



Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.  
2014 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



MBCFI receives core funding support from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners

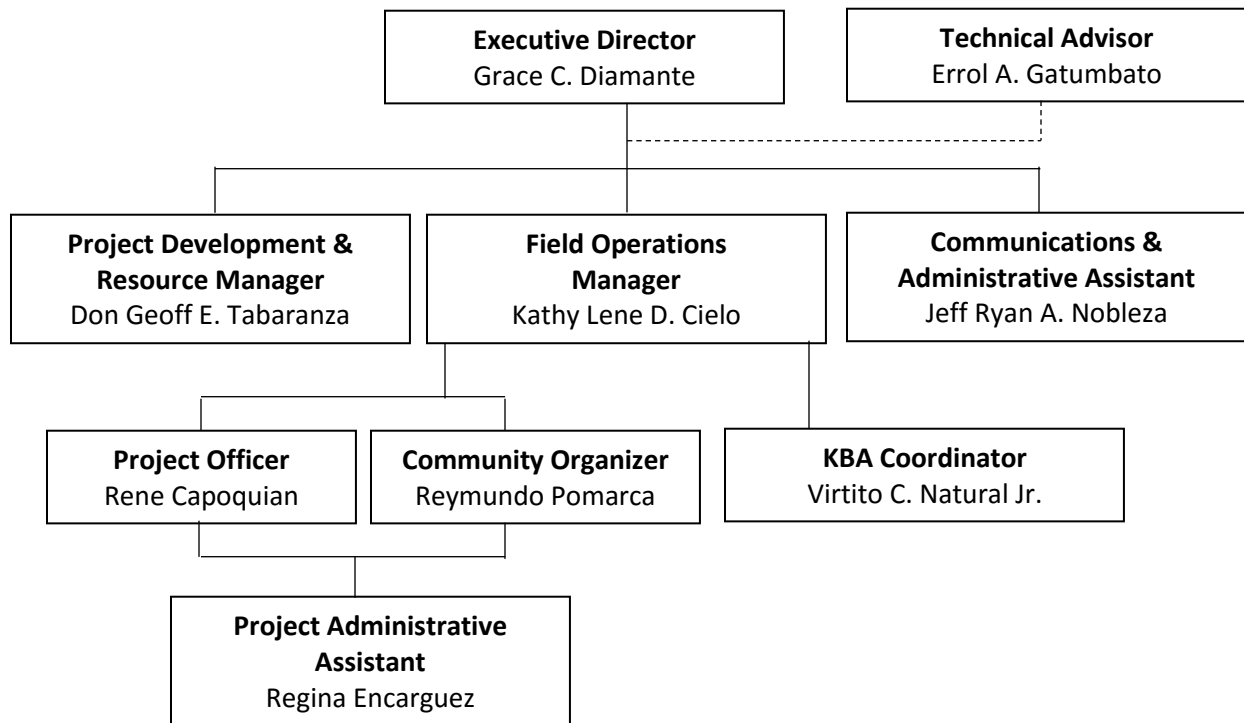


**Institutional Updates:**

***Organizational Development***

In 2014, MBCFI increased its complement of staff with the additional of 3 key positions for the Ilin-Ambulong Forest Restoration Project – Project Officer, Community Organizer and Project Administrative Assistant. MBCFI also engaged the services of a Communication & Administrative Assistant and KBA Coordinator for Oriental Mindoro. To date the foundation is supported by 8 staff members and a technical advisor. Streamlined its initiatives into four (4) flagship programs:

Figure 1. MBCFI Organizational Structure 2014.



**Flagship Program Accomplishments:**

***Strengthening Environmental Education and Development (SEED) Program***

***Biodiversity Training Course for Teachers***

A biodiversity training course for teachers was conducted on October 23-25, 2014 at Dolce Vita Di Jo Resort, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. Forty-four (44) teachers from 3 divisions (Occidental, Oriental and Calapan) of Mindoro. The 3-day course coincided with the Tamaraw Month celebrations thus the teachers were able to participate in the Takbo para sa Tamaraw (fun run).

***Technical Working Group Orientation and Writeshop Preparation***

***Writeshop for the Environmental Sourcebook***



Figure 2. Participants, speakers and organizers of the biodiversity conservation training course for teachers at Dolce Vita Di Jo Resort, Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

**Resources, Environment, Species and Ecological Assessment for Responsible Change (RESEARCH) Program**

***Tamaraw Exploratory Survey at Mt. Wood in Mts Iglit-Baco National Park (6 – 10 March 2014)***

MBCFI wildlife biologist Don Geoff Tabaranza joins the survey team led by Emmanuel Schutz of NOE Foundation to Mt Wood in Mts Iglit-Baco National Park. The objective of the project was to conduct a series of exploratory surveys assess areas within and adjacent to MIBNP for the presence of the critically endangered endemic Tamaraw. The team composed of biologists from NOE and MBCFI, MIBNP rangers and volunteers.



Figure 3. Tamaraw Exploratory Survey at Mt. Wood, Mts.Iglit-Baco National Park.

### **Rapid Biological & Socio-economic Assessment (6 – 11 April 2014)**

A biological survey was conducted at ARNP on 6 – 11 April 2014 to monitor the status of its terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Simultaneously a series of workshops and community discussions were conducted to assess the socio-economic conditions in coastal communities of the municipality of Sablayan. The surveys were conducted to provide up-to-date information for the development of ARNP's Ecotourism Development & Business Plan. It also served as venue to conduct capacity-building activity for DENR personnel and the park's rangers enhancing the knowledge and skill on monitoring methods.



Figure 4. Biodiversity field survey – terrestrial flora (top left), terrestrial fauna (top right, bottom right) and marine (bottom left) teams at ARNP.

### **MOA signing with Tao Buid in Mt Siburan for the conduct of biosurvey (15 December 2014)**

MBCFI and the Tao Buid Mangyans in Mt Siburan sign an agreement for the conduct of the biodiversity survey with the assistance of NCIP. The biodiversity survey was conducted with experts from Kansas University.



Figure 5. MOA signing with representatives of Tao Buid community and NCIP.

### **Conservation Awareness Raising and Education (CARE) Program**

#### **Wildlife Photosafari with Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines (23-25 January 2014)**

MBCFI invited members of the Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines (WBPP) to visit Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP) to take photos of wildlife in their natural habitat. The activity was organized to generate wildlife and natural landscape images of Mindoro for awareness raising activities of MBCFI and its partners. Photographs taken during the photosafari were immediately processed and put on an exhibit during the World Wetlands Day celebration at the provincial capitol.



Figure 6. Wildlife Photosafari with WBPP members at Naujan Lake and surrounding watershed forests.

#### **World Wetlands Day 2014 at Naujan Lake National Park (2 - 3 February 2014)**

MBCFI participated in the celebration of the World Wetlands Day at Naujan Lake National Park organized by DENR and Protected Area Management Board of NLNP. Lake-shore events included simultaneous clean-ups by lake-side barangays led by their respective LGUs and birdwatching at Brgy Malabo. The celebration culminated in a biodiversity forum and a week-long photo exhibit at the provincial capitol. The forum and exhibit was opened by provincial governor Alfonso V. Umali.



Figure 7. World Wetlands Day Celebration 2015 - Naujan Lake National Park: lake clean-up drive (top left) birdwatching with PAMB & LGU representatives (top right), biodiversity forum (bottom left) and photo exhibit (bottom right).

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium (1 - 4 April 2014)**

The Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is an annual event organized by the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP). The host for 2014 was the University of San Carlos – Talamban Campus in Cebu City, Cebu. During the symposium the WCSP transitioned to BCSP – Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines. MBCFI Staff - Don Geoff Tabaranza attended the event representing the organization was elected to the WCSP board of trustees the previous year was re-elected as trustee of BCSP.



*Figure 8. Poster presentations during the 23rd Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium at University of San Carlos – Talamban Campus, Cebu City.*

### **Alay Mindoreno para sa Kalikasan (23 April 2014)**

Alay Mindoreno para sa Kalikasan is an annual event showcasing environment programs of the provincial government of Occidental Mindoro. The event was initiated by then provincial governor (now congresswoman) Teresita Sato-Ramirez. During this event MBCFI participated in the exhibit by showcasing its conservation programs. MBCFI's Executive Director Grace Diamante was invited to talk about the state of Mindoro's biodiversity during the open forum. Towards the end of the event MBCFI presented a set of its publications – biodiversity reports to Congresswoman Ramirez.



*Figure 9. Executive Director Grace Diamante talks about Mindoro's biodiversity at the forum (top left); with participants at the exhibit (bottom left); and presenting MBCFI's initiatives to Congresswoman Ramirez (right).*

### ***Tamaraw Month Celebration (October 2014)***

In this year's Tamaraw Month, MBCFI was part of the organizing team for the Takbo para sa Tamaraw – a fun run to raise public awareness and funds for the conservation of the critically endangered endemic Tamaraw and its habitat. MBCFI executive director Grace Diamante hosted the event which started and ended at the provincial capitol. Forty-four teachers from all over Mindoro who were participating in the biodiversity conservation course also participated in the Tamaraw Run.



Figure 10. Takbo para sa Tamaraw 2014 at Or.Mindoro Provincial Capitol, Calapan City during the Tamaraw Month Celebration.

### ***Mindoro Island Symbolic Species Icons of Nature (MISSION) Program Ilin and Ambulong Islands Forest Restoration Project***

MBCFI initiated a 2-year project with funding support from the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation to rehabilitate the fragmented forest patches in 11 Barangays (Ambulong, Ansiray, Bangkal, Buri, Catayungan, Iling Proper, Inasakan, Ipil, Labangan, Natandol, Pawican) in Ilin and Ambulong Islands, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. The project identified the critically endangered endemic Philippine Teak as its flagship species. Under the project, MBCFI signed a memorandum of understanding with the municipal government of San Jose representing the 11 barangays of Ilin and Ambulong Islands and the DENR for the establishment of critical habitats for the Philippine Teak. The MOU was signed on 12 September 2014. Consequently the first of a series of workshops was conducted on 3 – 5 November 2014 to draft a Critical Habitat Management Plan for the Philippine Teak. A series of workshops was also conducted in November 24-27, 2014 to integrate forest conservation in Barangay Development Plans. In December 30, 2014, the start of the construction of a native tree nursery in Brgy. Iling Proper. The nursery will raise seedlings of Philippine Teak and other native tree species to support the restoration activities of the project.



Figure 11. Left photo: MBCFI executive director Grace Diamante (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) during the MOU signing with Mayor Romulo Festin (center), DENR RTD Gwendolyn Bambalan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and DENR CENRO San Jose Efrén Bambalan (right). Right photo: Representatives from 11 barangays in Ilin and Ambulong during the Barangay Development Planning workshop to integrate forest conservation in their programs.

The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. acknowledges the unwavering support of our donors and partners in conserving the unique and threatened biodiversity of Mindoro Island.



Tanggapan ng Pambayang Kaluzagan

