



10 YEARS  
OF CONSERVING  
MINDORO'S  
BIODIVERSITY

2018  
ANNUAL REPORT





10 YEARS  
OF CONSERVING  
MINDORO'S  
BIODIVERSITY



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# CONTENT

# ACRONYMS

<b>ARNP</b>	Apo Reef Natural Park
<b>BCSP</b>	Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
<b>BDP</b>	Barangay Development Plan
<b>BIG</b>	Bio-intensive Gardening
<b>BK</b>	Bantay Kalikasan
<b>BMS</b>	Biodiversity Monitoring System
<b>CENRO</b>	Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
<b>DENR</b>	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<b>DOLE</b>	Department of Labor and Employment
<b>DWCC</b>	Divine Word College of Calapan
<b>IAMBAG</b>	Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat
<b>ICC</b>	International Coastal Cleanup
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>Kawaras</b>	Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan
<b>KBA</b>	Key Biodiversity Area
<b>LGU</b>	Local Government Unit
<b>MAKAPAKA</b>	Mamamayang Kabalik sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan
<b>MBCC</b>	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
<b>MBCFI</b>	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
<b>MCWS</b>	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>MIBNP</b>	Mts. Iglit – Baco Natural Park
<b>NAGBAKAT</b>	Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan
<b>NAGSAMAKAPA</b>	Nagkakaisang Samahang ng Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan
<b>NCIP</b>	National Commission for Indigenous People
<b>NLNP</b>	Naujan Lake National Park
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NTTPK</b>	Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>PAMB</b>	Protected Area Management Board
<b>PASu</b>	Protected Area Superintendent
<b>PENRO</b>	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
<b>PSBB</b>	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato-singit
<b>PSP</b>	Policy System and Procedure
<b>PSU</b>	Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Ulasan
<b>SABACAP</b>	Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan
<b>SAMMA</b>	Samahang ng Aktibong Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Ambulong
<b>WSASAMAKAPA</b>	Samahan Sasagip at Mangangalaga sa Kalikasan
<b>Sarig</b>	Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang
<b>SEAMS</b>	Socio-Economic Assessment and Monitoring System
<b>SEC</b>	Securities and Exchange Commission
<b>SIAD</b>	Sustainable Integrated Area Development
<b>WWD</b>	World Wetlands Day



# RESEARCH PROGRAM

Leading scientific research in Mindoro is one of the missions of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. The core program that focuses on that aspect is the RESEARCH Program, which conducts site profiling and participates in conservation and management planning for key biodiversity areas in Mindoro. Here are the highlights of activities of RESEARCH Program for the year 2018.



## Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)

**THE COUNT RECORDED A TOTAL OF 5,523 INDIVIDUALS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS, LOWER THAN THE 2017 RESULT WHICH WAS 6,907 INDIVIDUALS.**

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 18, 2018, in Naujan Lake National Park, was spearheaded by the Protected Area Office of Naujan Lake National Park, 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).

The count recorded a total of 5,523 individuals of migratory birds, lower than the 2017 result which was 6,907 individuals. Although the number of migratory birds counted was lower than 2017 count result,

the team was able to encounter two newly recorded species of ducks, these were the Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) and Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*).

The species with the highest record during the census was the Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) with a total of 2,692 individuals recorded, followed by the Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) with 832 individuals recorded, and the Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) with 806 individuals.

## Apo Reef Natural Park Migratory and Waterbird Survey

A small team from MBCFI conducted a survey on February 5-7, 2018 to monitor the migratory and waterbird in the protected area. The team was able to record 24 species of birds which were comprised of 9 migrants, 13 residents, one endemic and one undetermined.



## Mt. Halcon Socio-Economic Survey



For proper conservation approach in Mt. Halcon, it is essential to know the socio-economic status of the communities within the protected area. The baseline data will be used to provide proper community interventions. On March 25-28, 2018, MBCFI conducted a socio-economic survey in two communities within Mt. Halcon, namely, Brgys. Lantuyang, and Bayanan in Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

A total of 300 respondents were surveyed, 150 respondents from Bayanan, and 150 respondents from Lantuyang. One on one interview was employed wherein the survey was administered through a standard questionnaire. The results and write-up of the study are currently being processed.

**A TOTAL OF 523 TAMARAWS WERE REPORTED DURING THIS COUNT, THE HIGHEST RECORD SO FAR FOR THE PAST DECADE.**

## Mt. Halcon Biodiversity Survey

The MBCFI conducted a biodiversity survey at Mt. Halcon, Oriental Mindoro. This was to assess the current status of the biodiversity of the area. The duration of the study was from March 23 until April 4, 2018. About 40 families with more than 50 genera of flora were identified in the area. The survey was able to reveal some vertebrates: 46 bird species, 10 herpetofauna species comprised of seven reptiles and three amphibians, and 16 mammalian species comprised of three rodents, one shrew, 10 bats, one pig, and one macaque. For the invertebrates, a total of 212 morphospecies were recorded.



**ABOUT 40 FAMILIES WITH MORE THAN 50 GENERA OF FLORA WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE AREA.**



## Tamaraw Count 2018

MBCFI participated in the annual Tamaraw counting in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park on April 22-23, 2018. The activity was spearheaded by the Tamaraw Conservation Program of DENR Occidental Mindoro. There were 18 established vantage points which the survey teams utilized in the counting of the Tamaraw. Binoculars, cameras, spotting scopes, and counters were used during the count. A total of 523 Tamaraws were reported during this count, the highest record so far for the past decade.

## Apo Reef Natural Park Seabird Survey

MBCFI conducted a seabird survey at Apo Reef Natural Park on June 24-27, 2018. This is to assess the seabirds present in the protected area. A total of 1,188 individuals were counted during the survey that belongs to 22 species of birds. The most recorded bird species is the Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) with 536 individuals encountered, followed by the Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) with 493 individuals. The highlight of the seabird survey was the encounter of Christmas Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*) a rare and critically endangered species.



**A TOTAL OF 1,188 INDIVIDUALS WERE COUNTED DURING THE SURVEY THAT BELONGS TO 22 SPECIES OF BIRDS**

## Philippine Teak Tagging and Mapping

The tagging of the Philippine Teak (*Tectona philippinensis*) is a project provided by MBCFI to the Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat (IAMBAG) to monitor the number of Philippine Teak in the islands through GPS tagging. A total of 1,520 coordinate points were plotted in Ilin Island, while 429 coordinate points were made in Ambulong islands.



## Flying Fox Survey

MBCFI, together with DENR CENRO San Jose, conducted a verification survey for the existence of flying foxes in Mangarin, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Survey was conducted on November 7, 2018. The team encountered a colony of Large Flying Foxes (*Pteropus vampyrus*) of approximately 13,880 individuals. It was also observed that the site is holding a significant number of migratory bird species. DENR CENRO San Jose is doing its best to protect and conserve the area to preserve the Flying Foxes and migratory birds.



**APPROX. 13,880 LARGE FLYING FOXES WERE ENCOUNTERED**

## Tamaraw Expedition

MBCFI, together with Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP), D' Aboville Foundation, and local volunteers conducted an expedition to validate the existence of Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) in Oriental Mindoro. The team made their entry point at Barangay San Andres, Naujan. They followed numerous tracks, trails, fecal deposits and wallows of Tamaraws until they spotted five individuals of the species in Mt. Gimparay which were observed and documented. One skeleton with a complete skull of the Tamaraw was also collected.



**THEY SPOTTED FIVE INDIVIDUALS OF THE SPECIES IN MT. GIMPARAY, ORIENTAL MINDORO**



## International Conference on Ecology and Biodiversity Across Time and Space

RESEARCH Program manager, Don Geoff E. Tabaranza presented a paper entitled "Declaring a Wetland Protected Area: Naujan Lake National Park Experience" at the International Conference on Ecology and Biodiversity Across Time and Space. The conference was held at Hotel Jen, Penang, Malaysia on August 15-17, 2018.

## Naujan Lake National Park Waterbird Survey

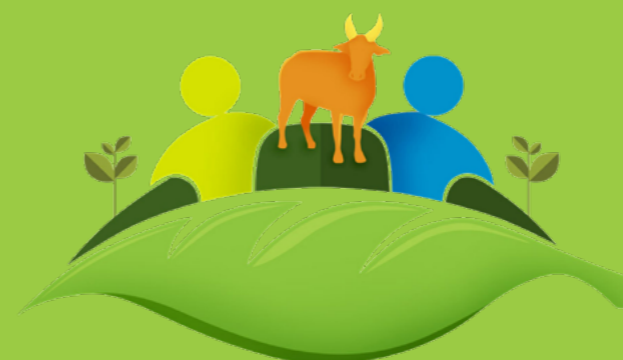
On November 6, 2018, a waterbird survey was conducted at Naujan Lake National Park. The study was spearheaded by the NLNP Protected Area Office, in partnership with the MBCFI. The team was able to record a total of 2,650 waterbirds comprising 22 identified species.

There were 1,963 migrants comprised mostly by Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) which was about 64% of the total count. This was followed by Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) at 6%. An unusually large count for the resident Wandering Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) was observed during the survey.

About 603 individuals or 23% of the total waterbird count were observed, by far the second highest number recorded in Naujan Lake following 656 individuals recorded in AWC 2015. During the conduct of the survey, the team was able to encounter two new species, the Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).



**THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO RECORD A TOTAL OF 2,650 WATERBIRDS COMPRISING 22 IDENTIFIED SPECIES.**



**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. Technical assistance to Peoples' Organizations (POs) and Bantay Kalikasan Federation was provided in the conduct of their regular meetings, and Policy, System and Procedure (PSP) formulation and updating. With MBCFI's strengthened partnership with these POs through conservation agreements, the efficiency on programs and projects implementation also increases.



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



## Occidental Mindoro

- Pangkalisang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) in Brgy. Harrison, Paluan
- Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan in Brgy. Harrison, Paluan
- Nagkakaisang Tao-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan (NTTPK) in Brgy. Poypoy, Calintaan
- Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan (NAGBAKAT) in Brgy. Poypoy, Calintaan
- Mamamayang Kabalik sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Pangkalisang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato-Singit (PSBB) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat (IAMBAG) in Ilin and Ambulong Islands
- Nagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan (NAGSAMAKAPA) in Ilin and Ambulong Islands
- Samahan Sasagip at Mangangalaga sa Kalikasan (SASAMAKAPA) in Ilin and Ambulong Islands

## Oriental Mindoro

- Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang in Brgy. Lantuyang, Baco
- Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon in Brgy. Bayanan, Baco

## Management and Organizational Development of Community-Based Groups

To ensure that the POs are constantly and actively conducting the activities indicated in their action and enforcement plans, the MISSION team regularly monitors the progress of these organizations.

To strengthen the foundation of each POs, MBCFI assisted in the accreditation of POs to concerned institutions. IAMBAG and Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Mamamayan para sa Kapakanan ng Pamayanan (NAGSAMAKAPA) were accredited by the Municipal Local Government Unit of San Jose on May 22, 2018. Likewise, the Pangkalisang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato-singit (PSBB) was accredited by the Provincial Council of Occidental Mindoro.

Moreover, MBCFI provided trainings on values formation and conflict management, aimed at enhancing the understanding of PO members on organizational values, principles, conflict resolution and management in the context of indigenous culture, beliefs and rights with integration of gender. For the POs in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the training was conducted on December 4-5, 2018 at Barangay Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro and was attended by 52 members of Pangkalisang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) and Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP). In Mt. Halcon, the training was conducted on December 7-8, 2018 at Traveler's Inn, Poblacion, Baco, Oriental Mindoro with 57 members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon and Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang.

In addition, MBCFI facilitated a Simple Bookkeeping and Accounting Training on September 22-23, 2018 at Barangay Harrison, Paluan to improve the financial management capacity of POs. It was attended by 34 members of SABACAP and PSU. Participants gained basic knowledge on



transaction recordings using different type of books, preparation of basic financial statements and allocation of net surplus.

In order for the community-based biodiversity protection group to safely conduct patrolling activities, MBCFI awarded a complete set of patrolling gears and materials composed of flashlights, boots, bolos, water bottles, bags and raincoats to 17 members of

Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan (NAGSABAK) at Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal on October 2, 2018. Twenty-five members of Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan (NAGBAKAT) were awarded the same set of gears on December 18, 2019, at Tamisan, Poypoy, Calintaan. In Ilin and Ambulong Islands, 25 members of Ilin and Ambulong Islands Bantay Gubat were awarded the said gears on September 5, 2018.

## Wildlife Enforcement, Identification and Handling

A total of 74 participants from NAGSABAK, PSBB, NAGBAKAT, Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon and Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang attended the training held at Aroma Hotel and Resort in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro on May 15-17, 2018. The training aims to increase the knowledge of participants regarding Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Laws and capacitate them on the identification and proper handling of wildlife species.



## Nursery Establishment

In Mt. Halcon, Baco, Oriental Mindoro, an open nursery establishment activity was conducted in Barangay Bayanan on February 19-24, 2018 attended by 20 members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon. The nursery contained a total of 11,000 native wildlings. Likewise, an open nursery containing a total of 9,500 native wildlings was established in Barangay Lantuyang on February 27-28, 2018 which was attended by 24 members of Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang.

**THE NURSERY CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 20,500 NATIVE WIDLINGS.**

## Restoration and Woodlot Sites Monitoring

**ALMOST 23,000 OF GRAFTED MANGO, CALAMANSI, SINTORES AND DWARF SEEDLINGS WERE PROVIDED.**

MBCFI conducts regular monitoring of restoration and woodlot sites. Currently, there are 46.1048 hectares of restoration and woodlot areas in Rizal and Calintaan. A total of 11,278 grafted mango, calamansi, sintores and dwarf coconut seedlings were provided to 17 cooperators to be planted in their woodlot sites.

For Ilin and Ambulong Islands, there are 5.25 hectares of restoration sites and 5.27 hectares of woodlot sites established. A total of 2,824 grafted mango, calamansi, sintores and dwarf coconut seedlings were provided to eight cooperators which will be planted in their woodlot areas.



## Vermicomposting

Vermicomposting is a project that is not only intended to produce organic fertilizer but also to enhance the knowledge and capacity of MBCFI's PO members on sustainable agriculture through environment-friendly and cost-effective organic-based practice that would eventually increase their crops production and ultimately contribute to rural development as a whole.

A total of six vermi beds were established in Mt. Halcon, wherein 20 members of Sarig built four last March 13-15, 2018, and Kawaras established two on April 9-10, 2018. The organic fertilizer cast produced were used in their bio-intensive gardens and out-planted seedlings in the restoration and woodlot sites.

In Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, five beds were established by PSBB on June 10-12, 2018 and two beds were established by Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan (NTTPK) on September 17-20, 2018.

The Peoples' Organizations in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary were able to establish a total of six vermi beds, four of which were



**A TOTAL OF 30 VERMI BEDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 10 DIFFERENT AREAS.**

established by 33 members of PSU on February 22-23, 2018, and two vermi beds were established by 27 members of SABACAP on March 14-16, 2018.

A total of four vermi beds were established in respective barangays of Ilin and Ambulong Islands: Labangan, Ansiray, Iling Proper and Buri. One bed was established on February 17-18, 2018 by 11 members of Samahang Sasagip at Mangangalaga sa Kalikasan (SASAMAKAPA). Ten members of NAGSAMAKAPA established one vermi bed on February 23, 2018. Another vermi bed was established on February 15-16, 2018 which was attended by IAMBAG. Lastly, the members of Samahang Balik-puno Sagip-buhay established a vermi bed on September 6-7, 2018.

## Bio-extract and Organic Pesticides/Insecticide Making

MBCFI provided training on Bio-Extract and Organic Pesticide/Insecticide Making to the PO groups in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary. The training aims to improve their farming ways and cast off dangerous effluent from inorganic pesticides, which are harmful not only to human health but also to wildlife species found in the area.

A total of 40 participants from SABACAP and PSU attended the training on February 26-28, 2018 at So. Ulasan, Barangay Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro.

During the hands-on training and production, a total of 23.8 liters of bio-extract were produced using indigenous microorganism, fermented plant extract, fish amino acid, and calcium carbonate. For the pesticide, a total of 80 liters were produced using alum, lime, salt, coconut milk, Indian guduchi, lemon grass, potassium permanganate, mahogany seeds, camphor balls, chrysanthemum, garlic, chilis and marigold. The products can be used immediately in their farms and bio-intensive gardens.



## Barangay Clean-Up

Clean-ups are regularly conducted in MBCFI's priority communities to maintain the cleanliness in their areas. This activity also serves as an avenue to increase the awareness of community members towards biodiversity conservation. In Barangay Lantuyang, Baco, Oriental Mindoro, the clean-up was conducted on April 15, 2018 and attended by 42 participants composed of Sarig members, barangay officials and community members.



In Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, members of PSBB and NAGSABAK initiated the clean-ups conducted on April 12, August 18, October 2 and December 22, 2018.

In Poypoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro, the clean-up was conducted on October 4, 2018 and was attended by 33 members of NTPPK and NAGBAKAT.

Coastal and road clean-ups were conducted in Barangays Ansiray and Natandol on March 19, 2018 and May 20, 2018 respectively which was attended by the members of IAMBAG, barangay officials and community members (with 82 and 92 participants respectively).

## Sustainable Integrated Area Development Project (SIAD)

PSBB and NAGSABAK signed an agreement with the DENR for the SIAD Project amounting to a total of PHP 600,000.00 for 2018 focusing on the protection and maintenance of 100 hectares bamboo plantation.



### CLEAN-UPS ARE REGULARLY CONDUCTED IN MBCFI'S PRIORITY COMMUNITIES TO MAINTAIN THE CLEANLINESS IN THEIR AREAS.

### Food Processing Project

The overall goal of the project is to provide a sustainable livelihood that would ensure the viability of the Peoples' Organizations in the long run. The topics covered were about food basic principles, food safety and methods of food processing and preservation which include hands-on training.

In Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, MBCFI provided training on Cashew apple and nuts processing on April 18-20, 2018 at Sitio Ulasan, Barangay Paluan, Occidental Mindoro which was attended by 33 members of PSU and SABACAP.

In Ilin and Ambulong Islands, the foundation provided assistance on the establishment of Balay-Sandigan, wherein Peoples' Organizations could use it as their processing area. Materials and equipment for their food processing project such as corn sheller, empty bottles, kitchen utensils, gas stove, etc. were provided.

A total of 29 participants from six different POs in Ilin and Ambulong Islands attended the training held at Barangay Ansiray, Ilin, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro on April 24-26, 2018.



## Pineapple Plantation

Assistance was provided to PSBB, NTPPK and MAKAPAKA on the establishment of their pineapple plantation. A total of 14,000 pineapple sprouts were planted in their one hectare land in Bato-singit, Manoot, Rizal and another hectare in Tamisan, Poypoy, Calintaan on October 13-16, 2018 and October 1-4, 2019, respectively.



### Foot Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring

Foot-patrolling and monitoring were conducted on October 28-30, 2018 at the 11 barangays of Ilin and Ambulong Islands. The activity was participated by 15 members of IAMBAG, one DENR staff, and one MBCFI staff. The event aimed to monitor the remaining forest of Ilin and Ambulong Islands and to identify any existing illegal activities in forest areas.

### Other Livelihood Projects

### DIFFERENT LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS WERE ESTABLISHED IN OUR PRIORITY SITES BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENFORCEMENT PLANS OF MBCFI'S PARTNER PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION.

Different livelihood projects were established in our priority sites based on the development and enforcement plans of MBCFI's partner People's Organization.

In Mt. Halcon, the Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan were assisted in establishing their "Promotion of Community Local Produced Project." This project aims to eliminate the role of intermediaries in marketing the local produce of the communities such as banana, coconut, lanzones, rambutan, etc. since most of the time middlemen earn higher income compared to the farmers.

MBCFI also provided training on handicraft making for the members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan and Sarig Agunaker

sa Bulod Sialdang sa Lantuyang aimed at developing the skills of its members in Nito weaving and for them to be able to produce different handicrafts made out of this material such as baskets, bag, plates, etc. The training was held at Traveler's Inn, Baco, Oriental Mindoro on June 1-3, 2018 which was attended by 36 members of Sarig and Kawaras.

MBCFI assisted the PSBB in putting up their consumer store that aims to provide low- priced products like rice and other daily commodities for community members. In addition, PSBB was able to save from their monthly contributions and purchased a motorcycle with sidecar on January 22, 2018 amounting to PHP 132,000.00. This tricycle will be used for public



transportation in their community to generate income for the PO. It will also serve as school service for their children instead of renting other tricycles. Aside from that, the PSBB also procured a brand new videoke machine with complete accessories amounting to PHP 25,000.00 which will be rented as an income-generating project for the said organization. The Income-Generating Project (IGP) is implemented under the approved policy formulated by the PSBB Executive Committee.

MBCFI assisted in the establishment of the Pig Breeding Project of NTPPK which was held on February 12, 2018. A total of six piglets were acquired, four of which are for fattening and two are for breeding purposes. Pigs are confined to avoid inbreeding with wild boars. Policy on this project was also drafted by MBCFI together with the PO members to avoid conflicts among them. Born piglets from the breeders will be distributed to the family of each member. Each family will have an equal opportunity to raise their own pigs in the near future. This project will provide additional income to the community while they volunteer for conservation works in Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park.

MBCFI also assisted in the establishment of the Native Chicken Raising and Production Project of MAKAPAKA in Sitio Natob, Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro. A total of ten hens and one rooster were procured on January 24, 2018. This project will provide an additional livelihood for the volunteers in conservation works in Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park in addition to their upland vegetable farming. Policy on this project was also drafted to guide the PO members on how to manage the project.



# CARE PROGRAM

The foundation 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.

## Billboard Installation

Three billboards containing ENR Laws, biodiversity and barangay or PO officers were established in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, specifically in Sitio Ulasan, Hinugasan and Pamutusin on March 2018.



## Publications

A coffee table book entitled “**Treasured Island: An Array of Mindoro’s Life Forms**”, containing photos of MBCFI’s priority areas, species found in Mindoro, and the eight tribes of Mangyan, is the first of its kind, was published in 2018.



An environmental sourcebook entitled “**MINDORO TREASURES Teaching Reference for Environment Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources**” containing 65 daily lesson logs, 10 teaching strategies was also published in 2018. The book contains three parts, part 1 contains information on the rich biological and cultural diversity. Part 2 contains daily lesson logs that were prepared by the teachers from Mindoro and was reviewed by their supervisors. Part 3 contains teaching strategies that the teachers can use for their daily lessons.



Both books were launched during the foundation’s 10th anniversary celebration on July 13, 2018.

## Ibangklaseng Yoga: A Different Way to Celebrate World Wetlands Day 2018

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually in NLNP, a wetland of international importance—one of the Ramsar sites in the Philippines. MBCFI celebrated World Wetlands Day with a little twist through yoga. The activity called “Ibangklaseng Yoga” aims for the wellness of three aspects: (1) biodiversity through talks, exhibit and bird counting, 2) ecotourism through Bangklase tour, and 3) body and mind through yoga.

With a theme of “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future,” 15 volunteers from Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Shell Business Office Manila, and triathletes who traveled all the way from Manila were invited to attend the event.



**A TOTAL OF 1,900 BIRDS WERE COUNTED AND THE MAJORITY WERE TUFTED DUCKS AND GARGANEYS.**



On the 2nd February 2018, MBCFI had a Biodiversity Talk and Exhibit at St. Augustin Seminary which was attended by more than 50 seminarians and 15 volunteers from Manila. Joining the seminarians and the volunteers were DENR Oriental Mindoro Provincial Officer Mary June Maypa and MBCFI Board of Trustees member Gerardo Concepcion.

MBCFI, DENR, and volunteers started the Day 2 of World Wetlands celebration at 5 AM aboard the Bangklase. The event began with a short orientation by Don Geoff Tabaranza on bird counting using the block method. It was then followed with an hour session of Ashtanga yoga for beginners. The yoga session ended at the burst of dawn, in time for the bird counting activity where a flock of birds welcomed the guests and volunteers. A total of 1,900 birds were counted and the majority were Tufted Ducks and Garganeys.



**MBCFI participated in the PNEE**

The Philippine Network of Educators on Environment (PNEE) held its 11th International Conference and Scientific Meeting with the theme “Environmental Education 2030: Integrating Science, Policy and Actions Towards Inclusive Growth” last October 16-20, 2018 at Estancia, Iloilo, Philippines with Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC) as its host. Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, IEC Officer, presented the CARE Program of MBCFI.



## Flagship Species Campaign

The flagships for the two protected areas in Occidental Mindoro were already selected through the initiative of MBCFI and the DENR. Resolutions were passed by its Protected Area Management Board declaring the different flagship species for conservation.

For Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, the flagship species selected was the Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill (*Penelopides mindorensis*). For Apo Reef Natural Park, the selected flagship species was the Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*).

## Exhibit at the 2nd Philippine Environment Summit

Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy, in partnership with the DENR as co-convenor, together with supporters from other sectors invited MBCFI as one of the participants and exhibitor on 20-22 February 2018 at Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City, Philippines.

MBCFI's Executive Director Grace C. Diamante and Monitoring & Development Officer Virtito Natural Jr. participated in the event and also set up an exhibit booth to showcase the different efforts of the foundation and other stakeholders in Mindoro to conserve its biodiversity. Around 1,000 participants attended the event. Brochures, photo-exhibit, technical publications and even Tammy, MBCFI's Tamaraw Mascot entertained the summit's participants and visitors from Cebu and nearby provinces. The event was a significant one in providing more support for the conservation of Mindoro's biodiversity by linking with other CSOs, NGAs and even international organizations.

**AROUND 1,000 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE EVENT.**



## Environmental Summit held at Divine Word College of Calapan

The Divine World College of Calapan (DWCC) celebrated its 72nd Founding Anniversary on February 22-23, 2018 with the theme "DWCC @72: Celebrating the tradition of excellence through community involvement." As part of the celebration, the DWCC Community Extension Services (CES) Office conducted an environmental summit. The event was attended by more than 1000 students from DWCC and other high schools from Calapan City. The Environmental Summit aims to promote environmental awareness through various environmental advocacies and initiatives. Different representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO), government agencies, and religious



groups were invited as resource speakers to the event. Ms. Antoinette Taus delivered the keynote message from Planet CORA (Communities Organized for Resource Allocation). MBCFI is one of the invited NGOs to give a talk. MBCFI's Executive Director, Ms. Grace C. Diamante, gave a lecture on the unique biodiversity of Mindoro, and also a presentation about MBCFI as an organization. Ms. Diamante ended her presentation with a video on Mindoro's biodiversity.

MBCFI also set up a booth and showcased the rich biodiversity of Mindoro through photos, technical reports, brochures, and other communication materials. Tammy the Tamaraw mascot also graced the event. Students gathered at the booth to scan through the technical reports, know more about the endemic species of Mindoro, and take a selfie with Tammy.

**THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1000 STUDENTS FROM DWCC AND OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS FROM CALAPAN CITY.**

## Raya School Talk on Philippines and Mindoro Biodiversity and about MBCFI

Raya School, a progressive school in Quezon City invited MBCFI last 23 February 2018, in one of their Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) activities. Twenty-five elementary and high school students were able to learn more about the rich and diverse biodiversity and ecosystems of the island of Mindoro and the Philippines, and the threats that they are currently facing. Efforts of

MBCFI and its partners to minimize the identified threats were also shared. The students also had their chance to share the efforts they can do to help conserve the biodiversity of the Philippines in their own ways.



## Month of the Ocean Exhibit, Luneta Park



In celebration of the Month of the Ocean, the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) spearheaded a Biodiversity Festival on May 26-27, 2018 at Luneta Park, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila. On May 26 the nationwide campaign called #CleanSeasPilipinas was launched, its global counterpart is spearheaded by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The second day of the festival, May 27, is a full-day sustainable art and music festival. This event became a venue to raise awareness and encourage change in behavior and way of life

of the people towards coastal and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

MBCFI was part of the technical working group and was invited to participate as one of the exhibitors of the said event. The organization setup a booth that showcased marine biodiversity photos of ARNP, sea birds found in Mindoro, and coastal related activities conducted for the past 10 years. There were biodiversity puzzle games to further boost the interest and engagement of audience and passersby.

**THE EVENT BECAME A VENUE TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR AND WAY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE TOWARDS COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY.**

## PSSN ICoNSIE 2018 Annual Scientific Conference

The Philippine Society for the Study of Nature (PSSN) hosted its 18th annual scientific conference or the "International Conference on Nature Studies and Innovation for the Environment 2018" on May 16-18, 2018 held at the University of Santo Tomas, Sampaloc, Manila. MBCFI Vice President, Dr. Leticia E. Afuang and CARE Program Manager Kathy Lene S. Cielo attended the conference as oral presenters.

Ms. Cielo presented the Strengthening Environmental Education for Development Program research result. The reports showed the effectiveness of the SEED Program on teachers trained from the three DepEd divisions in Mindoro Island.

## Young Eco-warriors Summer Camp

Youth has a vital role in social change which includes environmental advocacies. It is essential that they are aware of the issues and concerns that our environment is currently facing. Together with the Department of Education, MBCFI has been at the

forefront of increasing knowledge and awareness on biodiversity and its conservation, not only towards teachers but also to the students. The strategies which were used to encourage their participation are the conduct of environmental events, talks, exhibits, and camps.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IS A POWERFUL TOOL TO ENGAGE EVERYONE IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.

Activities during the summer camp include basic leadership and teamwork actions, environmental talks, poster making, science communication, bird watching, and native seedlings nursery establishment. Students were randomly clustered into seven groups where they compete against each team.

The group with the highest score at the end of the camp was proclaimed the winner. In the basic leadership and teamwork activities, different physical and mind-boggling problems were solved by each team. Furthermore, environmental talks focused on Philippines biodiversity, Mindoro biodiversity, and thematic presentation in celebration of the ocean month were conducted. The nursery chamber establishment was taught by Mr. Eli-Jed Tamboong, Community Facilitator of MBCFI, to demonstrate how to make chamber for wildlings. Another interesting activity was the bird watching led by RESEARCH Program Manager Mr. Don Geoff Tabaranza where common bird identification and proper use of birding equipment were taught to the students.

Environmental education and awareness is a powerful tool to engage everyone in biodiversity conservation. The organization hopes that the students will apply and share their learnings to others.



## MBCFI 10th Year Anniversary Celebration

MBCFI is one of the leading non-government organizations that implements conservation initiatives in Mindoro Island to conserve and protect its biological and cultural diversity. It first started as a Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Program (MBCP) administered by the Flora and Fauna International (FFI) that later on became a Foundation that is now called MBCFI on March 19, 2008. The foundation has been operating in different Protected Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas in Mindoro for over 10 years, implementing conservation efforts, all to conserve the island's unique biodiversity.

On the 13th of July 2018, MBCFI celebrated its 10th year anniversary celebration at Oceana Beach Resort, Puerto Galera. A press

conference was conducted in the morning where 16 different media representatives took part. The event was attended by different MBCFI partner agencies from the government sector to the private sector which totaled to about 200 participants. Government representatives from the DENR, DepEd, Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, Local Government Unit (LGU) of Puerto Galera, LGU - Calapan, and LGU - Baco, LGU - Victoria. Private sector representatives includes Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PBCFI), DWCC, Shell Philippines Exploration (SPEX), Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines Inc. (MFPI), National Museum, Puerto Galera National High School (PGNHS), and others.

Highlights of the event is the launching of eight (8) newly recorded species in Mindoro and one (1) newly discovered species, launching of the 10th anniversary Audio-visual Presentation (AVP),

Treasured Island: An Array of Mindoro's Life Forms, MINDORO TREASURES. The eight (8) newly recorded species is comprised of four bird species and four species of mammals, namely, Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Common Woolly Bat (*Kerivoula hardwickii*), Bronzed Tube-nose Bat (*Murina aenea*), Whiskered Myotis (*Myotis muricola*), Red-billed Starling (*Spodiopsar sericeus*), Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*), Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*), Philippine Pygmy Roud-leaf Bat (*Hipposideros pygmaeus*). The newly discovered flora species, *Sarcostemma malampayae*, was encountered on a research conducted at Ilin and Ambulong island on 2013 and was named after the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners who is the core funder of MBCFI.

The team also presented to the stakeholders their report on the accomplishments for the last decade including their efforts in conserving the Tamaraws in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park through an Audio-visual presentation.



## International Coastal Clean-Up

Ocean Conservancy first initiated a cleaning program for the ocean 30 years ago where the communities rallied together with the common goal of collecting and documenting the trash littered along the coastline. The initiative aims to document the most recorded trash found in the ocean and in the shores. Data collected will help in formulating conservation measures and other conservation initiatives.

**THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO DOCUMENT THE MOST RECORDED TRASH FOUND IN THE OCEAN AND IN THE SHORES.**

Since then, International Coastal Cleanup is annually conducted in different areas all around the world. In line with this, MBCFI in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Paluan and DENR - MCWS, conducted a municipality-wide coastal cleanup. The cleanup was conducted on the 22nd of September at the municipality of Paluan, Occidental Mindoro with the theme “Fighting for Trash Free Seas: Ending the flow of trash at the source”. The activity also aimed at raising the awareness of the locals in Paluan on the importance of ocean conservation.

Six barangays of Paluan participated in the coastal cleanup, namely, Barangay I, Barangay II, Barangay IV, Barangay V, Barangay VI, and Lumang Bayan. The cleanup

was able to record a total of 4,445 pieces of trash wherein 47% (2,083 pieces) are plastic beverage bottles, and 37% (1,659 pieces) are food wrappers. Other trash include cigarette butts and wrappers, fishing buoys, fishing nets, and beverage cans while other plastics include bottle caps, foam packaging and pieces, tires, and shoes/slippers.

A small talk about the biodiversity of Mindoro was also rendered by Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, MBCFI’s IEC officer. To further boost the interest and engagement of the audience, Mr. Makiputin threw in questions about the lecture for a chance to win an MBCFI 10th anniversary T-shirt. The event ended with a film showing activity on the importance of biodiversity.



## Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines Annual Symposium

MBCFI staff and trustees attended the BCSP Annual Symposium held at Pampanga State Agricultural University on 16-19th of October 2018. Dr. Leticia Afuang, MBCFI’s Vice President was invited as a Plenary Speaker and gave a talk on Developing Research Framework for Mindoro biodiversity conservation.

An oral presentation was also given by Mr. Virtito Natural, Jr., Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of MBCFI regarding the newly recorded species in Mindoro.

An institutional booth was also set-up during the whole duration of the event which was manned by MBCFI’s Research Assistants, Elyza Hazel Tan and Jezryl Jaeger Garcia.

A side-event was also sponsored by the foundation to develop research agenda for Mindoro which was spearheaded by MBCFI’s Executive Director Ms. Grace Diamante, Technical Advisor Errol Gatumbato and RESEARCH Program Manager Geoff Tabaranza.



## Tamaraw Month Celebration



As part of the Tamaraw month celebration, FEU organized a forum and exhibit at Fora Mall, Tagaytay on 18-19th of October, 2018. During the first day, CARE Program Manager delivered a talk to 500 high school students from FEU Silang and other surrounding schools about Mindoro biodiversity and Tamaraw basic information.

On the following day, MBCFI in partnership with the Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro conducted a Provincial Biodiversity Quiz Contest. The champion of this quiz contest came from Occidental Mindoro National High School and was sent to compete for the National Wildlife Quiz Bowl.

## National Wildlife Quiz Bowl

The 4th National Wildlife Quiz Bowl was hosted by MBCFI in partnership with the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro and Local Government Unit of Calapan City. The quiz bowl proper was held at Holy Infant Academy on 28th of November 2018 which was participated by 17 schools from the different provinces of the Philippines.

This year's declared champion was Negros Occidental National High School, followed by Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International school (Davao) and third place was Holy Infant Academy (Mindoro). After the quiz bowl, the students travel all the way to Naujan Lake National Park to experience the i-Bangklase. Protected Area Office Staff gave a short talk regarding Naujan Lake and its biodiversity. A short birdwatching activity was also conducted.



## Revisiting Strengthening Environmental Education and Development (SEED) Program and Establishing M&E Mechanism for better implementation

A workshop was conducted last December 10-11, 2018 at Los Baños, Laguna, which was participated by supervisors and trained teachers from the three divisions of DepEd. Output of the program includes action plan and revised program for pilot testing in the early 2019.



## Other Environmental Talks

Aside from that, a short talk was given by Ms. Kathy Lene Cielo in the event of Kids for Kids entitled Habilin on 20 October 2018 at Green Sun, Makati. It was attended by youth from DLSZ, DLSU, ADMU, Assumption College, and UP Diliman. The presentation focused on Mindoro's biodiversity.

## Collaterals

Different collaterals were produced to increase awareness of the stakeholders. Others were also printed for the celebration 10th year celebration of MBCFI. A total of 500 bag tags, 500 canvas bags, 1000 shirts, and 500 caps were produced.

# MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (MBCC)

## Site Selection

After several ocular visits exploring different potential sites in Oriental Mindoro during the first and second quarter of 2018, a 16-hectare lot in Dulangan, Puerto Galera was selected as the site where MBCC will soon rise. Criteria for natural, environmental, physical, legal, institutional, administrative, socio-economic, and cultural factors were weighed and considered during the site selection process.



## Biodiversity Assessment

Led by MBCFI Trustee Dr. Letty E. Afuang and RESEARCH Program Manager Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, the MBCC site in Puerto Galera underwent a rapid biodiversity assessment in September 2018 where both flora and fauna species have been tallied for inventory. Flora species were identified and tagged by Foresters Ryan B. Salvador and Jolly-Ann J. Retulin. Fauna species were identified and recorded by resident MBCFI biologists Kathy Lene S. Cielo, Virtito C. Natural Jr., Roderick C. Makiputin, and Jezryl Jaeger L. Garcia with the support of Dr. Afuang's graduate students at University of the Philippines Los Baños.

## Design Workshop

A Design Workshop, led by Ecotektonika Senior Project Manager Gabriel Ma. Angelo Cascante, was conducted on October 10, 2018.

It was attended by MBCFI management and staff (Executive Director Grace C. Diamante, Technical Advisor Errol A. Gatumbato, CARE Program Manager Kathy Lene S. Cielo, RESEARCH Program Manager Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, MBCC Project Manager Elvin M. Madamba, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Virtito C. Natural Jr., and RESEARCH Assistant Elyza Hazel P. Tan) MBCFI trustees (Chairman Sebastian C. Quiniones Jr., President Sabino L. Santos, Vice President Dr. Leticia E. Afuang, and Gerry L. Concepcion), and representatives from National Museum (Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos), Talarak Foundation (Alessandro Lacson and Antoinette B. Lacson), and Masungi Georeserve (Ann Adeline Dumaliang). The workshop established the basis of the design and provided clear design guidance to meet the function of MBCC components.



## 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!

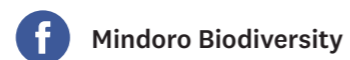
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**ON THE COVER**  
*Philautus schmackeri*  
(Endemic to Mindoro)

IUCN Conservation Status:  
ENDANGERED

[mbocfi.org.ph](http://mbocfi.org.ph)