



NATIONAL  
RIVERCAREFUND

# REPORT ON CYCLE 7

OCT 2021 - FEB 2023  
(EXTENDED PERIOD)



Global Environment  
Centre

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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# FOREWORD

It is with great pride that I present the accomplishments of the National River Care Fund (NRCF) Cycle 7 grant recipients, whose unwavering dedication to river conservation and community empowerment shines brightly despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of eight grant recipients were selected under the Cycle 7 which began its implementation in 2021 and extended through 2023. Recipients faced hurdles due to restrictions on activities, yet their success underscores the resilience, adaptability and creativity of our grantees.

Through their various activities, these recipients have not only raised awareness but also inspired action. From teaching communities and students to monitor river water quality to organising waste management activities that promote recycling and the zero-waste concept, these initiatives have laid the foundation for a more sustainable future. Creative approaches, such as installing signboards to deter littering and establishing corridors adorned with river care messages, further underscore the power of education and engagement in fostering environmental stewardship.

The work of these grant recipients goes beyond immediate outcomes—it builds resilience. Projects that encourage proper waste practices among food stalls, and enhance community gardening demonstrate the transformative potential of local action.

On behalf of the National River Care Fund, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the grant recipients for their hard work, creativity and unwavering commitment to making a difference. May their successes inspire others to take up the cause of environmental conservation and create ripples of change that extend far beyond their communities.

**Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock**

*Chair of NRCF Advisory Committee*

*GEC Board Member*

# ABOUT GEC



The 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 organisation (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).



**DATO' IR HAJI JAMIL BIN SHAARI**

*Director of River Basin Management Division, DID*

As Director of River Basin Management Division from Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia, he served on the NRCF Advisory committee as DID Malaysia representative throughout his tenure.

**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

National River Care Fund (NRCF) is a small grant programme initiated by GEC with central aim to build civil society equipped with knowledge and capability on how we should manage our rivers through monitoring, protection, rehabilitation and pollution reduction activities as well as to develop a sense of ownership by communities as motivation to care for their rivers.

The establishment of NRCF is derived from concerns shown by many interested parties about their inadequate fund or resources which may deter their efforts in conducting environment or river care activities. Hence, GEC takes the initiative to fund local community, community-based, non-profit organisations or learning institutions who wish to take actions in protecting their local environment especially focusing on rivers.

This initiative is targeted to benefit the communities and residents living within river basins or depend on rivers for resources. Selected organisations or institutions are granted with a grant up to RM 5,000 to custom build community programmes that suits the condition of river sites and the needs of local communities.

Along with the grants, GEC will also provide environmental education training programmes (if required) or Training of Trainers (ToT) such as RIVER Ranger (river conservation and management programme), DRH2O (water conservation programme), SMART Ranger (integrated solid waste management programme) and FLOOD Ranger (community flood resilience) to empower participants on conducting and managing sustainable environment activities. In addition, GEC also provides Environmental Educational (EE) talks to increase awareness and foster communities with sense of belonging towards the environment. Both the talk and training can be requested by grantees or provided as part of a separate community empowerment initiative.

Through projects conducted by selected organisations or institution, NRCF hopes to build a civil society empowered with the skills, knowledge and awareness to take action to protect, preserve and enhance the river. With more cycles to come, more rivers are hoped to be protected from further degradation.

## ABOUT NRCF CYCLE 7

The NRCF Cycle 7 began in 2021, with the application period open for one and a half month starting in May. A total of 43 proposals received, covering locations across 10 states in Malaysia. After rigorous screening and review process by the NRCF secretariat and advisory committee members, eight (8) projects were selected.

The implementation of these projects began in July 2021 and was initially set to conclude in July 2022. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and fluctuating Movement Control Orders through late 2021 posed significant challenges. These circumstances led to extensions, allowing recipients to complete their activities by February 2023.

The summary of the selected recipients as below:

| No. | Community                                                      | Location                                                                         | Project title                                                                  | River basin              |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1   | <i>Pertubuhan Kebajikan Amal Komuniti Hilir Perak</i>          | <b>Sungai Perak</b><br>Dataran Sungai Perak, Durian Sebatang, Teluk Intan, Perak | Friends of Perak River                                                         | Perak River Basin        |
| 2   | <i>Fakulti Sains Bumi, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan</i>        | <b>Sungai Keding</b><br>Jeli, Kelantan                                           | <i>Sayangi Sungai dan Alam Sekitar</i><br>(Love Our River and the Environment) | Kelantan River Basin     |
| 3   | Water Watch Penang                                             | <b>Sungai Ara</b><br>Taman Jajar, Sungai Ara, Bayan Lepas in Penang              | River Monitoring and Conservation Through Community Empowerment                | Pulau Pinang River Basin |
| 4   | <i>Kebun Komuniti KRT PPR Beringin</i>                         | <b>Sungai Jinjang</b><br>PPR Beringin in Kuala Lumpur                            | KRT PPR BERINGIN Lake Ranger & Community Garden                                | Klang River Basin        |
| 5   | Water Research and Environmental Sustainability Growth (WAREG) | Universiti Malaysia Perlis                                                       | Young Hydrological Scientist (YHS)                                             | Perlis River Basin       |
| 6   | <i>Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Buntong</i>                     | Ipoh, Perak                                                                      | River care: In the new norms from school                                       | Kinta River Basin        |
| 7   | Alliance of River Three                                        | Sungai Klang Mid Valley River Three Park                                         | PolliNature!                                                                   | Klang River Basin        |
| 8   | School of Dental Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia           | <b>Sungai Pangkalan Datu</b><br>USM Health Campus, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan       | Trash for Treasure (T4T)                                                       | Kelantan River Basin     |

# PERTUBUHAN KEBAJIKAN AMAL KOMUNITI HILIR PERAK

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## FRIENDS OF PERAK RIVER

This project aims to transform Dataran Sungai Perak into a vibrant community space with enhanced facilities for public enjoyment. The organisation's commitment was honoured with an Appreciation Certificate from the Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Hilir Perak District.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Regular clean ups around the square.
- Monitor the cleanliness of the river.
- Foster collaboration with government agencies for the enhancement efforts.
- Enhancement available facilities.
- Plant trees or flowers.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- Collected approximately 940 kg of rubbish through regular clean ups.
- Painted colourful pillars and planted over 100 trees for landscaping.
- Installed a signboard with catchy phrases to grab attention and promote environmental awareness.



## **SAYANGI SUNGAI DAN ALAM SEKITAR (LOVE OUR RIVER AND THE ENVIRONMENT)**

The project aims to raise awareness about river care and its importance among elementary school students from Sekolah Kebangsaan Gemang through engaging talks and interactive events. Its primary objective is to create an e-book, incorporating contributions from selected proactive students participating in these activities.

### **KEY ACTIVITIES:**

- Awareness talks and activities on river care and waste management
- Development and publication of an e-book with school students and writers.



### **KEY OUTPUT:**

- Educated 170 students on the importance of river care in daily life.
- Empowered students on recycling initiative: used cooking oil.
- Organised awareness camping providing students with practical knowledge on river quality monitoring.
- Published "*SayangI Sungaiiku*" (Love Our River) e-book, with original idea and illustration by the selected students.

# WATER WATCH PENANG (WWP)

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## RIVER MONITORING AND CONSERVATION THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

The project seeks to guide and empower Taman Jajar community and students from selected schools in Bayan Lepas on river monitoring and reporting to appropriate authorities. This initiative was well-received by the locals, prompting WWP to plan for monthly sessions.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Design and installation of information board at Taman Jajar.
- Community empowerment on river monitoring and conservation.
- Webinar for school students.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- A total of 47 local communities and park visitors learned how to monitor rivers and record data.
- Information board with water quality index table were installed for community updates.
- In instilling awareness at young age, WWP educated 39 students ranging from primary schools to universities on river water quality and river care through webinar sessions.

# KEBUN KOMUNITI KRT PPR BERINGIN

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## KRT PPR BERINGIN LAKE RANGER & COMMUNITY GARDEN

The project focused on implementing sustainable waste management practices among the community members while managing a community garden established near the PPR Beringin, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur housing area. The garden grows various types of herbs and vegetables such as Brazilian spinach. The community's strong dedication won them several awards including "Anugerah Penglibatan Pekebun Komuniti Bandar" and "Program Rendah Karbon dalam Bandar" by the Ministry of Federal Territories.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Implement composting and recycling recyclable items (bottles & used cooking oil).
- Monthly water quality monitoring of Wahyu Lake and Jinjang River.
- Run the community garden and plant more flower, vegetable and herbs.
- Produce chips from the garden.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- Produced Brazillian Spinach chips and eggplant crispy chips.
- Collected used cooking oil and bottles from residents, community members and shop owners regularly for recycling.
- Established Tunas Jiran Muda Tadika at Tadika Perpaduan A, B, C PPR Beringin.
- Received media coverages from Harian Metro and RTM.

# WATER RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROWTH (WAREG)

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## YOUNG HYDROLOGICAL SCIENTIST (YHS)

This project aims to educate Standard 6 primary school students in Perlis on river water quality testing and increase their awareness on the importance of maintaining river water quality through Young Hydrological Scientist (YHS) programme.

### KEY ACTIVITY:

- Organise a series of talk and practical session on river water quality testing at selected schools.



### KEY OUTPUT:

- A total of 50 students from 3 schools participated in the YHS programme at their schools and learned the importance of good river water quality and how to test river water quality.



# SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN BUNTONG

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## RIVER CARE — IN THE NEW NORMS FROM SCHOOL

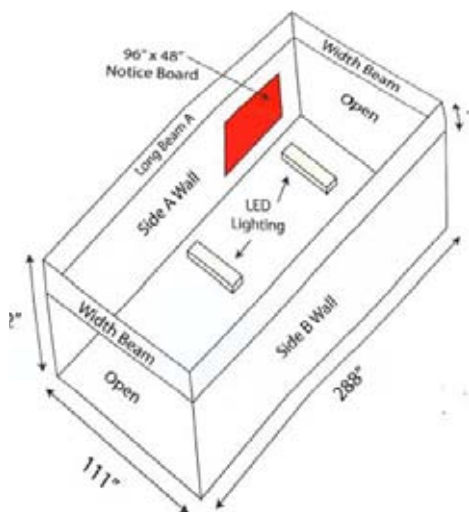
The project focused on raising awareness of secondary school students in Buntong, Perak on the importance of clean river and river care, as well as enhance the capacity of students to raise awareness among their peers.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Share informative digital awareness materials with students.
- Online quiz about river care.
- Establish a corridor with river care awareness.
- Organise a newscaster competition.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- Students engaged in interactive activities to learn about the importance of clean rivers and river care, enhancing their retention of the lessons.
- A creatively decorated school corridor that motivates students to take action in protecting rivers.



# ALLIANCE OF RIVER THREE

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## POLLINATURE!

Alliance of River Three, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur has been successfully organising weekly Gotong Royong Education by Action (GREduAction!) for few years. To attract the interests and increase participation from the general public, PolliNature! was introduced to create awareness and educate the importance of biodiversity conservation and pollination.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Develop and prepare collaterals as promotion, kit for participants, and webpage for registration and data collection.
- Host online competitions on plants and pollinators.
- Approach nearby stalls to implement proper waste management.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- Launched a PolliNature! webpage, nursery and distributes PolliNature! kits to those participated in their activities. A total of 139 participants signed up for the PolliNature! project.
- Hosted quarterly online competitions and organised online PolliNature! Exhibition.
- Collaborated with nearby stalls and food courts to implement proper waste management in the area.

# SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM)

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## TRASH FOR TREASURE (T4T)

A group of students and lecturers established a CAMPUS Ranger Programme at USM Health Campus to raise awareness about best waste management through recycling activities.

### KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Organise Training of Trainers (ToT) on zero-waste concept through the 4R2C approach.
- Initiate CAMPUS Ranger Programme and SMART Ranger Programme at university and schools to empower students on good waste management.
- Organise recyclable wastes collection for students.

### KEY OUTPUT:

- 241 kg of recyclables items collected from three collection cycles.
- The programme extended to the cleaning contractors of the campus, collecting over 1,700 kg recyclables in five collection cycles.
- GEC provided Training of Trainers (ToT) on the zero-waste concept through the 4R2C approach to 11 teachers and 30 students from two primary schools,



## OVERALL IMPACT

NRCF Cycle 7 has successfully empowered local communities and students across Malaysia on river care initiatives. These projects collectively contribute to:

- **Strengthened stakeholder's awareness**

All grant recipients integrated awareness-raising components into their projects through a range of interactive and informative activities, including talks, competitions, the installation of eye-catching signboards and notices, as well as hands-on training sessions. Pertubuhan Kebajikan Amal Komuniti Hilir Perak installed a creative signboard at the project site featuring messages to discourage public littering, while SMK Buntong established a dedicated corridor in the school adorned with messages promoting river care. Additionally, KRT PPR Beringin enhanced community engagement through riverside gardening initiatives and even produced chips for local consumption and sales, fostering both environmental stewardship and community livelihood.

- **Enhanced River Monitoring**

Four grant recipients successfully empowered local communities and students with the knowledge and skills to monitor the quality of nearby rivers, fostering a sense of ownership among stakeholders to safeguard the health of their local waterways. The Earth Science Faculty of UMK and WAREG focused on equipping school students with practical skills for water quality monitoring, while WWP engaged community members and the general public, teaching them how to monitor and systematically record water quality data. Together, these efforts have strengthened community involvement in protecting and sustaining healthy river ecosystems.

- **Fostered Best Waste Management Practices**

Five grant recipients organised waste management activities in efforts to enhance awareness and foster sustainable waste management practices within the communities. A key focus was on the collection of recyclable materials, such as used cooking oil and bottles, with communities actively collaborating to gather and send these items for recycling. In addition to these efforts, Alliance River Three approached food stall operators to implement proper waste management practices, while the School of Dental Sciences, USM introduced zero waste concept to students, encouraging long-term sustainable habits. These activities collectively contribute to reducing environmental impacts and promoting a culture of responsible waste management.

## RIVER CARE AWARD 2021

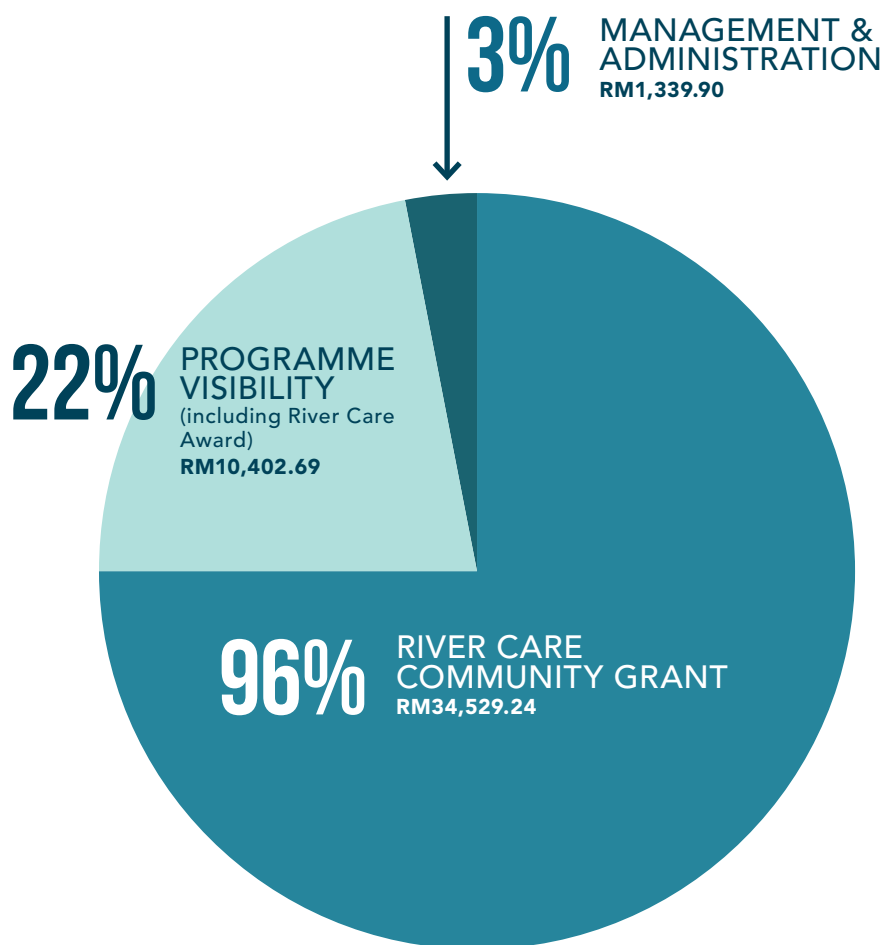
NRCF Cycle 7 partially funded River Care Award 2021, mooted and organised by GEC. The Award was established to reward and recognise proactive NRCF grantees as well as other GEC's community groups that are contributing towards sustainable river care through their dedication enhancing, protecting and contributing positive impact towards river basin management. The ultimate aim of the award is to raise public awareness and inspire Malaysians to implement localised, sustainable action plans or initiatives that effectively protect rivers and address river-related issues.

A total of 29 nominations received, and after thorough evaluations by the panel of judges, consisting of NRCF Advisory Committee and Secretariat, the winners were selected as in table below:

| Award                        | Category                | Prize                           | Winner                                                            |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Champion</i>              | Local Community         | RM 5,000 + Trophy + Certificate | Kelab Kebun Rumah Pangsa AU2                                      |
| <i>First Runner-up</i>       | Local Community         | RM 3,000 + Trophy + Certificate | Friends of Sungai Klang Taman Melawati River Three                |
| Second Runner-up             | Local Community         | RM 1,000 + Trophy + Certificate | KRT Buntong 3 & 4                                                 |
| <i>2 x Consolation award</i> | Local Community         | RM 500 + Trophy + Certificate   | Inspirasi Kawa and Residents of SS20 Central Zone                 |
| Champion                     | Educational Institution | RM 2,000 + Trophy + Certificate | Water Warriors, Universiti Malaya                                 |
| <i>First Runner-up</i>       | Educational Institution | RM 1,000 + Trophy + Certificate | Friends of Sungai Pusu, International Islamic University Malaysia |
| Second Runner-up             | Educational Institution | RM 500 + Trophy + Certificate   | KL Krash Pad, Yayasan Chow Kit                                    |

## FINANCIAL REPORT

NRCF Cycle 7 expenditure was funded by Global Environment Centre. The total spent under this cycle was RM 46,271.83 with total breakdown as shown below:



*Note: The expenditure excludes the man-hours contributed by the secretariat.*



# JOIN & SUPPORT US!

HEALTHY RIVERS FOR A  
HEALTHIER SOCIETY

We cordially invite you to be part of this greater cause project. Join us as new partners, stakeholders or participants to create more opportunities in empowering communities and students on environmental conservation.

Contact us at 03 7957 2007 or simply visit our website at [www.gec.org.my](http://www.gec.org.my)