

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



CONTENTS

- 01** SERASI Award 2018 Ceremony
- 02** Wetlands Corner
- 03** #SaveOurPlanet
- 04** EEP, EVW & Mangrove Tree Planting Activities
- 05** Guests' Comments & Upcoming Events
- 06** KK Wetland Ramsar Site Membership, Volunteering & Monthly Activities

SERASI AWARD CEREMONY

In conjunction of Malaysian Environment Week, the 10th SERASI (Sekolah Rakan Alam Sekitar) for year 2017/2018 was held at Jabatan Kesenian dan Kebudayaan Negara (Sabah) on the 25th October 2018 which involves primary and secondary school all around Sabah. As an environmental NGO, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) support the effort of this environmental activity. This year, SWCS being a part of SERASI AJK that responsible for exhibition competition.

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 Wetland (KKW) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.

Raising Awareness among the School Community

The ceremony 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. Schools are awarded based on their efforts and contributions in raising awareness among the school community on the importance of conservation and restoration of the environment through various activities and programme in schools.



SM St Micheal Penampang, SJKC Sin Hwa, Tawau, and SJKC Chi Hwa, Sandakan awarded as Mentor SERASI 2017/2018. Top three for Wira SERASI (Secondary School) awarded to SMK Tawau, SMK Muhibbah Sandakan, and SMK Majakir. For Primary School awarded to SK Lambidan Kuala Penyu, SMK Pasir Puteh Tawau and SJKC Cheng Ming Keningau. Top three for Harapan SERASI category (Secondary School) awarded to SM St Patrick Tawau, SMK St Patrick Membakut, and SMK Entabuan Tenom while for Primary School awarded to SK Kekapor Kuala Penyu, SJKC Chi Vun Tenom, and SK Suasa Beaufort.

All of the effort to raise awareness among our youth through the SERASI programme is an excellent way to protect our environment. Let's keep this effort for our better future!



*Exhibition winner (primary school category)
SK Lambidan Kuala Penyu*

The objectives of this programme are to increase the awareness of the importance of conservation and preservation of the environment in school, built positive attitude and love for the environment among the school community that emphasize environmental conservation and conservation, encourage innovation towards creating a school environment that emphasizes environmental conservation, and recognizes the school's efforts in environmental education programs. There are five awarding categories which are the teacher, headmaster, primary school and secondary school.



Mock Cheque Presentation

Article references:

<http://www.sabah.edu.my/serasi/serasi/serasi.html>



SWCS Trip and Visit

A throwback to SWCS Trip and Visit to other wetlands education and recreational centre. The purpose of the visit is to share knowledge and learn how the other centre run and manage their wetlands. The visit is not only within Malaysia but also to other countries such as Singapore and Japan!



Kuala Selangor Nature Park



Tasek Bera Pahang



Pulau Kukup Johor



Japan Wetland International



Sungai Tempasuk



Sungai Kawang



Mangrove wetland

Wetlands and Human

Benefits of wetlands to human

There are a lot of benefits of wetlands to human in term of products, resources and shelter. Most of communities that live in wetlands area dependent to products of wetlands such as timber and marine product. The wetlands also store and purifier the water that give us the clean water. Wetlands such as mangrove forest act as barrier from the natural disaster such as Tsunami, big wave, and strong wind. Mangrove also important to mitigate the climate change and global warming that has become the global issues nowadays.

Human threat to Wetlands

There are several human threats to wetlands, especially for development and land conversion. Development of residents, tourism and agricultural land are the major threats that destroy wetlands area. The wetlands that have been converted into the industrial and commercial land caused the loss of flora and fauna. Harvesting wetlands product in an unsustainable way also caused loss of wetlands area.

How we can protect wetlands?

- Restoring Damage Habitat
Restoration the wetlands by tree planting and cleaning.
- Sustainable Harvesting Wetlands Product
Wisely use the wetlands product and resources.
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
Do not fill the wetlands with the rubbish.



Save our wetlands by planting mangroves!



Mangrove that have been cleared

Article references:

http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/water/intro/threats/
http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/water/intro/types/
<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>

Wildlife Poaching and Smuggling

Wildlife poaching is when the animal kills illegally. Wildlife especially animals are usually killed or their body parts are taken for traditional medicines and fashion industries. The gallbladders, livers, meats, ivory and horns are used for traditional medicine while the skins, furs and scales used for fashions. Some animals are smuggled and kept as exotic pets. Smuggling or trafficking involve illegal transportation, gathering and distribution of wildlife. Some flora such as trees smuggled to make a furniture while the flower, for an instance, the Orchid smuggled because of the rarer and beauty. This activity involves a lot of money because of the high demand and the rarity of the wildlife which makes these poaching and smuggling activities increased over years. Most of the animals that are poached are protected and endangered animals.



"Sabre" Pygmy Elephant
Credit: Carbonbrief.org

The Asian Elephant and Pygmy Elephant are two species that found in Malaysia. The Pygmy Elephant is the smallest elephant in the world and endemic to Borneo. On August 2016, "Sabre" the Pygmy elephant that has unique tusks is found in Tawau but sadly a few months later Sabre has died, which Sabre was killed by poachers.

Sea Turtles egg is one of the most popular foods in Malaysia. Turtles egg trade is illegal in Sabah under Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997. There are seven species of turtles in the world and out of seven, six species can be found in Malaysia. The giant sea turtles, Leatherback sea turtles can be found in Terengganu. Three species of sea turtles are listed under IUCN Red List as endangered species (Green Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle and Kemp's Redly).



Gold Of Kinabalu Orchid
Credit: <https://www.studiofmp.com>

Top wildlife Poached and smuggled in Malaysia

Malayan Tiger or *Panthera tigris jacksoni* is the smallest tiger among the six species of tiger in the world and endemic to Peninsular Malaysia. The Malayan Tiger poached for their fur and body parts. Currently, the number of this species are only about 250-350 individuals. This Tiger listed under IUCN Red Red List as critically endangered.

Malayan Pangolin and Sunda Pangolin are the most trafficked animals in Malaysia. The high demand of its body parts and scale used for traditional medications and most popular in China and Vietnam. Sunda Pangolin is listed under IUCN Red List as critically endangered.



Sea turtles egg seized in Sandakan
credit: <https://www.bharian.com.my/>

Article references:

<http://tigers.panda.org/news/asia-poaching-crisis/>

<https://cleanmalaysia.com/2017/01/03/sabre-elephant-killed-poachers-sabah/>

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/07/wildlife-sea-turtle-egg-smuggling-malaysia/>

ISCMW Appreciation Dinner on 26th October 2018





5th October 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with students from SMK Gadong Beaufort.



11th October 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from SK Pekan Telupid.



13th October 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from SJK (C) Chung Hwa



19th October 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with Booking.com Malaysia.



21st October 2018. Environmental Voluntary Programme with UITM Kota Kinabalu.



21st October 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from Koushi High School Japan



26th October 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from SRS Datuk Simon Fung.



27th October 2018. Environmental Voluntary Work with students from University College Sabah Foundation.



31st October 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from Kolej Komuniti Tambunan



9th November 2018. Environmental Voluntary Programme with students from SMK Likas.



11th November 2018. Environmental Voluntary Programme with students from Sidma College Kota Kinabalu.



13th November 2018. Environmental Programme with SK Paka Tamparuli.



15th November 2018. Environmental Voluntary Programme with students from kolej Vokasional Likas.



15th November 2018. Environmental Education Programme with students from SMK Sanzac Kota Kinabalu.



21st November 2018. Environmental Education Programme with student from Jesselton International School.

Guests' comments



It was a very peaceful, relaxing and exciting experience.
- **Gisela de Bruyin from Spain**



Thank you for the good experience.
- **Norihiro and friend from Japan**



WE enjoyed the Mangrove Walk and I love the sound of the birds. It's Amazing!
-**Wang & family from China**



We were surprised to see so many crabs, mudskippers and birds!
-**Laura and Jon from UK**

Upcoming Events

Environmental Education Programme

- Kinderkaizen Putatan

Environmental Voluntary Work

- Leo Club Kota Kinabalu

Mangrove Tree Planting

- Palace Hotel Kota Kinabalu
- Kolej Vokasional Tambunan



**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



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.

04



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

support us by joining our programmes

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Mohamad Nazri Ali
Recheal Jane Ronnie

COMPILED BY

Mohamad Nazri Ali

EDITOR

Recheal Jane Ronnie

