

# Local Agenda 21: Framework for Implementing Agenda 21 at the Local Level



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# Agenda 21



- A global action plan towards sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- There are 4 sections:

Section 1: Socio-economic dimension

Section 2: Conservation and management of resources for development

Section 3: Strengthening the role of major groups

Section 4: Means of implementation

# Agenda 21, cont...



- It contains 40 chapters
- 27 principles – human-centred
- Target- By year 1996, all local authorities should have a Local Agenda 21 Action Plan

# Agenda 21, cont...



- Started in 1992 when over 178 country representatives including Malaysia accepted and became the signatories of this Global Action Plan (Agenda 21) which took place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil during the Earth Summit.

# Local Agenda 21



- Agenda 21 at the local level - implementation of LA21
- An initiative to involve local communities in the global process of changing the way we live all over the world in order to protect the planet's environmental, economic and social assets for future generations.

# Local Agenda 21, cont...



- A programme for cooperation and participation between local authorities, communities, business and industry
- A positive approach towards sustainable development together with local communities in developing a Local action Plan

# Role of Local Government



## Local Authorities' initiatives through LA21 – Agenda 21, Chapter 28

“Each LA should enter into a dialogue with its citizens. Local organisations and private enterprises and adopt LA21.....” (para. 28.3)

# Awareness of LA21 in Malaysia



- Initiated by EPSM in 1997
- Supported by then Petaling Jaya Municipal Council (MPPJ)
- Series of capacity building workshops between 1998-2000 at then MPPJ for local community



# LA21 Pilot Project in Malaysia



- Funding from UNDP
- Official launching of LA21 pilot project by then Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1999
- Selection of 4 pilot project sites
- Appointment of LA21 Project Officer to implement LA21 programme

# LA 21 Pilot Sites in Malaysia



- **In Peninsular Malaysia-**

  - Petaling Jaya Municipal Council

  - Kuantan Municipal Council

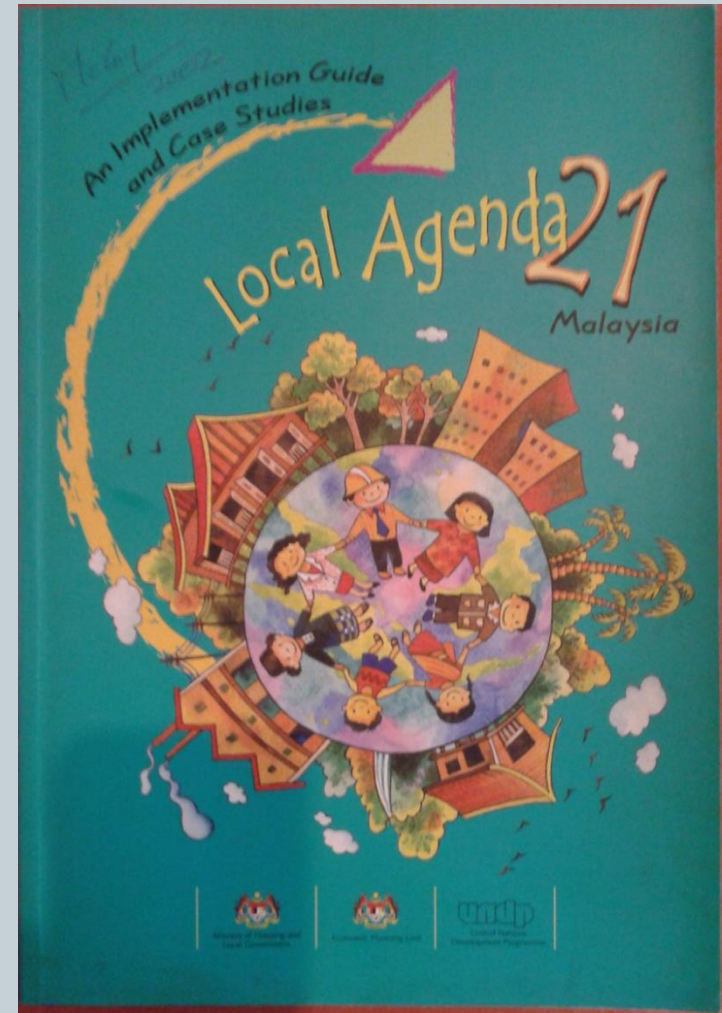
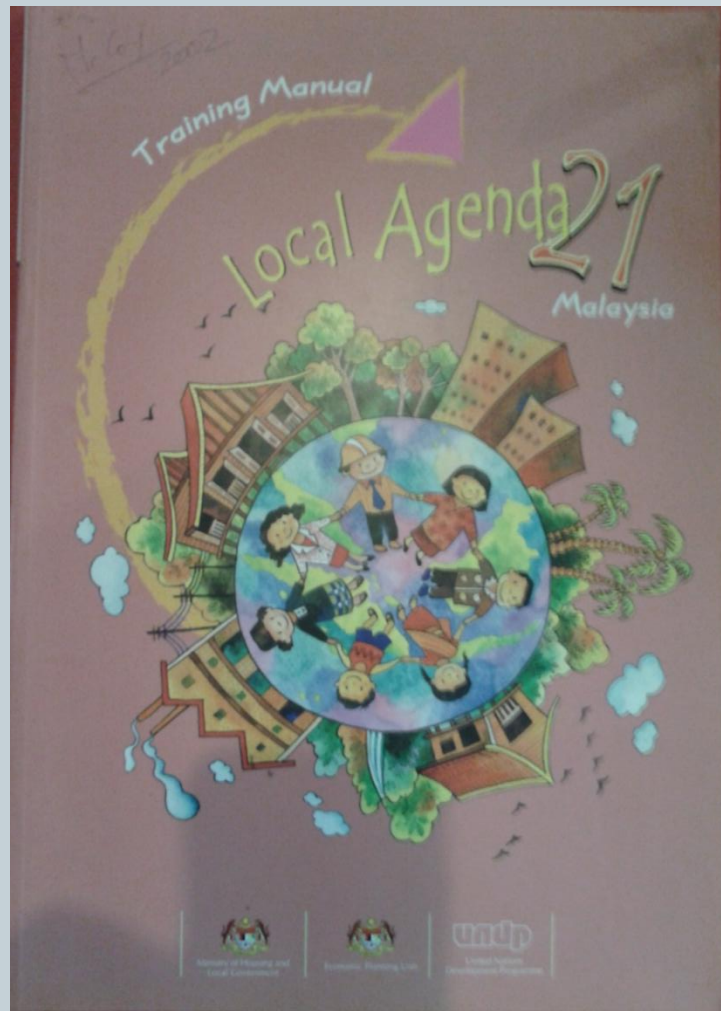
  - Kerian District Council

- **In Sarawak-**

  - Miri Municipal Council

In 2001, all local authorities in Malaysia were directed by the Ministry to implement LA21 in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

# LA 21



# LA 21



*Local Agenda 21 Partnerships*

# Key Elements of LA 21



- Community Vision
- Partnership
- Community-Based Issue Analysis
- Action Planning
- Implementation and Monitoring
- Evaluation

# LA 21- A Review



- Mostly top-bottom approach
- Local Authorities still play a domineering role in the LA 21 programme
- Viewed by participants as “functional” rather than “normative”
- Most participants do not feel themselves as partners but as beneficiaries.

## LA 21-A Review, cont...



- Location and time for meetings were problematic and not conducive
- Large numbers of observers, but no active participation and involvement
- Language gap

# Some Suggestions for the Future



- Define the role of the community and expectations of LA 21 programme; it is not a “one-off” programme
- A more meaningful role for residents association as stakeholders
- Instill and practice principles of good governance



## Some Suggestions, cont...



- Local councils should play the role of facilitator and practice “bottom-up” approach
- Compare what is going on in other countries with their LA 21 programmes
- Increase funding for building capacity of the community groups
- Ministry should re-affirm its commitment to LA 21

Thank you