

MINDORO

Biodiversity



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

January to March 2023

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Featured Activities

Simultaneous tree planting and supplementing the Gulayan sa Paaralan Activity



Parang National High School, Calapan City



Suqui Elementary School, Calapan City



Villa Antonio Elementary School, Calapan City

Simultaneous tree planting and supplementing the Gulayan sa Paaralan Activity



Guinobatan Elementary School, Calapan City



Isidoro Suzara Memorial School, Puerto Galera



Formon Elementary School, Bongabong

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center Road Staking Activity



Awarding Ceremony for the Deputization of Wildlife Enforcement Officers from SARIG and KAWARAS



Awarding for Most-Eco Friendly Barangay and Launching of Total Ban on Six Plastic Types in Calapan City



Program Highlights



RESEARCH

- Annual Waterbird Census in Apo Reef Natural Park and Naujan Lake National Park conducted
- Ilin Cloudrunner Purposive Survey Report conducted in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro in 2022 prepared
- Participated in the Stakeholders Workshop for the Development of Habitat Restoration Plan organized by the Biodiversity Corridor Project of DENR
- Progress reports on the Tamaraw Dietary Study were submitted to Forest Foundation of the Philippines
- Coordinated with TCP, CENRO Socorro and consultants for the preparations for the field surveys in Mt. Gimparay
- Indigenous rituals observed and reconnaissance activities conducted for field surveys in Mt. Gimparay on March 4 to 10
- Simultaneously conducted field sampling in Mt. Gimparay for Tamaraw dietary analysis study and biophysical profiling of the area together with rangers from the Tamaraw Conservation Program last March 17 to 30



Annual waterbird census in Apo Reef Natural Park



Collection of Tamaraw fecal samples for dietary analysis



Presentation for World Wetlands Day Celebration

CARE

- Presented Mindoro Biodiversity and conducted public photo exhibit in Victoria as part of the World Wetlands Day event by CENRO Socorro and Naujan Lake National Park
- Customization of donation page for MBCFI website ongoing
- Re-submitted draft proposed ordinance to declare May as Mindoro Biodiversity Month to Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro
- Coordinated and conducted celebratory events as part of MBCFI's 15th Anniversary
 - Simultaneous tree planting and supplementing the Gulayan sa Paaralan activity in Calapan ang Bongabong Schools in partnership with the Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA and DepEd Calapan City and Oriental Mindoro
 - Tree planting and provision of vegetable seedlings to Isidoro Suzara Memorial School and Bayanan Elementary School
 - Awarding Ceremony of Wildlife Enforcement Officers from KAWARAS and SARIG in partnership with CENRO Socorro
 - Provision of seedlings for the Recognition of Most Eco-friendly Barangay as part of Calapan City's Kalap Festival
 - Participation in the Launching of Total Ban on Six Types of Plastics in Calapan City
 - Radio guesting with SpiritFM Calapan with focus on MBCFI's achievements in the past 15 years



Radio Guesting with SpiritFM for MBCFI's 15th Anniversary

Program Highlights



MISSION

Mt. Halcon

- Conducted 1st quarter foot patrolling with Wildlife Enforcement Officers of KAWARAS and SARIG in March
- Maintenance of nurseries, including transplantation of wildlings
- Facilitated the monthly meetings of KAWARAS and SARIG. New set of officers elected

Mt. Malasimbo

- Conducted maintenance activities of MBCC demonstration site and vermicast beds, with fourteen sacks of vermicompost harvested
- Conducted inventory of wildlings



Foot patrolling in Mt. Halcon



Courtesy meeting with Mayor Rocky Ilagan

MBCC

- Memorandum of Agreement with National Museum of the Philippines signed
- Herbarium specimens were donated by Dr. Emelina Mandia. Recommended plants for MBCC discussed
- EDGE Advanced Certificate from the Philippine Green Building Initiative for the construction of the MBCC awarded to MBCFI
- Project status and plans discussed with Mayor Rocky Ilagan of Puerto Galera
- Conducted Road Staking activity for the access road leading to the MBCC by Puerto Galera Assessors Office
- Visited UST Laboratory with Dr. Nikki Dagamac of iCollab for research laboratory setup consultation
- Design concept and plan for MBCFI office and staff house prepared
- MBCC operational manuals drafted
- Prepared documentary requirements for securing the Occupancy Permit

Others

- Get-together of MBCFI Trustees and staff held
- Resource Mobilization Workshop conducted by Ms. Mayan Quebral
- Recognized as one of the Best Regional Partners by the DepEd MIMAROPA
- Won “Best CSR Campaign” for the entry “Breaking Biases: Women at the Forefront of Conservation” in the 2022 Women Leading Change Awards in Asia-Pacific
- Participated in the following:
 - » Q1 Provincial Environmental Council Meeting
 - » Calapan City Development Meeting
 - » Q1 PAMB Meetings and Special Meetings for MCWS, ARNP, and NLNP
 - » PMEIAMT
 - » Launching of the Total Ban on the Six Plastic Types in Calapan City - Way Forward to a Zero-Waste Green Calapan City



Protected Area Management Board and Calapan City Development Council Meetings

The MBCFI Way

Biophysical Profiling in Mt. Gimparay



Mt. Gimparay is a 1,631-meter high mountain situated in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. Aside from the Tamaraw verification survey conducted on June of 2018, thorough studies on its biodiversity has not been conducted.

This biophysical profiling aims to provide a comprehensive species lists and biodiversity data of the site to support conservation efforts in area, generate a biodiversity profile of the site which will serve as baseline for comparison with subsequent monitoring surveys.

Prior to the survey proper, a reconnaissance activity was conducted from March 4 to 10, 2023. Rangers from the Tamaraw Conservation Program and local IPs also participated in the reconnaissance activity as this was conducted for both the biophysical survey and the collection of samples for the Tamaraw dietary analysis study.

The reconnaissance activity involved an initial exploration of the area to determine the possible sites for the biophysical survey. The team assessed the terrain, vegetation, and accessibility of the area. The team identified sites for the biophysical survey, which were representative of the different forest types in the area.

The biophysical site profiling survey was conducted on March 18 to 31, 2023. Led by RESEARCH Program Officer, Elyza Tan, the survey team included flora and fauna specialists, Tamaraw rangers and local guides.

The biophysical survey involved a detailed study of the flora and fauna in the selected sites. The survey team also recorded the presence of endemic and endangered species of plants and animals.

The reconnaissance activity and biophysical survey revealed that Mount Gimparay is a crucial area for biodiversity conservation. The survey team identified several species of plants and animals that are endemic to the area, including the Tamaraw. The team also found that the forest types in the area are the mossy forest, lower montane forest, and dipterocarp forest.

The reconnaissance activity and biophysical survey in Mount Gimparay revealed the area's ecological importance and potential for conservation, particularly as a habitat for the Tamaraws subpopulation thriving in the area.

Another survey is set to be conducted during the wet season of this year and a final technical report will be released based on the outputs of this activity.



The MBCFI Way

MBCFI's 15th Anniversary Celebration



Last March 18, MBCFI celebrated its 15th anniversary in conservation. It was a momentous occasion for MBCFI as the team reflected on the journey and celebrated achievements over the years with the organizations partners.

As part of MBCFI's advocacy to promote planting of native trees and assist in the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program of schools, MBCFI, with the support of the Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA, provided native and fruit-bearing tree seedlings, as well as vegetable seeds to select schools in Calapan City and Bongabong. In partnership with DepEd MIMAROPA and the Schools Division Offices of Calapan City and Oriental Mindoro, the schools participated in the simultaneous tree planting activity on March 19.

MBCFI also conducted actual tree planting activities in Isidoro Suzara Memorial School (ISMS) in Puerto Galera and Bayanan Elementary School

in Baco on March 20. Officers of the Supreme Pupil Government of ISMS and PTA Officer participated in the tree planting, while teachers and members of KAWARAS and SARIG assisted in the tree planting in Bayanan Elementary School.

Another event was the ceremonial Signing of Permission to Enter and Occupy the Land and road staking activity was conducted in MBCC together with Mr. Ed Suzara and assessors from the Municipality of Puerto Galera. This commemorates the partnership between MBCFI, Mr. Ed Suzara, and the local government of Puerto Galera in the establishment of an access road for MBCC.

MBCFI also conducted an Awarding Ceremony for the Wildlife Enforcement Officers from KAWARAS and SARIG. The deputized members of these Peoples' Organizations have undergone training from CENRO Socorro last November 2022.

Together with Ms. Leonida Mindaros of CENRO Socorro, the deputized members were given their IDs and training certificates. With this, WEOs can now assist the DENR in enforcing laws related to environmental and nature conservation.

MBCFI also awarded seedling prizes to the winners of the Most Eco-friendly Barangay Contests and participated in the Launching of Total Ban of Plastics in Calapan City contest. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable living practices in the community and encourage individuals to take an active role in environmental conservation.

Overall, our 15th anniversary celebration was a resounding success, and we are grateful for the support and participation of our community members. We look forward to continuing our efforts to promote environmental sustainability and community development in the years to come.

The MBCFI Way

MBCC Updates



During the first quarter of 2023, MBCC is focused on slowly initiating its operational phase. As such, operational manuals for MBCC and the planned site activities have been drafted. The team dedicated efforts to preparing the design concept and plan of the office and staff house, aiming to create a conducive and efficient working environment.

In addition, a slope protection barrier was erected at the front of Building 2. This barrier will provide stability and mitigate any potential risks in the area.

MBCC has also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Museum of the Philippines as part of the arrangements for the museum collection and museological education services. Likewise, conceptualization of the museum design is ongoing.

MBCC also received the EDGE Advanced Certificate from the Philippine Green Building Initiative for the construction of our facility in accordance to the design. This prestigious recognition highlights our commitment to sustainable practices and energy-efficient solutions.

Coordination with the Puerto Galera LGU for the establishment of an access road for MBCC is underway.



THIS CERTIFIES THAT
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center
HAS ACHIEVED AN
EDGE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE NUMBER
LP6-PHI-19052210068954

EDGE ADVANCED
Exemplifying achievement in the following areas:

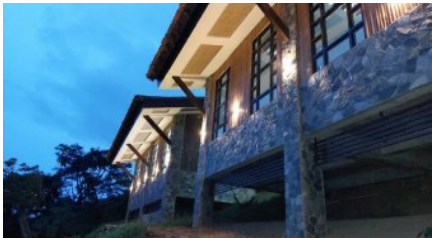
- 78% Energy Savings
- 51% Water Savings
- 69% Less Embodied Energy in Materials

EDGE
PHILIPPINE GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE

DEVELOPED BY
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.
CERTIFIED BY
Philippine GreenBuilding Initiative

Engr. Ramon D. Aguilar, PSB/EDGE Program Director
DATE OF ISSUE: 26 FEB 2023

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>

Species in Focus

Bangon Monitor Lizard



Photo by DGTabaranza

COMMON NAME:
Bangon Monitor Lizard
Mindoro Water Monitor

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Varanus bangonorum

CONSERVATION STATUS:
Least Concern (IUCN);
Other Threatened Species
(DENR, DAO 2019-09)

This monitor lizard is endemic to the Philippines and can only be found in the islands of Mindoro and Semirara. The specific epithet, *bangonorum*, is derived from the Bangon tribe of Mindoro.

Ecology:

Ecologically, the Bangon Monitor Lizard is a habitat generalist that occurs in habitats from primary forest to urban areas, being most common in mangrove and riparian areas.

Threats and Recommended Conservation Actions:

Despite their ecological importance, Bangon Monitor Lizards are facing threats from human activities such as habitat destruction and poaching. Overexploitation is a potential threat to this species, and historically hunting at levels sufficient to cause detectable declines in this and related species has been observed.

Monitoring of wildlife trade and harvest trends is recommended. The historical skin trade now banned. It has a Philippine national listing Other Threatened Species, which encompasses species that are thought likely to be driven to a threatened status in the near future by factors that include overcollection.

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

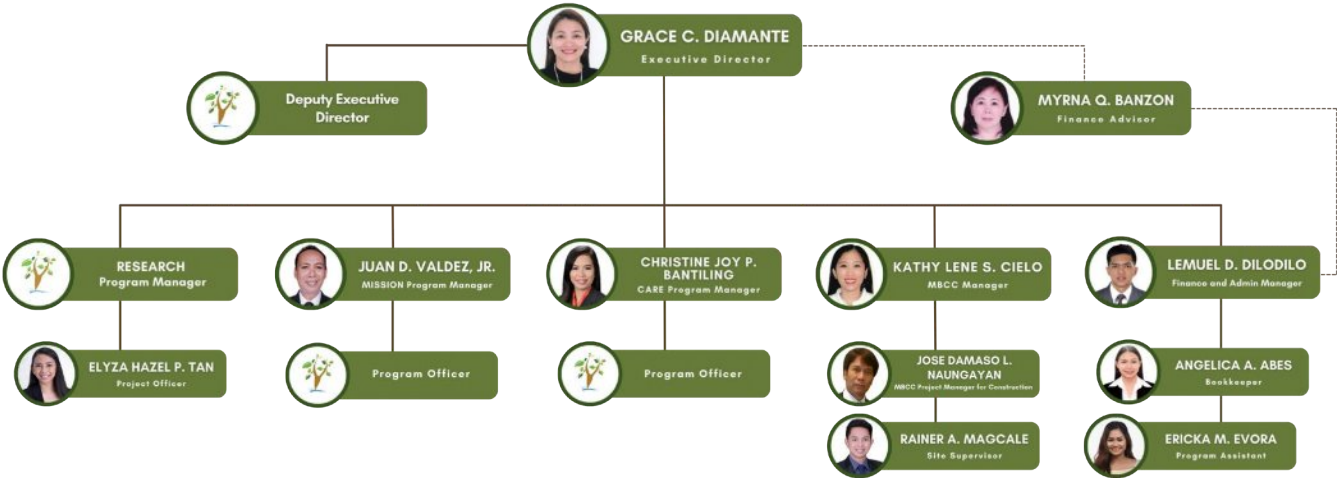
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HONORARY MEMBERS



ORGANIGRAM



FEATURED PARTNERS





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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