Introduction
During the year, SAM undertook many activities both in Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak. This report is in two parts, highlighting the major activities in the two regions of our work viz. Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak.

Peninsular Malaysia

Complaints and General Correspondences
SAM research and field officers conducted surveys in several states to monitor the condition of forests and also assist communities who would be affected by logging and destruction of the forest ecosystem due to expansion of plantations, dam projects and other purposes. Among the states covered are Penang, Kedah, Perak, Perlis, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Selangor.

SAM took up several environment related issues via complaints from the public and through the monitoring of newspapers. We followed up on major environmental issues through sending letters to the authorities, highlighting in the media and sharing in SAM’s website and Facebook page. The issues covered a whole range of environmental problems relating to logging, reclamation, aquaculture, development on hills, forest destruction, fisheries, environmental pollution, etc.

Among the major issues followed-up include:

- Proposed and on-going coastal reclamation projects in Penang, Kedah, Perak and Johor.
- Encroachment of trawlers into inshore fishing zone and use of destructive fishing gears.
- Hill clearing and development in Penang.
- Shrimp farming in Balik Pulau and Penaga, Penang.
- Pig waste pollution in Gertak Sanggul.
- Assist Orang Asli community in Pos Jernang, Sungkai, Perak raise their objections over a hydroelectric project that will involve their customary land, foraging area, and a river that is the main source of water supply for the forest community here.
- Highlight issue of landfill leachate in Pulau Burung, Penang that was destroying trees in mangrove forest. The landfill operator was subsequently instructed by the authority to act on the problem immediately.
- Conduct field surveys to check on the extent of encroachment and illegal clearing in the Bukit Merah Lake Reserve in Perak. The forest reserve is an important source of water and flood control. Matter was highlighted in the media.
• Coastal erosion at stretch of Butterworth Outer Ring Road - highlight in media and meeting with authorities.
• Odour pollution in Kampung Tok Suboh, Juru
• Sand mining in Sungai Sedim - approval not given after objections by SAM and community.

Major wildlife and animal welfare, both local and international issues, that were followed up in 2016 are as follows:

• Missing bears from Tawau Hot Springs Resort in Sabah - the bears were subsequently found and placed in Lok Kawi Wildlife Park
• Pandas in Kuala Lumpur Zoo Negara - SAM urged the government to instead concentrate on our own megafauna and strengthen wildlife protection on the ground.
• Malaysian wildlife trade hampering conservation efforts
• Object to proposal to send Malaysian Tapirs to Japan
• Urge protection of frogs considering their ecological role in the ecosystem.
• Death of Jaguar used as a mascot in the Olympic torch ceremony
• Gorilla shot at Cincinnati Zoo
• Workers in Vietnamese abattoirs bludgeoning cattle to death
• Take part in the Global Day of Action Against Live Animal Transport.

Seminars, Workshops and Education activities

Roundtable Discussion on Timber Certification with Orang Asli Communities held on 22 January 2016 in Kuala Lumpur
The roundtable discussion was attended by 26 orang asli representatives from Perak, Kelantan, Pahang and Johor. Besides them were another 30 persons comprising of government representatives, timber certification bodies, timber export regulators, timber certification experts, forest regulators, foreign embassies and SAM staff. Discussions at the roundtable gave clarity on the issue of timber certification, forest management certification and how auditing is done, complaints mechanism, etc.

Roundtable discussion in Teluk Senangin, Perak
On 31 January, SAM conducted a roundtable discussion in Teluk Senangin, Perak. We had a total of 23 participants comprising of community representatives, environmental activists, lecturers and undergraduates who were conducting research in the district of Manjung. The aim of the discussion is to review the environmental issues in Segari. Thirteen issues were raised at the discussion but our main focus is to protect the coastal hill forest ecosystem and turtle nesting area here.

Talk for FELDA settlers in Felda Cini 3, Pahang
SAM conducted a talk for more than 200 FELDA settler families on 11 March, 2016. Besides SAM staff, we also had representative of the Orang Asli community in this area to speak on environmental issues, forest conservation and protection efforts by SAM.

Workshop on Governance and the Law for Indigenous Community Series 1 in Kuala Lumpur
The three-day workshop between 09 and 11 June was conducted as a response to the requests of indigenous community members for SAM to conduct a workshop that is designed for them to understand the different aspects of the law and governance which may have an impact on their rights and lives. The workshop was participated by 37 participants from the states of Perak, Pahang, Kelant and Johor.

Roundtable on Deforestation and Forestry Governance in Petaling Jaya, Selangor
The workshop organised between 28 and 29 June was attended by 34 participants from various non-governmental organisations working on forests and indigenous peoples issues, with 5 representatives from indigenous communities from Sarawak and Kelant. The first part of the roundtable was devoted to the presentation of forestry-related issues by regions and organisations. The second part was to highlight these issues during a meeting with a lawmaker.

Workshop on Governance and the Law for Indigenous Community Series 2 held in Kuala Lumpur
The three-day workshop between 20 and 24 November was conducted as a follow-up to the first Indigenous Community Workshop on Governance and the Law held in June 2016, which was designed for participants to understand the different aspects of land and forestry governance and laws which have impacts on their customary land rights. This workshop was participated by 37 participants, with 2 community representatives participants from Sarawak.

Support for Local Communities
SAM’s work with local communities encompasses assisting communities articulate and resolve their problems and building the capacity of community-based organizations. Among the activities undertaken are community based coastal resource management which includes replanting of mangroves in degraded areas. Following are details of the programmes conducted with local communities and participation of students.

a. Mangrove planting in Lekir Forest Reserve, Manjung, Perak on 21 February 2016
b. Mangroves replanting in Kuala Bagan Tiang, Perak on 27 August 2016
c. Mangroves replanting and awareness raising programme in Hutan Simpan Byram on 17 December 2016

SAM organised a capacity building training for communities on 29-30 December 2016. The training was held in Kuantan, Pahang and attended by 25 community representatives from Felda settlements and indigenous communities.

Press Conference and Press Releases
SAM organised several press conferences and also produced press releases as well as wrote ‘Letters to the Editor’ on many issues ranging from wildlife matters to environmental pollution, natural resources depletion and adverse impacts of projects. A total of 51 press releases and letters to the editor were released on environment and community issues, whilst 12 letters to the editor were released on wildlife and animal welfare issues during the year.

**International/Regional Meetings**
As a member of FoE International and Asia Pacific, SAM attended meetings organised by the network. The meetings were conducted in Japan (Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific - FoE APac), Brazil (Economic Justice Resisting Neoliberalism - EJRN), Indonesia (Biennial General Meeting - BGM) and the Philippines (EJRN).

SAM also attended meetings conducted by the South East Asia (SEA)-Fish for Justice to plan out strategies at regional level to tackle fisheries issues and promote community based coastal resource management.

SAM joined the #breakfreefromplastic global movement to stop plastic pollution.

**Sarawak**

**Visitors & Complaints**
In 2016, there was a drop in the number of visitors that came to the office as compared to 2015. There were about 334 visitors. The majority of those who came to SAM Sarawak office came to register complaints, seek advise and assistance regarding encroachment onto their native customary lands, water problems, crops being affected by fires caused by long draughts, production of land use maps, obtaining birth certificates, obtaining subsidies for growing of rubber and oil palm trees, destroyed roofs as a result of thunderstorms, registration of new residents’ associations and other residents’ associations matters.

SAM was unable to find a solution for all the registered complaints but complaints that required the State’s intervention were sent to the appropriate authorities. In relation to the obtaining of agriculture subsidies for villages and residents’ association matters, the authorities were quick to offer their assistance. Matters concerning encroachment onto native customary land took a much longer time to be sorted out.

**Programmes & activities**
There were a number of activities that SAM Sarawak carried out throughout 2016 which kept all staff busy. Some of them included:

*Meeting of Network of Residents Association in Long Pilah*
The meeting of the network of Residents Association (RA) in Sarawak was held on 14 to 15 February in Long Pilah, involving 3 RAs i.e. Ujet Bato, Long Miri and Uma Bawang and a group of 6 people (Non-RA) from Long Laput. In total around one hundred people were
present at the meeting. At the meeting, RA matters and some arising issues were discussed. The communities also shared agro-ecology, agro-forestry and the various projects initiated by the RAs. Demonstration session on how to prepare farmers effective micro-organism and fish amino acid was conducted.

**Dialogue/Meeting with RA Network in Niah**

About 80 participants were present at this dialogue in Rumah Lachi, Niah between 13 and 14 June 2016, and out of that forty percent were women. The main objective is to provide training for capacity building in the running of RA and to learn and gain experience with other RAs that have long been registered, especially those RAs from Sungai Satai, Sungai Senga and Sungai Buri.

**Agro-ecology**

(i) Preparatory work

The Sarawak office did considerable amount of work on agro-ecology in 2016. Staff also worked with local communities encouraging them to use natural farming methods instead of chemical based agriculture. Staff helped communities set up their nurseries at the longhouses, prepared tree seedlings in polythene bags and natural fertilisers for communities and for the agro-ecology exhibition in Marudi.

(ii) Exhibition in Marudi

SAM set up an exhibition booth in Marudi on 30 July 2016 to display our agro-ecology products and produce including compost, vermicompost, effective microorganisms, fish amino acid, vermiwash and forest tree saplings comprising of meranti and kapur. More than 100 persons visited our booth. Among them were farmers from the surrounding areas of Marudi town, schools, Marudi Health Department and members of Residents Association from Suai and Niah.

(iii) Planting of trees in Long Lama

A programme was organised in Long Lama on 23 October by the Baram Protection Action Committee (BPAC). SAM assisted with the running of the programme during the gathering, attended by 120 people, of which 60 were women. All participants were gathered to plant young Kapur trees that were brought by SAM from Marudi, as symbol of indigenous culture to commemorate the third anniversary of the protest against Baram Dam.

**Meeting with Residents’ Association**

SAM organised a meeting with Residents Association in Miri on 7 December 2016. Total participants present were 36 people. The 13 RAs were from around Miri, Marudi and Bintulu. Thus far, SAM has assisted in getting 24 RAs registered. Several other long houses have expressed their interest in registering as a Residents Association as they recognise that they need to be united to push their agenda to protect their land and rights.

**Staff Meetings**

2 staff meetings were held in 2016, one in January (12 - 13 January) and the other in September (19 - 21 September 2016). Both meetings were to discuss the workplan for the
year and the progress of all activities planned for the year. Staff also discussed and agreed on the priorities for 2017.

**Meetings & Letters to Authorities**

SAM staff also attended a number of meetings organised by the state and other NGOs. These included a GEF SGP meeting in Kuching, a forestry meeting in Kuching and attending the 3rd Baram Dam anniversary.

The office was also kept busy with numerous letters written to various authorities on behalf of communities and from SAM enquiring about encroachments, demanding investigation into trespasses and follow ups on previous letters.

**General**

**Publications**

- Encroachment on Orang Asli Customary Land in Peninsular Malaysia (Malay & English)
- Sistem Kepemerintahan Negara dan Perlindungan Hak-Hak Rakyat
- Panduan Undang-Undang tentang Hak Tanah Adat Orang Asli di Semenanjung Malaysia
- Pencabulan Hak Tanah Adat Orang Asli: Kelemahan Perundangan dan Kepemerintahan

**Website and Social Media**

Both SAM’s website and social media sites were populated throughout the year. By the end of 2016, there were more than 3,000 followers on SAM’s Facebook and more than 100 followers on twitter. There has been a rise in people visiting SAM’s website due to the fact that we began channelling more people to the site via our social media sites.

**Research**

SAM staff did some in depth research on the problems faced by the Orang Asli and produced a publication on the weaknesses in the law and governance which affect them.