

# MINDORO

## *Biodiversity*



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

January to March 2022

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# The Chairman's Report 2021

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 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.



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

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### RESEARCH



Tamaraw population count in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park conducted in March

1. Study on Status and Distribution Philippine Continuation of the Ilin Cloudbird survey and preparation of Cloudbird survey report
2. Arrangements and coordination for FPIC for Mt. Gimparay study
3. Preparation and finalization of report for Apo Reef Seabirds 2021
4. Coordination and conduct of Annual Waterbird Census in ARNP and NLNP
5. Participation in Tamaraw Metapopulation Study presentation of result
6. Forwarded Ilin and Ambulong Islands Management Plan for adoption by the Office of the Vice Mayor of San Jose
7. Creation of Facebook groups and guidelines for Wildlife Watch and Mindoro Biodiversity Citizen Scientists
8. Consolidated LiDAR and CLUP data to combine existing datasets to help decision makers in planning and implementing strategies to avoid flooding
9. Procurement of RESEARCH Laboratory equipment
10. Provided assistance on the Philippine Teak Assessment initiated by CENRO San Jose and assisted on the improvement of the monitoring and patrolling survey methods



Training on Philippine Teak Assessment with DENR-CENRO San Jose

## FINANCES

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. The 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 Audited Actual Expenditures

	RESEARCH	MISSION	CARE	MBCC	ADMIN	TOTAL	RATE
Program	1,414,536.42	1,389,205.08	605,915.83	19,968,141.34*	492,242.59	23,870,041.26	93.14%
Indirect Cost	267,723.59	154,444.17	252,159.17	154,444.17	929,095.08	1,757,866.18	6.86%
	1,682,260.01	1,543,649.25	858,075.00	20,122,585.51	1,421,337.67	25,627,907.44	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 (DENR) - 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
- Pollution Control Officer Accreditation with the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR

## CARE

1. 2021 Annual Report and 2021 Q4 newsletter released
1. Initiated design and development of new MBCFI website
2. Turnover and distribution of Mindoro TREASURES Sourcebook in the three Schools Division Offices in Mindoro
3. Drafted position papers for the Mindoro Cross-Island (Victoria-Sablayan) Road Project by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) - MIMAROPA and the New Proposed Boundary of Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP)
4. Celebrated World Wetlands Day through shared article and graphic content
5. Initiated profiling of potential donors
6. Season 2 of Mindoro Biodiversity Podcast released
7. Participated as Resource Speaker and organizational partner of Keep Hope Alive for their EMPOWER Camp 6.0
8. Drafted report for conducted Post Perception Survey in Mt. Halcon
9. Prepared and released social media content



Elyza Hazel Tan served as Resource Speaker for the EMPOWER Camp 6.0

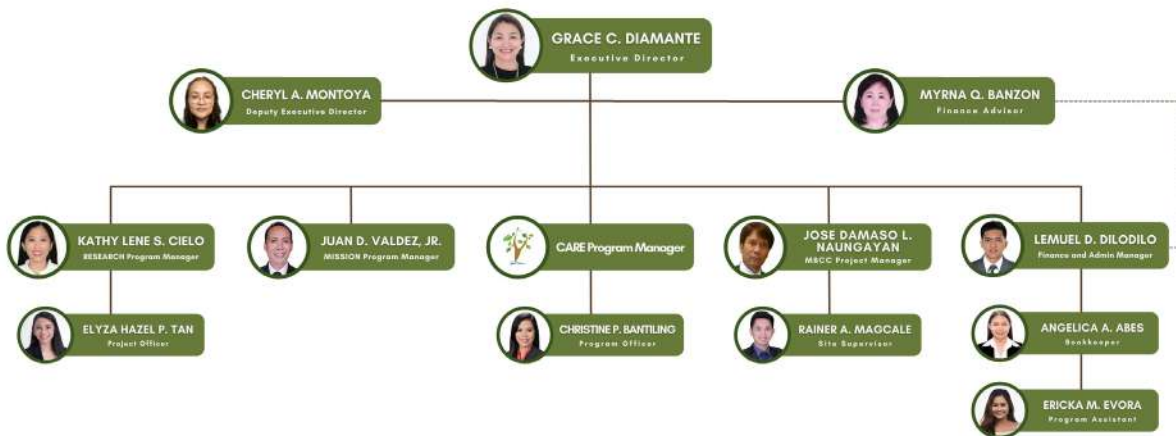
All these changes were made possible as we, in MBCFI, believe that challenges are meant to gear us towards improvement.

## TRUSTEES AND STAFF

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### ORGANIGRAM



## MISSION

- Mt. Halcon**
  - Renewed conservation agreements with SARIG, KAWARAS and NagMaMaHal
  - Facilitated the conduct of SARIG’s monthly meeting
- Mt. Malasimbo**
  - Secured 2 conservation agreements with MaSIPag and MaHALKita
  - Facilitated planning activity of MaHalKita for drafting of their 1-year Action Plan
  - Assisted in the output updating to Barangay Local Government Unit
  - Facilitated the conduct of MaSIPag’s monthly meeting
  - Conducted monitoring of demonstration site and maintenance activities
  - Monitored foodshed use and crafting of weaved nito products

## SUCCESS STORY:

NAGSAMAKAPA receives livelihood project fund award from DOLE San Jose



**FEATURED PARTNERS**



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!

**MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER**

1. 96 % construction progress for Phase 1 as of end of March 2022
2. Accreditation of Pollution Control Officer by EMB MIMAROPA
3. Initial preparation for the Solar Power Project funded by DOST MIMAROPA
4. Assessment of the area for water connection and supply
5. Coordinated with ORMECO for the electrical supply survey
6. Prepared and submitted the environmental compliance requirements for Q1 2022
7. Preparation of EDGE requirements



Construction progress of MBCC Phase 1

**OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Turnover of patrol gear to Tamaraw Rangers with UNDP and DENR
- Submission of requirements for the renewal of accreditation to PCNC
- Participation in PAMB and Provincial Council meetings



Turnover of Patrol Gear for the Tamaraw Conservation Program Rangers and Staff

# The MBCFI Way

## Tamaraw Population Count in MIBNP



Photos by CPBantling

The Tamaraw Count started in 2000 and has since become an annual activity in the Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park during the summer season. The Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) organizes and leads the annual count, which seeks to determine the condition and population status of Tamaraws in the MIBNP.

This year's Tamaraw count activities were conducted from March 28 to April 4, 2022. The activity was consisted of two parts: the actual count and data consolidation workshop. For this year's Tamaraw count, the Simultaneous Multi-Vantage Point Count Method was used.

The observation area covers the core habitat of the Tamaraw within the MIBNP measured approximately at 16,000 hectares. Unlike the past couple of years where Tamaraw count was only done by the rangers and wardens because of COVID-19 restrictions, participants from partner organizations of the TCP were able to take part during this year's count, ensuring safety and health protocols were followed.

The consolidated counts resulted to a total of 403 individuals. However, the official numbers are yet to be released by the TCP as a double-observer count was also conducted by designated rangers in MIBNP in the following week.



# The MBCFI Way

## NAGSAMAKAPA Livelihood Project Fund Award

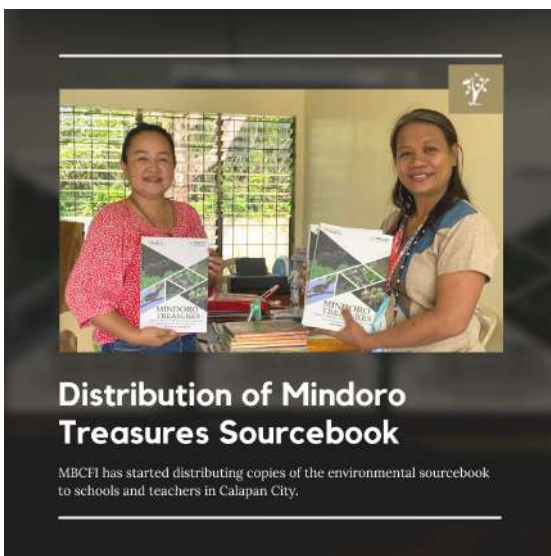


A project proposal by the peoples organization in Ilin and Ambulong Islands has been approved and awarded by DOLE Occidental Mindor - San Jose Field Office. MBCFI assisted NAGSAMAKAPA in preparing and submitting the proposal for the “Adding Value to Rural Products through Food Processing Project.” On January 13, 2022, the proposal was approved and a total of ₱240,000 was awarded under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program.



Photos by JValdez

## Mindoro TREASURES Sourcebook Distribution



MBCFI has started distributing copies of the environmental sourcebook to schools and teachers in Calapan City. One hundred twenty (120) copies were also turned over to the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Occidental Mindoro, which were distributed to schools within their area.

In addition, MBCFI turned over 210 copies of the “Mindoro Treasures” sourcebook to the SDO of Oriental Mindoro. The books were received by the SDO’s Education Program Supervisor, Ms. Claire Villaruel and Supply Officer, Ms. Medelyn Retanal.

In partnership with SEARCA, the published environmental sourcebooks are given to schools and teachers in Mindoro to help them in integrating biodiversity-related concepts in their subject lessons.

# The MBCFI Way

## MBCC Construction Updates



By the end of March 2021, 96% of Phase 1 of the MBCC construction has been completed. Construction of buildings 1 and 2, and the utility room are almost done.

Strict implementation of COVID-19 protocols were enforced in the construction area. Likewise, Health, Safety and Environmental Inspections were being conducted, including Daily Permit to Work audits, weekly facility inspections, environmental inspection audits, and electrical and auxiliary work inspections.

Conduct of ORMECO survey for the power supply has been coordinated. Also, materials for the solar project have also been delivered to the site by the solar panel system provider.

The tripartite agreement between the owners and MBCFI for the water supply have also been signed and notarized. Installation of the water supply line from the source to MBCC is at 90% completion.

MBCC's site supervisor, Arch. Rainer Magcale was also accredited as the establishment's Pollution Control Officer. He now takes charge of the environmental compliance requirements of MBCC.

EDGE certification requirements are also being prepared as of writing.



**YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING.**

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

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>



Photos by RMagcale



# Species in Focus

## Mindoro Tree Frog



Photo by DGTabaranza

### COMMON NAME:

Mindoro Tree Frog  
Schmacker's Tree Frog

### SCIENTIFIC NAME:

*Philautus schmackeri*

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

Endangered (IUCN)  
Vulnerable (DENR, DAO2019-09)

The amphibian fauna of the Philippines is high in diversity and endemism. In Mindoro, we have the *Philautus schmackeri* or the **Mindoro Tree Frog**, an amphibian species from the Old World Tree Frogs Family. It is also known internationally as Schmacker's Bubble-Nest Frog or Schmacker's Tree Frog.

#### Ecology:

This species of frog has been recorded at elevations ranging from 100 to 1650 meters above sea level. Its natural habitats are primary dipterocarp and montane forests, particularly in low vegetation. It is arboreal and often observed perching in plant parts above the ground. It relies on saltatory or leaping motions to move around, mainly feeds on invertebrates and has a nocturnal habit.

#### Threats and Recommended Conservation Actions:

With climate change, habitat degradation, and encroachment due to human overpopulation, it is expected that a high percentage of these vulnerable wildlife and other species populations will decline.

Studies related to its behavioral ecology and population dynamics should be conducted but a better approach would be the conservation and protection of its habitats.

# Virtual Tour

## Mt. Malasimbo



Photo by BNatural



### ***A misty limestone forest in a biosphere reserve***

It is one of the mountain ranges in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. It extends up to Abra De Ilog in Occidental Mindoro.

Backgrounding the famous beaches of Puerto Galera, Mt. Malasimbo is also a mountaineering destination. It has an elevation of about 1,168 masl.

In June 2017, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Program of United Nations Environment, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reaffirmed the status of Puerto Galera as a biosphere reserve.

The land area of this mountain, which is also home to a numerous threatened endemic species, is estimated at 38,100 hectares.



#### **Where in Mindoro**

Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro  
Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro



#### **Featured Place in Figures**

- 1,168 meters above sea level (masl)
- 38,100 hectares (estimate)
- Minor climb (4/9 difficulty)
- Trail class 2-3

Scan this QR Code or click [here](#) to view a 3D model of Mt. Malasimbo





## OUR VISION

*Sustained conservation of Mindoro's natural treasures for future generations.*

## OUR MISSION

*To lead scientific research and catalyze collaborative and participative conservation efforts in key biodiversity areas of Mindoro resulting in empowerment of Mindoreños through increased awareness and care.*

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# MBCFI

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

## Mindoro Biodiversity

