

# Engaging Stakeholders in Wetlands Management – The Kinabatangan Experience

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## Abstract

The lower Kinabatangan Floodplain, geographically located in the Malaysian State of Sabah on the northern part of Borneo Island, is a selected project site of the WWF global Partners for Wetlands Programme to represent a typical area of the South East Asian sub continent to achieve wetland conservation and restoration. The lower Kinabatangan Floodplain is an area of significant biological diversity – a treasure of living ecosystems containing a wealth of plants and animals, and many unique cultural and historical features.

WWF Partners for Wetlands Malaysia (PFW), since its establishment in 1998, has actively engaged stakeholders and policy makers to better understand the ecological and economical wealth of the lower Kinabatangan Floodplain and act to preserve this natural capital. In turn, the wise use of this floodplain area will ensure its ecological system continues to perform its functions to benefit both nature and people. This vision culminates in what is described as “Corridor of Life”

This visionary Corridor of Life can be summarized as follows:

*“a varied landscape supporting a thriving and diverse economy that offers opportunity and choice to local people and businesses. Where mutual co-operation ensures good environmental management of the natural capital on which all partners depend. A landscape in which agriculture and nature conservation are united by their common source of vitality – water. An uninterrupted corridor along the Kinabatangan River, connecting the coastal mangrove swamps with the upland forests where wild life, farming, nature-based tourism and local forest industries thrive and support each other”*