

# 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

---



ACRONYMS	08
RESEARCH PROGRAM	09
MISSION PROGRAM	14
CARE PROGRAM	18
MBCC	23
OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS	27
VISION / MISSION	28



# CONTENTS

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



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

Greetings from MBCFI. We pray all are safe and slowly getting out of the pandemic.

## ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

The year 2021 was a year of adaptation for MBCFI as changes in the way we do things have been brought by the Covid-19 pandemic which started in 2020. We have stood up to the challenges and we have transitioned to the new normal of delivering our programs and working on attaining our goals.

Our biodiversity conservation activities and our key targets picked-up from a slight slack in the previous year. With the full support from our funders and the MBCFI Board and Staff, we have instituted workplace adjustments to ensure continuing service delivery vis-à-vis health and safety of our staff, clients and communities. Our regular staff adjusted to a new workplace in Calapan City, while our Consultants worked virtually and in the field. We ensured health checks as we transitioned back to communities.

As we continued to build the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC), we instituted Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) protocols leading to a zero incidents record. We continued to minimize face-to-face interaction and optimized current technological advances to communicate within our organization, our partners and our communities.

All these changes were made possible as we, in MBCFI, believe that challenges are meant to gear us towards improvement.

A year hence, we have we have built to 86% completion Phase 1 of the MBCC Project. We have organized a new People's Organization (PO) partner and strengthened existing PO Partners, renewed conservation agreements and assisted their social enterprises to provide much needed economic gain. We have transitioned communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA) initiatives utilizing the power of the internet and social media, while still availing of local communication channels like radio to reach those with no internet connections. We have further widened our research program activities to involve management planning of protected areas, searching for important endemic species and moving into DNA and barcoding researches of the composition of the Tamaraw diet. These and many more, as you would read in the next sections of this report, have been accomplished by the organization.

**WE HAVE STOOD UP TO THE CHALLENGES AND WE HAVE TRANSITIONED TO THE NEW NORMAL OF DELIVERING OUR PROGRAMS AND WORKING ON ATTAINING OUR GOALS.**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

A big part of the funds was allocated to the MBCC as we continue to build this iconic center showcasing sustainability and biodiversity in the Island of Mindoro. Our delivery of our targets under our core programs – RESEARCH, CARE and MISSION, have also been accomplished by diligent use of their respective allocations.

### MBCFI January to December 31, 2021 Unaudited Actual Expenditures

	RESEARCH	MISSION	CARE	MBCC	ADMIN	TOTAL	RATE
Program	1,414,536.42	1,389,205.08	686,005.83	19,968,141.34*	509,603.37	23,967,492.04	93.83%
Indirect Cost	257,135.59	150,216.17	149,841.17	150,216.17	868,359.56	1,575,768.64	6.17%
	1,671,672.01	1,539,421.25	835,847.00	20,118,357.51	1,377,962.93	25,543,260.68	100.00%

\*Php 17,633,951.11 of which are MBCC construction-related expenses to be capitalized as Fixed Assets (Building) once completed

## LICENSES TO OPERATE

MBCFI remains to be an accredited organization of the following government agencies and non-government institutions:

- Department of Science and Technology - validity December 11, 2019 to December 10, 2022
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources - validity April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
- Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro - validity September 2, 2019 to June 30, 2022
- Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro - valid since June 22, 2019
- Local Government of Calapan City - valid since June 22, 2019
- Association of Foundations - valid since February 28, 2020
- Philippine Council for NGO Certification - validity July 25, 2019 to July 24, 2022
- International Union for Conservation of Nature - member since June 13, 2017

We are on the cusp of a new way of managing biodiversity as we will soon commission the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Centre into a working research, museum and tourist destination. The efforts and in some instances heartaches will soon be overtaken by anticipation for the new destination center.

But there are still so much to be done. We are aiming in to formalize a new structure for MBCFI, significantly widening the membership and supporters base and set up processes which will allow more collaboration with other more established museum and research organizations to fast track maturity of our Biodiversity and Conservation Centre. We will use this Centre also as a stepping board for the CARE, MISSION and RESEARCH Program areas and bring Mindoro and eventually the whole of the Philippines into an enhanced Biodiversity Conservation habit. We invite you all in this journey!

Sebastian C. Quiniones, Jr.  
Chairman

## Some of the Highlights in 2021:

### RESEARCH



Waterbird survey in Apo Reef Natural Park

- 1 The Critical Habitat Management Plan for Ilin and Ambulong Islands was revised, validated and is up for adoption by the Municipality of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- 2 Forward planning with the Oriental Mindoro PG-ENRO was conducted for the Mt. Halcon Management Plan
- 3 Our team provided technical assistance and documentation of the annual Asian Waterbird Census for Naujan Lake National Park
- 4 At the Apo Reef Natural Park, assistance to the bird count and identification training was provided in time with our participation in the annual census
- 5 The Annual Tamaraw Count has also been aided in data consolidation and reporting
- 6 Philippine Teak trees, a new record for the species in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro
- 7 As part of the search for the Mindoro bleeding-heart pigeon, interviews were conducted with communities, while surveys in the search for the Ilin Cloudrat were extended to Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro and in the Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park
- 8 Assistance in the Flying Fox roost site validation and population count was provided to DENR-CENRO San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- 9 A socio-economic survey was conducted for Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro with 50 respondents. Its results were validated and reported
- 10 Technical reports for the BMS of four (4) Protected Areas and Mt Halcon patrolling were prepared
- 11 We have participated in the IUCN World Congress (virtually) and the Red Listing Workshop on Snakes and Lizards
- 12 Two research grants for the Tamaraw Dietary Analysis were awarded by the Chester Zoo and the Forest Foundation Philippines
- 13 Two research papers in "Assessing Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes, and Practices of Teachers and Students on Biodiversity and Environment Conservation in Mindoro, Philippines" and "Retracing the Largest Land Mammal in the Philippines" are in press for publication

### MISSION



Vermicomposting shed

- 1 3 Conservation Agreements renewed with the People's Organizations MASIPAG in Mt. Malasimbo, and KAWARAS and SARIG in Mt. Halcon. Continued assistance during monthly meetings of the POs was provided by MBCFI
- 2 A women's organization in Dulangan, Puerto Galera - Mamamayan na Handang Labanan ang Kahirapan at Ipaglaban ang Tanging-yaman (MaHaLKITA) - was created and registered with DOLE
- 3 The indigenous tree nurseries were maintained with PO partners KAWARAS and SARIG
- 4 A total of 46,000 wildlings were collected and prepared for replanting in Mt. Malasimbo (31,000) and Mt. Halcon (15,000)
- 5 41.72 hectares of restoration and woodlot areas in Mt. Halcon were maintained
- 6 Six vermicomposting beds established
- 7 A food shed to support food resiliency was introduced in Mt. Malasimbo
- 8 Demonstration area at the MBCC site was maintained
- 9 Renewed the accreditation of 18 KAWARAS and 11 SARIG members as Wildlife Enforcement Officers
- 10 The quarterly foot patrolling by WEOs with MBCFI in Lantuyang and Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro was conducted
- 11 Operations of the social enterprises of the IP community on nito products, coconut distribution and rice trading were monitored



KAWARAS members preparing wildlings

### CARE

- 1 The number of engagements through social media increased
- 2 4 quarterly newsletters were virtually released
- 3 4 podcasts were launched in Spotify and Anchor FM, with initial feature episodes in Wildlife Philippines Podcast
- 4 In the celebration of the Biodiversity Month 2021, MBCFI conducted a webinar on Biodiversity without Borders and a virtual gallery entitled "Colors of Biodiversity"
- 5 MBCFI served as Resource Speaker for "The Splendor of Philippine Biodiversity" webinar hosted by the Manila House
- 6 For the celebration of Tamaraw Month, MBCFI assisted in the preparations as TWG member, served as Resource Speaker for Tamaraw Talk by DENR MIMAROPA, joined as Speaker at radio SpiritFM Calapan and held a webinar in partnership with UP Mindoreños for Kali ED: Tamaraw Conservation
- 7 Joined in various environmental events including as Resource Speaker for DepEd MIMAROPA Climate Change and Biodiversity Awareness Webinar, as Panel Member for SineLikas Event by Haring Ibon UPLB and as one of the institutional partners in the 2021 BCSP Symposium
- 8 The Ordinance and Logical Framework declaring the month of May as Mindoro Biodiversity Month was approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and endorsed for budget planning
- 9 A Post-perception Survey in Barangays Bayanan and Lantuyang at the foot of Mt. Halcon was conducted
- 10 A ceremonial turnover of the Mindoro Treasures Environmental Sourcebook to the Department of Education MIMAROPA Regional Office and DepEd Calapan City Schools Division Office was held
- 11 MBCFI was nominated in local and international awards including Nikkei Asia Awards, Asia CEO Awards and Tony Whitten Conservation Award



Post-perception survey in Brgy. Bayanan

### MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (MBCC)

- 1 Construction permits and Environmental Compliance Certificate for the MBCC was secured
- 2 As of the year end, Phase 1 of the MBCC construction comprising the office building, museum building 1 and utility room was 86% completed while retaining wall between office building and utility room was 98% completed
- 3 The pre-bid conference for the Solar Panel Project was conducted and electrical connection application was submitted to ORMECO
- 4 MBCC's On-site Supervisor accreditation as Pollution Control Officer by the EMB-MIMAROPA is on process
- 5 Safety procedures on-site were rigorously implemented leading to zero incidents and zero Lost Time Injury (LTI) record



MBCC construction progress

### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1 In partnership with UNDP and JCI Makati, turned-over field gear donations, food packs and allowances for the Tamaraw Rangers
- 2 Our Executive Director Grace Diamante graduated in the LEAD to Serve Program organized by the Association of Foundations. She was also awarded the Gawad Divinista Award in the Environment Category by the Divine Word College of Calapan
- 3 MBCFI participated in Regional Development Council, Provincial Environment Council, PMEIAMT, MAARRDEC and PAMB activities and meetings, as well as in the ARNP PA Financial Planning
- 4 MBCFI partnered with different organizations including Give2Asia, Greenreach Conservation Directory, JCI Philippines and Makati Chapter, and Keep Hope Alive
- 5 MBCFI-led activities and resources were featured on "A Guide: Philippine NGO Leadership Competencies Framework"
- 6 MBCFI held year-end activities participated by its Board of Trustees and Staff, visited the PO community KAWARAS in Barangay Bayanan, Baco, the construction progress at the MBCC, Dulangan, Puerto Galera and held its 4th quarter Board Meeting

TRUSTEES AND STAFF



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



SEBASTIAN C. QUINONES JR.  
Chairman



SABINO L. SANTOS  
President



LETICIA E. AFUANG  
Vice President



RAMON D. DEL ROSARIO  
Trustee



KAREN H. AGABIN  
Trustee



GERARDO L. CONCEPCION  
Trustee



RENATO ZOSIMO B. EVANGELISTA  
Trustee



MARIE GRACE CRISTINA G. FAYLOR  
Trustee



JUAN CARLOS T. GONZALES  
Trustee

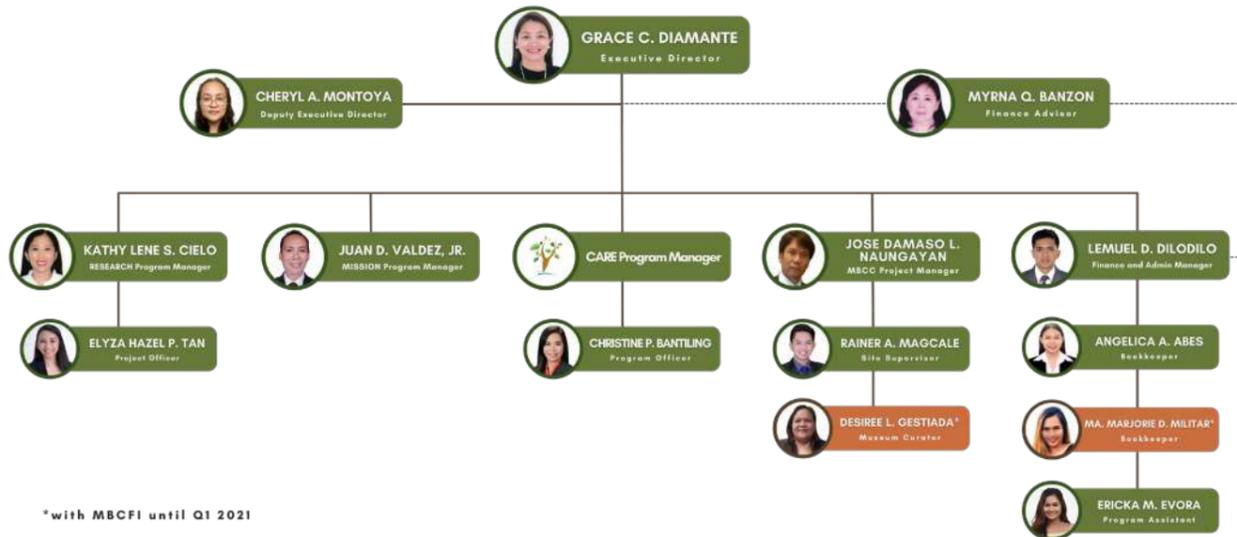


CHARLES EDWARD M. CHENO  
Corporate Secretary



ANYA M. PALLEO  
Corporate Secretary

ORGANIGRAM



\*with MBCFI until Q1 2021

FEATURE PARTNERS IN 2021



# ACRONYMS

AO	Administrative Order
ARNP	Apo Reef Natural Park
AWC	Asian Waterbird Census
BCSP	Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BIG	Bio-intensive Gardening
BMS	Biodiversity Monitoring System
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
DepEd	Department of Education
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
IAMBAG	Ilin and Ambulong Bantay Gubat
IBA	Important Bird Area
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAWARAS	Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LGU	Local Government Unit
LTI	Lost Time Injury
MaHaLKITa	Mamamayan na Handang Labanan ang Kahirapan at Ipaglaban ang Tanging-yaman
MaSIPag	Matatag na Samahan ng Iraya para sa Pag-unlad
MBCC	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
MBCFI	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
MCWS	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
MIBNP	Mts. Iglit – Baco Natural Park
NCIP	National Commission for Indigenous People
NLNP	Naujan Lake National Park
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORMECO	Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PA	Protected Area
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PHADAG	Pinagkausahan Hanunuo sa Daga Ginurang
PO	Peoples' Organization
SARIG	Sarig Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang
SDO	Schools Division Office
SEED	Strengthening Environmental Education for Development
TCP	Tamaraw Conservation Program
TREASURES	Teaching Reference for Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Use of Resources
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWD	World Wetlands Day



# RESEARCH PROGRAM

In line with the mission of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. in leading scientific research in Mindoro, the RESEARCH Program takes the lead in conducting various studies - including biophysical and socio-economic surveys, and species-specific researches, among others. This program is also responsible for providing technical assistance to different agencies and offices in Mindoro, in terms of biodiversity monitoring and management planning. Here are the highlights of activities of RESEARCH Program for the year 2021.



## Waterbird Census in Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP)

The Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) is considered an Important Bird Area (IBA), serving as a habitat for migratory birds, breeding seabirds, and resident island specialist bird species. Up until 1999, there were only 42 bird species recorded in ARNP.

Last July 2021, MBCFI together with participants from ARNP Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), DENR CENRO Sablayan, DENR CENRO San Jose, and LGU Sablayan conducted the waterbird survey in ARNP.

**A TOTAL OF 33 SPECIES WERE DOCUMENTED, WITH NEW BIRD SPECIES RECORDS OBSERVED DURING THE NOVEMBER SURVEY.**

In November, MBCFI, together with staff and rangers from and volunteers, Mr. Ronet Santos and Mr. Fernando Garcia, conducted the survey.

These surveys were conducted to obtain information on waterbird populations in ARNP during migration (non-breeding) and breeding seasons. In addition, MBCFI technical staff conducted a refresher course to enhance the knowledge and skills of the DENR, PA staff, and rangers on waterbird survey techniques and waterbird species identification.

A total of six species of waterbirds, including two unidentified species, was recorded at ARNP in July 2021. The most abundant was Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*), followed by Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*). They were both recorded at Cayos del Bajo, Apo Menor, and the main island of ARNP.

The survey team documented two separate eggs from the larger island of Cayos del Bajo (Tinangkapan) and confirmed by ornithologist Arne Jensen as an egg of a Black-naped Tern. There were also sightings of juvenile Black-naped Terns at Cayos del Bajo, Apo Menor, and at the main island of ARNP.

These confirm that the Black-naped Tern is breeding at ARNP.

A total of 33 species were documented, with 225 daily observations recorded during the November survey.

A total of 15 species of waterbirds were recorded, including one unidentified duck species. There were also eighteen (18) non-waterbird species found.

Bridled Tern is presumed to be breeding in ARNP. However, more evidence is still needed to verify the status. New bird species records were also observed during the November survey. The Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureoreus*), Black-hooded Pitta (*Pitta sordida*), and Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) are among the species included. In Apo Island, the migrants Kentish Plover and Grey Wagtail, as well as the resident Black-hooded Pitta were observed.

To continue the monitoring of waterbirds in ARNP, a regular waterbird survey should be established. To conduct this, adequate equipment should be provided to ARNP staff and rangers. Likewise, refresher training on bird identification and counting should still be provided to better equip ARNP rangers during patrolling and monitoring.



## Ilin Cloud Rat Research

The continuation for the purposive search of the endemic Ilin Island Cloudburrower or evidence of its current presence on Ilin and Ambulong Islands was conducted last April. Surveys for the dry or fruiting season were conducted in Barangays Pawican, Buri, and Ipil.

Both Buri and Pawican were previously surveyed in 2020; however, based on the 2020 key informant interview (KII) results, the observation site in Barangay Pawican was transferred to a different sitio. Barangay Ipil was also selected for this season based on the 2020 KII results.



A total of 35 respondents were previously interviewed, representing eight barangays in Ilin Island in the 2020 survey. It was initially planned to conduct the key informant interviews in all 11 barangays, but three barangays were not visited due to the strict implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

The survey was conducted within the secondary forest patches of Pawican (116 masl), Ipil (47 masl), and Buri (118 masl). Certain habitat features and the surrounding fruiting trees were considered in selecting the survey area points.

The KII results generally showed that the Ilin Cloudburrower is no longer present in the islands. The local ecological knowledge of the community is also not that high, denoting that the species no longer thrives in the area or has not been seen by the community members.

Despite using different methods such as transect walks, cage traps, and camera traps, the team was not able to observe any signs of the Ilin Cloudburrower, including feces or tracks.

Based on the current result of the survey, the survey team cannot yet fully conclude that the Ilin Cloudburrower is extirpated in the island since other areas were not fully searched due to the current health protocols.

With this, continuation of camera trap setups were conducted in Magsaysay and Iglit to also check for the presence of the elusive species in these areas.

The survey team also recommends conducting an initial key informant interview in mainland Mindoro. Likewise, a purposive search in the mainland, more specifically in MIBNP and during the fruiting season, can be highly considered.



## Flying Fox Roost Site Validation and Population Count

MBCFI, together with DENR CENRO San Jose, conducted the validation and population count of the flying fox roost site in Mangarin, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro in July and November 2021. During the November count, Mr. Ronet Santos and Mr. Fernando Garcia also participated as volunteers.

The team encountered a colony of Large Flying Foxes (*Pteropus vampyrus*) of approximately 9,000 to 11,000 individuals. DENR CENRO San Jose is doing its best to protect and conserve the area to preserve the flying foxes and migratory birds.



## Socio-economic survey in Puerto Galera



The RESEARCH Program conducted the continuation of the socio-economic survey among Iraya Mangyans living near the MBCC site. The survey has touched on questions involving the Mangyan's gender, civil status and length of stay in the area. Questions on personal and other family information such as educational attainment, number of siblings, income activity, and resources used were also asked.

The survey's output was then validated and the report was submitted.

## Search for the Mindoro Bleeding-Heart

Last July 2021, MBCFI team members conducted informal interviews in Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm to verify the presence of Mindoro Bleeding-Heart in the area.

The interviewees were asked about their first-hand knowledge about Mindoro Bleeding-Heart in the surrounding forests of Mt. Siburan. However, results of this survey are still inconclusive and further surveys will be carried out.





## New Record of Philippine Teak in Mainland Mindoro

Together with local guides, the RESEARCH team members were able to observe and successfully tag the first confirmed presence of a Philippine teak in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro.

This new distribution record for the threatened plant species suggests that this native tree can potentially be found in other surrounding areas within mainland Mindoro.

## Publications Related to Mindoro Wildlife

Prepared and completed in 2021, the following papers have been submitted to scientific journals and are currently in press:

- Assessing Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes, and Practices of Teachers and Students on Biodiversity and Environment Conservation in Mindoro, Philippines
- Retracing the Largest Land Mammal in the Philippines

*Silvopop*, The Technical Journal of Philippine Ecosystems and Natural Resources 33

### Retracing the Largest Land Mammal in the Philippines

Don Geoff E. Tabaranza  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation  
Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI)  
Muntinlupa City, 1700 Metro Manila

Elyza Hazel Tan  
MBCFI

Ma. Teresita Pineda-David Jr.  
Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources-Tamaraw Conservation  
Program (DENR-TCP)

Virtito Natural, Jr.  
MBCFI

Eduardo Bata  
D'Aberville Foundation

John Ramer Casuncad  
DENR-TCP

Ibac Lis Belmonte  
D'Aberville Foundation

Kathy Lene Cielo  
MBCFI

Leticia Afaang  
Animal Biology Division,  
Institute of Biology,  
University of the Philippines Los Baños  
MBCFI

Grace Diamante  
MBCFI

Elvin Madamba  
MBCFI

ARTICLE PROOF

*Silvopop*, The Technical Journal of Philippine Ecosystems and Natural Resources 33

### Assessing Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes, and Practices of Teachers and Students on Biodiversity and Environment Conservation in Mindoro, Philippines

Kathy Lene S. Cielo  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation  
Foundation Inc. (MBCFI)  
Muntinlupa City, NCR, 1770,  
Philippines

Jerry Jäger L. Garcia  
MBCFI

Roderick C. Makiputin  
MBCFI

Jasmin C. Meren  
MBCFI  
National Museum of the Philippines  
Manila City, NCR, 1000, Philippines

Elyza Hazel P. Tan  
MBCFI

Leticia E. Afaang  
University of the Philippines Los Baños  
Los Baños, CALABARZON, 4030,  
Philippines  
MBCFI



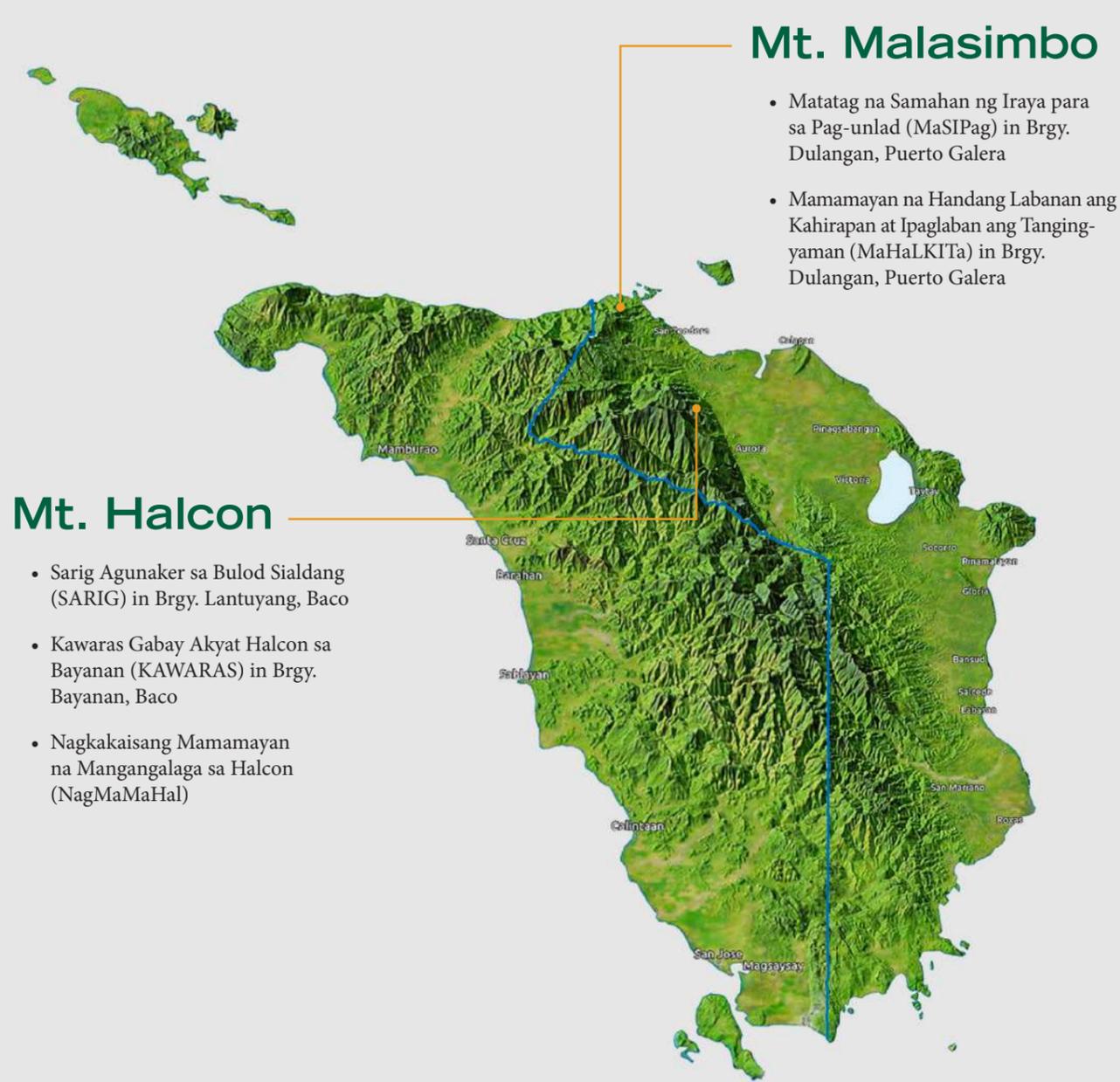
**MISSION**  
Mindoro Island Symbolic Species Icons of Nature

# MISSION PROGRAM

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

**TOGETHER WITH LOCAL GUIDES, RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE AND SUCCESSFULLY TAG THE FIRST CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF A PHILIPPINE TEAK IN MAGSAYSAY, OCCIDENTAL.**

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



## Formation, Management and Organizational Development of Community-based Groups

MBCFI assisted in the formation of one (1) new PO in Oriental Mindoro. Mamamayan na Handang Labanan ang Kahirapan at Ipaglaban ang Tanging-yaman (MaHaLKITa) is a women's group formed in Brgy. Dulangan, Puerto Galera. This organization is composed of 23 registered family members from the Iraya community in the area.



To strengthen the foundation of the newly established PO, MBCFI assisted in their accreditations to concerned institutions. MaHaLKITa has been accredited by DOLE and completed the accreditation requirements of the Sangguniang Bayan of Puerto Galera.



MBCFI has also renewed the conservation agreement with MaSIPag. Moreover, MBCFI assisted on the conduct of the monthly meetings of these POs in Malasimbo, Puerto Galera. Assistance was also provided to the RESEARCH team for the conduct of the socio-economic survey in Barangay Dulangan.

Likewise, renewal of the conservation agreements with SARIG and KAWARAS was accomplished last 2021. MBCFI also assisted on the preparation of requirements for the deputation renewal of 11 SARIG and 18 KAWARAS members as Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEO).

## Restoration and Woodlot Sites Monitoring

In 2021, MBCFI was able to conduct the maintenance and monitoring activities of the restoration and woodlot sites. Together with SARIG and KAWARAS members, MBCFI maintained a total of 41.72 hectares of designated restoration and woodlot areas in Mt. Halcon.



**MBCFI MAINTAINED A TOTAL OF 41.72 HECTARES OF DESIGNATED RESTORATION AND WOODLOT AREAS IN MT. HALCON**

## Foot Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring

Foot patrolling and monitoring were conducted in Mt. Halcon for all quarters of 2021, following the local restrictions and guidelines placed due to COVID-19. Members of SARIG and KAWARAS joined in these activities as WEOs.



## Nursery Establishment and Vermicomposting

A total of 31,000 indigenous wildlings have been collected with MaSIPag and placed in the open nursery in the MBCC site in Mt. Malasimbo. In addition, site clearing and natural fencing maintenance was also done at the MBCC site. Moreover, a food shed was also established at the site. Six vermicomposting beds were established and maintained while waiting for the availability of African Night Crawlers for vermicast and vermi-tea production.

Likewise, 15,000 indigenous wildlings were collected in Mt. Halcon and prepared for replanting, with the assistance of SARIG and KAWARAS members. Maintenance of the two nursery sites were also conducted.

**THE NURSERIES IN MT. MALASIMBO CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 31,000 INDIGENOUS WIDLINGS.**

## Other Livelihood Projects

Monitoring of the social enterprise of the POs in Mt. Malasimbo and Mt. Halcon were conducted, particularly for the weaved nito products. Other livelihood projects initiated in the communities in Mt. Halcon, such as the coconut distribution and rice trading projects, were also monitored.

Moreover, a food shed was also established at the MBCC site.



# CARE PROGRAM

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

## Biodiversity Without Borders Webinar

**Biodiversity without Borders**

A WEBINAR EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF THE OCEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SATURDAY, MAY 22  
1:00 - 3:30 PM

Via Zoom  
with livestream at  
fb.com/MindoroBiodiversity

Register at: <https://bit.ly/33lcHqo>

Hosted by:  
Alon Velasquez

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

- Kyle Cielo**  
RESEARCH Program Manager  
MBCFI
- Gen Abanilla**  
Pinay Freediver
- Gab Mejia**  
National Geographic Explorer  
and Nikon Asia Ambassador

MBCFI 22 MAY 2021

In celebration of the Month of the Ocean and International Day for Biological Diversity, MBCFI conducted a webinar entitled, “Biodiversity Without Borders,” via Facebook livestream on May 22, 2021. This webinar featured next generation and multifaceted resource speakers who shared their stories and experiences about their encounters with Philippine biodiversity, particularly in the Mindoro, both terrestrial and marine.

Our very own RESEARCH Program Manager, Ms. Kyle Cielo, discussed the topic, “Biological Treasure Trove: New Species Records in Mindoro.” Ms. Gen Abanilla, Pinay Freediver, talked about the theme “Beneath the Surface: Freediver Perceptions on Philippine Coral Reefs.” Lastly, Mr. Gab Mejia, captured how conservation and photography come together in his talk, “Behind the Lens: Stories on Documenting Philippine Wildlife and Nature.”

The webinar garnered more than 1,000 views, with 589 reactions from the audience. Most of the viewers who answered the post-event survey said that they enjoyed the webinar and the talks from the speakers. One viewer commented, “Thank you for the people who pursue the active conservation!” With the success of this webinar, MBCFI is looking forward to conducting many more virtual events and engagements in the future.



## Colors of Biodiversity

As part of the events for the International Biodiversity Day, a virtual painting exhibit was launched with the theme: “Colors of Biodiversity,” featuring selected Mindoro visual artists. This exhibit aimed to raise public awareness on the Philippines’ rich yet threatened biodiversity through the eyes of local Mindoro artists and friends who support the cause.

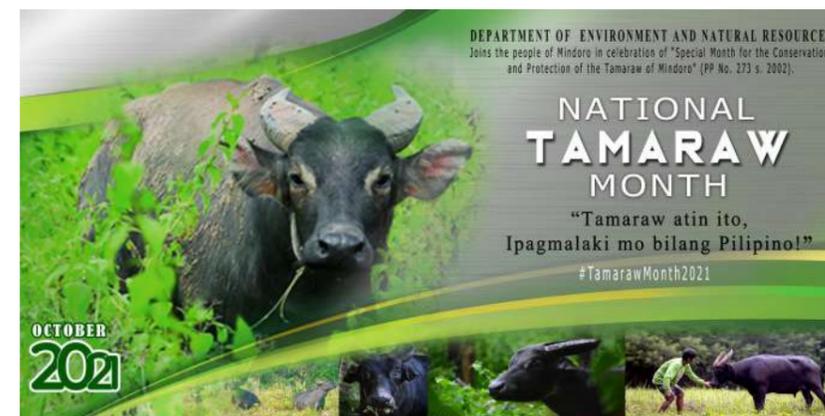
A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the artworks are to be donated to the Mindoro Biodiversity Center (MBCC), a nature center that will soon rise at Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. The funds

raised were allotted for the development of its natural history museum, through MBCFI. The exhibit will be supposed to run for a month since the launch but the artists and MBCFI have decided to continue this online gallery.



## Tamaraw Month Celebration

Presidential Proclamation No. 273 of 2002 declares October of every year as a “Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro”. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Tamaraw atin ito! Ipagmalaki mo bilang Pilipino!”



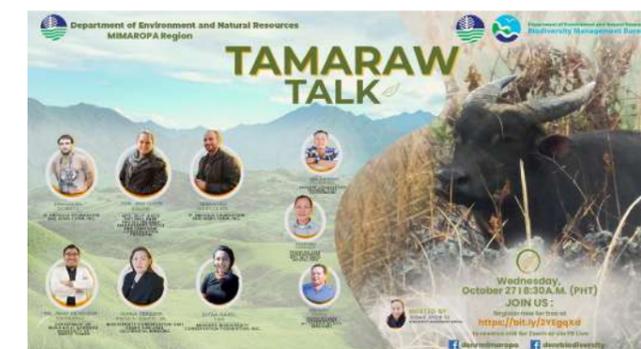
MBCFI, together with the DENR, through the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and the Provincial Governments of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, in cooperation with other partner organizations celebrated this year’s Tamaraw Month with various activities lined up throughout the whole month.

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



Speaker for the webinar, “Tamaraw Talk,” organized and hosted by the DENR MIMAROPA and BMB. In this webinar, Ms. Tan presented and discussed the topic, “Tamaraw sub-population in Oriental Mindoro: Case of

Mt. Gimaparay.” Other resource speakers also presented the ongoing research and conservation efforts for Tamaraws in different parts of Mindoro.



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



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

sa Kinabukasan ng Lahat: Solidarity for Biodiversity,” with MBCFI as their chosen beneficiary. They were able to raise a total amount of 27,604.69.

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



## Post-perception Survey in Brgys. Bayanan and Lantuyang in Baco, Oriental Mindoro



household heads in two survey sites namely: Barangay Bayanan and Barangay Lantuyang, were interviewed using a standard questionnaire. This was done to understand their daily activities and assess the current level of knowledge of the community members in relation to the biodiversity in Mt. Halcon.

The survey consisted of questions about the profile of survey respondents, knowledge on terms pertaining to protected area, frequency and purpose of visits to Mt. Halcon, participation of local residents in forest activities, and resource use patterns, knowledge and awareness on tamaraw and tamaraw conservation practices and management interventions, and awareness and receptiveness to forest conservation, management practices, and sustainability programs.

A total of 81 respondents were interviewed for this activity. Based on the information gathered from the survey, the IP residents usually collect forest resources for construction and other housing needs but sometimes they trade these products commercially to buy food. Wood collection and burning is also done but for the purpose of cooking. In essence, biodiversity conservation is not an isolated concept but an essential part of their culture and identity for these IP communities.

Mt. Halcon is recognized as an important biodiversity area in the Philippines, having the most number of threatened species in Mindoro island. Hence, it was identified by MBCFI as one of its priority conservation sites. Aside from its rich biological diversity, Mt. Halcon is also a dwelling place for the Alangan and Iraya Mangyans.

MBCFI has been implementing various environmental and community enhancement activities in selected areas at the foot of Mt. Halcon. For this survey randomly selected

## Turnover of Mindoro TREASURES Environmental Sourcebook to DepEd MIMAROPA and Calapan Schools Division Office



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

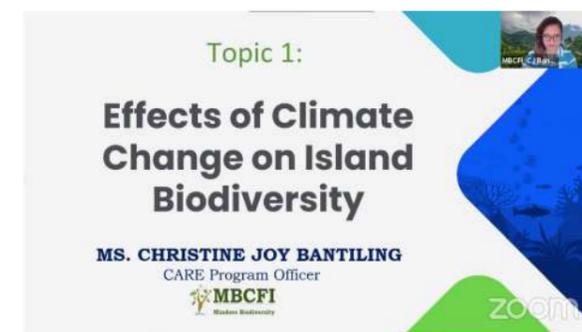
Last December 6, 2021, MBCFI turned over 50 copies of the sourcebook to DepEd Calapan City Schools Division Office (SDO). Present during the turnover ceremony were Calapan City SDO’s and OIC Superintendent, Ms. Laida L. Mascareñas, and Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Cynthia Eleonor G. Manalo. Teachers who were contributors of the sourcebook were also present during this event.

MBCFI’s Board of Trustees Chairperson, Mr. Sebastian C. Quiniones and Vice President, Dr. Leticia E. Afuang, expressed their gratitude to the educators and conveyed how the sourcebook is a product of collaborative knowledge inputs and initiatives, with the ultimate goal of teaching and inspiring the next generation to care about biodiversity and food security.

## Climate Change and Biodiversity Awareness Webinar with DepEd MIMAROPA

MBCFI participated as one of the speakers for DepEd MIMAROPA’s webinar, “Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change: Raising Awareness Involving Young Minds,” as part the celebration of the 14<sup>th</sup> Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on November 18 to 25, 2021.

Participants of this activity were the SDO Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, School Governance Operations Division Chiefs, Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) and Youth Formation Division Coordinators, and Supreme Pupil Government (SPG) and Supreme Student Government (SSG) Division Federation Officers and Teacher-Advisers.



## E-Campaigns

Various cross-platform e-campaign activities were done in 2021 by MBCFI. Enhanced engagement through our Facebook page and Instagram account was achieved through regular posts in these platforms. In addition, MBCFI also launched its own podcast in Spotify via Anchor FM, which featured episodes about iconic Mindoro species.

Media guestings and collaborations were also done last year, including, two radio guestings and media partnerships with several student and NGO events. In addition, eight news articles were published featuring Mindoro wildlife and MBCC-related news. Use of traditional and virtual platforms for public awareness campaign on biodiversity conservation will be leveraged on to widen the audience reach and engagement.



# MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (MBCC)

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

## MBCC Construction Progress

At the start of 2021, construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC, which includes buildings 1 and 2, was at 20%. While construction activities were ongoing, operationalization procedures for the planned processes and activities of MBCFI were drafted by the Program Managers during the first quarter of the year. By the end of the first quarter, construction was at 30% completion. By the last week of June 2021, the



actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC is 45.72%. In addition, the utility building was already completed. However, minor changes were decided on regarding the ongoing construction of the retaining wall between buildings 1 and 2. With these considerations, the construction plan was reviewed and updated to the project’s nearest possible time of completion.

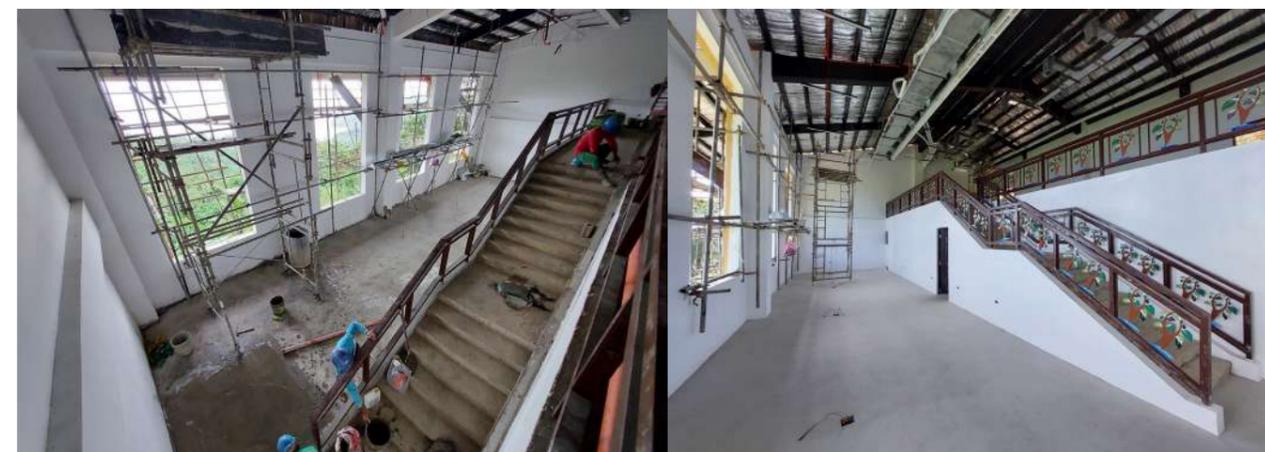
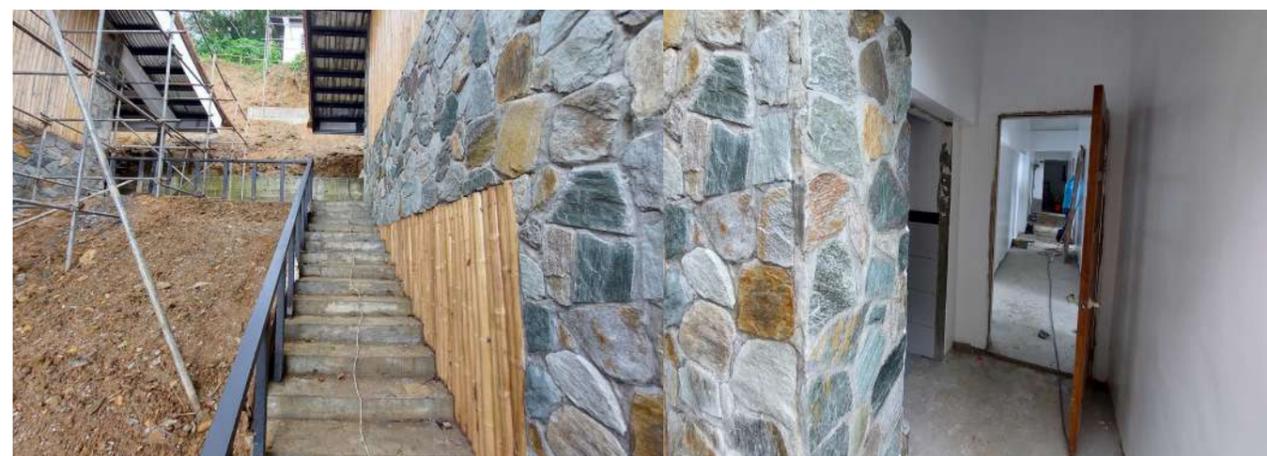
By the last week of October 2021, the actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC is 70%. Finishing works and roofing installation for the museum building were almost completed. In relation to this, coordination and planning for the graphics design for the museum content have also been conducted.

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

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

Our MBCC Supervisor, Arch. Rainer Magcale has also taken the 40-hour Basic Pollution Control Officer (PCO) Training as a requirement for his accreditation as PCO and as part of MBCC's environmental compliance requirement.

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



### MBCC Museum

Preparations for the museum exhibits as well as coordination with artifact donors and partner museums were initiated. Last February, our Museum Coordinator, Ms. Desiree Gestiada, conducted the second round of consultation with the Pinagkausahan Hanunuo sa Daga Ginurang (PHADAG), as part of the preliminary steps in filling up the cultural content of the MBCC Museum.

Ms. Gestiada requested for their feedback and approval to feature certain elements of their culture as part of the planned exhibits of the MBCC Museum.



### Solar Power Project

Last July, MBCFI signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DOST-MIMAROPA for the installation and use of solar panels for MBCC's Research Laboratory.

A pre-bid conference for the solar installation project was conducted by the MBCC Project Manager, Jose Damaso Naungayan.



## Other Accomplished Activities

Apart from the accomplishments under each program, MBCFI was also involved in other relevant conservation activities in 2021. MBCFI is BIOFIN's partner in the Together for Tamaraws campaign, together DENR-BMB and TCP. Food packs and allowances were distributed in February, July and December to the rangers and wardens of TCP and MIBNP to provide financial support and subsistence to our conservation frontliners.



As part of the year-end activities with Board of Trustees last year, we visited our adopted community in Barangay Bayanan in Baco. Our Chairman, Mr. Sebastian C. Quiniones, lead the meeting with KAWARAS officers and members and gave words of encouragement to improve their lives with all resources provided.

The team also visited the ongoing MBCC construction site in Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera.



In addition, we lead the turnover of field gear donations from JCI Makati Chapter to the Tamaraw rangers.



MBCFI was also invited by Channel News Asia to for upcoming segment featuring Naujan Lake National Park. Our RESEARCH Program Manager, Ms. Kyle Cielo appeared as guest and resource person for this activity, with CARE Program Officer, Ms. CJ Bantiling, coordinating and



assisting during the shoot.

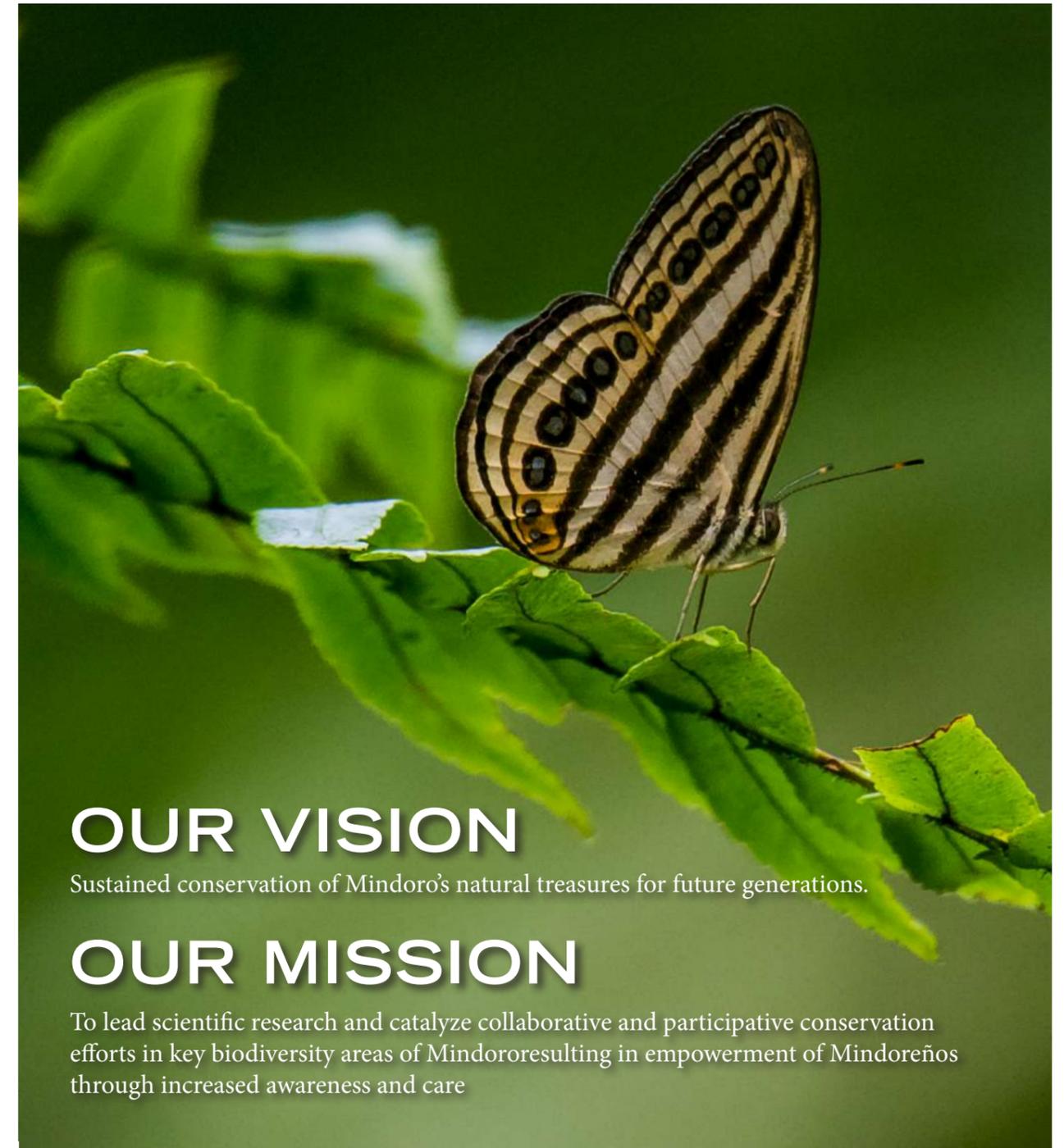
Lastly, our Executive Director, Ms. Grace Diamante, graduated in the LEAD to Serve Program organized by the Association of Foundations. She also received the Gawad Divinista Award in the Environment Category last December, honoring her contributions for the conservation of Mindoro environment and biodiversity.



## Policies and Council Representations

MBCFI was also able to draft biodiversity and conservatio-related policies and management plans for adoption of local government units. A proposal for an Ordinance Declaring the Month of May of Every Year as Biodiversity Month for the Island of Mindoro was drafting and submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro. As of writing, the proposal has been included in the deliberation of the councils for adoption and annual budgeting. In addition, the Ilin and Ambulong Critical Habitat Management Plan has been finalized and submitted to CENRO for adoption of the Municipality of San Jose.

Moreover, MBCFI has sustained memberships and representations in the Protected Areas Management Board of 4 protected areas in Mindoro, Regional Development Council, MIMAROPA Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium, Provincial Multipartite Environmental Impact Assesment Monitoring Team, and other provincial technical committees.



## 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 Mindororesulting in empowerment of Mindoreños through increased awareness and care

## Partnerships

MBCFI has engaged in partnerships as part of our goal to sustain our programs. In 2021, MBCFI has partnered with various organizations as well as individuals, for our various activities throughout the year. Featured here are the different organizations and individuals we have partnered with in 2021:

### Donations/Grant/Funding Organzations

- Malampaya Joint Venture Partners
- Chester Zoo
- Forest Foundation Philippines
- Re:Wild
- Give2Asia
- SEARCA
- Akubo
- Oracle Netsuite

### Other NGOs

- UNDP BIOFIN
- D'Aboville Foundation
- Keep Hope Alive
- JCI Philippines, JCI Makati Chapter
- Greenreach Conservation Directory

- Tanggol Kalikasan
- Anahao Farm and Magdalanagan Family

### Student Organizations/Academe

- UPLB OZOOMS
- PUP SBS
- FEU CSO
- UST
- UP Mindoreños
- Haring Ibon UPLB
- Mindoro State University
- Divine Word College of Calapan

### Government Offices

- DOST-MIMAROPA
- DENR-NLNP
- DENR-ARNP
- DENR-TCP
- DENR-MIBNP
- DENR-MCWS
- DENR- CENRO San Jose
- DENR-CENRO Socorro
- DENR-BIOFIN
- DepEd
- NCIP
- LGU San Jose

- LGU Magsaysay
- LGU Sabalayan

### Media

- Channel News Asia
- SpiritFM Calapan
- Aksyon Kalikasan
- TV Net

### Individuals

- Bob Natural
- Reginald Arimado
- Ronet Santos
- Fernando Garcia
- Emmanuel Schutz
- Gen Abanilla
- Gab Mejia
- Nestor Abayon
- Arvin Jay Caspe
- Jerome Caspe
- Ralph John Fatallo
- Ma. Luisa Lladones
- Anna Lumpas
- Chressa Yee Rufon
- Wilfredo Rufon
- Bernadette Solina Wolf

# CONNECT WITH US!

## MINDORO OFFICE

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



Mindoro Biodiversity



@mindorobiodiversity



Mindoro Biodiversity Podcast

# MBCFI



**PCNC**  
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR FOOD CERTIFICATION



MALAMPAYA  
MALAMPAYA



IUCN | Member



**UDENNA**  
CORPORATION



**PNOC**  
The Power of Energy