

QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Programme : Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy	
Contract reference no.: DCI-ENV/2010/221-659	
Project Title: Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in South East Asia (SEApeat)	
Name of Beneficiary: Global Environment Centre (GEC)	
Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 1/4/2013-30/6/2013	
Due date of this Quarterly Update: 31/7/2013	
<i>Project Budget</i>	
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>Euro 932,021.21</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>Euro 725,632.10</i>

I. Summary

Various meetings have been organized both at the Regional and National level (Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam) to stimulate and support stakeholder collaboration in peatland assessment and integrated management of peatlands. GEC worked with various partners to prevent and control peatland fires and launched a 'Stop the Haze' campaign on 28th June 2013 owing to the recent haze problem.

Peat assessments and inventories were carried out in Cambodia, Myanmar and Philippines. In Myanmar, surveys were conducted in 5 places. A total of 252 soil sample and 19 water samples were sent to the soil department for analysis. In Philippines field inventories and botanical identification were conducted to document the Flora for the Production of the Caimpugan Handbook. Total of 236 plant species have been documented and photographed. The layout of the handbook was drafted and submitted to the National Museum.

Pilot sites activities in Indonesia and Malaysia have progressed well. In Malaysia, the Community-based Rehabilitation Programme activities are on-going.

Divergence:

No major divergence was noted.

In Vietnam, agreement has been signed with the local collaborator in June. Hence no activities have been carried out, and only a meeting was conducted.

Difficulties encountered:

The peer learning programme in Indonesia was rescheduled from May to June due to timing of other local events.

II. Implementation of Activities

Output 1.1

Regional

- a. Global Environment Centre (GEC) is stepping up existing efforts to conserve peatlands in Southeast Asia by launching the 'Stop the Haze' campaign on 28th June 2013 at GEC office in Petaling Jaya. For the 'Stop the Haze' campaign, GEC will be looking for solutions to the haze by working with project partners in Selangor and Riau. Funds will be channelled to patrolling of fire-prone peatlands in Selangor State and Riau Province, purchase of equipment and supplies to

support community fire prevention and control teams, monitoring the activities of forest and oil palm plantations and promoting zero burning.

Cambodia

- a. Peatland assessment was conducted on 6-14 June with the assistance of Dr. Quoi (Soil Expert). Assessments were carried out in five provinces around Tonle Sap Lake namely Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom. The assessment showed that most of the sites visited have peat accumulation on top soils with thickness from 10-35cm and fragmented into a very small areas, which is not considered as peatland. Furthermore, in some areas, there were areas with a thick peatland, but it was converted into agricultural land

Lao PDR

- a. Peatland management brochures (1000copies) and the Guideline on Peatland Management (500 copies) have been printed.
- b. It has also been suggested that the peatland management plan be merged with the existing wetlands management plans in areas such as Beung Kiat Ngong where there is a relatively small peatland area found within a wetland area. Analytical work needs to go ahead to assess data collected during field surveys to better understand peatland characteristics ranging from the chemical composition to how the public value the peatlands.

Myanmar

- a. A few surveys were conducted in 5 places in the second quarter, which included Indawgyi Lake (Kachin State), Pyin Oo Lwin Township (Mandalay Region), Heho Valley, Taung Poe Gyi Village and Naung Cho Township (Shan State).
- b. A total of 252 soil sample and 19 water samples were sent to the soil department for analysis
- c. Socio economic survey was carried out around Heho Valley and Taung Poe Gyi Village for BMP in April-May.

Philippines

- a. Peatland assessment was conducted on 14-18 May with the assistance of Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM). Peat depth assessment was conducted in Lalaguna Marsh in Lopez, Quezon and Naujan Lake in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. Additional confirmed peatland site was assessed also in Mindoro. The newly assessed peatland is situated between Barangay Minas, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro and Villa Cervesa, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro (Annexure 2).
- b. Field inventory and botanical identification for the production of the Flora of Caimpugan Handbook was conducted from 27 June to 20 July by Dr. Edwin Tadosa and Forester Danilo Tandang of the National Museum of the Philippines. As of June 30, a total of 236 species of plants have been documented and photographed.

Thailand

- a. Awareness materials including poster and notebooks which contained the information on status and importance of peatlands were printed to raise up the awareness on fire protection and control in peatland among public.
- b. In finalization of the National Action Plan on Peatland Management in Thailand, field data was collected on community livelihoods, peatland biodiversity and relationship between people and forest.
- c. A workshop was organised in June on fire prevention and preparations made for community fire prevention workshops in July

Output 1.2

a. International and Regional Meetings/ Conferences

- i) Peer Learning Programme on Best Management Practices on Peatlands for Community Groups was conducted at Banjarmasin, Indonesia, from 17 – 19 June 2013. The objective of this peer learning programme is to support the community groups through improved capacities, understanding and experience sharing in implementing best management practices to promote sustainable peatland management.

b. Pilot demonstration activities in Selangor, Malaysia

- i) The Community-based Rehabilitation Programme activities are ongoing and conducted regularly on a monthly basis. In this quarter, approximately 3 hectares of degraded peatland areas in RMFR were planted with 1,361 tree saplings through the support of 355 volunteers (Annexure 4).
- ii) The Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) was actively participated in some public events to promote SHGSU activities. SHGSU Kg. Ampangan (Homestay Sungai Sireh) also started to offer eco-tourism related activities at Agrotourism Homestay Sungai Sireh such as Jungle trekking, canoeing, boating, craft making, village tour and many others activities.
- iii) The Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) was actively involved in the forest patrolling and monitoring activity around the RMFR and its vicinity to monitor and prevent from any peatland wildfire occurrences during this quarter. They worked closely with GEC and Selangor Forestry Department personnel & Fire & Rescue Department personnel; started to actively monitor since early- March when various fire prone area were detected within RMFR and its vicinity. This early action been prevented on the fire occurrence. The patrol team consist of 2-motorbike riders who will go around RMFR 3-4 days in a week and monitoring along the forest buffers for open burning. They also take in the water table measurement, as well as, adjust the FDRS readings as they go along their patrolling routes. The team is expected to monitor until the end of dry season. The team will inform respected agencies in case of they spotted any fire occurrences within their monitoring areas. (Annexure 5).
- iv) On the 10 June 2013, an assessment had been conducted together with APFP Malaysia Coordinator, Selangor Forestry Department officers & GEC officers on the location of the proposed main dams to be constructed at Raja Musa Forest Reserve
- v) GEC developed several proposals to support the on-going Peatswamp Rehabilitation programme at RMFR. These proposals have been submitted to the State authorities for their endorsement and backing before it can be forwarded to potential funders for their consideration.
- vi) Ecotourism and community based tourism has become a significant part of the tourist industry in Kuala Selangor. SHGSU Kg. Ampangan were actively started to offer Environmental Education programme and eco-tourism related activities at Agrotourism Homestay Sungai Sireh, such as camping, jungle trekking, canoeing, boating, fresh water fishing, environmental education programme, craft making with pandanus leave, kampong tour and many other activities with the reasonable rate.

c. Pilot demonstration activities in Riau, Indonesia

- i) Vision Map (Master Plan & Grand Design Area) & Recommendation of Topo Survey
The topography/ countour map was completed with results showing the recommended peatland management set up. The cost is expensive and they have communicated and coordinated with local government and other parties for the support. The results of this are: (a) In 2013, the central government offered to support for normalisation of the previous canal in Harapan Jaya which is 30 Kilometers long. There has been communication with the village and they have been told of the normalisation proposal. The start date of this activity has not yet been confirmed. (b) The PT. Sumatera Riang Lestari (APRIL Group) are interested in giving support for the topography survey in Harapan Jaya. This was offered because of the results of the pilot testing workshop in 2012. It has been suggested that the Harapan Jaya village sends a letter to the APRIL group asking for their support. This is still in progress. (c) Badan Lingkungan Hidup (BLH) Riau Province has a programme of actioning canal blocking in several districts, which includes the Indragiri Hilir district. They have confirmed they will build two canal blocks in Harapan Jaya village. The action plan and timings for this are yet to be confirmed.
- ii) Community Income Generation
Preparations for the development of a small holder oil palm plantation in Harapan Jaya have been made. The 2 hectare demonstration plot will be located at Sumber Harum Sub-Village. The guidance and training model for the community is being prepared in the Gabungan Pengusaha Kepala Sawit (GAPKI) Riau Region. Collaboration between this area and Harapan Jaya has been agreed. Riau University are interested in becoming involved in this. There are plans to integrate the oil palm plantation with cattle. The slurry from the cattle will be used as an organic fertiliser. The cattle will be fed on the leaf of the oil palm along with some additional nutrients. 50% of this project will be funded with SEAPeat Project money. The Harapan Jaya Village will

contribute 35% of the cost and the community contribution will be 15% of the cost. Planning will be finished in August 2013. There are future plans to develop a biogas cooking and lamp system using the slurry.

iii) Institution building

The community radio in Harapan Jaya | Selasih 107,7 Fm has been established through the SEApeat Project and is now focusing on community journalism through the village website (www.harapanjaya.desa.id). The 2013 agenda for this project is to strengthen skills and facilitate network building throughout the community. A meeting on how to manage the community radio in the Mandalamekar Village in West Java (www.mandalamekar.desa.id) was conducted. The results of these meetings were discussed with the members of the community radio. We are planning to conduct journalism training within the community in August 2013.

Output 1.2.1

Facilitate and support TOT training and exchange programmes for the region including study tours and multi-country workshops

- i. "Local Leadership Fire Management" training course was conducted on 29th May at Cha-quad Kreng Tham Wittaya School, Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province, Thailand. Total of 150 leaders from various local communities were attended the training.
- ii. SHGSU (Malaysia) has been invited to present on the SHGSU activities and future planning during the National Peatland Working Committee meeting in Miri, Sarawak on 27-29 June 2013. (Annexure 3)
- iii. A core Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was held in Naypyitaw (Myanmar) with the cooperation of Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) to discuss the plan in year 2013 on 10th April 2013. It was attended by responsible officials from ECD, Forest Department, Agriculture Department and Land Record Department. ECD promise to assign an responsible official to get involved in the project implementation.
- iv. Initial consultation with the local government units in barangay, municipal and provincial level for the drafting of the Unified Ordinance for the Protection of the Caimpugan Peat Dome was conducted in Philippines.
- v. Meetings and discussions were conducted with municipal mayors of Sta. Josefa and Talacogon; municipal planning and development coordinators (MPDCs) of Bunawan, Sta. Josefa and Talacogon; the Provincial Planning and Development Officer of Agusan del Sur; and community representatives. The objective is to obtain information on the on-going updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of the certain municipalities, particularly on the inclusion of peatland in Philippines concerns and issues in the local planning process.
- vi. Lao PDR conducted an internal meeting with Pollution Control Department on 18 June which attended by 17 people to present the results of the peatland studies.

Output 2.1

a. Integrated Peatland Fire Prevention in Harapan Jaya

- i) The Fire Danger Rating System (FRDS) has been developed between April and June 2013. This will act as an alternative to the existing public information (early warning) system in Harapan Jaya. This system has been developed through consultation with the village during a meeting on 24th June, 2013 in which 30 people participated.
- ii) The village regulation will be used for fire prevention. This regulation states that if someone clears their land using the fire and it spread to their neighbour's plantation they will receive a fine/sanction. For 1 oil palm tree = 350.00 IDR and for 1 rubber tree = 100.000 IDR. This money will be paid to the neighbour who was affected. The village will monitor the transaction. If the fine is not paid the case will be passed to the government. This regulation will be adopted in Teluk Binjai Village – Pelalawan district which is an additional site of the SEApeat project in Riau Province. It has been agreed to hold further discussion meetings on this with the village in August 2013.

b. Integrated Peatland Fire Prevention in RMFR

- i) The dry months at RMFR are between May to September annually. In this context, five peatland fire occurrences have been reported adjacent to RMFR. The five peatland fires were believed to originate from land clearing practices related to agricultural land and subdued with the help from the SHGSU, Selangor Forestry Department & Fire and Rescue Department. (Annexure 6).
- ii) GEC have commented on the draft local plan for Kuala Selangor & Sabak Bernam District 2025, especially on part 4: Rehabilitation & Sustainable Management of Environment (focus to Peat Swamp Forest at NSPSF). The proposed comments more emphasised to the potential environmental impacts of on-going forest clearance at state land & buffer zone management of NSPSF.
- iii) Current effort on the ground is to monitor the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) results on daily basis and to communicate it with all the stakeholders concerned at RMFR so that any future fire danger can be prevented and/or avoided.

- *Explain any divergences between planned and actual activities.*

There has no serious divergence between planned and actual activities for this quarter (Apr to June 2013) except for the delay in the start of the activities in Vietnam and the slight delay of the training programme in Indonesia.

- *Describe the actual resources used compared to planned. Highlight any changes to the logical framework, if any.*

Actual resource use compared to that planned within the project can be considered as moderate. This is because most of the activities are either co-funded by the ASEAN Peatland Forest Project and other cofounding sources.

III. Partnership

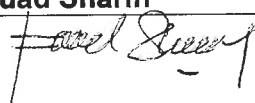
- *What have been the main strength and weaknesses of the partnership during this period?*

The above initiative allows for co-management between peatland stakeholders (including community participation), and at the same time, establishes a formal platform to promote BMP principles and guidelines to reduce peatland deforestation and degradation within the countries. The project continues to work closely with the various associates in planning and implementing the activities.

IV. Methodology

No changes to current management approach and methodology

V. Other Issues

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Signature:	

List of Annexures

- Annexure 1: 'Stop the haze' campaign related materials
- Annexure 2: Philippines Peat depth assessment report
- Annexure 3: SHGSU MIRI Presentation
- Annexure 4: Tree Planting Report Apr-June 2013
- Annexure 5: Fire Monitoring and Patrolling
- Annexure 6: Fire Suppression