

2019

ANNUAL REPORT





MBCFI

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

Mindoro Biodiversity





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Start of a new decade of conserving Mindoro's biodiversity



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

The year 2019 set a different challenge for the organization—a challenge to strive harder as we start a new decade for the foundation. With all the organization's accomplishments from 2008-2018, we are enthusiastic to do even more for the environment and communities of Mindoro for the years to come.

As we jump into a new decade, we also celebrate the realization of one of our greatest visions—the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC).

Aimed at establishing an enormous emblem representing biodiversity conservation in Mindoro, the center will be built in the Municipality of Puerto Galera, the tourism gateway of Mindoro. Puerto Galera boasts not only its beautiful beaches but also its unique biodiversity.

MBCC will be a one-story building with facilities such as museum, library, audio-visual room, conference and training rooms, among others. Establishing this center was never easy. We started the year losing our initial architectural and engineering designer, which left us with no other choice but have it bid out again. We are fortunate enough to finally have a designer before the end of the first quarter. Schematic designs and plans were ready by the end of the year. As we focused our initiative in the construction of the MBCC, we also hired staff for the said project, including a project development officer and museum curator.

Conceptualized in the late 2000s, MBCC will become the physical exemplar of the synergistic relationship between biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

After years of providing assistance to the communities through the MISSION Program, MBCFI is now preparing them towards the sustainability of their own People's Organizations (PO). PO leaders and members were trained to increase their knowledge and skills on organizational management such as leadership skills and their capacity to manage financial records. Livelihood opportunities were also improved through different trainings including food processing and agroforestry and non-timber forest products-related trainings.

Minimal assistance were also provided in the maintenance of their established projects, for them to be able to manage them in their own capacity. Through the joint project of the three core programs (RESEARCH, MISSION, CARE), we were able to award the best woodlot cooperators from the different priority areas of MBCFI. We are hopeful that these cooperators and their POs will continue to maintain their woodlot and restoration areas for the coming years. These communities are vital in saving the biodiversity of Mindoro.

As we geared towards broader support, through the RESEARCH Program, we were able to receive funding for our surveys on the Ilin Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat and the Tamaraw. The CARE Program also broadened the scope of its awareness campaign through different talks, exhibits and environmental events held not

only in Mindoro, but also in other parts of the Philippines, like Manila and Leyte. The importance of Mindoro in the aspect of culture and biodiversity should not be contained only within its islands, but in a wider reach, gaining more collaboration nationally and internationally.

For the past ten years, MBCFI have been in close partnership with various stakeholders, including communities, academes, local government units and national government agencies. With this, we aimed to continue our strong collaborations with them and build new partnerships toward one common goal –the conservation of Mindoro’s biodiversity. These can be proven through the renewal of conservation agreements with our POs, our accreditation from the Local Government Units and the Philippine Council for NGO Certification, and our memberships from the Protected Area Management Boards of the four protected areas in Mindoro and the Regional Development Council and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Amidst the challenges of a new era, MBCFI still was able to provide what is expected from us by our partners and more. Facing those challenges taught us be more resilient and therefore sustain efforts all for the conservation of Mindoro’s unique biodiversity.

These accomplishments further drive us to move forward and do more to conserve Mindoro’s biodiversity. We will continue to improve our process maps and business policies, monitor and regularly evaluate our outputs and outcomes through our key performance indicators, invest in staff development, maintain partnership with our stakeholders and sustain our programs.

We can never do all of these alone, and we are thankful to our funders and partners in conservation for their continuous support and understanding.

Together we will conserve Mindoro’s treasures, its biodiversity and culture for future generations. Kayang-kaya kung sama-sama!



The Height of Implementing Core Programs in 2019

The past decade was challenging for the foundation. Creating good track records and building decent partnerships aside from establishing its own organizational management is not an easy feat.

The total fund from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners for this fiscal year, was mostly allocated to the MBCC, and some were distributed to maintain our three core programs MISSION, RESEARCH, CARE, and continued our operational and administrative costs below the mandated limit.



Some of the Highlights in 2019:

RESEARCH

- 1 Lead the annual waterbird census on Naujan Lake National Park and Apo Reef Natural Park
 - a. Naujan Lake National Park - The waterbird census on January 17-28, 2019 showed 2,665 birds compared to the 5,523 count on 2018
 - b. Apo Reef Natural Park - The Bridled Tern is considered a rare species, and its nesting population at the ARNP is possible among the largest in the Philippines.
- 2 Participated in the Annual Tamaraw, with an estimated 480 Tamaraw Individuals in its core habitat in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park.
- 3 Our licensed forester evaluated woodlot areas by cooperatos from four priority sites.
- 4 Participated in the Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park Management Planning.
- 5 Provided assistance to the Naujan Lake National Park Protected Area Management Office and the DENR Regional Office- MIMAROPA in the lobbying process for it to become a full-fledged protected area, including the presentation to Sangguniang

Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro and the Regional Development Council of MIMAROPA.

- 6 Presented three (3) papers at the 28th Annual Conference of the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
 - a. Seabird fauna of Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) and Apo East Pass off western Mindoro, Philippines.
 - b. Retracing the largest land mammal of the Philippines
 - c. Strengthening Environmental Education for Development: Integrating biodiversity to the K-12 curriculum.
- 7 Co-lead the Tamaraw Expedition in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary together with the Tamaraw Conservation Program and the Protected Area Management Office of MCWS on June 17-21, 2019, confirming the presence of Tamaraw in the PA after 25 years.
- 8 Technical review of Comprehensive Land Use Plan of seven (7) municipalities of Oriental Mindoro
- 9 Conducted the purposive search for the Ilin Cloud Rat through ethnobiological survey and camera trapping resulting to no confirmed presence of the elusive animal.

- 10 Oral presentation on "Establishing the Naujan Lake National Park as a Protected Landscape" at the 2nd R&D Congress on East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) for Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in the Course of Climate Change

- 11 International organisations approved two (2) project proposals
 - a. William Oliver Philippine Champion Award by Chester Zoo: Dietary Analysis of Wild Tamaraw
 - b. Global Wildlife Conservation: Purposive search for the Ilin Bushy-Tailed Cloud Rat.

- 12 Land Cover Change in Mindoro analysed

- 13 GCash for Good: MBCFI is one of the official NGO Partners



Asian Waterbird Census at Naujan Lake National Park

MISSION

- 1 Mt. Halcon
 1. Two (2) conservation agreements with IP communities renewed
 2. Two (2) capacity building activities related to agroforestry and/or non-timber forest products conducted
 3. 1200 Wildlings propagated
 4. Maintained approximately 39.5 hectares of woodlot and restoration areas
 5. Maintained one (1) vermicomposting bed

6. Balay Sandigan constructed
7. SARIG and KAWARAS requirements for Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation submitted

- 2 Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
 1. Two (2) conservation agreements with IP communities renewed
 2. Capacity building activities conducted: food processing, agroforestry and/or non-timber products
 3. Maintained approximately 40 hectares of woodlot and

restoration areas

4. Maintained vermicomposting beds and harvested 31 sacks of organic fertilizer
5. Balay Sandigan constructed
6. PSU and SABACAP requirements for Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation submitted

- 3 Ilin and Ambulong Islands
 1. Two (2) conservation agreements with communities renewed
 2. Capacity building on food processing conducted
 3. 2200 Wildlings propagated

- 4. 833 Siniguelas planted
- 5. Maintained approximately 10 hectares of woodlot and restoration areas
- 6. Maintained vermicomposting beds and harvested eight (8) sacks of organic fertilizer
- 7. Balay Sandigan constructed
- 8. NAGSAMAKAPA and IAMBAG requirements for Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation submitted
- 9. Assisted PO on proposal writing, Php 100,000 grant received by the PO
- 4** Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park
 - 1. Three (3) conservation agreements with IP communities

- 2. Three (3) capacity building activities on agroforestry and/or non-timber products conducted
- 3. 9000 Wildlings propagated
- 4. Maintained approximately 40 hectares of woodlot and restoration areas
- 5. Maintained vermicomposting beds and harvested 12 sacks of organic fertilizer
- 6. Balay Sandigan maintained
- 7. PSBB and NTPPK requirements for Sangguniang Panlalawigan Accreditation submitted
- 8. Bio-intensive gardens maintained
- 9. Assisted PO on proposal writing, Php 50,000 grant received by the PO



Siniguelas Vinegar by IAMBAG



Bio-intensive Gardening at Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro

CARE

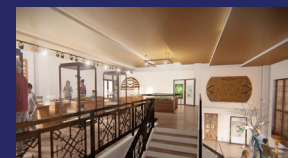
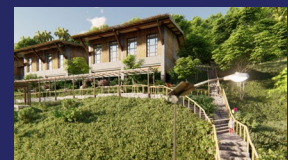
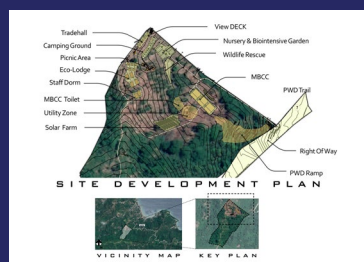
- 1** 3,000 pieces of Quarterly Newsletter produced and distributed
- 2** Membership to the PAMBs of 4 Protected Areas in Mindoro
- 3** Membership to the RDC
- 4** 17 environmental events, talks and exhibits
- 5** Quill award for the environmental sourcebook "Mindoro TREASURES: Teaching Reference for Environment Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources", under the category of Communication Training and Education
- 6** 15 Success Story videos produced



(Left to right) Grace C. Diamante, Elyza Hazel P. Tan, Dr. Leticia E. Afuang, Sebastian C. Quiniones Jr., Kathy Lene S. Cielo

MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER

- 1** Relocation and topography survey
- 2** Architectural and engineering design
- 3** Concept design
- 4** NCIP Certification of Non-overlap secured
- 5** Site clearing and fencing
- 6** Schematic Design
- 7** Museum Storyline





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VISION / MISSION	

TENT



ACRONYMS

AAMNHS	Aurelio Arago Memorial National High School
AMTR	Aruyan-Malati Tamaraw Reserve
ARNP	Apo Reef Natural Park
AWC	Asian Waterbird Census
BCSP	Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
BDP	Barangay Development Plan
BIG	Bio-intensive Gardening
BK	Bantay Kalikasan
BMS	Biodiversity Monitoring System
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
DAFI	D'Aboville Foundation, Inc.
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DWCC	Divine Word College of Calapan
EAAF	East Asian-Australasian Flyway
IAMBAG	Ilin and Ambulong Islands Bantay Gubat
ICC	International Coastal Cleanup
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Waterbird Census
KAWARAS	Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
KMFI	Kalikasan Mindoro Foundation Inc.
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAKAPAKA	Mamamayang Kabalikat sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan
MBCC	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
MBCFI	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
MCWS	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
MIBNP	Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park
NAGBAKAT	Nagkakaisang Bantay Kalikasan ng Tamisan
NAGSAMAKAPA	Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NLNP	Naujan Lake National Park
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NTTPK	Nagkakaisang Tau-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan
PA	Protected Area
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PAMO	Protected Area Management Office
PASu	Protected Area Superintendent
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer



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 socioeconomic 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. With various activities planned and conducted here are the highlights of the program for 2019:

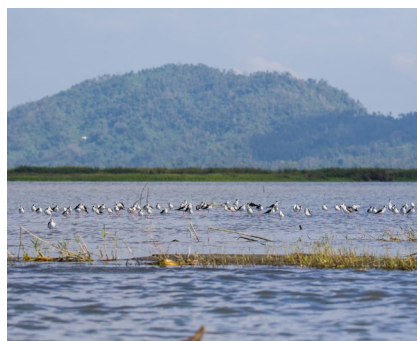


Waterbird Surveys

Migration remains one of the most compelling aspects of the avian world. Billions of birds migrate long distances across the globe. During the non-breeding season, several migratory birds travel along well-established routes called flyways seeking temporary refuge in the tropics, which served as their wintering grounds. Two of these wintering grounds found in the Philippines are Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP) and Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP), providing a resting place for migratory birds along this flyway. Migratory birds play a vital role in the linkage of ecosystems across the globe. They keep every habitat that

they visit healthy and productive, as they serve as natural pollinators, seed dispersers, and pest regulators. With the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and migratory birds, it is crucial to protect and conserve them.

In most wetlands, different institutions conduct waterbird censuses regularly for long-term monitoring. The presence and number of observed waterbirds are vital indicators in



determining the health and quality of wetlands. On the island of Mindoro, MBCFI has been working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Protected Area Management Offices (PAMO) of NLNP and ARNP in monitoring and conserving these wetlands. MBCFI team joined the DENR in different activities conducted in these areas throughout the year.



Asian Waterbird Census in Naujan Lake

Every January, PAMO NLNP, together with MBCFI, DENR-PENRO, DENR-CENRO, DENR-MIMAROPA, local governments, academes, and volunteers, visit the Naujan Lake and count waterbirds. This citizen science program is the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC). It is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring program, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated

by Wetlands International. The census will provide information on an annual basis of waterbird populations in wetlands during the non-breeding period of most species (January). This program is not only to monitor populations of migratory birds, but also the status and condition of a wetland. The activity also promotes the interest of citizens on the importance of waterbirds and wetlands. In 2019, the AWC was conducted on January 17 to 18 at Naujan Lake. The census recorded a total of 2,665 individuals of waterbirds belonging to 25 species. The

most abundant waterbird is the Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*).



THE COUNT RECORDED A TOTAL OF 2,665 INDIVIDUALS OF WATERBIRDS BELONGING TO 25 SPECIES

Monthly Waterbird Count in Naujan Lake



The implementation of the monthly monitoring of waterbirds is one of the management strategies in Naujan Lake.

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is extensive monitoring on the waterbird population found in Naujan Lake, on the other hand, the biodiversity monitoring in the lake

conducted by the PAMO-NLNP is not as extensive. Recent waterbird count records in the lake revealed constant fluctuation stirring confusion within the management office. The AWC recorded the presence and absence of certain waterbirds, and the sudden increase or decrease in the population of

species, among others. The PAMO-NLNP decided to conduct monthly waterbird monitoring in Naujan lake to get a more in-depth understanding of the situation. They began to implement this in 2019, and by the end of the year, there are three (3) newly recorded species for Naujan Lake, which is the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), and Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). According to the book "A guide to the birds of the Philippines" by Robert S. Kennedy, this is the first record of Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) in the Island of Mindoro.

THREE NEWLY RECORDED SPECIES FOR NAUJAN LAKE NATIONAL PARK

Waterbird monitoring in Apo Reef Natural Park

Apo Reef is a protected area categorized as a natural park under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). ARNP is also an important wetland where seabird species forage, breed and rest. Waterbird counting was also implemented in the protected area to monitor the population trend of waterbirds. On March 28-29, 2019, MBCFI, together with PAMO-ARNP, conducted a waterbird survey to assess the population of waterbirds found in the protected area. The team surveyed the three unsubmerged parts of the protected area, which are the Apo Island, Apo Menor (Binangaan), and Cayos del Bajo (Tinangkapan). The survey was able to record a

total of 99 individuals from 10 species of waterbirds. The most numbered recorded species were the Bridled Terns (*Sterna anaethetus*) with 48 individuals, followed by Black-naped Terns (*Sterna sumatrana*) with 22 individuals and Barred Rails (*Gallirallus torquatus*) with 21 individuals.

Among the waterbird species recorded, three are migratory species, and seven are resident species. There are no threatened bird species recorded. The Bridled Tern is considered a rare species, and its nesting population at the ARNP is possibly among the largest in the Philippines.

Aside from waterbirds, there are also 87 individuals from 14 confirmed bird species (+2 identified to a family level only) observed at the ARNP. The list includes four migratory, nine residents, and one Philippine endemic species. The most numerous were the migratory

Chestnut-cheeked Starlings (*Sturnus philippensis*) with 30 individuals, followed by the resident Eurasian Tree-Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) with 18 individuals and resident Olive-backed Sunbirds (w) with 11 individuals.

The survey results showed the importance of the ARNP as a refuge of migratory and resident species; therefore, its protection is of paramount importance.



A TOTAL OF 99 INDIVIDUALS FROM 10 SPECIES OF WATERBIRDS WERE RECORDED IN ARNP



The Tamaraw count 2019

The recent Tamaraw count in the Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro had officially recorded a total of 480 individuals from 18 vantage points. The Tamaraw count, which aims to monitor the status and population of Tamaraws in MIBNP, was initiated in 2000 and became an annual event that takes place in the said protected area during the summer season, specifically in April. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP), organizes and takes the lead in the annual count. The activity is a two-phase undertaking comprised of the actual count and data

consolidation workshop. The actual count uses the Simultaneous Multi-Vantage Point count method, covering the core habitat of the Tamaraw within the MIBNP with an area of approximately 16,000 hectares. As the Tamaraw count progressed through the years, there were attempts to incorporate some innovations or modifications to the counting methodology to increase the accuracy of the count, like deployment of double observer-teams in sites with the highest counts in previous years and incorporation of counting grids (4-hectare per) with a printed map. On the first day, the briefing

tackled wilderness first aid, station assignments, and distribution of supplies and equipment.

The team traveled from DENR-TCP to Station 2. On the next day, the group was divided and dispersed into their respective counting stations and started counting in the afternoon. Counts were conducted two times a day (5:30-7:00 am and 5:00-6:00 pm) for five days. Team members also recorded other characteristics





of Tamaraw individuals, such as the estimated age, sex, and location of the Tamaraw. Other wildlife species encountered were also recorded, including the Philippine Brown Deer and Mindoro Warty Pig, among others.

During the count, some issues were observed in the protected area by the counting team.

Evidence of hunting activities were seen even in areas considered off-limits as per traditional hunting ground agreement with the Indigenous Peoples community--there are numerous spike or spear traps encountered in the core zone sites. The team also observed a recent burning for kaingin that is extremely close to the Tamaraw core habitat.

A TOTAL OF 480 INDIVIDUAL TAMARAWS WERE RECORDED IN MIBNP

28th Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines Symposium

More than 350 conservationists, researchers, government representatives, and students from all over the Philippines and abroad gathered at the recently concluded 28th Annual Biodiversity Symposium held at Visayas State University (VSU), Baybay, Leyte on August 13 to 16, 2019, with the theme “conservation beyond borders” emphasizing the interconnectivity of conservation actions from species protection to ridge-to-reef landscape approach to biodiversity management. This event is a platform for biodiversity conservation specialists and enthusiasts to showcase their scientific breakthroughs, best practices, strategies, and other relevant implementations.

MBCFI participated in the event and presented three

research papers, and set-up an institutional booth showcasing the organization’s efforts in conserving Mindoro and its biodiversity.

The annual symposium was opened formally with the messages from dignitaries. Mr. Edgardo E. Tulin, PhD., President of VSU, welcomed all the participants; Mr. Rainier I. Manalo, President of BCSP,

gave the opening remarks; ASec. Ricardo L. Calderon, Director In Concurrent Capacity, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), represented by Atty. Theresa M. Tenazas, OIC-Chief, Wildlife Resources Division- BMB, and Atty. Crizaldy M. Barcelo, CESO III, Regional Executive Director, DENR Region 8, inspired fellow conservationists with their messages.



RESEARCH PROGRAM



Concurrent talks followed immediately after the plenary-tackling taxonomy, fauna and flora, and biodiversity threats and issues. MBCFI RESEARCH Program Manager, Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, presented a paper entitled "Seabird fauna of Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) and Apo East Pass off western Mindoro, Philippines," providing a comprehensive list of seabird species reported from ARNP and Apo East Pass. The first day ended with the PechaKucha (rapid pitching of poster presentations) and opening of scientific posters and organizational exhibits.

The second day opened with a plenary talk by Mr. Anson M. Tagtag, Chief Wildlife Conservation Section, Wildlife Resource Division, BMB, and Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez, Ph.D., Professor in Zoology and Director, Museum of Natural History, University of the Philippines - Los Banos (UPLB) and also MBCFI's Trustee, presented "Philippine Red List for terrestrial fauna:

Challenges and opportunities for conserving threatened animals in an archipelagic setting." After the plenary talk, concurrent talks related to wildlife studies, fauna and flora, and conservation management, followed. The BCSP general assembly followed immediately after the presentations. The day ended with a film showing of the "Birds of Prey." Participants spent their third day of the symposium in an exposure trip to the Leyte

Sab-a Peatland, one of the two major peatland sites in the country.

The last day of the symposium opened with a series of plenary talks and immediately followed by the morning concurrent talks regarding wildlife studies, diversity and distribution, and conservation management. MBCFI's Project Development and Resource Officer, Elyza Hazel P. Tan, presented a paper entitled "Retracing the largest land mammal in the Philippines," containing the results of the two Tamaraw expeditions conducted in Mt. Gimparay, Oriental Mindoro, and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, Occidental Mindoro. The afternoon concurrent sessions involve studies related to conservation management, wildlife studies, and diversity and distribution. MBCFI's Communication Education Public Awareness Officer, Roderick C. Makiputin presented a paper entitled "Strengthening Environmental Education for Development:



Integrating biodiversity to the K-12 curriculum,” is about the effectivity of the teacher’s training in increasing the capacity of local teachers in Mindoro when it comes to biodiversity knowledge, skills, practices, and attitude. Workshops facilitated by different organizations followed right after the concurrent sessions.

The symposium culminated with the awarding of winners for best poster and oral presentations.



THREE PAPERS WERE PRESENTED DURING THE 28TH BCSP SYMPOSIUM

Tamaraw Population Confirmed in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

The Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) also known as Mindoro Dwarf Buffalo, is the largest native land mammal in the Philippines, listed as Critically Endangered (CR) by the IUCN list of threatened species and the Philippines national list of threatened fauna (DAO 2004-15) due to its extremely low population, the threat of hunting, and habitat loss.

The Tamaraw disappeared from its former range and now restricted only to four sites in Mindoro: Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), Aruyan-Malati Tamaraw Reserve (AMTR), Upper Amnay-Mt.



Gimparay and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS). However, the presence of the Tamaraw population in MCWS has not been verified and estimated for over two (2) decades.

Through the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Tamaraw Conservation Program (DENR-TCP), in collaboration with Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary-Protected Area Management

Office (MCWS-PAMO), DENR-PENRO Mamburao, D’Aboville Foundation, Inc. (DAFI) and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI), a Tamaraw verification survey was conducted in Mt. Calavite, Occidental Mindoro. The expedition aimed to collect up-to-date scientific data on the population of the Tamaraw at MCWS in Brgy. Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro to enhance our understanding of the species and develop

RESEARCH PROGRAM



Tamaraw survey team checking the grassland area of MCWS where the Tamaraws possibly graze.

more appropriate and effective conservation measures.

The team trekked on June 17-21, 2019, to the identified site following recent reports of the occurrence of Tamaraw in the area. Splitting the team into three groups, wherein two groups set up into separate observation points on peaks and ridgelines, overlooking vast expanses of suitable grassland and forest habitats, and the third group entered and searched for Tamaraw in forested areas. Evidence of their presence, such as hoof marks, fecal deposits, and grazing, were noted and photographed. The team conducted the rapid visual assessments of the habitats in sites where they saw the Tamaraw or observed evidence of its presence. To supplement current knowledge on the current status and life history of the Tamaraw, team members also conducted interviews with key informants—Tamaraw rangers and Mangyan guides. There are Tamaraw in a

variety of habitats in slopes and ridges leading up to the summit of Mt. Calavite. Based on observation, the three main habitat types where the concentration of tracks, dung, wallows, and Tamaraw were in grassland, climbing/creeping bamboo, and forest (lowland forest and lower montane forest). During the survey, the team observed a lone juvenile male Tamaraw resting in a patch of 1-meter tall grass. However, the presence of the roving team alerted the Tamaraw, which made a bluff charge before



running off in the opposite direction. Upon inspection of the site, there are fresh tracks, dung, and evidence of grazing on the leaves of the surrounding vegetation. In another encounter, the team heard rumbling of hooves in a forest patch above 1,000masl. Inspection of the site revealed two fresh sets of hoof prints on wet soil – from an adult and young. Fecal deposits (some old and weathered), hoof prints, and evidence of grazing were also observed in several areas near the peak of Mt. Calavite but were not very common. The team encountered several wallows, but only a few had evidence of recent use. Based on these physical marks, the estimated population size is 4-6 individuals is inhabiting the area south of Mt. Calavite's peak.

In the 1987 report, there are about 45 tamaraw individuals present in Mt. Calavite. The last confirmed presence of Tamaraw at MCWS was in 1994 during the field visit by Kalikasan Mindoro



Foundation Inc. (KMFI), with one individual sighted aside from observation of tracks and dung. However, succeeding field surveys by Tsukuba University and DENR in 2010, the MBCFI in 2013 and the Field Museum of Natural History, failed to report actual sightings of Tamaraw, aside from wallow, several tracks, and fecal deposits. This survey confirmed the presence of the Tamaraw in MCWS after 25 years of the last sighting. It is, however, recommended that there should be more extensive surveys conducted in forest and grasslands on the northern slope of Mt. Calavite.

It is necessary to incorporate regulations to protected area management, and ecotourism plans to restrict camping areas near the Tamaraw habitats

and limit day trips to treks to Pamburutan (Eagle Rock). Intensification of enforcement and protection measures should be made possible by increasing the number of rangers and frequency of patrolling efforts. It is also vital to raise awareness and engage local forest-dependent communities to reinforce active participation in biodiversity conservation and habitat protection.

EVIDENCE SUCH AS FRESH HOOF MARKS, FECAL DEPOSITS, GRAZING AND WALLOWING AREA WERE OBSERVED DURING THE TAMARAW EXPEDITION

East-asian Australasian Flyway Congress

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership is a network of partners within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). It aims to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them. The Philippines is part of the EAAF and is providing wintering grounds to thousands of migratory birds. There are seven (7) wetlands in the country recognized as wetland



of international importance or Ramsar Site along with 70 other wetlands that are critical waterbird habitats contributing to the Philippines' global importance for conservation. The EAAF Research and Development Congress serves as a platform for the exchange of scientific information,

updates, concerns, and status relevant to the research and development on migratory waterbirds and wetlands within the EAAF.

MBCFI, together with the PAMO-NLNP, participated in the 2nd Research and Development Congress on

RESEARCH PROGRAM

East Asian-Australasian Flyway held on October 9, 2019, at L'Fisher Hotel, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, organized by the DENR-Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB). The activity aims to strengthen partnerships among EAAF states through identifying research and development gaps and other initiatives for the conservation of migratory birds and their wetland habitat in the face of

climate change. "Establishing the Naujan Lake National Park as a Protected Landscape" is a paper authored by MBCFI and PAMO-NLNP and was presented during the 2nd EAAF Congress by MBCFI RESEARCH Program Manager, Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, showing the importance of NLNP to the locals, to migratory birds and other wildlife, and its declaration to be a protected area under the

National Integrated Protected Area System.



RESEARCH program manager, Don Geoff E. Tabaranza at the 2nd EAAF Congress

RESEARCH staff received an International award

Elyza Hazel Tan is the Project Development and Resource Officer under the RESEARCH Program. She was one of the six awardees of the 2019 Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award, the first of its kind grant given to Filipino conservationists engaged in biodiversity conservation. She attended a three-week conservation skills training from October 9-30, 2019, with Chester Zoo, in Cheshire, England, with all expenses, from travel, food, and accommodation

shouldered by the said zoo, one of largest zoos in the United Kingdom.

The Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award 2019 honors the legacy of William Oliver (1947-2014), a British conservationist and a dedicated champion for the wildlife of the Philippines for more than two decades. This year's awards aim to financially and technically support six conservation projects in the Philippines that will have positive conservation

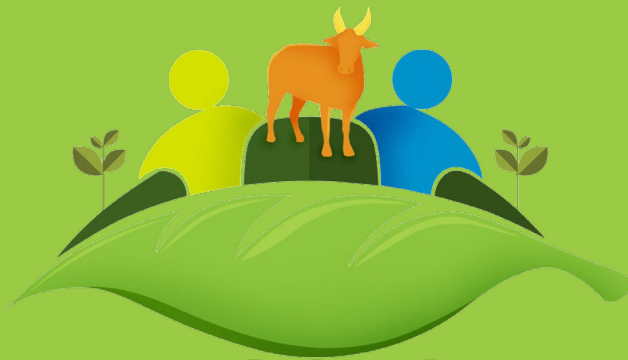
impact for target species.

Her passion for Tamaraws made her decide to write a proposal to the Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award, covering a two-year conservation project in the Philippines dealing with the Tamaraws.

While in the UK together with the other young Filipino attendees, trainers from Chester zoo introduced them to various capacity skills that delved on multi-disciplinary approaches like project design theory, conservation planning process, budgeting, presentation skills, leadership, and management courses, stressing the importance of strengthening conservation networks within the Philippines by promoting collaboration among the project implementors that will be of vital use in stakeholder engagement.



Elyza Hazel P. Tan attending a training at the Chester Zoo, Cheshire, England



MISSION

Mindoro Island Symbolic Species Icons of Nature

MISSION PROGRAM

MBCFI maintained its assistance to the communities of its priority sites more specifically in preparing the People's Organizations (PO) to become sustainable. 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 to improve their livelihood and maintain their restoration and woodlot sites.



MISSION PROGRAM

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

Oriental Mindoro

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

Occidental Mindoro

- Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) in Brgy. Harrison, Paluan
- Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP) 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 at sa Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan (MAKAPAKA) in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal
- Pangkalikasang 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





Community efforts in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

MBCFI took the lead in community development through sustainable and eco-friendly interventions in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS). Members of Pangkalisang Samahan ng Ulasan (PSU) and Samahang Bantay Calavite ng Paluan (SABACAP) received technical assistance from the foundation to enhance their capacity in becoming sustainable communities with healthy ecosystem through biodiversity conservation and management.

Paluan, where PSU and SABACAP members reside, is known for cashew plantations. In earlier years, locals would only generate income from cashew seeds, wherein they discarded cashew apples or give them to pigs as feeds. On

March 18-23, 2019, members of PSU and SABACAP were given a training on food processing to maximize the utilization of the fruit, from cashew apple down to its seed. From the training, they were able to produce 100 liters of cashew vinegar and 100 liters of cashew wine. They also constructed a processing house where they store and process cashew products and conduct other organizational related activities.

With the high inclination of communities to agriculture, MBCFI also assisted in fertilizer production by providing nine (9) vermicomposting beds which are now maintained by the members of the two organizations. They were able to produce 31 sacks of vermicast, which was used

by members in their woodlot plantations and gardens—leaning towards low-cost, eco-friendly agricultural inputs. PSU also implemented micro-credit projects for its members. In 2018, the organization accumulated a start-up capital of PHP 47,000.00 from the members' savings and income from organizational activities, which the members can loan in times of need. In 2019, the money available for loan increased to PHP 75,126.00, which has been an enormous help for the members of the organization at time of crisis.



FOOD PROCESSING AND MICROCREDIT PROJECTS FOR MEMBERS OF SABACAP AND PSU

MBCFI joins Local Government Unit of San Jose in helping local POs



Together with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, MBCFI provided technical assistance to the local stakeholders of Ilin and Ambulong Islands through an organizational development activity aimed at harnessing their full capability and ingenuity in a self-reliant community.

Under the MISSION program, MBCFI also entered into a conservation agreement with Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Mamamayan para sa Kagalingan ng Pamayanan (NAGSAMAKAPA) and Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat (IAMBAG) containing their action and enforcement plans, to strengthen the partnership in protecting the biodiversity of Ilin and Ambulong Islands.

One of the efforts provided by the foundation is the

construction of Balay Sandigan, which serves as a multi-purpose hall where PO members can converge. PO members also use the area to process sineguelas (Spanish plums) products. Sineguelas is one of the town's popular fruits.

In April and May 2019, NAGSAMAKAPA members produced 120 bottles of sineguelas jelly, 20 bottles of jam, 1000 liters of vinegar,

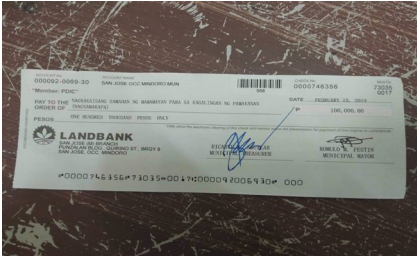


and 650 liters of wine. In July, they were able to produce 1000 bottles of pure sineguelas vinegar at 350 ml per bottle. MBCFI also provided technical support in the planting of sineguelas, now totaling to 833 stalks. The PO members' goal is for their area to become the town's popular source of sineguelas for food processing enterprise, even beyond the fruiting season.

To increase the yield in their plantations and growth of seedlings for woodlot and restoration sites, MBCFI also provided seven (7) vermiculture beds which are being maintained by the IAMBAG members.

Aside from vermibeds, they were also assisted in the propagation of 2,200 Narra wildlings in an open nursery in Barangay Labangan, Ilin Island, San Jose. The cooperators from IAMBAG will use the seedlings--upon reaching the right planting height and diameter--as mortality replacement.

To continuously monitor and



protect Ilin and Ambulong Islands, IAMBAG members and DENR staff conducted foot patrolling on March and June 2019. They informed and warned timber poachers to stop their illegal activities.

the recording of transactions using treasurer's cash receipt and cash disbursement books and preparation of basic financial statements. PO members have also been trained on the development of project proposals. They were able to receive a grant from the Municipality of San Jose amounting to Php 100,000 and received 20 pieces of monoblock chairs from the office of Governor Eduardo Gadiano.



Aside from training and workshops regarding biodiversity conservation, MBCFI also provided simple bookkeeping and accounting training on May 20-21, 2019. Fifteen officers and members gained basic knowledge on

PHP 100,000.00 GRANT FOR FOOD PROCESSING SECURED FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Community Efforts in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park

Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park is one of the priority sites of MBCFI, being the home to the largest native land mammal of the Philippines, the critically endangered Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*). To help conserve and protect Mts. Iglit-Baco, MBCFI, provided different trainings and technical assistance to locals within the protected area to lessen the pressure on biodiversity.

One of the long-standing project in MIBNP is the bio-intensive gardening, which was introduced to the communities to provide them alternative sources and easy access to food. The Pangkalisang Samahang Buhid ng Bato-singit (PSBB) constructed a



communal garden where they planted vegetables such as mustard and pechay, among others. PO members established a total of nine (9) bio-intensive garden beds to accommodate their needs. The communities also

implemented one of MBCFI's conservation strategies, the establishment of restoration and woodlot areas, wherein locals provided a minimum of one hectare of their farm lots for this purpose. Woodlot cooperators planted different



species of trees in their fields with various uses such as fuelwood, fruit-bearing for food, hardwood for infrastructure, and native trees for reforestation. To ensure the constant supply of native trees for the restoration areas, PSBB built a native tree nursery containing 2,000 various native tree species seedlings for mortality replacements. The Nagkakaisang Tao-buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalagan Kalikasan (NTTPK) in Sitio Tamisan in Calintaan, also

constructed their native tree nursery and propagated 5,000 native seedlings.

In relation to the bio-intensive gardens and restoration and woodlot areas, both PSBB and NTTPK constructed vermicompost beds to produce organic fertilizers to increase their yield in their agricultural projects and would generate extra income for the members. NTTPK and PSBB are maintaining five (5) and six (6) vermicompost beds,

respectively. Both organizations were able to yield seven (7) sacks of vermicast in 2019 and used in their plantations and communal vegetable garden.

One of the major highlights among the accomplishments of the PSBB is the awarding of the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) project to their organization with a total budget of PHP 2.2 million. The organization received PHP 300,000.00 for a one-year protection and maintenance contract, and now on their final phase.

A TOTAL OF 7,000 NATIVE TREE SPECIES WERE PROPAGATED BY NTTPK AND PSBB TO ENSURE SUPPLY OF SEEDLINGS IN RESTORATION AREAS

Community Efforts in Mt. Halcon, Oriental Mindoro



Mt. Halcon, known to many as the highest mountain in Mindoro and a popular mountaineering destination, is considered as a key biodiversity area. This mountain boasts a plethora of biodiversity, most notably its plant diversity. To alleviate pressure on the biodiversity of Mt. Halcon, MBCFI assisted with different trainings and workshops to selected



communities within the area. MBCFI has been working with the POs Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang in Barangay Lantuyang and Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon in Barangay Bayanan in the Municipality of Baco, Oriental Mindoro. The longstanding projects in Mt. Halcon include the woodlot sites and vermicomposting.

To help improve the economic status of the members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon, MBCFI assisted in establishing a system to export their non-timber forest products such as

bananas, young and mature coconuts that the organization bought from the locals of the barangay. For their start-up capital, they were able to accumulate PhP 50,000.00 from their monthly savings and monetary input from MBCFI projects and was able to increase it to PHP 80,000.00 before 2019 ended.

Another livelihood project implemented by Kawaras in Barangay Bayanan was their rice trading project. This project started in 2018 to address the overpriced

rice in the Barangay. The organization obtained its supply directly from a rice mill in Calapan City for a much lower price. With a small price increase, the rice was sold to the community prioritizing the members of the organization. Started with a capital of PhP 14,000.00 in 2018, they now have a revolving fund of PHP 30,000.00.

Leaders and members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon decided to build a hall that will be utilized by the PO members for their organization-related activities such as meetings, trainings, and workshops, among others. The multi-purpose hall will also serve as a storage unit for their local community produce, as well as their procured rice for their rice trading project.

CONSTRUCTED A MULTI-PURPOSE HALL FOR THE MEMBERS OF KAWARAS GABAY AKYAT HALCON



Efforts in Dulangan, Puerto Galera



Mt. Malasimbo in Puerto Galera is another key biodiversity area in Mindoro and is also one of the priority sites of MBCFI.

Before implementing community interventions in the area, MBCFI conducted a social investigation in Sitio Marmolan, Dulangan, Puerto Galera, on February 18-21, 2019. This activity aims to evaluate the situation of the IPs in the area in terms of economy and residency.

Conservation work like in any other sites requires the participation of the locals situated in the area. MBCFI, through the MISSION

program, facilitated the formation of a core group in Sitio Marmolan with 33 indigenous people as initial members, the newly formed core group will take the lead in future conservation efforts in the area. MBCFI is now working on their registration to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

In preparation of the establishment of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) in the said area, the MISSION program facilitated the clearing/weeding wherein 22 IP members helped on April 10-16, 2019, and was able to clear five hectares of the MBCC site.

One of the components of MBCC is the demonstration farm that will showcase MBCFI's community interventions, together with other agricultural technology and innovations. In preparation for its establishment, MBCFI established four open nurseries on June 25-29, 2019, with each nursery containing 1,250 native trees.

**A TOTAL OF 5,000
NATIVE WILDLINGS
PROPAGATED IN
NURSERIES**



CARE PROGRAM

MBCFI continuously conducts various activities through formal and non-formal education using different media to raise awareness and increase the knowledge of our stakeholders regarding biodiversity gearing towards its protection and management.

World Wetlands Day 2019

Wetlands are diverse and productive ecosystems that are flooded with water either permanently or seasonally. Such areas exist all around the globe and provide multiple benefits to humans and other living creatures. Annually, every 2nd day of February, an international environmental event called the World Wetlands Day, is being celebrated to recognize the importance of these ecosystems. For 2019, we celebrated with the theme “Wetlands and Climate Change” to remind everyone that wetlands serve a vital role in mitigating climate change and minimizing damage to the environment.

As an advance celebration for the World Wetlands Day, MBCFI, together with the



A talk on Mindoro's biodiversity given by Jezryl Jaeger Garcia during the World Wetlands Day 2019

PAMO-NLNP, conducted an awareness campaign last February 1, 2019, at Aurelio Arago Memorial National High School (AAMNHS), Barangay Leido, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. Our staff, Mr. Jezryl Jaeger Garcia, along with Mr. Jose Maria Fontanilla and Mr. Rayson Alfante of PAMO-NLNP, discussed about Mindoro biodiversity, wetlands, and climate change to 94 high school students of AAMNHS. The students have shown

active participation during the event, as evidenced by their responses during the question and answer session.

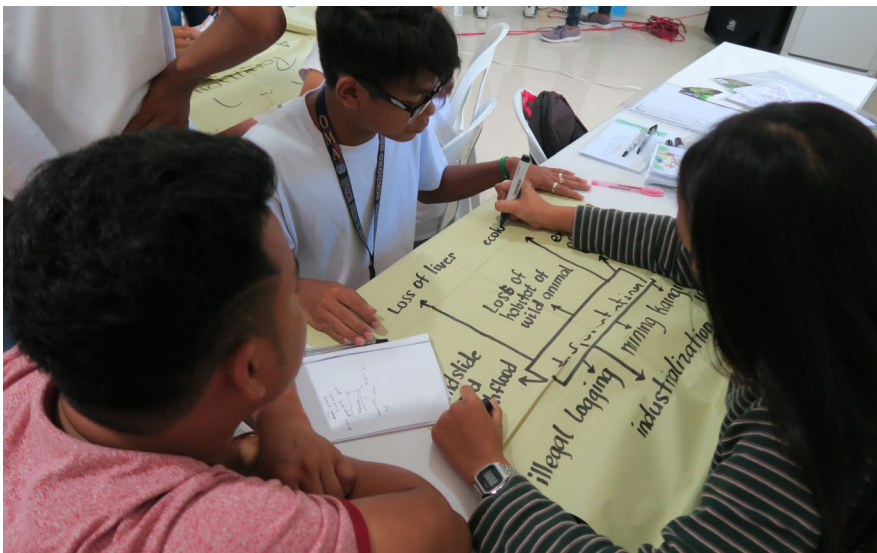
**A TOTAL OF
94 STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN
THE CELEBRATION OF
WORLD WETLANDS DAY
2019**



RESEARCH program manager, Don Geoff Tabaranza (brown shirt with binoculars), facilitating the bird watching activity during the Eco-camp for youth leaders.

Eco-camp for Youth Leaders

Youth has an essential role in environmental advocacies and must be aware of the issues and concerns that our environment is currently facing. They can encourage fellow youths to promote and support environmental conservation and sustainability. This year, in partnership with



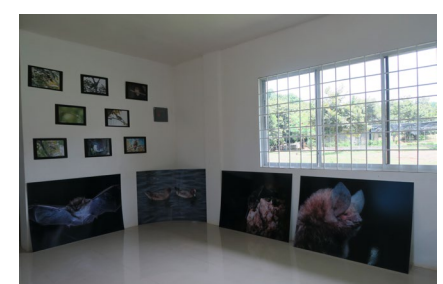
the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, through their Environment and Natural Resources Office, we selected Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members from different municipalities to participate in the Eco-camp on May 27-30, 2019. This activity aimed to increase the awareness of SK members toward biodiversity conservation and Mindoro's state of the environment by discussing significant issues and concerns. Moreover, it is also to encourage them to lead and participate in environmental protection

and conservation events and activities as well as help them prepare project proposals related to it.

The four-day summer Eco-camp coincides with the celebration of International Day of Biological Diversity, and was held at Provincial Demo Farm, Merit, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. A total of 30 youths coming from all over Oriental Mindoro attended the activity. Activities during the summer camp include basic leadership and teamwork actions, environmental

talks, poster making, science communication, bird watching, and proposal writing. To increase the level of encouragement, enjoyment, and competitiveness among the participants, they were randomly clustered into two teams to compete against each other.

Each team solved different complex problems that built camaraderie and leadership skills amongst the members. Various talks followed, tackling Philippines and Mindoro biodiversity, and thematic presentation in celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity with the theme "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health." The participants' favorite activity was the bird watching led by Mr. Don Geoff Tabaranza, MBCFI's RESEARCH Program Manager. Students learned the proper use of binoculars and how to identify common birds found in agroforestry ecosystem.



MBCFI receives a Quill Award



The Shell Philippines Exploration, B.V., and MBCFI received an Award of Merit at the 17th Philippine Quill Awards held on August 30, 2019, at the Marriot Grand Ballroom, Pasay City, Philippines.

The Philippine Quill is the country’s most prestigious awarding body in the field of business communication. It has been bestowing the seal of approval to the most reputable

organizations and corporations in the nation for almost two decades, emphasizing the use of excellent communication to achieve business goals and to make a difference in society.

Our entry, “Mindoro TREASURES: Teaching Reference for Environment Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources,” won under the category of Communication Training and Education. In 2018, the

foundation published and launched the environmental sourcebook after five years of brainstorming, writing, and revising through the concerted efforts of MBCFI and the Department of Education.

The said sourcebook contained 75 different lessons divided into three parts. The first section introduced and described the rich biodiversity and culture of Mindoro. The daily lesson logs drafted by teachers with integration of biodiversity is on the second section of the sourcebook. The last part contains various teaching strategies that can be used by teachers in integrating biodiversity and make their daily lessons more enjoyable.



(Left to right) Grace Diamante, Elyza Hazel Tan, Dr. Leticia Afuang, Sebastian Quiniones Jr., Kathy Lene S. Cielo, attended the Quill Awards 2019



International Coastal Clean-up 2019

The 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 littering the coastline. The initiative aims to document what type of debris is found most in the ocean and on its shores. Data collected will help in formulating conservation measures to protect and conserve our ocean. Since then, volunteers around the globe have been conducting the international coastal clean-up.

In support of this worldwide initiative, MBCFI, together with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Ansiray, facilitated the clean-up in the coasts of Barangay Ansiray on September 21, 2019. The Barangay is in Ilin Island, a small island located at the southernmost part of Occidental Mindoro. This island is the stronghold of one of the last two known



populations of critically endangered Philippine Teak (*Tectona philippinensis*). With the help of the Barangay Captain, Hon. Marlon Ramintas, who took charge of inviting his constituents, 54 locals participated in the clean-up.

Mr. Roderick C. Makiputin, CARE Program Officer, started the activity with a briefing about the event. Barangay Captain Ramintas gave instructions as to where the specific area of the clean-up will be. Trashes collected during the clean-up were

brought to the open space of the barangay hall for segregation. The volunteers collected a total of 130kg of trash where grocery plastic bags and other materials were the most collected at 88.3kg. Mr. Makiputin then ended the activity with a short talk on biodiversity.

THE MOST ENCOUNTERED MATERIAL IS GROCERY PLASTIC BAG AT 88.3KG COLLECTED

MBCFI awarded best woodlot cooperators



Mr. Cynaan Agpay (Left) from Pangkalisang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato-singit (PSBB), with Ms. Kathy Lene S. Cielo (Right) of MBCFI, during the awarding of best woodlot cooperator 2019

CARE PROGRAM

Before 2019 ended, MBCFI awarded nine woodlot cooperators in Mindoro with clean, orderly and sustainable nurseries, bio-intensive gardens, and woodlot sites. MBCFI selected the awardees based on the evaluation made by a licensed forester on the woodlots using a set of criteria like survivability, cleanliness, use of organic fertilizer, and submitted reports, among others.



For Mt. Halcon in Oriental Mindoro, the three winners were Loremo Agabayan of Barangay Lantuyang, Dario Calangay, and Rene Umalmin of Barangay Bayanan in the town of Baco. Mr. Agabayan belongs to the Alangan tribe while Mr. Calangay and Umalmin belong to Iraya tribe. In Rizal and Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro, 34 woodlot cooperators maintained approximately 57 hectares of restoration and woodlot areas with more than 40,000 seedlings/wildlings of native tree species, grafted mango, calamansi, sintores, and dwarf coconut. The two awardees were Cynaan Agpay of Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid ng Bato-Singit in Rizal and Fausto Novelozo of Nagkakaisang Tau-Buid ng Tamisan sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan.



In Ilin and Ambulong Islands, 17 cooperators have planted more than 3,000 seedlings/wildlings of native tree species, grafted mango, calamansi, sintores, and dwarf coconut



on about 10 hectares of restoration sites and woodlot sites. The awardees were Wenefredo Enelda and Regan Empacta of Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Mamamayan para sa Kapakanan ng Pamayanan.

In Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, also in Occidental Mindoro, there are approximately 40 hectares of restoration and woodlot sites planted with more than 8,000 seedlings/wildlings of native tree species, grafted mango, calamansi, sintores, and dwarf coconut seedlings. The best woodlots awardees were Ardin Landason and Joey Tagumpay. Cynaan Agpay of Pangkalikasang Samahang Buhid ng Bato-Singit in



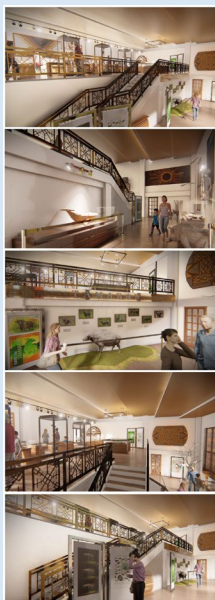
Rizal was declared the overall winner. During the awarding ceremonies, MBCFI also provided talks to the communities regarding Mindoro biodiversity.



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 sq.m. 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.

Originally conceptualized in the late 2000s, the establishment of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) has been a long time coming. While 2019 was a landmark year in realizing the vision of the MBCC, the start-up of it in the past two years has not been easy. Meetings, consultations, and presentations to relevant stakeholders seemed endless. But the results for MBCC this year is crucial in laying down

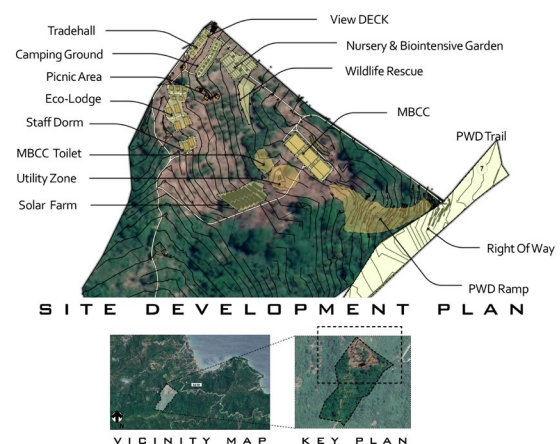


a good foundation for the next few years.

The year started slow as the original architectural & engineering (A&E) designer withdrew from the project. A hard pivot to secure a new designer was necessary between February to March 2019, where the design project was announced and bid out. In April 2019, L.A. Gan Associates, a network of architecture, interiors, landscape, master

planning, and green building professionals, signed a contract with MBCFI to work on the A&E design of MBCC. After that, the team conducted site visits and consultations, resulting in the formulation of good conceptual plans for the center.

In finalizing the conceptual design, MBCFI and L.A. Gan collaborated on a front-end loading workshop participated by the MBCFI Chairman,



CARE PROGRAM



President, management team, and the L.A. Gan team. The session proved an essential step to brainstorm and level off on a shared understanding of the vision for what the center will be and will contain.

The MISSION team, with the help of the local community, also contributed to the initial work for MBCC by establishing native nursery chambers that supply seedlings for the living fence of the center.



(Left tot right) Desiree Gestiada, Roy Cabonegro, Grace Diamante, Hon. Neopito Babao, Ed Suzara, Juan Valdez Jr., Eli-jed Tamboong.

Within the 3rd and last quarter of 2019, L.A.Gan finalized the A&E design of MBCC, which later became the basis for the construction bids in December.

MBCFI also conducted various stakeholder engagement meetings with different levels of government institutions to introduce the project, seek support, and recognize and manage expectations.



(Left to right) Grace C. Diamante, Mayor Rocky D. Ilagan, Elvin Anthony Madamba, Desiree L. Gestiada

In September 2019, the MBCC team presented the project to the Barangay Captain of Dulangan, Hon. Neopito Babao. Barangay Dulangan, where MBCC will rise, will gain from the presence of MBCC through environmental and biodiversity conservation, and tourism activity. The non-monetary benefits of MBCC piqued the interest of the Barangay Captain that he agreed to facilitate the next project presentation to the rest of their Barangay Council members.

In November 2019, the

MBCC team paid a courtesy visit to Hon. Mayor Rocky Ilagan of the Municipality of Puerto Galera. After the brief presentation, Mayor Ilagan immediately expressed his enthusiasm and support for MBCC in Puerto Galera, seeking a Memorandum of Agreement between the two parties.

With L.A. Gan, MBCFI presented the MBCC project to the Provincial Administrator of Oriental Mindoro, Hon. Dr. Hubbert Dolor, in December 2019, where the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PGENRO) Mr. Mike Jumig and Provincial Tourism Investment and Enterprise Development Officer (PTIEDO) Mr. Orlando Tizon were present. Provincial Administrator Dr. Dolor also shared that they will be building a museum in Oriental Mindoro. He recommended that MBCFI closely collaborate with the provincial government to align the museum plans.

With all the preparatory work laid by the MBCC team this year and in previous years, the center inches closer to groundbreaking and construction. The bidding process for the awarding of the contract for the development



(Left to right) Cyrell Quiboy, Aj Casoy, Fred, Dacasin, Roy Cabonegro, Elvin Madamba, Louwie Gan, Grace Diamante, Dr. Hubert A. Dolor, Desiree Gestiada, _____, Cesar Vilan, Mike Jumig.

of MBCC started in December 2019. MBCFI received several bids within the month. The announcement of the winning contractor will be on the first quarter of 2020, and construction will commence afterwards.

Aside from the pre-construction activities, the MBCC team has also been working diligently on other facets of developing MBCC, including exploring various partnership opportunities to deliver different support for the development of the center. MBCFI identifies potential donors, and initiated processes to draft project grant proposals. Various solicitation letters to possible providers of specific elements

of the MBCC design like the solar energy system, the Mangyan heritage halls, the demonstration greenhouses were prepared and sent out. Moreover, the museum program of the MBCC has also been progressing in the areas of storyline development, exhibit design studies, building the database for possible museum suppliers and exhibit fabricators, establishing collaborations for museum research and collection with various institutions such as, the National Museum, University of the Philippines, Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology, and coordinating with the Provincial Tourism Office of Oriental Mindoro in aligning the MBCC museum with that of the province.

You can support MBCC by donating. Please visit our website for more information: info@mbcfi.org.ph

A tropical beach scene with a boat and a hut. The background shows a clear blue sky, a sandy beach, and a line of lush green trees. In the foreground, the water is a vibrant turquoise color with visible ripples. A small boat with a white canopy is docked on the left, and a traditional wooden hut with a thatched roof is on the right. Several colorful flags are visible on poles along the beach.

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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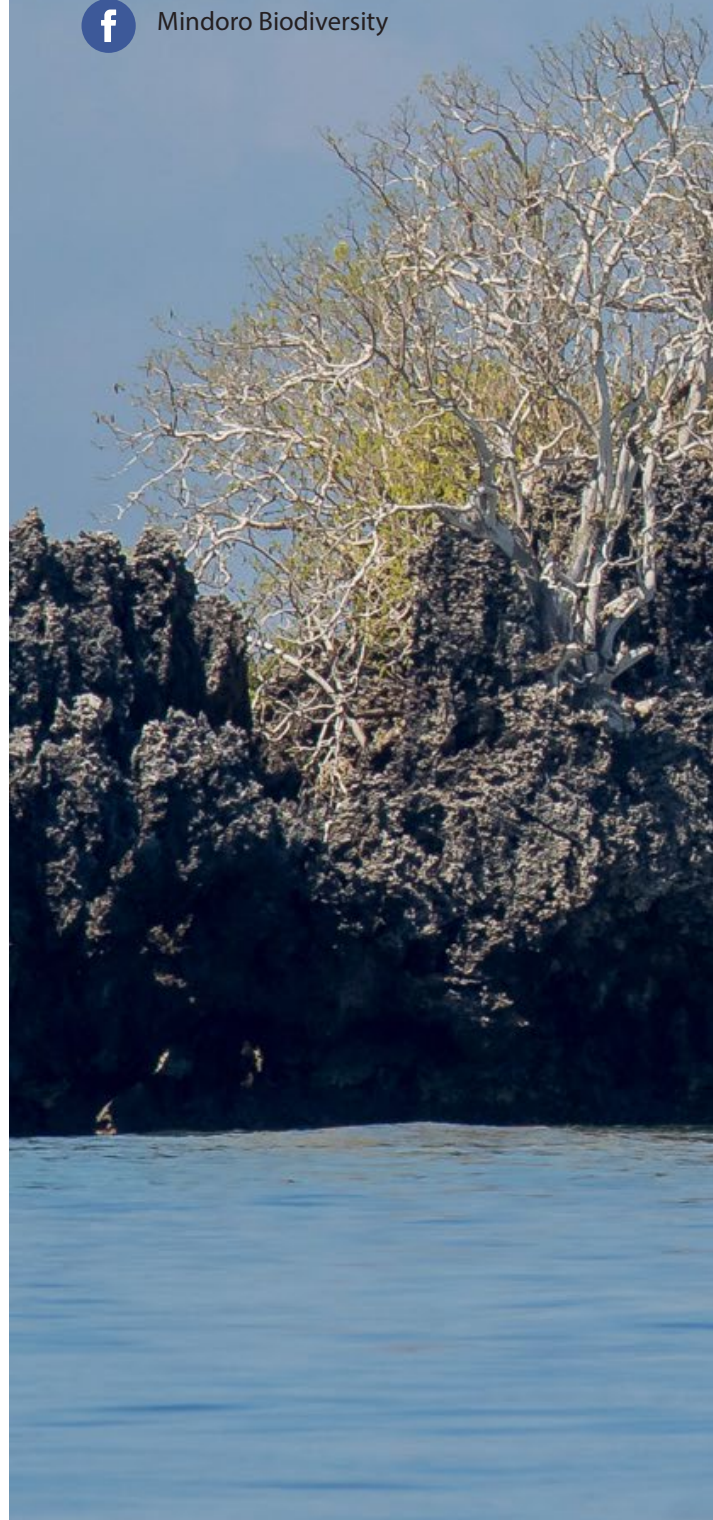
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Mindoro Biodiversity



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