

## QUARTERLY UPDATES

Name of the Programme : Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy
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Contract reference no.: DCI-ENV/2010/221-659
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Project Title: Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in South East Asia (SEApeat)
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Name of Beneficiary: Global Environment Centre (GEC)
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Period covered by this Quarterly Update: 1/7/2013-30/9/2013
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Due date of this Quarterly Update: 31/10/2013
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<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>Euro 1,074,686</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date</i>	<i>Euro 1,474,251</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date</i>	<i>Euro 887,956</i>

### I. Summary

Various meetings have been organized both at the Regional and National level (Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam) to stimulate and support stakeholder collaboration in peatland assessment and integrated managements of peatlands.

The major achievement of the period has been the adoption of the Revised ASEAN peatland management Strategy, establishment of an ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands and Adoption of a long term programme on peatlands 2014-2020..

Pilot sites activities in Indonesia and Malaysia have progressed well.

#### **Divergence:**

No major divergence was noted.

#### **Difficulties encountered:**

No major difficulties encountered

### II. Implementation of Activities

#### **Output 1.1 Coordinated development and implementation of National Action Plans on Peatlands (NAPs) focusing on peatland forest management in Selected ASEAN countries.**

Focus was on further peatland assessment to support the national planning processes

#### **Myanmar**

- a. FREDA received all the result of lab analysis for Taung Poe Gyi Case Study from DAR and for Pyin Oo Lwin (Mandalay Division) and Naung Cho (Shan State) from FRI.
- b. Daw Seint Sann Zaw, Professional Assistant Grade (I) visited Naypyitaw to collect the lab analysis results from DAR and discussed with Dr. Aung Kyaw Myint, Assistant Lecturer (University of Agriculture) and Daw Thida Swe (Research Assistant II) of Forest Research Institute (FRI) and discussed about the preparation of pilot research papers for Case Study.
- c. A meeting was conducted on 16 September 2013 at FREDA office to discuss the peatland assessment and awareness campaign program which to be implemented in October and November, 2013.
- d. For smooth implementation of Peatland assessment, Case study for Best Management Practice, and Awareness campaigns, FREDA assigned one EC member for overall supervision, two

Professional Assistants Grade (1), one Professional Assistant Grade (2) and two field foresters to involve in the project. For the case studies, two soil specialists, one from Forest Research Institute (FRI), Forest Department and one from University of Agriculture (UOA) were assigned by the Departments concerned to give technical assistance.

**Output 1.2 Pilot projects established at local level to test incentives and promote best practices to reduce peatland deforestation and degradation.**

**a. 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 2,952 tree saplings through the support of 452 volunteers.
- ii) CSR support was solicited for community-based peatland rehabilitation programme at RMFR and was successful in attracting one company to be involved. Timberland Lifestyle Brand (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013) supported the Raja Musa Forest Reserve Rehabilitation Programme by planting total of 200 trees and constructed 2 canal blockings involving 90 volunteers.
- iii) Selangor Crown Prince had visited the project site on 28th August 2013. This event was participated in by more than 300 people. The Selangor Crown Prince planted trees together with the local community. This is a sign of the royal family's concern for conserving & preserving Raja Musa Forest Reserve. Selangor Crown Prince has requested the local community plays an important role in protection the natural resources (Annexure 1).
- iv) On promoting the BMPs, study visits to RMFR have been organised for ASEAN APFP & SEApeat project representatives on 5<sup>th</sup> August & 10 September (Annexure 2).
- v) Kuala Selangor District Officer & Chief Assistant District officer visited the project site (parit 6) and recent fire at KDEB & KL Larut area on 23 & 24 July 2013. They had coordination meetings and site visit to discuss on possibility of working together or coordinate efforts on a number of issues of mutual interest, which includes fire prevention and extinguishing forest fire at state land and encroachment in an integrated manner at district level.
- vi) The Sahabat Hutan Gambut Selangor Utara (SHGSU) was actively participated in some public events to promote SHGSU activities and involved in the stakeholder meeting to discuss the fire prevention action in adjacent to forest reserve.
- vii) On September 2013, Selangor Forestry Department, Kuala Selangor District Officer, Fire and Rescue Department, GEC, SHGSU & Kuala Selangor District Council had a meeting on established the programme of excellence on prevention peat forest fire at Fire & Rescue Office in Bestari Jaya. (Annexure 3)

**b. Pilot demonstration activities in Riau, Indonesia**

As a result of the efforts done in Harapan Jaya Village, the village is initiated as a model of fire prevention and community livelihood on peatland by the local government, private sector and other parties in meetings. It was a guidance for multistakeholders to facilitated the community on peatland area.

Training for community and small holders on oil palm plantation management was conducted on 21-22 September in school (MTs) Building at Sumber Harum Sub--Village Harapan Jaya. The training was attended by 60 participants and the key notes speaker is from Agriculture Faculty of Riau University and Plantation Body of Indragiri Hilir District. Training module which includes useful information on oil palm plantation was distributed to the participants.

Two ha of demo plot which located in Sumber Harum Sub-Village was prepared for the involved community to practice the lesson learned in the training.

- i) Integrated cattle with Oil palm plantation  
Construction of the cowshed which located in Sukajadi Sub-Village will be completed in October 2013. Scheme micro credit was developing under this system for local community to generate some alternative income.
- ii) Village Regulation on Fire Prevention  
Village regulation on fire prevention is being duplicated and use in other village- Teluk Binjai in Palalawan District. Some informal meetings were conducted to discuss this topic.

## **Philippines**

- a. Fund was provided to Agusan Marsh Pilot Site for the continuation of orientation of the concerned stakeholders on the ordinance and drafting of unified ordinance.
- b. Funds were provided to Leyte Sab-a Pilot Site and Agusan Marsh Pilot Site for the preparation of the consultation workshop.
- c. Funds were provided for the provision of support for the continuation of guided demo farm in Agusan Marsh and Sorjan Farming in Leyte Sab-a.
- d. The Training Proposal on Natural Farming System for Peatlands for the community of the Leyte Sab-a Peatland was prepared by Dr. Paulino Cabahit of DA-ATI. This was entitled, "Fundamentals of Organic Agriculture thru Natural Farming System for Peatlands."
- e. The peatland community in Bunawan, Sta Josefa, New Visayas and Caimpugan harvested already some of the produce of the fruits and vegetables from their demo farm.
- f. As part of the continuing support to the demo farms in Agusan Marsh, Dr. Wilfredo Sanidad will monitor and evaluate the demo farm of the communities.
- g. Preparation and finalization of the Memorandum of Agreement with the academe – Caraga State University and Agusan del Sur State College for Agriculture and Technology.
- h. A monitoring visit to the project sites was conducted by GEC in July 2013.

## **Vietnam**

- a. Several meetings and discussions were conducted in this quarter to discuss the coordination and implementation of the project, content of 5 year action plan and development of sustainable community livelihood in buffer zone of the parks. The meetings were attended by Dr. Le Phat Quoi (National Expert), Dr. Duong Van Ni (CTU), Dr. Vo Tong Anh (CTU), consultants and parks managers.
- b. A Technical Training on development of parks ecotourism was conducted from 13-15 July. The Environmental Education Plan of the parks was developed in the training.
- c. Details of TORs (promote the incorporation of peatland conservation into land use planning-water management, agriculture and forest management in U Minh Ha region) was prepared by the National Expert. A field trip was conducted in U Minh Ha by the consultant together with the park's staff. Discussion on the land-use planning data collection in the park was carried out by consultant and the park manager.
- d. Details of TORs (provide training and support for staff of relevant agencies and local community on participatory management) was prepared by the National Expert. The consultant had prepared the content of training on suitable management of biodiversity and sustainable use of peatlands in U Minh region.

### **Output 2.1 Enhanced regional collaboration to identify fire prone peatlands and develop a fire prediction and warning system to reduce the rate of peatland deforestation and degradation.**

#### **a. Regional**

- i) 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the TWG on Transboundary Haze Pollution was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> July in Kuala Lumpur. Progress of the project had been updated and presented in the meeting.
- ii) A meeting on Plantation Sector Haze Prevention Initiative with Malaysian private sector (Sime Darby and KLK) was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and Singaporean Private Sector on 29<sup>th</sup> July and Indonesian Government on 2 August to develop an initiative to address the fires and haze from Riau Indonesia.

- iii) SEAPeat/APFP Phase 2 Planning Meeting was conducted at Selangor, Malaysia, from 8–10 September 2013. The meeting was attended by 25 representatives from ASEAN countries. The objective of this meeting is to discuss the plan for the next phase.
- iv) The project participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee under COP to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COM-9) and the Conference of Parties of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (COP-9) on 23-25 September in Surabaya. In the meeting, the project reported on progress with activities as well as recommended changes to the APMS and a proposal for an ASEAN peatland Programme (2014-2020). The revised APMS was approved by the ministers who also endorsed the new 7 year programme.

**b. Integrated Peatland Fire Prevention in Harapan Jaya**

Total of 4 FDRS warning signs were placed in Harapan Jaya Village. The Government agreed to provide additional resources info to the community for fire prevention.

**c. Integrated Peatland Fire Prevention in RMFR**

- i) The dry months at RMFR are between May to September annually. In this period, two peatland fire occurrences have been reported adjacent to RMFR. The 1<sup>st</sup> fire incident on 22-23 July 2013 was detected at the outer boundary of RMFR and managed suppressed without further spreading into forest reserve. The 2<sup>nd</sup> fire incident on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2013 was detected at the outer boundary of RMFR at private land and spread into the forest reserve. This peatland fire was believed to originate from land clearing practices related to cattle grazing and subdued with the help from the SHGSU, Selangor Forestry Department & Fire and Rescue Department (Annexure 4a&b).
- ii) GEC & SEAPeat Project Partners (Selangor Forestry Department and SHGSU) had a meeting with EU evaluators to provide an explanation related to the SEAPeat project in ASEAN in generally & Malaysia component on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at EU Delegation office in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was attended by 9 members (2 officers from Selangor Forestry Department, 3 members from SHGSU and 4 officers from GEC).

**Thailand**

- a. Training on Village Fire Volunteer Brigade and Establishment of Network was organised on 9th to 12th July 2013 at Phatthalung & Nakhon Si Thammarat Province (Southern Thailand). This is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP), Thailand & Forest Fire Control Division, DNP Thailand, European Union (SEAPeat) & Global Environment Centre (GEC). More than 300 participants, comprising of local communities from the 2 provinces (13 villages) and government agencies participated in these three days trainings.
- e. Posters showed the valuable biodiversity in peatlands were designed and disseminated to the national parks.
- f. The green contract had been modified to respond to the socio-economic conditions of community in U Minh Ha NP. Total of 31 households in buffer zone were selected to participate in the project.

**Output 2.2** Regional priorities for peatland forest conservation heightened and incentive mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management promoted.

**Regional**

- a. GEC developed a partnership with LEAF (Lowering Emission of Asia Forest) to work together in the feasibility study of the carbon project for North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest. Since then, GEC had provided the necessary information to LEAF for the feasibility study.

- b. Publication on Incentive options for peatland management published and disseminated in the region.
- c. New publication entitled “Peatland and Climate Change in Southeast Asia was published and distributed to related agencies.

**Other**

- a. ROM was conducted from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October in 3 countries (Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam) to evaluate the project progress in each country component. The feedback from the EU Evaluator is positive and stimulative.

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

There has no serious divergence between planned and actual activities for this quarter (July to September 2013). FREDa Myanmar managed to carry out 2 case studies out of 4 as planned in Inle area and Heho Basin area. Indawgyi and Mangrove areas could not be done yet due to insecurity and unfavourable weather condition in those areas.

- *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 project 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. GEC has worked well with the associated government agencies and ASEAN secretariat to enable endorsement of the key project recommendations by the Ministers of the 10 ASEAN countries.

**IV. Methodology**

No changes to current management approach and methodology

**V. Other Issues**

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List of Annexures

Annexure 1: Tree planting by Selangor Crown Prince

Annexure 2: ASEAN visit to Malaysia Project Site

Annexure 3: Centre for Environmental Education and Community Training to Prevent Peatland Fire

Annexure 4a: Recent fire at KL Larut & KDEB, Malaysia

Annexure 4b: Peatfire fighting by SHGSU