

# SABAH WETLANDS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015



Clean Up  the World



Clean Up the World's flagship event is held on the 3rd weekend in September each year. The estimated 35 million volunteers who participate in the event are taking responsibility for the environment; the effects are felt not only in the community in which they take place, but right across the planet.



This year, this campaign was held from the 14th to the 20th of September with the theme "Our Place..Our Planet..Our Responsibility", highlighting how local action should be taken by each one of us in a Clean Up the World activity.



On 19th September 2015, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society joined the campaign to improve the environment in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. We got together as a team to clean our parking lots, collect rubbish from the rubbish traps and clean the compound. We now pledge to do this bimonthly.



Do keep up to date with news about our initiatives via our:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety>  
Website: <http://www.sabahwetlands.org>



See more at <http://www.cleanuptheworld.org>

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

# Our Place... Our Planet... Our Responsibility

Contact us:

Tel:+6088-246 955

Fax: 6088-247 955

or

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

Like us on

(<https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety>)

## Environmental education programme

Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) is always committed in delivering knowledge to the public through our Environmental Education Programme. The programme is designed to help us spread the message on the value of wetlands, the importance of mangrove forests and the uniqueness of its features. SWCS is aware that conservation efforts are crippled without educating the society about the benefits of environmental protection.

We provide a plethora of Environment Education Programmes for all age groups, from kindergarten children to primary, secondary and tertiary students, as well as teachers and lecturers. These are designed into two main packages; Mangrove Experience Programme (includes video presentation, exhibition hall visit and guided interpretative walk); and Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme (includes video presentation, exhibition hall visit, interpretative walk and mangrove planting). We have also designed a package tailored specifically for families.

### I) MANGROVE EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

15th Sept 2015: SMK Bandaraya

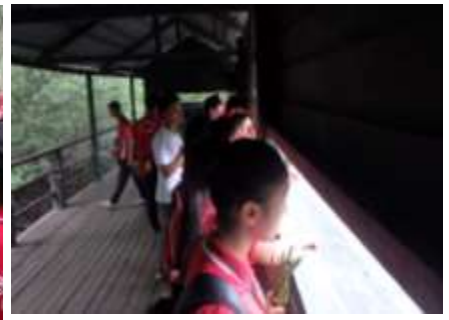
14 science students accompanied by their biology teacher came to experience the mangrove forest to deepen their knowledge of the forest as it is included in their biology syllabus.



One of favourite location; the Exhibition Hall.  
The 'Oh Wow Moment' by the students.



Guided interpretative walk into mangrove



The students enjoyed the Bird Watching session



EE Games at the Outdoor Classroom



The 3-storey of Observatory Tower



Group photo and presentation of certificate to the participants



## Environmental education programme

### II) MANGROVE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

12th Sept 2015: UPM: SM Lok Yuk and SMK Likas

Organized by Dr. Evelyn and two of her Masters students from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), this activity follows their data collection carried out for their research titled 'Exploring the Effectiveness of Environment Interpretation on Human-Plants Relationships for Environmental Education Program in Malaysia' from 8–9th August 2015. 23 students from SMK Likas and 11 students from SM Lok Yuk successfully planted mangroves with great enthusiasm at Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve.



The students made a human chain to transfer the seedlings. It encourages cooperation and communication among the students.



# Environmental VOLUNTARY WORK

Environment Voluntary Work offers the community an opportunity to take an active role in supporting and promoting care for our natural heritage. Contributions by volunteers are very helpful in terms of manpower for KK Wetlands. Voluntary programmes primarily involve three areas of tasks: wetlands management, environment education and fund raising. Volunteers could serve as individual volunteers or in groups. For further details on how to join our Voluntary Work, email us at [swcs@sabahwetlands.org](mailto:swcs@sabahwetlands.org).

04th Sept 2015: 60 students of Pusat Teknologi dan Pengurusan Lanjutan (PTPL).



Welcoming and Safety Briefing

Group photo with KKW staffs



Group division:



1. General cleaning



2. Nursery work



3. Mangrove cleanup

05th Sept 2015: 12 gorgeous ladies from Inner Wheel Club



Before



During



After

## Swcs FIELD TRIP: Rampayan River Cruise

On 27th September 2015, five (5) representatives from SWCS lead by Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa visited the Rampayan River, in Kota Belud. The objective of this trip is to survey the Rampayan River estuary for the potential establishment of a Wildlife Sanctuary to protect Borneo's endemic Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) and firefly habitat. Our appreciation goes to Datuk Karim Bujang for his continuous supports towards our conservation effort. Thank you for accompanying and showing us around Rampayan River.



Various of flora and fauna can be found here



Spotted Proboscis Monkey resting on a tree

## EFFECTIVE MICROORGANISM (EM) MUDBALLS INITIATIVES WORKSHOP AT TANJUNG ARU

The Effective Microorganism (EM) Mudballs are widely used for polluted water nowadays. Using a combination of dirt, bokashi and EM, the mudball functions effectively in inhibiting algal growth and other microorganisms which caused bad smell, also in breaking down sludge and silt. The mudballs are used by throwing it into a body of flowing or stagnant water, and when soaked with water, the EM mixed in dirt will be released slowly into the water. In addition, the use of EM Mudballs is environmental and ecological friendly.

With the theme 'Be Eco Friendly, Join Our Workshop', the EM mudball-making workshop was held at Sri Tanjung Seafood Restaurant, Beach 1, Tanjung Aru Kota Kinabalu every Sunday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. The staffs took this opportunity to learn how to make EM Mudballs by participating in their hands-on activity. We have learned that all the materials used throughout the process are organic, biodegradable and easy to source from our surroundings, except for the Effective Microorganism Active Solution (EMAS) which we can get from the EM distributor (Sabah).



The use of mudballs in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands will be helpful in mitigating water pollution and increase water quality, to make the water more liveable for fishes and our many aquatic inhabitants.

For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/ToEarthWithLove/>



Received briefing from En. Wan, one of the staff from Sri Tanjung Seafood Restaurant



Our EM Mud Balls, ready to roll!

## INTERNSHIP

Every year, we welcome a few students and recent graduates to join our team as interns. On 19th September 2015, 5 students from UMS completed their 12 weeks of industrial training. Our internship programme is a learning opportunity for everyone, regardless of whether you are studying Forestry, Environmental Science or Marketing courses. While we provide valuable experience and pass on our knowledge, our interns always manage to teach us a thing or two as well. They are invariably bright, enthusiastic and ambitious.

At the end of their practical training, on 11 September 2015, the students were visited and assessed by two lecturers from Faculty Science and Natural Resources: Dr. Kalsum Mohd Yusah and Ms Aasniza. It is time for us to bid farewell to our 2015 interns and look forward to welcoming new ones next year. On behalf of Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society, we thank you for your involvement and contributions to KK Wetlands.

Let's meet this year cohort!



Group photo: Interns, UMS lecturers and Industrial Supervisor after the report presentation



Farewell party for the Interns during their last day at work on 19th September 2015

## In house expert: up close & personal with our management committee



Marina Aman Sham  
(Honorary Assistant Secretary)

Marina Aman Sham received a degree in Public Relations and Marketing from Curtin University in Western Australia in 2007. Since then, her energy has focused primarily in conservation; working in communications with WWF-Malaysia, and on awareness, education and marketing projects locally. She is currently the Communications Director of The Global Diversity Foundation, a US and UK registered NGO with programmes in North America and Mediterranean that aim to protect biocultural diversity and enhance socio-ecological wellbeing.

Marina's 'roots' in SWCS began in 2009 when she worked part time as SWCS Executive Secretary, supporting EXCO decisions through to implementation with her colleagues at Kota Kinabalu Wetlands. She was nominated as Assistant Honorary Secretary in 2013, and currently also sits on our Fundraising Committee.

Some of the...

## GUEST COMMENT

Institute Pendidikan Guru Kent, 2nd Sept. 2015

“Tempat ini cantik dan sesuai untuk dijadikan salah sebuah pusat pendidikan, diharap orang ramai akan lebih mengahargai kawasan ini”.

Rahmat Hidayat Bin Arifai & Muhd. Fajru Johanshan, SMK Tebobon, 12th Sept. 2015

“Pemandangan di sini sangat indah, dipenuhi dengan pokok paya bakau. Saya juga dapat melihat haiwan yang belum pernah dilihat seperti Bengkarung”.

Patrice Clark & Bill Wright, USA, 5th Sept. 2015

“We saw a lot of birds here, we have to keep quiet in order to watch the birds inside the mangroves, we saw Collared Kingfisher, Common Iora, Pied Fantail, Glossy Swiftlet, Ashy Tailor Bird, Lesser Caucal, Greater Greenleaf Bird and many more.”

Jeremy Clarke, 22nd Sept. 2015

“It was good to walk around the boardwalk and look out for the wild life”.





# WHATS HAPPENING ON OCTOBER?

- 1st Oct 2015: CARBON FOOTPRINT BPROJECT, SM LA SALLE
- 21st Oct 2015 : WWF-KUDAT & KG. TARITIPAN, KOTA MARUDU
- 3rd Oct 2015: SABAH AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
- 23th Oct 2015 : OGAWA KOUMUTEN
- 4th Oct 2015: WORLD ANIMAL RUN
- 26th Oct 2015: MALAYSIAN ENVIRONMENT WEEK.
- 17th Oct 2015: DESA CARGILL
- 29th Oct 2015 : 3RD SWCS MANAGEMENT MEETING
- 20th Oct 2015: SMK KINARUT
- 30th Oct 2015 : SM ST JOHN TUARAN
- 20th Oct 2015: LE MERIDIEN
- 31st Oct 2015: SMK TANJUNG ARU

## SUPPORT US! BE A MEMBER today!

### 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

Contributors:  
 Guslia Binti Lahasing  
 (Conservation & Science Officer)  
 Rita Ignatius  
 (Manager / Executive Secretary)  
 Toru Tamamushi  
 (JICA Volunteer)  
 Compiled by :  
 Davisthon Soitoh  
 (Conservation & Education Assistant)  
*1st Editor: Rita Ignatius*  
*2nd Editor: Marina Aman Sham*

SUPPORT BY JOINING OUR PROGRAMMES:

**Environmental Educational Programmes:**

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

**Environment Voluntary Work**  
 (\*Contact us for activity booking form)  
 Tel: 088-246955  
 &  
 Email: swcs@sabahwetlands.org

**“Please consider the environment before printing.”**

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