

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

MALAYSIA 61TH & SABAH 55TH

FROM SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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SWCS PLEDGE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATION

As an environmental organisation, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society (SWCS) support any celebrations related to the environment. Every year, SWCS will be celebrating three or more environmental events to show our support towards the conservation, i.e World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day, World Clean Up Day and Hari Alam Sekitar Negara. The world seems to be waking up to the issue of climate change and just how precarious the situation of the environment is. The condition of the environment hangs in the balance and it is the choices that we make that can make such a huge difference. These environmental events help bring these issues to the consciousness of people all around the world.

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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

Established on 22 August 2005

To promote the conservation of wetlands in Sabah and the variety of plants, birds and other kinds of organisms found in them.

OBJECTIVES

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.

Support Worlds' Environmental Days

Every year the activities will be different depending on the theme. The invited participants are also different every year but we always focusing on the younger generation, ranging from kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary students. During the World Wetlands Day 2018, SWCS has organised a competition to build a model wetland in accordance with the WWD 2018 theme "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future". A total of 10 groups from 10 different secondary schools around Sabah have participated in the event.



Winner for Model Wetlands Competition during WWD 2018 - SM Stella Maris

This year the theme for World Environment Day is "Beat The Plastic Bag". More than 90 primary school students from three different school join the celebration. The activities are mainly to educate the students on the importance of reducing the usage of plastic and promotes other environmental activities, such as mangrove clean-up session, talks, exhibition and environmental-related games.



World environment Day 2018

List of Environment Date

*World Wetlands day
2nd February*

*World Forestry Day
21st March*

*Earth Day
22nd April*

*World Ocean Day
8th June*

*World Biodiversity
Day
29th December*

*World Wildlife Day
3rd March*

*World Water Day
22nd March*

*World Environment
Day
5th June*

*World Animal Day
4th October*

World Wetlands Day (2014-2017)



World Environment Day (2014-2017)



Malaysia Environment Day (2015-2016)



Earth Hour (2014)



World Water Day State Level (2015)



We Need Clean Air!

All living things especially humans and animals need air to breathe specifically oxygen. Oxygen is a particle that glides in the air and mixed with other gases like nitrogen, argon, carbon dioxide and particles such as dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplet. So when we breathe, it is not only the oxygen we inhale but also those impurity particles. The impurity particles such as dirt, soot and smoke mostly come from burning process that releases gases and chemicals into the air. Releases of pollutants into the air cause air pollution that affect human health and also the whole planet.



There are many causes of air pollution such as the burning of fossil fuel, agricultural activities, and exhaust from factories and industries. Do you know smoking also contribute to air pollution? The air pollution emitted by cigarettes is 10 times greater than diesel car exhaust and more dangerous to our health. Under the Air Pollutant Index of Malaysia (APIMS), the reading of API at 101 and above are unhealthy. Air pollution can cause a lot of health risks for example eyes and throat irritation that caused by smog, soot and hazard. Dioxins, mercury and lead effect our lungs, liver, kidneys, immune, nervous, and endocrine system as well as reproductive system. Besides that, eutrophication also will happen where the excessive nitrogen in the sea or swamp will turn into algae that affect the marine animals



Air Pollution from big factory

Under the Air Pollutant Index of Malaysia (APIMS)

- 0-50 Good
- 51-100 Moderate
- 101-200 Unhealthy
- 201-300 Very Unhealthy
- 301 and above Dangerous

We have the choice to reduce the air pollution that happens around us. We should conserve the energy by switch off the fan, light and air conditioner when we are going out. This is because a large amount of fossil fuel will be burnt to produce electricity. Besides that, for transportation, it is good to use a public transport or carpooling to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Thus the number of polluted gases released decrease. We should help to reduce air pollution so that we will get the clean and healthier air every day.



Haze in Putrajaya

Article references: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/particles>
<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/air-pollution-everything-you-need-know>
http://apims.doe.gov.my/public_v2/home.html

Importance of Wetlands



Mangrove Forest at KKWRS is the example of Marine & Coastal Wetland

Wildlife Habitats

Wetlands provide habitat for wildlife to get foods and shelter. different wetlands have different habitat and ecosystem. In the mangrove forest, there are many types of salt-tolerant plants and marine animals while in the swamp forest there are many types of the freshwater plants and animals. Wetlands also very important to migratory birds that used the wetlands as a pit stop to get a rest and food before they continue their journey to other places.

Tourism and Recreation

The natural beauty, as well as the unique diversity of animal and plant life in many wetlands, make them the ideal location for tourism and recreational activities. Some wetlands area have endemic species of animals and plants which is the area is very important for conservation. The visitor will able to visit where they can enjoy the nature walk, picnics, birding, fishing and even canoeing.

Water Reservoir

The wetlands can store water in the large amount because the wetlands act like a sponge that absorbs the water. Wetland slows down the water flow during the flood by absorbing the water. After the flood, Wetlands slowly release the water out. During the drought season, the wetlands still have much amount of water than another land area. Therefore, the plant and animals in or around wetlands area can still survive during the drought season.

Natural Product

We still need wetlands product in our daily life. Most of the local communities that live in or around the wetlands area used wetlands product especially food in their life. In the mangrove forest, the local communities used and consume mangrove product such as the wood, fish, and crab. Conserving and protecting the wetlands area is very important to maintain the richness of wetlands product. Most of the marines animal need wetlands as the nesting ground.

Article references:

<https://www.aquarium.co.za/blog/entry/11-reasons-why-wetlands-are-vital-for-humans-and-animals>

<https://www.ramsar.org/about/the-importance-of-wetlands>

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>



4th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Adventure Journey World Travel (Japan Group)



7th August 2018. Environmental Voluntary Work and Mangrove Tree Planting - MSU College Kota Kinabalu



11th August 2018. Environmental Voluntary Work - SMK St Francis Convent (M)



14th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme & Environmental Voluntary Work - Camp Borneo International (UK Group)



18th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme with Yokohama Junior High School Japan.



18th August 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with Pra-U SMK Likas (CIMB Foundation)



19th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme & Mangrove Tree Planting with SMK Entabuan Tenom (CIMB Foundation)



21th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme with SMK Gadong Beaufort.



25th August 2018. Mangrove Tree Planting with Ibis Hotel Kota Kinabalu.



26th August 2018. Environmental Education Programme with SMK Tebbon.

Guests' comments



Collard Kingfisher flew many times across me. Wonderful day!
- Patricia from US



Thank you so much for the amazing experiences! Love the greenery!
- Natalia and friends from UK and Japan



Very beautiful and amazing place.
-Ting and wife from China

Upcoming Events

Environmental Education Programme

- ATI College
- SMK Tambunan
- Department of Irrigation & Drainage Sabah



**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

How to
REGISTER

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

2. Environmental Voluntary Work

- i. Nursery Work
- ii. Mangrove Clean-Up

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