

RIVER Ranger

Kalithasan Kailasam
Global Environment Centre

1. Introduction

Malaysia is one of the twelve mega-diverse countries in the world. Over 15,000 known flowering plants, 1,500 terrestrial vertebrates and 150,000 invertebrates are found in the diverse terrestrial, marine and other aquatic habitats in the country. This rich biodiversity represents Malaysia's rich natural heritage. It is also blessed with abundant rainfall every year. This has been the source of life to our 150 river systems, with 100 of them in Peninsula Malaysia and 50 in Sabah and Sarawak. These river systems consist of 1800 rivers with a total length of 38,000 km.

Malaysia, like other countries in the world, is now facing problems of environmental degradation, which left unchecked, will threaten the well-being of the people. The main environmental problems in this country are:

1. River pollution due to sewage waste and effluents from factories and industries, agriculture and residential areas.
2. Deforestation due to forest land being cleared for agriculture and other development and illegal logging of forest trees.
3. Air pollution due to industries, transportation and open burning.

Malaysia has developed their own initiative to tackle these problems. Conservation, rehabilitation and protection have become preferred actions in handling environmental degradation as prevention rather than cure is now the main concept. This was achieved through proactive Environmental Education. Many of today's environmental challenges are complex and problematic, and they cannot be solved by public laws alone. Addressing these issues will require citizens who are informed and environmentally literate and are

willing to translate knowledge into action.

Environmental Education (EE) is fast gaining the attention it deserves especially after its importance was stressed at the IUCN Convention in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Malaysian government has taken up the call to incorporate EE in its development programmes. Environmental Education is the process of recognising values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and added tools necessary to understand and appreciate the inter-relationship among man, his culture and his bio-physical surroundings. Environmental Education has reached a juncture where it is positioned to become an equal partner with enforcement as a strategy for environmental management.

2. GEC 's Environmental Education Programme

Global Environment Centre is a Malaysian non-profit organization which coordinates local and global programme activities addressing key environmental problems. GEC has been very active for the past 10 years in the conservation of natural and man made resources through Environmental Education within their three programme areas: River Care Programme, Forest & Conservation and Awareness & Capacity Building Programme.

Objective

1. To enhance awareness of the importance of sustainable environmental management (protection, conservation & rehabilitation)
2. To provide knowledge & basic skills to assess, identify, understand, resolve and monitor environmental problems
3. To assist, initiate, and motivate the public to participate in activities and/or initiate actions to safeguard the environment and acknowledge their achievement

3. Approach

Knowing and understanding about the environment and the problems doesn't necessarily

lead to action. What really matters is the local action taken by the local community. With this in mind, GEC has developed and promoted Civic Science as a tool to engage community participation in local actions. The Civic Science concept is about helping people to develop an emotional bond with the environment. It involves 3 steps: awareness, knowledge and skill which will lead to action. The process empowers community members with the knowledge and skill to take action and begin their own environmental initiatives. This can happen through community environmental education programmes such as the SMART Ranger and RIVER Ranger Programmes by GEC. These programmes educate people about the solid waste management issues and river management issues in Malaysia and teaches them the skills needed to take action for themselves and therefore gives ownership of the environment back to the people.

Awareness	Knowledge	Skill	ACTION
exhibition, posters	books, leaflets	training, demonstration	river monitoring forest conservation recycling,

4. Target group

Managing our environment is all about managing people because the ultimate decision makers for environmental conservation are individuals - you and me. Governments, NGOs and others have a responsibility to lead and inform the public, but finally it is an individual choice made billions of times a day that counts the most. Therefore, GEC 's EE programme is developed to cater for all levels of communities:

- I. Public - Local community; General public
- ii. Organization - NGOs & CBOs (Non-Government & Community Based Organization)
- iii. Learning institutes - Schools, Colleges, University
- iv. Government - Local authorities, federal agencies
- v. Private sectors - Part of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- vi. Service providers - Rubbish collector, sewage operator

5. Environmental Education Tools

The right tools for an EE programme are vital to ensure the success of any programme or activities. In GEC, we have developed our own tools like the RIVER Report card (Appendix), customized river-based projects and many others. Besides that, we also use tools developed by other local or international organisations. Below are some of the tools that can be used:

- i. Powerpoints presentations
- ii. Printed materials - brochures, leaflets, books
- iii. Equipments - testing, quantifying
- iv. Site - case study, experience & understanding
- v. Module - training,
- vi. VCD/DVD
- vii. Website

6. Environmental Education Methods

Choosing the right and relevant methods is essential to have an effective EE programme. It is based on the target group, time period, objective or goals and resources as well. The methods to carry out an EE programme are:

I. information transmission

- talk, lecture, meeting, exhibition & media
- . participation
 - workshop, discussion & consultation, training of trainers
- . self-effective learning
 - training, demonstration, discovery, problem solving/critical thinking, experiments, simulations, role playing & dramatization

. site & issue based

investigations, site/field visit, outdoor teaching strategies

7. Environmental Education Scope

There are 2 areas of EE programmes in GEC: green & brown issues. Green issues focus on conservation & protection of ecosystems like forests and local fish species. The brown issues are related to daily life like littering, water pollution and air pollution. In Malaysia, GEC is focusing on brown issues that are synonymous with water related projects as well as local community participation projects.

8. Environmental Education Types

There are two types of EE projects in GEC: education based & activity based.

i. Educational based projects

- General environmental education
- Specific resource-based education – water, rubbish
- Specific issue-based education – pollution, erosion
- Specific environmental day events – World Water Monitoring Day
- Education on how to initiate localized projects – local community project
- Corporate awareness – resource management

ii. Activity based projects

- Local Participation Programme in River Management in Malaysia – one state one river programme
- SMART Ranger & RIVER Ranger Programme – sustainable resources initiative
- Establishment of Environmental Proactive Community Group – Friends of Kelana Jaya Park
- Youth Programme – Rakan Muda Alam Sekitar
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – river adoption

9. Environmental Education Implementation & Sustainability

GEC has developed key steps on how to initiate and sustain EE projects.

- i. Step 1 - introduce Civic Science: awareness, knowledge, skill
- ii. Step 2 - help/assist in initiating Local Action
- iii. Step 3 - inculcate Project Ownership within local community
- iv. Step 4 - give project proponents or owners the Recognition
- v. Step 5 - make sure enough Publicity given to successful projects
- vi. Step 6 - always link local projects with bigger or global projects by to 'Be part of something BIG'
- vii. Step 7 - build networking with relevant parties

10. Case study

RIVER Ranger programme

Introduction



The RIVER Ranger Programme developed through the SMART (Start Managing All Resources Today) Ranger Programme, a programme on how to manage our resources, both natural and man-made, developed by GEC. The programme began with a focus on Solid Waste Management and teaching public the importance of resource management and recycling. As it progressed, the training modules began to develop another angle - one that linked improper solid waste management to the state of our rivers.

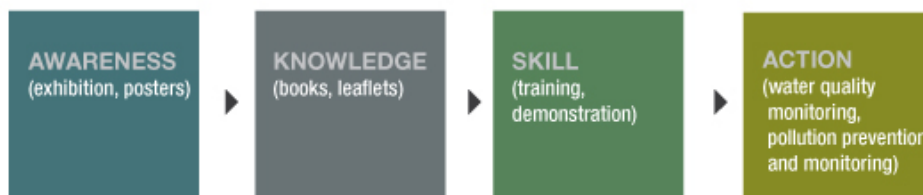
Soon it was clear to see that this could be developed into another education programme by itself as it involved many more issues, and needed a focus of its own. After the success of the SMART Ranger Programme, the RIVER Ranger programme was created with an aim to teach public about our water resources, and rivers and their ecosystems.

Objectives

1. To increase community members' awareness and knowledge in managing resources
2. To provide living skills to community members for use in local environmental management
3. To coach community members on ways to evaluate and audit river basins
4. To develop a data base on local rivers
5. To motivate community members to initiate water/river conservation projects in their areas

Approach

Global Environment Centre prides itself in being the first in Malaysia to introduce the concept of "Civic Science" as a way to approach community participation in river management. It means giving the people the awareness, knowledge and, most importantly, skill to take action on environmental matters.



Modules

The RIVER Ranger Programme covers 5 training modules, including an half-day hands-on practical field training at the nearest river.

Module 1: River & River Basin - Water, Man & River

This module gives an introduction to what is a river and a river basin, and to rekindle the relationship between humans and rivers, which is water.

Module 2: The Malaysian Scenario

This module gives an overview on the current status of rivers in Malaysia and Malaysia's

water quality ranking at a global level. It also highlights the main sources of pollution here in Malaysia - industrial, agricultural and residential, and the effect and impact on humans especially on our drinking water and health. Finally, the pollution phenomenon: algae blooms and alien fish domination

Module 3: Integrated River Basin Management

Teaches students about the Integrated River Basin Management Concept, which is how to look after rivers by considering the whole river basin rather than just the river. What is the proper way and integrated approach to managing our rivers? It needs the involvement of all parties: the government, private sector and public. How we can make a difference? The way forward is civic science - awareness, knowledge and skill for the general public, which will lead to action.

Module 4: Field Training Information

This module gives important information on how to actually audit and monitor rivers in the field, and what equipment and safety procedures are needed. It also briefs community members on the different parameters that need to be measured and what they represent in terms of water quality.

Module 5: On-site Practical Field Training

Community members will be taken to the river and carry out river mapping and river health check activities to assess the health of the river. This involves mapping out the area of the river basin and noting down all the different land uses and activities going on in the river basin. This will help to identify any sources of pollution. They are also asked to do a physical observation assessment of the river 's environment. Following this, they are taught how to do chemical and biological monitoring to assess the quality of the water in the river by using simple tools and the small animals (invertebrates) actually living in the river. Biological monitoring is an important part of the assessment, as it shows people that there are actually living organisms inside the river that depend on the river for its survival – that the river is a living entity, and not merely a path for water to flow.

Establishing a Community RIVER Ranger Programme

Establishing the RIVER Ranger Programme in a local community is a 5-step process:

Step 1: Identification Process

Before we can begin anything, GEC needs to identify the local issues in the community as well as all the stakeholders involved. This will allow us to develop a relevant plan of action for the area.

Step 2: Consultation Process

Once the stakeholders have been identified, GEC will liaise with relevant local authorities and government agencies, such as Department of Drainage & Irrigation, Department of Environment and City Council, local service providers, community leaders and local communities and arrange a consultation meeting. This meeting is required to listen to the views of everyone involved and to discuss the action plan. Once the activities have been agreed on, invitation letters and registration forms will be sent out to everyone.

Step 3: Training

Local community members will be trained by qualified RIVER Ranger Trainers or GEC staff, based on training modules prepared by GEC. Upon completion of the modules, they will be given a certificate of recognition and they will be fully certified RIVER Rangers. As RIVER Rangers, they are responsible for educating fellow friends and neighbours in their local area on water resource management, water conservation, sustainable water usage and wastewater management. At the same time, they will be able to monitor and help conserve their local rivers and its basin. They should also prepare a Local Action Plan for their next course of action.

Step 4: Action

Their duties are to carry out river monitoring in their area and to undertake the following

activities:

- Conduct river auditing and mapping activities to identify issues and problems in the local river basin.
- Develop a schedule for river observation and pollution and water quality monitoring. Data needs to be collected.
- Start water management projects/initiatives at home or in their community - water conservation, rainwater harvesting, water recycling
- Take part in global events such as World Rivers Day and World Water Monitoring Day

Step 5: Data collection and Reporting

To ensure the sustainability of the programme, the community must be encouraged to continue monitoring the river. They will be provided their very own blog to upload information on their monitoring activities as well as their data. The compiled data will also be exhibited on the RIVER Ranger website (www.riverranger.net). This will give them a sense of ownership and responsibility to the programme and river that they are monitoring. On top of that, they have to produce quarterly summary reports of their activities and data to GEC and provide reports to their local politicians or relevant government agencies to initiate action against polluters based on their observations or start their own rehabilitation activities.

Through this monitoring process, the community members can keep track of any changes in the water quality and share their findings with the wider public and relevant stakeholders.

RIVER Ranger Communities

Shah Alam Community

Twenty-four community members from 12 different zones in Shah Alam were trained as

RIVER Rangers. The programme was supported by a private sector company, Johnson Controls Automotive Holdings Sdn. Bhd., in collaboration with GEC and the local authorities, Shah Alam City Council.

The programme was established through the 5-step process and currently, Johnson Controls has allocated one staff member to supervise one zone each to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

Friends of Kelana Jaya Park

Friends of Kelana Jaya Park were formed in 2003 to take charge of the Kelana Jaya park and help maintain its environment. GEC, in collaboration with the Petaling Jaya City Council, helped train 15 members to be RIVER Rangers. They continue to take regular water quality measurements and are in close contact with GEC and the local authorities.

Bukit Kiara Longhouse Settlement

The longhouse is located very near to the Pencala River. The children of the longhouse were trained by GEC to be RIVER Rangers to educate them on the importance of rivers.

Outcomes of RIVER Ranger Community Activities

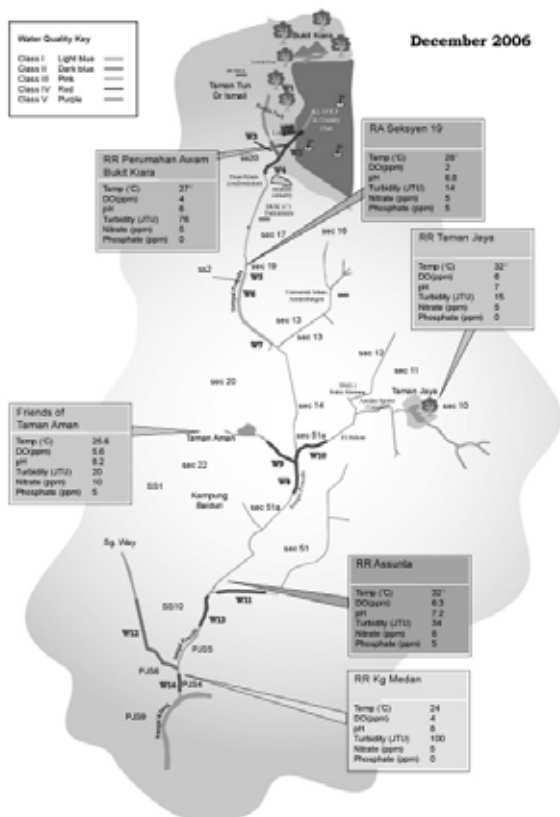
Water Quality of Tasik-tasik Taman Bandaran Kelana Jaya



INTRODUCED NATIONAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MALAYSIA

- CLASS I : Conservation of natural environment water supply I - practically no treatment necessary.
 Fishery I - very sensitive aquatic species
 Water Supply II - conventional treatment required
 Fishery II - sensitive aquatic species
 CLASS II : Recreational use with body contact
 Water Supply III - extensive treatment required
 Fishery III - common of economic value, and tolerant species livestock drinking
 CLASS IV : Irrigation
 CLASS V : None of the above

Sungai Pencala Water Quality Monitoring Program by GEC, DID Selangor & DID Wilayah Persekutuan (with UTM, RIVER Rangers, Resident Associations & Friends)



Appendix

Write down scores for each category and total them up.

CATEGORY 1 + CATEGORY 2 + CATEGORY 3 + CATEGORY 4 + CATEGORY 5
+ CATEGORY 6 + CATEGORY 7 + CATEGORY 8 + CATEGORY 9

TOTAL SCORE

OVERALL RATING
What do you think of this site?
(Draw a mouth for the face according to the total score)

Mouth guide
Scores

excellent 81-90
good 61-80
average 41-60
poor 21-40
very poor 0-20

category 7 vegetation

Look at the banks and the land extending from the river. Note if vegetation is natural or introduced and whether erosion occurs or not.

rating	characteristics
0-1	Lots of introduced plants, much clearing, bare ground, pasture. Extensive erosion.
2-4	Mixed plants, much clearing, large, eroded areas
5-7	Mixed native and introduced plants. Some clearing. Small corridor of vegetation. Minor erosion.
8-9	Mainly native plants, minor clearing. Natural vegetation extending up to 30m from water. No erosion.
10	Mainly undisturbed native plants, extending up to 30m from water. No erosion.

category 8

vertebrate animal life

(birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians & mammals)

Sit by your river and look for vertebrate animal activity. Record both the variety and number of animals. Look for fish and listen for frogs.

rating	characteristics
0	No animal life visible at all
1-2	One type of animal life
3-5	Two types of animals found
6-8	Three types of animal life found
9-10	More than three types of animal life found

Using bird books, learn the names of the birds found around the site and compile a list.

category 9

water movement

(voice of the river)

How fast does the water flow?

rating	characteristics
0-1	Stagnant, still and shallow
2-4	A little movement of mixing of water, shallow depth
5-7	Movement at the speed of a slow walk, wind waves
8-9	Good movement, the speed of a fast walk, wind waves
10	The speed of running or faster, wind waves, bubbly sound

map your area

Draw your local area map here and use a key to identify and record the different types of land use/human activities or other points of interest.

category 1

land use

List down the different land uses in the area.

rating	characteristics
0-1	Lots of industry nearby, most land is cleared, bare soil, disturbed environment
2-4	Some industry, some land cleared
5-9	Some commercial, recreational and residential use
10	No human use at all, in its natural state.

Create a list of places where the water is coming from.

category 2

rubbish

Make note of the type of rubbish that can be found in the water or surrounding area (this includes human made waste and natural litter such as leaves and animal faeces) and how much there is.

rating	characteristics
0-1	Lots of human made rubbish such as tyres, plastics and cans, oily films and excessive algae growth
2-4	A lot of human made waste such as cans and plastic, or algae
5-7	Some human made waste such as garden waste and plastics
8-9	One or two pieces of human made waste and local vegetation such as leaves floating in the water
10	No human use at all, preserved in its natural state

category 3

pipes & drains

Look for pipes, drains or trenches leading into your waterway. Record what's coming out of the pipes, drains or trenches.

rating	characteristics
0-1	A number of pipes from industry and/or sewage treatment and/or urban storm water
2-4	Some pipes or trenches
5-7	No pipes from industry, but some urban storm water drainage
8-10	No pipes or drains

category 4

extra structures/modifications

Record any extra structure/modifications along the river at the site such as weirs, concrete banks, piers or any artificial modification of the water flow

rating	characteristics
0-1	A number of artificial structures, large modifications of river's natural flow
2-4	Some artificial structures or some flow modifications
5-7	No concrete structures or minimal modifications of water flow
8-10	No extra structures or artificial modifications

category 5

smell

Take a water sample and record the smell.

rating	characteristics
0-1	Very strong, unnatural chemical smell
2-4	Strong, unnatural smell
5-7	Stronger decaying smell, or slight, unnatural smell
8-9	Very slight smell, perhaps natural decay
10	No smell / natural smell

category 6

water conditions

What colour is the river's water? Is the water clear or turbid?

rating	characteristics
0-1	Milky brown or green colour with particles and scum. You can hardly see through it!
2-4	Cloudiness and/or greenish colour with particles or film
5-7	Some colour and particle
8-9	A little colour
10	Colourless and as clear as tap water

river report card

Our streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands are far more than just a part of the scenery - they are the lifeblood of the environment. They provide homes for wildlife and plants, water supplies for homes and industries, and places of recreation and enjoyment for all of us. In addition, rivers reflect the health of the surrounding land because they are the collection point for water coming from all around.

But how can you tell if a river is healthy? It is actually quite simple to estimate the overall condition of the river. You do not need high-tech equipment or chemicals, but you will need your senses, your common sense and a genuine concern for the river.

In the next page, we have proposed categories in which you can make judgments on your local river. In each category, you can rate your river and then combine your scores to come up with an overall rating for the area. You can then compare different rivers or different sites along the same river. Keep good notes on each site, recording the location, date and details on anything special that might vary from visit to visit. This is important so you can compare your scores if you visit the site over time.

Site Description

Name of waterway / site :

Date :

Time :

Weather :

Has it rained in the past 24 hours?
(if yes, was it heavy?)

Name :
Contact details :
School / organisation :
Crew size :

RIVER Ranger

Kalithasan Kailasam

Global Environment Centre

1.

12 mega-diverse . 15,000
, 1500 150,000 ,
.
100 , Sabanr가 Sarewak 50 , 150 river system
river system 38,000km 1,800
.
가 ,

1. , , 가
- 2.
3. ,

1992 Rio De Janrio IUCN

2. GEC

GEC
GEC 10 가 (River Cre programme,
Feorest& Conservtion and Awareness & Cpacity Building Programme)

1. (, ,)

2.

3. 가

3.

Civic Science

Civic Science

가

가

GEC SMART Ranger River Ranger Program

Solid waste

가

demonstration

4.

NGO

GEC EE

- . - ,
- . - NGO&CBO(Non - Government & Community Based Organization)
- . - , ,
- . - ,
- . - CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility)
- . - ,

5.

EE

. GEC

RIVER Report,

- . .
- . - , ,
- . Equipment - , quantify
- . Site - ,
- . - training
- . VCD/DVD
- . Website

6.

· EE
· EE
·
· , , , &
·
· , & ,
· 가
· , , , / , , , &dramatization
· site&issue based
· investigation, ,

7.

GEC 가 . green
· brown , ,
· GEC
Brown .

8.

GEC 가 . : &
·
·
· - ,
· - ,
· - World Water Monitoring Day
· -
· corporate awareness - resource management

-
- River mangement -

- SMART Ranger & RIVER Ranger programme -
- - Friends of Kelana Jaya Park
- - Rakan Muda Alam Sekitar
- Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) - river adoption

9.

GEC EE 가 .

- step 1 - Civic Science : , ,
- step 2 - Local Action
- step3 - Project Ownership 가
- step4 - Recognition
- step5 - make sure enough Publicity given to successful projects
- step6 - "be part of something BIG'
- step7 -

10.

RIVER Ranger

RIVER Ranger GEC ,
 SMART(Start Managing All Resources Today)Ranger
 Programme . SMART R Solid Waste Management
 ,

. , . - one that
linked improper solid management to the state of our rivers

, ,
. SMART Ranger Programme , RIVER Ranger
programme , , 가

-
- 1.
 - 2.
 3. 가
 - 4.
 - 5.

GEC "Civic Science"

가

RIVER Ranger Programme 가
5 가 .

1 - River & River Basin - water, Man& River

2 - The Malaysian Scenario

. Finally, the pollution phenomenon: algae blooms and alien fish domination

3 : Integrated RIVER Basin Management

Integrated RIVER Basin Management 가 .
 ,
 가 .
 : , . ? civic
 science - , , .

4 - (field Training Information)

가 ,
 가 .

5 - on-site practical Field training

가 river mapping

Community RIVER Ranger Programme

RIVER Ranger Programme 5

step1 : (Identification proses)

GEC

가 . 가 .

step2 : (consultation process)

가 , GEC Department of Drainage & Irrigation,
Department of Environment and City Council ,

, , .
 , 가 .

step 3 : (training)

GEC가 RIVER Ranger
GEC . ,
RIVER Rangers가 . RIVER Ranger
 , , ,
 . ,
Local Action
Plan .

step4 : (Action)

RIVER Ranger .
-
- , ,
- 가 : , rainwater havesting,
- World Rivers Day World Water Monitoring Day 가

step5 : (Data collection and Reporting)

,
 .
 RIVER Ranger website
(www.riverranger.net) .
 GEC
 ,

RIVER Ranger Communities

Shah Alam Community

Shah Alam 12 24 RIVER
Rangers . GEC Johnson controls
Automotive Holdings Sdn. Bhd , Shan Alam

5 , Johnson Controls

Friends of Kelana Jaya Park

Friends of Kelana Jaya Park Kelana Jaya park ,
2003 . Kelana Jaya GEC 15
RIVER Rangers .
, GEC .

Bukit Kiara Longhouse Settlement

Longhouse Pencala 가 . longhouse
RIVER RANGERS가 GEC .