



Ramsar Site
Source: Forestry Department Sabah



Sabah's First Ramsar Site

And Malaysia's biggest

Malaysia continues to contribute to the health of the global environment. Its sixth Ramsar site was officially recognised at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Korea on Nov 18, 2008.

The site is located in the Lower Kinabatangan-Segama wetlands in Sabah. This is not only the first in Sabah, but the biggest in Malaysia to date.

Three contiguous reserves – Trusan Kinabatangan Forest Reserve (40,471ha), Kulamba Wildlife Reserve (20,682ha), and Kuala Maruap-Kuala Segama Forest Reserve (17,650ha) – make up an area that is bigger than

the whole of the five existing Ramsar sites (55,355ha) in Malaysia.

The Lower Kinabatangan-Segama wetlands extend over 78,803ha of peat swamp forest and mangrove forests on the east coast of Sabah. The international listing was awarded in recognition of the area's importance as a habitat for a number of endangered and threatened species.

These include the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus Sumatrensis*), Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*), Tembadau (*Bos javanicus*), Borneo pygmy elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) and Storm's stork (*Ciconia stormi*). It is also an important spawning ground and nursery for fish and prawns.

The Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SBC), established under the Sabah Biodiversity Council in May 2008, played a pivotal role in the Ramsar application process. The SBC mobilised and coordinated the cooperation of a number of agencies like the Forestry Department, Wildlife Department, Land & Survey Department, the Fisheries Department, Department of Irrigation & Drainage, the Economic Planning Unit and Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

In addition, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) played a role by supporting the Bornean Biodiversity & Ecosystems Conservation Programme Phase, in initiating the establishment of this Ramsar site in early 2008. JICA will continue its support in the preparation of a management plan for the site.

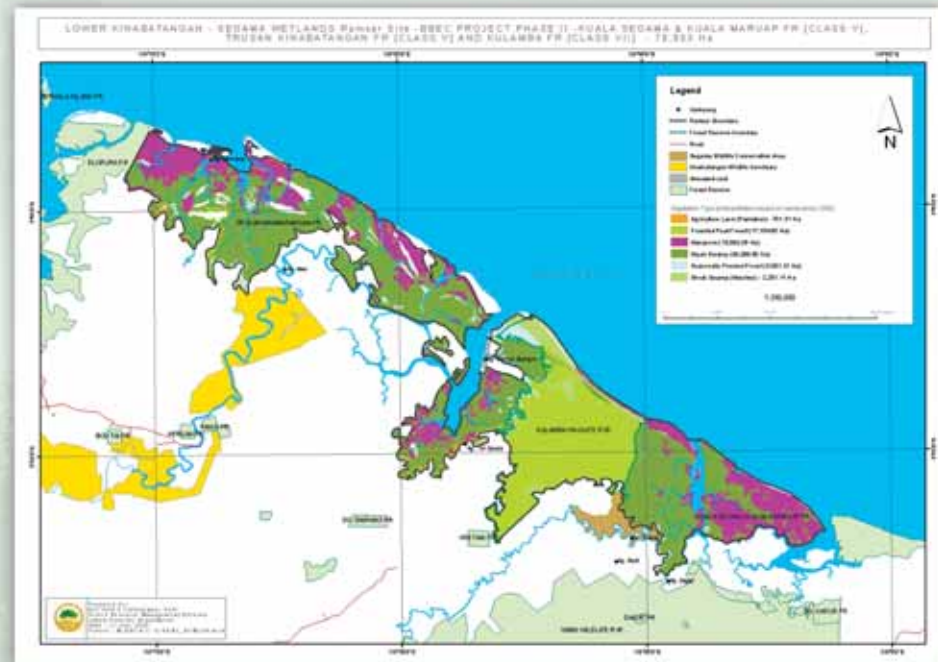
Source : Malaysian Timber Council



Ramsar Sites in Malaysia

SITE	LOCATION/SIZE	BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANCE	DATE OF LISTING
Lake Bera	Pahang/38,446ha	Supports 328 species of algae, 19 aquatic plants, 64 zooplankton, aquatic insects, shrimps, crabs, 95 fish species, tropical swamp amphibians and reptiles, and 119 bird species.	Nov 10, 1994
Tanjung Piai	Johor/526ha	Home to many wetland-dependent species such as Pig-tailed macaque and Long-tailed macaque, birds like Mangrove Pitta, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Mangrove Whistler and the Lesser Adjutant stork.	Jan 31, 2003
Sungai Pulai	Johor/9,126ha	Houses the rare <i>Api-Api</i> tree and animals such as the Long-tailed macaque, Smooth otter, the rare flat-headed cat, Mangrove Pitta and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher.	Jan 31, 2003
Pulau Kukup	Johor/647ha	Supports species such as the flying fox, bearded pig, Smooth otter, Long-tailed macaque and Lesser Adjutant stork.	Jan 31, 2003
Kuching Wetlands National Park	Sarawak/6,610ha	Home to flora species such as <i>Rhizophora</i> , <i>Avicenna</i> and <i>Sonneratia</i> ; and fauna species like the estuarine crocodile, Proboscis monkey, Lesser Adjutant stork and Griffith's silver leaf monkey.	Nov 8, 2005
Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands	Sabah/78,803ha	Host to fauna species such as Sumatran rhinoceros, Proboscis monkey, Tembadau, Borneo pygmy elephant and Storm's stork.	Nov 18, 2008

Ramsar Site Map



Quick Facts

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, this is an inter-governmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

There are currently 158 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1,822 wetland sites, totalling 168 million ha, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Malaysia ratified the Convention in 1995 and its national focal point agency is the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment.

What are wetlands?

Wetlands are ecosystems whose formation, processes and characteristics are determined by water. Floodplains, marshes, deltas, swamps, peatlands, dambos and lakes are all types of wetland. Wetland ecosystems are diverse, both in terms of their physical characteristics and their geographical distribution.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands are important for regulating the ecosystem through services like water storage/supply, groundwater recharge/discharge, flood control/river regulation, water purification and sediment retention. Wetlands are also a source of livelihood for the local communities surrounding them. Such areas also provide homes, as well as feeding and breeding grounds for many species of fauna.

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