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Council wants mangrove forest restored

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THE parties responsible for encroaching on and clearing the mangrove forest at the Taman Alam nature park in Kuala Selangor have been told to restore the area again, after earlier efforts did not meet the specifications.

Kuala Selangor district officer Mohd Misri Idris said a notice was issued to the errant party on Dec 2 and they were given until April next year to restore the area.

"They have started their restoration work and replanted some mangrove saplings but they did not meet the specifications we wanted.

"So we want them to re-do it and follow the strict specifications in restoring the area," he said.

The irresponsible party had cleared about 3ha of the 324ha Taman Alam for prawn farming.

To make them pay, the state government had asked them to restore the area and replant what they had chopped down.

The Forestry Department, the Department of Environment (DOE) and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) jointly monitor and provide expert advice during the

replanting of the trees.

They were also provided with specifications on how the restoration should be done and how the planting is carried out in the area.

It includes filling up the ponds, recovering the precious natural soil conditions and replanting the mangrove trees.

Taman Alam, a gazetted forest reserve, is located near the mouth of the Selangor River, not far from the Kuala Selangor town centre. It is managed by the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS).

The park is a secondary forest and wetland with a man-made bund separating the wetland and the forest.

The park, as part of the Selangor River estuary, is home to a number of large bird species such as storks and herons as well as primates.

The park is also part of the larger Banjar Selatan Forest Reserve. The land belongs to the state.

A large portion of the area is under the management of state government agencies such as the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) and the Selangor State Agriculture Development (PKPS), which leased part of the land for agriculture use, including for prawn farming.



Sorry sight: Some of the mangroves had been cleared for prawn farming and the responsible party has to replant what they have chopped down.