



KERAYONG RIVER

ECOBIZ 2019 FACTSHEET

HISTORY AND LOCATION

Kerayong River meanders across two states, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. It runs from Pandan Indah and empties into the Klang River near the Pantai Dalam Commuter Station at Old Klang Road. The Kerayong River is one of the many rivers under the River of Life (ROL) national initiative in which cleaning and engineering efforts are aimed to improve the river’s water quality and eventually making the river safe for recreational usage. Currently, government agencies are conducting cleaning works such as installation of trash traps, and upgrading of flood catchment ponds and sewerage treatment systems. The efforts of ROL is to transform Kerayong River into an iconic city river while using its riverbanks to offer high economic, social and environmental value to the country and its people.

MAIN FUNCTION

Sungai Kerayong serves as an important habitat and can carry various sediment, chemicals, organic matter and volumes of water that contribute to unique conditions that support various species of fauna. As tributaries merge to the mainstream, they can introduce both vital ecological components and dangerous contaminants at their confluences. Cumulative pollution from a river’s tributaries contributes to unsafe habitats and drinking water, a factor exacerbated by proximity to developed areas. From the ecohydrological perspective, river tributaries and floodplains are extremely important to reduce the impact of flash floods as it can absorb flood and pollutant peaks through natural water retention capacity in floodplain areas and the whole basin and may minimise the danger of flooding.

If Sungai Kerayong is ever flooded, the deluge would head on towards Kuala Lumpur since the river is a tributary of the Klang and Gombak rivers. Flash flood in Kampung Cheras Baru southwards occurs if rainfall exceeds 302 mm. It only takes 113 mm for Pandan Indah to experience the same problem. Hence, pollution reduces the ability of Sungai Kerayong to function as a natural mitigation to the impact of flash floods.

LENGTH

12.5 km

GOVERNANCE

Kuala Lumpur City Council and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage

POPULATION SERVE IN RIVER BASIN

456,720. (37.3% Bumiputera; 44.3% Chinese: 7.5% Indian; 10.4% Non-Malaysians)

ISSUES

Pollution Food stalls, many of which are illegal, operate along the river near apartments and low-cost housing developments. Irresponsible disposal of food waste directly in to the river without any prevention measures are deteriorating the river water quality. Additionally, industrial areas are also contributing to the pollution through improper industrial waste discharges.

Degraded riverbanks Over time, due to intensive development, the river has suffered extensively in terms of its natural functions and ecosystems. Kerayong River has been concretized over the years, making it look like a giant drain.

Lack of sustainable economic activities Many stretches of the river is home to the low cost housing development and hence is home to the B40 community. There is minimal economic diversity with food stalls, small and medium industries and commercial buildings.

Public Health and Safety Issues on public health and safety in the river is of high concern. Accidental deaths, unguarded access to the river, and river contamination and its risks to public health has been featured and highlighted in local newspapers but remains to be addressed.

Social Challenges Affordability, and rising costs of living has impact many of the B40 communities that live within the basin, further adding stress and concerns to the communities in terms of healthcare, safety, and alternative income opportunities. While the young are inspired to be economically independent, opportunities are limited.