

# **Volunteers Guidelines**

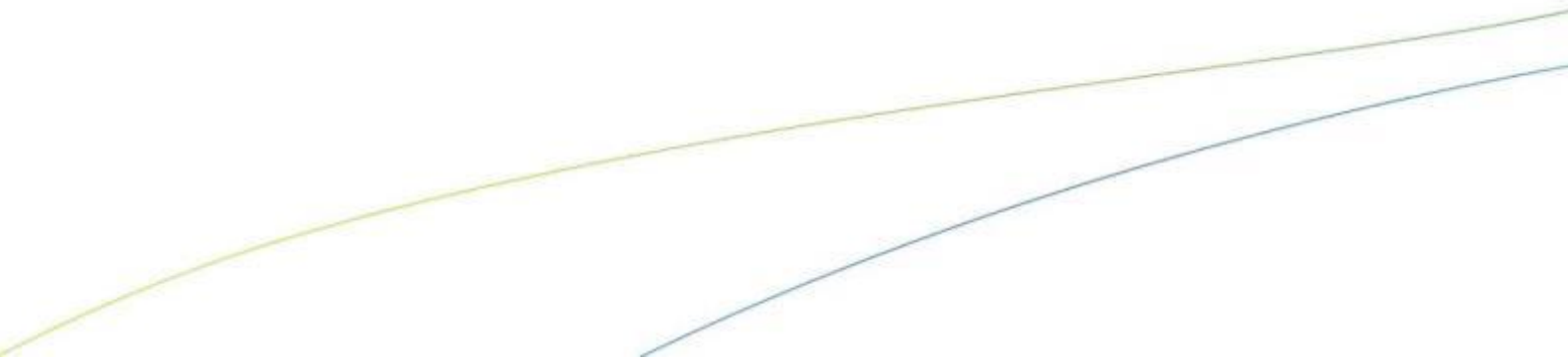
## **Seed Collection Programme**

**Submitted by:** **Wetlands International, Brunei**

**Report Submitted to:** **Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental  
Research**

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## Why this program is initiated?

Peat swamp forest is a unique ecosystem as the forest needs to be constantly waterlogged to avoid the decomposition of peat which fuel fire. Development has disturbed the ecosystem hence fire is a yearly event for Jalan Badas in Belait District since the 90's. This not only affects the people through haze but also affects the population of the extraordinary biodiversity at Jalan Badas which contain the prestigious flora; *Shorea albida* (Alan Bunga) and to date, only existed in Brunei peat swamp forest .As part of the rehabilitation effort of peat swamp forest at Jalan Badas, Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) in collaboration with Wetlands International Brunei has blocked the canal that cause drainage that cause the degradation of peat swamp. Further rehabilitation work such as reforestation is required thus nursery development and seed collection project are initiated to produce healthy and high quality seedlings ready for future reforestation event at degraded areas of Jalan Badas.

## Brief description of the volunteering activity for this project

Volunteers of any nationalities of at least 16 years old are welcomed to join. Volunteers are expected to be involved in seed collection activity during the mast fruiting of the targeted species of peat swamp and Kerangas forest which will help the reforestation effort in the degraded areas at Jalan Badas. Apart from collecting seeds, volunteers will also be expected to sow the seeds and carry them to the nursery developed. Volunteers also have the option to be part of the team to care for the growing seedlings. Volunteers are not expected to have background in related field as training for the activities will be provided. It is sufficed that volunteers are very much keen to improve ecological health of peat swamp forest at Jalan Badas.

The seed collection activity will be mostly done at peat area; therefore volunteers should be prepared to get themselves wet and muddy. Trekking in peat area is quite tricky however, trained guides will lead the way to ensure everyone safety.

All volunteers will receive a certificate of participation. Meals will be provided during the training and volunteering days. Transport to seed collection area will be provided for the volunteers by Wetlands International.

## Objectives of this program

- To spread awareness for the presence of peat swamp forest
- To educate local people on the importance of peat swamp forest ecosystem
- To bring the locals together and inspire them to be part of peat swamp initiative i.e. spreading awareness to their network
- To teach locals our native peat swamp species
- To collect seeds to grow into nursery tree stock for reforestation initiative
- To transfer the knowledge on seed sowing of different type of seeds collect in the peat swamp

## Benefits of volunteering for this project

- Learn basic peatland ecosystem

- Learn on how fire and flood as consequences to degraded peatland
- Interpersonal growth by communicating and working with other volunteers and staff
- Develop experience and skills involved in tree propagation processes
- Gain knowledge of how to identify, grow and care for a variety of peat swamp species
- Learn basic nursery skills
- Contributing to the well being of the country and the world
- Getting close and personal with the endangered rarely visited habitat
- Receive certificates signed by Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP), Wetlands International and Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER)

### Minimum Requirements

- 1) Passion for the natural environment and conservation.
- 2) All nationalities are welcomed to volunteer in the activity
- 3) Volunteers have to be at least 16 years old
- 4) Speak English or Malay
- 5) At least moderate fitness level as volunteers are required to trek in a challenging environment under the heat
- 6) No major medical issues
- 7) Able to stand long hours in the heat
- 8) Able to commit few hours in the morning during weekdays
- 9) Completed the training provided before the activities started

### Details of schedule

The flowering of *Shorea albida* is expected to be by the end of February 2020 and the fruits should be matured in between April to July. Since the fruiting period is quite vary and unexpected, therefore training workshop will be conducted thrice in 2020.

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Training workshop												
Seed collection												

- Training workshop for seed collection and caring of plants in nursery. Training for both activities will be held in two separate sessions running in the same day.
  - The date is still tentative. If fruiting is sighted in April, no second and third workshop will be held.
  - First workshop – 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 (8am – 12 noon)
  - Second workshop – 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 (8am – 12 noon)
  - Third workshop – 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 (8am – 12 noon)
- Seed collection days (Between April and July, 2020). Tentative, may change if no fruiting is sighted.

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 or 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 or 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 or 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 or 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

## **The training**

The topics cover for the training are:

- 1) Basic introduction to peat swamp forest ecosystem
- 2) Badas peat dome in Belait District & rehabilitation initiatives
- 3) Identification of targeted peat swamp species
- 4) Seed collection method
- 5) Seed sowing method
- 6) Care for seed in the nursery

## **Information for volunteers**

### ***Attire***

1. Cap/hat
2. Long sleeve dri-fit shirt (tear-resistant)
3. Long breathable pants (tear-resistant)
4. Long socks (prepare to get muddy)
5. Rubber shoes/old sports shoes/gardening boots (easily washed)

### ***Items to bring***

1. Water bottle
2. Sunscreen
3. Insect repellent
4. Small towel
5. Extra shirt
6. Gloves (event will provide but optional to bring your own)
7. Slippers (to change to after field activities)
8. Waterproof/zip lock bag (carry valuables along to the field)
9. Trash bag to protect their seat vehicles