



Annual Report



Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

ACRONYMS

ARNP	Apo Reef Natural Park
BCSP	Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
BDP	Barangay Development Plan
BIG	Bio-intensive Gardening
BK	Bantay Kalikasan
BMS	Biodiversity Monitoring System
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
CLADES	Culture, Learning, Art, Design, Environment, Science
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species
COP	Conference of Parties
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
IAMBAG	Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat
ICC	International Coastal Cleanup
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Kawaras	Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAKAPAKA	Mamamayang Kabalikat sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan
MBCC	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
MBCFI	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
MCWS	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
MIBNP	Mts. Iglit - Baco National Park
NAGBAKAT	Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan
NAGSAMAKAPA	Nagkakaisang Samahang ng Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan
NCIP	National Commission for Indigenous People
NLNP	Naujan Lake National Park
NTTPK	Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan
PA	Protected Area

PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PASu	Protected Area Superintendent
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
PSBB	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Buhid sa Batosingit
PSP	Policy System and Proceedure
PSU	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Ulasan
SABACAP	Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan
Sagip Buhay, Balik Puno	Brgy. Buri, Ilin, San Jose
SAMMA	Samahang ng Aktibong Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Ambulong
Sarig	Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang
SEAMS	Socio-Economic Assessment and Monitoring System
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SIAD	Sustainable Integrated Area Development
WWD	World Wetlands Day

RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., conducted continuing researches on biological, geo-physical and socio-economic status of Mindoro. During the past year, the MBCFI also provided assistance to DENR in conducting different monitoring surveys.

Annual Waterbird Census

MBCFI biologists and On-the-Job-Trainees/ volunteers provided technical assistance to the Protected Area Office and Protected Area Management Board in conducting the annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) at Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP) on January 19-20, 2017. Fifteen observers divided into five teams counted a total of 6,932 individuals composed of 36 species of waterbirds. The most abundant species recorded were Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) with 4,833 individuals, followed by 1,351 individuals of Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*). Result of this survey was submitted to the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-BMB). Consolidated report was submitted to Wetlands International.



NLNP management plan updating & NIPAS declaration

A series of meetings with the NLNP Protected Area Management Board were facilitated by MBCFI Technical Advisor Errol Gatumbato and Executive Director Grace Diamante to update the draft protected area management plan (PAMP) and the preparation of requirements for the declaration of the NLNP as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System of the Philippines. Among of these efforts were the provision of technical assistance to the PA office in the conduct of the Socio-Economic Assessment and Monitoring, which supplemented the information derived from the

Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO), as well as in the preparation of the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) and Initial Protected Area Plan (IPAP). These documents are important requirements to justify the declaration of the NLNP as a protected area. Relative to the proposed category of the NLNP as a protected landscape, the MBCFI provided technical assistance in the decision-making as to the changes in the boundaries of the NLNP. The technical personnel of DENR-MIMAROPA regional office initiated the mapping and delineation of the NLNP's boundaries. All these documents supporting the proposal for the NIPAS declaration of the NLNP were presented during public consultations held in the four (4) surrounding municipalities such as Pola, Socorro, Victoria and Naujan from October 10 to 13, 2017. On November 6-9, 2017, the MBCFI further facilitated the workshop of selected members of the PAMB in drafting the proposed bill for the NLNP, which shall be submitted to the Congress for consideration. The bill drafting workshop was held in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.



Mt. Halcon Biodiversity Survey

A field survey team composed of four (4) biologists assisted by eight (8) members of Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang (SARIG) and Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon ng Bayanan (KAWARAS) as field assistants, guides and cooks conducted a study on October 16-27, 2017. Prior to the survey, the proposed research project was presented to the mayor, vice mayor and municipal council of Baco and barangay council of Bayanan so as to ensure proper coordination of the activity with these officials. Two sites: Magluko Camp (at 850masl) and Aplaya Camp (at 1450masl) were covered by the survey. An initial (WHY INITIAL) total of 82 wildlife species were recorded composed of 51 birds, six (6) bats, four (4)

rodents, seven (7) amphibians and 14 reptile species. Highlights of the survey included the recording of several island endemics, including the Mindoro Scops Owl, Mindoro Racket-tail, Mindoro Pallid Flying Fox, Mindoro Climbing Rat, Mindoro Climbing Rat, Mindoro Tree Frog, Mindoro Forest Dragon and Bangon Monitor Lizard.



Biodiversity Monitoring and Wildlife Identification Training

This kind of training was conducted to enhance the capacity of DENR and LGU staff in identifying not only different flora and fauna, but also prevailing threats in their areas, which they can use on their biodiversity monitoring system.

This year, series of trainings was conducted in Apo Reef Natural Park on April 3-8, 2017 and May 16-18, 2017 to enhance the biodiversity monitoring knowledge and skills of DENR rangers, ARNP PAO staff, and Sablayan MENRO staff in wildlife species identification and BMS monitoring methods. MBCFI RESEARCH program manager Don Geoff Tabaranza facilitated the training on bird species identification, while MBCFI trustee Dr. Leticia Afuang facilitated the training on herpetofauna species identification.

In addition, biodiversity monitoring is a tedious activity for MBCFI, DENR or LGU alone, and training and involving communities would make the load a lot easier. Participative approach would also make the community voluntarily protect and manage their own areas. In line with this, training on the identification of wildlife and resource use indicators, and also proposed transect lines along the slopes of Mt. Halcon, was conducted and participated by thirty (30) deputized Wildlife Enforcement Officers, who are members of SARIG and KAWARAS on December 12-13, 2017.



Biophysical and Socioeconomic Survey in Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP)

The field survey was conducted in forests, grasslands and along freshwater streams at Arau-Bulo Forest and Iglit Ranger Station within the MIBNP on 26 June to 9 July 2017. Prior to the survey, the research plan was coordinated with the Municipal Council of Calintaan and the Protected Area Management Board of MIBNP on 19 – 20 June 2017.



The field survey team was composed of 13 researchers supported by four (4) MIBNP rangers and 10 Mangyan (Buhid & Tau-buid) Bantay Gubat volunteers. One hundred sixty eight wildlife species were recorded composed of 84 plant species, including endemic *Begonia mindorensis*, *Dillenia philippinensis*, and *Ficus ulmifolia*; 53 bird species, including threatened Mindoro endemic Black-hooded Coucal, Mindoro Hawk Owl, Mindoro Hornbill and Mindoro Racket-tail; 11 mammal species, including the Tamaraw, Mindoro Warty Pig and Mindoro Stripe-faced Fruit Bat; nine (9) amphibians, including the Mindoro litter frog and Mindoro tree frog; and 11 reptiles, including the Bangon monitor lizard and Mindoro narrow-disked gecko. The survey also recorded 244 terrestrial arthropod species. A first draft report has been submitted for review.



Annual Tamaraw Count

A total of 401 individuals of Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) were recorded through Simultaneous Multi-Vantage Point Count Method (SMVPCM) on April 17-27, 2017. Fifty three (53) observers composed of DENR, LGU and NGO representatives, including MBCFI biologist, manned 18 vantage points located within the tamaraw core habitat in the MIBNP. The most recent count is lower than the 413 individuals counted in the previous year (2016).



Philippine Teak Tagging

Presently, a total of 1625 individuals of Philippine teak were tagged by the members of Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat (IAMBAG). GPS coordinates of each individual were also recorded.

MISSION PROGRAM

For the past year, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., provided continuing assistance to the communities in its priority sites. The assistance included capacity building activities, livelihood enhancement, habitat restoration and woodlot establishment. Technical assistance to Peoples' Organizations and Bantay Kalikasan Federation was provided in the conduct of their regular meetings, and Policy, System and Procedure (PSP) formulation. With MBCFI's strengthened partnership with these POs, through conservation agreements, the efficiency on programs and projects implementation also increased. Specific assistance provided by MBCFI to POs was on their policy on the Thrift and Savings Program.

Registration and Accreditation

The Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid sa Bato-Singit (PSBB), a peoples' organization from Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro was already registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 23, 2017. The group was also accredited by the Municipality of Rizal.

Two peoples' organizations in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro were organized and registered with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE): 1) Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) , and 2) Samahan ng Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP). Both organizations were accredited by the Municipality of Paluan.

Other accredited POs are Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK) and Mamamayang Kabalik sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA) which were accredited by the Municipality of Rizal, Occidental Mindoro; Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan (NAGBAKAT) and Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan Para sa Kalikasan (NTTPK) were accredited by the Municipality of Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro; and Sarig and Kawaras were accredited by the Municipality of Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

These registrations and accreditations provided legal personality to the different POs, especially in submitting project proposals to the different institutions, either government or nongovernment.

Action and Development Planning

To make sure that the conservation and protection of biodiversity is included in the plans of the community and barangays, MBCFI initiated and facilitated the development planning in different areas of its operation.

Action Planning was conducted on February 21-22, 2017 at Sitio Pamutusin, Barangay Harrison, Paluan. It was attended by 38 officers and members of Pangkalkasang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) and Sagip Bantay Calavite sa Paluan (SABACAP). The planning formulated a 3-year development plan and 1-year action plan for each organization. The plan contained the goals and activities of the POs for the next three years on their livelihood and conservation of their areas.



MBCFI facilitated the barangay development planning workshop for the five priority barangays in Ilin and Ambulong Islands such as Iling Proper, Ambulong, Buri, Labangan and Natandol. It was held on March 19-21, 2017 at Iling proper barangay hall and was attended by 35 officers and members of different POs from the islands.

For Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the planning was facilitated by MBCFI on May 29-30, 2017 in Barangay Harrison, Paluan which was attended by Barangay officials, PO officers and members, and DENR.

In Mt. Halcon, the 3-year Development Planning Workshop was conducted on October 12-14, 2017 in the Evacuation Center of Bayanan, Baco. The planning workshop was attended by the officers and members of KAWARAS and SARIG, and DENR-CENRO.

Demonstration Site Establishment and Improvement

This program component provided support for the improvement of demonstration sites and multi-purpose halls of Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid sa Bato-Singit (PSBB), Mamamayang Kabalikat sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA) and Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan Para sa Kalikasan (NTTPK), which was held on February 15-16, 2017 and attended by thirty members of PSBB and some members of Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK). Additional open nursery and growth chambers were established in the demonstration sites of PSBB, which holds a total of 1000 indigenous trees. Vermicomposting shed was also established during the said activity. MBCFI also provided additional ginger, yam and other tubers for their demonstration farms.

A growth chamber was also established in Ambulong Islands on March 4, 2017 containing 500 and 900 wildlings of Philippine Teak and native trees, respectively. In addition, MBCFI also assisted Samahang ng Aktibong Magsasaka at Mangingisda sa Ambulong (SAMMA) in the propagation of siniguelas. A total of 1000 stalks of siniguelas were collected and were taken care of in the nursery to be planted next year. A chamber containing 720 native tree species and 480 Philippine Teaks were also established.

In Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, growth chambers were also established in Sitio Pamutusin, Hinugasan and Ulasan on March 30, March 31 and March 21, respectively. Each chamber contained 1000 assorted native tree wildlings.

In Mt. Halcon, a growth chamber was established on April 2-4, 2017 by 10 Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon ng Bayanan (Kawaras) members and 3 staff of MBCFI at Barangay Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. The chamber contained 1100 of native wildlings. Another nursery was established on April 19, 2017 and was attended by 15 members of Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang (Sarig) and 3 staff of

MBCFI at Barangay Lantuyang, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. The chamber contained 1300 of native wildlings.



Wildlings tended in the nurseries and growth chambers by different peoples' organizations will be out planted to the restoration and woodlot sites during the rainy season.

MBCFI also provided a variety of vegetable seeds to SABACAP and PSU members for their individual and communal bio-intensive gardens which were established on October 22-23, 2017. Bio-intensive garden establishment aims to provide additional source of income for the communities.



To improve the growth of the out planted wildlings in the restoration and woodlot sites, fertilizers are generally needed to provide additional nutrients and minimize mortality rate. Thus establishment of vermi compost beds in different sites will serve as source of organic fertilizer which will be used in the POs bio-intensive gardens, pineapple plantation and for the out planted seedling in the restoration and woodlot sites. Native-worm compost was established on July 20-21, 2017 by 12 KAWARAS officers and members at Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. Vermi compost bed was established in Ambulong Islands on August 12-13, 2017 which was attended by 12 members of Samahan ng Aktibong Magsasaka at Mangingisda sa Ambulong (SAMMA). Moreover, three beds of native vermi compost were established by Samahan ng Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP) in their demonstration site last October 20-21, 2017.

Asexual Propagation Training

One of the fastest ways to reproduce plants is through asexual propagation. This procedure is beneficial if the communities already have parent plants which are in its prime condition. Through asexual propagation, it can exactly copy the traits of the parent plant. In line with this, a training was held on February 27-28 and March 01-02, 2017 at Sitio Tamisan, Barangay Poypoy, Calintaan, which was attended by a total of 67 participants from Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid sa Bato-Singit (PSBB), Mamamayang Kabalikat sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA), Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan Para sa Kalikasan (NTTPK) and Bantay Kalikasan Federation (Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan-NAGSABAK and Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan- NAGBAKAT). Participants gained knowledge, experience and hands-on training on budding, splice grafting of fruit bearing trees and sowing of citrus seeds. During the training, the participants established a nursery for various fruit bearing trees and a seedling bed for calamandarin seeds.



Training was provided to two POs in Mt. Halcon. The training for Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang (Lantuyang) was provided on June 6-7, 2017 and was attended by 20 of its members. For the Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon ng Bayanan (Kawaras) of Bayanan, the training was provided on June 4-5, 2017 and was attended by 23 of its members. Each training initially established a nursery of 500 grafted assorted fruit bearing trees for PO. MBCFI procured additional 200 grafted assorted fruit bearing trees such as rambutan, lansones, calamansi and sintores and were distributed to PO members which were planted in their woodlots.

For Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the training on asexual plant propagation was conducted on June 23-24, 2017 and attended by 35 members of Samahan ng Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP). During the training, a nursery of 500 grafted assorted fruit bearing trees was established. A short orientation on woodlot establishment, protection and maintenance was also provided to woodlot cooperators. Another 600 assorted grafted fruit bearing trees were procured and was planted immediately.

Rattan and Bamboo Propagation and Propagation Training

To further improve the economic situation of the communities by using readily available or indigenous materials, MBCFI provided a training on rattan and bamboo propagation. Bamboo and rattan can be used in making furniture and handicrafts which can be sell out with greater value compared to raw products. This training was initially identified by the POs during their planning way back 2016. The training was conducted on March 26-29, 2017 at Sitio hall, Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal, and was attended by 56 members of Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan (NAGBAKAT), Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan Para sa Kalikasan (NTTPK), Mamamayang Kabalik sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA), Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid sa Bato-Singit (PSBB) and Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK). Participants learned the proper and efficient propagation of seedlings and wildlings of rattan. A total of 2500 propagules and 2800 seeds of rattan were potted and sown, respectively. The nursery was established inside the demonstration site of PSBB in Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal. A total of 10, 200 bamboo propagules were planted in Manoot, Rizal.

Firefighting and Prevention Training

Parts of Mindoro are shrublands and grasslands which are susceptible to fires, especially in the Occidental Mindoro side. Members of peoples' organization serve as Bantay Kalikasan in their

respective areas, and it is also their role and responsibility to protect their areas from fires. To equip them with proper firefighting and prevention technique to avoid injuries and casualties, a training for the bantay kalikasan of Mts. Iglit- Baco National Park was held on March 17-18, 2017 at Buhid sitio hall, Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal which was attended by 77 officers and members from different POs (NAGBAKAT, NAGSABAK, NTPPK, PSBB and MAKAPAKA). The topic on the first day which was facilitated by six municipal fire marshals from Rizal was the "Fire safety and First aid". The second day focused on the "Prevention and Fighting of Forest Fires" which was facilitated by DENR-CENRO San Jose.



For the bantay kalikasan of Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the training on Fire Safety and Prevention was conducted on March 28-29, 2017 which was attended by 50 officers and members of SABACAP and Sitio Ulasan. This training was facilitated by five municipal fire marshal, DENR and MDRRM representative. Participants gained basic knowledge on: 1) fire prevention, 2) fire suppression, and 3) rescue.

Another training was conducted on May 15-16, 2017 in Ilin and Ambulong Islands which was attended by 13 Ilin at Ambulong Bantay Gubat (IAMBAG).

Restoration/ Woodlot Establishment and Maintenance

Based on the wood demand surveys conducted by MBCFI, it was found out that there is high demand on wood which was used by communities for fuel, housing and infrastructure. They usually collect wood from the forest and in the long run could result to forest degradation and habitat loss. To minimize this impact, one of the strategies is to establish restoration and woodlot sites. Restoration sites are for pure protection while woodlots are for the personal consumption of communities. Woodlots can be planted with fast-growing and fruiting trees, as well as hardwoods for timber. In Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park, there were six hectares of restoration/ woodlot established by MAKAPAKA and seven hectares by PSBB, in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. A total of four hectares of restoration/ woodlot sites were established in Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro. In Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, there are two hectares of restoration/ woodlot established by PSU and two hectares by SABACAP in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. There are six hectares of restoration/ woodlot established by Sarig and six hectares by Kawaras, in Mt. Halcon, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. And five hectares of restoration sites and seven hectares of woodlot sites were established in Ilin and Ambulong Islands. MBCFI conducts regular monitoring of restoration and woodlot sites. A total of 1800 grafted mango and calamansi seedlings were provided to IAMBAG members to be planted in their woodlot sites in Ilin and Ambulong Islands, while 800 of assorted fruit bearing trees were provided to the POs in Mt. Halcon.

Project Development and Proposal Making

To equip the peoples' organizations with proper skills in project development and proposal making to secure funds or projects from government and other non-government institutions for the sustainability of their organizations, MBCFI provided a training held on August 23-25, 2017. A total of 51 participants from PSU, Hinugasan and Pamutusin Savings Group from MCWS, KAWARAS and SARIG from Mt. Halcon, attended the training. Initial write-up of project proposals of each organization was drafted.

SIAD Project and Rapid Savings

With the knowledge and skills gained during the training on proposal development, PSBB and NAGSABAK were able to draft a proposal and signed an agreement with the DENR for the Sustainable and Integrated Area Development (SIAD) Project with total fund of P 1,700,000 for 2017. This fund was for the nursery and plantation establishment, and for protection and maintenance.

Sustainable Integrated Area Development is under National Greening Program of the DENR. One of the goals of the project is to plant bamboo along the rivers in Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. It will also provide the NTPPK, NAGSABAK members and the community members an additional income upon harvesting of bamboo and development of handicraft.

The PSBB and NAGSABAK allocated a portion of the SIAD fund for their income generating project which is the procurement of tricycle and videoke. They also allocated PhP 100,000.00 for the establishment of consumer store, which they will call the "Panalian ng Buhid."



In addition, PSBB opened a bank account at Tamaraw Rural Bank with an initial deposit of PhP 39,000 pesos through the Rapid Savings Mobilization Technique, where members are to save small amount of money for their PO. Another account was opened at Veteran's bank with a remaining bank balance of PhP 109,000.00, which is for the DENR SIAD Project.

NAGSABAK opened an account at Veteran's bank with a total remaining balance of PhP 40,000.00 for the DENR SIAD Project.

Honey Bee Keeping

One of the identified livelihoods from across sites is honey bee keeping. With the current demand, most of the communities resulted to the unsustainable collection of honey which could result to loss of the

species in the near future. To mitigate this concern, trainings on honey bee keeping were provided on different sites.

The first training was conducted on April 20-21, 2017 at Melea Bee Farm in San Jose, Batangas. The training was attended by nine participants from MAKAPAKA, PSBB, NTPPK and three MBCFI staff. Participants learned the following: 1) importance, status and challenges of bee keeping, 2) life cycle, morphology and characteristics, and 3) conservation. On October 16, 22-23, 2017, four beehive boxes were established by PSBB and NTPPK. This will be placed in forest trees during the summer months.



In Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the training was conducted on October 26-27, 2017 held at the barangay hall of Barangay Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro and was attended by 52 officers and members of PSU and SABACAP. Participants were able to construct four langstroth or bee hive catcher.



Other cultural and environmental friendly livelihood trainings

During the strategic planning of peoples' organizations in 2016, they were able to identify and prioritize livelihood programs appropriate for their communities. However, the communities are not fully capacitated in implementing these kinds of livelihood activities, hence the assistance of MBCFI is vital.

One of the identified livelihood project is swine breeding. In line with this, MBCFI provided a training on "Animal Health Management and Swine Fattening and Breeding." This training was provided on May 18-19, 2017 at Sitio Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. NTPPK and NagBaKaT established a swine fattening project with just two individuals of swine as starter.

Another livelihood option is food preservation. Communities were able to gather lots of raw materials from their farms and plantations, but not utilized fully the economic potential of their products. Food preservation would help communities to avoid spoilage and wastage of the raw products. In line with this, MBCFI provided trainings for the POs. The training aims to increase the knowledge and capacitate PO members on the basic principles, food safety, and methods of food processing and preservation. The first training was provided to POs from Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park on June 26-27, 2017 held at Sitio Tamisan, Poypoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro. Participants learned the proper preparation of polvoron and pastillas, and the processing of root crops such as ube, cassava and ginger into chips, cassava cake and salabat. In Ilin and Ambulong Islands, a total of 30 participants from six different POs attended the training which was held at Barangay Ambulong, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro on August 8-9, 2017.



Another alternative source of livelihood identified was the mushroom culture establishment. This could also provide source of food for the community. One bed of mushroom culture was established on October 17, 2017 at the demonstration site of PSBB. A natural mushroom culture is a combination of banana trunks, rice straw and wood ash.



Pineapple plantation project was identified by SABACAP as one of their alternative livelihood project. MBCFI provided assistance on the establishment of the one-hectare plantation containing a total of 7,000 pineapple sprout held on November 7-10, 2017.

For the Mt. Halcon POs, their start-up livelihood option is the rice trading project.

Road and Coastal Clean-up

Road and coastal clean-ups are regular activities of the communities to maintain the cleanliness in their areas.

MBCFI assisted Barangay Buri, Ilin Island, Occidental Mindoro in the conduct of the road and coastal clean-up in their area. It was held on July 12, 2017 and was attended by 44 participants composed of IAMBAG members, barangay officials and community members.

In Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park, the clean-up was conducted on July 27, 2017 which was attended by 44 members of NagSaBak and PSBB at Sitio Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal.

Awarding of Deputation certificates, identification cards and uniforms

MBCFI and the DENR awarded the deputation certificates, identification cards and uniforms to the Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) which was trained in 2016. The awarding ceremonies happened on July 25, 2017 at Barangay Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro and on July 27, 2017 at Sitio Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.



Basic Leadership and Organizational Management training cum Team Building

To improve the management and leadership skills of PO members, and to strengthen their ties as an organization, MBCFI facilitated "Basic Leadership and Organizational Management Training cum Team Building" on September 20-21, 2017 at Paradise Beach Resort. It was attended by 17 SABACAP members, 22 PSU members, 5 staff from DENR and 4 MBCFI staff.

Simple Bookkeeping and Accounting

To increase the knowledge of PO members in managing their finances, the two POs in Bayanan and Lantuyang were provided with a training on "Simple Bookkeeping and Accounting" by MBCFI on August 3-4, 2017 and was attended by 26 officers and members. Participants gained basic knowledge on: 1)

recording of transactions using different type of books, 2) preparation of basic financial statements, and 3) allocation of Net Surplus.

Health Management and Family Planning Training

Improving the lives of communities does not only focus on its economic or livelihood status, but also on the health status of community members. To improve the health status of the communities, a training on health management and family planning was conducted on May 25-26, 2017 at Sitio Bato-singit Barangay Manoot, Rizal Occidental Mindoro with the assistance of the Municipal Health Office of Rizal. It was attended by 20 couples which at the same time are members of PSBB and NAGSABAK.

CARE PROGRAM

The Communication Awareness Raising and Education or CARE Program of MBCFI aimed at increasing the knowledge and awareness of different communities and other stakeholders in protecting and conserving the biodiversity of Mindoro through formal and non-formal education, special events and different media. Here are the activities conducted in 2017.

Environmental Events, Talks and Exhibits

World Wetlands day celebration in Naujan Lake National Park

The World Wetlands Day is an annual event established to raise awareness about the importance and value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. It is held every 2nd of February, marking the date of the adoption of the Convention of Wetlands on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

With the theme “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction”, this year’s celebration of the World Wetlands Day was held on February 2, 2017 at Naujan Lake National Park, a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar List since November 12, 1999. The event was led by the NLNP -Protected Area Office of the DENR (DENR NLNP-PAO), in partnership with MBCFI, Haribon Foundation, Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC) and DENR regional office. Students from Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MINSCAT), Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) – Bansud Campus and, officials

and volunteers from lakeside communities experienced a different twist in celebrating the World Wetlands Day (WWD).



Instead of the usual lecture and birding session at the site, a total of 60 participants enjoyed the iBangklase, an innovative nature-based educational project of DENR and DWCC. Participants experienced the four-hour ride around the lake, traversing the municipality of Victoria, Naujan, Socorro and Pola in Oriental Mindoro.

Speakers from NLNP-PAO, MBCFI and Haribon Foundation emphasized in their presentations the vital roles of wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme weather conditions, such as typhoons, floods and droughts in communities, and in helping build resilience.

Lunch and Learn (In Focus: Mindoro's Treasures)

More than 30 employees of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX BV) attended the MBCFI Lunch and Learn on March 17, 2017. The foundation's core programs and activities under each program were presented. However, the RESEARCH program of MBCFI was highlighted as a theme of the activity. Research equipment, like mist nets, harp and cage traps were set up inside the conference room, and employees had a first-hand experience on how MBCFI operates in the field during scientific research and surveys. Proper handling and measuring of a captured species were demonstrated to participants. A mini- exhibit was also set up with photos of the newly recorded species in 2015 and published technical reports were also displayed.



The Tamaraw and Mindoro Hornbill mascots roamed around the offices of SPEX from 17th to 20th floor of the Asian Star Building and gamely posed for photos. This activity is for the staff of SPEX to appreciate the works of MBCFI in the field.



Refresh the Beach: Nestea Plunge Event where MBCFI won the grand prize

Nestea selected MBCFI as the partner NGO to represent Puerto Galera for this year's Refresh the Beach Campaign, while Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) represented Boracay and Fostering Education for Environment and Development (FEED) Inc. represented La Union. The campaign was through social media mobilization, in which a person will take a video of himself/herself doing the Nestea plunge while pledging for the beach of their choice and at the same time nominating a friend to do the same challenge within 24 hours, will upload, post or tweet and share the video with hashtags #PlungeToPledge and #PlungeForBoracay, #PlungeForLaUnion or #PlungeForPuertoGalera on any social media platforms. The most number of videos posted will win the grand prize of beach clean-up package worth one million pesos.

To kick off the campaign, MBCFI held a two-day Plunge event at White Beach Puerto Galera on March 25-26, 2017 to promote the campaign to the community. Reinforcement from teachers and municipal employees of Puerto Galera encouraging visitors, locals and foreigners alike to do the plunge. On April 2, 2017, local government of Puerto Galera spearheaded a plunge campaign, also in White Beach. Candidates of Search for Miss Puerto Galera served as the ambassadors for the event. LGU officials, local business owners, civil society organizations, academes and concerned citizens supported the event and flocked at the beach to do the plunge.



An online group dedicated to the posting, tweeting and sharing of plunge for Puerto Galera videos were also formed to ensure that there will be an all-day monitoring of social media postings.

And with all of these combined efforts and initiatives of MBCFI, Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, Local Government Unit of Puerto Galera, Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local business owners, communities, teachers, student and visitors, Puerto Galera garnered the most number of pledges with a total of 10, 959 from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posting, and awarded as the grand prize winner. Truly, everything is possible. As the saying goes, “Kayang-kaya kung sama-sama.”



MINSCAT Talk: Role of Educators in Climate Change Mitigation

Key staff of the MBCFI served as resource persons in the seminar hosted by the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MINSCAT) on “Role of Educators in Climate Change Mitigation.” The event was held at MINSCAT Main Campus, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro on March 18, 2017. It was attended by more than 300 students from MINSCAT Main and Calapan Campuses representing undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members.

The seminar was graced by the MINSCAT President Jessie T. Zamora together with his management staff. Kyle Cielo, CARE Program Manager, discussed the biodiversity of the Mindoro and the Philippines,

in general, and the basic ecology, while Geoff Tabaranza, Research Program Manager, presented the laws on environment and natural resources and Bob Natural, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, talked on climate change.



A mini photo exhibit of the newly recorded species by MBCFI was setup for the appreciation of participants.

Earth Day Celebration in Puerto Galera

The 2017 Earth Day was celebrated on April 13, 2017 at the White Beach Puerto Galera with the theme “Environmental and Climate Literacy”. It was in partnership between the MBCFI and the Local Government Unit of Puerto Galera headed by Mayor Rockey Ilagan and the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro headed by Governor Alfonso Umali, Jr.

The day started with a plunge event to gather videos for the #PlungetoPledge campaign. Several volunteers from the LGU, teachers, youth and media assisted MBCFI in the collection of videos.

The afternoon event was attended by local and international tourists, community members, youth, DENR, LGU and PLGU staff. The event was graced by Governor Alfonso Umali Jr., Mayor Rockey Ilagan of the Municipality of Puerto Galera, Barangay Captain Eleno Candava of San Isidro, Puerto Galera, and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Mary June Maypa. MBCFI’s Executive Director Grace Diamante hyped up the energy of the crowd with her words of encouragement to win the #PlungetoPledge and hoping that this will be the start of a bigger partnership with the municipal and

provincial government. After the messages, Governor Umali, together with other dignitaries did their #PlungetoPledge videos!



The event continued with a presentation on Philippines and Mindoro Biodiversity which was given by Ms. Kyle Cielo, MCFI CARE Program Manager and Roderick Makiputin, MBCFI Community Facilitator, respectively.

MBCFI goes to Bicol University

During the period, the MBCFI reached out the biology students of the Department of Biology, College of Science of Bicol University during their 2017 Bio Summerians.

Bio Summerians is a summer course offered in Bicol University for third year BS Biology students.

It is a one-month course wherein students attend lecture and trainings about field biology (wildlife biology, ecology, botany, zoology, marine biology and many other topics).

This year's Bio Summerians was attended by eighty-two (82) third year BS Biology students. MBCFI's Virtito Natural Jr., who also graduated with a degree in Biology from the said university, gave a lecture and training about Philippines Biodiversity, Bird Identification, Basic Photography and Terrestrial Biodiversity Survey Methods especially about bird surveys and taking the morphometrics of avian specimens.

Environmental Governance Summit 2017

Global climate patterns have been changing, and the Philippines, most specifically the Mindoro islands were not spared from this phenomenon. With strong typhoons hitting the island for the past two years that caused destructions not only to the agricultural areas, but also up in the mountains. This climate change would greatly affect the watershed areas in the islands of Mindoro, resulting to habitat and biodiversity loss.

Sustainable development as defined by the United Nation's "Our common Future" is to meet the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of the future generations in meeting their own, is a long term agenda in the global perspective, and as our contribution, the stakeholders of Mindoro convened to discuss this. With the initiative of the Provincial Government of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro with Alyansa Laban sa Mina (ALAMIN) sponsored the Environmental Governance Summit 2017 at Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro on May 4, 2017.

The Summit was called to provide venue and opportunity for the government, local organizations and communities to sit down and share updates on programs, projects and plans concerning the protection and management of upper watershed areas in between the two provinces. It also emphasized and agreed on the goal of one-island development planning framework for the island of Mindoro with particular focus on the responsibility of protecting common watersheds for sustainable development. The perceived output of the Summit is to formulate an action plan for the next three years to sustain the needs of the communities.

Ms. Grace Diamante, MBCFI Executive Director, was invited as resource speaker on the state of Mindoro's biodiversity based on MBCFI's research data, and the current status of the foundation's program in the two provinces.

26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium

One of the strategies of the MBCFI to further promote the conservation and protection of Mindoro's biodiversity is participating in national and international awareness raising events. The Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is an annual event spearheaded by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP). It is a convention of organizations and agencies concerned in the conservation and protection of the biodiversity of the Philippines.



MBCFI participated in the 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium held on July 18-22, 2017 at the Ateneo de Manila University. The team was able to setup a booth which showcased the organizations program thrust, the biodiversity of Mindoro, , and the newly recorded species in Mindoro. Two of MBCFI's Board of trustees, namely, Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez and Leticia E. Afuang, facilitated some activities in the symposium. Other highlights of the symposium included the scientific presentations of students from different schools in the Philippines. Another highlight of the symposium was the updating of the Philippine red list of wild fauna. Other presentations were about conservation and protection of different taxa, recent discoveries and new scientific methods to further help conservationist in their quest to conserve and protect the biodiversity of the Philippines.

Protected Area Management Enhancement (PAME) Project Learning Event

The PAME project, funded by the GIZ and is being implemented by DENR, aimed to enhance the management of protected areas in the Philippines. Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS) is a protected area under the NIPAS act, one of MBCFI's priority areas for conservation, is one of the approved sites for the GIZ-PAME project. A project entitled "Multi-sectoral Partnership Combating Forest Fragmentation of MCWS" under the GIZ-PAME project has been implemented in MCWS with a two (2) year implementation starting 2015 to 2016.

MBCFI, together with DENR–Protected Area Office of MCWS, being the implementers of the project, has been invited to join the PAME Project Learning Event held on September 6-8, 2017 -at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Makati City. The event aimed to assemble project implementers of projects funded by the GIZ-PAME to talk about their success stories and best practices. On the last day of the event, the organizers scheduled a plenary together with the project implementers to discuss issues encountered during the implementation of the projects. By doing so, other attendees may give comments and suggestions on what to do to resolve the issue.



Awareness raising event: Occidental Mindoro Provincial Scilympics

The Department of Education Division of Occidental Mindoro conducted a Provincial Scilympics for Occidental Mindoro on September 9, 2017 held at the Occidental Mindoro National High School (OMNHS). MBCFI was invited to be one of the speakers for the event. IEC officer, Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, gave a presentation about the Philippines and Mindoro Biodiversity to the students who participated in the Scilympics.



International Coastal Cleanup: Municipality of Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort for the ocean's health spearheaded by the Ocean Conservancy. The event is being held every third Saturday of September of each year. Thousands of volunteers from around the globe participate in clearing tons of trash from coastlines, rivers and lakes and recording every piece of trash collected. Data from the cleanup will be used to formulate other conservation measures for the protection of our oceans and other bodies of water.

On September 16, 2017, MBCFI together with DepEd Division of Oriental Mindoro joined in the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup. The activity targeted three beach areas of the municipality of Pinamalayan, namely Wawa, Recodo, and Paraiso Beaches. A total of 700 community members volunteered for the cleanup. The volunteers were composed of students and teachers from 37 schools and local government unit of Pinamalayan and Philippine National Police –Pinamalayan.



Briefing was provided by DepEd's Coastal Cleanup overall coordinator, Mr. Oscar Linga. Safety regulations were also provided by one of the police officers of Pinamalayan. MBCFI also announced that five (5) schools with the most number of trash collected will be rewarded with one (1) mini radio for their school. The volunteers were divided into three with 11 schools each group and were assigned to clean the beaches of Wawa, Recodo, and Paraiso. Each group was provided with copy of

International Coastal Cleanup data sheet. The three most commonly collected items were cigarette butts with a total of 1,300 pieces, food wrappers with a total of 726 pieces, and plastic cups, spoons, fork with a total of 560 pieces recorded. All trashes were then collected by the LGU's garbage truck for proper disposal.

CLADES Summit

The Culture, Learning, Art, Design, Environment and Science (CLADES) is the first Philippine Natural Museums and collections summit, which tackles concerns in relation to natural history museums and collections in the Philippines. By showing a glimpse of the state-of-the-art national history collections, both national and local levels, the summit aimed to raise awareness to different stakeholders and audience on the new findings and best practices of the different museum curators, managers and implementors, which would serve as inputs to the improvement on the management and operations of other museums and the like.

MBCFI staff attended the summit to gain information for the establishment of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC), which is one of the major projects of the envisaged to be fully operational by 2020.

Awareness Raising: Talk and Exhibit at Assumption College

Assumption College San Lorenzo is an institution that aims to form women servant leaders, rooted in faith in action for social transformation. It organized an event entitled "Exultet Terra (Let the Earth be glad)" which was held at the Assumption College San Lorenzo on September 27, 2017. This event aimed to increase the awareness of students of Assumption College on the current social realities and environmental issues confronting the society.



In this event, MBCFI Executive Director, Ms. Grace C. Diamante, presented about Mindoro biodiversity and the efforts in conserving its biodiversity. A booth was also setup to exhibit MBCFI core programs, mission and vision, priority areas, and photos of newly recorded species in Mindoro as of 2015.

Tamaraw Month Celebration: Biodiversity quiz and Shadow Play Competition

Presidential Proclamation No. 273, dated on October 24, 2002, declared the month of October of every year as a special month for the conservation and protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro. All government offices, agencies and instrumentalities in the whole island of Mindoro are urged to implement activities geared towards the conservation of the Tamaraw. NGOs, private companies or corporations, people's organization, academic and scientific institution and all other interest groups within or outside Mindoro are enjoined to support and participate in the yearly celebration.

The MBCFI joined in the Tamaraw Month Celebration. MBCFI, together with Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Occidental Mindoro, conducted a Biodiversity Quiz and Shadow Play Competition for High Schools in Occidental Mindoro as one of the activities in celebrating the Tamaraw Month. The activity was held at the Tamaraw Hall, Provincial Capitol of Occidental Mindoro on October 13, 2017.

The biodiversity quiz was open for high school students under the jurisdiction of DepEd Division of Occidental Mindoro. Each team was comprised of two (2) students chosen as the best in biodiversity and related topics such as biogeography, Philippine wildlife, Philippine environmental laws, general information, news and current events related to such. There were 22 teams joined the quiz contest and the three teams who rose above the other teams were the following: Second runner up goes to Sablayan Comprehensive National High School, 1st runner up goes to Abra De Ilog National High School, and Rizal National High School being the Champion of the 2nd Biodiversity quiz.



The Shadow play competition was open to schools from the municipalities of Bansud, Mansalay, and Bongabong in Oriental Mindoro, and municipalities of Calintaan, Rizal, and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro. Two schools participated in the competition, namely, Rizal National High School and Calintaan National High School. Five judges from different agencies were invited to critic the performance of the participating schools. Ms. Grace Diamante from MBCFI, Teresita P. David, Jr. from DENR-TCP, Ma. Isabel Castillo from PGO-Tourism, Marilou Cao from Far Eastern University, and Hilaria Villaflores from DENR-PENRO.



CMS COP12

For the first time in the history of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Asia, specifically the Philippines, hosted the 12th meeting. The CMS COP 12 was held at the Philippine International Conference Center in Manila, Philippines from 23rd to 28th of October 2017. There were approximately 1,000 international and local delegates who attended the conference – considered as the largest in the history of the CMS COP 12, which placed particular emphasis on the vital services provided by migratory animals in satisfying people’s everyday needs– as a source of food and medicine, as pollinators and seed dispersers, and as means of pest control. These services coincide with the designated theme of the conference “Their Future is Our Future–Sustainable Development for Wildlife & People.”

The MBCFI was given the opportunity to be among the 26 exhibitors. The exhibits highlighted and showcased to the general public the importance of migratory species and their habitats. A total of 600

participants visited the exhibit of MBCFI, which features the Apo Reef Natural Park and Naujan Lake National Park. These two protected areas in Mindoro are considered as key biodiversity areas and important migratory species haven.. The delegates who visited the exhibit were broadcast journalist, dignitaries, celebrities, international and local organizations (private, government, and non-government), educational institutions, goodwill ambassadors, volunteers and walk-in observers.



Flagship Species for Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

MBCFI was invited to participate in the 4th quarterly meeting of the Protected Area Management Board of Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS). Unfortunately the meeting did not achieve quorum thus making it a preliminary discussion of the agenda. One of the agenda of the meeting was the identification of a flagship species for Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary. MBCFI representative, Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, presented about the importance and benefits of having a flagship species. There were four (4) species nominated to be the flagship species of MCWS, namely, the Mindoro Striped-face Fruit Bat (*Styloctenium mindorensis*), Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill (*Penelopides mindorensis*), Mindoro Warty Pig (*Sus oliveri*), and the Bangon Monitor Lizard (*Varanus bangonorum*). The group gave their insights on each species and came down with two species in which one will be chosen to be the flagship species of MCWS. These were the Mindoro Warty Pig (*Sus oliveri*) and the Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill (*Penelopides mindorensis*). The final flagship species will be selected in the next PAMB Meeting.

Biodiversity talk and Exhibit: Ateneo De Manila University

The Ateneo Biological Organization (BOx) has organized a week-long event entitled the Animal Wellness Week (AWW). This event aimed to educate the Ateneo Community on matters regarding animal wellness and proper treatment through the presence of interactive booths, infographics, and seminars.

BOx invited MBCFI to setup a booth and give a talk about Philippines and Mindoro biodiversity. The activity was held at SEC C, Ateneo De Manila University on November 6, 2017. A talk about Philippine rise was given by a marine scientist from OCEANA, Ms. Marianne Saniano. Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, MBCFI IEC Officer, gave the talk about Philippines and Mindoro Biodiversity.



The booth setup of MBCFI included its mission and vision, priority areas, publications, and some Mindoro endemic species.

Training for Teachers of DepEd Division of Oriental Mindoro and Calapan City

The Strengthening Environmental Education for Development (SEED) program of MBCFI aims to capacitate the teachers of Mindoro to incorporate biodiversity conservation in all subjects to increase the conservation awareness of the students through formal education.

MBCFI, together with the Department of Education Division of Oriental Mindoro, conducted a teachers' training for 30 selected teachers from DepEd Division of Oriental Mindoro. It was held at One Tagaytay

Place Hotel, Tagaytay City on November 8-12, 2017. Eleven teachers previously trained served as facilitators and resource speakers during the training.



The training for Calapan City Division was held at Tierra Mercedes Nature Resort, Cuenca, Batangas on November 23-26, 2017. The division office of Calapan City selected 30 untrained teachers to undergo the training. Speakers and facilitators during the training were selected trained teachers from previous teachers training.



3rd National Wildlife Quiz Bowl

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. sent 3 winning teams from the Division of Calapan City, Occidental and Oriental Mindoro to the 3rd National Wildlife Quiz Bowl which was represented by Holy Infant Academy, Rizal National High School and San Teodoro National High School, respectively. The quiz bowl was held on November 28, 2017 at John B. Lacson Colleges, Bacolod City. From 15 different schools to compete in the National Wildlife Quiz, Rizal National High School ended up in the top 10, San Teodoro National High School landed on top 6 and Holy Infant Academy as this year's champion.

Collaterals

A total of 2000 pieces of Calendar, 1000 pieces of Naujan Lake National Park Primer, 1000 pieces of lanyard, 1000 pieces of bag tag and 100 pieces of Tamaraw T-shirt were printed and distributed to different stakeholders during exhibits, trainings, seminars, environmental events, etc.

Policies and Advocacies

Philippine Red List Committee / Working Groups

Three (3) Philippine Red List Committee meetings were conducted in 2017. The meetings aimed to finalize the Philippine national list of threatened fauna which was initiated on 18 – 19 April 2015. MBCFI trustee and vice president Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez is a member of the PRLC and the chair of the Birds Working Group with MBCFI RESEARCH program manager Don Geoff Tabaranza as vice-chair. MBCFI trustee Dr. Leticia Afuang is vice-chair of the Herpetofauna Working Group. The DENR Administrative Order is projected to be approved in 2018.

Philippine Birdwatching Guidelines

The DENR Technical Bulletin #2017-02 was finally approved on 13 January 2017. MBCFI RESEARCH program manager Don Geoff Tabaranza chaired the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group composed of ornithologists, conservationists, tour operators, and representatives of birdwatching and bird photography groups. MBCFI trustee and vice president Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez was also a member of the technical working group which developed the guidelines since April 29, 2015.

Technical Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP)

MBCFI provided technical assistance in reviewing the municipal comprehensive land use plans of the Municipalities of San Teodoro and Baco in Oriental Mindoro.

MBCFI is officially a member of the IUCN

The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI), is now a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN is the largest and most diverse environmental network worldwide. As of 2017, there are only six Philippine organizations that are members of the IUCN.

Mindoro is considered a separate biogeographical region from the rest of the Philippines. It explains why certain species or “island endemics” are unique only in Mindoro. Many of Mindoro’s wildlife species, however, are on the brink of extinction mainly because of massive habitat loss and destructive human activities. As a member of the IUCN, MBCFI can easily acquire the latest developments and researches to keep up with the new trends in global conservation movement.

Yes, conserving nature is not an easy task but with the aid of IUCN, MBCFI’s role to protect and conserve natural resources and endemic species in Mindoro will be easier.

MBCFI’s science-based information are used by the Philippine government policy makers in the formulation and implementation of responsive policies for effective resource management and conservation. The information and learnings that MBCFI will obtain from IUCN can be useful not only to the provinces of Mindoro but also by other provinces in the Philippines for their sustainable development as well. MBCFI’s discoveries and existing knowledge would also be beneficial to other conservation groups worldwide. IUCN will harness the studies of MBCFI so other organizations can access information on Mindoro’s discoveries, unique species, indigenous peoples’ knowledge and culture, and management strategies and practices.

The two-way relationship of MBCFI and IUCN will be beneficial to future projects by both MBCFI and other organizations worldwide.