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MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM: The project aims to create public awareness on the importance of protecting and conserving the mangrove ecosystem.

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KLANG: Sime Darby Plantation Sdn Bhd, in collaboration with KPMG Malaysia and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), will plant over 150 mangrove seedlings to rehabilitate the mangrove ecosystem along the coast of Carey Island.

Sime Darby Bhd's acting make it suitable for president/group chief executive Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said the project aimed to create public awareness on the importance of protecting and conserving the mangrove ecosystem.

"KPMG Malaysia's involvement began last September when it contributed RM50,000 to partly fund the project," Azhar told reporters after officiating at the mangrove replanting project at Carey Island here vesterday.

Azhar said FRIM would assist in the project by offering not only its expertise but also supply the mangrove seedlings and the planting beds, known as 'comp-pillow and comp-mat'.

"The construction of a

60-metre geo-tube and gabions structure at the site costs more than RM150,000.

"The structure, which was constructed early this vear, will function as a wave breaker.

"It will also trap mud and sand and gradually stabilise the ground to mangrove replanting," he said.

He said the mangrove replanting initiative began in 2003 as a collaboration project between Sime Darby Plantation's

research and development centre and University of Malaya (UM) to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Carey Island.

"The centre, the first of its kind in the country, allows UM researchers and undergraduates to conduct research and field work on the mangrove ecosystem," he said.

Moving forward, Azhar said, the company would invite other companies or organisations to join the initiative to protect Mother Nature. — Bernama