

Malaysian Environmental NGOs (MENGOs) Strategic Plan 2007-2012

BACKGROUND

1. The Malaysian Environmental NGOs (MENGO), currently a grouping of 19 environmental NGOs, was formed as part of a Danida project since 2001. This created platform has received recognition from the government.
2. One of the benefits of this initiative is the increased coordination and understanding among members. Further exchange of experiences, expertise and information is evident as means of achieving common goals. Although all of these NGOs come from diverse backgrounds, and have diverse skills, knowledge and expertise, they also share common goals.
3. This achievement should be further enhanced for MENGO cooperation and partnership while promoting increased involvement of the member organizations.

RATIONALE

Thus far, the MENGO platform has not been effectively used for cooperation and partnership among members beyond the activities of the Danish-funded MENGO project. The MENGO strategic plan is aimed to further strengthen the common vision/goals, mission, key focus areas, whilst addressing, advancing and contributing in more effective manner the conservation and protection of the environment, and natural resources of the nation.

Although the current funding for the MENGO project will cease come March 31, 2007, the opportunities - present as a result of built cooperation and partnership - can be further enhanced. The added possibility for Danida's funding of DKK 2 million under the Bio-Diversity Component (2006-2009) for the continued work of MENGO platform will assist in this effort.

The present MENGO Strategic Plan 2007-2012 has been detailed during the last three months (September to November 2006) based on individual inputs from member organizations, as well as collated feedback from the two workshops. This period has allowed for discussions and consultations among the 19 member organisations about the future of the MENGO platform.

GOAL

MENGO aspires towards an ecologically-sound, transparent, participatory and socially just society, through sustainable development policies and practices related to natural resources management and biodiversity conservation.

MISSION

To be an independent platform/network of Malaysian NGOs that is committed towards enhancing the environmental sustainability agenda at local, national and international levels.

STRENGTHS

Following are the strengths of the platform that have been identified:

- (a) To organise and compile the collective views of the MENGO and present a *common analysis and position statements* to the Government, Parliament, media and other stakeholders on pertinent issues within the framework of the MENGO strategy.
- (b) To encourage the flow of information for the MENGO members as well as “clearing house” for any interested party that wishes to know the *collective views* of the MENGO on any particular issues.
- (c) To be the secretariat that organises events, seminars and workshops with the involvement of MENGO members, including exchange of experiences and training activities benefiting Malaysian civil society organisations.
- (d) To enable staff and volunteers from member organisations in identifying common concerns, through the existence of a number of working committees, which can then plan and implement related activities relevant to the MENGO Strategy and annual Action Plan.
- (e) To promote greater partnership among the specialised member organizations on cross-cutting issues.
- (f) To serve as a hub where information materials and other means for public information and awareness building is developed collectively.

OPPORTUNITIES

The current experiences within MENGO have highlighted gaps within the framework, which can be addressed through the following efforts:

1. *Localising international commitments*
 - a. MENGOs have expressed greater need for localising international conventions and commitments. This can be done with the cooperation among the ENGOS working on the ground at local levels via working groups with ENGOS who

are working at international levels such as Third World Network (TWN), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-Malaysia), Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) through Sahabat Alam Malaysia, and Malaysian Nature Society, including other local and regional NGOs who will follow-up at local level, playing the role of watchdog.

b. To address local concerns at regional and international arena.

2. *More advocacy efforts*

The level of advocacy of MENGOs, both collectively and individually, needs to be enhanced further to enable the environment agenda to be one of the priorities of the nation.

3. *Enhancing and empowering Community-based Organisations (CBOs)*

There is a need to capacity build the CBOs to understand the issues surrounding environmental protection and conservation, biodiversity, governance and international advocacy.

4. *Enhancing the mainstreaming of environmental issues*

Environmental issues need to be further mainstreamed in the implementation of national development agenda in order to ensure a sustainable form of development is pursuit.

5. *Building young leaders*

The issue of sustainability must also include the grooming of young environmentalists and leaders who will further advance the environmental agenda beyond the tenure of current leadership. A plan of action to build more conscious and active citizen participation needs to be developed and implemented. More active intervention must be seen taken at the level of tertiary education (universities included) to enable young adults to be more aware and encourage greater participation in advocacy. There is also a need to groom more second generation environmental leaders within the MENGO community.

6. *Enhancing collaboration and sharing of expertise and knowledge amongst MENGOs*

Seeking and sharing of opportunities for legal interventions for environmental violations and inactions (on the part of government and corporates)

FOCUS AREAS

In order to address these gaps and promote greater advocacy, the participating MENGO groups, at the Brainstorming Workshop on September 11-12, 2006, identified 5 focus areas, which are as follows:

- *Urban Environment & Sustainable Consumption & Production*
- *Climate Change*
- *Biodiversity : Gender & Indigenous People*
- *Responsible & Accountable Governance with people's participation*

- *Ecosystem approach applied to Natural Resource Management (value economically etc)*

“The MENGO Strategic Plan should lead to integrated strategic outcomes that weave together the primary concerns and advocacy issues of each MENGO member. The net impact will then be a holistic integrated approach to the environmental problems we are faced with”. We would in effect be ‘closing the loop’.

Focus Area 1 - Urban Environment: Sustainable Consumption and Production

The primary objective of this working group is to build upon the initiatives undertaken in relation to localizing Agenda 21 and people’s participation in urban governance towards promoting greater accountability and transparency.

Each MENGO member has been effectively bridging the gap in ensuring a sustainable and environmentally sound urban management and planning. Some of these activities are carried out individually as seen in EPSM ecological footprint campaign, CETDEM energy campaign, SUSDEN’s sustainable urban management initiative pilot project in urban community participation, SAM’s efforts in local plans etc. There was also collective effort under the MENGO platform through the National Physical Plan seminars and community awareness.

This working group has the potential to further build upon the collective local efforts towards policy advocacy in urban management. The local on the ground efforts of sustainable consumption and production can be further enhanced through various initiatives as suggested below.

The Focus Issues

1. Plastic carrier bag waste from food and grocery shopping to be reduced/prevented;

Plastic bags comprise a significant quantity of urban solid waste. Plastics alone comprise 24% of solid waste (9th Malaysia Plan). Because of their convenience and versatility of use they have become an almost indispensable aspect of modern urban living. Incidentally because of these qualities, plastic bags also contribute to increased consumption patterns; it is so convenient to purchase more with plastic bags.

However because plastic bags are non biodegradable and are known to clog drains and interfere with river flows etc they have become an urban environmental and health menace. Notwithstanding this with Malaysian petroleum reserves declining it is going to be expensive to continue to depend on plastic carrier bags; plastics being a by product of petroleum. It is therefore imperative that we find alternatives and substitutes to plastic carrier bags. The 9th Malaysia Plan advocates the greater use of environmental friendly materials and bio-plastics.

This strategy can provide a means of reducing poverty levels among marginalised groups like poor single mothers and indigenous people who can produce the cloth bags and rattan baskets respectively. This supports Malaysia’s commitments towards the Millennium Development Goal No: 1.

2. Insufficient parks and nature reserves in urban areas

The population of Malaysia is currently concentrated in the urban areas. Due to the rapid pace of development in the last 45 years, our towns and cities appear to be mainly a built environment. The Malaysian urban public however, needs more outdoor nature recreational facilities for better health and well being. It is the least we should expect of a developed Malaysia. The good news is that the Malaysian Cabinet has just announced (NST; Nov 25th 2006) that it wants a large scale public park in the city of Kuala Lumpur to complement the existing parks. The objective is to promote healthy living. MENGO needs to leverage upon this announcement and upon the mandatory requirements of the Malaysian Town and Country Planning Act, the National Landscape Policy and the goals of the 9th Malaysia Plan, to urge the government to build more parks and zone nature reserves within the urban areas of Malaysia. These parks and nature reserves could serve as wildlife corridors and as islands of biodiversity.

3. Poor surface water quality of urban rivers/streams/monsoon drains

The population of Malaysia is concentrated largely in cities and towns. Facilities that serve the population include industries, food outlets and restaurants that are also largely located within the urban areas. These urban facilities and the population they serve have significantly polluted urban waterways. The pollution is due largely to chemical and oil spills/effluent discharges from industries and occasionally (it is uncertain how often really) of bulk liquid food discharges such as milk from dairy industries and waste curry and cooking oil from restaurants. These are the common and significant point sources of pollution within urban areas. The quality and frequency of effluent discharge into our urban water ways needs to be monitored by as many stakeholders as possible. Then only will there be a true partnership towards a common goal and for a common good – for cleaner waters and a healthy environment

Why in particular should we be concerned with the surface water quality of our urban waterways? Ninety eight (98%) of our water supply incidentally is abstracted from our rivers and streams (STAR, 18 Feb.2003), that is in effect a very significant source of our water supply. Urban sources of water pollution therefore undermine the security of the quality of our fresh waters. Freshwaters are an ecosystem which provides a vital provisioning service for humankind. It must therefore receive the utmost attention and protection.

Focus Area 2 : Climate Change

The strategy is to approach the issue from three levels. The first level is to make use of Malaysia's national commitments to the international agreements while keeping the Malaysian civil society abreast with potential emerging issues such as biofuel. The second level is to address the lack of information and as a result, concern and awareness of how climate change will impact on Malaysians. This second level will focus on developing projections together with estimates on economic and environmental costs for

the country. It will also focus on the importance of peat swamps for carbon sequestration which is particularly significant for Malaysia as the country has a large area of peat swamps under threat of development. Finally the third level is to actually make an impact on the motor vehicular emissions and to improve energy efficiency and reduce the energy footprint by promoting energy efficiency and energy auditing while showcasing successful cases such as the best practices experience.

Focus Area 3 : Biodiversity : Gender and Indigenous People

The strategy under this focus area is tailored into achieving 3 critical outcomes

1. Integrating Gender and IP in MENGOs Biodiversity Projects
2. Strengthening and perpetuating Community-Based Biodiversity Management as a model of biodiversity management in Malaysia
3. Implementation of international obligation on Biodiversity within local context

The principle intention in the focus is still advancing the biodiversity management agenda. Community Base Biodiversity Management is foreseen to be the best model as observed in the success stories of community-based MENGOs Biodiversity projects, i.e. Community-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation (SAM, MNS and WI), Forest Reforestation (SAM), Community Initiative Wildlife Conservation (WWF), Legal cases taken up by community in the protection of Biodiversity and Natural Resources (BRIMAS, PACOS, CAP and SAM), community capacity building in conservation and development (SUSDEN, PACOS, BRIMAS) etc.

In the same while, it is recognized that there is a gap in integrating¹ gender and IP by governments and even NGOs into their biodiversity agenda and projects. For example, although there is some initiative like the SUSDEN gender and development programme through a community media initiative that focuses on gender equality awareness, such initiatives are limited. In reflection to this, MENGOs see the need to conduct capacity building and documentation to sensitize IP and Genders in the Biodiversity agenda and practices of the NGOs community, government and local communities. Such sensitization will involve all levels of society; from administrators and policy makers to practitioners and community on the ground.

The positive spirit and outlook in the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), i.e. Kyoto, CBD, Cartagena and RAMSAR are seen as an important tool to further strengthen and advance biodiversity management agenda in the country. Building the capacity of the local actors on the international laws, obligations and commitments would enable greater assessment by the public and create greater pressure to advance better biodiversity management in the country. The use of such tools will empower the capacity of the public and the local NGOs, especially the IP, local community, women and marginalized groups.

¹ MENGOs choose to use the word integration rather than mainstreaming gender and IP as formerly used to evade international and local debate on the use of the word. MENGOs are more comfortable to use the word integration as it shows respect to local customs and sensitivity.

Focus Area 4 : Responsible & Accountable Governance With People's Participation

Environmental Justice and Governance are part and partial of a crucial mechanism in advancing environmental protection agenda in the country. The focus involves pertinent issues such as;

- 1) Legal and Rights education
- 2) Public Participation
- 3) Access to information and
- 4) Access to justice

Malaysian environmental governance involves various policies, laws and systems i.e. National Environmental Policies, National Physical Plan, RMK9, Structure and Local Plan, EQA, EIA, Town and Country Planning Act, Local Government by Law and guidelines etc. It involves all actors such as the Federal, State and Local Government, Ministry, Department and Enforcement Agencies, Law Institution, Industries, CSOs and local communities.

Awareness and understanding of the Malaysian community at large on environmental governance are very low. The use of existing policies, legal mechanisms and various administrative process to seek environmental justice is very minimal. This can be seen by number of feedback received by government public participation in the EIA and Structure Plans processes. How ever due to effort by Malaysian CSOs the awareness is increasing and does create a better check and balance regime in the country. This effort should be enhanced.

How ever it is also recognize that there are gaps in the law, administrative process and underlying poor political will that hinders the development of progressive environmental governance in Malaysia. One such example is the use of Official Secrets Act and the absence of Freedom of Information Act that has curtailed public knowledge and participation in seeking environmental justice. NGOs had been actively involves in advocating for new policies and laws, involves in consultation and provide feedback and even involves in the drafting and amendments of new and old laws and policies to further strengthen environmental governance in Malaysia.

Malaysia's obligation under a number of key MEAs such as the Rio Declaration particularly in relation to Principle 10 (P10) provided leverage for CSOs to advocate for greater environmental governance in Malaysia. Strengthening existing initiative by MENGO members through collaborative efforts i.e. documentation of success stories and new initiative such as capacity building for whistle blower and creation of ombudsman platform are worth a while initiative to be championed by MENGO.

MENGO as a collective network of Environmental NGOs, through collaborative resources within MENGOs should address the gaps (the preceding paragraphs have not identified any gaps) and facilitate a greater role of CSOs and public in seeking environmental justice and enhancing environmental governance in Malaysia.

Focus Area 5: Ecosystem Approach Applied to Natural Resource Management

The application of ecosystem thinking and ecosystem management sciences to natural resource management is a fundamental path to sustainable development intentions and associated policy formulation.

Pertinent issues in this regard, are the appreciation and need to:

1. Localize international commitments
2. Increase and ensure strategic advocacy on link between ecosystem sciences and sustainable development
3. Build capacity of local groups

The development and delivery of national obligations the international environmental conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the RAMSAR Convention cannot solely depend on government investments and activities. At large, there is global appreciation of the role of civil society involvement in participating in activities associated in delivering on these obligations. Community and environmental-based NGOs (CBOs and ENGOs) are more often than not uniquely positioned to understand the fundamentals of such international conventions, both in the text and in the spirit. This is often a primary result of the nature of focused skill-sets and international networking the CBOs and ENGOs exercise. However, and more importantly, is the ability of consortiums such as MENGO to take a step back and critically analyse the Malaysian Government's performance (and ability to perform) on its international obligations, consistent with national development aspirations.

The development and implementation of sectoral policies, strategic planning and implementation tools and key national development guiding tools such as the National Physical Plan (NPP) and the 9th Malaysian Plan (9MP) must function to strike a balance between Malaysia's aspirations to become a develop nation by 2020 and its need to provide a secure, sustainable managed and productive environment for its citizens. MENGO can and will play a key role to ensure that an understanding of ecosystem functioning and management sciences are understood, appreciated and practiced in our sustainable development activities.

On the ground, and at the grassroots levels, MENGO must and will strive to build a strong, capable and committed local community groups that are active and dynamic in communicating to their respective local and state governments their stake and concerns related to landscape management and development. To this end, a key guide and starting point would be the National Physical Plan (NPP) (applicable to Peninsular Malaysia only) and its prescriptions on Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy for the five focus areas are tabulated in the following tables:-

FOCUS AREA 1 : URBAN ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

	Focus Issues	Strategic Outcomes	Activities	Indicators for activities
1.	Plastic carrier bag waste from food and grocery shopping to be reduced / prevented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bioplastics, Cloth bags and rattan baskets, tiffin carriers being adopted as substitutes to reduce/prevent the problem of food plastic carrier bag waste. Vital to create that initial critical mass.. 2. Hotspot areas of rattan forest clearance to be protected 3. Rattan forests to be replanted <p><i>NB: 2 & 3 to ensure supply of rattan for baskets in the long term and added value of forest ecosystems – that will reduce waste management costs of plastic carrier bags in time.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Integration and importance of partnership within diversity of missions of MENGO members to achieve joint overall goal and mission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrations and sales to showcase alternatives and substitutes and how they can be effectively adopted instead of plastic carrier bags for food and grocery shopping. for civil society at selected shopping outlets. MENGO members go out as a team with young children (a strategy to win hearts of public) to demonstrate. <p>Suppliers of the bio products <i>in partnership</i> with MENGO to hold the demonstrations and sales. MENGO needs to vet the product and supplier for suitability of the product - whether it meets the environmental and social criteria required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To source for public relations and marketing expertise. 3. A marketing and public relations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of bioplastics, tiffin carriers, cloth bags and baskets purchased by public at workshop and at demo pilot sites that will be used to replace plastic carrier bags 2. No of demonstrations conducted at wet market, food and grocery shopping outlets 3. Interest and support including financial if any from Ministry of Housing and Local Government /Ministry of Domestic Trade & Consumer Affairs/ Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development./Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

	Focus Issues	Strategic Outcomes	Activities	Indicators for activities
			<p>campaign to be jointly organised and sponsored by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Housing and Local Government.</p> <p>4. Radio/TV talk show on above demonstrations</p> <p>5. MENGO Meetings with relevant ministries above to keep them informed of above MENGO initiative and to get support.</p> <p>6. Best practices on demonstrations of use of these products can be done first to Mengo members as a training demo to Mengo for eg type of rattan baskets – indigenous etc and how and when to use it specifically.</p>	

FOCUS AREA 2 : CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Proposed Activities	Indicators	Funding
Relating International trends to local actions				
1.1 An informed and enabled civil society	1.1 Monitor Trends at International Level	1.1 TWN to debrief local NGOs and civil society.	1.1 Increased Grassroot projects by CBOs	From DANIDA funding
1.2 Review of Malaysia's performance on Climate Change issues	1.2 Monitoring Malaysia's national commitment	1.2 Establish a working group to meet and deliberate	1.2 MENGO Position paper on the progress of 2nd National Communications Report to be produced by the Government of Malaysia	
Advocacy				
2.1.1 Report; 2.1.2 Advocacy materials with information of impact on Malaysia	2.1 Development of Advocacy tools	2.1.1 Project to create local projections on Climate Change in the Transport Sector 2.1.2 Malaysian Climate Change Group to engage the govt on how to utilise Public Transportation Fund towards Climate Change issues	2.1 A number of Public and corporate workshops relating to Industry and Transport Sector 2.2 Number of position statements pertaining to issues relating to Haze, GHG trend in Malaysia and Impacts of Stern Report	From DANIDA funding
Energy efficiency				
3.1.1 & 3.1.2 Reduction of total fumes from motor vehicles - Commitment from Government Agencies managing fleet	3.1 Reduce impact of motor vehicle emissions	3.1.1 Ways to Improve and promote the use of public transport, 3.1.2 Ways to promote use of natural gas vehicles	3.1 Set targets for Improvement on API measurements and/or contribution of motor vehicles to API readings	MCCG Funding

of vehicles - Commitment from Public Transportation Companies				
Continuous monitoring of national GHG data based on the UNFCCC report produced in Nov 2005	3.2 Increase energy efficiency in both government and private sector	3.2.1 Promote successful Case Studies such as Saving Energy to cut emission by BP; 3.2.2 Promote energy auditing by govt. and private sector and promote energy efficient equipment	a) Set reduction within the 5 year period	MCCG Funding

FOCUS AREA 3 : BIODIVERSITY : GENDER & INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Proposed Activities	Indicators	Funding
1. Integration of gender and IP in MENGOs' biodiversity programmes and projects	Gender and Indigenous People in Biodiversity	1(a) Gender and IP sensitization exercise (Training Workshops, Seminar, Publication and Consultation) 1(b) Lessons Learnt study of integrating IP and Gender in MENGO biodiversity programs 1(c) Community – NGO dialogues on Gender and IP in biodiversity	1(a) no. of activities conducted. - trainings -community exchange	From biodiversity component
2. Community-based initiatives in Biodiversity conservation and natural resources management	Community Base Biodiversity Management	2(a) Preparation of position papers to influence policy 2(b) Compilation and documentation of	2(a) No. of position papers/policy papers 2(b) government policies reflecting	From biodiversity component

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Proposed Activities	Indicators	Funding
acknowledged and recognised in government policy and practice		community-based initiatives on Biodiversity Conservation	community-based initiatives and participation	
3. Community-based initiatives replicated	Community Base Biodiversity Management	3) community- to-community exchange	3) No. of new community-based initiatives	From biodiversity component
4. Linking developments at the international level to local action	Access and benefit sharing, other relevant areas within MEA i.e. CBD and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, particularly those that have impact on indigenous peoples	4 a) sharing of knowledge and experiences among NGOs and CBOs (Workshops, Dialogues, Publications and Seminar) 4 b) Feedback on developments at the international level that have implications nationally and locally.	Increased awareness of 4 (a) Malaysia's commitments at the international level; 4 (b) developments in evolving discussions; 4 (c) the implications nationally and locally	From biodiversity component

FOCUS AREA 4 : RESPONSIBLE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE WITH PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Proposed Activities	Indicators	Funding
1) Localising international conventions	Principle 10 (P10) of Rio Declaration 1) Environmental Justice 2) Access to Information 3) Public participation - <i>what works and what doesn't</i>	1) Identifying whistle blowers and 2) Developing relevant training and follow-up mechanisms for whistleblowers	1) No. of trained whistleblowers: 2) No. of NGOs, CBOs, IPOs sensitised:	BHC
2) Strengthening	Use of environmental related legal	2(a) Capacity building workshops and	No. of dialogues/	TBC

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Proposed Activities	Indicators	Funding
MENGO's capacity to effectively use existing policies, plans and mechanisms for implementation and engage and influence sustainability indicator index in RMK9	and policy tools - National Policies, Laws, Guidelines and Mechanism [i.e. National Integrity Plan, NPP, RMK9, EQA, Auditor Gen's office – environmental audit, Highland Development plan (in Sarawak)]	trainings on Environmental Justice and Governance for MENGO members and CSOs 2(b)) Enhancing MENGO's relations with enforcement agency / bodies through dialogues and consultation i.e. National Integrity Commission, ACA, DOE, SUHAKAM, Auditor General's office	meetings/workshops No. of cases on the use of policies and laws by trained groups	
3) Sharing of experience and expertise	<i>Legal interventions for environmental violations and inactions (on the part of government and corporate)</i>	3(a) Documentation of what works and what doesn't in i.e. EIA process, Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA), etc 3(b) Monitoring, documenting and sharing of good environmental practices vs abuses (awards vs black book?)	1) No. of publication 2) Circulation of publication: 3) Website hits	TBC
4) Advocacy for Freedom of Information Act	Development of a Freedom of Information Act and Ombudsman [ombudsman to serve as grievance/complaints mechanism for public to channel their concerns on environmental violations]	4(a) Develop position papers 4(b) Follow-up collective lobbying efforts on freedom of information campaign 4(c) Identifying and training of ombudsman through workshops and training programs	No. of position papers/petitions: No. of ombudsman trained and cases handled	DANIDA

Focus Area 5 : Ecosystem approach applied to Natural Resource Management (economically viable, etc)

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Indicators	Proposed Activities	Funding
Localizing International Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the status of ecosystem representation in protected areas (PA) to reflect CBD and RAMSAR commitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible Ministries e.g. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment giving serious attention to the joint report of MENGO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops with Resource Person on PA (2007-2008) Dissemination of information on issues identified via the workshops through mass media Publications by MENGO highlighting where Malaysia is failing and succeeding in its obligations to CBD and RAMSAR 	DANIDA under Civil Society sub-component of BioD Component
Increased and Strategic Advocacy on link between Ecosystem Sciences and Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Position Papers by MENGO on the status of ecosystem representation in PA and link to sustainable development Malaysian application of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to national policy development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased visibility of usage of MENGO assessments and Position Papers in government deliberations Ministry of Natural Resources applying MEA outcomes in government policy deliberations at Federal and State levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy activities relating to eco representation Preparation of joint Position Papers by working groups 	DANIDA under Civil Society Sub-component of Biodiversity Component
Building Capacity of Local Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build consortium of local groups support in NPP's Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) 1&2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community groups established legally around ESA 1 & 2 <i>(link to activities developed by working group on governance)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of communities affected and legal establishment of 'pressure groups' (issues) <i>(linked to efforts of setting up whistleblowers)</i> 	

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Indicators	Proposed Activities	Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build consortium of local groups support in ESA in Sarawak (Large scale - eg peat swamp conversion in Sarawak to oil palm) • Build consortium of local groups support in Sabah (eg Ulu Segama and Malua) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clusters of local consortium established around large proposed land conversion developments and effective in communicating concerns via local mass media • Clusters of local consortium established around large proposed land conversion developments and effective in communicating concerns via local mass media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building workshops MENGO members relevant to an area can take lead in helping community mobilization and cooperation among relevant organizations • Develops community environment monitoring tools • Developing a listserve to facilitate bilateral/national support for each other's work 	
Building young leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Malaysians in tertiary education are made aware and educated on the environmental management issues and inspired to take up a career in Environment Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Counseling in tertiary education institutions equipped with tools and knowledge to reach out to students • An increased demand in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation and development of resources for career counselors • Periodic talks conducted by MENGO in local universities • Setting up a systematic monitoring of courses offered and number of students qualified 	

Strategic Outcomes	Focus Issues	Indicators	Proposed Activities	Funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training second-generation environmental leaders within the MENGO community with special emphasis on ecosystem management <p><i>(To be reviewed to be incorporated in strategic plan)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> students wanting to take up environmental management as a career • Staff able to understand and articulate in all forums importance of ecosystem approaches in natural resources management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in environmental management • Conduct in-house training in ecosystem management for junior staff 	

Working Groups

It is proposed that a working group (WG) for each of the 5 focus areas be established. The role of the working group is to assist in achieving the goal of MENGO.

The working group will:-

- Improve coordination in the areas for collective actions
- Address gaps in advocacy and improve actions to localise international commitments within local dimensions.
- Develop greater understanding among all groups, including other non-MENGO resource persons, either from other NGOs or the academia in relation to the said area of interest.
- Help build younger leaders and activist by exposing this to actual situations and needed advocacy to develop the next generation towards sustainability of civil society actions.

The basic Terms of Reference for the working groups are as follows:

- i. To brainstorm and recommend actions to help localizing international commitments
- ii. To help develop actions to capacity build local communities (CBOs)
- iii. To assess current national policies and legislations and feedback to government
- iv. To oversee the vetting of proposals and drafting of position papers
- v. To attend meetings, consultations and dialogues related to the focus area
- vi. To develop a proposed action plan, budget and timeline.
- vii. To work in synergy with other working groups.
- viii. To integrate, where possible, gender, IP and local community concerns and issues. To facilitate this, each working group is encouraged to have at least one point to serve this purpose.
- ix. To submit half-yearly progress reports to MCC

The members of the working groups are MENGOs organizations who work in the specific focus areas. There will be a focal point in each working group. In addition, on a case-to-case basis, the working group may need to engage with relevant external experts.

The proposed mandate to be given to the WG is as follows:

- When attending meetings, the WG must be clear and transparent about their representation (of their individual organisations), particularly if the said opinions/recommendation have not been agreed to by the MENGOs.
- WG to produce briefing papers and assist in drafting MENGO position papers
- WG is not allowed to issue statements or position papers independently without MCC's approval

Financial Assistance

In sourcing for financial aid to undertake the activities under the 5 focus areas, the WG will receive the assistance from the MSU in developing the project proposals and MCC in sourcing financing.

Timelines

Time	Action	Responsibility
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify WG Members and the lead organisation • Obtain their commitment 	MCC & MSU
2007 first quarter	<p>Each working group to prepare, at least 1 briefing paper which will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plans for the entire duration (a broad-based strategy), and detailed plans for the calendar year • Corresponding budget • Corresponding timelines <p><i>*NB: Must take into consideration outputs from SM2007 and activities proposed in the matrix</i></p>	Working Groups
2007 second quarter	Implementation of activities and execution of programmes	Working Groups
2007 third quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of activities ▪ Review of past activities/ action plans • Preparation of detailed plans together with corresponding budget and timeline for 2008 	Working Groups

MENGO OPERATIONS & ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

There has been an expression among the MENGOs that institutionally there is a need to review the current organizational and operational set-up of the MENGO platform. This should be done during the next MENGO Annual Meeting. The current and some of the proposed changes to the set-up for the following organisational functions are given in the respective annexes :-

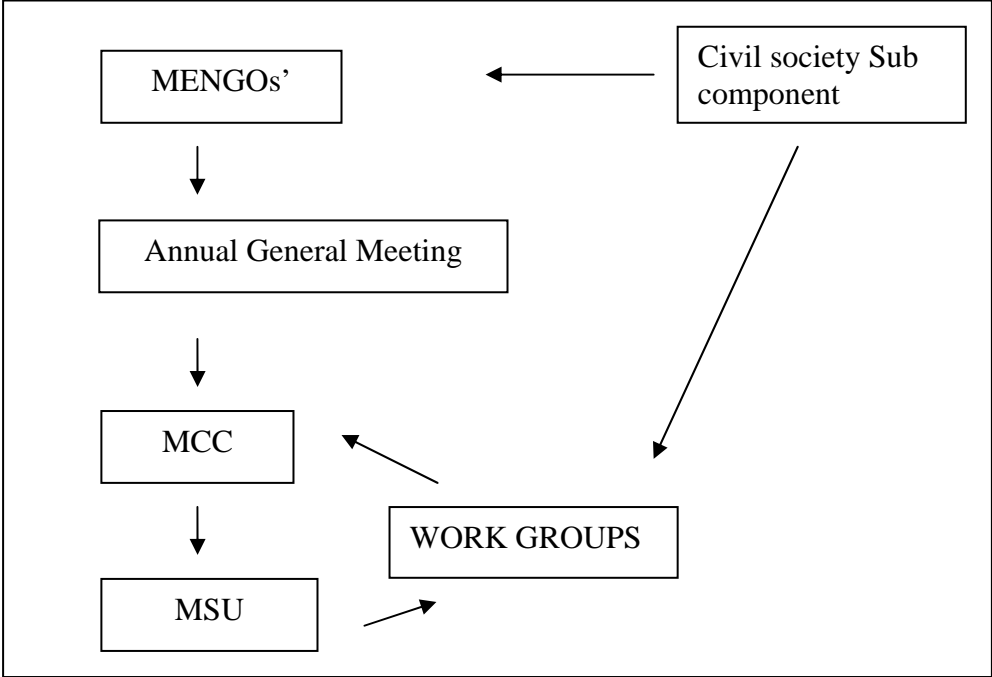
1. Organisational Structure (**Annex A**)
2. MENGO's Membership (**Annex B**)
3. MENGO Annual Meeting (**Annex C**)
4. Functions of MENGO Cooperating Committee (MCC) (**Annex D**)
5. Functions of MENGO Secretariat (**Annex E**)
6. Hosting of the MENGO Secretariat (**Annex F**)

MENGO'S LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

In view of the establishment of the working group, there is a need to develop a financial plan for the working groups, and sustainability of MENGO platform and MSU. The MENGOs have expressed their desire for the MCC take leadership towards finalizing the draft financial plan which has been developed by the Ad-hoc Committee (see **Annex G**).

ANNEX A : Organizational Structure

This is the proposed organisational set-up for the management and administration of the MENGO platform. This includes clarification of roles, competences and function of MENGO and members of MENGO.



ANNEX B : MENGO's membership

MENGO encourages all members to play an active role in the organisation on a voluntary basis. Other organisations that prefer simply to express support and receive information about MENGO activities should be welcome to do so.

MENGO has the following selection criteria for membership of prospective organisation:

- Should be and appear to be independent from government/corporate/business/political party or representing any single individual professional interest (i.e. E-laws network, MACEC, MIP).
- Should be identifiable as an organised civil society representatives concerned with and would have interest to advance and implement environmental protection and conservation and sustainable development.
- Should be non-government (that means, non-national, non-state and non-local governmental) organisation and includes Community Based Organisation (CBOs).
- Should be a non-profit entity, and as such, income generation must not be the primary objective of the organisation.
- Should hold to a mission (formal and informal) and/or activities which embraces activities in the field of environmental promotion, protection and/or conservation. The mission may also embrace the advocacy for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities regarding the sustainable use and management of their natural resources.
- May be established in Malaysia as Societies, Trusts fund, Companies, Organised local communities and any other legally constituted not-for-profit organisation.
- May be established in Malaysia as Societies, Trusts fund, Companies, registered community based organisation and any other legally constituted not-for-profit organization.

All applications for membership of MENGO shall be made in writing to the MENGO Cooperating Committee (MCC) who shall determine the applicant's eligibility and whose decision shall be final.

Member organisations may be requested to withdraw their membership by the MCC if their actions are found contravening MENGO's policies, objectives and code of conduct.

ANNEX C : MENGO Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is the highest authority within MENGO to which all member organisations have access and the right to vote, provided that the organisation has paid the membership fee.

The following key functions are carried out by the Annual Meeting:

- At the annual meeting, the MENGO's account for the past year will be presented through an annual narrative report, the financial statements and the external audit report.
- Discuss and approve the Annual Workplan and budget for the next year.

The Annual Meeting elects a 7-member MCC among the MENGOs. For the purpose of continuity, all the outgoing MCC will be eligible for election and the Chairperson will be retained in the MCC for the next term. There will be 2 ballots: in the first ballot, the MENGOs will be invited to make their nomination for the 6 MCC members. The 6 members with the highest votes, together with the outgoing Chairperson will constitute the MCC. In the second ballot, a Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected from the 7 members. The Chairperson will automatically be in the MCC the following term to **maintain continuity**.

- The 7 members with the highest votes, will constitute the MCC.
- The focal point should be:
 1. in a decision-making capacity, and appoint a permanent alternate to attend the MENGO Annual meeting and subsequent meetings. The alternate, too must also be able to represent the individual MENGOs' policies and stance.
 2. able to stand for election of MCC
- The delegate will also vote for MCC, as well as other management related matters.
- One organisation will have one vote.

It is suggested that participation at Annual Meeting should not be restricted to the head of member organisations but stimulate a broader involvement. There is a possibility for Annual Meeting be held at two levels as follows:

1. Head of organisation to vote for MCC, as well as other management related matters
2. Members of MENGO members, to provide opportunities for members to understand what are areas of partnership and collaboration within the platform.

ANNEX D : Functions of MENGO Co-operating Committee (MCC)

The MENGO Co-operating Committee (MCC) provides the forum to ensure greater coherence and collaboration among the MINGOs. The commitment of all groups to share this strategic plan with their respective organizations and to adopt the said plans as a part of their own strategic plan. This will ensure ownership and proper execution.

The MCC makes communication with external parties such as the Government of Malaysia, DANIDA and other third parties.

The MCC will be overall responsible of the following tasks, among others:

1. Facilitate the organisation of consultation and partnership among all members of MENGO. Including taking overall decisions of principle with regard to MENGO platform management and administration,
2. Take leadership in assuring the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007-2012 and the Annual Workplan. Furthermore, ensuring adequate monitoring of these plans and continuous suggestions aimed at improving the performance of the Platform.
3. Promote debate and organise consultations within MENGO members leading to the formulation of positions papers for advocacy and lobbying on key issues, including the organisation of well prepared dialogue and lobbying activities with the government and other stakeholders.
4. Ensuring the functioning of the Platform in a transparent and accountable manner with frequent communication with the member organisations.
5. Oversees the running at the MENGO Support Unit (which also acts as the secretariat for the MENGO platform). This includes ToR for staff, ensuring transparent recruitment procedures and adequate management of staff and volunteers. MCC is in charge of hiring and terminating the services of the MSU staff in collaboration with the Host NGO.
6. Ensure the necessary measures and follow-up upon initiative's assuring income generation and long-term financial viability of the Platform.
7. Endorse project applications and reports to funding entities and donors that have been elaborated by the MSU, where necessary.

The MCC will meet every three months or whenever requested by one of its members. The committee shall define its own internal functioning, in which consensus-seeking should be a fundamental principle. The minutes of the meetings of MCC will be circulated to all MENGO member organisations.

ANNEX E : Functions of MENGO Secretariat

The MENGO Platform will have a secretariat named the MENGO Support Unit (MSU), which will be staffed according to the financial possibilities in the annual budget approved by the Annual Meeting.

Therefore, the staffing of MSU should seek the following qualifications:

- knowledge in environmental issues
- experience in facilitation, etc.
- skills in administrative, logistic and secretariat functions.

MSU has the following responsibilities:

1. Act as a Secretariat for MENGO platform
2. Organise relevant activities for the MENGOs (according to strategic plan and annual workplan)
3. Facilitate effective interactions and relationships among the MENGOs and also between MENGOs and the Government, including the function of clearing house for the Government and the MENGOs
4. Facilitate the MENGOs' inputs on Government policies, as and when the need arises. (Suggest that we delete this because it is covered in 4 above)
5. Facilitate linkages between MENGO and regional/international NGO networks.
6. Facilitate Fundraising for the platform
7. Assist Working Groups to prepare briefing papers and initial research

ANNEX F : Hosting of the Secretariat

It is envisaged that the hosting of the Platform will rotate, as this would encourage greater commitment amongst member organisations as well as reduce costs.

The host NGO is the legal entity for the MENGO platforms operations, including the signing partner to contracts with funding agencies and other contributors. It is assumed that external funding will build and respect the existing management structures and administrative procedures in MENGO.

The host organisation of MSU is agreed by the Annual Meeting for a 3 years period. The host NGO is responsible for administering MSU staff and to act as the “trustee” of MCC and the donors.

Furthermore, the host NGO is responsible for:

- Provide a conducive working environment for 2 persons who will form the MSU and additional meeting space for small group meetings
- Provide access to Internet and computer help-desk
- To set up a separate bank account for MENGO activities and assist in the operation and maintenance of such an account
- To act as a “trustee” for the funds from donors and contributions from MENGO members.
- To prepare monthly financial statement of the expenditures and also preparation of the monthly salaries of the MSU staff
- To provide additional accounting services to the MSU in relation to payment of bills and purchases from the funds.

The host NGO will be compensated as part of MENGO annual budget.

The Host NGO has assigned a person to be in-charge of the administration.

Staff of MENGO / MSU are considered to be technically under the employment of the host organization. Therefore, the staffs have to adhere to this NGOs terms and conditions of employment. All terms and conditions are stated in the contract of employment.

ANNEX G: MENGO's Long Term Sustainability

Sources of Funding to ensure the sustainability MENGO, the operational costs of its secretariat, as well as relevant activities should be shall be self-financing. The following are possible revenue generating activities of the Secretariat:

- Primary/Core funding should be sought from the government. One way is for MENGO be position similar to MIER and ISIS. For instance, SERI also receives funding from the government, and is still an NGO.
- Strategise the funding from Civil Society Sub-component. Out of the DKK 2 million some funds could be channelled through MENGO.
- Recognition of the staff time and volunteer work contributed to MENGO by members.

Other avenues: -

- (a) Revenues and recovering costs from projects / activities for instance organising dialogues, meetings, conferences etc. For instance to obtain funding from government to organise dialogues, and conference fees for organising conferences.
- (b) Project based funding from government (federal and/or state), UNDP, and other environment / development programmes. For instance MSU can be the host of the Malaysian Water Partnership. This however would mean that MSU has to deliver outputs

Proposed Membership Fee structure for MINGOs :

Membership of less than 50	- RM100
Membership of 50 – 100	- RM250
Membership of 100 above	- RM350
Membership of 500 above	- RM500