



MINDORO

Biodiversity

July - September 2019 The official newsletter of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

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MBCFI Way

MBCFI bagged a Quill Award

by: Kyle S. Cielo



MBCFI trustees and staff with DepEd MIMAROPA ARD receiving the award (From left: Dr. Leticia E. Afuang- MBCFI Vice President; Dr. Ruth L. Fuentes- DepEd MIMAROPA Asst. Regional Director, Sebastian C. Quiniones- MBCFI Chairman; Kathy Lene S. Cielo- MBCFI CARE Program Manager; Grace C. Diamante- MBCFI Executive Director; Elyza P. Tan- MBCFI Project Development and Resource Officer)

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.

This environmental sourcebook was made through the concerted efforts between MBCFI and the Department of Education. Its formulation started from the Basic Education Curriculum up to the K-12 that took about five years to finish.

The environmental sourcebook contained 75 lessons divided into three parts. Part one described the rich biodiversity and culture of Mindoro. The second part included lesson logs drafted by teachers, wherein biodiversity concepts were integrated into their daily lessons. And the third part contained different teaching strategies that can be used by teachers to make their daily lessons enjoyable.

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.

The MBCFI Way

MBCFI participated in the 28th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium

by Roderick C. Makiputin



MBCFI Board of Trustees and Staff at the BCSP 2019 (From left: Roderick C. Makiputin- CARE IEC Officer; Kyle S. Cielo- CARE Program Manager; Elyza P. Tan- Project Development and Resource Officer; Dr. Leticia E. Afuang- BOT Vice President; Geoff E. Tabaranza- RESEARCH Program Manager; Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez- BOT member)

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. This year's theme "conservation beyond borders" emphasizes 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.



Elyza Hazel Tan at the MBCFI booth

MBCFI participated in the event and presented three research papers. As well, an institutional booth was set up showcasing the organization's efforts in conserving Mindoro and its biodiversity.

The event started with the registration of participants, which was facilitated by the event secretariat. The annual symposium was opened formally with the messages from dignitaries. Mr. Edgaro 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. The plenary continued with the presentations of event partners.

Concurrent talks followed immediately after the plenary talks, 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," that provides 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.



Don Geoff Tabaranza presenting his paper at the BCSP 2019

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. After the day's sessions, the BCSP members' general assembly was held, while the non-BCSP members joined the VSU campus tour. The day ended with a film showing of the "Birds of Prey."



Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez, BOT Member on his plenary talk

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." The paper covered the results of the two Tamaraw expeditions conducted in Mt. Gimparay, in Oriental Mindoro, and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, in Occidental Mindoro. The afternoon concurrent sessions involve papers 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.



Elyza Hazel Tan presenting her paper on Tamaraw



Roderick Makiputin presenting his paper on Teacher's Survey



Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez during the press conference

Species in Focus

The Mindoro Hornbill

by Kristine M. Alingod

Common name:	Mindoro Hornbill/ Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill
Scientific name:	<i>Penelopides mindorensis</i>
Conservation status:	Endangered



Photo by Godfrey Jakosalem

One of 239 endemic birds in the Philippines, the Talusi or Tariktik as Mangyans and other locals call the Mindoro Hornbill, is a relatively small hornbill that grows to 45 cm and makes its distinctive tar-ic-tic call in single bursts or long episodes. Males have a wing length of 239 mm while females have wings 230 mm long. This species is endemic to the island of Mindoro, which was initially widespread throughout the island in the 1970s.

This tarictic lives to be about 20-25 years old. Unlike the other four tarictic hornbills found only in the Philippines that have males and females differentiated by white and black underparts respectively, both sexes of the Mindoro Hornbill have white underparts. Females are identified by their blue eye rings and facial skin while males have pinkish faces.

The preferred habitat of this species is primary forest. However, individuals were also observed in secondary growth forests, and forest edges.

This species is an important seed disperser in the forest, but unfortunately, it is currently threatened and under the conservation status endangered (EN) by the IUCN Redlist due to hunting and habitat loss brought about by logging and firewood collection, and kaingin cultivation.

In 2018, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary took pride in making this valuable bird species as the protected area's flagship species and committed to implementing measures to ensure the long term conservation of this species.

Virtual Tour of Mindoro's Key Biodiversity Areas

Mount Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

by Roderick C. Makiputin

Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS) is a protected area (PA) under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) located in the northernmost part of the island of Mindoro. The PA was declared as a game refuge and bird sanctuary through Executive Order No. 9 on the 28th of January 1920. Later on, established as an additional component of the NIPAS through Presidential Proclamation No. 292, issued on 23rd of April 2000. Boasting a height of 1500 meters above sea level, the PA has a total land area of 18,016 hectares. Three barangays comprise the total land area of the PA, namely, Harrison, Alipaoy, and Mananao, where the majority of the area is under barangay Harrison.

The PA is also known for its high species diversity and endemism. Identified as one of the Key Biodiversity Areas of the Philippines, MCWS is home to many island endemic plants and animals. It hosts the endemic Mindoro Hornbill, Mindoro Striped-face Fruit Bat, Philippine Duck, and other animals. You can also find different habitat types in the area, and these are tropical moist deciduous forest, montane forest, grassland, wetlands, and agricultural lands. Its natural beauty and wondrous scenery draw attention to many mountaineering enthusiasts, bird watchers, and other tourists in the Philippines, which generates income for the locals.

Mt. Calavite is not only important in terms of biodiversity but also culturally. It is home to one of the ethnolinguistic groups of Mangyan, the Iraya tribe. It is also known to host the largest native land mammal of the Philippines, the Tamaraw. A sighting of a small population of Tamaraw was recorded during an expedition this June 2019.



Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary Landscape

The MBCFI Way

International Coastal Clean-up 2019

by Roderick C. Makiputin



Coastal Clean-Up at Barangay Ansiray, Ilin Island, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

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 trash littering the coastline. The initiative aims to document what the most recorded trash found in the ocean and on the 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, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (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 the critically endangered Philippine Teak (*Tectona philippinensis*). With the help of the Barangay Captain, Hon. Marlon Ramintas, who took charge in 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 for 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 plastic materials were the most collected at 88.3kg. Mr. Makiputin ended the activity with his talk on biodiversity.

Eco-warriors on Spotlight

Conservation and Protection of Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

by Roderick C. Makiputin

Protected Areas are locations that receive protection because of their recognized natural, ecological, and cultural values. The Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS) is one of the protected areas found in Occidental Mindoro. Like other protected areas, the MCWS is managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and maintained by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). Headed by the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), the PAMO takes the lead in the implementation of environmental laws and regulations to protect and conserve Mt. Calavite. Here are the highlights of the activities of the MCWS-PAMO for 2019.

Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS)

BMS is a method conducted quarterly in protected areas to constantly monitor the status of biodiversity and threats in the PA. It is a repeated data sampling to observe the change in the biodiversity of the PA. The objective of the system is to improve the information available for decision and policy-makers. This would enable them to provide management recommendations applicable to the PA. The PAMO already conducted three BMS surveys this year, both in the Sitio Hinugasan and Ulasan in Barangay Harrison.

Regular Patrolling using LAWIN system

Aside from the quarterly biodiversity monitoring in the PA, the PAMO also conducts regular patrolling with the use of LAWIN (Landscape and Wildlife Indicator) Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. LAWIN is a forest and biodiversity protection system using the CyberTracker, a mobile application that records forest conditions, wildlife sighting, and forest threats. During patrolling, the CyberTracker is used to record geo-referenced observation of threats, wildlife, and forest condition. Each PAMO has a 10km patrolling target every month.



BMS survey at MCWS



MCWS PAMB Meeting

Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring Systems (BAMS)

Another type of biodiversity monitoring being implemented in the PA is the Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (BAMS). This biodiversity monitoring method involves the establishment of a 2km plot which represents the status of the whole area. The established plot are being assessed once every three years, where a complete biodiversity assessment will be done in the area. The PAMO was able to establish a 2km plot at Caraga, Sitio Hinugasan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan.

Other Activities

Another highlight conducted by the PAMO is the delineation of the strict protection zone. The PASu of MCWS pushed the delineation of the area to emphasize conservation and protection measures. The location of the strict protection zone is close to where the small population of tamaraw seen during the expedition conducted early this year.

The PAMB and PAMO of MCWS attended a training to strengthen their capacity as PA managers. This training was conducted on September 24-27, 2019, at the Seasons Hotel, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. Speakers of the training are from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), DENR MIMAROPA, and the PASUs of Occidental Mindoro. A total of 101 participants from different PAs in Occidental Mindoro attended the training.

Getting-to-know our Family

Elyza Hazel P. Tan

Project Development and Resource Officer

by Kristine M. Alingod

Elyza Hazel Tan or Tan as we simply call her, is the organization's youngest staff. She started as a research assistant for Mindoro Biodiversity in 2017 for the Strengthening Environmental Education for Development (SEED) Program. She finished BS Biology at Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan with her dream of becoming a medical doctor. Her research interest is on plants, that's why during her undergraduate stint, she was the only student in her batch to pursue a thesis on flora despite warnings about possibly not graduating on time due to scant data.

This young woman enjoys trekking and mountaineering, which inspired her to pursue a career in conservation. She also sketches and paints with watercolor during her free time. You will also find it funny if you see her collecting or hoarding "trash." But to Tan, it is different. She started her eco-switch journey more than a year ago and she usually reuse or recycle the stuff she collected, if it is not useful for her, she will just donate it to a recycling facility.

This year, she was chosen as one of only six winners of the Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award, which honors the life of William Oliver, a pioneering conservationist who worked in the Philippines. As an awardee, Tan will receive a grant for a conservation project focused on the Tamaraw and sponsored training in the United Kingdom.

All of us at Mindoro Biodiversity are extremely proud of Tan and can't wait to see what she will do next.



The MBCFI Way

MBCFI joins the local government of San Jose in helping local POs

by Jerry J. Alcayde

MBCFI joined the LGU of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, in an organizational development activity that involves providing technical assistance to the local stakeholders of Ilin and Ambulong Islands. This activity aimed at harnessing their full capability and ingenuity in a self-reliant community.

According to Juan Valdez Jr., Manager of MBCFI's MISSION Program, through a conservation agreement with NAGSAMAKAPA (Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Mamamayan para sa Kapakanan ng Pamayanan) and IAMBAG (Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat), the organization were able to provide support on the construction of Balay Sandigan. The Balay Sandigan serves as a meeting place of the PO members, where they also process sineguelas products. Sineguelas is one of the town's popular fruits.

In April and May this year, 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 plantation will be the town's popular source of sineguelas for food processing enterprise, even beyond the fruiting season.



Sineguelas processing

Seven vermiculture beds are being maintained by the IAMBAG in the islands to keep the healthy growth of crops and seedlings in woodlot sites and bio-intensive gardens.

In March and June, IAMBAG members and DENR staff conducted foot patrolling. They warned timber poachers to discontinue their destructive activities in the forest. They also informed the poacher of their regular visit to the mountains as part of their forest ranger duties.

Moreover, the propagation of 2,200 Narra wildlings in an open nursery in Barangay Labangan in Ilin Island in San Jose is one of the major undertakings last May. The seedlings upon reaching the right planting height and diameter, will be used by the cooperators from SASAMAKA and IAMBAG for mortality replacement.

In addition, MBCFI provided technical assistance to the said people's organizations regarding the preparation and submission of proposals for funding, which was granted by the municipality of San Jose, amounting to PhP100,00.00. While, Occidental Mindoro Governor Eduardo Gadiano provided 20 pieces of monoblock chairs.



Balay Sandigan in Ilin Island

The NAGSAMAKAPA and IAMBAG were also provided with training on “simple bookkeeping and accounting” by MBCFI on May 20-21, 2019. The 15 officers and members gained basic knowledge on the recording of transactions using treasurer’s, cash receipt and cash disbursement books and preparation of basic financial statements.

MBCFI and the people’s organizations renewed their conservation agreements, containing their action and enforcement plans.



Vermicompost establishment



Patrolling Activity

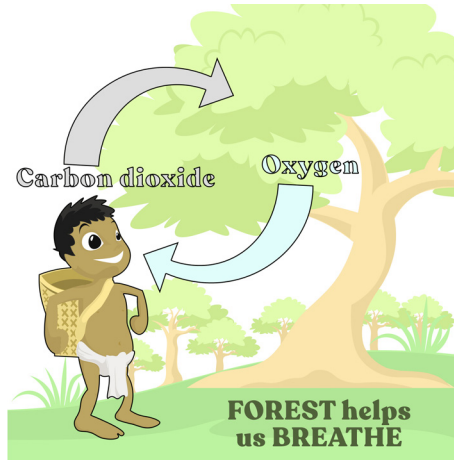
Comics

Importance of the Forest

by Roderick C. Makiputin



The Forest



Carbon dioxide Oxygen

FOREST helps us BREATHE



FOREST provides SHELTER

Trees in the forest provide shelter to different plants and animals.



FOREST as FOOD SOURCE

Forest provides raw materials for food and source of livelihood for many people.

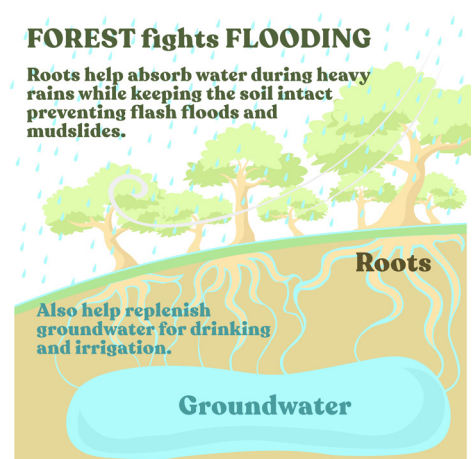


FOREST helps prevent GLOBAL WARMING

Trees absorb carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.

CO₂ is the highest emitted greenhouse gas that causes global warming.

22°C



FOREST fights FLOODING

Roots help absorb water during heavy rains while keeping the soil intact preventing flash floods and mudslides.

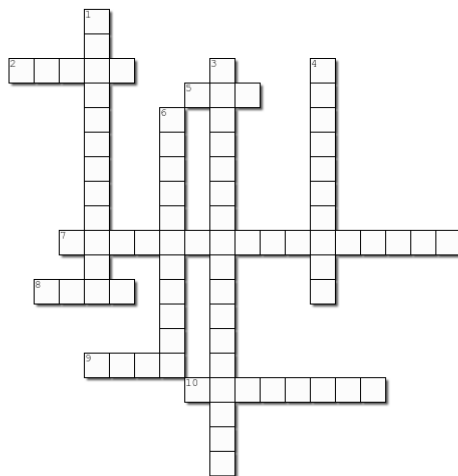
Also help replenish groundwater for drinking and irrigation.

Groundwater

Ridge to Reef

Name: _____

Complete the crossword puzzle below, send a screenshot to our FB page (@MindoroBiodiversity), and get a chance to win a set of our 10th-year commemorative items (Cap, T-shirt, Ecobag)



Across

- 2. Tribe of Mangyan living in MCWS
- 5. What is the event being celebrated every 3rd Saturday of September
- 7. Flagship Species of MCWS
- 8. The office in-charge of the implementation and management of programs and projects in the protected area
- 9. A protected area in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
- 10. The barangay in Paluan with the largest administrative area jurisdiction overlapping with MCWS

Down

- 1. Genus of bat species found in Mt. Calavite with white stripes in its face
- 3. An organization that initiated the coastal clean-up 30 years ago
- 4. IUCN Status of the Flagship Species of MCWS
- 6. Genus of the Flagship Species of MCWS

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

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