

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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#FLASHBACK SWCS'S ACTIVITY IN 2018

2018 was the tremendous year for Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS), a lot of activities that SWCS managed to organize both national and international as well as signing the MoU and projects. At the beginning of 2018, SWCS started with the 1st SWCS retreat at Kokol Heaven Resort. The drives of this retreat are to discuss how to enhance facilities, infrastructure, level of operations, perceptions, public relations, and funding needs to manage Kota Kinabalu Wetland 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 Wetland (KKW) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.

During the World Wetlands Day 2018 in February, we invited more than 200 guests which include our Guest of Honor, VIPs, and students to light up the event. Secondly, we celebrated the World Environment Day in June 2018, where 100 participants involving students and teachers from three different schools. In July 2018, SWCS and Acacia Forest Industry Sdn Bhd continued their collaboration by signing the second MoU. Into the bargain, SWCS had Courtesy Call at Jabatan Pendidikan Daerah Kota Kinabalu, Matta Sabah Sabah, and Jabatan Penolong Pemungut Hasil Tanah Papar. The highlight of the year would be The 3rd International Symposium on Conservation and Management of Wetlands 2018 that was held in September and as the closing, for the event, SWCS organised an appreciation dinner in October for the immense effort to make the event a success to the organising committee members and the management. We hope in 2019, will bring us a lot more opportunities and filled with happiness and success!



1st SWCS Retreat



World Wetlands Day 2018



World Environment Day 2018



MoU with Acacia Forest Industry Sdn. Bhd.



Courtesy Call from Left: Jabatan Pendidikan Daerah Kota Kinabalu, MATTA Sabah and Jabatan Penolong Pemungut Hasil Tanah Papar



The 3rd International Symposium on Conservation and Management of Wetlands 2018 (ISCMW 2018)



ISCMW 2018 Appreciation Dinner

Spiritual of Wetlands & Water

The spiritual significance of wetlands is closely related to the religious, cultural and historic importance wetlands play in human well-being. Spirituality contributes significantly to wetland services and values but often remains overlooked and undervalued. Water has many functions in religions and they believe the lakes, rivers and seas have the power to heal the sick, to give prosperity, overcome the bad luck and death. Indigenous people's spirituality is often directly related to wetlands being imbued by spirits while mainstream religions construct places of worship in wetlands.

Since the beginning of civilization, the world's societies have all been dependent on water and many of them directly on wetlands. Different religions and cultures have their own beliefs and practices in their rites and rituals. For an instance in Malaysia, every 15th day of the Lunar calendar, the unmarried Chinese girl will go to lake, beach or river to throw the oranges. This tradition originated from Penang in the 19th century. The Chap Goh mei also was known as the Chinese Valentine's Day where they believed they will find true love. Water in Hinduism has a special place because it is believed to have spiritual cleansing power. To Hindus, all water is sacred, especially rivers, and there are seven sacred rivers.

In Islam water is important for cleansing and purifying. Muslims must be ritually pure before approaching God in prayer. Almost all Christian churches or sects have an initiation ritual involving the use of water. For example, baptism among the earliest Christians involved the candidate's immersion, either totally (submerged completely under the water) or partially (standing or kneeling in water while water was poured on him or her).



Top:
Water Therapy



Left:
People throw the oranges into the river



Top:
Baptism in Christianity



Left:
Wudhu in Islam
Credit:
kisahhikmah.com

Article references:

<https://www.africanwater.org/religion.htm>
<http://www.pipeaway.com/chap-goh-mei-chinese-valentines-day/>
<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>

Plastic, Water & Animal

The Blue Planet

Planet Earth has been called "Blue Planet" due to the abundance of water. It is the only planet in our solar system that has a large amount of liquid water. Not like the other planet, Earth can support liquid water based on the right mass, chemical composition and location. The water of the oceans cover 71 per cent of the Earth's surface and contain 97 per cent of the Earth's water. The other 2-3 per cent is contained in glaciers, ice caps, and fresh water. The oceans contain 99 per cent of the living space on the planet, which is important to know that the ocean is one of the most important sources living things. Oceans is also a significant source of oxygen for our planet and are instrumental in the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.



71% of Earth covered with the water

Are The Plastic Our Friend or Foe?

However, we all know the pollution of the ocean and the sea nowadays are getting worse. Too many types of rubbish thrown to the seas especially plastics. Plastics is the chemical-based waste that unbiodegradable and takes a long time to rot. In fact, plastic waste affects so much to marine life nowadays. It is because marine animals such as turtles and fish cannot differentiate between plastic and food. The shape, colour, and smell seem like food in their daily consumption. The sea turtles confused to differentiate the plastic and the Jellyfish because the colour and the shape most commonly resemble.

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/>



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

The plastic bag is not only distracting the animal's intestinal system but also can cause external illness. When plastic bags end up in our oceans, animals (including seals, dolphins and seabirds) can get tangled up in them. An animal with a plastic bag around its neck, mouth and legs will have trouble to eat, breath, move and even run from their predators.



Unlucky seal sangled with the plastic string
Credit:Idausa.org

Many people don't realise that plastic bags also can cause the flood. Plastic bags blocked the water drainage during a big rainstorm. People that live in the infected area will have a risk to lose their house, belonging and also their life. There are many efforts from Government, NGO's and the private company to combat this issue, for example, some stores in Malaysia working on plastic reducing by having some days in a week as plastic-free day. Some restaurants banned the used of straw and change it with the other alternative and eco-friendly straw. All of this effort need support from all of us. Thus, remind to yourself and people around you to reduce and reuse the used of plastic in our daily life. You just might save our environment and also our future.

*Thank You to All participants
for joining our programmes in the year 2018*





7th December 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Students from Kinderkaizen Putatan.



13th December 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with the Palace Hotel



13th December 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with students from kolej Komuniti tambunan.

Guests' comments



Always enjoy visiting the wetlands in the city. We will return!
 - **Danacolin Smale**



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



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

- Jesselton International School

Tree Planting Programme

- Keshi High School Japan

Voluntary Work Programme

- Aiesec Malaysia

Others

- RRC-EA Project Programme



**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

CONTRIBUTORS

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2. Environmental Voluntary Work

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