



SWCS NEWSLETTER

SABAH WETLANDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2017

www.sabahwetlands.org

**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:

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Fax: +6088-247 955

or

swcs@sabahwetlands.org

Like us on Facebook:

([https://](https://www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety)

www.facebook.com/SabahWetlandsConservationSociety)

Visit our Website:

www.sabahwetlands.org

Visit us today : Tue-Sun
(including PH)

8.00am–6.00pm



The World Wetlands Day (WWD) is an annual global event celebrated on 2nd February each year. This year, Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society celebrated the event on 25th February in Kota Kinabalu Wetlands, Likas. The theme selected by the Wetlands International for this year is “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction”, which is to raise awareness and to highlight the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities, and in helping to build resilience (Read more at Page 4).

The event has been officiated by the Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Environment, Sabah, Yang Berbahagia Puan Hajah Mariam Omar Matusin and witnessed by more than 120 secondary school students from around Kota Kinabalu and Papar district and a total of 50 walk-in visitors. Among other activities were held during the event were the awards presentation for the winners of Wetlands Video Making Contest, Environmental Education games booth, environmental exhibition and talk by SEEN affiliates i.e Environment Protection Department, Department of Environment, SMK Taman Tun Fuad and Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society. Special thanks goes to our exhibitors, Environmental Protection Department, JOAS and ANBATAR and sponsors; Sabah Energy Corporation Sdn Bhd, Warisan Harta Sabah Sdn Bhd, Kwantas Corporation Berhad and Timatch Sdn Bhd. We also would like to thank to our volunteers and participants for making this event a great success. See you again next year!

***Congratulation to the winners of the
Video Making Contest!
T.E.A.M from SM La Salle***

Second : S.M.K.. Bahang
Third : Environment & Climate Team from
S.M.K Datuk Peter Mojuntin



World Wetlands Day 2017

The launching ceremony:



Welcoming remarks from Datuk Haji Zainie Abdul Aucasa, SWCS President



Speech by Y.Bhg Puan Hajah Mariam Omar Matusin, Guest of Honor



Left photo: Launching gimmick of WWD 2017
Right photo: Presentation of memento by SWCS President to GOH

The activities:



Environmental talk by Puan Daisy Aloysius from Environmental Protection Department, Sabah. The talk entitled *"Accelerating Awareness and Change of Behavior on Climate Change Actions in Sabah"*, aimed to create awareness among the audience on the issue of climate change we are facing nowadays and what we can do reduce the phenomenon.



The Global Warming Prevention Session with more than 120 secondary school students. Kudos to the collaboration of EPD, DOE, SMK Taman Tun Fuad & SWCS



Game Booths and Environmental Exhibitions



"Lets make a mangrove tree"



"Wetlands Quiz Mania"



"Knock-down-bottle" game



Board game



One of the winners from the Game Booth

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION & VOLUNTARY WORK

UNESCO Club from Poloteknik
Kota Kinabalu & Kolej Komuniti
Penampang

Activities:

1. Wetlands Education Tour
2. Nursery work: Filling soil in polybags, Seedling collection and planting at nursery



MONTHLY BIRD MONITORING

The monthly bird monitoring in KK Wetlands is done on every 15th or 16th day of each month(s). In this month February, we received 06 volunteers tagged along with our internship students, which supervised by our Conservation Education Assistant to do the bird monitoring. Even though this group of people can be considered as a beginner but their enthusiasm throughout the session was very impressive. We look forward to more participation in the future!

In case you are interested to participate in the bird monitoring activity, please do not hesitate to contact us at 0198031800 (Davis) or 088246955 (KKW Office) or drop your email at cea_swcs@abahwetlands.org. Amateur and professional birders are welcomed!

- vi. Common Sandpiper—1
vii. White Breasted Waterhen - 1

Other Birds:

- i. Olive-backed Sunbird — 5
- ii. White-collared Kingfisher — 4
- iii. Spotted-necked Dove — 1
- iv. Zebra Dove — 1
- v. Ashy Tailorbird — 6
- vi. Pied Fantail — 9
- vii. Common Iora — 4
- viii. Artic Warbler — 1
- ix. Brahminy Kite — 2
- x. Asian Glossy Starling — 8
- xi. Glossy Swiflet — 5
- xii. White Breasted Wood Swallow — 4
- xiii. Blue-throated Bee-eater — 3



The team: Volunteers and Interns

From right: Nelcy, Junia, Izaty, Zulhelmy, Nazri, Jessica, Nurmala, Christabel and Shamimi.

List of sightings:

Waterbirds:

- i. Pacific Golden Plover (Migratory) - 67
- ii. Great Egret (Local/Migratory) - 61
- iii. Intermediate Egret (Local/Migratory) - 5
- iv. Little Egret (Local/Migratory) - 11
- v. Striated Heron (Local) - 2



Pacific Golden Plover shot through a binocular using smart phone.

WETLANDS: Reducing Impacts of Natural Disaster

Nowadays, the frequency and intensity of disaster had been increased over the world. It is mostly driven by climate and weather related hazards like floods, extreme drought, storm and excessive coastal erosion. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, peatland or water. It can be natural or artificial, permanent or temporarily filled with flowing water. It includes freshwater or brackish water.

Protection against storm: Coastal and estuarine wetland can act as a frontline defence against incoming storms. They help to minimise the impact of storms by slowing down the speed and reducing the height and force of waves. In addition, the natural structure of wetlands soil which acts like the sponge can reduce the floods brought by the storm. Mangrove is a special type of wetlands which usually situated around the coastal area. The abundance of well-structured trees in the mangrove, it may cause the storm to 'break' and distribute the energy of the storm to different directions. Thus, with its energy reduced, the impact of the storm can be reduced to some extent. However, the effectiveness of wetlands in reducing storm, wave heights and erosion depends on several factors such as the width of wetland, height and density of vegetation and others (Kusler, 2009).

Flood mitigation: Wetlands does not prevent flood but can reduce the impact. In flood event,



Wetlands able to store huge amount of water in it.

wetlands are the first area to receive the water. Wetlands mitigate the impacts of floods by absorbing excess water and retaining it to the water table. Freshwater wetlands can temporary store the flood



High density vegetation in mangrove have high potential in protecting against flood, storm or tsunami.

waters which will then reduce the height and velocity of flooding at the downstream location. It will then reduce the water velocity by conveying the floodwater from upstream to downstream (Commonwealth of Australia, 2016). Furthermore, by trapping sediments, wetlands reduce the risk of erosion to catchments and streambanks. In areas which frequently flooded, a man-made wetland usually made to mitigate the impacts of the flood in the area.

Drought mitigation: Wetlands can act as a natural buffer to prevent droughts. A well-functioning of an ecosystem can help to prevent some extreme weather events. Most importantly, wetlands play an important role in fighting the climate change as it acts as the carbon sink. The soils of wetlands have lack of oxygen which makes it good at storing carbon at the same time can store carbon in long period which is more than hundreds of years (Earthshare, 2015).

In conclusion, wetland ecosystem is important in reducing the risk and impacts of natural disasters. Thus, wetlands should not be overemphasised over other ecosystem or against development. Wetlands is a promising product for present and future humankind.

Further reading:

- i. Kusler, J. (2009). Wetlands and Natural Hazards. *Association of State Wetlands Managers, Inc, Helderberg Trail, Berne, Page 3-5*
- ii. www.environment.gov.au
- iii. Carbon sink, 2015 :www.earthshare.org
- iv. Mangrove figure, 2017: www.iucn.org,

GUEST COMMENT



Sambutan World Wetlands Day 2017 yang bertempat di Kota Kinabalu Wetlands telah memberi ilmu kepada saya dan teman-teman lain mengenai alam sekitar dan kepentingan paya bakau kepada manusia. Sebagai salah satu 'exhibitor', saya telah lihat ramai para pelajar yang tekun menyertai sebarang aktiviti yang telah dijalankan oleh KK Wetlands. Selain daripada mata pelajaran yang dipelajari disekolah, aktiviti yang dijalankan telah memberi sedikit sebanyak ilmu alam sekitar kepada mereka. ~ **Mohammad Fadhil bin Sani, ANBATAR**

Kota Kinabalu Wetlands should do a lot of promotional effort in raising awareness about the environmental issues and importance of wetlands to community. Besides that, continuously post on Facebook about the bird species that can be found around KKW. This is because, there were visitors that are disappointed when they came to visit because they expect KKW to have various wildlife and all they can see is Egrets. KKW should also utilize the effectiveness of Facebook and other social media such as Instagram to communicate with community. ~ **Nurshamimi Binti Jarmil, UMS-KAL**

SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS!

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:

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(Internship Students)
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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

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