

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

1st SWCS RETREAT

2018



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1ST SWCS RETREAT 2018 AT KOKOL HEAVEN RESORT

For the first time, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society holds the retreat 2018 at Kokol Heaven Resort on 8th and 9th January 2018. In 2005, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) was established with the purpose of facilitating the establishment of a legitimate and accountable entity to manage the wetlands in an independent manner. SWCS is responsible for overseeing the management and the operation of the KKW Ramsar Site.

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A Non-Government Organization working on Conservation of Wetlands in Sabah

Established on 22 August 2005

OBJECTIVES

To promote the conservation of wetlands in Sabah and the variety of plants, birds and other kinds of organisms found in them.

To raise public awareness and appreciation of wetlands and public involvement in protecting wetlands.

To manage Kota Kinabalu Wetlands (KKW) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.

The purposes of this retreat were to discuss how to enhance facilities, infrastructure, level of operations, perceptions, public relations and funding needs of Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site. There were presentations from EXCO members, Staffs of KKW Ramsar site, Ex-officio member from WWF-Malaysia(Sabah) and invited speaker Freddy Tan, a Branding Consultant that giving insights on the branding opportunities for KKWRS. The two days retreat was a fruitful event for the participants.





CHRISTMAS GATHERING 2017 (HI-TEA BY SO SWEET BY OLET)

SWCS's annual Christmas party was held on 21st December 2017 at KKWRS, with approximately 30 members, staffs, interns and invited guests attending. As has become the norm tradition, guests began their evening socializing and followed by impromptu performances by the interns. 'So Sweet by Olet' provided a delicious mouth watering hi-tea with cupcakes and chocolates, suitable for the sweet tooth lovers. The Management of SWCS would like to thank the members and guests attended the event and hoping can maintain the established, friendly business relationship and continued mutual cooperation for a long period.



BRUGUIERA HAINESII "BERUS MATA BUAYA"

There are a total of 10 species of mangrove plant that can be found at Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site, for example, *Rizophora mucronata*, *Rizophora apiculata*, *Avicennia alba* and *Bruguiera cylindrica*. There is one threatened species of mangrove rehabilitated at KKWR site called *Burguiera Hainesii*. *Bruguiera Hainesii* or Bakau Berus Mata Buaya is a critically threatened mangrove species under IUCN red-list.

Based on IUCN red-list, this species previously present in South Asia in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea (PNG) but because of the major threats, this species currently found only in Malaysia (80 trees), Singapore (3 trees) and West Papua PNG (120 trees). These mangrove species keep decreasing day by day. The major threats to this mangrove species are by extensive coastal development, rise in sea-level and localised threats, for example, mangrove destruction for fish pond, shrimp farm, and other agricultural activities.

KKW RAMSAR SITE EFFORT TO CONSERVE BRUGUIERA HAINESII

Presently, KKWR Site is making all the effort to maintain the survival of *Bruguiera hainesii*. In KKWR site there are about 10 species of *Bruguiera hainesii* survived and still under continuous monitoring. The seeds were transferred from the Manukan Island. This mangrove planted at different sites and different conditions to see its adaptation to the environment of KKWR site. Under monitoring and research, we were hoping that this mangrove species can be survived and well growth at KKWR Site. We also would like to welcome researchers that willing to do a research about *Bruguiera hainesii* at KKWR site.



Bruguiera Hainesii planted at different sites.



To: Presidents of all political parties in Malaysia

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 countries, including Malaysia, in September 2015 at the United Nations Summit encompass environmental, social and economic dimensions. These are now considered as universal goals for development and indicators of a country's well-being.

We believe that environmental conservation deserves a greater emphasis in your aspirations for our country. Sustainable development should be a goal that ensures a win-win in the environmental, social and economic dimensions. By informing voters of your aspirations and plans for sustainable development in Malaysia, you allow them to make informed decisions with their votes. We, the undersigned, urge you to recognise the environmental aspirations of the citizens of Malaysia, especially the youth¹ by: a) including these aspirations in your Party Manifesto; and b) ensuring they are given high priority to ensure sustainable development for current and future generations. We appeal to you to inform the voters how you will work towards realising those aspirations for the benefits of the people and, more specifically, what would you do in the first 100 days, if you are elected to form the government.

Malaysia is recognised as one of the top twelve countries in the world for mega-biodiversity. We are blessed with tropical rainforest, mangroves, peatland, montane forests, which ranks Malaysia the 4th in the world for most tree species¹¹. Our surrounding seas are important parts of the Coral Triangle, which contains more than 75% of the world's known coral species¹². Our biodiversity is certainly one of the reasons why many tourists come to Malaysia.

As we all know, humans cannot survive without nature. While development is meant to increase our standards of living and grow our economy, unsustainable development inadvertently destroys the environment. The environment that provides services we take for granted such as our clean air, fresh water, food, and protection against extreme weather. In the end we are left worse than expected and this does not need to be the case. We must aim to achieve development in a sustainable way to balance our aspirations for economic growth without compromising our natural capital (environmental assets, social systems, cultural resources). Only then can we ensure higher standards of living for current and future generations.

In the absence of sustainable development and without proper protection of nature, the risks of flash flood, air pollution, landslides, shortage of water supply, and expanding urban heat islands will increase. We have already seen some of these happening and the frequency and intensity will get worse due to the pressures of increasing populations and changing climate. Not forgetting the role forests, wetlands and oceans play in providing food, nutrients and recreational space for humans, regulating the climate and buffering against extreme weather.

This Open Letter has been prepared in a neutral and non-partisan manner on behalf of our supporters - your constituents. They expect us to engage with the political system to advocate sustainable development and to urge you to make this a priority above party politics. By informing the voters your aspirations and plans for sustainable development in Malaysia, you allow them to make informed decisions with their votes.

We thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Biji-biji Initiative
Civil Society Organisations for Sustainable Development Goals (CSO-SDG) Alliance
Ecocentric Transitions
EcoKnights
Environmental Protection Society Malaysia (EPSM)
Land Empowerment Animals People (LEAP) Spiral
Malaysian Nature Society Kuching Branch
#PowerShiftMsia
Reef Check Malaysia
Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)
Sabah Environmental Trust
Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society
Society for the Promotion of Human Rights (PROHAM)
Treat Every Environment Special (TREES)
Wetlands International Malaysia
WWF-Malaysia



6th January 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Hokaido Teacher



11th January 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Keisei High School Japan and SM All Saint Kota Kinabalu.



21st January 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with All The Rotary Clubs in Kota Kinabalu



24th January 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Rosaryhill Secondary School Hong Kong



28th January 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Horizon Borneo



31st January 2018. Environmental Education Programme with UIA Kuantan Pahang.

Guests' comments



Really nice place and a very good information.
We saw a lot of great animals. I really like it!
- Helena Queenrel & friend, France.



Very beautiful place.
- Chelsea & Friend, Malaysia



Beautiful! lots of great birds to see and we loved the Mudskippers. The observation tower was a favourite place. Exhibition info is very good.
- Heidi & friend, Australia

Upcoming Events

Environmental Education Programme

- Universiti Malaysia Sabah
- Amazing Borneo (Student from China)

Mangrove Tree Planting

- All The Rotary Clubs in Kota Kinabalu
- Environmental Celebration (World Wetlands Day)

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

01 Volunteering is good for your heart

Volunteering for KK Wetlands Ramsar Site can be great fun! If you have passion for the environment or just want to gain more outdoor experiences, this is the appropriate channel. Do not miss the chance! Sign up to be a volunteer now or contact us for more information.

02

Monthly Bird Monitoring

Join our monthly birding activity on every 15th-17th day of the month

FOR
MORE
INFO

How to
REGISTER

Call us at
088-246955
or drop us an email at
swcs@sabahwetlands.org

membership

Benefits of being our member

03

- As a member, you will be able to participate in members' events and enjoy free entry to Kota Kinabalu Wetlands Ramsar Site
- Eligible for 50% discount for binoculars rental*.
- Most importantly, you know you are helping this ecosystem to survive and provide essential services to it.

support us by joining our programmes

1. Environmental Education Programme

- KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme
- Handcrafting from Mangrove

2. Environmental Voluntary Work

- Nursery Work
- Mangrove Clean-Up

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