





Environment

The number of
organisations supported
(FY2021):

20

The number of
ongoing projects
(FY2021):

22

The amount committed
since 2009:

RM159.03 Mil

YSD dedicates itself to the protection and preservation of the environment and conservation of biodiversity, while preserving landscape and seascape. Priority is given to vulnerable and/or endangered species and the preservation of forest reserves and marine parks. The Foundation supports world-class scientific research, with the aim of translating results into action, while developing highly capable local scientists, researchers, and custodians. YSD also supports initiatives and campaigns that encourage and empower communities to live sustainably by adopting green and sustainable practices in their lifestyle.

Relevant SDGs:



Environment Pillar

The Enhancement of Anti-Poaching Efforts at the Royal Belum State Park with Perak State Parks Corporation



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Our forests are home to some of the most diverse ecosystems. As human beings who have higher intelligence than animals, it is our duty to protect them, especially the vulnerable species. Poaching has driven many animal species to extinction. Ecosystems are interdependent and when we lose one species, we would often lose another soon after, like a chain reaction. We are highly concerned about the dwindling tiger population and this project is just what we need to ensure the tigers don't disappear from Royal Belum forever.

”

Haqi Mes
PSPC Anti-Poaching Ranger



PSPC rangers led by Haqi (front) trying hard to keep their backpacks dry to prevent adding extra weight onto their burden



Haqi (3rd from left) and his fellow YSD patrol team members celebrating the National Day patrolling in 2019

In an interview with YSD, Hadi, a Perak State Parks Corporation (PSPC) ranger, shares his journey of working in the State Park and how the project has changed his life as well as its impact on the environment.

Since September 2017, YSD has been assisting PSPC with a total commitment of RM4.12 million until 2023 to enhance anti-poaching efforts in the Royal Belum State Park. Apart from protecting the State Park's precious flora and fauna, YSD's sponsorship, which is now into its third phase, is vital for the conservation of the Malayan tiger, which may become extinct in the next decade unless drastic steps are taken to preserve the species.

Key Highlights:

- Depending on the goal and terrain, patrolling expeditions can last for days or weeks; the longest trip they have taken lasted for 15 days
- When patrolling operations require more coordination to take necessary action after collating relevant information, the team collaborates with rangers from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) and the Department of Forestry, as well as Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) personnel
- Collaborative efforts by PERHILITAN and the police in 'Ops Khazanah' for instance, are helping to curb poaching syndicates at the national level
- They are highly concerned about the dwindling tiger population, and this project will help ensure that the tigers do not vanish forever from the Royal Belum State Park

The sponsorship from YSD is also used to build capacity and support the livelihoods of those involved in the project, including the local community and Orang Asli. A total of 7 rangers and 8 general workers are being supported in 3 patrol teams under phase 3 of YSD's support, which runs until 2023, with 8 of them being Orang Asli.



Hadi (middle) guiding a community patrol team on data collection. The majority of the Orang Asli in the Royal Belum lack formal education. Apart from patrolling, Hadi now leads and guides the Orang Asli community patrol unit to monitor poaching signs, read maps and collect data

More on the Story:



Relevant SDGs:



Environment Pillar

Mangrove Conservation from the Eyes of Coastal Community Leaders in Perak



SHBKG Chairperson, Puan Puji Astuti is a well-respected leader who guides 12 other community members in carrying out community-based mangrove conservation work

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I became more passionate about conserving mangroves as I worked with GEC and my fellow Sahabat Hutan Bakau Kuala Gula (SHBKG) members, which now has 12 members. Together we learned more about the essential roles that mangroves play in our lives. Being able to see the trees we planted thriving and the crab traps hung on the trees that catch crab for our sustenance, I feel we are at the service of both the land and the sea. Our planting site was neglected and at risk of more erosions, but now we are overjoyed to see it thriving with mangrove trees. What is more, our fishermen are happy they could make up to RM400 a day for about a week during high tides, which occur every 3 months.

”

Puan Puji Astuti Ismaun
Chairperson of Sahabat Hutan Bakau
Kuala Gula (SHBKG)

Key Highlights:

- GEC has successfully identified and mapped out mangrove areas that have unique habitat and species diversity for biodiversity conservation and areas prone to degradation of mangroves, coastal erosion, and other natural threats
- GEC has successfully helped to register SHBPPL under The Registry of Societies Malaysia (ROS) Perak on 3rd June 2021
- As of August 2021, GEC, SHBKG and SHBPPL planted 8,319 mangrove seedlings in their respective areas



SHBPPL Chairperson, Encik Abdullah Radzi helping a Sime Darby Berhad representative plant a shade tree at an SHBPPL mangrove nursery planting site

“

Being involved in this community to look after the mangroves and revive our coastlines have become our mission. Before this, the local community did not even bat an eye whenever they saw developers or contractors cutting down mangrove trees to be turned into supply materials for their projects. But today, we have the awareness to 'heal' our coastlines again by planting more trees. In Islam, this endeavour is also considered jihad (a holy struggle for a moral or spiritual goal) in which we battle against irresponsible actions that would harm mangrove forests which are also one of Allah's creations. To me, this paradigm shift makes all our hard work and struggle even more meaningful and worthwhile.

”

Encik Abdullah Radzi Ramli
Chairperson of Sahabat Hutan Bakau Pasir Panjang Laut (SHBPPL)

Puan Puji Astuti Ismaun, 43, of SHBKG and Encik Abdullah Radzi Ramli, 60, of SHBPPL, shared their bittersweet experiences, obstacles and hopes in protecting and conserving the ocean frontline defenders that shield the land they call home in an interview with YSD.

YSD has committed a total of RM1.2 million for 3 years from February 2020 to January 2023 to the Global Environment Centre (GEC) towards the community-based mangrove conservation programmes, complemented by a sustainable livelihood programme in Kuala Gula, Kerian, as well as Sitiawan, Manjung, Perak.

GEC had received an additional RM300,000 for their ongoing project with YSD via a matching grant from the Ministry of Finance.

YSD's support will reach upwards of 7,300 community members in both areas, mainly from the B40 group. This programme aims to work with local communities via 2 registered local Community-Based Organisations (CBO) namely, SHBKG and SHBPPL. The sponsorship from YSD will also be directed towards sustainable management of mangrove and coastal resources, as well as stakeholder engagement sessions.



Sime Darby Berhad Group CEO Dato' Jeffri (right) and Global Environment Centre (GEC) Director Faizal Parish smiling for the camera after planting several mangrove saplings at Teluk Rubiah Forest Reserve in Kuala Gula

More on the Story:



Relevant SDGs:



Environment Pillar

Challenges of Conducting Research on the Ground with Management and Ecology of Malaysian Elephants, PONGO Alliance, and Marine Research Foundation



Or Oi Ching showing the signs of elephant rubbing marks on a tree in the forest

“

In my opinion, there is still a long way to go for wildlife conservation in this nation, either with or without the emergence of this pandemic. Wildlife conservation relies on support from the people, and we need everyone in society to be on board to turn the situation around. Mother Nature seems fragile, but she is highly resilient to recover if we allow it. Everyone can help lend a hand in conserving nature and wildlife, regardless of where they are and their profession. Never underestimate any act of kindness, as the effect can ripple far and wide. It is up to us to make that change.

”

Or Oi Ching
Management and Ecology of Malaysian
Elephants (MEME)



Dr. Oram (4th from left) with representatives of Sabah Forestry Department - Forestry Research Centre staff and oil palm company partner Sawit Kinabalu during an outreach and sharing activity

In an interview with YSD, Or Oi Ching, Dr Felicity Oram and Dr Nicolas J Pilcher from Management and Ecology of Malaysian Elephants (MEME), PONGO Alliance and Marine Research Foundation (MRF), respectively, they highlighted some of the challenges in ground research that was brought about by the pandemic over the past year. They also discussed how they are working around these limitations and their vision for wildlife conservation.

YSD's sponsorship aims to support MEME, PONGO Alliance and MRF in their world-class scientific research to translate evidence to action for the conservation of elephants, orangutans, and marine megafauna (such as sea turtles, sharks, rays, and dugongs) respectively in Malaysia. Additionally, it will also be used to develop highly skilled local scientists, researchers, and custodians to ensure the sustainability of the projects towards the causes.

YSD has been working with MEME since January 2012 in supporting their conservation efforts with a total commitment of RM8.11 million until December 2022. The funding will allow MEME to continue research on elephant behaviour, ecology, and Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC); while building capacities of Malaysian wildlife conservation scientists, policymakers, and practitioners and providing MEME with the ability to work on elephant and biodiversity conservation policies and practices.

In support of PONGO Alliance's conservation efforts, YSD has committed RM1.2 million between April 2019 and September 2021. PONGO also received an additional RM300,000 for their ongoing project with YSD via a matching grant from the Ministry of Finance. This will create a landscape for the co-existence of humans and orangutans, as well as other wildlife species in the mixed oil palm and forest landscape of Kinabatangan, Sabah.

PONGO Alliance will also be a medium to encourage strategic collaboration with the local government, oil palm growers, NGOs, and local communities to advocate and synergise conservation efforts. This will help develop a guideline of best management practices for plantation estates to facilitate orangutan-human co-existence.

YSD has committed RM2.17 million between September 2018 and February 2023 for MRF. MRF also received an additional RM200,000 for their ongoing project with YSD via a matching grant from the Ministry of Finance. The sponsorship began with YSD supporting MRF's efforts to save Sea Turtles by operationalising Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in Sabah. This has now been expanded to conserve other large marine megafaunas such as sharks, rays, and dugongs. The funding is used for the deployment of these TEDs, as well as to build capacity amongst local fishermen and officers of the Department of Fisheries across Malaysia, among others.

“

It needs to be recognised that meaningful change toward co-existence is a dynamic process, and progress may at times be slow and certainly will be uneven. Consistent, well-defined, and progressive engagement over time is necessary to overcome this. We are very grateful for YSD’s visionary leadership as the initiating funder of this novel project and incredibly grateful for the increased support from YSD over the past financial year.

I hope in the current rush to get the global economy back on track; we will stay inspired to work together to address core environmental quality issues like plastic and water pollution that negatively affect all people and all wildlife everywhere.

”

Dr Felicity Oram
PONGO Alliance Project Director



Dr. Oram (middle) engaging with estate workers who had reported orangutan sightings at a new planting area



Dr. Pilcher (left) started the TED programme in 2007 with fisherman in Sabah. In this pre-pandemic photo, he works with a fisher representative from Kudat to build a TED



(Pre-pandemic photo) MRF project coordinator Liyana Izwin Khalid (far right) attaching an underwater camera system at the back of a TED to record how the TED works underwater

“

Strategy number one (to navigate the challenges of the pandemic) was a shift in focus from the TED work to the time-lapse camera work, as this did not require interaction with large groups of fishermen. We were also forced to limit our activities to a few ports in the early months when inter-district travel was prohibited. We set up meetings with our Government counterparts to delay some of our work and come up with alternative plans for project implementation.

”

Dr Nicolas J Pilcher

Marine Research Foundation (MRF) Founder and
Executive Director

Key Highlights:

- MEME had identified that mitigation actions to manage Human - Elephant Conflict (HEC) would only work when integrated within the community through a shift in the social paradigm; they have translated these findings to work with plantations across Malaysia to produce the first evidence-based policies dealing with HEC
- MEME played an essential role in the National Elephant Conservation Action Plan (NECAP) while leading initiatives in elephant habitat protection in Ulu Muda, Kedah, and connectivity within the Central Forest Spine
- PONGO Alliance has formally engaged with staff and workers of 6 large oil palm plantation companies in Kinabatangan, relevant government departments including Sabah Wildlife Department and Sabah Forestry Department, and wildlife focused NGOs including HUTAN, WWF Malaysia, and Southeast Asia Rainforest Research Partnership (SEARRP)
- PONGO Alliance and YSD have developed a novel project to ultimately establish the guidelines for Best Management Practices (BMPs) for human orangutan co-existence
- MRF has successfully developed a live interactive map to monitor bycatch events across Malaysia, where megafauna species such as sharks, rays, wedge fish, and sea turtles are getting caught in fishing vessels and gear and further discarded; this database will assist in identifying hotspots to deploy mitigating actions to help curb the risk of species mortality
- MRF has managed to include Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in revising Malaysia's National Biodiversity Policy 2020-2030, following research and advocacy efforts to encourage policy change

More on the Story:



MEME



PONGO



MRF