



BY FOREST HOUSE SDN. BHD.

EMPOWERING THE FOREST GUARDIANS: CULTIVATING GREEN LIVELIHOOD



The forest dependent communities in Peninsular Malaysia, particularly the Orang Asli

- Close proximity to forests and regularly harvest forest products
- Many communities are still hunter-gatherers, highly dependent on forest
- Some communities practice slash-and-burn agriculture
- High poverty rates, unemployment, and dependence on government subsidies
- The lowest income (~RM250 or USD52/month) among rural communities



The climate risks:

- Seasonal extremes impact availability and quantity of forest products such as wild fruits and animals
- Communities are forced to roam further into the forests, and facing conflicts with other tribes occupying other roaming areas
- Altogether, climate changes disrupt traditional hunting and gathering practices, leading to food shortages and increased food insecurity.
- Similarly, unpredictable weather affects crop yield and harvest – and income



impact on survival of seedlings in restoration

The community forest nurseries to build resilience and empower forest-dependent communities

- The main impacts: 1) active local participation in forest conservation, 2) alternative income generation, 3) implementation of traditional knowledge, 4) technical transfer, and 5) production of locally-adapted seedlings for restoration with high resilience
- Additional impacts: Women empowerment, delivery of social assistance via informal network, shift in attitude of non-participants



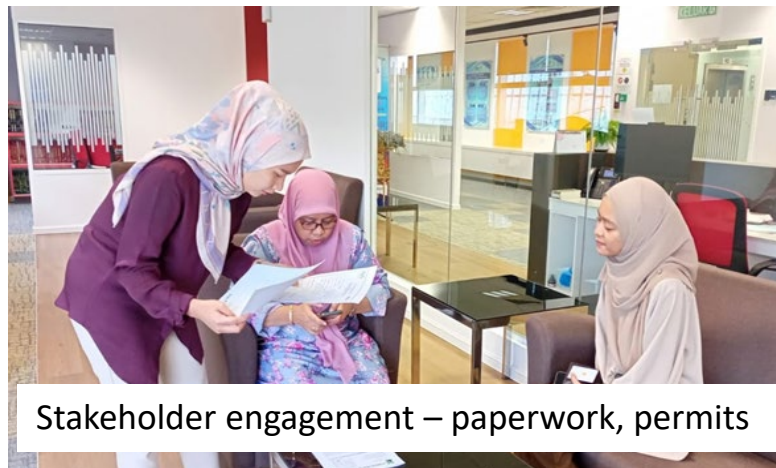
Community profiling & engagement



Capacity-building, training, monitoring



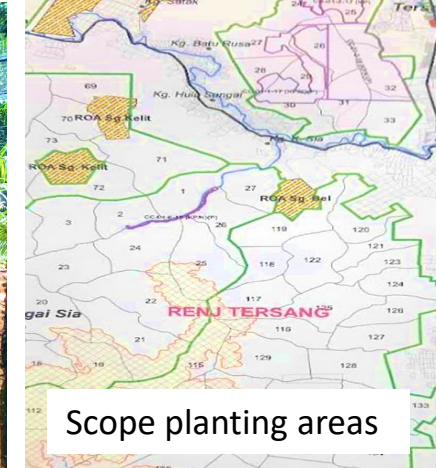
Seeds/seedlings buyback for restoration



Stakeholder engagement – paperwork, permits



Community manages nursery, mostly in family unit



Scope planting areas

Next step: connecting the community nurseries with the supply chain and restoration ecosystem

- The ecosystem of forest restoration in Malaysia remains fragmented – supply and demand mismatch
- Forest House is developing a catalog of community forest nurseries (plus the Guardians) and an online platform where community nurseries can showcase and secure buyers for their locally adapted seedlings
- Continue mapping stakeholders in the restoration landscape, connect them with the community nursery network

💡 Huge potential to link or integrate with the mechanisms set up by the Malaysia Forest Fund (Forest Conservation Certificates), Yayasan Hijau Malaysia (via Greening Malaysia program) and social forestry program. Capacity-building and investment needed to facilitate the formalization of community involvement in the management and use of forest reserves.



Community nursery clusters in Peninsular Malaysia

