

Water.

Our source of life. We cannot create more water, yet we continue to pollute the limited amount we do have. Malaysia receives over 2000mm of rainfall annually, which is 20 times more than some other countries, and has 1800 rivers, and yet we find ourselves facing water shortages, irregular water supply and drinking water pollution.



In Petaling Jaya, people are facing the impact of water-related problems due to improper management and inefficient use. Rapid development, growth and industrialization in the PJ area has resulted in major water pollution issues. For example, squatter areas continue to use rivers as an open wastewater sewer and residential, commercial and industrial owners use drains and rivers as solid and liquid waste disposal sites. There is a serious lack of civic consciousness and this has resulted in severely polluted water-bodies.

The Project

Water 4 Life is a pioneer initiative by GAB Foundation, in partnership with GEC, to educate the public about the importance of water and why and how we should conserve and protect its source: our rivers.

This 3-year project focuses on Sungai Way, a tributary of Sungai Pencala, which eventually flows into Sungai Klang. Its water quality has been classified as Class IV (out of 5) and its main sources of pollution are solid and liquid waste from residential, commercial and industrial areas.

Goals

- Improve the water quality from Class IV-V to III-IV and enhance the aesthetic value of river
- Increase awareness & inculcate the ownership among communities to help reduce pollution
- Develop a community participation model & project website for large scale implementation

G·A·B
FOUNDATION

GAB Foundation

The GAB Foundation was established in 2007 to support environmental conservation, education and the community in Malaysia.

Under its environmental conservation programme, the Foundation has already developed educational storytelling modules for children aged 5 - 12. In addition, the Foundation is working on developing workshops for communities and businesses to be more aware of water issues in Malaysia and to be able to initiate local projects within their community.

One of the missions of the Foundation is to be recognized as a leader in promoting water conservation in Malaysia through developing strategies on water and environment issues with schools, communities and government agencies, as well as building credibility and respect from the public, government and other target groups.



Global Environment
Centre

GEC

Global Environment Centre is a Malaysian non-profit NGO, and was established in 1998 to address key environmental issues. The Centre is based in Malaysia but supports activities worldwide. The organisation has 3 main programme areas: Forest & Wetland Conservation, River Care and Awareness & Capacity Building.

The River Care Programme undertakes projects and activities related to water and river management, solid waste management and environmental education. Its mission is to 'Promote the protection, restoration and sustainable use of rivers by enhancing multi-stakeholder participation and knowledge to stimulate local action'.

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water4life

A GAB FOUNDATION WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

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FOUNDATION

In partnership with



Global Environment
Centre

Planned Activities

2008

Adopt a River!

GAB Foundation will be adopting Sungai Way as its pilot river to monitor and rehabilitate.

Training the community

The local community that lives in the Sg. Way Basin will be given training on river management and monitoring.

Project website

A website will be developed as an information portal for the public and media to learn more about the project and to keep updated about the activities undertaken.

Monitoring and Reporting

The community will be responsible for taking regular water quality measurements of Sg. Way and the data will be uploaded onto the project website. They will also need to submit quarterly reports to GEC and GAB Foundation on their progress.

River rehabilitation and Action plan

Following the training, the communities will be supported to develop a localized action plan for the rehabilitation of Sungai Way and organize activities like clean ups.

Business Community

Businesses will be invited for a workshop on Best Resource Management Practices to inculcate the concept of environmentally friendly and sustainable business practices.

Pusat Pendidikan Sungai

An education centre will be established in the area to allow the public to learn more about water and rivers. The centre will act as a library and resource centre, which will be given to the community to maintain.

River Carnival

A fun festival will be held in conjunction with an environmental day of global importance to promote the project and involve the wider community in environmental activities.

2009

Enhancing Local Fish

Many of our rivers have been 'invaded' by alien fish (not native to Malaysia) that are able to survive in polluted water. They multiply quickly and destroy the natural ecosystem for our native fish species. Sungai Way is no different, and due to its polluted water, alien fish thrive there.

By 2009, we hope to enhance native fish stocks through habitat improvement and restocking.

Habitat Recreation

Rocks, trees and other vegetation will be restored in the river to create more habitat for fish and other animals living within and around the river.

Develop a Model

The project will be well documented and by the end of 2009, it is hoped that a successful model for Community Participation in River Management can be developed.

