

BANK ISLAM IMPLEMENTS MANGROVE AND TURTLE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE AT PANTAI CHENDOR

An effort to address climate change and protect marine life

KUANTAN, PAHANG, Sunday [27 July 2025]: Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (Bank Islam) continue to strengthen its long-term sustainability commitment through the Mangrove and Turtle Conservation Initiative at Pantai Chendor, Kuantan, Pahang. The programme was held yesterday in conjunction with the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed globally on 26 July each year.

The programme, co-organised with the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Pahang Branch, is also supported by the Advanced Technology Training Center (Adtec) Kemaman under the Manpower Department (JTM), alongside students from Maahad Tahfiz Negeri Pahang.

150 volunteers, comprising Bank Islam employees, students from local educational institutions, Komuniti Intervensi Dadah rehabilitation residence, and members of the local community, took part in the initiative. The programme saw the planting of 3,000 mangrove saplings along the beach. Additionally, 100 turtle hatchlings were released into the sea as part of efforts to conserve the endangered marine species.

According to Bank Islam Group Chief Operating Officer and Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Mohamed Iran Moriff Mohd Shariff, this initiative is a continuation of five environmental conservation projects undertaken by the Bank since 2019. It also marks the third collaboration between Bank Islam and MNS.

"Today's activities are not merely symbolic, but a meaningful step towards real, lasting environmental conservation for future generations. Bank Islam remains steadfast in upholding its trust in environmental stewardship. Therefore, we are committed to fulfilling this responsibility while encouraging local communities' involvement, including volunteers from Adtec and Maahad Tahfiz Negeri Pahang students in addressing environmental issues such as climate change, which significantly impacts quality of life," added Mohamed Iran.

Vice President of MNS, Noor Jehan Abu Bakar, said “This third collaboration with Bank Islam under the Mangrove and Turtle Conservation Initiative demonstrates the shared vision between the corporate sector and the community in protecting the environment. As a non-profit organisation, MNS believes that long-term collaborations like this can have a positive impact in conserving coastal ecosystems while ensuring the survival of marine species increasingly threatened by human activities and climate change.”

Since 2019, Bank Islam has implemented various sustainability initiatives on the East Coast of Malaysia, including planting over 7,000 mangrove saplings in Kuantan, Tanjung Lumpur, and Cherating, as well as beach clean-up activities at Pantai Sepat and Pantai Balok, Pahang. These efforts align with the Bank’s sustainability goals to protect the environment, like mangrove forests that play a crucial role in mitigating climate change.

Although mangrove forests account for less than 1 per cent of the world’s total tropical forest areas, they are a vital ecosystem for nearly 2.4 billion people living within 100 kilometres of coastal regions. Mangroves serve as a natural shield, protecting inland areas from storms, erosion, and flooding. They also serve as a source of timber and food for countless life forms while contributing to improving water quality.

Mangrove forests are also an important global carbon sink, possessing the highest average carbon stock per unit area compared to any terrestrial or marine ecosystem. On average, mangrove forests store approximately 1,000 tonnes of carbon per hectare, including carbon sequestered within the soil.

In addition to being a natural habitat for more than 1,533 different marine species, mangrove forests serve as a vital nursing ground for various commercially important fish species and contribute to the health of adjacent ecosystems, such as coral reefs and seagrass beds.

In addition to its environmental stewardship focus, Bank Islam's Mangrove and Turtle Conservation initiative this year also empowers local communities by supporting the local economy, including income generation through the purchase of mangrove saplings and turtle eggs from nearby fishermen. It aligns Bank Islam's sustainability aspirations under the strategic pillars of Environment Stewardship and Community Empowerment, as outlined in Bank Islam's Integrated Annual Report 2024.

In line with the nation's aspiration to plant 1 million mangrove trees by 2030, Bank Islam's efforts also support the climate change and coastal erosion prevention agenda. These initiatives contribute directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Through this programme, Bank Islam remains committed to empowering communities by taking proactive measures to address environmental issues in pursuit of a sustainable future.

About Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad

Bank Islam is the first Islamic bank publicly listed in the main market of Bursa Malaysia. Established in July 1983, the bank has 135 branches and over 900 self-service terminals across Malaysia. As a pure-play Islamic bank, Bank Islam provides retail banking and corporate financial solutions that strictly adhere to Shariah rules and principles. The bank is committed to sustainable prosperity and ESG values and is an official participant of the UN Global Compact Malaysia and Brunei. Bank Islam's core subsidiaries, BIMB Investment and BIMB Securities, offer various Islamic financial services, including investment and stockbroking. For more information on the Group's products and services, please visit www.bankislam.com.

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