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.

Thank you for reading our August newsletter!

We have had an amazingly busy and fruitful month at Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) and we invite you to learn about our progress.

Updates...
Check out our newly added “In House Expert: Up Close & Personal with SWCS Management Committee” section to learn more about us!


Under Construction..
We are revamping our website with a few new features including ‘now & then’ and ‘What’s happening’ sections. We will also have a newsletter tab so you can encourage your friends and family to stay in the loop with our activities and important information. Please bear with us as we work on this at www.sabahwetlands.org.

Contribute & Connect..
Some discover us through the media and word-of-mouth. Others are pulled by a force called ‘curiosity’ as they pass by the main entrance. One common question by first timers is “what is there to see?”. If you are interested in visiting Kota Kinabalu Wetlands or joining an activity with us, do come and visit us! We are open everyday (including Public Holidays) except Mondays.

All donations made to the Society are exempted from tax under Subsection 44(6) of Income Tax Act 1967.
Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society is always committed in delivering knowledge to the public through our environmental education center. Our Environmental Education Programme lets us deliver the message on the value of wetlands, the importance of mangrove forests and the uniqueness of its features. This August has been one of the most active months for Kota Kinabalu Wetlands in facilitating multiple environment education programmes.

**INSTITUT PENDIDIKAN GURU CAMPUS GAYA**

6th August:
Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society was invited to set up an exhibition booth at Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Gaya from 8 am to 2 pm. It was such a great opportunity for us to be able to share information on the importance of mangroves and its ecosystem, activities of environmental education and environmental voluntary work of Kota Kinabalu Wetlands to the teacher trainees. On top of that, we carried out a hands-on on paper making demonstration for the participants to spread awareness and encouraging them to recycle.

**SM ALL SAINTS**

5th August:
48 students of SM All Saints and 4 exchange students from Japan came to Kota Kinabalu Wetlands for our Environmental Education Programme. The programme began with a video presentation, followed by an interpretative walk into our mangrove forest, playing our EE game, “Who Am I” and seedling collection. Due to high tide and rain, the original plan to have nursery work and mangrove clean-up was cancelled. Despite the weather hiccup, we hope they enjoyed the activities and gained valuable information and knowledge from us. Thank you SM All Saints! Please come again to help us in maintaining this precious mangrove forest.
JAPANESE VISITORS

6th August:
A total of 20 Japanese visitors visited Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. The activity started with a video briefing presented by Mr. Satoshi Watarai from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and followed by interpretative walks inside the mangroves. We want to thank Borneo Trails (http://www.borneotrails.com/) for introducing the group to our wetlands and hope they gained some new information and made good memories to bring back to Japan!

UPM WITH SM LOK YUK & SMK LIKAS

8th - 9th August:
Dr. Evelyn Lim Ai Lin and two Masters students from Universiti Putra Malaysia organized a two days programme at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands for their research title: ‘Exploring the Effectiveness of Environment Interpretation on Human-Plants Relationships for Environmental Education Program in Malaysia’. This programme involved two local secondary schools, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Likas and Sekolah Menengah Lok Yuk. The first day involved 11 students from Sekolah Menengah Lok Yuk while the second day, 27 students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Likas. The activities of this programme included interpretative walk along boardwalk, nature interpretation at our exhibition hall, environmental education games and nursery work. Dr. Evelyn is trying to educate the participants to appreciate the mangrove environment and instill a sense of belonging towards the environment. They will be having more activities following up to this event in the months to come to gauge how effective students are able to interpret the environment.

SM TSUNG TSIN

28th August:
We received 24 students from SM Tshung Tsin at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands who were divided into two groups to join our Environmental Education Officer, Conservation & Education Assistant, JICA volunteer and internship students for an interpretative walk. We hope all the knowledge and messages gained will be useful and practiced in the future.
THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAMME (TCTP)

17th August: It was a privilege for Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society to received 17 participants of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) from different countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar and Laos during their Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme. The 22-day TCTP program was organized in collaboration with the Office of Natural Resources State (NRO), the Foreign Ministry and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As part of this programme, activities were organized at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands, such as the video presentation, talks and information sharing by Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society staffs and Sabah Environmental Education Network representative, followed by mangrove interpretative walk and mangrove tree replanting in Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve. The participants managed to plant 38 Rhizophora apiculata trees within an hour. Despite their tiredness and hot weather, the participants had fun as they contributed their effort to support the conservation of mangrove forest. Special thanks to TCTP organizer for choosing Kota Kinabalu Wetlands, once again as one of the training ground for the participants.

YOKOHAMA KOKUSAI HIGH SCHOOL

27th August:

10 Japanese students and 2 Japanese teachers from Yokohama Kokusai High School visited Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. Welcomed and briefed by our JICA volunteer, Mr. Toru Tamamushi, before a brief talk by Ms. Yoda, the representative from JICA. The participants enjoyed an hour long interpretative walk into mangrove forest. After lunch, they proceeded to the Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, Tuaran for mangrove tree replanting. At the end of the day, they had a sharing session to exchange ideas and thoughts about the activities they experienced. Most of them were really keen to return in the near future to see the growth of the their planted trees!
SM ST MICHAEL & HSBC
22nd August:
39 students from SM St Michael, Penampang and 5 staffs from HSBC visited Kota Kinabalu Wetlands to experience the nature environment of mangrove forest and tree planting through the Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme. The students were so enthusiastic in learning about mother nature. We believed we successfully planted the seed of loving the nature in them. The mangrove planting activity gave them the opportunity to experience the beauty beneath the grey mud in the mangrove swamp. Keep supporting us in conserving our wetlands!

SMK BONGAWAN II
19th August:
Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society welcomed 20 students and 5 teachers from SMK Bongawan II for their environmental voluntary work at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. A welcoming speech by Jane, our Environmental Education Officer, was given before they started their mangrove clean up activity. Their goal of that day was to collect 100kg of rubbish inside; after one hour, they managed to collect a total of 91kg. All the students were given certificates as an appreciation towards their conservation efforts. Kudos!

PTPL COLLEGE
21st August:
A group of 60 first year students from PTPL College and 3 teachers came to Kota Kinabalu Wetlands as volunteers, cleaning up the car park area, building compounds and mangrove area.
Certificates were presented to all students as an appreciation for their hardwork and effort.
AUGUST has been a very interesting month for Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society. In continuation of our Ramsar site networking trip to Kuching Wetlands National Park in January 2015, we had an incredible opportunity to visit three more conservation and educational centres in Peninsula Malaysia; Kuala Selangor Nature Park in Selangor, Tasek Bera Ramsar Site in Pahang and EcoCare Environmental Education Centre in Terengganu on 23rd to 25th August 2015. Six committee members and two staffs participated in this trip to gain experience and exposure, with the objective to learn how they managed their educational centres and to strengthen the network between Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society with other educational centres around Malaysia.

We put together a fantastic itinerary to make our experience diverse and rewarding. We drove from Selangor to Terengganu within three days. All the knowledge and information gained from this trips will be useful in the implementation of our new management plan.

A bit about the sites:

Kuala Selangor Nature Park is approximately 800 acres in size and includes secondary forest, the estuary of the Selangor river, mangrove forest, mudflats and 25 acre man-made brackish water lake system.

Tasek Bera is the biggest freshwater lake in Malaysia and is located in the middle of a lowland area in Pahang. It has an area of 31,120 hectares; its wetlands alone totals 6800 hectares. Lake Bera was proclaimed as the first Ramsar site in Malaysia on 1994.

The EcoCare Environmental Education Centre (EEC) features displays, exhibits and information relating to the Kerteh River ecosystem and Kerteh’s unique coastal terrain and biodiversity. It promotes awareness and understanding of environmental conservation amongst school children, teachers and the community. The structure of the centre follows the local Terengganu house and its concept is environmentally friendly.
Ushering in National Day 2015; 8 representatives from Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society lead by Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa visited the Binsulok River and stayed at Binsulok Nature Resort for a night. The objective of this trip was to survey the Binsuluk River estuary for potential establishment of wildlife Sanctuary.

We also took this opportunity to appreciate the tranquil environment far from the hustle and bustle of the city. There is an abundance of flora and fauna such as proboscis monkeys, long tailed macaques, crocodiles, fireflies and birds. The presence of high biodiversity makes this place a potential product for eco-tourism activity. Imagine a tree in the dark with lights blinking in waves, just like a Christmas tree. That was our enchanting firefly watching experience in Binsulok river. Overall, we strongly recommend this place as a must visit destination.

**Guest Column**

Sandra & Moira from Switzerland, 2nd August 2015

“Very nice boardwalk and the gravel path was quite adventures. Lots of friendly colourful birds. I love the mudskippers! We are going to re-visit this place again. Soon!”

Ratna Seri Arif & Family, Sabah, Malaysia, 5th August 2015

“A nice walk in the middle of the city. We saw matured mangroves tree which is very heartening. We saw a couple of egrets birds. Perhaps visitors ought to be encouraged not to make noise if they want to see the variety of bird species. Please include me in any conservation efforts as I live in Signal Hill and would like to see this area preserved.”

Sonia Radhawa & Family, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23rd August 2015

“Had a great time with the kids, my suggestion it would be good if more information as a guidance and good maintenance of facilities for the safety of the visitors. Overall, we loved this place. Keep up the good work!”

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Alex Yong Su Fen is a friendly and easy-going, and has been a committed SWCS Management Committee for the past 6 years.

1. Name and origin
   Alex Yong Su Fen, Kudat

2. Occupation and for how long?
   Developer Contractor for more than 35 years.

3. Where did you hear about SWCS?
   Introduced by a friend, Mr. Salleh Lo, a SWCS member.

4. When did you start joining SWCS?
   It was 6 years ago, in the year 2009.

5. What are your contributions for SWCS?
   As a voluntary member, my contributions are my time, ideas and efforts in supporting the SWCS objective; Due to my passion for the environment, I was appointed as the Chairman of our Tree Replanting Initiatives. As an advisor, my core responsibilities are to ensure the nursery is in good condition, that mangrove tree replanting activities are carried out accordingly to achieve a target for each month, as well as to participate in the tree replanting activities organized by SWCS.

6. What is your opinion about SWCS?
   From my humble opinion, SWCS is a very well run and organized NGO, dedicated and committed in carrying out its objectives in conserving wetlands. As an NGO, SWCS is the only NGO in Sabah that focuses on conserving the wetlands. We have a very good cooperation among the committee members. All of us show “satu hati” when dealing with difficult situations because we treat each other like a big family.

7. How do you compare SWCS in the past and present?
   Based on my observation, a lot of improvement have been done. Hopefully, the existence of Kota Kinabalu Wetlands Management plan it will assist in enhancing the existing facilities as well as other aspects of the centre.

8. How do you see SWCS in 5 years time?
   SWCS will definitely be the 7th Ramsar site in Malaysia and 2nd urban wetlands in the world.

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is TODAY.

- Chinese proverb -
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON SEPTEMBER?

11th & 12th: Fundraising & Communication Workshop
19th: Sayonara Internship Student
20th: E.M Mudball workshop

Environmental Voluntary Works:
4th Sept—PTPL College
5th Sept—Wheel Club (tree planting)
9th Sept—Rakuno Gakuen High School, Japan

Educational Environmental Programme: & Mangrove Conservation Programme:
12th: UPM
15th: SMK Bandaraya
27th: Insight Borneo

Support us by taking PART in our Environmental Educational Programmes:
- KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme (includes tree planting in Tuaran)

For information, +6088-246 955 or swcs@sabahwetlands.org
Like us on (https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety)
Visit our website: www.sabahwetlands.org

Kota Kinabalu Wetlands
This is a 24-hectare mangrove forest reserve right in the heart of the city of Kota Kinabalu that has been designated as a State Cultural Heritage site since 1998. It is managed by Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society.

This environmental education centre on the site has been in operation since 2000. It has an administrative building with an exhibition hall, a 1.5 km boardwalk, a bird hide, observation tower and outdoor classroom.

Contributors:
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Guslia Lahasing (Conservation & Science Officer)
Rita Ignatius (Manager / Executive Secretary)
Compiled by: Davisthon Soitoh (Conservation & Education Assistant)

Benefits of Being Our Member
• As a member, you will be able to participate in members' events, enjoy free entry to Kota Kinabalu Wetland.
• Eligible for 50% discount for binocular rental*.
• Most importantly, you know you are helping this ecosystem to survive and provide essential services to it.
  *Subject to change without further notice.

What Can You do to Help?
• Be a member
• Be a volunteer
• Perform Environmental Voluntary Work
• Carry out Corporate Social Responsibility

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