

NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY



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WHAT DO WE HAVE IN KOTA KINABALU WETLAND RAMSAR SITE?

"Heart of Kota Kinabalu City" is the best phrase to describe Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site (KKWRS). KKWRS is the only patch of mangrove forest left located near the city. This site is located 6 km from Kota Kinabalu City Centre. There are a lot of attractive plants and animals that can be found in KKWRS. All six classes of animals can be found here such as birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Most of the plants found at KKWRS are mangroves tree that is divided into two groups of pure mangroves and associate mangroves. For convenience of visitors and participants, KKWRS also provide facilities such as audio-visual room, exhibition hall and outdoor facilities.

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.

Facilities

Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site (KKWRS) provides the outdoor facilities such as 1.3km boardwalk along the mangrove forest area, three storey observation tower, a bird hide, an outdoor classroom and nursery.



1.3 KM Boardwalk



Nursery



Observation Tower



Bird hide

Programmes

KKWRS also provides programmes for mangrove conservation and education. There are three programmes provided at KKWRS such as KKW Mangrove Experience Programme, Mangrove Conservation experience Programme and Handcrafting.

The KKW Mangrove Experience Programme provides activities such as an Interpretative Walk, Environmental Voluntary Work and Environmental Games. All the activities would give the participants valuable experience on how to conserve the mangrove forests.



KKW Conservation Experience Programme involve mangrove tree planting activity. This activity gives the participants the opportunity to replant the mangrove tree seedling in the degraded areas. This programme also encourages the recycling effort among the participants. They will learn how to recycle used paper on their own and produce creative handmade products such as bookmark and photo frame in handcrafting activities.



Biodiversity

Flora

There are more than 30 species of mangroves including pure and associate mangroves at KKWRS. Pure mangroves such as *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Avicennia marina*, *Bruguiera cylindrica* and also the critically endangered mangrove species under IUCN-red list known as *Bruguiera hainesii*.



Lumnitzera Flower



Seeds from Rhizophora apiculata tree



(Bruguiera hainesii)

Fauna

Mangrove wetlands fauna that can be found at KKWRS vary from snakes, crabs, birds and fishes. More than 90 birds species were recorded in this area, which includes migratory birds such as the Pacific Golden Plover, Chinese Egret, and Lesser Adjutant. If you walk slowly and calmly along the boardwalk, you will see a lot of beautiful wetland creatures here. Sometimes you will only hear the animals' sound such as snapping shrimp that produces "snap-like" sound while snapping their pincer. KKWRS also provides an interactive sidewalk that gives the chance for the visitor to see the wetland animal closely.



Dog-faced Snake



Cicada



Rufous Night Heron



Fiddler Crab



Mudlobster



Mudskipper

9 Criteria



A wetland should be considered internationally important...

- 1 If it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region
- 2 If it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
- 3 If it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
- 4 If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- 5 If it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.
- 6 If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.
- 7 If it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.
- 8 If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.
- 9 If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent nonavian animal species.

FACT!



The world's largest Ramsar site is located in Bolivia called Llanos De Moxos. At more than 17 million acres, this wetland is roughly equal in size to US state of North Dakota.



The country with the most site is the United Kingdom with 174 sites.



The newest wetland designated as a Ramsar Site was in Poland (May 2018)



The world's first Ramsar site was located at the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia, which was designated a Ramsar site in 1974



Ramsar Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971.



Ramsar Convention is based at headquarters of IUCN in Gland, Switzerland



"Get to know" Ramsar Site Malaysia

Ramsar Sites in Sarawak



Kuching Wetland National Park is the only Ramsar in Sarawak. It was designated as Ramsar site in November 2005. This site located 15km from Kuching and covers 6,610 hectares on the estuarine reaches of the Sibul Laut and Salak River. This site is one of the last remnants of the formerly extensive Sarawak Mangrove Forest Reserve.

Similar to other wetland areas, this park is also an important spawning and nursery ground for fish and prawn species. It's also a nursery ground for the biggest reptile in the world, the Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). Kuching Wetland National Park supports some species that have been listed in IUCN Red-List and CITES, which include, the Proboscis Monkey is known as *Nasalis larvatus* which has been listed under CITES as 'Endangered' under IUCN Red List. Other animals found here are Lesser Adjutant or *Leptotilos javanicus* which is listed as 'Vulnerable' under IUCN Red List. At the same time, the Langur or *Trachypithecus villosus*, is listed as 'Data Deficient' under IUCN Red List.

This Park offers an excellent introduction to the mangrove environment as visitors will be attracted by its fascinating ecosystem and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The wide diversity of wildlife in this park will give chance to the visitor to see a range of wildlife animals while enjoying the sights and sounds of the most interesting stretches of coastline in the whole of Sarawak.



Proboscis Monkey

Credit:<http://www.monkeyworld.com>



Estuarine Crocodile

Credit: <http://www.star2.com>



Sunset View

Credit:<http://www.parochialsarawakian.wordpress.com>

Article references: <https://sarawaktourism.com> and <http://www.forestry.sarawak.gov.my>



21th April 2018. Environmental Education Programme with SMK Taun Gusi Dua.



27th May 2018. Environmental Voluntary Work with Inti College.

Guests' comments



Love the tranquillity. Keep it up!
- Adrian Cale, UK



This our first time to visit mangrove forest.
Very calm and breathtaking.
- Claudia & Friend , Australia



Saw birds like heron and colourful crabs.
Very beautiful!
- Riley Cambell & friend, Canada

Congratulation on the new appointment



YB Christina Liew
Deputy Chief Minister
Minister of Tourism, Culture, &
Environment



YB Assafal P Alian
Assistant Minister of Tourism,
Culture, & Environment

Upcoming Events

Environmental Voluntary Work

- SMK Tansau
- The Boy's Brigade

Environmental Education Programme

- Peak Adventure

**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 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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