

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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BIRDS IN KKWRS

Previously, Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site is known as Kota Kinabalu Bird Sanctuary. This site becomes a place for a variety of birds includes the local and migratory bird. Mangroves forest act as a shelter for the birds to get food and nesting. Until now more than 90 species of birds recorded in KKWRS. Visitors and birders will spot different species of birds especially the water birds and canopy birds. Most of the migratory birds found in KKWRS are from north and north-east. Generally, the migratory birds that come to Borneo either as non-breeding migrants, passage migrants or vagrants.

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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

Established on 22 August 2005

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

OBJECTIVES

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.

Variety of Birds at KKWRS

Purple Heron is the biggest bird you can spot here with a standing height ranging from 0.7m to 0.94m. The breeding season for the Purple Heron between February to March and you can spot them build their nest on the fern called *Acrosticum*. Mostly, we can spot the migratory birds such as Sandpiper and Pacific Golden Plover at the bird-hide. Some canopy birds such as Common Iora, Asian Glossy Starling, Pink-neck Pigeon and Tailor Bird will stay or fly in the group. When they are in the group they always make a sound, calling for each other so you will hear the varieties of bird sound.

The Perfect Time for Bird Watching

Visitors have a chance to enjoy a walk in the Mangrove forest looking upon the birds along the boardwalk where this area is facilitated with 1.5 km long of the wooden bridge and 200 m of the gravel path. In Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site, sometimes if you are lucky enough you will see many beautiful birds and in the certain time you only get a chance to hear their voice. Times, weather and tidal affect the number of birds in this forest, so the visitors need to build much more patience on observing the birds. Usually, the peak hour and perfect time for bird watching are in the early morning and late evening. You can still see the birds on the other time but not as many as at the peak hour.



Bird hide for bird watching



Colourful of birds in KKWRS
Photo Credit ©: Eugene Cheah

Priceless of water

Water is a transparent, tasteless, odorless, and nearly colourless chemical substance that is the main substance in earth structures. Water covered more than 71% of the earth's surface and the ocean holds about 96.5% of all earth's water. Water also exists in water vapor, rivers, lakes, icecaps, glaciers, in the ground as soil moisture and aquifers.



Marine Life

credit: <https://www.pegasusfoundation.org>

Water is very important to all living organisms, environment, and climate. As a human, we need the water for our daily life for example to maintain our body systems, transportation, and cleaning. For animals, water important for their ecosystems, habitats and

Known as a universal solvent, water is able to dissolve more substance than any other liquid. This unique characteristic makes water easily polluted. Human activities are the main causes of water pollution, for example, an oil spill, sewage, agricultural and industrial activity. Polluted water will affect human health and the environment. Worse, the contaminated water will cause death. According to a study by The Lancet, in 2015 about 1.8 million people die because of water pollution.



Wetland view

Water pollution that affects the nature will cause the imbalance in ecosystems and habitats of flora and fauna. For example, Excessive nutrients in a lake or ocean that came from agricultural activity causes an algal bloom which in turn reduces oxygen levels in the water. This dearth of oxygen, known as eutrophication, suffocates plants and animals and can create "dead zones," where waters are essentially devoid of life.

Water is very important to all living organisms, environment, and climate. As a human, we need the water for our daily life for example to maintain our body systems, transportation, and cleaning. For animals, water important for their ecosystems, habitats and the source of foods. Without water, all living organism on this planet will not survive.



Article references: <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/earthhowmuch.html>

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/water-pollution-everything-you-need-know#categories>

Importance of Wetlands



Mangrove Forest at KKWRS is the example of Marine & Coastal Wetland

Wetlands are areas where water is the factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. They occur where the water table is at or near the surface of the land or where the land is covered by water. Ramsar Convention recognised three categories of wetland: Marine & Coastal Wetland, Inland Wetland and Human-made Wetland. Marine & coastal Wetland includes coral reef, mangrove, a coastal lagoon and tidal marshes. Inland Wetland includes river, stream and waterfall. Human-made Wetland includes paddy field, aquaculture ponds, reservoirs and canals.

Natural Disaster barrier

The role of wetlands in disaster risk reduction that can reduce impacts of natural hazards like the tsunami, hurricane, and erosion. For example, mangrove forest can be the first line of defense from tsunami and hurricane that can slow down the impacts before it reaches to the mainland.

Climate Mitigation

The wetlands are efficient to store carbon because the soil found in wetlands can store carbon for the hundred years. they store dead wood and plant matter in the soil and the waterlogged conditions prevent the material from decomposing and releasing CO₂. Wetlands like mangrove forest are two to four times more efficient to store carbon than other tropical forests because mangrove is a fast growing tree. Conserving wetlands will contribute to combat climate change and global warming.

Article references:

<http://www.earthshare.org/2015/04/wetlands.html>,

<https://sciencing.com/do-wetlands-purify-water-7585568.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>

<https://www.ramsar.org/news/wetlands-the-hidden-resource-for-climate-mitigation-and-adaptation>

Flood Control

Wetlands act like a sponge, soaking up water that comes in with the tides, or from periodically flooding river. Wetlands can control the floods much more effectively and efficiently than any floodwall. Wetlands within and downstream of urban areas are particularly valuable, counteracting the greatly increased rate and volume of surface- water runoff from pavement and building.

Water Purification

Wetlands act as a filter to purify and clean up the water from excess nutrients and dangerous pollutant. Pollutant such as toxic metal and excessive nutrients come from the agricultural and industrial activity. They purify the water before reaching the sea or river, which is of enormous importance for marine life, fisherman and aquacultural.



5th July 2018. Outreach - SMK Likas.



5th July 2018. Environmental Voluntary Work - SMK Tebobon 2.



11th July 2018. Environmental Education Programme - Trinity High School, England .



25th July 2018. Outreach - SMK Putatan and SMK Sanzac.



29th July 2018. Environmental Education Programme and Environmental Voluntary Work - SMK St Francis Convent (M).

Newspaper Cutting Corner

Express makes Sabahans proud again

KUALA LUMPUR: The *Daily Express* – the No. 1 newspaper in Sabah and Labuan – made Sabah proud yet again by competing against the nation's best and clinching two prizes at the Malaysian Press Institute (MPI)-Petronas Malaysian Journalism Awards at Shangri-La Hotel, here, Friday.

Special Writer Mary Chin and Chief Editor James Sarda were the main winners in the Excellent Environmental Journalism Category about how the only remaining wetlands in the State capital that was nearly lost to development was transformed into Sabah's second Ramsar site, the wetlands equivalent of World Heritage status. They received a trophy, certificates and cash prize of RM10,000.

The Kota Kinabalu Wetlands (KKW) as it is called is the city's last remaining patch of mangrove and is only the second such in the world to be located within a city after Tokyo. It is also the second site in Sabah after the Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands to be accorded Ramsar status. Both have since become an eco-tourism destination.

KKW, which boasts some of the world's rarest mangrove species, supports 32 species of mangrove trees and a large diversity of animals, including more than 90 species of resident and migratory birds, various reptilian species like monitor lizards and mangrove skinks, piscine species, including mud skippers, archerfish, catfish and half-beaks, many crustacean species such as mud lobsters, fiddler crabs and tiger prawns.

Chief Executive Officer of MPI, Datuk Dr Chamil Wariya, said the entries went through several rounds of judging. "The panel of judges was very impressed with the series. *Daily Express* is producing gems," he said. The consolation prizes went to *Berita Harian* and *The Star*.

Daily Express' other winner was Sherell Jeffrey who won a consolation for a series of reports on the efforts by newly-appointed Chief Judge of Malaysia, Tan Sri Richard Malanjum, to bring justice to the most inaccessible parts of Sabah and Sarawak through the mobile court concept. Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah graced the event which was also attended by President cum CEO of Petronas Group, Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin.

This is the second major national environmental journalism award bagged by the *Daily Express* this year. In March, Special Writer Kan Yaw Chong was the winner of the Prime Minister's award for a series of reports that forced the cancellation of a RM700 million bridge-cum-highway project in Sukau, Kinabatangan, that would have dislocated Sabah's iconic pygmy elephants and orang utans and killed the booming ecotourism industry.

Pic shows Mary (centre) and Sherell receiving the prize from Wan Zulkiflee (2nd left). Looking on are Members of the Governing Council of MPI, Mohd Azri Atan (right) and Hj Ainal Amriz Ismail (left).

Guests' comments



We enjoyed the beautiful walk around the mangrove forest. we got to see and take pictures of the Egret, Brahminy Kite, and Kingfisher. The staff was also very friendly - Jasmine & Brandon Mayfield, Australia & US



KKWRS is a great place to observe nature. Great!
- James Cheng & Family, Taiwan



Very beautiful and amazing place.
- Mirihiro Suzuki and wife, Japan

Upcoming Events

Environmental Voluntary Work

- SMK St Francis Convent
- SM All Saint

Environmental Education Programme

- Adventure Journey (Japan)
- SMK Entabuan Tenom
- Camp International Group Malkoha
- Yokohama Konkusai High School
- SMK Tebobon
- SMK Gadong Beaufort
- SM All Saint

Mangrove Tree Planting

- MSU College
- Pra-U SMK Likas
- Ibis Hotel



**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

04



Give your old laptop or desktop a new life by donating us!

1. Environmental Education Programme

- i. KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- ii. Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme
- iii. Handcrafting from Mangrove

2. Environmental Voluntary Work

- i. Nursery Work
- ii. Mangrove Clean-Up

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