



Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



MBCFI receives core funding support from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners



Institutional Updates:

Organizational Development

In first half of 2015 MBCFI went through a transition period following the resignation of its executive director Ms. Grace Diamante to pursue other personal goals and interests. While searching of a new director to lead the foundation, the president Dr. Leticia Afuang stepped in as interim director until the appointment of board member Dr. Neil Aldrin Mallari in the 3rd quarter of 2015. The foundation also expanded its ranks with the addition of 4 staff members to provide better support to conservation efforts in priority conservation sites throughout Mindoro Island. Senior Community Facilitator Juan Valdez Jr. took assignment in Mt. Iglit-Baco National Park while providing guidance and support to other facilitators and project sites. KBA Coordinator Roderick Makiputin coordinates efforts throughout Occidental Mindoro sites while serving as focal person for DENR-GIZ-funded project in Mt. Calavite, municipality of Paluan. Community Facilitator Junel Tagarino took assignment in Mt. Halcon to facilitate conservation efforts in 2 communities – Barangay Bayanan and Barangay Lantuyang in the municipality of Baco. MBCFI also engaged Knowledge and Communications Officer Reisa Maas to enhance awareness-raising efforts and programs throughout Mindoro.

Table 1. MBCFI Staff and respective positions.

<i>Position / Designation</i>	<i>Name</i>
Executive Director	Neil Aldrin Mallari
Project Development and Resource Manager	Don Geoff Tabaranza
Field Operations Manager	Kathy Lene Cielo
Knowledge and Communications Officer	Reisa Maas
Communications and Administrative Assistant	Jeff Ryan Nobleza
Key Biodiversity Areas Coordinator – Oriental	Virtito Natural Jr.
Key Biodiversity Areas Coordinator – Occidental	Roderick Makiputin
Community Facilitator – Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park	Juan Valdez Jr.
Community Facilitator – Mt. Halcon	Junel Tagarino

Impact to National Conservation Efforts

Aside from conservation efforts throughout Mindoro Island, MBCFI also participated in development of national policies through engagements with national agency DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau and with the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP).

- i) Philippine National List of Threatened Faunal Species. The national government through DENR aims to update the national list of threatened animal species approved through DAO 2004-15. Experts from throughout the country including MBCFI's President Dr. Leticia Afuang, trustee Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez and PDRM Don Geoff Tabaranza met through a series of workshops to assess the status of the country's faunal species for the Philippine Redlist Committee's (PRLC) recommendation to the DENR secretary. The National Redlist is projected to be approved by March 2016.
- ii) Philippine Red Data Book version2. Through the BCSP, some of MBCFI's trustees and staff were involved in preparing an update of the National Red Data Book which was first published in 1997. Species assessments for the National Red List were used to draft updated species profiles for Red Data Book. The BCSP aims to complete the book in 2017 in time for the 20th anniversary of the first Red Data Book.
- iii) MBCFI also participated and was elected to chair a multi-sectoral committee in the development of National Guidelines and Protocols for Birdwatching. The committee is scheduled to meet on 2Q of 2016 and finalize the guidelines within the year.



Figure 1. National threatened species assessment workshop participants with the Philippine Red List Committee heads.

**Knowledge and Skills Development for MBCFI Staff
Anti-bribery and Corruption Training (9 January 2015)**

Anti-bribery and Corruption training at Shell House in Makati City was attended by MBCFI staff (Don Geoff Tabaranza, Kathy Lene Cielo, Virtito Natural and Jeff Nobleza). The orientation focused on guidelines and protocols when dealing with stakeholders to avoid bribery and corruption under the legal basis of the Philippines and UK laws.

Filipinos for Flying Foxes (4-6 March 2015)

Mr. Don Geoff Tabaranza and Ms. Kathy Lene Cielo attended the meeting in SBMA, Olongapo City. The meeting is focused enhancing conservation effort for flying fox species in the Philippines with a training on monitoring methods (exit and roost counts). The activity was hosted by Bat Conservation International.



Figure 2. Sharing of flying fox conservation efforts from different organizations in the Philippines (left) and briefing on flying fox flyway count method (right).

24th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium (12-19 April 2015)

The Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is an annual event organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (formerly Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines). The host for 2015 was the University of Eastern Philippines in Catarman, Northern Samar. MBCFI Staff - Don Geoff Tabaranza, Kathy Lene Cielo, Virtito Natural, and Rene Capouquian – attended the event to present a poster providing updates on the status of the Philippine Teak Project on Ilin Island. The team also manned an institutional exhibit to promote MBCFI, its programs, projects and accomplishments.



Figure 3. Participants of the 24th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium at UEP-Catarman, Northern Samar.

Southeast Asia Bat Conservation Research Unit Conference (12-19 August 2015)

Recent biodiversity surveys have highlighted the richness of Mindoro in terms of bat diversity. Mindoro is a critical site conservation of bats as it is the home of the endemic Mindoro Stripe-faced Fruit Bat (*Styloctenium mindorensis*) which was discovered in 2006. There are also records of the endemic Mindoro Pallid Flying Fox (*Desmalopex microleucopterus*) and a mixed colony of Large Flying Fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) and Golden-crowned Flying Fox (*Acerodon jubatus*) was reported by Haribon Foundation in 2004. Species of insect bats were newly recorded for Mindoro Island during the survey conducted last 2011. In line with this, the foundation is continuously doing research, conservation initiatives and community capacity building throughout Mindoro. By attending the conference in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, Ms. Kathy Lene Cielo able to gain more knowledge and inputs from different presenters, researchers and conservationist from other countries and organizations that could share their best practices during the conference.

Cave and Cave Resources Workshop (14-15 September 2015)

A Cave and Cave Resources Workshop was held at Sikatuna Beach Resort, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro hosted by DENR MIMAROPA. Ms. Kathy Lene Cielo was one of the resource speakers while Mr. Roderick Makiputin and Mr. Virtito Natural Jr. attended as participants. They gained knowledge on basic cave ecology and caving protocols. The workshop also includes actual caving field survey on Ilin Island.

Core Program Accomplishments:

Strengthening Environmental Education and Development Program

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) drafting between MBCFI and DepEd

A roundtable discussion was also held last October 7, 2015. A memorandum of agreement was drafted together with DepEd Supervisors from the Division of Calapan City, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro. This MoA will strengthen our partnership with the Department of Education.

Biodiversity Training Course for Teachers

Three batches of teachers' training were conducted this year on February 23-26, 2015 at Glendenning Hotel, Occidental Mindoro, October 22-24, 2015 and November 28-31, 2015 at Puerto Nirvana Resort, Puerto Galera. Thirty teachers were trained per batch with a total of 90 teachers trained in 2015.



Figure 4. Biodiversity conservation training course for teachers at Puerto Nirvana Resort, Puerto Galera, Or. Mindoro.

First National Wildlife Quiz Bowl

The foundation also sponsored 8 students from 4 schools in Mindoro as contestants for the First National Wildlife Quiz Bowl which was held in Argao Cebu last November 25, 2015. All 4 Mindoro teams were in the top 10: Holy Infant Academy of Calapan City garnered second place honors while San Teodoro National High School, Oriental Mindoro National High School and Puerto Galera National High School placed 5th, 9th and 10th overall.



Figure 5. Participants to the first National Wildlife Quiz Bowl held at the Municipality of Argao, Cebu.

Research Program

Terrestrial Biodiversity Survey and Capacity-building for DENR personnel and rangers at Apo Reef Natural Park. A survey was conducted at ARNP on January 27 – 31, 2015 to monitor

the status of its terrestrial biodiversity. The survey also served as capacity-building activity for DENR personnel and the park's rangers enhancing the knowledge and skill on monitoring methods.



Figure 6. Terrestrial biodiversity monitoring methods lecture (left) and actual field survey (right) in ARNP.

Conservation Awareness Raising and Education Program

Launching of new species records in Mindoro (22 Jan 2015) at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon City. The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) launched the results of its studies on Mindoro's wildlife on January 22, 2015 at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City. The studies or technical reports aim to guide local government and non-government agencies by providing new insight into Mindoro's flora and fauna through assessments that enable understanding, enrichment and improved management. The technical reports published and launched include the Mt. Halcon Management Plan; Naujan Lake National Park Site Assessment and Profile Updating; Apo Reef Natural Park Rapid Site Assessment; Apo Reef Natural Park Ecotourism Management Plan 2015-2020; Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary Rapid Site Assessment; Conservation Needs Assessment Physical Profile; MBCFI Program Thrusts 2010-2020; Spatial Analysis of Biophysical and Socio-Economic Variables in Support of Decision-Making on Conservation and Development Issues: A Case Study of Mindoro Island; Island-wide Survey of Fauna & Flora; and Field Inventory of Selected Sites for Priority Conservation. Through the studies, MBCFI recorded the presence of 16 faunal species in Mindoro and 2 new species first recorded in the Philippines. The discovery includes 10 new species of birds, 3 bats, 3 fishes, a snake and an owl. A photo exhibit of these fauna was also unveiled during the event. The launch of the technical reports and unveiling of the photo exhibit were followed by a signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners and MBCFI to continue and strengthen their existing partnership to protect and conserve Mindoro biodiversity and wildlife.



Figure 7. Launching of new species records in Mindoro and MOA signing ceremony between MBCFI and the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners.

World Wetlands Day 2015 (2 February 2015) at Naujan Lake National Park. MBCFI participated in celebrating the World Wetlands Day at Naujan Lake National Park organized by DENR and Protected Area Management Board of NLNP. The event included a launching of the Philippine Duck as the flagship species for the park in partnership with USAID-B+WISER as well as a photo exhibit at the CENRO-Socorro office and annual bird count at Brgy Malabo facilitated by MBCFI.



Figure 8. World Wetlands Day Celebration 2015 at Naujan Lake National Park.

Biodiversity Day (22 May 2015) at Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area, Calapan City

The foundation celebrated Biodiversity Day by taking teachers and students from several colleges in Calapan City through the protected mangrove forest of Barangay Silonay. The nature appreciation tour included lectures about mangrove ecosystems and conservation through community-based efforts.



Figure 9. Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity at Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area, Calapan City.

International Coastal Clean Up (12 Sept 2015) at Pandan Island, Sablayan, Occ.Mindoro.

Every year MBCFI participates in the International Coastal Cleanup day that takes place every 3rd Saturday of September. Said initiative has been a practice for over 20 years spearheaded by the Ocean Conservancy. Initially this activity was set to be conducted at the Apo Reef Natural Park, it being the only marine-based project of MBCFI. However, due to inclement weather, the team decided to conduct the cleanup at the Marina Protected Area located in North Pandan Island instead. With the help of DENR – ARNP PASu Fe Raguindin, Sablayan MENRO Mr. Fernando Dalangin, and their staff, the team was able to easily coordinate the sudden changes in the plans to Pandan Island Resort. In the island there's a ranger who watches over the MPA. It's in the ranger's station where the cleanup team held the orientation and the tallying of the garbage collected. Before starting, a brief orientation on MBCFI and the activity was held for the volunteers and the participants. Two groups were made, one for the coastal cleanup and one for the dive cleanup. Both groups did two rounds of cleanup. The participants noticed that the place was quite clean. However, after digging further, the team recorded very few garbage underwater but quite a number of trash along the coast and towards the inner portion of the island. Being a private resort the team expected fewer garbage but the amount collected was not alarming.

Tamaraw Month; October 2015

In this year's Tamaraw Month, MBCFI spearheaded a life-size Tamaraw making contest won by the municipalities of Baco and San Teodoro. The prize given to each winner was a set of aquaponics system.

The Teachers Training conducted in October was also part of MBCFI's contribution to the celebration of the Tamaraw month. Another activity conducted was the talk at the Far Eastern University (FEU) in collaboration with the CES NSTP department of FEU, DENR-TCP, and WWF. The whole talk was focused on the Tamaraw and the current programs being done to protect the species.

Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan; 2 December 2015

MBCFI was nominated by one of its volunteers, Cindi Ayap, to the Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan. The foundation received a plaque of recognition for its endeavors to conserve the unique and threatened biodiversity of Mindoro Island.

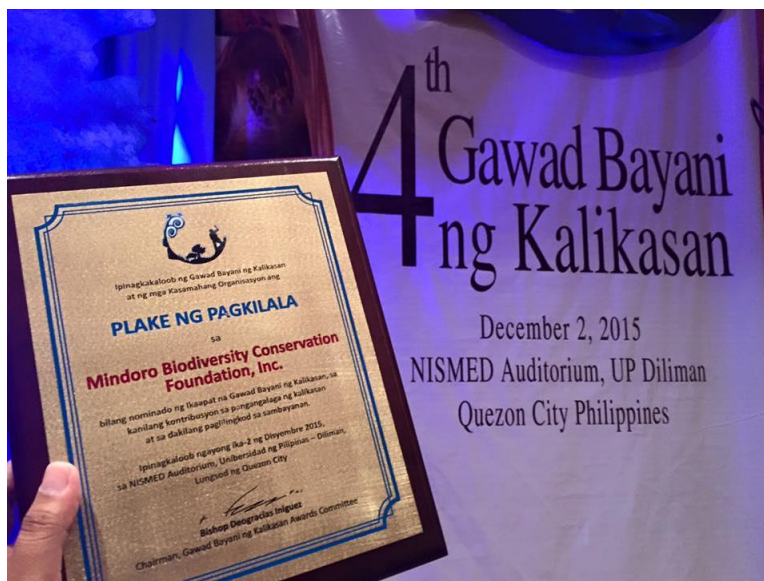


Figure 10. MBCFI receives a plaque of recognition for its conservation efforts in Mindoro during the 4th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan.

10th Philippine Bird Festival (8-12 Dec 2015) at Balanga City, Bataan. MBCFI staff (Don Geoff Tabaranza, Kathy Lene Cielo, Reisa Maas, Roderick Makiputin, and Jeff Nobleza) participated in the Bird Festival to promote MBCFI, its programs, projects and accomplishments in an institutional booth. The staff also observed coordination and facilitation of event organizers Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) and Balanga City Government in handling a large event in preparation for the 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium which MBCFI will co-host with the City Government of Calapan and BCSP in April 2016.



Figure 11. MBCFI staff receive certificates and tokens of appreciation from the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Balanga City (left) and student flock to MBCFI booth during the bird fair (right).

Site-specific Accomplishments:

Site: Mts Iglit-Baco National Park

Communities: Sitio Tamisan, Brgy Poypoy, Calintaan; Sitios Balangabong, Bato-singit, Albunan, Natob, Tiktihan and Ogondatag, Brgy Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.

In preparation for focused research and conservation activities for the critically endangered endemic Tamaraw, MBCFI initiated preparatory coordination activities with the DENR, the protected area office (PAO) and protected area management board (PAMB). The community facilitator initiated talks with local communities in seven (7) sitios from two (2) municipalities of Calintaan and Rizal.

MBCFI facilitated the formation and registration of (3) three community-based or people's organizations (POs) in the selected communities, Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid ng Bato - singit (PSBB) of sitio Bato-singit composed of 46 pure Buhid families, Mamamayang Katuwang sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan (MAKAPAKA) consisting 38 Buhid families from sitio Natob and Ogondatag of Manoot, Rizal and the Nagkakaisang Tao-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan (NTTPK) with 33 Tao-Buid families from sitio Tamisan , Barangay Poypoy , Calintaan . All three organizations are registered with the Department of labor and Employment (DOLE).

Thirty-six (36) individuals from the 3 peoples organizations volunteered as forest guards within their respective areas to support the park rangers of Mts Iglit-Baco National Park and Tamaraw Conservation Program in enforcing protected area regulations and national laws for wildlife environment protection. The volunteer forest guards have developed their own enforcement plan through the facilitation of MBCFI.



Figure 12. Indigenous community members volunteer as forest guards and develop their enforcement plan.

Through these efforts MBCFI can expect the active participation and support of these communities for research and conservation activities scheduled for 2016.

Site: Mt Halcon

Communities: Brgy Bayanan and Brgy Lantuyang in Baco, Oriental Mindoro

Among the targets of MBCFI and the Mt Halcon Management Technical Working Group is the proper management of mountaineering activities on Mt Halcon. A major activity under this initiative is to rehabilitate the Visitors' Center in Brgy Lantuyang, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. A bidding for the contract was conducted and a contract and Memorandum of Agreement with the winning bidder is being finalized.

The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro, municipal government of Baco and local communities at mountaineering jump-off points each have drafted their own guideline to regulate mountaineering activities. An impediment to proper management are inconsistencies in the details of the guidelines, thus MBCFI

sought to harmonize the three (3) existing guidelines. Round Table Discussions have been conducted with council members from barangay Lantuyang and Bayanan, the municipal environment and tourism offices of Baco and the Mt Halcon Technical Working Group to resolve the inconsistencies in the guidelines.



Figure 13. MBCFI organized a mountaineering guide training course with MFPI trainers for indigenous communities of Brgys Lantuyang and Bayanan.

A basic mountaineering guide training course was conducted with instructors from the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines, Inc (MFPI) to provide supplemental livelihood for community members at identified jump-off / entry points at Brgy Lantuyang and Brgy Bayanan. The training course certified 45 guides from the 2 barangays. The community facilitator at Mt Halcon has also initiated talks with the municipal tourism office for the accreditation of trained guides.

Community / peoples organizations are being organized and strengthened in both barangays. DOLE registration will be submitted once documentary requirements have been completed.

The recent typhoon Melor (Nona) which made landfall in the Philippines on 14 – 18 December 2015 has severely devastated the communities at the base of Mt Halcon on including those in Brgys Bayanan and Lantuyang. The field staff visited the sites immediately after the typhoon and coordinated with the local communities, LGU and MFI to initiate relief operations. MBCFI will be provided crop seeds to revive livelihood of affected families.



Figure 14. Indigenous communities in Brgy. Bayanan (left) and Brgy. Lantuyang (right) devastated by Typhoon Melor (Nona).

Site: Mt Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

Communities: Sitio Ulasan and Sitio Hinugasan, Brgy Harrison in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

The project entitled “Multi-sectoral partnership combating forest fragmentation in MCWS” receives support from the Government of Germany through the GIZ-Protected Area Management Enhancement Project with the DENR. MBCFI has initiated a Conservation Needs Assessment in 23-26 March 2015 with major stakeholders and a series of coordination meetings including an Inception Meeting in 12 August 2015 which outlined major activities for the project as well as the roles and contribution of the involved stakeholders (Community organizations, DENR, PAMB, LGU, NCIP, PNP and Phil Army).



Figure 15. Community members of Brgy Harrison discuss formation of a peoples organization and applying for PACBRMA.

Initial efforts of the project focused on the formation of community-based or people’s organizations (POs) to support conservation and management efforts of the DENR, the PAMB and the LGU-Paluan. This effort is consistent with DENR’s targets in implementing the Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement (PACBRMA) with local communities. However, efforts are hampered by need to complete the Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO) which is a prerequisite for the application of a PACBRM Agreement.

Guidelines for the management of mountaineering activities in Mt Calavite have been drafted by the PAMB through the facilitation of MBCFI in 12 November 2015. The guidelines are currently being circulated among the organizations involved for review and finalization is scheduled in the 1st quarter of 2016.

A biodiversity monitoring system was installed initially through the formation and training of the monitoring team primarily composed of the bantay gubat (forest guards) on 30 June-1 July 2015. The monitoring sites consequently established in the following weeks after the training. The monitoring system and knowledge and skills of the team were enhanced by incorporating the Landscape and Wildlife Indicators (LAWIN) system developed by the Center for Conservation Initiatives – Philippines (CCI-PH) through a training course on 17-18 November 2015.



Figure 16. Members of Mt Calavite's green brigade and biodiversity monitoring team undergo BMS enhancement training by incorporating the SMART-LAWIN monitoring system.

MBCFI coordinated a land-use mapping workshop on 12 November 2015 with the PAMB and DENR technical staff to produce a current land-use map which facilitated the management zoning workshop on 20 November 2015. A management plan for MCWS has been drafted and is currently being circulated among the stakeholders for review.



Figure 17. MBCFI staff facilitate Land-use mapping with Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary PAMB members and DENR technical staff.

Site: Ilin and Ambulong Islands

Communities: Brgys Ambulong, Ansiray, Bangkal, Buri, Catayungan, Iling Proper, Inasakan, Ipil, Labangan, Natandol, Pawican in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

Paralegal Seminar and Deputation; January 12-15, 2015. Part of the Ilin and Ambulong Forest Conservation Project is the formation of forest protection group or Bantay Kalikasan. It aims to encourage volunteerism among community members in protecting their own land or environment. And as part of the capacity building of Bantay Kalikasan members, Paralegal and Deputation Seminar was conducted which aims to provide general idea and knowledge regarding basic law enforcement concepts and procedures. The two days Paralegal and deputation seminar was facilitated by resource persons from DENR with assistance from MBCFI. The training focused on DAO 2008-22 S/DENRO and DENROS, Revocation and Termination of the deputation Order, Renewal of Deputation Orders for S/DENRO's, Legal Basis in Harvesting and Transporting Forest Products, DAO 97-32: Rules on the Administrative Adjudication of Illegal Forest Products, Machinery, Equipment, Tools and Conveyances, Paralegal Procedure on How to Conduct Surveillance, and Preparation of Filing Cases in Court and New Rules of Court on ENR Cases.



Figure 18. Participants from 11 barangays of Ilin and Ambulong Island during the Paralegal and Deputation Seminar.

Woodlot and restoration Training; March 23-25, 2015. MBCFI organized this training on Forest restoration and Woodlot Establishments for LGU and Cooperator on Forest Restoration and woodlot establishments in Ilin and Ambulong Islands. To enhance the knowledge of participants on basic concepts of biodiversity, Forest Restoration and land/woodlot management

Leadership Training; April 6-10, 2015. MBCFI organized the leadership training to equip the leaders with the necessary knowledge, skills expand qualities that will help them strengthen their organizations and continue their advocacies. This training was aimed at providing a venue where the leaders can reflect on their own competencies – which qualities they possess and which they need to further develop and eventually plan based on their desired future state. During the two-day session, they went through several activities which included team building activities, SLEs, workshops and interactive lectures which helped in achieving the following outputs and results: Identified their model leader, reflected on their attitudes – helpful and otherwise – as leaders, articulated the type of leadership and the source of power they would like to emulate, emphasized the importance of vision in planning for the community. The participants have exhibited skills and good attitudes as leaders but they need to work on certain areas like: Planning skills, evaluation skills, especially indicators and organizing orientation and skills. Future intervention for the leaders may focus on this. It will be most beneficial if a thorough training needs analysis can be done so that a comprehensive program can be designed for them.

Launching of Philippine Teak as flagship species of Ilin and Ambulong Islands and Celebration of Environment Month; June 5, 2015. The critically endangered Philippine Teak was launched as the flagship species in celebration of Environment Month. The event included lectures about Mindoro's biodiversity and MBCFI's conservation efforts not only on Ilin and Ambulong Islands but also throughout Mindoro. A ceremonial ribbon cutting and Phil. Teak planting culminated the event.



Figure 19. Ceremonial ribbon-cutting and planting of seedlings to launch the Philippine Teak as flagship species of Ilin and Ambulong Islands during the celebration of Environment Month.

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 Kalusugan

