

# MINDORO

## *Biodiversity*



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

October to December 2021

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# Program Highlights



## RESEARCH

- Conducted the waterbird population survey in Apo Reef Natural Park in November as well as a refresher on waterbird survey techniques and species identification for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Protected Area (PA) staff
- Provided technical assistance to the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of San Jose for a flying fox survey in Mangarin, San Jose
- Continuation of camera trap setups in Magsaysay and Iglit for the Ilin Cloudrat Survey
- Conducted tagging of newly recorded Philippine teak in mainland Mindoro (Magsaysay)



Survey team for Apo Reef waterbird census in November



Flying foxes fly-out in Mangarin, San Jose



Camera trap setups for Ilin cloudrat survey in MIBNP and Magsaysay



Tagged newly recorded teak in Magsaysay

- Courtesy call and discussion with the Vice Mayor of San Jose for the adoption of the Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan
- Coordinated with the regional office of the National Indigenous Peoples Commission for the processing of the Free and Prior Informed Consent for Tamaraw survey in Mt. Gimaparay and Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park
- Drafted report for the Mt. Halcon patrolling conducted by KAWARAS and SARIG members
- Reviewed the Biodiversity Monitoring System reports of Mindoro Protected Areas as well as the Conservation and Management Plan for Mt. Halcon

# Program Highlights

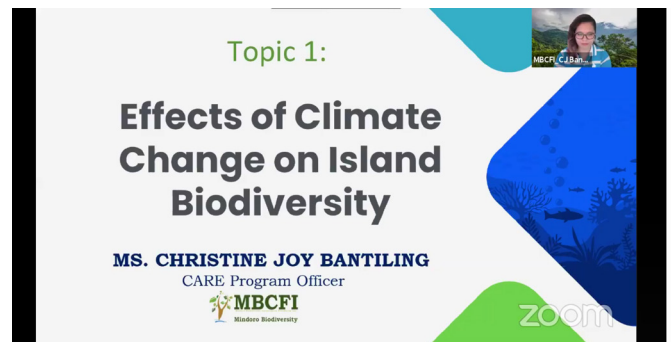


## CARE

- Participation in activities for Tamaraw Month Celebration
  - Radio show guesting at SpiritFM Calapan City for special feature: **Remembering Tamaraw Kalibasib, Beacon of Hope**
  - Featured as Resource Speaker in **Tamaraw Talk** hosted by the DENR MIMAROPA and BMB
  - Special appearance for FEU's online event: **Mula sa Tamaraw, Para sa Tamaraw**
  - Media partnership with UP Mindoreños for **Kali ED: Tamaraw Conservation Webinar**
  - Shared social media contents related for promotion of activities with partner organizations



Radio guesting at SpiritFM for feature episode on Kali



DepEd MIMAROPA's Climate Change and Biodiversity Awareness Webinar



Post-perception survey in Barangay Bayanan



Turnover of Mindoro Treasures Sourcebook to DepEd Calapan City

- Conducted post-perception surveys in Brgys. Bayanan and Lantuyang, at the foot of Mt. Halcon in Baco
- Invited as Resource Speaker for DepEd MIMAROPA's Climate Change and Biodiversity Awareness Webinar
- Turnover of **MINDOROTREASURES Environmental Sourcebook** to DepEd Calapan City
- Mindoro Biodiversity Podcast launched in Spotify and released five episodes featuring Mindoro-endemic wildlife species
- Served as Panelist for SineLikas Event by Haring Ibon UPLB)
- Attended and one of the institutional partners in the 2021 BCSP Symposium



# Program Highlights



## MISSION

### Mt. Halcon

- Conducted foot patrolling with Bantay Gubat members from Brgy. Bayanan
- Maintained the nurseries in Barangays Bayanan and Lantuyang in Baco
- Updated the billboards about Mt. Halcon in Barangays Bayanan and Lantuyang

### Mt. Malasimbo

- Organized a women's association called Mamamayan na Handang Labanan ang Kahirapan at Ipaglaban ang Tanging-yaman (MaHaLKITa), registered with DOLE on December 20, 2021
- Led monthly meetings of the PO, Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad (MaSIPag)
- Established the foodshed pilot project with the organization members
- Conducted regular maintenance of the MBCC demonstration site
- Collected and transplanted 8,000 assorted indigenous wildlings and fruit-bearing trees inside MBCC demonstration site



Updated billboards posted in Barangay Bayanan, Mt. Halcon



Established foodshed by MaSIPag members



Current progress in MBCC construction site

## MBCC

- Conducted Solar Project Pre-bid Conference
- Coordinated with concerned agencies and individuals for the electrical plans, water connection, and museum ceiling works
- Basic Pollution Control Officer (PCO) training taken and accreditation on-process



# Program Highlights

## Other Accomplishments



- Lead the turnover of JCI Makati donations for the Tamaraw Rangers
- Established partnership with Channel News Asia and appeared as guest and resource person for upcoming segment featuring Naujan Lake
- Partnership with Greenreach Conservation Directory established
- Gawad Divinista Award in the Environment Category given to the Executive Director by the Divine Word College of Calapan
- Year-end activities with Board of Trustees in Puerto Galera and Calapan
  - Community visit in Barangay Bayanan
  - MBCC construction site visit
  - 4th Quarter Board Meeting



Turnover of JCI Makati donations for the Tamaraw Rangers in TCP



Film shoot with Channel News Asia for feature segment on Naujan Lake



Community visit in Barangay Bayanan



Gawad Divinista Award given to the Executive Director



MBCC construction site visit



# The MBCFI Way

## Tamaraw Month Celebration



Presidential Proclamation No. 273 of 2002 declares October of every year as a “Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro”. The Proclamation urged all government offices, agencies and other interested organizations to implement activities geared toward the conservation of the Tamaraw and its habitats. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Tamaraw atin ito! Ipagmalaki mo bilang Pilipino”.

MBCFI, together with the DENR, through the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and the Provincial Governments of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, in cooperation with other partner organizations celebrated this year’s Tamaraw Month with various activities lined up throughout the whole month.

SpiritFM Calapan City aired a special feature last October 9 titled, “Remembering Tamaraw Kalibasib, Beacon of Hope.” Our Executive Director, Grace C. Diamante, and CARE Program Officer, CJ Bantiling, were invited as guests on the radio program together with the TCP Coordinator, Mr. Neil Anthony Del Mundo, and Far Eastern University (FEU) Director, Dr. Marilu Cao. In this episode, Mr. Del Mundo recalled Kali’s last moments in the Tamaraw Gene Pool and shared the news about his return to Mindoro as a preserved beacon of hope. Activities of the TCP, MBCFI, and FEU, as well as those of partner agencies and organizations were also discussed during the radio broadcast.

Our very own Elyza Hazel Tan also served as a Resource Speaker for the webinar, “Tamaraw Talk,” organized and hosted by the DENR MIMAROPA and BMB. In this webinar, Ms. Tan presented



and discussed the topic, “Tamaraw sub-population in Oriental Mindoro: Case of Mt. Gimaparay.” Other resource speakers also presented the ongoing research and conservation efforts for Tamaraws in different parts of Mindoro.

In addition, our RESEARCH Program Manager, Kyle Cielo, was invited as a special guest in an online event organized by FEU Central Student Organization entitled, “Mula sa Tamaraw, Para sa Tamaraw.” She talked about the need to raise awareness to protect our environmental frontliners and address the threats our Tamaraw rangers face. She also discussed the role that MBCFI plays in saving and protecting the tamaraws. Moreover, she explained how the youth can be environmental advocates and encourage others to support our

rangers for the conservation of our endangered species.

Due to physical and social restrictions implemented, most of the activities were done virtually. One such activity is the online awareness and fundraising event organized by UP Mindoreños, Kali ED: Tamaraw Conservation Webinar, where MBCFI served as a media partner of the student organization for this event. They were able to collect a total of more than Php 12,000 for TCP.

MBCFI also launched its podcast in Spotify with a pilot episode featuring the Tamaraw. The episode content includes information on the Tamaraw, its current conservation status and how we can further raise awareness and encourage its protection and support for its rangers.





# The MBCFI Way

## Apo Reef Natural Park Waterbird Survey



Photo by CJBantiling

Last November, MBCFI, together with staff and rangers from the Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), and volunteers, Mr. Ronet Santos and Mr. Fernando Garcia, conducted the waterbird population survey in ARNP. The waterbird survey was conducted to obtain information on waterbird populations in ARNP during southern migration and breeding seasons.

The presence and population of waterbirds at ARNP were assessed using transect walks and cruises. Observers walked transects in the morning and afternoon, using binoculars and scopes to record the species they saw. In the marine waters of ARNP, transect cruises were conducted using a boat. Birds perched or nesting on the rocky

outcrops or sandbars in Binanggaan (Apo Menor) and Tinangkapan (Cayos del Baho) were also searched by the survey teams.

A total of 33 species were documented, with 225 daily observations recorded during the survey. A total of 15 species of waterbirds were recorded, including one unidentified duck species. There were also eighteen (18) non-waterbird species found.

The island resident Barred Rail (*Hypotaenidia torquata*) was the most abundant waterbird, followed by the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), which was seen during the ARNP trip. A species of duck that has yet to be identified was seen at Tinangkapan and Apo Island, but it was unsuccessfully documented.

New bird species records were observed in ARNP during the survey and on the way back to mainland Sablayan. The Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Brown Noddy, Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*), Black-hooded Pitta (*Pitta sordida*), and Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) are among the species included. In Apo Island, the migrants Kentish Plover and Grey Wagtail, as well as the resident Black-hooded Pitta were observed.

The accidental sighting of the Daurian Redstart and resident Red-footed Booby were documented at Tinangkapan. Earlier on 2021, the Grey Wagtail was previously documented by the rangers.



Photo by EHTan



Photo by EHTan



Photo by EHTan



# The MBCFI Way

## MBCC Construction Updates

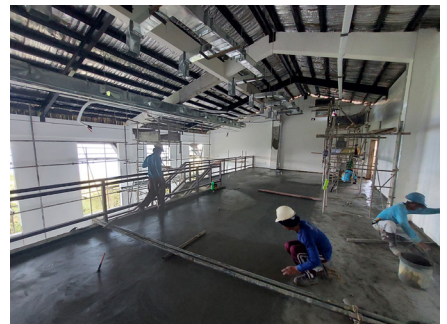


By the second week of December 2021, the actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC is 86%. Finishing and ceiling works for the museum building are coordinated and reviewed. Installation of bamboo and stone wall claddings have been completed, as well as the thermal and moisture controls for the cogon roof. Works on floor finishes, painting, and electrical systems are ongoing.

Construction progress of the retaining wall is at 98%, with open gutter connection and final finishing for the wall left to be completed. In addition, coordination with relevant local agencies and individuals have been conducted for setting up the establishment's water and electricity connections.

A pre-bid conference for the solar installation project is being coordinated by the MBCC Project Manager, Jose Damaso Naungayan. Our MBCC Supervisor, Arch. Rainer Magcale has also taken the 40-hour Basic Pollution Control Officer (PCO) Training as a requirement for his accreditation as PCO and as part of MBCC's environmental compliance requirement.

Daily and weekly HSSE inspections were conducted. Likewise, health and safety protocols in relation to COVID-19 are continuously being enforced and implemented in the construction area.



**YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING.**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>



*Onsite photos by EHTan and CPBantiling*



# 2022

**AS WE COME TO THE END OF AN EVENTFUL YEAR, WE HOPE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO SHARE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH YOU. THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CHALLENGING FOR ALL OF US WHICH IS WHY WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR STAFF, PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COMPASSION.**

**WE HOPE THAT OUR GOAL TO CONSERVE OUR BIODIVERSITY WILL STAY WITH YOU IN 2022 AND BEYOND. FROM ALL OF US AT MBCFI, WISHING EVERYONE A BETTER AND MORE PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



## 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.*

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# MBCFI

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

## Mindoro Biodiversity

