

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS, KOTA KINABALU, 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2014

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP 1

“Forming Networks among Ramsar Managers”

Moderator: Dr. Rahimatsah Amat, Sabah Environmental Trust (SET)

1. Introduction

Malaysia signed the Ramsar Convention on Protection of Wetlands in 1994 with Tasek Bera being nominated as the country's first Ramsar site. The Convention on Wetlands came into force for Malaysia on 10th March 1995. Malaysia presently has 6 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with a surface area of 134,158.0 hectares.

The 6 sites in Malaysia are:

- Tasek Bera, Pahang – forest reserve (10th Nov, 1994) (38,446.0 ha);
- Tanjung Piai, Johor – state park (31st Jan, 2003) (526.0 ha);
- Pulau Kukup, Johor – state park (31st Jan, 2003) (647.0 ha);
- Sungai Pulai, Johor – forest reserve (31st Jan, 2003) (9,126.0 ha);
- Kuching Wetlands, Sarawak – national park (8th Nov, 2005) (6,610.0 ha);
- Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands, Sabah – forest reserve (28th Oct, 2008) (78,803.0 ha).

Johor has the highest number of Ramsar sites in Malaysia, with a total of three sites located at Sg. Pulai, Pulau Kukup and Tanjung Piai. In Sarawak, the mangrove area north of Kuching (Kuching Wetlands) has also been designated as a Ramsar site. The most recent inclusion (and the largest) into the Ramsar list is the Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetland in Sabah.

With 6 sites, and potentially more to be nominated (including KK Wetlands), there is a need for managers of existing sites to share and pool experiences in managing their sites. Thus, this workshop is timely to serve as a platform for managers in order to share their knowledge and experiences

2. Objectives of Workshop

- a. To highlight the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in managing Ramsar sites in Malaysia;
- b. To review existing positive mechanism(s) that can potentially be shared among managers; and
- c. To discuss on potential collaboration among managers of Ramsar's sites in Malaysia.

3. Format

Following an introduction by the moderator, the implementation of the workshop will be as follows:

- Part A – preparation of SWOT analyses by Ramsar managers for their respective site.
- Part B – identify SWOT features and characteristics common to all sites
- Part C - Moving forward with specific action plans

4. Expected Outputs

- SWOT analyses of the respective sites; and
- Action plans by the Ramsar managers.
- Framework of networks among Ramsar managers