

**STUDY TRIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT (STEER)**

**STEER RESILIENCE IN RESTORATION SABAH**

*Information is accurate as of March 2024.*

<b>Programme Theme:</b>	Community-based habitat restoration for wildlife and conservation communication
<b>Programme Location</b>	Sabah, Malaysian Borneo
<b>Programme Dates</b>	11 to 23 May 2024 (12 days)
<b>Application Deadline</b>	6 April 2024, noon
<b>No of Placements</b>	15

ESTIMATED COST OF PARTICIPATION																
1	<b>Programme Fee</b>	<p>The programme fee of S\$1,800 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation in a hotel or cabin (twin-sharing)</li> <li>• Local transportation for planned activities</li> <li>• Lectures, Workshop</li> <li>• Cultural Immersion activities</li> <li>• Nature-based and wildlife tourism activities</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Return flights (SIN → BKI → SDK &amp; SDK → BKI → SIN)</li> </ul>														
2	<b>Projected Expenditure</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Breakdown of Costs</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Estimated Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Programme fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">S\$1,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airline Ticket</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Included in the prog fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Included in the prog fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ground Transfers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Included in the prog fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personal expenses (snacks, souvenirs, etc)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">S\$200</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>S\$1,800 – 2,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Breakdown of Costs	Estimated Cost	Programme fee	S\$1,800	Airline Ticket	Included in the prog fee	Accommodation	Included in the prog fee	Ground Transfers	Included in the prog fee	Personal expenses (snacks, souvenirs, etc)	S\$200	<b>Total</b>	<b>S\$1,800 – 2,000</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>S\$1,800 – 2,000</b>															
3	<b>Financial Aid Available</b>	<p>You should have enough monetary funds for the entire duration of the STEER programme. Your decision to participate in the NUS STEER programmes should not be dependent upon confirmation of financial assistance.</p> <p>First-time participants of the NUS STEER programme are eligible to apply for the NUS STEER Award valued at S\$1,000. Applicants have to accept the offer to the <u>STEER Resilience in Restoration Sabah programme</u> before submitting their application for the award on EduRec-GE.</p> <p>In addition to the STEER Award, participants may consider the following financial aid options to fund their STEER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Opportunities Enhancement Grant</a> (Singaporeans only)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Overseas Student Programme Loan</a> (Singaporeans only)</li> <li>• <a href="#">PSEA Ad-Hoc Withdrawal</a> (Singaporeans only)</li> </ul>														

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		Please note that if you are successful with any financial aid, the funds may only be disbursed to you during or after the completion of the STEER programme.
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**PROGRAMME DETAILS**

4	<b>Academic Content</b>	<p><b>1. Lectures</b></p> <p><b>Lecture Topic:</b> Community-based Ecosystem Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lecturer:</b> <i>Dr. Gretchen C. Coffman, Restoration Ecologist and Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography and Bachelor's of Environmental Studies.</i></li> <li>• <b>Learning Outcome:</b> Students will grasp the fundamental ecological principles that guide ecosystem restoration, including the importance of biodiversity, ecological integrity, and the processes that support resilient ecosystems. Students will learn about various community-based restoration strategies and their significance in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, preparing them for the field experiences along the Kinabatangan River.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lecture Topic:</b> Forest Ecology, Sustainable Forestry Practices and Conservation in Sabah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Lecturer:</b> <i>Dr. Robert Ong, Forest Ecologist, Director Emeritus of the Sepilok Forest Research Centre, Sepilok, Malaysian Borneo</i></li> <li>• <b>Learning Outcomes:</b> By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to understand the unique aspects of forest ecology in Sabah, including its biodiversity and ecosystem functions. They will gain insights into the challenges and opportunities in sustainable forestry practices within the region, appreciating the balance between economic development and environmental conservation. Students will be equipped with knowledge on the latest conservation strategies being implemented in Sabah, including community-based conservation efforts and the role of technology in monitoring forest health.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Tour of the Forest Research Centre in Sepilok</b></p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Through these interactions and tours, students will be equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the multidisciplinary approaches used in forest research and conservation. They will be able to appreciate the interconnectedness of these research areas in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.</p> <p><b>Local Researchers:</b> <i>Dr. Robert Ong, Forest Ecologist and Dr. Arthur Chung, Entomologist, Directors of the Sepilok Forest Research Centre, Sepilok, Malaysian Borneo</i></p> <p><b>Activities: Tour of and discussions with researchers in each of these:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbarium – plant collections</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xylarium – wood library</li> <li>• Insect Museum</li> <li>• Seed and Restoration Lab</li> <li>• Tree Nursery</li> <li>• Fish Lab and Genome Lab</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Conservation Field Trips in Sepilok</b></p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Upon completion of these immersive field experiences, students will have gained a comprehensive understanding of nature-based wildlife tourism and conservation efforts through first-hand tours and meetings with conservation managers. Students should be able to describe the objectives, benefits, and challenges of nature-based wildlife tourism, including their contribution to the conservation of biodiversity. Through this variety of experiences, participants will be able to critically evaluate the role of wildlife tourism in conservation efforts, understanding its potential benefits and challenges.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> We will visit the following nature-based wildlife tourism examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary</a></li> <li>• Night Walk through the <a href="#">Rainforest Discovery Centre</a></li> <li>• Hike through the Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve amongst the primary growth forest, the mangrove forest at <a href="#">Sepilok Laut</a> and then boat ride through the Sandakan estuary</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Field Skills Training in Sukau on the Kinabatangan River</b></p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students will be able to more deeply understand and learn the steps in restoration through the exploration of restoration sites and the tree nursery. After the field skills training and practice, they will be able to use field equipment to evaluate riparian ecosystem restoration projects completed by social enterprise <a href="#">APE Malaysia</a>.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APE Malaysia team will give us a tour of their restoration projects along the river and the community tree nurseries around Sukau to learn about tree planting as part of ecosystem restoration.</li> <li>• We will help APE Malaysia to evaluate one of their restoration sites, practicing field skills learned.</li> <li>• Field Skills students will learn include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wildlife camera set up and data collection</li> <li>▪ Soil moisture sampling</li> <li>▪ Hydric soil characterization</li> <li>▪ Measure growth characteristics of trees planted</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>5. Ecological Immersion, Wildlife and Tree Planting with KOPEL Community Coop along the Kinabatangan River</b></p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> By the end of these experiences, students will not</p>
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		<p>only have gained knowledge about sustainability, wildlife, and conservation practices but will also be equipped to convey the importance of these elements in ecological and community health. They will leave with a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of natural ecosystems and human communities, prepared to advocate for and contribute to conservation efforts in Singapore and beyond.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will stay at the Tungog EcoCamp and learn about sustainability and life in the forest.</li> <li>• We will explore the forests and discover the unique wildlife of Borneo along the Kingabatangan River with KOPEL wildlife guides. We will see species in the wild like orangutans, proboscis monkeys, langurs, colugos, crocidiles, hornbills, and so much more.</li> <li>• We will learn about the practice of community-based restoration from the KOPEL conservation manager visiting restoration sites and planting trees and by touring the tree nursery with the nursery manager.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Tour of RSPO Oil Palm Plantation and Sustainability</b>  <b>Learning Outcome:</b> Students will have a comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in sustainable palm oil production. They will be equipped to critically assess the role of certification in promoting sustainability in the palm oil industry, the impact of these certifications on the global palm oil market, and the broader implications for rainforest ecosystem conservation and social responsibility.  <b>Activities:</b> The manager of an RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) and MSPO (Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil) certified oil palm plantation will give us a guided tour through the facilities pointing out their sustainable practices compared to traditional practices, and explaining the attributes and challenges of getting certified.</p> <p><b>7. Learning about Borneo Culture through Immersion</b>  <b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Through the following activities, students will not only gain a rich understanding of Borneo's cultural heritage but also develop a deep appreciation for the diversity and complexity of its traditions. They will leave with a heightened awareness of the importance of cultural preservation and the role individuals can play in supporting these efforts.  <b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction to Ethnic Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Borneo through hike and reflection with Sukang guides</li> <li>○ Tour of Agnes Keith House led by Sukang ethnic local guide</li> <li>○ Cultural Cave Tour of Agop Batu Puteh Cave and Museum</li> <li>○ Traditional Music, Dance, and Martial Arts Cultural Performance</li> <li>○ Traditional Handicrafts Workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Conservation Communication and 360 Filmmaking Lessons (Optional)</b>  <b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students who choose to take these lessons, will be</p>
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		<p>equipped with a comprehensive set of skills in conservation communication through filmmaking and photography. They will be prepared to produce compelling content that raises awareness and promotes conservation efforts, leveraging both traditional and new media platforms to reach and engage diverse audiences.</p> <p><b>Skills Taught and Practiced:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storyboarding and conservation communication in filmmaking</li> <li>○ Filming with an Insta360 X3 camera on land and by boat</li> <li>○ Filming using an Insta360 sphere camera and DJI drone</li> <li>○ Photographing wildlife (led by local professional photographer)</li> <li>○ Filming with your phone camera – making IG conservation reels</li> <li>○ Filming landscapes and wildlife in 2D</li> <li>○ Editing and Production</li> </ul>
5	<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<p>To participate in the STEER Resilience in Restoration Sabah programme, you must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student</li> <li>2. Be at least 18 years old</li> <li>3. Be on time and participate in all programme activities</li> </ol> <p>Graduate students wishing to participate in the programme may be considered on a case-to-case basis and will not be eligible for any financial subsidies. Interested students will need to contact Dr. Gretchen Coffman at <a href="mailto:geogcc@nus.edu.sg">geogcc@nus.edu.sg</a></p>
6	<b>Accommodation</b>	<p>Participants will stay in 3 locations during the field experience, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sepilok B &amp; B in Sepilok - 11-15 May and 22-23 May</li> <li>2. Greenview Lodge – 16 – 18 May</li> <li>3. Kopel Kinabatangan – 19 – 21 May</li> </ol>
7	<b>Application Procedure at NUS</b>	<p>Apply via the <a href="#">NUS Education Records System (EduRec - GE)</a> (setup id 02815) by <b>6 April 2024 (noon)</b></p> <p>Applying through EduRec-GE will allow you to apply for financial aid/loans and enable GRO to contact and assist you in times of crisis/emergency while you are overseas.</p> <p>With an official application through EduRec-GE, you are covered by the NUS Travel Blanket Insurance.</p>
8	<b>Confirmation of participation</b>	<p>You have to accept the offer for STEER Resilience in Restoration Sabah on EduRec-GE and pay the programme fee (S\$1,800) by <b>10 April 2024</b> to confirm your participation in the programme.</p>
9	<b>Course Mapping</b>	<p>STEER Resilience in Restoration Sabah is not eligible for course units.</p>

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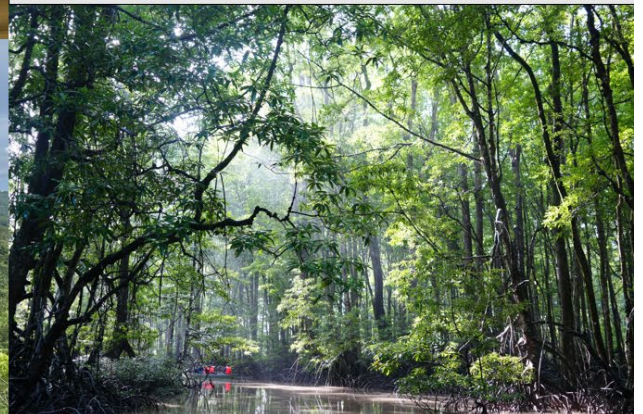
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>		
10	<b>Visa Application</b>	<p>Singapore passport holders are exempted from visa requirements for a stay of up to 30 days in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.</p> <p>Non-Singaporeans are responsible for finding out whether they are required to apply for a visa to Sabah, Malaysian Borneo visa. Please visit this homepage for more information: <a href="https://www.kln.gov.my/web/sgp_singapore">https://www.kln.gov.my/web/sgp_singapore</a></p>
11	<b>Travel Advisories</b>	<p>Visit the <a href="#">MFA website</a> for travel advisories on various countries from the Singapore government.</p>
12	<b>Student Insurance</b>	<p>NUS will continue to offer NUS Travel Insurance for approved study abroad programmes such as STEER.</p> <p>For more information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NUS Student Travel Insurance Cover, click <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> <p>Students are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient travel insurance coverage for the entire duration of their trip (inclusive of travel) and are advised to review the insurance coverage/policy to ensure that they meet their needs. Students may purchase additional health and/or travel insurance from their preferred agent.</p> <p>A copy of your insurance certificate can be obtained via <a href="#">myPortal@NUS</a>.</p>
13	<b>Contact Information</b>	<p>Questions about the STEER programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact Dr. Gretchen Coffman @ <a href="mailto:geogcc@nus.edu.sg">geogcc@nus.edu.sg</a></li> </ul>



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Explore Immense Rainforests,  
Mangroves & River Ecosystems,  
Impacts and Sustainable Practices





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## Ecosystem Restoration in Practice




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Learn field skills to study wildlife, tropical wetland vegetation, hydrology and soils.

Kinabatangan River, Borneo

Plant Endangered Trees!



HYPERFIRE 2 COVERT



Sukang Ethnic Martial Arts

Making Ketupat Handicrafts



Exploring cultural caves with village elder



## Get to Know Local Orang Sungei Communities



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## Learn How to Communicate Conservation

- 360 films
- Training Videos
- IG Reels and Stories

