

Decentralisation of Forest Governance in Peninsular Malaysia: The case of Peatland Swamp Forest in North Selangor

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Peat swamp forests

- Permanently waterlogged **
- ** Reduced decomposition of plant OM
- Accumulates as peat (up to 20m thick) (UNDP, 2006) **
- Tropical peatland (0.3% of global land) contains 3.5% of **
- global vegetation and soil carbon pool (Amthor et al. 1998)





(Wetlands International, 2010)

STAGE

STAGE

Water colour

changes to

PSF in Malaysia

- About 7% (24577 km²) of total land surface (Wetlands International 2010).
- Only 20% are covered with PSF (ibid. 2010).
- In the 1980s the PSF coverage was halved from 0.67 Mha to 0.34 Mha in just a decade
- Agriculture (mainly palm oil-14% plantations), aquaculture, industry, and residential schemes (UNDP 2006; Schrier-Uijl et al. 2013).
- Deforestation, land subsidence, flash flooding, the loss of environmental services, carbon loss, and increase greenhouse gas emissions (Schrier-Uijl et al. 2013; Astiani et al. 2017; Lin et al. 2017).





Peat Swamp Forest in Selangor State



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PSF Management in RMFR



- The RMFR was subject to intensive logging since 1950s before its gazettement in 1990 as a forest reserve (GEC, 2013).
- Intensive logging, draining through abandoned canals, encroachment, fire, and unsustainable agricultural practices caused serious forest degradation.







Source : SSFD, 2013







 Recovered about 1000 ha of degraded PSF, evicted 304 encroachers, and initiated a rehabilitation programme

Decentralization of Forest Governance in North Selangor 2008

Raja Musa Forest Reserve

A Community - Based Rehabilitation Programme

Aims of this talk..

- Explore the state of decentralised governance, and
- Its outcomes in terms of PSF conservation and local development.

Built Multi-stakeholders Collaboration



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Commitments of this Transition..



- □ Restoration of degraded PSF through community engagement
- Prevention of fire incidences
- **□** Enhance socio-economy of local communities

Restoration of degraded PSF



» Home » Get involved » Monthly Tree Planting 2018
Monthly Tree Planting 2018
Monthly tree planting at North Selangor Peat Swamp F

- 24 February 2018 (Saturday)
- 24 March 2018 (Saturday)
- 28 April 2018 (Saturday) regist

Abo

- 30 Jun 2018 (Saturday)
- 21 July 2018 (Saturday)
- 18 August 2018 (Saturday)
- 22 September 2018 (Saturday)
- 27 October 2018 (Saturday)
- 24 November 2018 (Saturday)





- Friends of North Selangor Peat Swamp Forests (FNSPSF)
- Forest Ranger Groups (School Students)
- **Patrol Groups**



- FNSPSF involvement in the forest fire monitoring and prevention in the periphery of the forest reserve on daily basis during drought season
- Establishment of community nursery
- Being a facilitator for monthly tree planting activity
- ✓ Developing the ecotourism packages
- Participation in exhibition & creating awareness





Enhancement of Socio-economy



Tourists arrival

Year	Local	Foreign	Total
2011	8467	541	9008
2012	6234	397	6631
2013	4784	709	5493
2014	5785	761	6719
2015	8075	924	8999

Mean: 7370/year Min. income: RM309,540



Sustainability of Decentralised Actions: Conclusion



Communities Willingness to Contribution

 Locals are very much aware about the importance of RMFR conservation

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- Socio-economic activities
- The GEC built a successful multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Sustainability of this collaboration is a major challenge
- A stronger connection between forestry department and local community is necessary
 - Policy support
 - Effective participation



Thank You