

# NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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## MIGRATORY BIRD'S SEASON IS COMING

**WINTER IS COMING!** The Migratory Bird Season. October - April: It will be a good time for all birders and non-birders to see the migratory birds, such as sandpipers and plover from North-East Asia and Siberia. It will be their resting and feeding ground in Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site.



## 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.



**Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society**

A Non-Governmental Organization working on Conservation of Wetlands in Sabah

Established on 22 August 2005

# INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS SYMPOSIUM (GREF)

As part of the capacity building and networking activity, SWCS has the opportunity to participate in the 2019 International Wetland Centre Symposium organized by Gyeongsangnam-Do Regional Foundation (GREF) South Korea. The event was held in Gyeongsangnam-Do South Korea from 24th - 25th September 2019, which has been attended by Recheal Jane Ronnie (Environmental Education Officer) and Mohamad Nazri Ali (Conservation and Education Assistant).



A total of 20 presenters from around the Asian region have been invited for information sharing and knowledge transfer pertaining to their wetlands center. Among other activity that has been scheduled was the field trip to wetlands in Gyeongsangnam-Do, namely the Junam Wetland Reservoir and Upo Wetland. Upo Wetland is the first Ramsar site in South Korea which has been designated in March 1998.



# Mangrove Tree's Physiology

Mangroves have had to physically adapt their leaves, their roots and their reproductive methods in order to survive in a harsh, dynamic environment of soft, low oxygen soils and varying salinity.

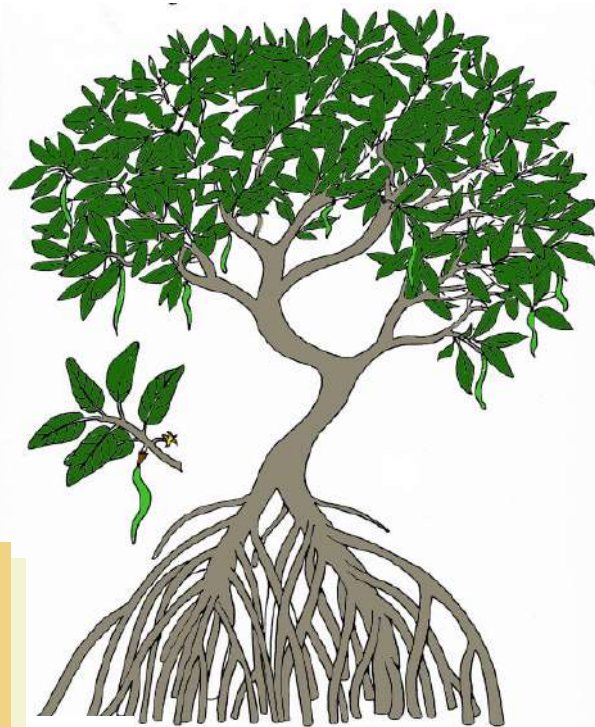
The mangrove leaves have the ability to excrete salt. The stomata closed in daily time to avoid the loss of freshwater.



Mangroves are able to turn their leaves to reduce the surface area of the leaf exposed to the hot sun.



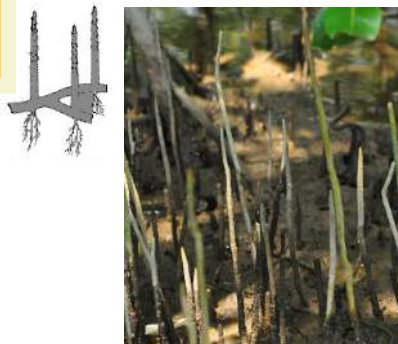
Mangrove retains its seeds until after it has germinated. When the seed has matured, the parent drops it into the water.



Prop roots descend from the trunk to provide additional support.



Specialized root membranes in some mangroves prevent salt from entering their roots.



Oxygen diffuses through the spongy tissue of the pneumatophore to the rest of the plant.

## Compilation : What Are Environmental News Happened In September

### Brutal killing of pygmy elephant: Post-mortem finds multiple gunshot wounds

The Sabah Wildlife Department described the death of the pygmy elephant in Sungai Udin, Dumpas, Kalabakan, Tawau, on Thursday, as a brutal killing. The post-mortem results found at least 70 bullets in the animal's body.

<https://www.thesundaily.my>

### RSPO adopts palm oil standards developed by Wetlands International to limit peatland degradation

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) has adopted new standards, developed by Wetlands International, to help curb the degradation of tropical forests and peatlands that would contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. The major issue with draining peat for growing palm oil is that the peat, comprising partially decayed plant material, oxidizes as it dries out, releasing the carbon into the air as carbon dioxide.

<https://www.wetlands.org>

### New app tracks down forest fires in Bolivia

A new app uses aerosol data and recent satellite images to find fires in the forests of Bolivia. The application's creators, from the Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project, say the novel use of the aerosol data was originally intended to monitor the air quality.

<https://news.mongabay.com>

### Pan Borneo Highway development endangers the Heart of Borneo

The construction of the Pan Borneo Highway in Sabah, Malaysia could disrupt the connections between wildlife populations and appears to run counter to the State's conservation commitments. Passages under the highway and the rehabilitation of key forest corridors could lessen the impacts of the road, but the authors of the study caution that these interventions are expensive and may not be effective.

<https://news.mongabay.com>

### On World Rhino Day, looking back on an eventful year

September 22 marks the World Rhino Day, a global event established to celebrate the world's five rhinoceros species and to reflect on the challenges facing them. From the five rhino species living in Africa and Asia, three are listed by the IUCN as Critically Endangered: Javan Rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), Sumatran rhinos (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*). Meanwhile, the White rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) are considered near threatened and greater one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is vulnerable to extinction.

<https://news.mongabay.com>

### Wilderness cuts the risk of extinction for species in half

A recent study has found that the plant and animal species living in wilderness areas are less likely to go extinct. Wilderness areas buffer species against the risk of extinction, reducing it by more than half, a new study shows.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

### Yellow Sea wetlands achieve UNESCO World Heritage status with support from Wetlands International

The first parts of the world's largest intertidal mudflat ecosystem and its fringing marshes on the Yellow Sea, China, have received UNESCO World Heritage status in July 2019. With the help of Wetlands International and other conservation partners, two significant parts of the region were late last month officially inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as, "Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I)" at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Azerbaijan.

<https://www.wetlands.org>



*3rd September 2019. Environmental Education Programme with SRS Datuk Simon Fung Kota Kinabalu.*



*8th September 2019. Mangrove Tree Planting with Politeknik Kota Kinabalu.*



12th September 2019. Outreach (AFI SB) with SK Mapan-Mapan, Pitas.



13th September 2019. Outreach (AFI SB) at SK Manggis, Pitas



16th September 2019. Environmental Education Programme & Mangrove Tree Planting with participants from Third Country Training Programme



20th September 2019. Outreach to SMK Datuk Peter Mojuntin, Penampang

## Guests' comments



Such an interesting place to gain knowledge on mangrove. we're looking forward to make more activities with KKWRS. Great job to Recheal, Nazri and Gary.  
- Lecturers and Students from Kolej Komuniti Penampang

# Upcoming Events

### Environmental Education Programme

- Kolej Komuniti Penampang
- Jasselton International School
- Fukui High school Japan
- SK Melalia Sipitang
- SMK Lohan Ranau

### Environmental Voluntary Work

- INTI College

The Borneo Post (Sabah)

## Sketching, painting outing at KK Wetlands Oct 27

10 Oct 2019



Wilson (sixth left) and Zainie (seventh left) at the KK Wetlands near Kota Kinabalu recently.

**KOTA KINABALU:** Members of the public who are keen to partake in a sketching and painting outing at the KK Wetlands on October 27 are invited to come for the launch at the site at 7.30 am.

The event, co-organised by NSR Network and the Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society is one of

NSR Asia Pacific 'Art Connects' week programme which will take place this month.

The event will also feature several international and local artists, said NSR Network chairman, Datuk Dr Wilson Yong Tung Yung.

"The art outing shall serve to

ful of the need for its protection," said Wilson.

He added that the event would provide an opportunity for the visual art proponents to observe an interesting subject matter and to work first-hand and observe and exploit into art forms the various features within this particular environment.

Wilson also met with the president of Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society, Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa, when visiting the facility recently this month.

heighten the environmental awareness in the participants since they will be looking at one aspect of an ecosystem which, for some, may be a first-time experience, and where they can explore a unique natural environment and to observe the relationship between the flora and fauna at the wetlands, and to be mind-



## VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

### 01 Volunteering is good for your heart

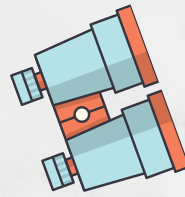
Volunteering for KK Wetland Ramsar Site can be a great fun! If you have passion for the environment or just want to gain more outdoor experiences, this is the appropriate channel. Do not miss the chance! Sign up to be a volunteer now or contact us for more information.

### 03 membership

#### Benefits of being our member

- 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.

### 02



### Monthly Bird Monitoring



Join our monthly birding activity on every 15th-17th day of the month

FOR  
MORE  
INFO

How to  
**REGISTER**

Call us at  
088-246955  
or drop us an email at  
[swcs@sabahwetlands.org](mailto:swcs@sabahwetlands.org)

### 04

## DONATION



Join the forces with us and help save our Wetlands by giving donation to Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society.

Bank Transfer to;  
SWCS Account No:392050779101  
(HSBC)

support us by joining our programmes

## 1. Environmental Education Programme

- KK Wetlands Mangrove Experience Programme
- Mangrove Conservation Experience Programme
- Handcrafting from Mangrove

## 2 Environmental Voluntary Work

- Nursery Work
- Mangrove Clean-Up

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