

# NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS

The 1st International Symposium on Conservation and Management of Wetlands (ISCMW 2014) with the theme *Sustainable Conservation and management of Wetlands* was held in 2014 and resulted in a number of resolutions particularly on the Conservation as Ramsar Site. In the year 2016, the theme for 2nd International Symposium (ISCMW 2016) was *Wetlands: Connectivity, Corridors and Catchments*. Where the purpose of the symposium as a platform for discussion, information sharing and creating awareness among the various stakeholders on wetlands conservation. This year the 3rd ISCMW was held on 25th and 26th September 2018 at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resorts and Spa.

## 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.

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.

## Third ISCMW 2018



YB Tuan Assaffal P Alian

The theme chosen for the 3rd ISCMW 2018 is '*Integrated Conservation and Management of Urban Wetlands*' that designated to initiate discussion among key stakeholders from the public, private, academia and civil society organisation in recognising wetlands larger benefits, addressing the threats and evaluating best practices including governance for urban wetlands.

The two days Symposium was officiated by Yang Berhormat Tuan Assaffal P Alian Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and environment representing Deputy Chief Minister cum Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah, Yang Berhormat Datuk Christina Liew.

During the two days event, there were approximately 100 participants and invited guests had joined the symposium. A total of 12 experts international and local speakers sharing their knowledge, thoughts and experiences. There were three main sessions involved, session 1 is about Issues & challenges, session 2 is Utilisations & benefits and the last session is Stewardship & Governance. Speaker from Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society represented by Recheal Jane Ronnie the Environmental Education Officer (EEO) bringing up the title of talk "*Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society's Approach Towards Wetlands Conservation in Sabah*".



SWCS are delighted to be able to hold this symposium for the third time with the generous support from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Environment, Sabah Environmental Trust, WWF-My, Sabah Tourism Board and Timatch Sdn Bhd.





**Prof. Norman Duke**  
TropWATER, James Cook University,  
Australia



**Ir. Dr. Zaki Zainudin**  
Department of Biotechnology Engineering,  
Kulliyah of Engineering IIUM



**Prof. Dr. Wan Ruslan**  
Universiti Sains Malaysia



**Prof. Dr. Shahwahid Othman**  
Faculty of economics and management,  
UPM



**Dr. Justin Sentian**  
Faculty of Science and Natural Resources,  
UMS



**Prof. Dr. Jennifer Chan**  
Director of Borneo Tourism Research  
Centre, UMS



**Dr. A. Aldrie Amir**  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



**Christopher A. Matunjau**  
Sabah Forestry Department



**Dr. Susan Pudim**  
Environment Protection Department Sabah



**Recheal Jane Ronnie**  
Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society



**Dr. Elia Godoong**  
Universiti Malaysia Sabah



**Dr. Matt Fortnam**  
University of Exter, United Kingdom

Day 1 (25th September 2018)



Day 1 (25th September 2018)



Day 2 (26th September 2018)



Day 2 (26th September 2018)



## Categories Of Wetlands

### Inland Wetlands

Inland wetlands come in many forms and can be freshwater, brackish or saline. Lake, river, peat swamp and marsh are types of Inland Wetlands. The vegetation and animals are different from other wetlands. Most vegetation and aquatic animals are freshwater tolerance. Same as other wetlands, peat swamp forest form where saturated soils or frequent flooding that prevent the organic material fully decomposing. There are unique and endangered species that are live in the peat swamp forest for example Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Orangutan and Borneon Orang Utan.



*Paddy Field is type of human-made wetlands*



*Kut Tling Marshland Ramsar Site, Thailand*

### Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands are located in the areas between land and open sea that are not influenced by the rivers. Coastal Wetlands can be a mudflat, mangrove, shoreline, beach and coral reef. Most of the vegetation and animals are saltwater tolerance. This wetland is important for nesting ground for the marine life. This wetland also has a unique and endangered species live in for example the Proboscis Monkey, Long-tailed Macaque and birds like Herons and Woodpeckers.

### Human-Made Wetlands

Human-made wetlands refer to wetlands that built for a purpose. Fish & shrimp ponds, irrigated agricultural land, reservoirs, gravel pits and canals are the example of human-made wetlands. The human-made wetlands is less diversity compared to other wetlands but it is still important to fauna especially waterbirds and other aquatic animals.



*Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site is the mangrove wetland*

#### Article references:

<https://news.mongabay.com/2014/07/what-is-peat-swamp>  
[http://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/water/intro/types/](http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/water/intro/types/)  
<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>



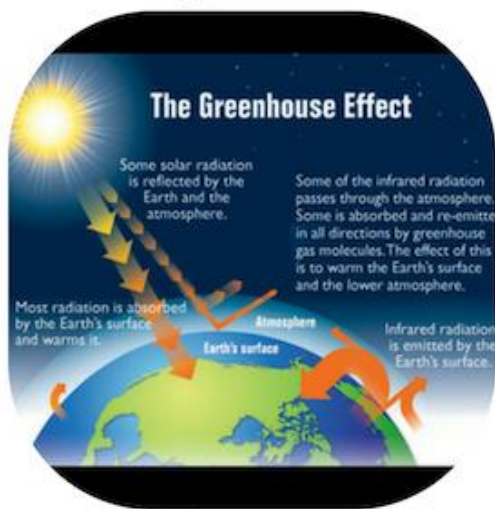
## Climate Change

Do you know what is climate change? Do you know climate change is real? Climate change is also known as global warming refers to the rise in average surface temperature on earth. You will notice the changing of the earth temperature when you live in the cold area where the temperature is not the same as 20 years ago.



*Change for better future*

The cause of climate change is mostly because of human expansion of greenhouse effects. Sunlight passes through the atmosphere and warms the earth's surface. Most of the outgoing heat is absorbed by greenhouse gas molecules and re-emitted in all directions warming the surface of the earth and the lower atmosphere. The more greenhouse gas molecules in the air the more heat trapped in the earth surface.



*Credit: <https://serc.carleton.edu>*

Water vapour, Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide are the example of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Human activities such as burning fossil fuel, agricultural and industrial activities increase the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere. Chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs) also one of the GHGs that can contribute to the destruction of the ozone layer.



*Ice melted in Antarctica  
Credit: Carbonbrief.org*

There are many consequences of climate change and global warming for example when the air getting warmer, the ocean will also warmer that will cause the ice melt. Water is a good heats' carrier and conductor that can carry the heat by conduction and convection. Changing in climate, for example, a long-term drought will affect human and also all the living things. Some regions may be facing the warmer condition that is not a normal temperature or climate.

what we should do to prevent or to slow down this situation? Based on the International Conference on Climate Change, the climate change is no longer only a scientific concern, but it involves economics, sociology, geopolitics, national & local politics, law and health. There are many efforts from the Government and NGOs to solve this problem but they need support from all communities to realise the efforts. Let us save the environment before it is too late. Change it for a better future!

Article references: <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

<https://climatechangeconferences.com/>

<http://www.takepart.com/flashcards/what-is-climate-change/index.html>



3th September 2018. Environmental Education Programme with SMK Tambunan.

## Newspaper Cutting

4 THE BORNEO POST  
Thursday, September 27, 2018 HOME

Zaher (third left), Wee (fourth left), Charles (second right), Mutha (second right), Norman (right) and Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society vice president Dr. Rajahmud Anand (left) at the speakers' podium.

### Funds needed to conserve mangrove and wetlands

By Jeyan Lajan

**KOTA KINABALU** Good projects such as mangrove and wetlands conservation need funding.

Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) president, Derek Zaher, said Sabah yesterday soil without funding, all the good ideas and efforts to combat issues confronting mangrove and wetlands conservation would come to nothing.

He spoke of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), which he said should be explored as that conservation efforts do not have to rely on donations and handouts all the time for funding.

"There is an agency to work out the PES," he said.

City Hall Mayor Derek Yusoff has shared his opinion citing the importance of having enough funding to preserve and protect the wetlands.

He added that the strategy to preserve the wetlands in Sabah should not fall merely on the shoulder of the government but for all parties.

A senior scientist of TropWATER, Australia, Professor Norman Dudgeon stressed the importance of preserving what remains of wetlands everywhere, including in Sabah.

He explained that there is a decline in wetlands in every country.

However, he was optimistic with the strong interest shown to preserve the wetlands at the International Symposium on Conservation and Management of Wetlands, a one-day event which ended yesterday.

A representative from the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Charles Yeo explained the tremendous benefits of the wetlands and stressed the importance of ensuring the public know about them.

He added that the ICE Wetlands, for example, is being used for water tourism.

"The wetlands neutralise the nutrients and pollutants before the water flows into the sea," he said.

Due to the wetlands, people are able to enjoy their activities at the beach, he said.

He also reminded that it is cheaper to use the wetlands as a device to maintain the health of the ecosystem rather than depending heavy and expensive machinery that requires high and expensive maintenance.

He also proposed that value be added to Sabah's wetlands as this will stop people to think of them as wastelands.

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) spokesperson, Siti Mutha shared that he used to view wetlands as wasteland, but he now came to realize that it is a source of life.

He also said awareness has to be an important issue when it comes to preserving the environment.

### The challenge in saving urban wetlands

Lowland wetlands are essential ecosystems for the planet. They are home to a vast array of biodiversity and play a crucial role in maintaining the global water cycle. However, urban wetlands are being lost at an alarming rate, posing a significant challenge to environmental conservation.

The loss of urban wetlands is a global issue. In many cities, wetlands are being converted into residential and commercial areas. This not only destroys the natural habitat but also increases the risk of flooding and water pollution. Urban wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing excess water and filtering pollutants. Without them, cities become more vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Preserving urban wetlands is a complex task. It requires a combination of government action, community involvement, and innovative financing. Governments need to implement strict regulations to protect wetlands from development. Communities can play a role in monitoring and maintaining local wetlands. Innovative financing, such as payment for ecosystem services, can provide a sustainable source of funds for wetland conservation.

It is crucial to recognize the value of urban wetlands. They provide numerous benefits, including improved water quality, flood control, and recreational opportunities. By investing in the conservation of urban wetlands, we can create more resilient and sustainable cities for the future.

Daily Express 10th October 2018

## Guests' comments



It was a very peaceful, relaxing and exciting experience.

- Gisela de Bruyin from Spain



I enjoyed the Mangrove Walk and I love the sound of the birds. It's Amazing!

-Aoha Kohno from Japan



Very informative centre. Love it!

- Drew Hofdreimer from Australia

## Upcoming Events

### Environmental Education Programme

- SMK Pekan 2 Kota Belud
- SMK Pekan Telupid
- SJKC Chung Hwa Sipitang
- SMK Taman Tun Fuad
- Konsai Highschool Japan

### Environmental Voluntary Work

- UITM Kota Kinabalu

### Mangrove Tree Planting

- SMK Gadong Beaufort
- Sekolah Sukan Malaysia Sabah
- Booking.com Malaysia



## 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.

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## 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](mailto:swcs@sabahwetlands.org)

## membership

### Benefits of being our member

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

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