

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



ACRONYMS	11
RESEARCH PROGRAM	12
MISSION PROGRAM	17
CARE PROGRAM	21
MBCC	26
OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS	30
VISION / MISSION	31

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Sebastian C. Quiniones, Jr.
Chairman
On Behalf of the
Board of Trustees

COVID-19

The virus spared no one. The year 2020 had been challenging because of this pandemic, which has dramatically affected humans and all countries' economic status. However, the call for conservation marches on. Deforestation, wildlife trafficking, poaching and killing endangered species, converting wildlife habitats, and other illegal activities caused by humans in their desire for survival and economic development destroys biodiversity and the whole ecosystem. According to studies, biodiversity loss provides an opportunity for pathogens, including coronavirus, to spread between animals and people.

Amidst an unprecedented global crisis, it was a time for NGOs like MBCFI to reflect, re-strategize, and rebuild a more environmentally-responsible world. The need for conserving our natural resources, protecting biodiversity has been amplified, demonstrating immediate action to protect what is left.

This pandemic had changed our landscape and had significant impacts on our budget, our way of doing things, and our way of life.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The key performance indicators fell slightly short of our targets; since the start of quarantine, the constraints brought new learning every day and has taught us to adapt, giving us the ability to create workarounds to deliver what will allow us to endure in this environment.

During those uncertain times, everyone pooled their knowledge and helped the organization to survive, getting them into the best possible shape and state they can be, and did the extra mile to protect the organization, our colleagues, and consultants as much as possible.

We had identified and mapped many activities in 2020, but we had to revisit our work plan and budget and made necessary adjustments given the uncertainty of things.

On March 16, all of our staff moved to work from home, and we were very worried about the impact of dispersed working on our 2020 targets. The worries were unfounded.

We already had an aggressive digitization program and by the middle of the year, significantly more transactions were done online. MBCFI accelerated its plans to go 100% online, offering quick and safe transactions both for MBCFI staff and all its payees. This was achieved.

THE NEED FOR CONSERVING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY HAS BEEN AMPLIFIED, DEMONSTRATING IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT WHAT IS LEFT.

We start building the Mindoro Biodiversity Center during the 3rd quarter, knowing the unless this cornerstone for the future is built, the longer term sustainability of the organization will be at risk.

Before the year ended, we crafted our fundraising campaign to enjoin funders to support our cause and our project. We ride on the prospect of rebounding confidence in the economy and enable the world to thrive again once things go

FINANCES

We refocused efforts to the MBCC and kept to agreed bottom line. Our indirect expense which is monitored for our PCNC accreditation was below the limit of 30%. The organization ensured we had sufficient cash for operations and MBCC until we get additional funding.

MBCFI January to December 31, 2020 Actual Expenditures

	RESEARCH	MISSION	CARE	MBCC	ADMIN	TOTAL	RATE
Program	1,514,610.94	1,323,857.76	643,561.91	*11,706,249.85	512,528.44	15,700,808.90	88%
Indirect Cost	118,047.00	244,938.48	267,371.48	242,374.48	1,299,252.24	2,171,983.69	12%
	1,632,657.94	1,568,796.24	910,933.39	11,948,624.33	1,811,780.68	17,872,792.59	100%

LICENSES TO OPERATE

We are ensuring that all accreditations are renewed.

1. PCNC Certificate of Accreditation
 - validity July 25, 2019 to July 24, 2022
2. DOST Certificate of Accreditation
 - December 11, 2019 to December 10, 2022
3. DENR Certificate of Accreditation
 - validity December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020
4. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation - Oriental
 - validity August 27, 2019 to June 30, 2022
5. Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation - Occidental
 - renewed May 22, 2019
6. Association of Foundation
 - Regular Member effective February 28, 2020

Some of the Highlights in 2020:

RESEARCH



Philippine Teak (*Tectona philippinensis*)

- 1 Study on Status and Distribution Philippine Teak on Ilin and Ambulong Islands, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro published in the Philippine Journal of Science
- 2 Lead the annual waterbird census on Naujan Lake National Park on January 16-17, 2020, with 2,808 individuals observed
- 3 Initial part of the socio-economic survey in Malasimbo, Puerto Galera conducted
- 4 Purposive search for Ilin Cloud Rat conducted
- 5 Lead the Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan Workshop
- 6 Requirements for the conduct of Tamaraw Dietary Analysis secured
- 7 RESEARCH safety protocols and report formats crafted
- 8 Technical reports reviewed
 - a. Mt. Halcon - 2017 to 2018
 - b. MIBNP - 2017
 - c. Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the Municipality of Naujan
- 9 Completion and release for public access of the following:
 - a. **Philippine Red List of Threatened Species**
 - National Policy (DENR AO 2019-09)
 - Redlist Scientific Journal Publication (Gonzalez *et al.*, 2018)
 - Philippine Red List of Threatened Fauna Guide Book (DENR & BCSP, 2020)
 - b. **International Policy on Threatened Endemic Flying Foxes of Mindoro (IUCN Red List, 2019)**
 - *Desmalopex microleucopterus*
 - *Styloctenium mindorensis*

MISSION

- 1 **Mt. Halcon**
 - 2 conservation agreements with KAWARAS and SARIG renewed
 - Conducted quarterly patrolling and biodiversity monitoring in Lantuyang and Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro
 - Submitted 2019 patrolling reports to CENRO-Socorro for the renewal of their accreditation as Wildlife Enforcement Officers
 - Training on design enhancement for nito weaving
 - Re-accreditation of KAWARAS by the Sangguniang Bayan of Baco
 - Resolution for the registration of cooperators woodlots (39.5 has.) secured
 - Another People's Organization is formed: Nagkakaisang Mamamayan na Mangangalaga sa Halcon (NagMaMaHal) with 33 members
- 2 **Mt. Calavite**
 - Conducted consultation meeting with SABACAP and PSU officers re: program exit
- 3 **Ilin and Ambulong Islands**
 - Conducted consultation meeting with IAMBAG and NAGSAMAKAPA officers re: program exit
 - Submitted 2019 patrolling reports to CENRO-San Jose for the renewal of their accreditation as Wildlife Enforcement Officers
- 4 **Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park**
 - Conducted consultation meeting with PSBB, NTPPK and NAGBAKAT officers re: program exit
 - Submitted 2019 patrolling reports to CENRO-Sablayan for the renewal of their accreditation as Wildlife Enforcement Officers
- 5 **Mt. Malasimbo**
 - People's Organization is formed: Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad (MaSiPag)
 - 1 conservation agreement signed
 - 20 nursery containing 10,000 indigenous wildlings established
 - Bio-intensive gardens established
 - Indigenous seedlings planted at the MBCC fenceline
 - Site clearing and natural fencing activities conducted at MBCC



Members of newly formed MaSiPag

CARE

- 1 4-Day Webinar on State of Philippine Biodiversity conducted
- 2 Social Performance Caravan in Shell Office conducted
- 3 Received Bronze Award in the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for Innovation in Non-Profit/NGO Publications for "Mindoro TREASURES: Teaching Reference for Environment Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources"
- 4 SEED Virtual Summit done
- 5 Co-publication of Environmental Sourcebook with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research Agriculture (SEARCA)
- 6 Celebration of Tamaraw and World Wetlands Day
- 7 E-campaigns done, including social media posts and radio guestings



Virtual ceremony for Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards

MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER

- 1 Contract signing for the construction of MBCC with A&P Konstruk
- 2 Issued construction "Notice to Proceed"
- 3 Site blessing and ground breaking activities conducted
- 4 20% completion of Phase 1 with good HSSE record
- 5 Resolution issuance of Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera in support of the MBCC Project
- 6 MOA between the Municipal Government of Puerto Galera inked
- 6 Museum storyline approved
- 7 Museum and Partnership Development and Resource Generation activities conducted



MBCC ground-breaking

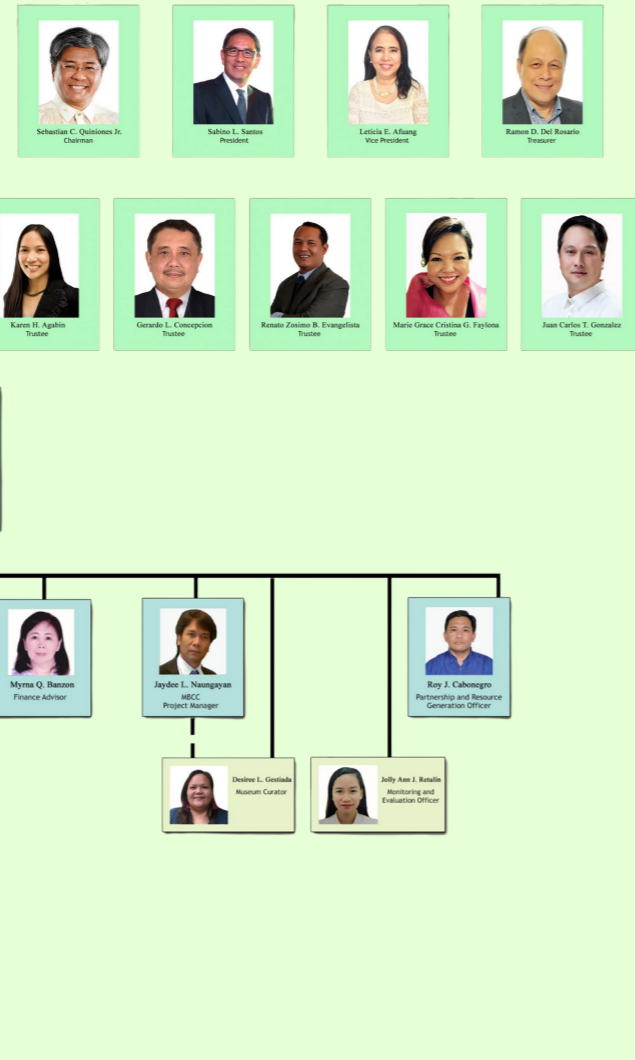
OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1 **Memberships and Accreditations**
 - Newly accredited by the DOST
 - DENR re-accreditation
 - Renewal of membership with IUCN
 - Membership to Association of Foundations
 - Executive Director enrolled in a Leadership Development program
 - Regular participation in Protected Area Management Board (4 protected areas) and Regional Development Council Meetings
- 2 **Partnerships**
 - UNDP - Together for Tamaraws Fundraising Campaign
 - DOST - Solar Panel for Research Laboratory at MBCC

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

Following an employment contracts review, the Executive Director and Execom had agreed on a structure which suits the current needs of the organization.

Staff morale and performance management was kept under tight watch by the Executive Director and Executive Committee and though there were challenges, the delivery has been sustained.



STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR THE MEDIUM TERM

This crisis and economic disruption will be a real test of governance for the trustees and the MBCFI organization to move forward. Still, our 10-year plan positions us well for long-term growth and sustainability, reinforced by our lean and mean organization and bench strength.

For 2021, we are focused on several priorities, and we are taking action to make sure our organization remains strong throughout this period. We are confident that we will emerge to deliver against our long-term plan guided by our core values – honesty, integrity, safety, respect, equality, and humility.

In the recent development and availability of COVID-19 vaccines, our economy will hopefully soon recover. It has had an impact on everyone's mobility and social interaction. Thus, we need to continue to be innovative in running our campaigns to promote MBCFI and its programs.

Safety and Well-being: Keeping our people and contractors safe and secure whether they are working from home, from the office, or onsite will always be a top priority.

New Environment: We decided to adopt alternative ways of working due to the current pandemic situation. MBCFI moves its main office in Calapan while we wait to complete the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC).

Localization: Hiring qualified locals to do conservation work for MBCFI and invest in building the workforce MBCFI needs for the future. We are supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to provide the supplies and services

required to establish the MBCC.

Transparency and Continuous Improvement: The uncertainty created by the pandemic has placed an even greater focus on trust in organizations, especially with NGOs, reliable information, and increased transparency. Our Monitoring and Evaluation processes will ensure this. Ongoing effort to improve all elements and processes of MBCFI. Policies need to be updated accordingly.

Partners: We need to establish new partnerships to provide funding and sustain our programs and support the establishment of the biodiversity center. This is a key thrust where all of the organization from staff to Board need to contribute.

Investing for the Future: Before the year ends, our work will find concrete fruition in our flagship project, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center, a physical embodiment of sustainability, benefitting present and future generations which will rise in Puerto Galera and is envisioned as a center for all things about Mindoro.

We are grateful to MBCFI's staff for finding creative ways to get things done and their tenacity that enabled the organization to meet most of the targets for 2020 despite the limitations they face. The team's resilience is a testament to their dedication and commitment to serve.

I would like to thank the staff led by the Executive Director, all the board members, especially the Executive committee, for meeting regularly and for their tireless work to find the best solution for MBCFI in these difficult times.

To our partners, contractors, and communities with whom we work regularly, thank you. The partnerships have helped bring about successes in last year's operations. I pray you feel the efforts we have made to better biodiversity in Mindoro.

A better, stronger, and more resilient MBCFI- that is our goal. It is clear that the future of conservation will be built on the connection between nature and humanity's actions. We look forward to playing our part in supporting Mindoro and its environment to recover from the pandemic's effects and to develop a sustainable future for us all.

Mabuhay ang MBCFI!

Sebastian C. Quiniones, Jr.
Chairman

Compared to the previous years, 2020 has been more challenging but was still a productive year for MBCFI. The total fund from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners for this fiscal year was mostly allocated to MBCC, and the rest were distributed to our three core programs: MISSION, RESEARCH, and CARE. We kept operation and administrative costs well below the mandated limit.



ACRONYMS

AO	Administrative Order
AWC	Asian Waterbird Census
BCSP	Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
BIG	Bio-intensive Gardening
BMS	Biodiversity Monitoring System
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
IAMBAG	Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Kawaras	Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAKAPAKA	Mamamayang Kabalik at Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan
MaSIPag	Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad
MBCC	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
MBCFI	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
MCWS	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
MIBNP	Mts. Iglit – Baco Natural Park
NAGBAKAT	Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan
NagMaMaHal	Nagkakaisang Mamamayan na Mangangalaga sa Halcon
NAGSAMAKAPA	Nagkakaisang Samahang ng Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan
NCIP	National Commission for Indigenous People
NLNP	Naujan Lake National Park
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTTPK	Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan
PA	Protected Area
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PO	Peoples' Organization
PSBB	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato-singit
PSP	Policy System and Procedure
PSU	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Ulasan
SABACAP	Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan
SASAMAKAPA	Samahan Sasagip at Mangangalaga sa Kalikasan
Sarig	Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SEED	Strengthening Environmental Education for Development
TREASURES	Teaching Reference for Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources
WWD	World Wetlands Day



RESEARCH PROGRAM

In line with the mission of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. in leading scientific research in Mindoro, the RESEARCH Program takes the lead in conducting various studies - including biophysical and socio-economic surveys, and species-specific researches, among others. This program is also responsible for providing technical assistance to different agencies and offices in Mindoro, in terms of biodiversity monitoring and management planning. Here are the highlights of activities of RESEARCH Program for the year 2020.



Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in Naujan Lake National Park

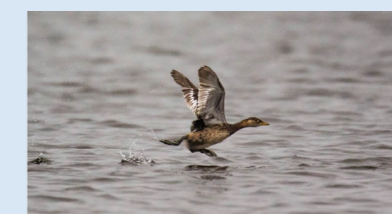
The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is a part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC). It is an annual event that takes place on the second and third weeks of January. The Asian Waterbird Census, which was conducted on January 16-17, 2020, in Naujan Lake National Park, was spearheaded by its Protected Area Office, in partnership with Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI). The count was conducted together with representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – MIMAROPA, DENR – Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Oriental Mindoro).

ed area. However, there is no hard evidence as of yet to determine the cause of the decline.

The species with the highest record during the census were Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*), followed by the Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) which comprise 88% of the total count.

THE COUNT RECORDED A TOTAL OF 2,808 INDIVIDUALS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS, LOWER THAN THE 2019 RESULT WHICH WAS 3,635 INDIVIDUALS.

The count recorded a total of 2,808 individuals of migratory birds, lower than the 2019 result which was 3,635 individuals. For the past five years, there has been a steady decline in the total number of waterbirds observed in the protect-



Philippine Teak on Ilin and Ambulong Islands

A study on the distribution surveys of the endemic Philippine teak (*Tectona philippinensis*) which was conducted on Ilin and Ambulong Islands in Mindoro has been published in the Philippine Journal of Science last September 2020.

This endangered (IUCN: EN) endemic tree species is known only from Ilin and Ambulong Islands and a couple of municipalities in the provinces of Cavite and Batangas, Philippines on which forest habitat loss and degradation have been extensive, owing primarily to clearance for agriculture.

The remaining natural habitat of the Philippine Teak is severely fragmented and in continuing decline. On Ilin and Ambulong Islands, there are only a few remaining patches of large trees whereas most of the land area (42.18%) is covered by wooded grassland.

The publication of this study will provide critical and updated information on the conservation and management of this species.

A TOTAL OF 2,140 PHILIPPINE TEAK INDIVIDUALS WERE RECORDED IN THE AREA FROM 2017 TO 2019.



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RESEARCH NOTE

Status and Distribution of Philippine Teak (*Tectona philippinensis* Benth. & Hook.f.) on Ilin and Ambulong Islands, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

Don Geoff E. Tabaranza¹, Leticia E. Afuang^{1,2}, Kathy Lene S. Cielo¹,
Jezryl Jaeger L. Garcia¹, Errol A. Gatumbato¹, Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez^{1,2},
Jolly-Ann J. Retulin¹, and Elyza Hazel P. Tan¹

¹Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
Muntinlupa City, NCR 1770 Philippines
²University of the Philippines Los Baños
Los Baños, CALABARZON 4030 Philippines

Distribution mapping surveys of the endangered endemic Philippine teak (*Tectona philippinensis* Benth. & Hook.f.) was conducted on Ilin and Ambulong Islands, Occidental Mindoro, Philippines from 2017–2019. It aimed to provide critical and updated information for the management and conservation of the species. A total of 2,140 Philippine teak individuals were counted and mapped in the area, nearly a 50-fold increase of the known population from only 44 trees documented in 2003.

Keywords: distribution, Ilin and Ambulong, Philippine Teak, *Tectona philippinensis*

The Philippine teak, a Philippine endemic species, is found only in five locations (EDC 2020), including Ilin and Ambulong Islands, Occidental Mindoro. It is highly valued as fuelwood and timber in the construction industry (Madulid *et al.* 2008). Medicinally, the species is tested for antimicrobial activity against bacteria and fungi (Ragasa *et al.* 2008). It is currently classified as endangered (B2ab) on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act/ Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2017-11 national list due to its continuing decline in Batangas and Cavite (EDC 2020; DENR 2017).

In Ilin and Ambulong Islands, 44 Philippine teak individuals with at least 10 cm diameter at breast height (DBH) were recorded from 2003–2004 (Mandia 2007, 2014). By 2013, 251 individuals were observed; 41 had DBH > 10 cm while the rest had < 10 cm DBH and were considered seedlings and saplings. A reforestation project was then prompted, including species individual tagging and mapping to update information for its conservation management in the mentioned islands, located between 12°9'11.10"–12°17'51.45" N latitude and 121°0'3.84"–121°8'9.61" E longitude off the Occidental Mindoro southwestern tip. Tagging was conducted between April 2017–2018, with a follow-up survey in October 2019.

A total of 2,140 Philippine teaks were encountered with 2,028 (94.8%) coordinates sets retrieved. The highest concentration of the species was located at Barangay Iling Proper with 787 individuals (36.8%), followed by 444 (20.7%) and 364 individuals (17.0%), respectively, from Ambulong and Buri. The combined three areas accounted for the population majority (74.5%). Philippine teaks in each of the 11 barangays of Ilin and Ambulong Islands are summarized in Table 1.

Following the IUCN (2018) mapping guidelines, the 2,028 points occupied a total of 64-km² area of occupancy. In

*Corresponding Author: Kathy_s.cielo@mbcfi.org.ph

Ilin Cloud Rat Research

The survey specifically organized to search for the Ilin Cloud Rat was conducted on November 21 to December 1, 2020.

Eighteen camera traps were set up, in three different barangays, with six camera traps each. Camera and cage trapping, and transects were conducted on the span of one week, but no cloud rats were observed in all the methods used.

In 2021, MBCFI will continue the conduct of the purposive search in Ilin island, on April, in time for the fruiting season of trees in the area.

The species is currently categorized as “Data Deficient” by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as so little is known about it.



Initial socio-economic survey in Malasimbo, Puerto Galera



The RESEARCH Program also conducted the initial part of a socio-economic survey among Iraya Mangyans living near the MBCC site. The survey has touched on questions involving the Mangyan’s gender, civil status and length of stay in the area.

Questions on personal and other family information such as educational attainment, number of siblings, floor area of their respective houses, income activity, fuel used in cooking, sources of water and comfort rooms were also asked.

The survey’s output showed that almost all Mangyans in the area do not own the property where their houses stand as most of the land are owned by private individuals, mostly from well-to-do families, residing in the town proper.

Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan Workshop

MBCFI conducted a workshop on the Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan on December 2, 2020.



Attended by relevant stakeholders, strategies on how to conserve and protect the threatened species in the area were discussed and planned during this workshop.

Technical Reports and RESEARCH Safety Protocols

Some of the activities conducted on a yearly basis by the RESEARCH Program did not push through in 2020 due to the pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Despite this, the RESEARCH team was able to review the following technical reports:

- Mt. Halcon - 2017 to 2018
- MIBNP - 2017
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Municipality of Naujan

Likewise, the team was also able to make use of the time to draft safety protocols and report formats for the RESEARCH Program. These were then reviewed and revised accordingly.

Tamaraw Dietary Analysis

In coordination with the Tamaraw Conservation Program and MIBNP, the RESEARCH Program took on its special project: the Tamaraw dietary analysis. Gratuitous permit was secured and a free prior informed consent was applied for the conduct of this project.

During the later period of 2020, Ms. Elyza Hazel Tan collected dung samples from Kali for initial analysis.

Policies and Publications Related to Mindoro-Endemic Wildlife

Prepared and completed in 2019, the following reports have been published and released for public access in early 2020:

- Philippine Red List of Threatened Species
 - National Policy (DENR AO 2019-09)
 - Redlist Scientific Journal Publication (Gonzalez *et al.*, 2018)
 - Philippine Red List of Threatened Fauna Guide Book (DENR & BCSP, 2020)
- International Policy on Threatened Endemic Flying Foxes of Mindoro (IUCN Red List, 2019)
 - *Desmalopex microleucopterus*
 - *Styloctenium mindorensis*



MISSION
Mindoro Island Symbolic Species Icons of Nature

MISSION PROGRAM

MBCFI continuously provides assistance to the communities of its priority sites which includes capacity building activities, livelihood enhancement, habitat restoration, and woodlot establishment and maintenance. Through its MISSION Program, the organization strengthened partnerships with POs through conservation agreements. MBCFI enhanced the capacity of PO leaders and members in managing their organizations. MBCFI also assisted these POs in improving their livelihood and maintain their restoration and woodland sites.

MBCFI has been working with the locals of different Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in Mindoro. The following are the organizations supported by MBCFI:



Oriental Mindoro

- Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad (MaSIPag) in Brgy. Dulangan, Puerto Galera
- Nagkakaisang Mamamayan na Mangangalaga sa Halcon (NagMaMaHal)

Occidental Mindoro

- Mamamayang Kabalikat sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Samahan Sasagip at Mangangalaga sa Kalikasan (SASAMAKAPA) in Ilin and Ambulong Islands

Formation, Management and Organizational Development of Community-based Groups

MBCFI assisted in the formation of two (2) new POs in Oriental Mindoro. Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad (MaSIPag) was formed in Brgy. Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. The peoples organization is composed of 35 Iraya family members. Meanwhile, Nagkakaisang Mamamayan na Mangangalaga sa Halcon (NagMaMaHal) was formed with 33 members.

To strengthen the foundation of these POs, MBCFI assisted in the accreditation of POs to concerned institutions. MaSIPag has been accredited by both DOLE and completed the accreditation requirements of Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera. Moreover, MBCFI assisted on the formulation of the thrift and savings policy of MaSIPag as well as the conduct of their action planning. A conservation agreement with MaSIPag has also been secured.

Likewise, renewal of the conservation agreements with Sarig and KAWARAS was also accomplished. MBCFI also assisted on the accreditation renewal of KAWARAS with the Municipality of Baco.

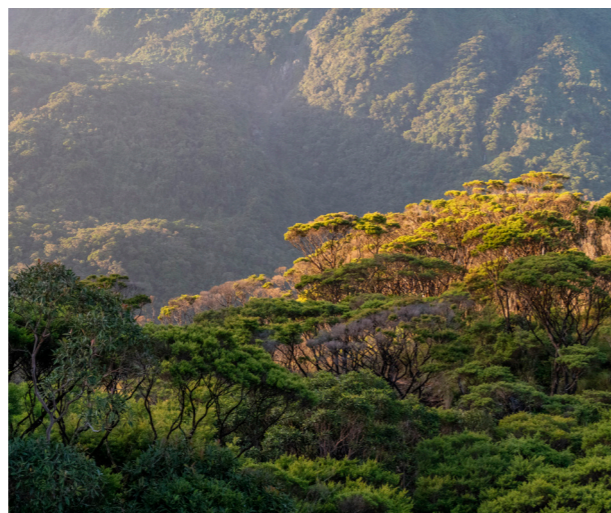
Consultation meetings with the officers of SABACAP and PSU from Mt. Calavite, IAMBAG and NAGSAMAKAPA from Ilin and Ambulong Islands, PSBB, NTPPK and NAGBAKAT from Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park were conducted to inform them about the discontinuation of MBCFI project intervention in Occidental Mindoro.



Foot Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring

Quarterly patrolling and biodiversity monitoring continued for most of the priority areas. However, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, foot-patrolling and monitoring were only conducted during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 in Mt. Halcon.

2019 patrolling reports of NAGSABAK and NAGBAKAT in Mts. Iglit-Baco, as well as those of KAWARAS and Sarig in Mt. Halcon and IAMBAG in Ilin and Ambulong Islands were submitted to their respective CENROs as basis for members deputation renewal as Wildlife Enforcement Officers.



Nursery Establishment and Vermicomposting

In Mt. Malasimbo, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, an open nursery establishment activity was conducted in the MBCC site in Barangay Dulangan, attended by members of MaSIPag. Twenty nurseries were established and contained a total of 10,000 indigenous wildlings. In addition, bio-intensive gardens and a skeletal structure for the vermicomposting shed was established in the area. Site clearing and natural fencing was also done at the MBCC site.

THE NURSERIES CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 10,000 INDIGENOUS WIDLINGS.

Restoration and Woodlot Sites Monitoring

REQUESTED REGISTRATION OF COOPERATORS WOODLOTS FROM KAWARAS AND SARIG WITH AREA OF 39.5 HA.

Aside from the regular conduct of monitoring of restoration and woodlot sites, MBCFI also assists in the registration application of cooperators.

In Mt. Halcon, MBCFI assisted in the submission of a resolution to DENR-CENRO for the registration of cooperators woodlots from KAWARAS and Sarig with a total land area of 39.5 hectares.



Other Livelihood Projects



A capacity building activity on nito weaving was conducted on March 4 to 5, 2020 in Mt. Halcon. The “Design Enhancement for Nito Weaving Training” was attended by 36 women members from SARIG and KAWARAS. Participants enhanced and learned to design different products using nito vines.



CARE PROGRAM

MBCFI continuously conducts awareness raising activities to increase the knowledge of different stakeholders in protecting Mindoro’s biodiversity through formal and non-formal education, special events and different media.

4-Day Webinar on State of Philippine Biodiversity

MBCFI, in partnership with Malampaya Joint Venture Partners and Oceana Philippines, organized its first webinar series, focusing on the State of Philippine Biodiversity (terrestrial, marine, freshwater, and invasive species).

This series of online seminars was conducted in celebration of the month of the Ocean and International Day for Biological Diversity and was done via Zoom with Facebook Livestream simulcast.

The ‘total lockdown’ period has made face-to-face seminar obsolete.

The transition to the ‘new normal’ was an opportunity to develop new competency in communications and also reach out to stakeholders in an innovative way. While there were hesitations at first to utilize the new technology given the limited knowledge, MBCFI adapted by learning the use of online platform Zoom technology and sharing it to social media Facebook using a broadcaster.

Overall, the first ever webinar series was a success. The effectiveness of the webinar was measured using Facebook insights to monitor the reach and interactions online. Eighty percent of the participants provided their feedback about the event. It helped that the organizing team required participants requesting for certificate of attendance to complete the evaluation form.

Facebook proved to be the most accessible reaching a diverse and large number of audiences across ages. The mileage of the online event was generally impressive reaching a total of 1,039 live viewers on the 1st day (Terrestrial), 850 on the 2nd day (Marine), 692 on the 3rd day (Freshwater), and 560 on the 4th day (Invasive Species).

THE TRANSITION TO THE ‘NEW NORMAL’ WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP NEW COMPETENCY IN COMMUNICATIONS AND ALSO REACH OUT TO STAKEHOLDERS IN AN INNOVATIVE WAY.

The estimated total reach of 36,000 for the first topic (Terrestrial), 96,000 for the second topic (Marine), 21,000 for the 3rd topic (Freshwater) and 19,000 for the 4th topic (Invasive Species).

Based on the evaluation provided by the participants, they found the topics very relevant and timely, complete and accurate, and learning objectives were met. Most of them answered either 3 or 4, being 4 the highest.

The webinar series is the first ever online seminar of MBCFI. Surprisingly, MBCFI gained more media mileage in this event compared to previously conducted in-person seminars. This is a proof that an organization like MBCFI can indeed thrive in the new normal and physical distancing. MBCFI used a current event as a hook and topic for conversation and engagement with the general public, increasing the awareness of Philippine biodiversity to thousands of people across the country.

SEED Virtual Summit

THE 2020 TRAINING WAS ALSO AIMED AT BROADENING THE TEACHERS’ KNOWLEDGE ON THE APPLICATION OF VARIED GROUP-ORIENTED COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AS PART OF THE TEACHING-LEARNING SITUATION.

Forty-two teachers from the three divisions of the Department of Education in Mindoro completed a three-day training on information and values augmentation on environmental issues and biodiversity conservation under the Strengthening Environmental Education for Development (SEED) program of MBCFI’s last December 10 to 12.

Kathy Lene S. Cielo, manager of MBCFI’s RESEARCH Program said the online training was intended primarily to enhance the teachers’ awareness and strengthen their basic knowledge on environmental issues and concerns especially in their locality.

The SEED event was also set to consolidate and assess the performance of SEED-trained teachers based on their target goals set in 2018 and to evaluate the teachers’ long term environmental

or conservation projects in their schools or locality.

The 2020 training was also aimed at broadening the teachers’ knowledge on the application of varied group-oriented communication strategies as part of the teaching-learning situation.

MBCFI has in its records at least 415 teachers across Mindoro who were trained and afterwards these trained teachers conducted echo trainings to their peers in their respective Divisions.

With this year’s summit, MBCFI envisions an improved SEED program as it also works to enhance the teachers’ capability in educating their students making them not only environmentally aware but environmentally concerned as well.

Won a Bronze Award for Innovation in Non-Profit/NGO Publications for the Sourcebook “Mindoro Treasures” in Asia-Pacific Stevie® Awards

MBCFI won a Bronze Stevie at the Asia-Pacific Stevie® Awards 2020 under the award category: Innovation in Non-profit/NGO Publications, with its entry, Mindoro TREASURES: Teaching Reference for Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources.

MBCFI is grateful for the support from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners and from the local teachers of Mindoro for their contribution in formulating this book, and to all Mindoreños who supported the initiatives of MBCFI. Rest assured that MBCFI will always move forward in conserving the biodiversity of the island.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, MBCFI’s promise is to do our best in the frontlines of biodiversity conservation with its core programs RESEARCH, MISSION and CARE, as our weapons.

Kali's Passing

Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) is a wild cattle species known to be the largest endemic land mammal found nowhere else but in Mindoro, Philippines. People needed to climb mountains to spot the species from a vantage point with at least a few hundred meters away. However, it was possible to have a close encounter with a Tamaraw because of Kalibasib, short for "Kalikasang Bagong Sibol," in the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm located at Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.



Kali, as everyone fondly called him, is a 21-year-old Tamaraw. He was a research product and the first and only Tamaraw that was successfully bred from the captive breeding program. Tamaraw has a life span of 20-25 years, and Kali has reached the age of his expected life span.

Through the years, Kali served a greater purpose in furthering research for the Tamaraw and as an effective ambassador for the species. His existence had elevated

public awareness for the Tamaraw and drew attention to Mindoro Island's unique biodiversity. He may be alone in the enclosure, but he brought people of all ages together from the government, academe, multiple civil society organizations, and people from other parts of the world. Kali paved the way for the people to work in solidarity in different activities such as fundraising campaigns, aids and assistance to rangers, researches to

increase the Tamaraw's population, and enhance its management and conservation.

Kali was the iconic flagship species of the entire island; he was part of Mindoro's heritage. He is part of our history. May Kali's death be a call and good reason for the government to strengthen the Tamaraw research program.

Maraming salamat, Kalibasib!

Celebration of World Wetlands Day and Tamaraw Month

Some 100 elementary and high school students attended a symposium on biodiversity in Socorro, Oriental Mindoro, as part of the World Wetlands Day celebration. MBCFI organized this symposium, in partnership with the Protected Area Management Office of Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP) and the Municipality of Socorro, on February 3, 2020. The participants were students from Mina de Oro Catholic School, Socorro Central School, and Leuteboro National High School. Aside from talks given by MBCFI and NLNP, the kids from grade

school had a coloring activity wherein nine students with best output were selected.

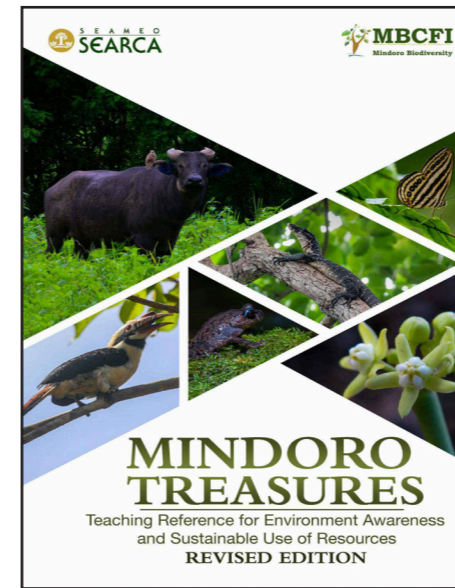


MBCFI also co-presented a webinar conducted by Philippine Parks and Biodiversity on October 24 and 31, 2020 as part of the celebration of



the National Tamaraw Month 2020. Our very own Ms. Kathy Lene Cielo served as a guest speaker in one of the learning sessions of the webinar. "Suwag o Suko," a documentary on Tamaraws and the rangers who keep watch over them and their habitats, was also exclusively shown.

Co-publication of Environmental Agreement on the Mindoro Treasures Sourcebook with SEARCA



MBCFI has secured a memorandum of agreement with The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for the co-publication of the Mindoro Treasures Sourcebook.

Mindoro Treasures is a teaching reference for environmental awareness and sustainable use of resources. According to Ms. Diamante, the book will "serve as a platform to bridge the gap between the necessities of biodiversity conservation and anthropogenic practices by optimizing the vital role of our teachers."

The sourcebook is the result of the teachers' training that has been given to the teachers since 1998. Since 1998 MBCFI trained more than 415 teachers.

Social Performance (SP) Caravan at Shell Corporate Office

MBCFI participated as one of the speakers for the Social Performance Caravan held at the Shell Corporate Office in Bonifacio Global City last January 20, 2020. In this event, MBCFI was able to share its initiatives and programs in conserving the biodiversity and other natural resources of Mindoro to the staff and contractors of Pilipinas Shell.

This event was conducted in line with the corporations' goal to build strong relationships with people, understand their priorities and concerns, and managing their impacts.



E-Campaigns

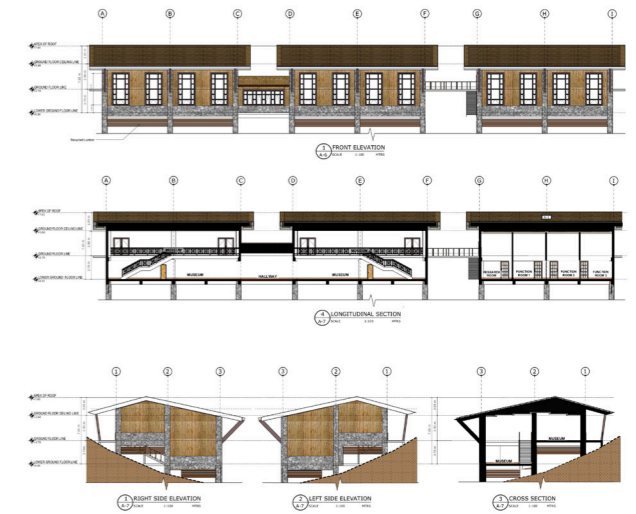
With the shifting to daily activities to virtual platforms, various e-campaigns were done by the CARE Program, including two local cable, radio guestings and 31 social media posts. In addition, four news articles in January 2020 were published in four major news websites and publications in the Philippines. These exposures in the traditional and social media are considered by MBCFI as powerful tools for public awareness campaign on biodiversity conservation.

The foundation was also able to hold one environmental event and one exhibit in the national level. Likewise, the website of MBCFI was renewed containing improved features.

MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (MBCC)

MBCFI visualizes MBCC to promote Mindoro’s natural beauty, the importance of its unique biodiversity, and its impact on society and climate change. The establishment of this iconic center will be a physical embodiment of sustainability, benefiting present and future generations by emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between people and natural resources. MBCC will be a one-story building with 600 sqm. gross floor area including facilities such as museum, library, audio-visual room, conference and training rooms, among others. The center will rise in Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera. Puerto Galera is declared a Man and Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and is the gateway to the tourism cluster of Mindoro.

In the first quarter of 2020, a series of meetings with A & P Konstruk and L.A. GAN regarding the architectural and engineering designs of the center. The contractor presented the specific details of the design of the building which will house amenities such as view deck, exhibition trade hall, amphitheater and will be complemented with ecolodge, camping area, greenhouse area and site trail. The timeline for the project was cited in the proposal including the project duration. Fees and terms of payment for the contractors were also presented.



The contract signing for the construction of the MBCC was then executed on July 14, 2020 at the MBCFI office in Calapan City with A & P Konstruk.

The supplementary deed of usufruct was also secured. Endorsement letters and requests for support were forwarded to the Office of Oriental Mindoro Governor, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro, Mayor of Puerto Galera and its Sangguniang Bayan.

The Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera issued a resolution in support of the MBCC Project. Likewise, a Memorandum of Agreement with the Municipal Government of Puerto Galera has been signed.

Two weeks before a total lockdown was imposed in March 2020 in entire Luzon, Mr. Elvin Madamba delved on the concept of the MBCC storyline with Dr. Letty Afuang and Dr. JC Gonzalez which was eventually approved.

As the people have slowly adapted to the new normal situation during the previous, construction milestones were gradually achieved by MBCC while complying with the health and safety guidelines issued by both the national and local government units.

On September 9, 2020, the “Notice to Proceed” with the construction activities on the site was given.

With this, a groundbreaking ceremony and site blessing was done on September 17, 2020.

By the first week of December 2020, 20% of Phase 1 of the MBCC construction has been completed with good health, safety, security and environmental (HSSE) records.



Museum and Partnership Development and Resource Generation

On January 21, 2020, MBCFI representative, Des L. Gestiada, discussed details of the proposed MOA with Dr. Luisito Evangelista, Chief of Botany Division, UPLB with National Museum/UPLB/MinSCAT and Met.

Dr. Evangelista suggested the adoption of NM’s “Mobile Museum Boxes” project which can be customized to feature Mindoro species, artifacts, or interesting trivia. Included in Dr. Evangelista’s proposal was the actual outreach activities of museum boxes to various municipalities in Mindoro which will also serve as a teaser before the actual museum opens.

Gestiada also coordinated with the Hanunuo Mangyan tribe through PHADAG (a people’s organization) and asked their approval in featuring their indigenous culture, practices and beliefs in relation to nature and their environment. It was also during this period that MBCFI started communicating with Oriental Mindoro’s Provincial Tourism Office (OrMin-PTO) to align MBCC museum’s concept with that of the provincial government’s plans.

MBCFI also explored for both written materials for content and possible sources of specimen and artifacts for display and updated the database of sources of content materials and specimen/artifacts in and outside Oriental Mindoro. Possible collaboration with UP Archaeological Studies Program (ASP) to gain access on their research works in Mindoro and archaeological specimens was also considered.



MBCFI also sent letters to the various PAMB in Mindoro to request for loan of specimens for display. The softlaunch of MBCC that year was tackled as well as the possible collaboration with other interested parties such as the 13 energy companies for its state-of-the art solar project.

YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>

Memberships and Accreditations

MBCFI has been accredited by various insitutions and has ensured that these accreditations are being renewed on a timely basis as well conduct the duties with these affiliations. In 2020, MBCFI has undergone the process for accreditation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Accreditation with Department of Environment and Natural Resources and membership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature were also renewed in 2020.

Membership to the Association of Foundations (AF) has also been secured. Further, MBCFI's Executive Director has been selected to attend a Leadership Development program organized by AF.

MBCFI has also sustained memberships and representations in the Protected Areas Management Board of 4 protected areas, Regional Development Council, and provincial technical committees.

Partnerships

MBCFI has engaged in partnerships as part of our goal to sustain our programs. We have conducted the Together for Tamaraws Fundraising Campaign with the United Nations Development Programme in 2020. Meanwhile, a partnership for the acquisition of solar panels for the Research Lab at MBCC being pursued with DOST.



OUR VISION

Sustained conservation of Mindoro's natural treasures for future generations.

OUR MISSION

To lead scientific research and catalyze collaborative and participative conservation efforts in key biodiversity areas of Mindoro resulting in empowerment of Mindoreños through increased awareness and care

CONNECT WITH US!

MINDORO OFFICE

356 Gozar Street, Barangay Camilmil
Calapan City 5200
Oriental Mindoro, Philippines
+63 (43) 441-0359
info@mbcfi.org.ph

 Mindoro Biodiversity

 @mindorobiodiversity

mbcfi.org.ph



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