

## Tasik Chini report submitted to Unesco, says Pahang exco

By [T.N.Alagesh](#) - October 4, 2022 @ 6:37pm



State Environment Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Sharkar Shamsuddin said Pahang state secretary Datuk Seri Dr Sallehuddin Ishak led the delegation which included State Forestry Department director (Datuk Dr Mohd Hizamri Mohd Yasin) to France last week. - NSTP/FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

TEMERLOH: The detailed report on improvements made at the Tasik Chini Biosphere Reserve site in Pekan has been submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) in Paris last week.

State Environment Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Sharkar Shamsuddin said Pahang state secretary Datuk Seri Dr Sallehuddin Ishak led the delegation which

included State Forestry Department director (Datuk Dr Mohd Hizamri Mohd Yasin) to France last week.

"The report was sent to the Unesco office in Paris and our permanent representative at Unesco will assist us," he said when met.

Sharkar was earlier asked about the Sept 30 deadline set by Unesco for the authorities to submit a report on conservation efforts for Tasik Chini, which had been damaged by unregulated mining activities.

Meanwhile, Sharkar said there might have been some weaknesses previously in addressing the issue but the state government was striving its best to restore the greenery around Tasik Chini.

"The Pahang government has included details about our continued efforts to rehabilitate the lake including new initiatives that have been implemented. We have displayed our urgency and seriousness on the matter.

"We have the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia-led Tasik Chini Research Centre helping to return the lake which is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna to its former glory while the Forestry department is aggressively planting tree saplings around Tasik Chini," he said.

Sharkar said the state government has established the Pahang State Parks Corporation and the Pahang Biodiversity Council to help preserve the sustainability of the country's second-largest freshwater lake.

"Tasik Chini was previously under the jurisdiction of the Pekan district council and Forestry department but there was no specific statutory body to monitor the lake in terms of development and other matters. Now, the Pahang Biodiversity Council will coordinate the implementation of the Tasik Chini management plans," he said.

Tasik Chini, measuring 6,922.97 ha, is the first Biosphere Reserve in Malaysia, recognised by Unesco under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme on May 26, 2009.

In 2019, it was reported that Tasik Chini could lose the biosphere reserve status if no rehabilitation efforts were taken.

On Sept 10, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan during his visit to the lake said a report on improvements to the lake will be sent to Unesco soon and the government was confident that world body would not withdraw Tasik Chini's status as a biosphere reserve.