

SABAH WETLANDS NEWSLETTER



President's Message



World Environment Day 2015
Seven Billion Dreams.
One Planet.
Consume with Care.
June 5

Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) / Pertubuhan Pemuliharaan Tanah Lembap Sabah was 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 Wetlands (KKW) as a model wetlands centre for the purpose of conservation, education, recreation, tourism and research.

World Environment Day (WED) is held each year on June 5. It has been one of the great annual events for years, which is being celebrated worldwide by the people aiming to raise global awareness about the importance of the healthy and green environment in the human lives. Every year celebration is planned according to the particular theme and slogan that bring effectiveness in the campaign all through the world. This year, the slogan ‘Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care’ was chosen through voting on social media. Various activities are planned and carried out to celebrate this great event in different countries to encourage more people participate towards the celebration. As for Kota Kinabalu Wetlands, we have planted thousands of mangrove trees not only in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands itself, but also at other identified degraded mangrove area in Sabah. For the year 2014, we have re-planted 3,226 mangrove sapling at our site in Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, Tuaran.

In conjunction to World Environment Day 2015, Kota Kinabalu Wetlands has invited the finalists of Harvest Festival Queen Sabah 2015 together with secondary school students from all over Kota Kinabalu area to replant the mangrove sapling “Tree for Future” in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. The half-day event is part of our Society’s effort to raise the profile of wetlands conservation in Sabah as well as in the region, in line with our objective, which is “to raise public awareness and appreciation of wetlands and public involvement in protecting wetlands”. It is also serves as the ‘people’s day’ for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet and providing early exposure to the finalist of Harvest Festival Queen with the knowledge and awareness of mangrove conservation as for their preparation as environmental awareness spokesperson.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude towards our partners and sponsorships; Talisman Energy Limited and Hitachi that continuously support our sustainability. We are hoping to get more generous donors and future collaboration with esteem organization.

Organised by:

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
“Seeds of Tomorrow & Tree for Future”
KOTA KINABALU WETLANDS
20th June 2015

In collaboration with:

Powered by:

MANGROVES—OUR PRICELESS TREASURE



With the end of the tree planting by volunteers on 16th May 2015, marks the end of Mangroves-Our Priceless Treasure project sponsored by Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad. A total of 59 students of the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources lend a helping hand to conserve mangrove area by planting 400 saplings. This brings the cumulative number of mangroves planting at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve has increased to 2,378 trees which exceed the 2,200 of targeted trees. This mangrove tree replanting is made possible by the involvement and determination of KKW staffs, interns, school group volunteers and also individual volunteers throughout the year (July 2014 until May 2015).

On 23rd May 2015, we also managed to collect a total of 965 *Rhizophora apiculata* propagules in Mengkabong to be planted at KKW nursery for continuous supply for future planting. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest heartfelt gratitude towards everyone that has involved in this project, whether indirectly or directly. Special thanks and appreciation goes to Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad in helping Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society to achieve its vision in the “conservation and sustainable management of Sabah’s wetlands.”



Seedling collection at Mengkabong



Seedling ready to be transferred from KKW nursery to Planting site nursery



Volunteers from PTPL enjoying their tree planting by using the creatively ‘home-made’ mini boat using reusable items.



Tree planting at Sulaman Lake Forest by UMS students



All donations made to the Society are exempted from tax under Subsection 44(6) of Income Tax Act 1967.

BRUGUIERA HAINESII- BEFORE EXTINCTION

Bruguiera Hainesii is also known as Berus mata buaya, a critically endangered species. In Sabah, we can find this species at tanjung Pulau Manukan. Last Year on 8th August 2014, we received 27 propagules from Sabah Park from the same trees, unfortunately the survival of the seedlings were keep decreasing and only 1 plant survive until now. Therefore, on 25th May 2015, with the help of Sabah Park, SWCS has taken an initiative by organising a staff trip to Pulau Manukan for to be ‘up-close and personal’ with this special species. We also managed to collect 56 propagules to be planted at KKW nursery. Based on others’ research, this species has a very low propagation and slow growing rate. Hence, KKW is interested to do further study to identify the importance, growing and survival rate of this species for future reference.



Group photo with Sabah Park Staffs

Bruguiera Hainesii at Manukan Island

Sapling growth from the mature tree roots

KKW staffs enjoying their time to collect more seedling

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER: TERRAPIN

Now, in KKW you can see our new members, 1 female and 8 male terrapins were donated by civilian. Terrapin is a smaller species of tortoise that living in fresh and brackish water. It can withdraw their heads into their shells and have rounded shells that help deter other animals from biting them. Besides that, their short and rounded feet enable them to walk easily on land. It generally have the longest lifespans compare to other animals. In some cultures, they symbolize longevity. Do visit us at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands.



Feel free to visit us! Don't forget to bring my favorite cabbage :)



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Outreaching to the public is one of the efforts to raise the public consciousness of the importance of protecting and restoring wetlands. Through the outreach programme, we are able to inform, share, and ultimately to encourage individuals to protect and improve wetlands resources, for example what we have in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. In May, two outreach programmes were conducted to Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, University Malaysia Sabah (ITBC, UMS) and to SMK Sri Nangka, Tuaran.

ITBC, UMS

ITBC, UMS celebrates the World Biodiversity Day every year as a platform to expose students and the public on the importance of biodiversity. With this year theme “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”, they slotted KK Wetlands paper-making exhibition and hands-on activity as one of their activities. The session targets to share the knowledge on how essentials it is to conserve and protect the nature through sustainable development, with the participants from ITBC UMS itself, and students from SM All Saints and SMK Tebobon.



SMK Sri Nangka, Tuaran

The Karnival Kokurikulum SMK Sri Nangka, Tuaran which was held on the 27th May 2015 was a happening event where there were various agencies invited for exhibitions. Our aim for the exhibition is to introduce KK Wetlands to the public who attended the carnival, especially to the students and teachers of SMK Sri Nangka. Wetlands are quite often considered as wastelands because not many people know about their values. It is important to conserve the mangrove ecosystem in KK Wetlands as mangroves is a highly productive forest built by a small group of trees and shrubs that have adapted to survive in the harsh interface between land and sea. It is also vital to know that mangrove is a host to a rich and complex array of associated species, and in turn provide considerable services to human communities.



ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTARY WORK

Either you are volunteering in a group or as an individual, what counts is the priceless spirit of supporting the environmental conservation works. We have received invaluable volunteers in May, which not only assisted us in achieving the target of mangrove tree replanting project with Bank Islam Berhad, but also an aid to the everyday efforts in maintaining and protecting the wetlands. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation the people who volunteered and it is hope that you enjoy the experience here in KK Wetlands. Keep up the spirit!



Located near to their school, the students from SM All Saints, volunteered here in KK Wetlands. To complete their academic report, they are to volunteer in environmental conservation work. These students helped in clearing the parking area which was covered with fallen leaves. Indeed the more the volunteers are the faster and easier the work is. Two heads are better than one!

Blessing in Disguise : Story about DAN



After months of planning for a vacation in Sabah, he then received text message from his friends that they are unable to proceed their vacation as scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. All the way from Philippines, he went through the journey.. alone. Without any information about KK, he told the taxi driver to drop him in the city, he walks around and suddenly saw KKW entrance gate. Without knowing that there is a wetland centre at the heart of KK City, he decided to take a walk and fascinated with the nature, especially the birds and reptile that he managed to spot on that day. On the same day, a group of students from University Malaysia Sabah participated a mangrove tree planting activity, he then decided to join them and directly registered as KK Wetlands volunteer.



On the next few days, he joined another volunteering group from SMK Bongawan II, in nursery work that led by Teacher Erin. Both himself and the students gained new experience in how to maintain mangrove nursery, from filling the polybags until the mangrove clean up session. This small act of volunteering is what binds communities together. There are so many experiences you can gain while volunteering in KK Wetlands, not only that you are able to contribute back to the environment but also to find new friends. Amongst the activities that you can volunteer to join here are mangrove clean up, nursery work, tree planting and many others. We hope to receive more earth warrior in the future!

ENGAGING OUR EX-OFFICIO



SWCS recognizes that true value can be created by nurturing Ex-Officio relationships, based on trust and understanding. It is important maintaining a close dialogue with the Ex-Officio for the successful delivery of the society strategy and to achieve SWCS vision. On 05.05.2015, we paid a courtesy call to Mayor of Kota Kinabalu, YBhg. Datuk Abidin Madingkir. It was a brief meeting and Datuk has been very helpful and keen towards supporting SWCS to achieve our objectives. Deepest sincere from SWCS. Thank you.

On 13th May, ushering the Harvest Festival month, the SWCS officials pay courtesy call to Environment Protection Department's Director, Datuk Yabi Yangkat and Principal Assistant Director (Development), Madam Daisy Aloysius. This courtesy call is to discuss on the matter arising concerning the environmental issues as well as to update each parties on any related matters that give direct impact to Kota Kinabalu Wetlands and surrounding area.



IN HOUSE EXPERT - SWCS COMMITTEE MEMBER



Kota Kinabalu Wetlands is a piece of jewel within our doorstep, tucked so neatly in the heart of our city. They are only two of it kinds in the world, the urban wetlands. This amazing wetlands supports the variety of plants, birds and other kind of living organisms found in them. I can proudly say that this is our national pride and that is why we need to conserve it by all means or we will lost it forever.



BLACK TING

Chairman of Environmental Education

GUESTS' COMMENT



Name: Devina Lister & Kirk Summerwill

Date: 13 May 2015

Country : Bolton, England UK

Comment : We loved the wetlands centre. A very authentic nature experience at the beautifully kept Sabah Centre. We were lucky enough to see crabs, lizards and different birds including purple herons and common sandpiper. Enjoyed walking off the beaten track. Keep up the good work!

Name: Mairis, Malborn,
wenddy & Bj

Date: 16 May 2015

Country : Kota Marudu,
Sabah, Malaysia

Comment : Kami tertarik dengan pemandangan disini, cuma agak sukar untuk melihat haiwan yang tersenarai di papan kenyataan. Namun, ia tidak menghalang kami dari terus menikmati keindahan pemandangan di KKW ini. Terima kasih kepada kakitangan KKW melayan kami disini dengan mesra sekali.



Name: Zhao Jian

Date: 3 May 2015

Country : Shanghai, China

Comment : Very interesting trip! I'm very excited when observing 5 or 6 purple heron! They are standing on a bunch, resting for a while. It symbolizes the tranquillity and harmony between the nature and human being!



Name: Dominik Fuglistaller

Date: 16 May 2015

Country : Switzerland

Comment : I think it is necessary that we protect some region like this one. I'm hoping the government will take an action to protect this place. The place itself is wonderful but I think it needs a bit of work. Because you can see garbage in the park, but I think it is the garbage from the city, which fluids in during high tide. So you see the influence of the city is big. So it is much more important that the people can do a good work here and protect nature. So thank you for this place, thank you very much.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON JUNE



Environmental Education Programme

- UMS: 14 June 2015



Environmental Volunteer Programme

- SM Tshung Tsin : 3 June 2015
- ATI College : 12 June 2015
- SMK Tansau : 16 June 2015
- Harvest Festival Queen : 20 June 2015
- Miss Earth Sabah : 27 June



Courtesy Call to Sabah Education Department :
5 June 2015

Reccee to Sungai Kawang, Kinarut:
6 June 2015



SUPPORT US

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 class room.

Benefits of Being Our Member



What Can You do to Help?

- Be a member
- Be a volunteer
- Perform Environmental Voluntary Work
- Carry out Corporate Social Responsibility

- 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

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Support us by taking PART in our Environmental Educational Programmes:

- KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme (includes tree planting in Tuaran)

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www.sabahwetlands.org