

# MINDORO

## *Biodiversity*



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

July to September 2022

### IN THIS EDITION

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 02

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##### MBCFI WAY

Seabirds Survey in ARNP 04

3rd Quarter Foot Patrolling and  
Biodiversity Monitoring in  
Mt. Halcon 05

Shore It Up Puerto Galera Event for  
International Coastal Cleanup Day 06

MBCC Construction Updates 07

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##### SPECIES IN FOCUS

Mangroves in Silonay 08

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##### SPECIAL FEATURE

MBCC Call for Donations 09

# Program Highlights



## RESEARCH

- Conducted ARNP Seabirds Survey on July, and confirmed ARNP as breeding and nesting area for Black-naped Terns and Bridled Terns
- Participated in the Flying Fox Forum 2022 and served as moderator for the forums on Flying Fox Hunting and National Action Plan
- Validated the existence of flying fox roosting sites in Muelle, Puerto Galera with 1,500 to 3,000 individuals of *Pteropus hypomelanus*
- Installed camera traps and live traps for the Ilin Cloudbrunner Survey in Sta. Teresa, Magsaysay last August 19 to 31, 2022
- Facilitated the onsite and online activities of OJT students from UPLB
- Validated foot patrolling data from Mt. Halcon and prepared simple field guides for Bantay Gubat members in Mt. Halcon
- Released articles, “Retracing the largest land mammal in the Philippines” and “Assessing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices of teachers and students on biodiversity and environment conservation in Mindoro, Philippines” in latest Sylvatrop issue
- Tamaraw Dietary Analysis
  - Finalization of MOA with UP Diliman
  - Interim report submitted to Chester Zoo
  - Coordinated with the NCIP for the acquisition of FPIC from the IP communities in Mt. Gimparay and MIBNP
- Submitted Poster Presentation entries for the BCSP Symposium



Setting up camera traps in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro (August 20, 2022)



Presentation about flying foxes in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro (August 17, 2022)



Post perception survey in Sitio Hinugasan, Mt. Calavite (September 12, 2022)



Meeting with SEARCA and DepEd focal persons for potential partnership in SHGBEE Project (July 13, 2022)

## CARE

- Re-submitted the Draft Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan for Adoption of the Municipality of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Conducted Post Perception Survey in Mount Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
- Participated in Shore-It-Up Puerto Galera in Dulangan Bay as part of the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day
- Mangrove planting activity at OMNHS with DepEd
- Radio guesting with SpiritFM Calapan featuring the 30x30 Campaign and Citizen Science
- Area scoping and test birding in MBCC as a potential ecotourism activity
- Signed up MBCFI as a member of the 30x30 Coalition
- Conducted meeting with representatives from SEARCA, DepEd Calapan and Oriental Mindoro SDOs for potential partnership on SHGBEE Project in Mindoro
- Submitted IEC materials layouts for MAARDEC
- Participated in Tamaraw Month preparatory activities
- New website development on its finalization stage
- Provided feedback for the development of Tamaraw-related IEC materials

# Program Highlights



## MISSION

### Mt. Halcon

- Conducted 3rd Quarter Foot Patrolling with Bantay Gubat
- Enhancement of nursery with 1,200 wildlings, including re-establishment of seed beds, sorting and fencing of seedlings, and installment of seedling name tags
- Assisted in the transplantation of vegetables, foodshed management and disposal of chickens
- Renovated bunkhouse facilities
- Monthly meeting with POs

### Mt. Malasimbo

- 3 vermicomposting beds filled with substrates
- Beekeeping site established with 8 hive boxes built and two colonies of stingless bee trapped in 3 boxes
- Established natural steps from Museum to camp site to nursery, with ongoing establishment from nursery to beekeeping site to billboard area
- Planted indigenous seedlings along the canopy walk from Lot H to Upper View Deck
- Conducted maintenance and clearing activities of MBCC demonstration site and camping ground
- Supervised ground works and facilitated the monthly meetings of MaSIPag members



Enhancement of nursery and wildlings in Bayanan



Maintenance of vermicomposting beds in Mt. Malasimbo



Inspection at the Solar Power System for synchronization to grid

## MBCC

- Kyle Cielo appointed as MBCC Manager
- Tripartite Agreement for MBCC access road signed
- Completed installation of edible plant boxes between main buildings and utility building
- Installed billboards at the boundaries
- Completed solar power system and initiated synchronization to grid
- Construction of ceiling eaves ongoing

## Others

- Accredited by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of both Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro and Calapan City Government
- Awarded Certificate of Recognition as Division Partner by DepEd
- Participated in the 3rd Quarter Provincial Environmental Council Full Meeting and regular meetings
- Participated in the 3rd Quarter PAMB Meetings for all 4 Protected Areas in Mindoro
- Participated in the activities of the Provincial Multipartite Environment Impact Assessment Monitoring Team

# The MBCFI Way

## Seabirds Survey in ARNP



MBCFI and the Protected Area Management Office of ARNP (ARNP-PAMO) has been monitoring the populations of seabirds within their breeding season since 2018. It is part of the long-term initiative to monitor birds in ARNP which started in 2013. This year, the fourth breeding season survey was completed in July with the following objectives: 1) to monitor bird populations in ARNP during the breeding season; 2) to standardize the methodology in monitoring Black-naped Tern and Bridled Tern nests; and, 3) to identify threats and develop necessary management actions to address them.

The first dedicated survey for seabird nests was conducted this year. Only Tinangkapan and the sandy beach in Apo Island were surveyed on July 17, 2022. Each nesting area surveyed was partitioned into two to avoid

double counting. Ground counts of eggs and chicks were done by Kathy Lene S. Cielo and Jasmin C. Meren who were assisted by two Park Rangers. This was done with caution to minimize disturbance to individuals and prevent trampling on cryptic eggs and chicks.

Five species of seabirds were recorded during the survey. Black-naped Tern had the highest total count (824 individuals). It was followed by Bridled Tern (757 individuals) which is categorized under Other Threatened Species in the National Red List of Threatened Fauna (DENR Administrative Order 2017-09). These are the highest total counts for both species since 2018.

Greater Crested Tern, Brown Booby and Brown Noddy were also recorded during the survey. Among the five seabird species, only Black-

naped Tern and Bridled Tern showed evidence of breeding during the survey. Nests of these two species were recorded during the first ground counts conducted within ARNP.

Regular monitoring of bird populations within the breeding season should be continued along with other capacity-building activities for the management staff. Anthropogenic threats to the breeding seabirds should also be addressed. These threats include human visitation in nesting areas. Strict enforcement and effective communication of PA rules and regulations will be key in addressing this.

Another threat is predation by invasive rats. Traps may be regularly deployed, with increasing trapping effort during the breeding season, to reduce the invasive rat populations in Apo Island.



Photos by EHTan

# The MBCFI Way

## 3rd Quarter Foot Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring in Mt. Halcon



Mt. Halcon is an important habitat and critical watershed and provides different ecological services. It is the headwater of numerous river systems that supply water for agriculture, industrial, and domestic uses. Its forests are continuously declining because of timber poaching, charcoal production, conversion of forestlands into other land uses, slash and burn farming, small-scale mining, and other destructive and unsustainable resource use practices.

Mt. Halcon is home to two of the eight ethnolinguistic groups in Mindoro Island, the Alangan and Iraya Mangyans, identified as key stakeholders. Currently, there are no concrete protection activities in the area, and thus Mt. Halcon is an open access, and the use of natural resources is not fully regulated.

The third quarter patrolling was conducted on July 14 to 15, 2022, in Mt. Halcon, Sitios Magpanadtad, Pagsumlakan and Kabuangan, Barangay Bayanan, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. A total 18 members of Kawaras Gabay Akyat Halcon sa Bayanan (KAWARAS) joined the patrolling activities. Aside from patrolling, the team also cleaned and maintained the nursery and woodlots, and tree-planting areas.

Based on the reports of the members of KAWARAS, they observed several wildlife species such as the Long-tailed Macaque, Mindoro Warty Pig, Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill, Mindoro Racket-tail, Imperial Pigeon, Colasisi, and pitcher plants.

The members also listed some forest trees they observed. They were able to record these

species: Almaciga, Kamagong, Guijo, Lukto, Balukanag, Malugay and Lauan.

In the previous patrolling activities, they were only able to use generic identifications such as monkeys and birds. Now the KAWARAS members can identify the observed species because of previous trainings and familiarity.

The biological and cultural significance of Mt. Halcon is now highly vulnerable to various issues, concerns, and challenges. If left unattended may result enormously in the furthering erosion of the IP's culture, more losses of biologically important resources, and extreme deterioration of the natural environment and ecological services, among others.



# The MBCFI Way

## Shore It Up Puerto Galera Event for International Coastal Cleanup Day



Far more than an eyesore, a rising tide of marine debris threatens human health, wildlife, and communities around the world. The International Coastal Cleanup Day is a global event that unites countries and people with one common goal: to show concern on the growing marine debris problem by removing trash/debris along shorelines, rivers, lakes, waterways and gathering data on the kind and volume of trash collected.

Last September 17, MBCFI participated in the annual Shore It Up Event of Puerto Galera as part of the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event is lead and

organized by the Municipal Environmental Office (MENRO), together with the officers of each of the respective barangays of Puerto Galera. UNESCO also served as a partner agency for this environmental event.

More than 200 members of Barangay Dulangan enthusiastically took part in the event, including local residents, teachers and students from Isidoro Suzara Memorial School (ISMS) and Puerto Galera National High School, and other organizations like the Dulangan Chapters of Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan (KAPAKA), Stairway Foundation, and Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI).

The participants spent the whole morning collecting marine debris along the coasts and waterways of Barangay Dulangan, which were then taken back to the designated area for segregation and recording.

Data on the different types of collected trash and marine debris are then noted and submitted to the MENRO, which will be used to guide governments, industries and business in developing smarter and more sustainable solutions to the marine debris problem. Through this, we are taking significant steps minimizing marine pollution.



Photos by KLCielo & JMarasigan

# The MBCFI Way

## MBCC Construction Updates



On July of 2022, the operationalization of Phase 1 of MBCC has commenced. A Gratuitous Permit request has been submitted to DENR MIMAROPA for the collection of specimen for the Museum. In addition, coordination with different organizations and individuals have been conducted for the donation of their collections for the Museum. Likewise, a MOA request has been sent to the National Museum of the Philippines.



The solar panel system installation has been completed and commissioned successfully. The system has also been inspected by DOST. By September of 2022, ceiling eaves construction is at 33%. Safety and security procedures are continuously being implemented.



Kyle Cielo has also been appointed as the new MBCC Manager. She now spearheads the operationalization of the center, in coordination with onsite supervisor, Arch. Rainer Magcale.

**YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING.**

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

<https://mbcfi.org.ph/mbcc>



*Onsite photos by Arch. RMagcale*

# Species in Focus

## Mangroves in Silonay



Photo by EHTan

### Mangrove Species in Silonay Mangrove

#### Protected Area:

*Acanthus ilicifolius*  
*Aegiceras corniculatum*  
*Avicennia marina*  
*Avicennia officinalis*  
*Bruguiera cylindrica*  
*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*  
*Bruguiera sexangula*  
*Ceriops tagal*  
*Ceripis decandra*  
*Excoecaria agallocha*  
*Nypa fruticans*  
*Rhizophora apiculata*  
*Rhizophora mucronata*  
*Sonneratia alba*  
*Sonneratia caseolaris*

Mangroves are the intertidal plants, mostly trees and shrubs, distributed in regions of estuaries, deltas and riverbanks or along the coastlines of tropical and subtropical areas. Various terms have been used to describe mangroves, such as coastal woodland, tidal forest or mangrove forest. It is noted that 'mangrove' has two different interpretations: it can refer to an individual plant or to an assemblage of plants that contains many species.

The Silonay Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Project is situated within the Silonay Mangrove Protected Area, the biggest forest in Calapan city with an estimated area of 41 hectares. It also known as Silonay Eco-park, and was formed through a conservation agreement.

This locally managed conservation area houses different species of mangroves, as well as 29 species of birds and 2 species of bats. Local stewards have put up billboards along the walkway with images of these

species as part of the education campaign for the visitors and tourists.

The Silonay Mangrove Conservation and Ecopark was awarded 1st Runner-up for the Best Mangrove Area Award given by the Zoological Society of London.



**There are 15 species of mangroves, 29 species of birds, and 2 species of bats recorded in Silonay Mangrove Conservation Ecopark.**

Photo and data from UNDP





**Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center**  
Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines

*In order to build a more inclusive collection that best represents Mindoro*

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*For inquiries, please send an email to [mbcc@mbcfi.org.ph](mailto:mbcc@mbcfi.org.ph)*



## 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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