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TH PLANTATIONS

TITLE:

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY – JUNE 2026) CONSERVATION OF COASTAL
FOREST AND PEATLANDS IN GUNUNG ARONG FOREST RESERVE, JOHOR**



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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY – JUNE 2026) CONSERVATION OF COASTAL FOREST AND PEATLANDS IN GUNUNG ARONG FOREST RESERVE, JOHOR

1.0 Introduction

The year 2026 marks the fourth year of collaboration between the Global Environment Centre (GEC) and TH Plantations Berhad (THP), implemented with the full support of the Johor State Forest Department (JSFD) through the East Johor Forest District Office (PHDJT), in conserving and rehabilitating the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (GAFR), Johor. Since its inception in 2021, the project has progressively advanced from baseline ecological assessments and restoration planning to the implementation of integrated conservation measures, including hydrological restoration, peatland rehabilitation, biodiversity monitoring, fire prevention, and community-based forest management.

A significant milestone achieved during this reporting period is the full mobilisation of Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS), a local community group established under the project to support long-term conservation efforts within and around GAFR. Throughout the first half of 2026, KompAS played an increasingly active role in implementing on-the-ground conservation activities, including the maintenance and monitoring of check dams and canal blocks, peatland water level monitoring, tree planting and maintenance, biodiversity monitoring, as well as routine fire patrols and awareness programmes. Their growing capacity and commitment have strengthened community stewardship and enhanced the sustainability of restoration efforts within the forest reserve.

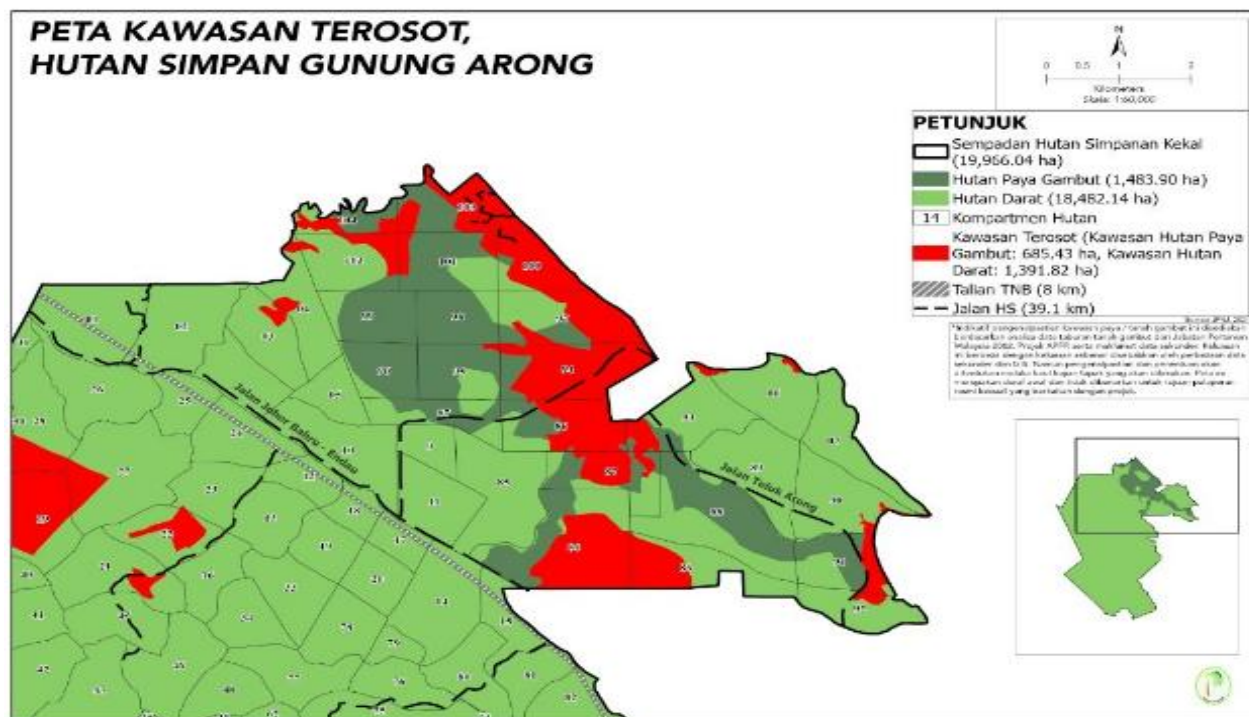


Figure 1. Map of the degraded forest area in GAFR, highlighted in red colour. While the dark green marks the area of peat swamp forest.

During the January–June 2026 reporting period, GAFR achieved significant progress in peatland restoration, particularly through the successful prevention of peatland and forest fire incidents within the degraded peat swamp forest area. This achievement reflects the effectiveness of integrated restoration measures, including hydrological rehabilitation through check dam maintenance, groundwater monitoring, fire surveillance, and strengthened collaboration among GEC, PHDJT, JSFD, and KompAS.

The absence of fire occurrences during the dry season in the first half of 2026 indicates improved ecosystem resilience and the growing effectiveness of community-based peatland management. Restoration activities continued in line with the approved workplan, covering peatland rehabilitation, biodiversity monitoring, fire prevention, tree planting, maintenance, community capacity building, and environmental awareness programmes to support the long-term conservation of GAFR.

2.0 Project goals and objective

2.1 Project goal

To protect and rehabilitate forests and peatlands in the north-eastern portion of Gunung Arong Forest Reserve.

2.2 Project objectives

- i. To develop a rehabilitation and management strategy for the site using a landscape management approach and the participation of relevant stakeholders;
- ii. Rehabilitation of degraded areas through re-wetting, assisted natural regeneration and selected tree planting in priority sections of the site; and,
- iii. Support the actions of local communities and other stakeholders on sustainable land management and fire prevention in targeted areas.

3.0 Project implementation planning and project activities

3.1 Project implementation planning

In 2026, the project emphasized on the hydrological management of the existing canal blocks, forest rehabilitation through tree planting, strengthened community involvement in conservation efforts and enhance the CEPA programmes. Activities were implemented based on the structured work plan jointly agreed upon by JSFD, GEC and TH Plantations. The work plan for 2026 focuses on three key components:

1. **Component 1:** Securing community support and commitment for the conservation of coastal forests and peatlands in GAFR.
2. **Component 2:** Conservation and rehabilitation of the degraded forest areas within GAFR.
3. **Component 3:** Enhancing Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA).

This work plan has been developed to strengthen the conservation of coastal forest and peatland ecosystems within GAFR and its surrounding areas in Mersing, Johor. The implementation

approach emphasises integrated, science-based ecosystem management, supported by active participation from local communities, KomPAS, and strategic support from THP. This collaborative framework aims to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources while maintaining ecological balance and protecting biodiversity within the area throughout 2026.

Through the implementation of this work plan, JSFD and GEC reaffirm their continued commitment to strengthening forest conservation and sustainable development efforts at the state level. This strategic collaboration, involving local communities, government agencies, and private-sector partners, is expected to generate long-term benefits for biodiversity conservation, enhance community well-being, and safeguard the critical role of coastal and peat swamp forests in Mersing as valuable natural heritage for future generations. **Table 1** below outlines the planned and ongoing activities for 2026.

**Table 1.** Work plan for the Conservation of Coastal Forest and Peatlands in Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Johor 2026.

No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	SECURING SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COASTAL FOREST AND PEATLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT IN THE GUNUNG ARONG FOREST RESERVE, MERSING, JOHOR												
1.1	Strengthening Community Engagement around the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve in the Implementation of Conservation Projects												
	a) Strengthen the role of Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS), which is officially registered under the Registrar of Societies Malaysia (RoS), to ensure organisational sustainability and effectiveness in supporting conservation programmes.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	b) Expand community participation through Community-Based Organisation (CBO) programmes and strengthen strategic collaboration with the Johor State Forestry Department (JPNJ), TH Plantations Berhad (THP), and relevant agencies to achieve more impactful programme implementation.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	c) Organise regular meetings with KompAS for monitoring progress, planning activities, and providing continuous support for community capacity development.				X	X	X						
1.2	Empowerment and Capacity Enhancement of the Newly Established Community-Based Organisation (CBO)												
	a) Implement advanced training for KompAS members covering management, operations, and maintenance of community nurseries, as well as hands-on activities for the restoration of degraded peat swamp forest areas.	X	X	X	X	X	X						



No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	b) Undertake continuous care and maintenance of the community nursery, including regular monitoring of seedling health and upkeep of nursery infrastructure to ensure optimal growing conditions	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	c) Produce 3,000 high-quality seedlings for the next planting phase in GAFR in 2026, using suitable restoration species such as Tenggek Burung (<i>Melicope lunu-ankenda</i>), Pulai (<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>), and other pioneer species. Intensive nursery management will be maintained to ensure seedlings meet optimal quality standards for successful field establishment	X	X	X	X	X	X						
2	CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED AREAS IN THE GUNUNG ARONG FOREST RESERVE												
2.1	Monitoring and Patrols in the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve and Surrounding Areas (Buffer Zone)												
	a) Conduct regular (weekly) groundwater level monitoring by recording piezometer data in accordance with established SOPs. The data will be used to assess peatland ecosystem conditions and fire risk.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	b) Update Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) information on field signboards and disseminate the latest updates through communication groups involving the community and relevant stakeholders	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	c) Carry out continuous surveillance and patrols for fire control and prevention within HSGA and surrounding areas to enable early detection and prompt response	X	X	X	X	X	X						



No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Implement systematic wildlife monitoring using two approaches: • Installation and maintenance of camera traps at strategic locations; and • Documentation of wildlife mortality cases resulting from road accidents in adjacent areas.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
2.2	Tree Planting Programme: Phase Three (2026) and Maintenance of Phase One (2024) and Phase Two (2025)												
	a) Implement a tree planting programme of 1,600 trees for Phase Three (2026) with community participation to rehabilitate degraded areas in Compartment 83 and Compartment 84, covering 3 hectares. This activity contributes to a cumulative target of 7,000 trees planted in HSGA since 2024. Phase status note: • Phase 1 (2024): 2,814 trees planted • Phase 2 (2025): 2,600 trees planted / in progress • Phase 3 (2026): 1,600 additional trees planned to complete the 7,000-tree target					X	X						
	b) Undertake comprehensive maintenance works at Phase 1 (2024) and Phase 2 (2025) planting sites, including weed control, scheduled fertilisation, watering as required, repair of planting stakes and markers, and replacement planting for non-surviving seedlings.	X	X	X		X	X						



No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	c) Conduct regular monitoring to assess growth performance and survival rates of planted trees, and to identify issues requiring immediate corrective action. Any technical challenges: such as pest or disease outbreaks, drought stress, flooding, or wildlife damage will be addressed promptly.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
2.3	Hydrology management												
	a) Conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify drainage canals requiring maintenance as part of peatland fire containment and mitigation efforts.	X	X	X	X	X							
	b) Carry out regular maintenance and monitoring of canal blocks located in FC 86, FC 84, and FC 83, as well as canal blocks at Parit Sembilan, Kampung Air Papan, in collaboration with the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID). These efforts aim to strengthen hydrological management systems to maintain groundwater levels, reduce fire risk, and support peatland ecosystem conservation		X	X	X	X	X						
	c) Undertake continuous monitoring of all existing hydrological structures, including clearing of water flow paths, minor repairs, and functionality inspections, to ensure the effectiveness of canal blocks and overall hydrological performance throughout the year, particularly during dry seasons or extreme weather conditions.	X	X	X									
2.4	Regularly update the peatland area map within the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (GAFR)	X	X	X	X	X							



No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2.5	Update and disseminate fire risk forecasts for areas surrounding GAFR through designated communication channels (WhatsApp). Monitoring includes current weather data, the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS), peat soil moisture levels, and site conditions to enable timely preventive action when fire risk increases.	X	X	X	X	X	X						
3	COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS												
3.1	Organise and implement one (1) awareness, training, and simulation programme on peatland fire prevention and control, through strategic collaboration with local communities and relevant agencies, including the Mersing District Office, East Johor District Forestry Office, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (JBPM), and other related stakeholders. The programme will include both theoretical and practical training, covering the use of basic fire-fighting equipment and activation of emergency fire response plans.												
3.2	Implement two (2) public education and awareness programmes on the importance of sustainable peatland management, involving local communities, government agencies, and schools. The programmes will focus on peatland ecology, hydrological importance, fire risks, and best management practices (BMPs) to support conservation efforts and disaster risk reduction.				X		X						
3.3	Coordinate tree planting activities as part of peatland ecosystem restoration efforts, involving volunteers such as TH Plantations Berhad staff, local communities, school students, and relevant stakeholders. These activities will also provide participants with exposure to the importance of habitat restoration, proper planting techniques,												



No.	ACTIVITIES (2026)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	and shared responsibility in environmental conservation..												
4.	PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SERVICES AS REQUIRED, IN ALIGNMENT WITH JSFD MANAGEMENT												
	a) Contribute to the planning and implementation of the Gunung Arong Challenge 2026 through technical, logistical, and coordination support with relevant stakeholders, to ensure smooth event delivery and achievement of objectives related to nature-based recreation promotion and forest conservation awareness.												
	b) Provide support for the development and management of the Teluk Arong Eco-Forest Park (Taman Eko-Rimba, TER) within HSGA and selected surrounding areas, including conservation and sustainability-based planning, recommendations on best practices to minimise environmental impacts, development of carbon and climate change, related initiatives aligned with low-carbon forest management strategies, and technical support to ensure compliance with biodiversity conservation requirements and JSFD guidelines												

Note: The proposed work plan is subject to periodic adjustments based on local coordination requirements, the level of stakeholder support and participation, prevailing weather and environmental conditions, and other relevant factors. These considerations are essential to ensure flexible and adaptive implementation within a dynamic operating environment, while maintaining focus on achieving the core objectives of the programme.

- **X=** Marks the activities that have been carried out until this period.
- **Green highlight** = Indicates the proposed workplan according to the timeline

3.2 Project activities

From January to June 2026, a total of 10 major activities were successfully implemented under the GAFR conservation project, demonstrating the project's integrated approach towards ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable forest management. The activities covered key components including stakeholder engagement and coordination, community capacity building, completion and maintenance of the Phase 2 tree planting programme, biodiversity and wildlife monitoring, hydrological rehabilitation, as well as continuous forest fire patrols and belowground water level monitoring. These initiatives have strengthened conservation efforts on the ground, enhanced community participation, improved ecosystem resilience, and supported the long-term restoration objectives of GAFR. The activities implemented during the reporting period are summarised below:

1. Stakeholder engagement and collaboration with the East Johor District Forestry Office (PHDJT), Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Mersing District Office, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) of Mersing, Mersing District Education Office (PPD Mersing) and the Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS).
2. Project coordination and monitoring visit by TH Plantations Berhad to GAFR to review the project progress and strengthen the project partnership.
3. Continuation of biodiversity monitoring, including wildlife monitoring using camera traps and roadkill surveys, to assess the status of fauna in the conservation area.
4. Monitoring of belowground water level readings in GAFR and surrounding area to evaluate the hydrological condition and the peatland restoration effectiveness.
5. Monitoring and maintenance of canal blocks and the signage installed to ensure the effectiveness of the structure.
6. Forest tree seedling propagation training and KompAS nursery management, aimed at enhancing the community capacity in managing the nursery.
7. Completion of the Phase 2 tree planting activity which contributed to rehabilitation of the degraded forest area.
8. Maintenance of the rehabilitation planting site at Forest Compartment (FC) 103, including survival assessment and vegetation management.
9. Implementation of Environmental Education Programme: The Importance of Wetland ecosystems (Peatland and Mangrove Forests) to increase the awareness and understanding among the publics and school students.
10. Facilitating the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) programme at Mersing District level and JSFD programme to promote and strengthen the public support for the conservation project implementation.

4.0 Summary of the progress on the rehabilitation activities carried out in GAFR from January to June 2026.

4.1 Engagement with East Johor District Forestry Office (PHDJT), Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Mersing District Office, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) of Mersing, Mersing District Education Office (PPD Mersing) and Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS).

A total of 23 engagement sessions were conducted with key stakeholders, including PHDJT, Mersing District Office, DID Mersing, Mersing District Education Office (PPD Mersing), and Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS). These engagements served as an important platform to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, provide updates on project progress, obtain technical advice and necessary approvals, and coordinate the implementation of conservation and district-level programmes. Particular emphasis was placed on continuous engagement with KompAS to strengthen its capacity as a community-based conservation group. Through regular meetings, field discussions, and technical guidance, members were equipped with the knowledge and skills required to support peatland rehabilitation, biodiversity monitoring, fire prevention, and other restoration activities. These engagements also played a vital role in sustaining community motivation, reinforcing local ownership, and nurturing long-term environmental stewardship, thereby ensuring that conservation efforts within the GAFR remain community-driven and sustainable. The list of meeting held can be referred to in **Attachment 1**, while the summary of the key meeting listed in **Table 2** below.



Figure 2. A meeting held at the Mersing District Office where GEC was invited to facilitate the environmental awareness programme content for the Mara Prihatin Desa Madani Programme.



Figure 3. An engagement session with Mersing District Education Office (PPD Mersing) was held to present on the CEPA programme proposal and to secure approval for the programme implementation with the school students.

Table 2. List of the key meeting conducted with the key agencies and community from January to June 2026.

No.	Date (2026)	Agency / Stakeholder / community	Results / Remarks
1.	3 rd January	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM)	A meeting and nursery visit were conducted at the KomPAS nursery to discuss community nursery management, including the maintenance of tree production records and nursery operations. Following the monitoring visit, the FRIM representative provided a number of dipterocarp species seeds to support seed germination activities and strengthen the capacity of the KomPAS community in native tree propagation.
2.	12 th January	East Johor District Forestry Office (PHDJT)	A project implementation progress review was conducted with Tuan Mohd Reydzuan bin Yong, District Forest Officer, on the Coastal Forest and Peatland Conservation Programme at Gunung Arong Forest Reserve for 2025. The 2026 work plan was also presented, together with discussions on other related matters, including the proposed Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) programme to be organised in conjunction with the Gunung Arong Challenge 2026.
3.	15 th June		The meeting with the DFO clarified the need to temporarily suspend planting activities in FC103 to avoid overlap with the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) project. GEC was requested to demarcate planting boundaries on-site to ensure clear area identification and coordination.
4.	28 th January	Mersing District Office	A coordination meeting for the Program Mara Prihatin Desa Madani was held to brief participating agencies on the implementation of the district-level programme at Kampung Hubong. Chaired by the Assistant District Officer of Mersing,

No.	Date (2026)	Agency / Stakeholder / community	Results / Remarks
			the meeting highlighted the programme's objective of strengthening collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to support inclusive rural development. GEC was invited to participate through environmental exhibition booths to promote conservation awareness and strengthen engagement with local stakeholders.
5.	8 th – 10 th April	East Johor District Forestry Officer (PHDJT) TH Plantations Berhad (THP) Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KompAS)	A three-day monitoring visit under the Coastal Forest and Peatland Conservation Programme was conducted with representatives from TH Plantations Berhad (THP), Johor State Forestry Department (PHDJT), Global Environment Centre (GEC), and the KompAS community. The programme commenced with a progress review meeting covering forestry, hydrology and community involvement, followed by extensive field assessments across various compartments of the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (GAFR) and local community sites. These field activities included evaluations of tree planting phases, nursery management practices, ecological structures and livelihood initiatives, alongside a community engagement visit to honour a late contributor. The visit concluded with a technical consolidation session focusing on field findings, tree survival rates, and restoration maintenance requirements, while providing feedback to improve future field monitoring consistency and implementation effectiveness.
6.	5 th March	Department of Irrigation and Drainage Mersing (DID)	A coordination meeting and project progress presentation with Tuan Ts Aizuddin bin Hj Anuar, Mersing District Engineer, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Mersing, covering the following: 1. An update on the Conservation of Coastal Forest and Peatlands in Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Johor, focusing on the canal block maintenance and its impact to the peat swamp area. A request for the approval to install canal block signage installation at the site for community awareness purposes. 2. A presentation on the proposed Firefly Habitat Conservation Initiative at Sungai

No.	Date (2026)	Agency / Stakeholder / community	Results / Remarks
			Endau, Kampung Semaloi, covering the coastal firefly biodiversity assessment.
7.	11 th June	Mersing Education District Office (PPD Mersing) Mersing School Representatives	The meeting confirmed the implementation of the Wetlands Environmental Education Programme in Mersing District with the support of PPD Mersing. Key decisions included the selection of SMK Mersing as the host school, the targeting of participation by approximately 100 students, and scheduling of the programme on 27 June 2026. Roles and responsibilities, programme flow, and logistical arrangements were discussed and agreed upon. A site visit to the host school was also conducted to assess preparedness and ensure the smooth implementation of the programme.

4.2 Project coordination and monitoring visit by TH Plantations Berhad

A three-day monitoring and coordination visit was conducted by THP from 8 to 10 April 2026 to review the progress of the Coastal Forest and Peatland Conservation Programme at GAFR, Johor. The visit involved representatives from THP, PHDJT, GEC, and the local community group, KomPAS. The programme commenced with a coordination meeting at PHDJT to review the project's first-quarter progress, covering hydrological restoration, biodiversity monitoring, tree planting, nursery development, fire prevention, CEPA initiatives, and community participation. Field visits were subsequently conducted to assess restoration sites, community-managed nurseries, hydrological rehabilitation structures, and biodiversity monitoring locations. The delegation observed KomPAS's tree propagation activities, evaluated planting performance at Forest Compartment (FC) 103, inspected check dams at Parit Sembilan, reviewed nursery management practices, and assessed aquatic biodiversity at FC84. A courtesy visit was also made to the family of a late community member in recognition of his contributions to the conservation programme.



Figure 4. The visit by TH Plantations Berhad representative to the project site and a meeting conducted with PHDJT and the KomPAS community from 8th to 10th April 2026.

The visit showcased the positive impacts of project implementation on GAFR and the KomPAS community, highlighting improvements in ecosystem restoration, peatland management, biodiversity conservation, and community capacity building. The engagement demonstrated the value of collaborative efforts among government agencies, private-sector partners, technical organisations, and local communities in achieving long-term conservation outcomes. The visit concluded with a technical review session between THP and GEC, where field findings, restoration progress, and maintenance requirements were discussed. THP acknowledged the encouraging progress achieved and recommended continued improvements in field maintenance, monitoring consistency, and adaptive management. The detailed activity report is provided in **Attachment 2**.

4.3 Continuation of the wildlife monitoring and fauna roadkill in GAFR

Wildlife monitoring conducted from January to June 2026 indicates that the GAFR continues to support a diverse range of fauna despite ongoing forest restoration activities. Although camera trap data for the first quarter could not be retrieved due to equipment malfunction, supplementary observations recorded the presence of a Muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*) in FC103 during April 2026, providing evidence that medium-sized mammals continue to utilise the restored forest habitat. To strengthen wildlife monitoring efforts, the project team is currently procuring replacement camera traps to resume systematic monitoring activities. The updated camera trap monitoring data will be collected and reported in a timely manner to support continuous assessment of wildlife presence, habitat recovery, and biodiversity changes within GAFR.



Figure 5. The presence of *Muntiacus muntjak* at the rehabilitation site indicates the area continued to provide suitable condition for the wildlife habitat. The continuous monitoring through the camera trap still on-going despite the technical issues affecting the equipment.

Roadkill monitoring remained an important complementary method for assessing wildlife presence and movement. A total of 14 roadkill incidents involving 11 wildlife species were documented during the reporting period, comprising seven mammal species, two (2) reptile species, and two (2) bird species. Nine (9) of the recorded wildlife were categorised as Least Concern (LC) which are leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Malayan civet (*Viverra zibetha*), Asian water monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*), spitting cobra (*Naja sumatrana*), crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), white-bellied sea eagle

(*Ichthyophaga leucogaster*), Prevost's Squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*) and Plantain squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*). Two species recorded as Endangered (EN) species comprised of dusky leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus obscurus*) and long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*).

The presence of several protected and conservation-significant species demonstrates that GAFR and its surrounding landscape continue to function as important wildlife habitat. Compared with previous years, roadkill incidents declined substantially from 36 cases in 2024 and 24 cases in 2025 to 14 cases in 2026. This reduction may reflect improving habitat quality resulting from ongoing peatland restoration, hydrological rehabilitation, and forest recovery, which reduces the need for wildlife to move across roads in search of resources. Nevertheless, roadkill continues to pose a threat to wildlife, particularly along roads adjacent to the forest reserve.

Table 3. The record of wildlife roadkill incidents from January to June 2026.

No	Species	Common name	Local name	No. of individuals					
Months				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Reptiles									
1	<i>Naja Sumatrana</i>	Spitting Cobra	Ular tedung sembur			1			
2	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	Asian water monitor lizard	Biawak air		1	1			
Mammals									
3	<i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i>	Dusky leaf-monkey	Lotong celak					1	
4	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	Leopard Cat	Kucing batu		1				
5	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Long-tailed macaque	Kera ekor panjang			2		1	
6	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Wildboar	Babi hutan				1		
7	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Plantain squirrel	Tupai kampung					1	
8	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	Prevost's Squirrel	Tupai asia						1
9	<i>Viverra zangara</i>	Malayan Civet	Musang tenggalung						1
Birds									
10	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Crested Serpent Eagle	Helang kiuk		1				
11	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>	White-Bellied Sea-Eagle	Helang laut putih						1
Total Incidents Per Month				0	3	4	1	3	3
Total Incidents Recorded				14					

Overall, the monitoring results suggest that ecological conditions within GAFR are gradually improving. The return of adaptable species such as the muntjac, together with the declining trend in roadkill incidents, indicates positive progress in ecosystem recovery. Continued

wildlife monitoring, coupled with roadkill surveys and improvements to camera trap equipment, will be essential for evaluating long-term biodiversity recovery and informing adaptive conservation management. The comprehensive wildlife monitoring report can be referred in the **Attachment 3**.

4.4 Monitoring of water table reading in Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (using piezometers) from January to June 2026

Groundwater levels within GAFR and its surrounding areas were monitored continuously from January to June 2026 by the local patrollers using the piezometers to assess peatland hydrological conditions and evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing restoration efforts. Regular monitoring of groundwater levels is essential, as maintaining the water table close to the peat surface reduces peat oxidation, maintains ecosystem moisture, and lowers the risk of peat fire occurrence. The average piezometer water level readings presented in **Table 4** below. The data comprise readings recorded from January to June 2026.

Table 4. The average water table readings using piezometers from January to June 2026 at GAFR and adjacent areas.

Month/2026 Piezometer	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Location
PGA 01	6.0	-15.0	-18.8	-23.0	-19.3	-7.3	Adjacent area of FC 83
PGA 02	-8.5	-14.8	-23.8	-22.0	-17.3	-9.3	
PGA 03	12.5	-3.8	-3.0	-22.5	-16.0	6.8	FC 103
PGA 04	12.8	-4.0	-2.3	-25.0	-11.7	5.3	
PGA 05	19.8	-1.3	3.3	-6.8	1.0	14.8	
PGA 06	-22.5	-25.3	-55.0	-63.8	-60.3	-33.8	Adjacent area of FC 84
PGA 07	-5.3	-15.8	-32.3	-35.8	-39.0	-9.8	
PGA 08	9.8	-6.0	-1.3	-12.0	-10.3	3.0	
PGA 11	5.5	-0.8	-7.0	-11.8	-11.3	-11.5	
PGA 09	-30.0	-37.5	-54.8	-44.8	-39.7	-30.5	Palm oil plantation area
PGA 10	-33.3	-68.5	-60.5	-43.0	-42.3	-37.3	

Note: Negative symbol (-) shows that the water level is below the soil surface; PGA (Piezometer Gunung Arong) indicates the codes of piezometers installed in GAFR and adjacent areas.

The monitoring results showed clear seasonal fluctuations throughout the reporting period. Water table levels gradually declined from January to April, reaching their lowest levels during April and May, before recovering in June following increased rainfall. This trend corresponds with the drier climatic conditions experienced during the first half of the year and demonstrates the direct influence of seasonal rainfall on peatland hydrology. Despite these fluctuations, no peat fire incidents were recorded within the rehabilitation area during the reporting period.

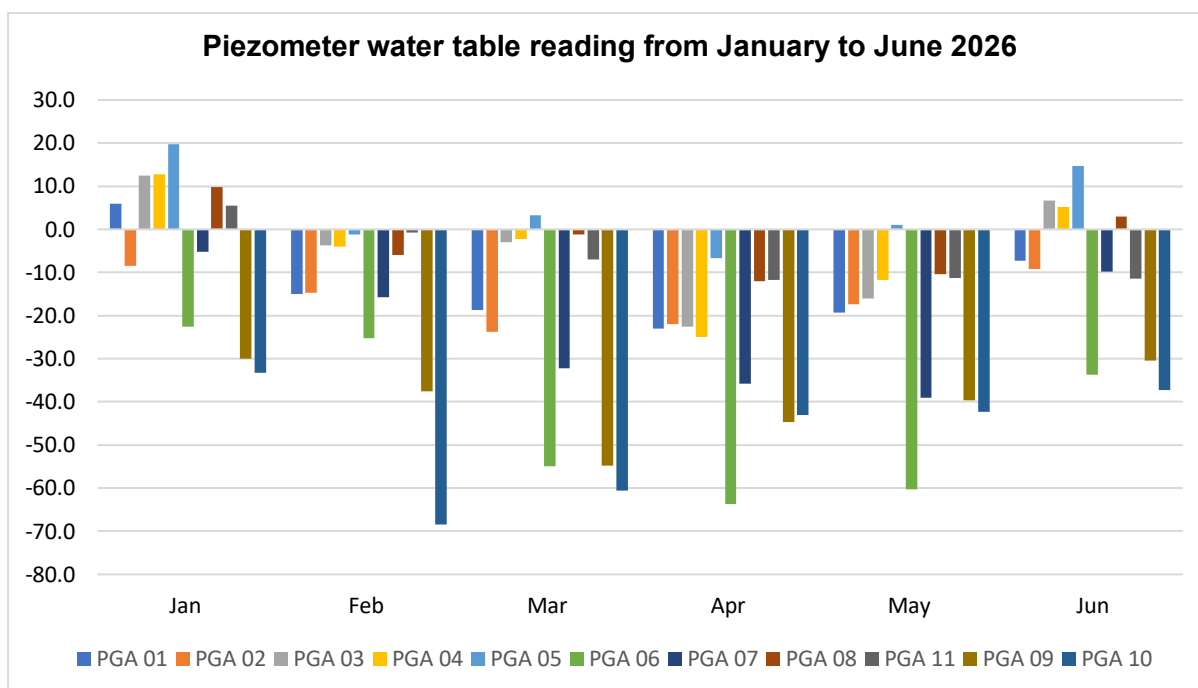


Figure 6. Average water level readings from all piezometers from January to June 2026

Among the monitoring sites, FC 103 consistently recorded the most favourable groundwater conditions across three years of water level monitoring from 2024 to 2026. Water levels at Piezometers PGA 03, PGA 04, and PGA 05 remained relatively close to the peat surface throughout the monitoring period, with several readings remaining above ground level in January and June. Although groundwater levels declined temporarily during April and May, they recovered towards the end of the reporting period. These findings suggest that the hydrological pattern in FC 103 remain in good condition but are heavily influenced by wet and dry seasons

In contrast, the adjacent area of FC 84 recorded the lowest groundwater levels throughout the monitoring period. Piezometer PGA 06 consistently showed the deepest water table, reaching approximately -63.8 cm in April, while PGA 07 declined to -39.0 cm in May. These readings indicate that this section remains more susceptible to peat drying during prolonged dry weather. Although groundwater levels improved in June, the area will continue for a close monitoring and regular maintenance of hydrological structures to minimise fire risk and maintain peat moisture. The adjacent area of FC 83 exhibited moderate seasonal fluctuations, with groundwater levels generally ranging between -7 cm and -23 cm. These readings remained considerably higher than those recorded at FC 84, indicating relatively stable hydrological conditions and suggesting that the check dams structure built in Parit Sembilan have managed to retain water and have continued to support adequate peat moisture.

However, belowground water levels recorded within the adjacent oil palm plantation were consistently lower than those observed within the restoration sites. Water table levels ranged from approximately -30 cm to -68.5 cm, reflecting the drained conditions associated with plantation management and marked a high potential of fire to happened. The clear contrast between the plantation and the conserved peatland forest demonstrated the effectiveness of hydrological restoration within GAFR in maintaining higher groundwater levels and improving peatland water retention.

Overall, the January to June 2026 monitoring results indicate that the hydrological restoration programme continues to support favourable groundwater conditions across most rehabilitation sites. While seasonal drying was evident during April and May, groundwater levels recovered following the onset of wetter conditions in June. However, according to Malaysian Meteorological Department (METMalaysia) (**refer Annex 1**), the El Niño phenomenon forecasted to occur from May to September 2026 and can be prolonged into early 2027. With that, a continuous monitoring by the KomPAS community, together with regular inspection and maintenance of canal blocks and check dams, will enable early detection of hydrological changes and will contribute significantly to maintaining peat moisture and preventing peat fire occurrence within the project area.



Figure 7. The local patroller team continues to actively monitor and record the belowground water level at the piezometers installed in GAFR and the adjacent areas.

4.5 Monitoring and maintenance of canal blocks and the signage installed

Regular monitoring and maintenance of canal blocks were conducted throughout the January to June 2026 period to maintain the effectiveness of hydrological restoration and reduce peat fire risk within the GAFR. Most canal blocks remained in good condition despite the prolonged hot and dry weather. Minor erosion was observed at canal blocks in Parit Sembilan and FC 94, where maintenance works, including reinforcement with soil-filled sacks and routine clearing of debris from the PVC drainage system, were carried out to improve water retention and ensure the continued functionality of the structures. However, Canal Block 6 adjacent to FC 83 was found to have been destroyed following land reclamation activities that buried the canal, resulting in the loss of its water retention function and contributing to lower groundwater levels in the surrounding peatland, as reflected by the deeper water table readings at piezometer PGA 06. Joint site inspections with KomPAS member were also undertaken to assess the condition of infrastructure and support effective site management. Maintenance activities included inspecting canal blocks, clearing vegetation around information signages, and repairing damaged signboards to improve visibility and accessibility.



Figure 8. Maintenance of conservation signages and monitoring of the check dam structures were carried out to ensure that all installations remained in good condition and continued to function effectively. Regular inspections helped verify the structural integrity of the check dams, enabling them to retain water efficiently, maintain peatland moisture, and support hydrological restoration within GAFFR.

4.6 Forest tree propagation training and KompAS nursery management

Forest tree seed propagation training and nursery management activities were conducted to strengthen the technical capacity of KompAS in producing quality native forest trees for forest rehabilitation. The training covered the seed handling and storage, seed germination medium, transplanting of seedlings into polybags, nursery maintenance, watering regimes and shading requirements. This knowledge was transferred to ensure the best practices are applied in maintaining healthy seedlings, improving seed germination survival rates before trees are transferring to the KompAS main nursery.



Figure 9. The community carried out seed propagation, nursery maintenance, and the transplanting the seedlings into polybags based on the techniques they had learned.



Figure 10. The young trees transferred to the main KomPAS nursery in Kg. Triang for further monitoring by the nursery leader.

In addition to enhancing technical knowledge, the training promoted community ownership of the restoration programme by enabling KomPAS members to manage the nursery independently and produce a sustainable supply of planting materials for future rehabilitation activities. Proper nursery management ensures the availability of healthy and vigorous seedlings, reduces dependence on external sources, and supports the long-term sustainability of restoration efforts. The establishment of a community-managed nursery also provides practical learning opportunities for local volunteers while strengthening community participation in the GAFR conservation efforts.

As of June 2026, a total of 2,549 native forest trees are being maintained at the KomPAS community nursery. The nursery comprises a diverse range of indigenous tree species that have been propagated to support ongoing and future forest rehabilitation activities within the GAFR and for supply to other places. The availability of these seedlings demonstrates the growing capacity of the KomPAS community to produce and manage quality trees, ensuring a sustainable supply of native species for long-term restoration efforts. The composition of the trees is presented in the **Table 5** below.

Table 5. List of tree species in the KomPAS nursery.

No.	Tree species	Total trees
1.	<i>Dipterocarpus oblongifolius</i> (Keruing Neram)	805
2.	<i>Hopea odorata</i> (Merawan Siput Jantan)	1,224
3.	<i>Shorea macrophylla</i> (Engkabang)	25
4.	<i>Dryobalanops oblongifolia</i> (Kapur Bukit)	216
5.	<i>Dipterocarpus rigidus</i> (Keruing Bukit)	10
6.	<i>Shorea sumatrana</i> (Balau Sengkawang/Meranti Bunga)	221
7.	<i>Hopea nervosa</i> (Merawan Jangkang)	48
Total trees		2,549



Figure 11. An inspection on saplings was conducted with KomPAS members to ensure the saplings were in good health and free from disease.

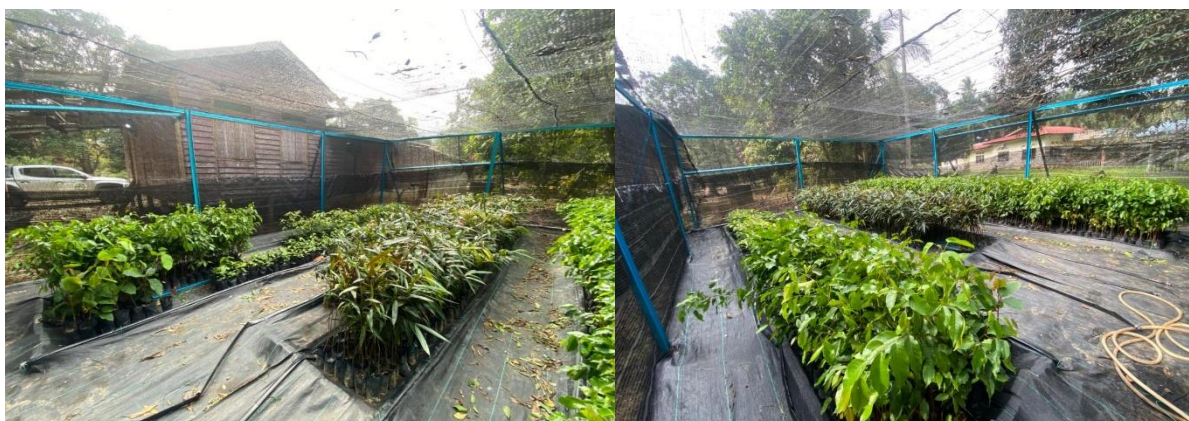


Figure 12. Saplings preparation by KomPAS for the upcoming Phase 3 tree planting at FC 103.

4.7 Completion of Phase 2 tree planting activity and maintenance of the rehabilitation planting site

The tree planting programme at FC 103, GAFF continued to demonstrate steady progress during the first half of 2026. Following the successful completion of Phase 2, the rehabilitation programme achieved its target of planting 2,600 native trees, bringing the cumulative total to 5,400 trees across approximately 8 hectares of degraded peat swamp forest.

A comprehensive tree census and survival assessment recorded 3,486 surviving trees, representing an overall survival rate of 65%. This outcome reflects a moderate level of success in the restoration programme. Among the planted species, Tembesu (*Fagraea fragrans*) and Merawan Siput Jantan (*Hopea odorata*) recorded the highest survival rates of 96% and 95%, respectively, indicating their strong adaptability to the restoration site. The relatively lower survival rates recorded for Kasai (*Pometia pinnata*) and Keruing Neram (*Dipterocarpus oblongifolius*) suggest that these species are more susceptible to the prevailing dry site conditions and may require closer attention during Phase 3 and replacement planting activities.

Encouragingly, signs of natural regeneration have also been observed within the restoration site, with several native tree species establishing through natural seed dispersal — a positive indicator of improving ecological conditions and the gradual return of natural forest dynamics.

Ongoing maintenance activities have further contributed to measurable improvements in soil quality, suggesting that ground conditions are becoming increasingly conducive to supporting both planted and naturally regenerating vegetation.

Table 6. Summary of Tree Survival Monitoring at Forest Compartment 103, GAFR (2026)

No.	Tree Species	Trees Planted	Total Trees Survived	Survival Rate (%)
1.	Kasai (<i>Pometia pinnata</i>)	648	121	19
2.	Pulai (<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>)	250	164	66
3.	Tenggek Burung (<i>Melicope lunu-ankenda</i>)	300	288	96
4.	Merawan Siput Jantan (<i>Hopea odorata</i>)	1,436	1,365	95
5.	Bintangor Paya (<i>Calophyllum ferrugineum</i>)	1,254	857	68
6.	Keruing Neram (<i>Dipterocarpus oblongifolius</i>)	1,415	601	42
7.	Tembesu (<i>Fagraea fragrans</i>)	97	90	93
TOTAL		5,400	3,486	65

However, the restoration site continues to face several challenges, including dry site conditions, competition from surrounding vegetation, fluctuating hydrological conditions, and the need for continuous maintenance to support tree establishment. To address these challenges, the KomPAS field team is currently focusing on completing the scheduled maintenance activities, including vegetation management, site monitoring, and further assessment of planting performance. Given the moderate survival rate, ongoing monitoring, regular maintenance, replacement planting, and adaptive management strategies will be implemented to enhance tree survival and ensure the long-term sustainability of restoration efforts.

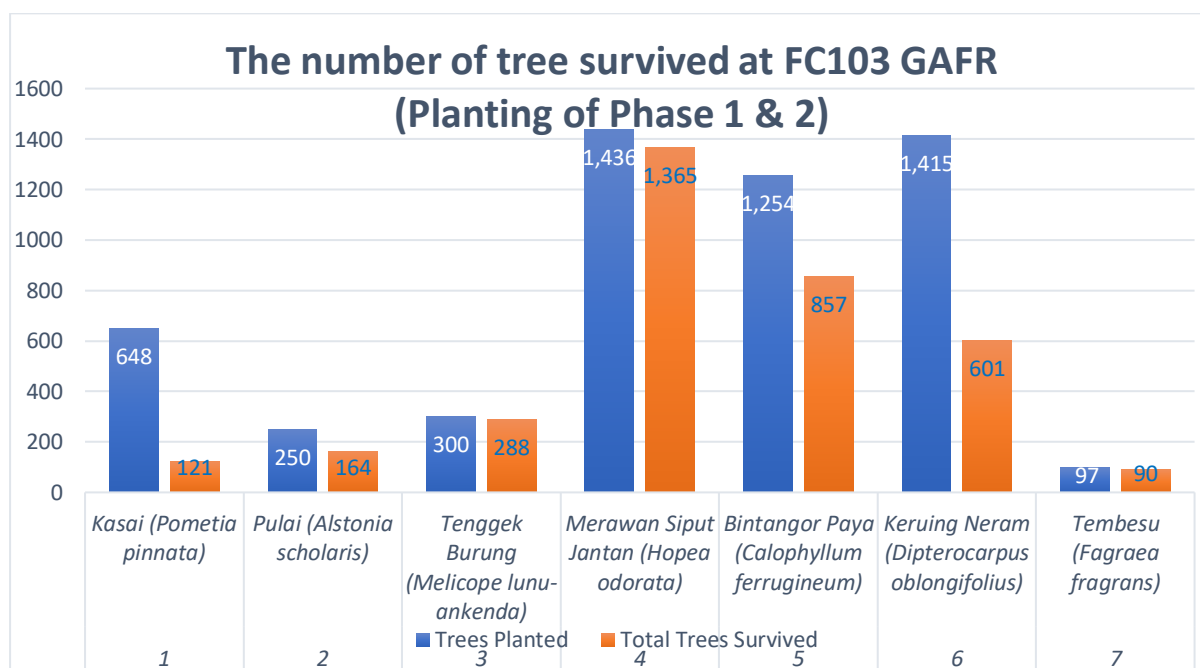


Figure 13. Total number of planted trees and their survival count at FC 103, Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (2026).



Figure 14. Tree planting activities conducted by the KompAS field team.

To enhance planting success, routine maintenance activities were undertaken by the KompAS field team, including clearing weeds and climbing vegetation, improving access paths, repositioning support stakes, and monitoring tree growth. The maintenance programme also identified challenges affecting tree survival, particularly prolonged hot and dry weather, limited rainfall, and competition from invasive vegetation. These findings will guide adaptive management for tree planting under Phase 3 and the tree replacement activity that will be conducted, which is scheduled to commence in August 2026 with approximately 1,600 new trees. The continuous monitoring and maintenance efforts are expected to improve long-term survival rates and strengthen the resilience of the restored forest ecosystem. A comprehensive report on the tree planting, survival assessment, and site maintenance activities is provided in **Attachment 4**.



Figure 15. Maintenance and clearing of wild plants along the planting lines.

4.8 Environmental Education Programme: The Importance of Wetland ecosystems (Peatland and Mangrove Forests)

On 27th June 2026, the THP-GEC Wetlands Environmental Education Programme 2026 was successfully held at SMK Mersing, bringing together 134 participants from seven schools, government agencies, and the local community to strengthen awareness of peatland and mangrove ecosystems through interactive environmental education activities. The programme was attended by PPD Mersing representatives, Tn. Saiful bin Atan (District Education Officer), Tn. Ishak bin Mohd. Bakri (Deputy District Education Officer – Student

Development Sector), and Encik Md. Syaifful Neezam bin Md. Seth (Assistant District Education Officer).

The programme commenced with an introductory session on wetland ecology and mangrove ecosystems delivered by GEC. Then followed by knowledge-sharing sessions by Mr. Muhammad Syafiq Mat Nazari (TH Plantations) on conservation efforts by THP, En. Mohd. Reydzuan bin Yong (PHDJT Mersing) on peatland ecology, and En. Anuar bin Hussine (BOMBA Mersing) on fire risk management in peatlands. Programme highlights included interactive exhibition booths conducted by KompAS, environmental games, and a reflection and quiz session to enhance students' understanding of wetland ecosystems. Representatives from PPD Mersing also visited the exhibition booths and interacted with participants before departing due to other official commitments. The programme concluded with a closing ceremony by the Principal of SMK Mersing and certificate presentation to speakers and participating schools. Overall, the programme successfully strengthened environmental awareness and fostered collaboration among TH Plantations, GEC, PPD Mersing, PHDJT, BOMBA, KompAS, and participating schools in supporting peatland and mangrove conservation efforts. The activity report provided in **Attachment 5**.



Figure 16. Group photo of school participants, PPD Mersing, PHDJT, BOMBA, THP, GEC and KompAS community.

4.9 Facilitating the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) programme at Mersing District level and JSFD programme

Between January and June 2026, the GEC was invited to facilitate several environmental awareness exhibitions organised at the Mersing District level. These programmes served as an important platform to showcase the ongoing peatland and forest rehabilitation initiatives implemented in Mersing, while increasing public understanding of the importance of conserving wetland ecosystems. Through interactive exhibitions and public engagement activities, GEC disseminated information on ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, peatland and mangrove management, and community-based conservation initiatives. These outreach efforts strengthened public awareness across various segments of society, promoted environmental stewardship, and encouraged greater community

participation in supporting the long-term conservation and rehabilitation of natural ecosystems in Mersing.

4.9.1. MARA Prihatin Desa Madani programme at Kampung Hubong

On 28th January 2026, the GEC participated in an environmental awareness exhibition held in conjunction with the MARA Prihatin Desa Madani programme at Kampung Hubong, Mersing. The exhibition aimed to increase public awareness and understanding of the importance of peatland and mangrove ecosystems through a range of interactive educational displays. These included environmental games, informational brochures, peat soil samples, fire risk markers, mangrove herbarium specimens, and live displays of native peat swamp fish species, *Betta tussyae* and *Betta tomi*, providing visitors with hands-on learning experiences. The programme was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Zulfikri bin Osman, Director-General of MARA, and attracted participation from students, families, and the local community. The interactive exhibition successfully enhanced public knowledge of wetland ecosystems, highlighted ongoing conservation and rehabilitation initiatives in Mersing, and encouraged greater appreciation of biodiversity and community responsibility towards environmental conservation.



Figure 17. Project Exhibition at the MARA Prihatin Desa Madani Programme at Dewan Serbaguna Kampung Hubong

4.9.2. GEC's Exhibition in Conjunction with the Launch of the Central Forest Spine Biodiversity Exploration at Hutan Simpan Lenggor and Hutan Simpan Mersing, Johor

On 19th May 2026, an exhibition was organised in conjunction with the *Majlis Perasmian Eksplorasi Biodiversiti di Rangkaian Central Forest Spine (CFS)* at Hutan Simpan Lenggor Dan Hutan Simpan Mersing, Johor to showcase ongoing conservation initiatives related to peatland and mangrove ecosystems. The exhibition featured various educational and awareness materials, including brochures, publications, information on the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS), peat soil samples, and conservation-related book publications to enhance public understanding and engagement. The exhibition also highlighted findings from biodiversity and wildlife monitoring activities conducted within peatland ecosystems, including the documentation of rare peat swamp fish species, flora diversity, and wildlife recorded in restoration and conservation areas. Information shared during the exhibition demonstrated the ecological importance of peat swamp forests as critical habitats supporting unique and threatened biodiversity.



Figure 18. Project exhibition conducted at Politeknik Mersing, in conjunction with the *Majlis Perasmian Eksplorasi Biodiversiti di Rangkaian Central Forest Spine (CFS)* at Hutan Simpan Lenggong Dan Hutan Simpan Mersing, Johor.

In addition, the exhibition showcased conservation and restoration initiatives implemented with the support of THP under the GAFR programme, as well as collaborative efforts with Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing and local stakeholders to strengthen ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, environmental awareness, and sustainable peatland management. The event was officiated by YB Tuan Syed Ibrahim bin Syed Noh, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES). The exhibition served as an effective platform for knowledge sharing, public engagement, and environmental awareness, while promoting greater appreciation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental stewardship.

5.0 Challenges and problems encountered during the project implementation period (January – June 2026)

i. Unpredictable weather condition in Mersing

Project implementation during the first half of 2026 was affected by changing weather conditions in Mersing. The Northeast Monsoon (November 2025–January 2026) brought prolonged rainfall, which caused flooding and damaged the access road to the rehabilitation site at Forest Compartment (FC) 103, GAFR. As a result, access to the site was temporarily limited, affecting the schedule for Phase 2 tree planting programme as well as routine monitoring and maintenance activities. From February to April 2026, the project area experienced a prolonged period of hot and dry weather. These conditions reduced soil moisture, affected the establishment of newly planted trees, and increased the risk of peatland fires. The dry conditions also limited the timing of certain field activities.

To minimise these impacts, GEC and the KomPAS community adjusted the implementation schedule based on site conditions. Road repair works were carried out to restore access to the rehabilitation area, while routine maintenance activities, including vegetation control, groundwater level monitoring, canal block inspections, and community fire patrols, continued throughout the reporting period. Although weather conditions affected the implementation schedule, the planned activities for the reporting period, including the completion of the Phase 2 tree planting programme, were successfully carried out. Maintenance of the planting site and the comprehensive tree survival assessment are ongoing, and the updated results will be reported in the Quarter 3 (July–September 2026) progress report.

ii. Tree Maintenance and Survival Assessment

Maintaining the survival and healthy establishment of planted trees remains an ongoing challenge due to site conditions, including dense vegetation growth, fluctuating hydrological conditions, and prolonged dry periods. These factors require regular maintenance to reduce competition from weeds, improve access to planting areas, and support the growth of young seedlings. To address these challenges, the KompAS community has prioritised routine maintenance activities, including vegetation clearing, replacement of damaged planting stakes, and regular site monitoring. In addition, GEC has provided technical guidance on the selection of suitable native tree species based on site conditions, as well as appropriate planting techniques and post-planting maintenance practices to improve tree establishment and long-term survival. A comprehensive tree census and survival assessment are currently being undertaken following the completion of maintenance activities. The updated maintenance progress, verified tree survival count, and recommendations for further improvement will be presented in the Quarter 3 (July–September 2026) progress report.

iii. KompAS restructuring

In March 2026, the project encountered an unforeseen challenge following the passing of the KompAS field team leader due to illness. His passing affected the morale of the community members and temporarily reduced the team's capacity to coordinate field activities, as he had played a key role in organising project implementation. To ensure continuity of the project, the KompAS Chairman restructured the field team by appointing a new team leader from among the existing members. GEC continued to engage closely with the community throughout the transition to support coordination and maintain the implementation of planned activities. Following the restructuring, the KompAS field team resumed its roles and responsibilities, allowing rehabilitation, monitoring, and maintenance activities to continue in accordance with the project work plan. While the transition required a period of adjustment, the community remained committed to supporting the implementation of the conservation programme.

iv. Increase of operational cost

During the reporting period, the project experienced an increase in operational costs, particularly for transportation to and from the rehabilitation sites. Higher fuel prices contributed to increased travel expenses for field activities involving personnel, equipment, and planting materials. To manage these additional costs, field activities were planned more efficiently by combining multiple tasks into a single site visit where feasible. This approach helped optimise the use of transportation resources while ensuring that rehabilitation, monitoring, and maintenance activities continued according to the project work plan. Although operational costs increased during the reporting period, project implementation remained on schedule through careful planning and the efficient use of available resources.

6.0 Pictorial report of the project activities implemented from January to June 2026



Figure 19. Patrolling and monitoring activities were conducted by the KompAS community patrollers.



Figure 20. Regular monitoring and data collection were conducted using the camera traps installed in the GAFFR.



Figure 21. A series of meeting conducted with the East Johor District Forestry Office (PHDJT).



Figure 22. A regular meeting conducted with the KompAS community members.



Figure 23. TH Plantations Berhad coordination and monitoring visit to GAFR, Mersing, Johor.



Figure 24. A coordination meeting with the Mersing District Officer (PPD Mersing), held to secure approval for the CEPA programme.



Figure 25. A meeting conducted with the District Engineer of Mersing District Drainage and Irrigation Department.



Figure 26. Planting site maintenance conducted by the KomPAS field team.



Figure 27. Tree census and monitoring activities conducted at FC 103, GAFR, Mersing, Johor.



Figure 28. KomPAS nursery management, tree inspection and arrangement.



Figure 29. Project Exhibition conducted at Politeknik Mersing for the Central Forest Spine Biodiversity Expedition 2026.



Figure 30. Speakers from PHDJT, THP, GEC and BOMBA Department during the Environmental Education Programme: The importance of Wetlands Ecosystem (Peatlands and Mangrove Forests) at SMK Mersing, Johor.



Figure 31. An exhibition and interactive games conducted during the CEPA Programme at SMK Mersing, Johor.



Figure 32. Interactive quiz and reflection sessions with the participants during the CEPA Programme at SMK Mersing, Johor.

7.0 Conclusion

Overall, the implementation of the Coastal Forest and Peatland Conservation Programme from January to June 2026 recorded satisfactory progress towards the long-term restoration and conservation of the peatland and coastal forest ecosystems within the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve (GAFR). Although project implementation was affected by several challenges, including unpredictable weather conditions, the restructuring of the KomPAS field team, rising operational costs, and the need for continued maintenance of the rehabilitation site, the planned activities were implemented largely according to the approved 2026 work plan.

During the reporting period, the project successfully completed the Phase 2 tree planting programme, bringing the cumulative total to 5,400 native trees planted across approximately 8 hectares of degraded peat swamp forest. Other key activities included hydrological rehabilitation through the maintenance of canal blocks, groundwater level monitoring, biodiversity monitoring, community nursery development, forest fire prevention patrols, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) programmes to increase environmental awareness among school students and local communities. The comprehensive maintenance programme and tree survival assessment are currently underway, and the updated findings will be reported in the Quarter 3 (July–September 2026) progress report.

The continued collaboration among the JSFD, TH Plantations Berhad (THP), GEC, KomPAS, and other stakeholders has remained essential in supporting project implementation. The absence of recorded peat fire incidents during the reporting period also indicates that the ongoing fire prevention measures, hydrological management, and community participation have contributed positively to reducing fire risk within the rehabilitation area.

Moving forward, the project will focus on completing the remaining activities under the 2026 work plan, including continued maintenance of the rehabilitation site, verification of tree survival, biodiversity and hydrological monitoring, community capacity building, and preparation for the next phase of restoration activities. These efforts will support the long-term conservation and sustainable management of GAFR and its peatland ecosystems.

8.0 Acknowledgement

Special thanks and appreciation to the Johor State Forestry Department (JSFD), Mersing District Office, East Johor Forestry Office (PHDJT), the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) of Mersing and the Mersing District Education Office (PPD Mersing). We are also deeply grateful to our funder, TH Plantations Berhad and to the project community, the Komuniti Pelindung Alam Sekitar Mersing (KomPAS) which consists members from Kampung Tenglu Batu 6, Kampung Penyabong, Kampung Air Papan, Kampung Triang and Kampung Semaloi, Mersing. We also extend our gratitude to all other stakeholders and agencies that have consistently supported the progress of this project. We hope for your continued support in the second half of 2026

List of attachments:

1. **Attachment 1:** List of meeting with local stakeholders
2. **Attachment 2:** The activity report on TH Plantations Berhad monitoring visit to Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Mersing, Johor
3. **Attachment 3:** Wildlife and roadkill report in the Gunung Arong Forest Reserve
4. **Attachment 4:** Planted tree monitoring, tree census and site maintenance at Forest Compartment 103, Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Mersing, Johor
5. **Attachment 5:** TH Plantations–GEC Wetlands Environmental Education Programme 2026

**KENYATAAN MEDIA****JABATAN METEOROLOGI MALAYSIA
KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI DAN KELESTARIAN ALAM****14 JUN 2026**

**MET Malaysia TINGKATKAN KESIAPSIAGAAN HADAPI RISIKO CUACA
PANAS DAN KERING**

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MET Malaysia) sedang memantau rapi perkembangan fenomena El Niño yang dijangka mula mempengaruhi cuaca negara dalam tempoh terdekat dan berkemungkinan berterusan sehingga awal tahun 2027.

Fenomena ini dijangka menyebabkan cuaca lebih panas dan kering daripada biasa, khususnya sepanjang Monsun Barat Daya yang telah bermula sejak 14 Mei 2026 dan dijangka berterusan sehingga September 2026. Keadaan ini berpotensi mengurangkan jumlah hujan di beberapa kawasan, meningkatkan risiko kekurangan bekalan air, kebakaran hutan dan tanah gambut serta kejadian jerebu.

Sebagai langkah kesiapsiagaan, MET Malaysia telah memperkukuhkan penyampaian maklumat cuaca dan amaran awal kepada kerajaan, agensi berkaitan dan orang ramai. Sehingga Jun 2026, MET Malaysia telah melaksanakan lebih 70 sesi taklimat, mesyuarat dan program libat urus berkaitan cuaca panas dan kering di peringkat kebangsaan, negeri dan daerah.

Antara sesi utama yang telah dilaksanakan termasuk taklimat kepada Kementerian Ekonomi, Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam (NRES), Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi Negara (MTEN), Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia serta pembentangan dalam Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN) dan Daerah (JPBD) di seluruh negara.

MET Malaysia juga menyediakan ramalan risiko kebakaran hutan dan tanah gambut sehingga tujuh hari ke hadapan, mengeluarkan ramalan jerebu serta bersedia membantu pelaksanaan Operasi Pembenihan Awan (OPA) sekiranya diperlukan dan keadaan cuaca mengizinkan.

Orang ramai disarankan untuk sentiasa mendapatkan maklumat cuaca terkini melalui aplikasi myCuaca dan laman sesawang rasmi MET Malaysia, menggunakan air secara berhemah serta mengelakkan aktiviti pembakaran terbuka.

MET Malaysia akan terus komited menyediakan maklumat cuaca yang tepat dan tepat pada masanya bagi membantu negara membuat persediaan awal menghadapi sebarang risiko cuaca ekstrem.

Sumber:
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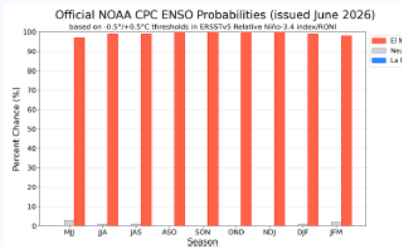
Unit Komunikasi Korporat, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia



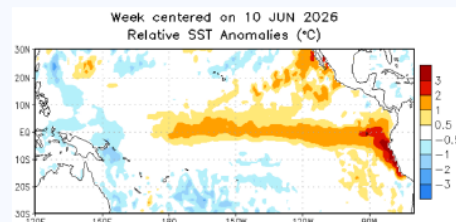
STATUS EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)



- ❑ Fenomena El Niño kini sedang berlaku dan diramal akan berterusan sekurang-kurangnya sehingga awal tahun 2027. Kebanyakan model iklim turut menjangkakan El Niño kali ini berpotensi mencapai tahap kuat atau "Super" (sangat kuat) sekitar November 2026 hingga Januari 2027 (**Rajah 1**).
- ❑ Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI) bagi Mac-April-Mei (MMA) ialah -0.1°C dan anomali mingguan terkini relatif suhu permukaan laut di kawasan pemantauan ENSO (Niño 3.4) menunjukkan nilai $+0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ (**Rajah 2**).
- ❑ Orang ramai disarankan agar sentiasa peka terhadap sebarang perubahan cuaca serta mendapatkan maklumat dan amaran terkini melalui laman web rasmi, aplikasi myCuaca dan saluran media sosial MET Malaysia.



Rajah 1: Kebarangkalian ENSO berdasarkan Index Relatif Suhu Permukaan Laut di Niño 3.4



Rajah 2: Anomali relatif suhu permukaan laut untuk minggu berpusat pada 10 Jun 2026

sumber: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf (15 Jun 2026)

KEMAS KINI PADA 16 JUN 2026