

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



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

In my last year's report as Chairman of the Board, I stated that we were looking forward to a good journey in 2022 to build on the hard work performed in the previous year. Little did I know that mother nature had other things in mind that would keep our Executive Director, Grace Diamante and our staff continually finding ways to meet the challenges head-on! Staff shortages stretched our already thin workforce to the limit, but it amazes me that we achieved a project delivery burnt rate of 95.78% and a budget burnt rate of 96.82% for the year. Then our accreditation from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification took us some time to renew due to several delays in the pre-requisites.

For the same reason, the implementation of our programs and construction of Phase 1.1 of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) has been affected. Then a change in the management of our core funder from Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. to Prime Energy led the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to prepare a transition plan for (a) a steady-state condition for the year 2023 and beyond, (b) set goals of the organization, and (c) A well-defined membership structure and the Board has newly reconstituted with new members. We have started discussions with Prime Energy on how to synergize going forward. We shall give feedback to all of MBCFI -Staff and Trustees as more information on how the new owners would like to progress on CSR.

Early in the year and the last quarter of 2022, the RESEARCH program conducted the annual waterbird count in partnership with the DENR in Apo Reef Natural Park and Naujan Lake National Park, recording a total of 109 bird species. The Spotted Pigeon is a new species recorded in Apo Reef. It has been confirmed that ARNP hosts the breeding and nesting areas for Black-naped (*Sterna sumatrana*) and Bridled Terns (*Onychoprion anaethetus*). These are notable information used for application to Ramsar Convention.

The purposive search for the Ilin Cloudrunner in mainland Mindoro was also conducted in partnership with ReWild; unfortunately, there have been no observations of such species until now. As to the Biodiversity Corridor Project, our team participated and presented in some workshops, trainings, and dialogues throughout the year.

Memorandum of Agreements with UP Diliman and with two Mangyan tribes from Mt. Gimparay and MIBNP for the conduct of the Tamaraw Habitat Analysis have been signed. This study is funded jointly by the Malampaya Project, Forest Foundation Philippines, and Chester Zoo, and it is aimed to increase the knowledge on identifying suitable and prospective habitats for Tamaraw and a better understanding of the population dynamics of the Tamaraw in relation to the availability of food within the habitat. It took us more than two years to secure Free, Prior Informed Consent due to the pandemic, but we were able to conduct the Socio-economic Cultural & Conditions Survey in Mt. Gimparay.

In the same year, we established and trained a network of species-focused Citizen Scientists and Mindoro Wildlife Watch. They validated the flying fox species and roosting sites in Puerto Galera (Giant Golden-crowned flying fox, *Acerodon jubatus* and *Pteropus hypomelanus*). An assessment and tagging of Philippine Teak Trees (790 trees) have been completed. CEPA Strategies Plan and collaterals against wildlife trafficking produced.

MBCFI paved the way as a learning hub for several OJTs from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and Mindoro State University.

The RESEARCH team participated in the Annual Tamaraw Count, Flying Fox, and Seabirds Forum and poster presentation to the BCSP Symposium.

The MISSION program has introduced a food resiliency project by establishing food sheds in Mt. Halcon and Puerto Galera, which gave the IP communities additional income.

Under the renewed conservation agreements between MBCFI and Peoples Organization in Baco (KAWARAS and SARIG) and Puerto Galera (MaSIPag, MaHaLKITa), we were able to maintain at least 40 hectares of woodlot areas, three nursery sites, and four vermibeds. Armed with a refresher course on Wildlife Enforcement, foot patrolling was conducted every quarter, and biodiversity monitoring reports were collected and analyzed.

At the MBCC site, edible landscaping and beekeeping have been established, and fruit-bearing trees were planted in partnership with local stakeholders. Nurseries, composting areas, restoration, and woodlots have been maintained.

The CARE program, MBCFI's active presence based on profile visits on the social media has connected us to the world. A venue to share our expertise, educate others and build relationships over time. In 2022, we had a higher audience reach in Instagram (146.6%), almost 11% increase in the number of FB Page likes, and 144.4% increase in Instagram followers compared to the previous year.

Four (4) quarterly e-newsletters and one annual report have been released via Akubo. We were able to release 12 podcast episodes in 2022. We were given numerous opportunities to share our activities and promote our advocacies through radio guesting and live streaming the entire year. For us to work efficiently and ensure that all information is managed properly, our google workspace have been updated.

Our new website has been launched to give MBCFI a higher profile and prominence, highlighting the great work over the years. The technology on CRM and e-commerce has been upgraded, with new features and a fresh new look with contents revamped which will bring relevance to diverse audiences and opportunities to support the foundation's conservation efforts.

We participated in and even led some of the environmental events in 2022 (i.e. World Wetlands Day, Wildlife Day, SHGBEE for IBD, Biodiversity Day, International Coastal Cleanup, 1st International Day for Biosphere Reserve, and Tamaraw Month).

We remain true to our advocacy for sustaining Mindoro's natural treasures by drafting and presenting our position papers on Victoria-Sablayan Interprovincial Road and Naujan Lake National Park Proposed Boundary Change. The draft Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan was resubmitted for adoption by the Municipality of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. We actively participated in the quarterly board meeting of four protected areas in Mindoro and other policy-making bodies, where five ordinances and 28 board resolutions have been passed.

Our contributions in the past were highly regarded and have earned several awards from the DOST in Search for the Most Outstanding S&T Foundation/Science for the People; from DepEd as one the Most Outstanding Partners in MIMAROPA and MBCFI's Corporate Social Responsibility Campaign won in the 2022 Women Leading Change Awards-Asia Pacific.

WE ARE NOW IN A MORE STABLE SITUATION, ALLOWING US TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ACCREDITATIONS

MBCFI has been reaccredited by different government agencies and non-government institutions locally and internationally.

- Department of Science and Technology - valid until December 10, 2022 with submitted documents for renewal
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources - validity April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
- Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro - validity September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2025
- Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro - validity September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2025
- Local Government of Calapan City - validity September 14, 2022 to June 30, 2025
- Association of Foundations - valid since February 28, 2020
- Philippine Council for NGO Certification - validity December 7, 2022 to December 6, 2027
- International Union for Conservation of Nature - member since June 13, 2017

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our financial performance for 2022 ended in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities. However, our cash flow was challenged in the last month of the year, awaiting the release of our PCNC reaccreditation. Nonetheless, the delivery of our targets versus our expenditures were appropriately and reasonably used.

Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
As at December 31, 2022 and 2021
(All amounts in Philippine Peso)

	Notes	2022	2021
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash	2	1,225,868	10,847,398
Prepayments and other current assets	3	243,067	850,403
Total current assets		1,468,935	11,697,801
Non-current asset			
Property and equipment, net	4	32,981,200	27,250,603
Total assets		34,450,135	38,948,404
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	5	2,557,657	3,259,592
Fund balance			
Prior period accumulated excess of receipts over expenses		35,688,812	28,424,745
Excess (Deficiency) of receipts over expenses during the year		(3,796,334)	7,264,067
Total fund balance		31,892,478	35,688,812
Total liabilities and fund balance		34,450,135	38,948,404

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (A non-stock, non-profit organization)

Statements of Income
For the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021
(All amounts in Philippine Peso)

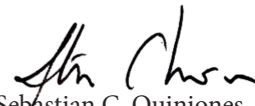
	Notes	2022	2021
Receipts			
Donations	7	6,113,906	15,207,605
Unrealized foreign currency exchange gains	2	74,998	41,554
Interest income	2	2,797	8,864
Total receipts		6,191,701	15,258,023
Expenses			
Program expenses	8	(8,771,620)	(6,572,619)
Operating expenses	9	(1,216,415)	(1,421,337)
Total expenses		(9,988,035)	(7,993,956)
Excess (Deficiency) of receipts over expenses		(3,796,334)	7,264,067

The support of the Malampaya Project and the Department of Energy has been a cornerstone in the completion of Phase 1 of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center, and I'd like to thank them for their ongoing and unwavering support. Thank you DOST-MIMAROPA for providing the 29-kw capacity of solar panel system. We all look forward to many more years of collaboration with them.

As in previous years, the Board of Trustees never hesitated in making difficult but strategic decisions to ensure the longevity of this foundation. I owe them my sincere gratitude.

Performance delivered in 2022 does not happen by chance but rather through the talent, dedication, and tireless efforts of staff who keep delivering quality results, building on the foundations of those who went before us.

And so, a small part of 2023 has already passed with few difficulties at hand, but we are now in a more stable situation, allowing us to expand and improve. Thanks to all MBCFI staff for keeping the ship afloat over the past few months. I'm confident that the staff, members and trustees will take everything in their stride in 2023 to manage the challenges and opportunities in the remaining nine months and help our communities, stakeholders and partners navigate a successful path forward. We will make our 15th year more meaningful.


Sebastian C. Quiniones, Jr.
Chairman

Some of the Highlights in 2022:

RESEARCH



Waterbird survey in Apo Reef Natural Park

- 1 Participated in the Annual Tamaraw Count in Mts. Iglit-Baco-Natural Park and Data Consolidation Workshop
- 2 Assisted CENRO San Jose and IAMBAG in the Philippine Teak Assessment and improvement of monitoring and survey methods, with 790 Philippine Teak trees assessed and tagged in Ilin and Ambulong Islands
- 3 Conducted community interviews and confirmed 1,500 to 3,000 *Pteropus hypomelanus* roosting individuals in Muelle, Puerto Galera
- 4 Continued the Ilin Cloudbunner survey in Ilin Island, with additional sites in Magsaysay, and prepared Cloudbunner survey report
- 5 Facebook groups for Wildlife Watch and Biodiversity Citizen Scientists created
- 6 Conducted ARNP Seabirds Survey and confirmed ARNP as breeding and nesting area for Black-naped Terns and Bridled Terns
- 7 Technical assistance has been provided for the conduct of Annual Waterbird Census in Apo Reef Natural Park and Naujan Lake National Park
- 8 Consolidated LiDAR and CLUP data for flooding mitigation strategy planning and implementation
- 9 Procured RESEARCH laboratory equipment
- 10 Prepared Framework Plan and facilitation of online and onsite OJT students from UP Los Baños and Mindoro State University
- 11 Tamaraw Dietary Analysis Study
 - Signed MOA and coordination with UP Diliman for plant DNA in Tamaraw fecal samples
 - Conducted activities for securing FPIC from IP communities in Mt. Gimparay and MIBNP in coordination with the NCIP
 - Monitoring Report submitted to FFP
 - Interim Report submitted to Chester Zoo
- 12 Socio-economic and cultural conditions survey conducted in Mt. Gimparay
- 13 Research 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" released in latest Sylvatrop issue
- 14 Presented ARNP Seabirds paper during the 30th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium

MISSION



Vermicomposting shed

- 1 5 Conservation Agreements renewed with the People's Organizations: MaSIPag and MaHaLKITa in Mt. Malasimbo, and KAWARAS, SARIG, and NagmaMaHal in Mt. Halcon
- 2 Conservation agreement with KAPAKA signed and conducted monthly meetings as youth organization partner
- 3 Continued assistance to POs during monthly meetings
- 4 Facilitated the drafting of the 1-year Action Plan of MaHalKita
- 5 Completed foodshed and trained KAWARAS members on foodshed maintenance, vegetable planting, and raising chickens
- 6 Enhanced nursery with 1,200 wildlings in Bayanan
- 7 Monitored crafting and selling of weaved nito products
- 8 Conducted quarterly foot patrolling in Mt. Halcon, with 1000 indigenous seedlings replanted in eroded forest areas and riverside during patrolling
- 9 Established bamboo nursery with 200 bamboo culm in Mt. Malasimbo
- 10 Established bamboo nursery with 200 bamboo culm in Mt. Malasimbo
- 11 Beekeeping site established with 8 hive boxes built
- 12 Monitored disposal of raised chicken and eggplant by MaSIPag
- 12 Community sensing conducted in Sitio Lapantay in Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera

CARE

- 1 New MBCFI website launched
- 2 4 quarterly newsletters were virtually released via social media and Akubo
- 3 Quarterly guesting in radio programs in Mindoro
- 4 10 podcast episodes produced and released in Spotify, Google Podcasts, and Anchor FM
- 5 Drafted position papers for the Mindoro Cross-Island (Victoria-Sablayan) Road Project and the New Proposed Boundary of Naujan Lake National Park
- 6 Provided inputs to "HANRAHID: Infographic Materials on the Conservation of Endemic Tamaraws in Mindoro Island, Philippines"
- 7 Prepared and submitted IEC materials layouts for MAARRDEC
- 8 "School Plus Home Gardening cum Biodiversity Enhancement Enterprise" webinar in celebration of the Biodiversity Month 2022
- 9 Launched a virtual Photo Contest in celebration of Biodiversity and Environment Months
- 10 Post-perception surveys conducted in communities of Ilin and Ambulong Islands, Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park, and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
- 11 Conducted meeting with SEARCA, DepEd Calapan and Oriental Mindoro SDOs for potential partnership on SHGBEE Project in Mindoro
- 12 Participated in Shore It Up Puerto Galera as part of the International Coastal Cleanup
- 13 Mindoro-wide Biodiversity Quiz Contest held as part of Tamaraw Month celebration
- 14 Partnered with the Puerto Galera LGU for the 1st Biosphere Reserve Day celebration
- 15 Served as Institutional Partner presented virtual exhibit in the 30th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium
- 16 Public presentations conducted:
 - EMPOWER 6.0 Camp
 - PUP SBS webinar, presented Wildlife Trade



Post-perception survey in Brgy. Bayanan

MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER (MBCC)

- 1 Phase 1 construction 100% completed
- 2 Ceiling eaves construction completed
- 3 Bidding for museum content construction done and awarded to Red Root Artists Cooperative
- 4 Solar Power Project funded by DOST MIMAROPA fully installed, successfully commissioned and synchronized to grid
- 5 Pollution Control Officer accredited by EMB MIMAROPA
- 6 Kyle Cielo appointed as MBCC Manager
- 7 Tripartite Agreement for MBCC access road signed
- 8 Presented proposal to four PAMBs for museum specimen collection
- 9 Three bids for Phase 1.1 construction secured
- 10 Built edible plant boxes between main buildings and utility building
- 11 Installed billboards at MBCC boundaries
- 11 Call for donation for museum collections initiated
- 12 Area scoping and test birding in MBCC as a potential ecotourism activity conducted



MBCC construction progress

Other Highlights in 2022:

1 Participated in the quarterly Provincial Development Environmental and Council meetings, and challenged environmentally-degrading & non-compliant projects (Inter-provincial Road, ordinance on extraction of armor rocks as exception from mining moratorium)

2 Turnover of patrol gears to Tamaraw Rangers with UNDP-BIOFIN and DENR

3 Public presentation about MBCFI and MBCC conducted in Puerto Galera



4 Actively served as a member in the Regional Development Council, Provincial Multipartite Environmental Impact Assessment Monitoring Team, MiMaRoPa Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium and Protected Area Management Board activities and meetings

5 Participated in Stakeholders' Initiatives Synchronization Workshop for the BD Corridor Project



6 Attended in High Conservation Value (HCV) Area Training and Habitat Suitability and Quality Mapping

7 Participated in Species Detection Training in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary

8 Assisted in the Upper Amnay community consultation with D'Abville Foundation

9 MBCFI signed up as a member of the 30x30 Coalition

10 Presented Sustainable Trade and Circular Economy at the World Trade Center Metro Manila's (WTCMM) first Business Broadcast

11 Participated in the IUCN Leaders Forum

12 Attended the seventh ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference

13 Attended the PA Business Planning Workshop for Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in Thailand, with support from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

14 Presented MBCFI's draft position paper on the Mindoro Cross-Island (Victoria-Sablayan) Road Project to relevant stakeholders including the local media

15 Delivered a short message during the launch of "Endangered Bird Species of the Philippines" in response to the partnership between Haring Ibon and MBCFI



16 Held a meeting with Congressman Arnan Panaligan and discussed the Tamaraw Conservation House Bill #8299 Biodiversity Month and other environmental concerns

17 Awarded Certificate of Recognition as Division Partner by DepEd

18 Awarded Certificate of Appreciation by DOST as Science and Technology Foundation Partner

19 One of the sponsors for the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Association of Foundations

20 Selected as plenary speaker at MAARRDEC's Second Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights with the topic, "Empowering Local Stakeholders Through Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood"

With greater commitments to achieving new goals in 2023, we are positively looking forward to working with our current and future partners in opening the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center to the public, strengthened peoples' organizations and Mangyan communities, more efficient citizen scientists and wildlife enforcers, more restoration programs, and so much more.

MEMBERS AND STAFF



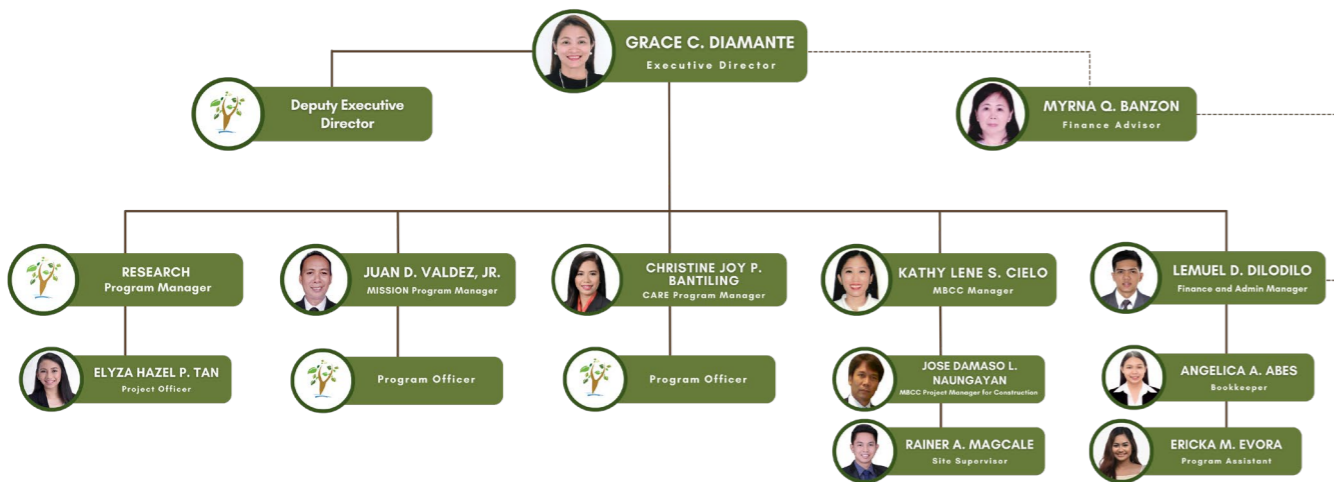
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



HONORARY MEMBERS



ORGANIGRAM



FEATURE PARTNERS IN 2022



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
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 2022.



Waterbirds Survey in Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP)

The Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) is considered a Key Biodiversity Area and an Important Bird Area. It provides habitat to a wide range of birds including small island specialists and seabirds. Several vagrant bird species have also been recorded within and nearby the MPA. To date, the total number of bird species recorded in ARNP is 104.

Two seabird species, the Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) and Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) consider

THE COUNTS FOR BLACK-NAPED TERNS AND BRIDLED TERNS WERE THE HIGHEST SINCE BREEDING SEASON SURVEYS BEGAN IN 2018.

the limestone islands of ARNP as their nesting habitats. Photographs of Black-naped Tern eggs and a Bridled Tern chick in Binanggaan taken by ARNP PAMO staff and volunteers last year provided strong evidence to confirm that these species were breeding in ARNP.

Prior to last year, Black-naped Tern eggs were already photographed by management staff and tourists but these were not subjected to expert identification earlier. Black-naped Terns and Bridled Terns are observed within the MPA as early as March. Their numbers gradually increase in the following months, peaking in July as suggested by long-serving management staff.

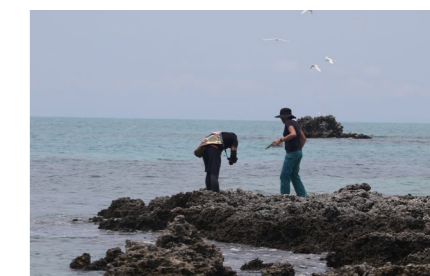
MBCFI and the Protected Area Management Office of ARNP (ARNP-PAMO) have been monitoring the populations of these seabirds within their breeding season since 2018. This is part of the long-term initiative to monitor birds in ARNP which started in 2013.

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.

Black-naped Tern had the highest total count (n=824). It was followed by Bridled Tern (n=757). The counts for both species this year were the highest since breeding season surveys began in 2018. During the ground counts for nests, eggs and chicks of Black-naped Terns and Bridled Terns were recorded. All of which were located within the Strict Protection Zone of the MPA where recreational activities are prohibited.

Other notable waterbirds and terrestrial birds were encountered during the survey including the IUCN Vulnerable Spotted Imperial Pigeon. Regular monitoring of bird populations within the breeding season should be continued along with other capacity-building activities for the management staff.



Purposive Survey for the Ilin Cloudbrunner

For the past three years, the purposive survey of the Ilin Cloudbrunner was conducted in the Ilin-Ambulong Islands, both in wet and dry or fruiting seasons. Unfortunately, no actual species were observed or captured in the installed camera traps on the island.

Continuing the survey in mainland Mindoro was recommended based on the previous undocumented local sightings. The selected survey sites include Magsaysay and MIBNP, Occidental Mindoro.

The survey in Magsaysay was conducted last August 20 to September 1, 2022 in Barangay St. Teresa, Magsaysay. The area where the survey was conducted is characterized by a secondary forest type vegetation.

A total of 10 camera traps were deployed within the forest area. A total of 3,223 photographs were obtained from the camera trap stations, with 100



trapping nights. However, no evidence of Cloudbrunners were documented during this survey. Several other notable wildlife species were observed through opportunistic encounters during day and night searches.

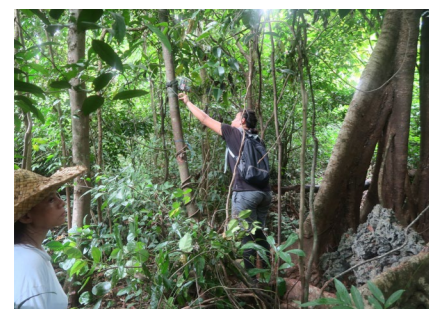
The notable species observed in the camera trap include birds like Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*), Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*), Philippine Pied Fantail (*Rhipidura nigritorquis*), Mindoro bulbul (*Hypsipetes mindorensis*), Philippine Bulbul (*Hypsipetes philippinus*), as well as reptile species and mammals like Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) and an unidentified rodent species.

As the community's understanding of the local ecology is lacking, it is possible that the species has not existed

in the area for a very long time or that no one in the community has ever seen it. Moreover, the team was unable to find any Cloudbrunner evidence, such as feces or tracks, using a variety of techniques like transect walks, cage traps, and camera traps.

Exhaustive surveys were conducted during the wet and dry season, and the Cloudbrunner was not observed.

However, this does not entirely suggest that the Ilin Cloudbrunner no longer thrives in the island. Continuation of the surveys will be done in MIBNP in 2023.



Philippine Teak Assessment in Ilin and Ambulong Islands

To further improve the management of Ilin and Ambulong Islands as Critical Habitat, training on citizen science and the assessment of the Philippine Teak was conducted last April.

Together with IAMBAG members and CENRO San Jose, MBCFI was able to tag and assess 790 individuals of Philippine Teak in Ilin and Ambulong Islands.



Wildlife Watch and Biodiversity Citizen Scientists



Citizen Science is the active participation of the general community, including enthusiasts, students, volunteers, youths, and other interested individuals in scientific research.

Mindoro Biodiversity Citizen Scientist Group was created to promote the participation of local community members in biodiversity research and conservation. On the other hand, the Wildlife Watch group is solely for reporting illegal wildlife activities, including but not limited to collection and trade. It aims to monitor and stop wildlife trafficking in Mindoro, other neighboring islands, and the Philippines.

On-the-Job Trainees

MBCFI served as the training ground for interns from the University of the Philippines Los Baños and Mindoro State University by providing experience and mentorship in research activities, through onsite and online activities. During their internship, the trainees were subjected to various activities such as bat monitoring surveys, plant identification, seabird monitoring in ARNP, and development of CEPA materials.



Tamaraw Dietary Analysis Project

The project aims to identify the food sources and dietary patterns of the critically endangered Tamaraw in the Mt. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) in the Philippines.

Since 2020, MBCFI has been carrying out the necessary procedures to obtain the consent of the community members for the proposed Tamaraw Dietary Analysis Project, which will be carried out in Mt. Gimparay. This is being done in accordance with the requirements for carrying out research studies on areas that have been designated as ancestral domains of Mangyan communities.

As part of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) application process for the Tamaraw Dietary Analysis Project, the project team conducted *pansula*. *Pansula* is a customary practice of the indigenous communities in the Philippines to seek permission and blessings from the spirits and deities before conducting any activity that may impact their territories.



The pansula ceremony was held with the Mangyan community in Mt. Gimparay, where the study will be carried out.

The project team also signed MOAs with the Alangan and Tau-buid communities in MIBNP. The MOAs were necessary to ensure the participation and cooperation of the communities in the project. The MOAs include provisions for sharing of information, benefits, and responsibilities. The project team hopes that the MOAs will strengthen the relationship between the project team and the communities.

Likewise, a MOA with the University of the Philippines Diliman Institute of Biology has been signed to conduct DNA testing of the Tamaraw's food sources. The team collected samples from the feeding grounds of Kalibasib and sent them to the UPD Institute of Biology for analysis. The team received a preliminary DNA testing report, which will be used to identify the Tamaraw's food sources accurately.

The RESEARCH team also conducted a socio-economic survey in communities in Mt. Gimparay. The survey aimed to identify the communities' economic activities, livelihoods, and cultural practices, as baseline information for the community profile.

The RESEARCH team is making preparations for carrying out the fieldwork for the Tamaraw Dietary Analysis Project.

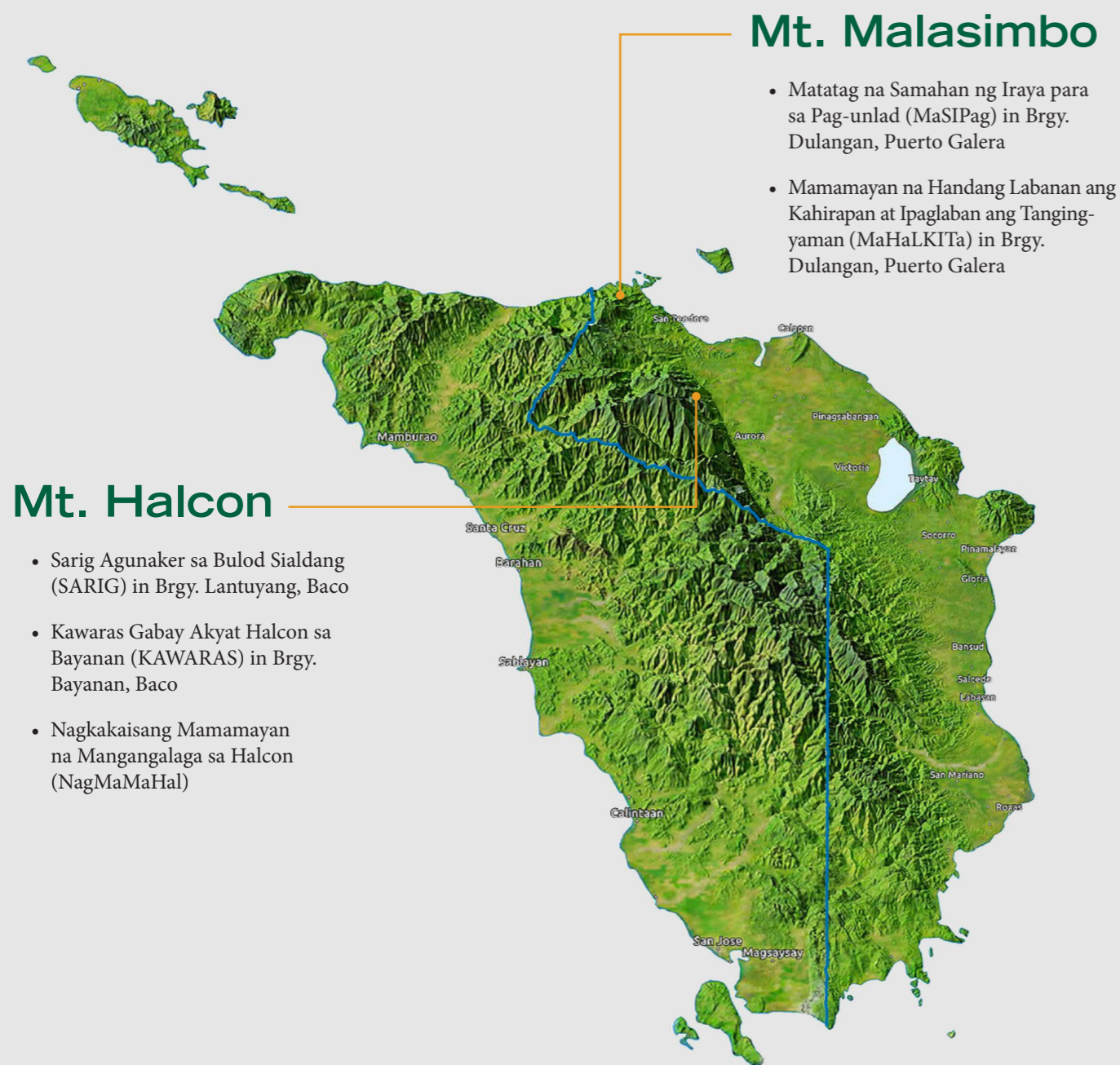


MISSION
Mindoro Island Symbolic Species Icons of Nature

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.

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



Foot Patrolling and Biodiversity Monitoring

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, Sitis Magpanadtad, Pagsumlakan and Kabuungan, 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, Luktob, 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.

Restoration and Woodlot Sites Monitoring

In 2022, MBCFI was able to conduct the maintenance and monitoring activities of the restoration and woodlot sites in Mt. Halcon. The restoration and woodlot sites monitoring was conducted by SARIG and KAWARAS members every quarter.





Nursery Establishment and Vermicomposting

More than 3,800 indigenous seedlings have been maintained by MaSIPag members in the open nursery in the MBCC site in Mt. Malasimbo. In addition, site clearing and natural fencing maintenance were also done at the MBCC site. Moreover, a food shed was also established at the site. The six vermicomposting beds were also maintained.

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.

Other Livelihood Projects

Monitoring of the social enterprise initiatives in Mt. Malasimbo and Mt. Halcon was successfully conducted, with a particular focus on the production and sale of weaved nito products. The dedicated members of MaSIPag, a local organization, demonstrated their commitment and hard work, resulting in the production and sale of 295 pieces of flask containers and 124 pieces of oil diffusers.

Furthermore, the monitoring efforts extended beyond the weaved nito products. The members of the POs in Mt. Halcon and Mt. Malasimbo successfully engaged in the rearing and sale of chickens. These activities were carried out in the established food sheds within their respective areas. Moreover, a beekeeping site was established in Mt. Malasimbo.



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.

Tamaraw Month Celebration



With the cooperation of the Provincial Governments of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro, MBCFI conducted the Biodiversity Quiz Contest as part of the Tamaraw Month celebration with the theme “Tamaraw na Tinatangi, Pamana ng Lipi”.

The quiz contest was held simultaneously on October 15, 2022 for both Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro. The event was attended by two representatives of each participating school in both provinces.

The event was led by MBCFI, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and Environment and Natural Resources Offices of the Provincial Governments of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro.

Fifty-two teams from different secondary schools in the province of Oriental Mindoro participated in this quiz bee, while twelve teams participated in the Occidental Mindoro run.

The students from Canubing National High School of Calapan City were crowned champions for the Oriental Mindoro run. Students of Leutebora National High School of Socorro took second place while Holy Infant Academy of Calapan City came in third place.

For the Occidental Mindoro run, students from Abra De Ilog National High School won first place. The team from Manoot National High School won second place and students from San Vicente National High School (Yapang Annex) won third place.

The top three winning teams got the opportunity to be their province's representative in the 6th National Wildlife Quiz held last November and organized by the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PBCFI). Representing teams from Canubing National High School and Holy Infant Academy won 4th Place in the said National Wildlife Quiz.



Introduction to School Plus Home Garden cum Biodiversity Enhancement Enterprise (SHGBEE)

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. As part of this year's celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity and Biodiversity Month for Mindoro, MBCFI conducted the webinar, “Introduction to School Plus Home Garden cum Biodiversity Enhancement Enterprise (SHGBEE),” in partnership with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Department of Education - MIMAROPA region (DepEd MIMAROPA).

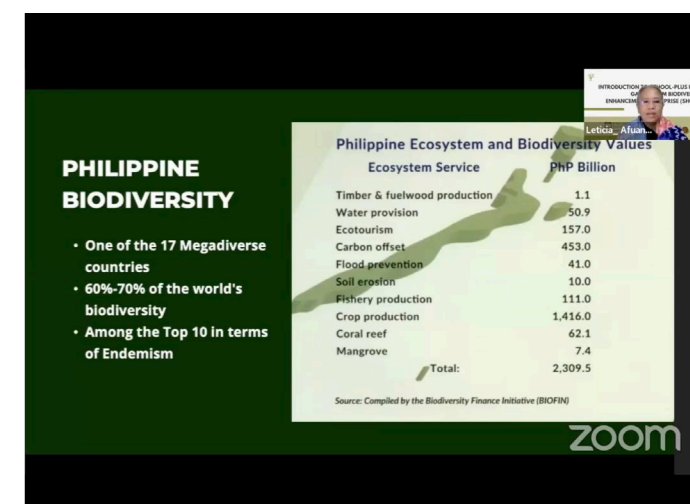
This webinar was conducted with the goal of giving teachers and school garden coordinators an introduction to the concept of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity enhancement, which can be done through the initiation of SHGBEE in support of the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP) implemented in their respective schools. The resource speakers for this webinar were Ms. Anna Gale Vallez, Program Specialist from the Research and Thought Leadership Department (RTLD) of SEARCA and Dr. Leticia Afuang, MBCFI Trustee and Wildlife Biologist from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Ms. Vallez talked about SEARCA's project, “Participatory Action Research on School and Community-Based Food and Nutritional Programs



for Literacy, Poverty, Reduction and Sustainable Development.” She explained how the school plus home garden program is a combination of education, nutrition, and economics. On the other hand, Dr. Afuang discussed the relevance of the biodiversity of our country and how school and home garden pilot sites can serve as a take-off and central learning area for teachers to introduce and share awareness about environmental concepts to children by using a participatory and science-based approach.

The webinar garnered a total of 755 views from the Facebook Livestream, with numerous positive feedback from the viewers. Through this webinar, MBCFI and SEARCA hopes to initiate and establish the SHGBEE Project in pilot schools in each school division in Mindoro in the near future.



Shore It Up Puerto Galera Event for International Coastal Cleanup Day



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.

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

International Day for Biosphere Reserves

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Program is a global initiative that aims to promote sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. The Philippines has been actively participating in the program since the designation of its first biosphere reserve in 2017.

To celebrate International Day for Biosphere Reserves (BRs), UNESCO-Philippine National Commission and the Palawan, Puerto Galera and Albay Biosphere Reserves embarked on an exchange programme where women and youth representatives from the BRs get to share their insights and experiences with regards to sustainable actions in BRs.

CJ Bantiling participated as Puerto Galera's NGO partner in the delegation to Palawan BR. Kyle Cielo and Lemuel Dilodilo also participated in the BR celebratory activities in Puerto Galera.



Post-perception Surveys in Ilin and Ambulong Islands, Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS)



MBCFI has been providing technical assistance and other kinds of support towards developing stakeholders' awareness and capacity on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of protected areas in the island of Mindoro. With the desire to further ensure the effective implementation and realization of conservation goals, MBCFI has initiated the conduct of a perception survey in Ilin and Ambulong Islands, Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS) in the years 2015 and 2016.

This time, post-perception surveys were conducted to determine the level of knowledge, awareness, and receptiveness of selected communities in Ilin and Ambulong Islands, MIBNP and MCWS.

Prior to the conduct of the surveys, MBCFI presented this activity to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of MIBNP and MCWS. Upon approval of the board members, the activity then commenced.

Three communities were identified as survey sites in MCWS namely, Sitio Pamutusin, Sitio Hinugasan, and Sitio Ulasan, all of which are located in Brgy. Harrison, Municipality of Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. Priority was given to the selected survey sites considering the interventions done by MBCFI for biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the same pilot areas.



Guided surveys for post-perception of community members were conducted in April for Ilin and Ambulog Islands, July for MIBNP, and September 2022 for MCWS.

The results of these surveys shall serve as a guide and reference for the MBCFI and the Protected Management Area Offices to help identify and prioritize development needs, as well as appropriate management interventions. This will ensure the conservation of the biological diversity in these areas and the sustainable use of the resources there.

Likewise, it will help define the level of social support that the community would be willing to give or the necessary interventions from the institution in order to elicit acceptance and participation for its environmental protection and biodiversity conservation efforts in these areas.



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

By mid-June of 2022, the actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC has been completed. This is a significant milestone in the development of the project as it means that the physical structures for the first phase have been erected, including the museum, office, RESEARCH laboratory and conference rooms. Ceiling eaves construction has been completed by December 2022,



indicating that the project is on track to meet its targets. Additionally, step-ladders from the museum to the camping area were also established, ensuring ease of access for visitors and guests.

Pre-bid activities for museum content were also done, indicating that the project is moving forward in terms of creating a unique and engaging experience for visitors. The content of the museum is crucial in ensuring that the MBCC becomes a destination for people interested in learning about the natural world and the local community.

Synchronization of the installed solar power system to the power grid has been initiated, a crucial step towards achieving a sustainable power source for the entire facility. The system has also been inspected by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), ensuring that the facility meets the necessary safety and operational standards. The successful synchronization of the system means that the MBCC is on track to becoming a green and eco-friendly facility.

Requirements for the commencement of Phase 1.1 of MBCC, which includes the establishment of the access road, have been reviewed and are being prepared. The team is working towards making sure that the necessary steps are taken to ensure a smooth transition into the next phase of the project.

On July of 2022, the operationalization of Phase 1 of MBCC has commenced.

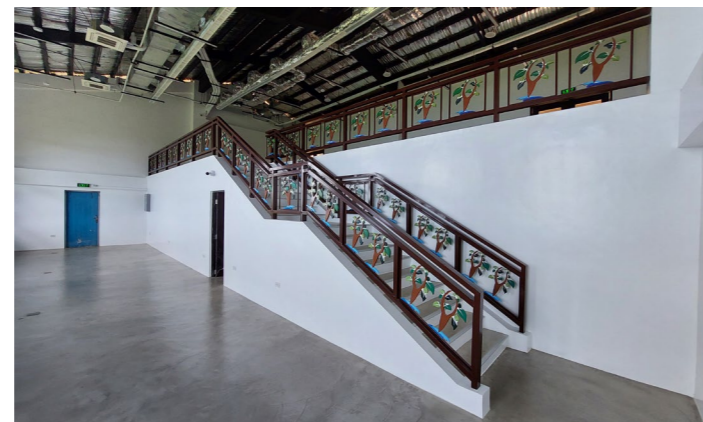


Three bids for Phase 1.1 construction were received from contractors, indicating that the team is moving forward with plans to establish the access road for the next phase of the project. This is an essential step towards achieving the MBCC's vision of becoming a world-class destination for people interested in nature and the environment.



MBCC Museum

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.



Red Root, an artists' cooperative, has also been contracted to provide the museum design services.



OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Apart from the accomplishments under each program, MBCFI has been actively involved in various activities and initiatives in 2022. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has turned over patrol gears, supplies and allowances to the Tamaraw Rangers to enhance their capacity in protecting the critically endangered Tamaraw species.



MBCFI also conducted a public presentation about the foundation and MBCC in Puerto Galera, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation through MBCFI's efforts and the future operations of MBCC.

In addition, MBCFI participated in a workshop aimed at synchronizing the stakeholders' initiatives for the Biodiversity



Corridor Project, which aims to conserve the connected biodiversity areas and critical habitats in Mindoro.



Our RESEARCH Program Officer, Elyza Hazel Tan, provided assistance in a community consultation conducted by the D'Aboville Foundation in Upper Amnay, aimed at gathering the stakeholders' inputs and insights for the conservation of the Tamaraw species.

Our Executive Director, Ms. Grace Diamante also talked about "Sustainable Trade and Circular Economy" at the World Trade Center Metro Manila's (WTCMM) first Business Broadcast, aimed at promoting sustainable practices in the business sector.



She also represented MBCFI at the IUCN Leaders Forum, aimed at sharing knowledge and insights on conservation initiatives and strategies. Likewise, she attended the seventh ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference. Lastly, she attended a workshop on protected area business planning for Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in Thailand, with support from the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.



Policies and Council Representations

In 2022, MBCFI has made significant strides in its efforts to promote biodiversity and conservation in Mindoro. The foundation has been successful in contributing to policies and management actions related to biodiversity and conservation. One notable achievement is the presentation of the position paper for the proposed Victoria-Sablayan Road to relevant stakeholders. In addition, MBCFI challenged the proposed ordinance on extraction of armor rocks as exception from the mining moratorium that is currently in effect in Mindoro.

MBCFI has also sustained its memberships and representations in various technical committees, including the Protected Areas Management Board of four protected areas in Mindoro, the Regional Development Council, the MIMAROPA Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium, and the Provincial Multipartite Environmental Impact Assessment Monitoring Team. These memberships and representations allow the foundation to participate actively in the development and implementation of policies related to biodiversity and conservation.

Overall, MBCFI has made substantial progress in promoting biodiversity and conservation in Mindoro. The foundation's efforts in policy-making and sustaining memberships in various technical committees demonstrate its commitment to preserving the region's rich biodiversity for future generations.



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

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



www.mbcfi.org.ph



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