



**Sabah
Wetlands
Conservation
Society**

SWCS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

**Sabah Wetlands
Conservation Society
(SWCS)**

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

Contact us:

Tel: +6088-246 955

Fax: +6088-247 955

or

swcs@sabahwetlands.org

Like us on Facebook:

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Visit our Website:

www.sabahwetlands.org

Visit us today : Tue-Sun
(including PH)

8.00am–6.00pm

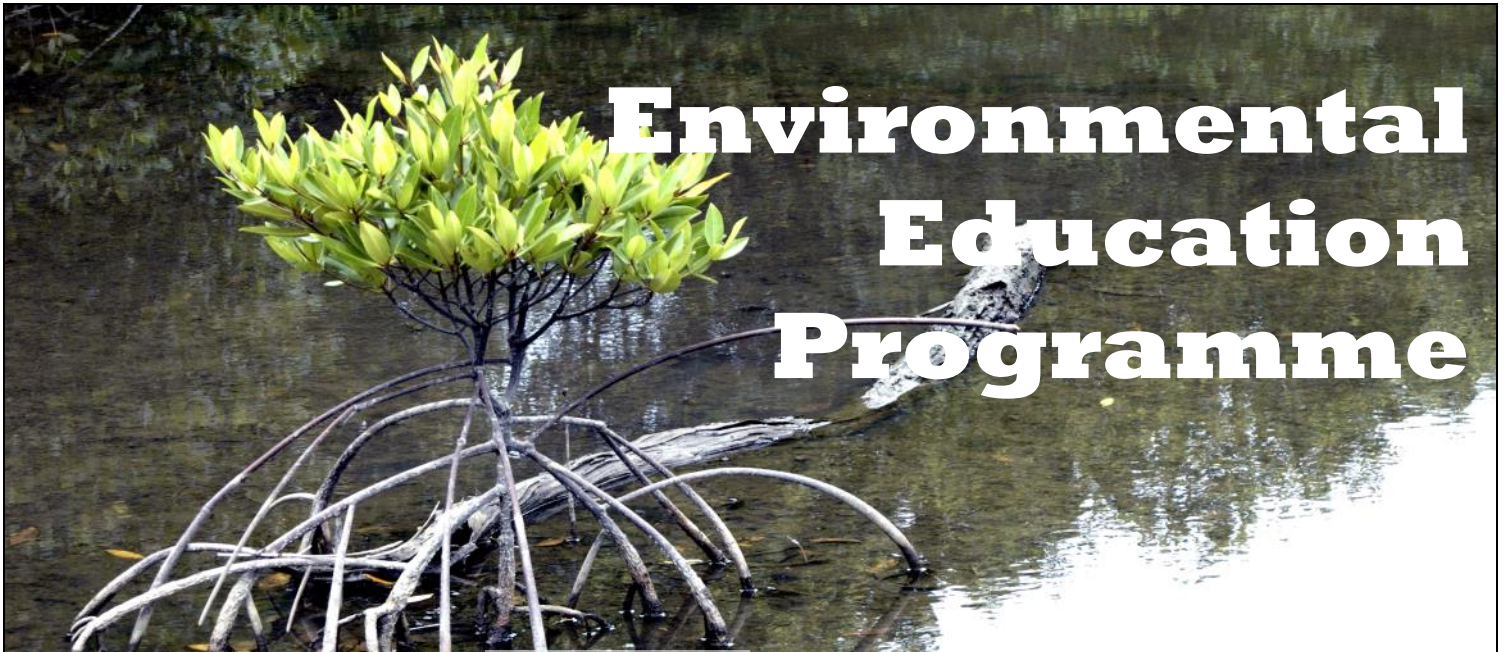
SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2017-2019)

SWCS Management Committee members is elected in every 2 years period. The previous period (2015-2017) management committees was dissolved and the new SWCS Management Committee members(2017—2019) was elected on 1st April 2017.

SWCS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND EX-OFFICIOS 2017 - 2019



Environmental Education Programme



**UNIVERSITI MALAYA
(2 APRIL 2017)**

Presentation of certificate for the volunteers after their hard work conducting mangrove clean up.



**DESA GARGILL SDN BHD
(22 APRIL 2017)**

One of the Desa Cargill's staffs, bringing out the rubbish they collected from the mangrove.



**KK HIGH SCHOOL
(20 APRIL 2017)**

Some of the students presenting their hand made recycled papers, during the SWCS outreach programme at their school.



**NAKAJIMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, JAPAN
(26 APRIL 2017)**

Japanese students learning about the importance of wetlands ecosystem.



**AWARENESS CAMP ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(20 APRIL 2017)**

A group discussion during the awareness camp organized by the Department of Environment Sabah.



**SMK TANSAU
(27 APRIL 2017)**

Students of SMK Tansau managed to collect an amount of rubbish throughout the voluntary programme.



**SM ALL SAINTS
(21 APRIL 2017)**

The students 'hunting' for rubbish in between the mangrove roots.

CIMB Community Link Project: Mangrove Tree Planting

SMK(A) Tun Ahmadshah is the second group of secondary school students for the Mangrove Tree Planting Programme funded by CIMB Foundation. A total of 200 *Rhizophora apiculata* seedlings planted at the degraded mangrove area in Sulaman Lake Forest Reserve, Tuaran. Kudos to the students!



Students of SMK(A) Tun Ahmadshah before planting started.



Struggling in the mud just to contribute to the environment



Planting in action.

Welcoming Our New JOCV Volunteer - Yujin

Mr Yuichiro Watanabe, a Japan Oversea Cooperation volunteer has joined the Kota Kinabalu Wetlands's team starting on 24 April 2017 until 23 March 2019 as Environmental Education Assistant. He received his Bachelor in Commercial Science from Waseda University in 2004. He worked mainly in Information and Communication Technology so far.

He took the JOCV training course called "International Environmental Education and acquired knowledge on Environmental Education, waste disposal issues and environmental conservation in developing countries, apart from that he also received hands-on educational teaching methods in natural environments, as well as planning and presentation methods for Nature Interpretation in developing countries. Mr Watanabe also had undergone JOCVs 70 day pre-assignment training in language (Malay), development studies and cross-cultural relations. Aside from his own language, Yuichiro can speak other international languages fluently including Bahasa Melayu, English and Mandarin.

At the end of this volunteer programme, our goal is to increase the range and the number of visitors, as well as to improve and improvise our website, other publications and directly contribute towards mangrove conservation work and waste disposal issues.



Mr. Yuichiro Watanabe @ Yujin

We are hoping within these two years, both Mr Watanabe and KKW staffs are able to exchange knowledge, share information and work hand-in-hand towards the same objectives. A warm welcome to Yuichiro. Yokoso!

HIGHLIGHT

ISSUE - HUNTING SEASON

The purple heron usually hunted during open season as this season is used to cover many illegal activities such as illegal birds shooting which put many birds in risk. In Malta, the hunting usually held during spring season. Previously in 2011, in Europe where the start of the hunting season, BirdLife Malta has received 17 shot birds including rare species such as Black Kite, Purple Heron, Lesser Kestrel and Montagu's Harrier. Therefore BirdLife Malta and BirdLife Europe urges the Maltese government to immediately stop the current spring hunting season as the total number of shot protected birds was higher (BirdLife,2011).



Purple Heron usually rest on trees at noon
Photo © Christabel Yong

In different 'tongues'

English : Purple Heron
German : Purpur Reiher
Spanish : Garza Imperial
Japanese: Murasaki sagi
Danish : Purpur Hejre
Malay : Pucung Serandau

THE PURPLE HERON

The Purple Heron

Heron family has a wide range of species. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Purple Heron is classified as the category of least concern as it did not approach to the thresholds of vulnerable under the range size of criterion. Despite the facts of the population of purple heron are decreasing especially for the European population (Bird Life International, 2015), the decline is not significantly considered to reach the vulnerable category.

Characteristic

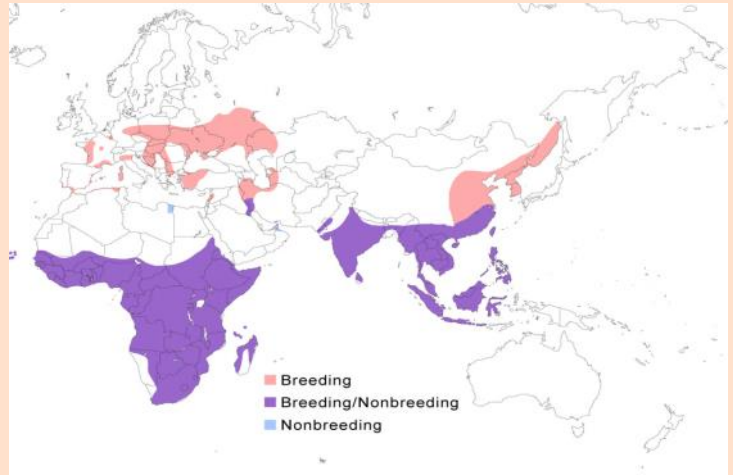
The Purple Heron is a large bird with a standing height of 78cm-97cm when the neck is fully extended. Purple Heron has ginger coloured head and purplish feather which almost identical with the Grey Heron. In addition, Purple Heron has a longer and uniform bill and its body is slender (Mullarney et al, 1999).

Habitat

Purple Herons prefer to stay around the area of marshes, wetland and lagoon or lakes that filled with dense vegetation especially location with reed beds (Holden & Cleeves, 2002). It

Migration

During migration season, the purple heron conducting 3000-4000 km migration journey within 7 days. The flight speed could be estimated for one of the birds and was about 40 kilometer per hour. This bird performing long distance migration without substantial refueling en route rely on fat reserves accumulated in the post-breeding east Europe, the purple heron and pre-migratory period. In



www.heronconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Purple-Heron.jpg

particularly feeds in shallow water with sandy or muddy bottom, among or adjacent to emergent reeds, and on and in floating vegetation.

Behaviour

Purple Heron are most active during the period of evening or dusk. Usually, Purple Heron can be spotted along the side of river or water that filled with vegetation and



The PH spreads its wings and feathers when basking at the morning.
Photo © Eugene Cheah

search food with their neck either outstretched or coiled (Holden &

Cleeves, 2002). Purple Heron normally feed on fishes, frogs, insects, eels and hatchlings of other birds.

Population Trend

In 2105, the Wetlands International estimated global population of Purple Heron to number c.270,000-570,000 individuals. This species has an extremely large range and it was categorized in Least Concern (LC) by The IUCN Red List although the overall population trend is declining over the year (IUCN,2015). The Purple Heron is commonly distribute throughout southern and eastern Europe, central and southern Asia, and Africa.

colonies begin their movement/migration in July and the its completed by early September. Usually, the migratory birds from Russia and north China move to the south to Korea, Thailand and Malaysia (McClure, 1974). Generally, the migration of purple heron occurs by day in small group (4-7 individuals) and its also be affected by condition encountered in wintering areas or at stopover places during migration.

References

- McClure, G. (1974). *The emperor's singing bird*. London: Deutsch.
- Cleeves, T., & Holden, P. (2014). *RSPB handbook of British Birds*. A&C Black.
- Mullarney, K., Svensson, L., Zetterstrom, D., & Grant, P. J. (1999). *Collins bird guide. The most complete field guide to the birds of Britian and Europe*. Collins.

www.iucnredlist.org

www.birdlife.org



Volunteering for KK Wetlands 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! Lets care for our wetlands.

All you need to do is to sign up as volunteer. Please contact us for further information.

✉ Send us an email swcs@sabahwetlands.org



Let's Clean up the Wetlands



Other voluntary activities: Nursery work and mangrove tree planting

If you have an old laptop or PC (in working condition) which you no longer need, please donate to us.

**Contact us at
088 - 246 955**

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



- 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

What Can You do to Help?

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

Contributors:

Jane Joimin
Mohd Nurazmeel Bin Mokhtar
Davisthon Soitoh

Compiled by :

Davisthon Soitoh

Editor:

Rita Ignatius

SUPPORT US BY JOINING OUR PROGRAMMES:

Environmental Educational

Programmes:

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

Environmental Voluntary Work

(* Contact us for activity booking form)

Tel No: 088-246955

Email: swcs@sabahwetlands.org

In conservation, we are fighting none other than our own greed...