the implementation of these initiatives, from restrictions on movement to the disruption of participants engagement. Yet, through unwavering determination, commitment and strength of partnerships, the recipients persevered and the initiatives continued. They adapted to the new realities by embracing the new norms and adjusting the activities accordingly.

This report is the testament of the NRCF Cycle 6 achievement under extraordinary circumstances. It highlights the criticality of collaborative efforts and local stakeholders' empowerment and education can lead to effective environmental rehabilitation.

To all who contributed to this effort, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration. Your work not only addresses the challenges of today but also paves the way for a sustainable future. Together, we continue to show that no challenge is insurmountable when driven by hope, innovation and a shared vision for a better tomorrow.

Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock

Chairman, National River Care Fund

ABOUT GEC



**Global
Environment
Centre**

Global Environment Centre (GEC) was established in 1998 to work on environmental issues of global importance. The Centre is registered in Malaysia as a non-profit organization (Reg. no. 473058-T) but works regionally and internationally both directly and through many partners. It supports information exchange and capacity building as well as undertakes strategic projects particularly in developing countries. It works in partnership with other like-minded agencies worldwide.

It is active in the fields of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, water resources, agriculture and forestry.

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 likeminded organisations.

OBJECTIVES

- i. 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.
- ii. To strengthen stakeholder capacity and mainstream participation in the sustainable management of natural resources for environmental stewardship and community welfare.
- iii. To facilitate environmental protection and sustainable development through a whole of society (government, private sector, communities and other stakeholders) approach.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



DATO' IR. LIM CHOW HOCK

Chair, GEC Board Member

Served in the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia for 36 years until retirement in 2014. Upon retirement, he marched as chairman of Malaysian Capacity Development Network (MyCDNet), a board member of Cap-Net UNDP and several others.



DATO' IR. HAJI HANAPI MOHAMAD NOOR

Vice Chairperson of MyWP

Served in the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia for 35 years until retirement in 2016. Upon retirement, he marched as Vice Chairperson for MyWP and Steering Committee Member of Global Water Partnership South East Asia (GWP-SEA).



HJ. MD KHAIRI SELAMAT

Director of River Basin Management Division, DID

Has over 36 years of experience in river and water management, including roles in DID and LUAS, involving key projects like the River of Life and IRBM plans as well as riverbank protection, coastal erosion monitoring and flood mitigation. He served on the NRCF Advisory Committee as DID Malaysia representative until his retirement in 2021.

**FAIZAL PARISH**

Director of Global Environment Centre

Founded the Global Environment Centre (GEC) in 1998, focusing on environmental issues in Malaysia and neighbouring countries. He is an internationally recognised expert with a specialisation in coastal, wetland, river basin and water resource management.

**PROF. DATO' DR. MAZLIN BIN MOKHTAR**

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation Affairs), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

Had served as a Deputy Vice Chancellor at UKM. Upon retirement, he joined the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative for the United Nations.

ABOUT NATIONAL RIVER CARE FUND

The National River Care Fund (NRCF) is an initiative by GEC aimed at fostering community-driven efforts to protect and restore rivers and waterways in Malaysia. Launched in 2015, the NRCF provides financial support, resources and capacity-building opportunities to local communities, educational institutions, non-profit organisations and stakeholders actively involved in sustainable river management and conservation.

The fund emphasises education, awareness and collaborative action to address issues such as pollution, habitat degradation and water source. Area of funding supported by NRCF include:

1. Awareness raising, education and capacity building;
2. Riverine biodiversity conservation;
3. River pollution and clean up;
4. River rehabilitation and protection;
5. Sustainable livelihood;
6. Best Management Practices to reduce the pollution; and
7. Flood preparedness.

By empowering grassroots initiatives, the NRCF contributes to improving water quality, preserving biodiversity and promoting the sustainable use of freshwater resources for the benefit of both people and ecosystems. This initiative reflects GEC's commitment to integrated water resource management and the vision of creating healthier, more resilient waterways for future generations.

ABOUT NRCF CYCLE 6

The NRCF Cycle 6 began in 2019, with the application period open for one month starting in July. A total of 35 applications received, covering proposed project locations across nine Malaysian states. After a thorough screening and review process by the NRCF secretariat and advisory committee members, five projects were selected for funding.

Implementation of these projects began in October 2019 and was initially set to conclude in September 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of Movement Control Orders across Malaysia, several recipients faced challenges in carrying out the planned activities. As a result, the Cycle 6 implementation period was extended until May 2021.

The summary of the selected recipients as below:

No.	Grantees	Location	Project Title	River Basin
1	Faculty of Earth Science, <i>Universiti Malaysia Kelantan</i> , Jeli Campus	Sungai Rual SK Sungai Rual, Jeli, Kelantan	River Adoption	Kelantan River Basin
2	Faculty of Civil Engineering, <i>UiTM Johor Pasir Gudang Campus</i>	Takah Pengkoi Waterfall Kampung Kudong, Bekok, Johor	Sustainable Water Treatment for The Orang Asli Village	Dungun River Basin
3	Society of Eco Greater Melawati (SeeGEM)	Taman Melawati River Three Park, Taman Melawati, Kuala Lumpur	Development of River Trails for Community and Schools for Awareness, Education and Capacity Building	Klang River Basin
4	<i>Lembah Bujang Lestari</i>	Sungai Merbok Kampung Sungai Batu Besi, Kedah	Mangrove Forest Conservation Programme at Sungai Merbok	Sungai Merbok Basin
5	<i>Kawasan Rukun Tetangga Kampung Goshen</i>	Sungai Taraan Kampung Goshen, Kota Marudu, Sabah	<i>Pogulio Ih Sada (Bring Back the Fish)</i>	Kinabatangan River Basin

FACULTY OF EARTH SCIENCE, UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA KELANTAN, JELI CAMPUS

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RIVER ADOPTION

The project aimed to raise awareness about the importance of river among indigenous primary school students and empower them with river conservation efforts.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Establish a learning centre (focus on river) at selected school.
- Form a group of students to implement the River Adoption project activities.
- Conduct river clean-up activity at Sungai Rual.
- Water quality monitoring at Sungai Rual.

KEY OUTPUT:

- Established a group of 15 proactive students to implement project activities, including setting up a river-focused learning centre at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Rual and conducting monthly water quality monitoring at Sungai Rual.
- Received media coverage on Majalah Sains and included in the Bulletin of Faculty of Earth Science UMK.

FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, UITM JOHOR PASIR GUDANG CAMPUS

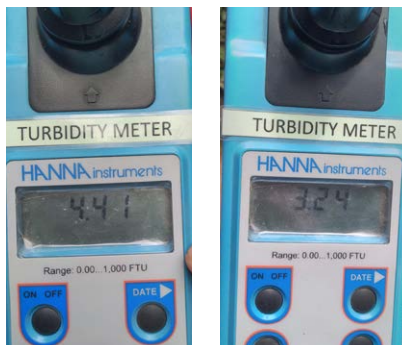
Mohd Zulkhairi Bin Mat Salleh
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SUSTAINABLE WATER TREATMENT FOR THE ORANG ASLI VILLAGE

The project aimed to address the issue of murky water at Tangkah Pengkoi Waterfall, a key water source for the Orang Asli community in Kampung Kudong, Bekok, Johor by designing and installing a water filter cage, making the water safer for daily use.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Design, customise and install water filter cage.
- Water quality monitoring at Tangkah Pengkoi Waterfall.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) on river monitoring for the community members.
- River care awareness programme with school students.



KEY OUTPUT:

- Community members were empowered with river monitoring skills.
- Improved water quality by 2.75% on the Water Quality Index (WQI).
- Reduced water turbidity by 26%.
- Recognised internationally, earning gold and silver medals at the Invention, Innovation and Design Expedition (IINDEX 2020) and International Innovation, Invention and Design (INDES 2020) competitions.

SOCIETY OF ECO GREATER MELAWATI (SEEGEM)

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DEVELOPMENT OF RIVER TRAILS FOR COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS FOR AWARENESS, EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

SeeGEM initially aimed to empower targeted school students in river conservation efforts. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they shifted focus towards playing a pivotal supporting role in efforts to transform the Taman Melawati River Three Park into a hub for river conservation, education and community engagement. The initiative was spearheaded by the Friends of Sungai Klang Taman Melawati River Three (FoSK TMR3).

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Trail building along the river.
- Development of community-based food garden at the riverbank.
- Riverbank clean up.
- Enhance pollinator and host garden.

KEY OUTPUT:

- Reduced visible trash within the project vicinity.
- Established clean and safe trail along the river which led to increased visitors.
- Successfully engaged students and the public as volunteers implementing best management practices including clean up, recycling and upcycling.

LEMBAH BUJANG LESTARI

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MANGROVE FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAMME AT SUNGAI MERBOK, KEDAH

The project aimed to improve river biodiversity through planting of mangrove trees in mangrove rehabilitation areas along Sungai Merbok with local communities and students to increase awareness on the importance of mangroves.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Increase total mangrove seedlings at their mangrove nursery.
- Plant mangrove trees at rehabilitation site along Sungai Merbok.
- Monitor planted trees.
- Organise educational activities with students and local communities.

KEY OUTPUT:

- Expanded mangrove nursery, accommodating more than 1,300 seedlings.
- Planted 430 mangrove trees, with average height reached 63 cm within 13 months.
- Increased awareness about mangrove conservation efforts among local communities, students, volunteers, orphans and workers.

KAWASAN RUKUN TETANGGA KAMPUNG GOSHEN, SABAH

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**The project could not be successfully completed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and flooding.*



POGULIO IH SADA (BRING BACK THE FISH)*

The harvesting season at Sungai Taraan saw a significant decline in fish catches compared to the previous year. The community identified potential causes, including river sedimentation, littering, the impact of nearby oil palm plantations and degraded water quality. In response, this project was initiated to raise awareness and improve the river's condition.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Organise awareness programme with local community and students.
- Training on water quality monitoring and fish abundance monitoring.
- Water quality, fish abundance and litter monitoring.
- Enhance 'pondok tagal' and the surrounding for community's recreational area.

KEY OUTPUT:

- Raised awareness among school students through art competitions: colouring, storytelling, poster, video and photography.
- Empowered local community and school students on how to monitor the river through RIVER Ranger 2.0 provided by GEC.
- Created recreational area next to the river through enhancement of community 'pondok tagal'.

OVERALL OUTPUT

NRCF Cycle 6 demonstrated the importance of awareness in river conservation and highlighted the criticality of empowering local stakeholders in tackling environmental challenges. Through activities conducted by the recipients of NRCF Cycle 6 grant, several notable outcomes emerged:

- **LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS' EMPOWERMENT**

The activities organised by the recipients mainly focused on increasing awareness and providing training on sustainable practises. These activities successfully led to enhanced capacity and sense of ownership among stakeholders to manage and care for rivers at grassroots level.

- **EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS**

Community groups and educational institutions organised awareness programmes and educational campaigns to engage the public and youth. These programmes emphasised sustainable practices, flood preparedness and pollution reduction, cultivating a culture of river care.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION**

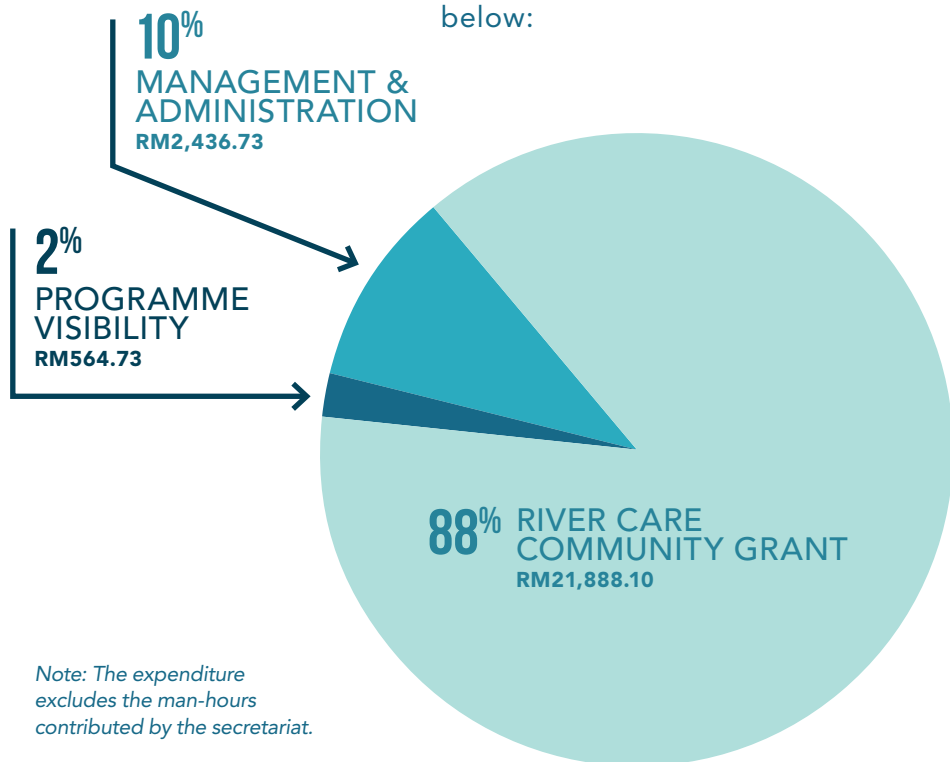
Recipients organised diverse range of river care activities including river clean-ups, water quality monitoring, tree planting along riverbanks and biodiversity conservations. These activities not only improved water quality but also contributed to the restoration of ecosystems.

- **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

NRCF Cycle 6 fostered collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders, including local communities, students, organisations and government agencies. These partnerships empowered NRCF Cycle 6 recipients to implement impactful and sustainable initiatives. The results included enhanced recognition for their work and active participation in river care and environmental conservation efforts.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NRCF Cycle 6 expenditure was funded by GEC. The total spent under this cycle was RM 24,889.56 with total breakdown as shown below:





JOIN & SUPPORT US!

HEALTHY RIVERS FOR
A HEALTHIER SOCIETY

Be part of our efforts to care and protect rivers in Malaysia. We cordially invite you to join us as new partners, stakeholders or participants to embark on opportunities to contribute to healthy rivers for a healthier society in Malaysia.

Contact us at 03 7957 2007
or simply visit our website at
www.nationalrivercarefund.org.my

