

MINDORO

Biodiversity



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

April to June 2023

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Program Highlights



RESEARCH

Tamaraw Dietary Analysis:

- Conducted reconnaissance survey in Mt. Gimparay
- Successfully completed the surveys during the dry season in both Mt. Gimparay and MIBNP
- Samples transported to UPLB and UPD for analysis

Biophysical Site Profiling Survey:

- Conducted biophysical site profiling survey in Mt. Gimparay

Ilin Cloudrunner Purposive Survey:

- 2023 survey results incorporated in the 2022 draft report
- Trained rangers on camera trap installation and installed camera trap units in Stations 2 & 3
- Conducted survey proper in MIBNP
- Project updates with Re:wild

MIBNP BAMS Dry Season:

- Provided technical assistance on the conduct of BAMS in MIBNP

Others:

- Participated in the Annual Tamaraw Count 2023



Processing of plant specimens in Mt. Gimparay



Training of MIBNP rangers on camera trap installation and operation



Participants of Krus Para sa Kalikasan event for Earth Day 2023



Participants and resource speakers from Blue Alliance during the

CARE

- Prepared and released the 2022 Annual Report via Akubo, website, and Facebook page
- Drafted and released the Q1 Newsletter
- Fundraising strategy meetings with Ms. Mayan Quebral
- Updated website sections and developed a user-friendly donation page
- Presented on Mindoro Biodiversity in Pola as part of the “Krus Para sa Kalikasan” Earth Day 2023 event organized by Mindoro Adventours
- Organized a Biodiversity and Environmental Youth Camp in Puerto Galera as part of Biodiversity Month
- Celebrated Environment Month with “Green Gathering for Community Champions” in Barangay Dulangan community members, fostering local community engagement and environmental awareness
- Drafted a proposal for the formation of a Provincial Environment Council (PEC) in Occidental Mindoro
- Organized the presentation of different NGOs in Mindoro as part of the Science and Technology Foundation Unit of DOST’s visit

Program Highlights



MISSION

Mt. Halcon

- Facilitated action planning during one of the monthly KAWARAS meetings, resulting in the formulation of a one-year action plan
- Awarded the first batch of patrolling gears to our dedicated Wildlife Enforcement Officers
- Conducted regular monthly meetings of KAWARAS and SARIG
- Welcomed Prime Energy officials last April in Bayanan, Baco, showcasing the PO's initiatives and accomplishments
- Successfully promoted and sold nito products to visitors during visits by Prime Infra, Prime Energy, and DOST in April and May
- Conducted maintenance and repair work on the nursery site, including the repair of the fence in front of bahay pulungan
- Organized a general assembly meeting of SARIG in Lantuyang, Baco followed by the validation of nursery site maintenance



General assembly meeting of SARIG

Mt. Malasimbo

- Successfully re-established the food shed, with 50 heads of chicken initially procured
- Vegetables (eggplant, radish, string beans and sponge gourd) planted
- Maintained the MBCC demonstration site
- Harvested 10 sacks of high-quality vermicast



DOST visit in Bayanan, Baco



Signed Materials Agreement with DENR Region 2 and Mabuwaya Foundation, and turn-over of crocodile specimens

MBCC

- Successfully signed a MOA with the National Museum
- Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with ORMECO-MBCFI-Enertech, with MBCFI and Enertech's signatures initially secured
- Executed a Materials Transfer Agreement with DENR Region 2 and Mabuwaya Foundation, and received valuable crocodile specimens
- Finalized the Operations Manual and Post-Earthquake and Typhoon assessment checklist
- Regularized two Indigenous People (IP) staff members
- Secured an Occupancy Permit from the Puerto Galera LGU
- Visited the University of Santo Tomas to explore potential partnerships for the establishment of a research laboratory
- Successfully held a meeting with the Puerto Galera LGU and Legal Officer of the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro to discuss the construction of access road and pathway

Others

- Participated in Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor Project's Workshop
- Guided and mentored OJT students from MinSU, as well as assisted in the preparation of OJT program for 2023
- Actively participated in PAMB and PEC Quarterly and committee meetings
- Conducted organization's Mid-year Review and Planning in Calapan
- Hosted a successful visit by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Science and Technology Foundation Unit

The MBCFI Way

DOST - Science and Technology Foundation Unit Visit in Mindoro



The DOST Science and Technology Foundation Unit embarked on a three-day exploration of Mindoro, immersing themselves in various conservation and technological initiatives of non-government organizations within the region. The visit aimed to foster collaboration, share expertise, and explore opportunities for accreditation of prospect organization with DOST.

The delegation commenced their journey with great enthusiasm, heading straight to the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center. Here, an engaging presentation and discussions ensued, providing a platform for valuable exchanges between the DOST, MBCFI, and Blue Alliance.

The meetings were marked by insightful discussions, where experts exchanged innovative ideas and explored potential collaborations to advance conservation efforts. The DOST team exhibited a keen interest in the ongoing projects, showcasing their commitment to leveraging science and technology for environmental preservation.

The second day unfolded with a visit to the Puerto Galera Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Area, offering a firsthand experience of the critical role mangroves play in the coastal ecosystem. The delegation gained valuable insights into conservation strategies, emphasizing the need for community involvement and sustainable tourism practices.

Next on the itinerary was a stop at the Samahan ng Pangkabuhayan ng Taga Dulangan (SPTD) Food Processing Center in Brgy. Dulangan, Puerto Galera. The team was treated to an informative session on food processing technologies used by the local organization members.

The day continued with a thrilling Sea Adventure, graciously hosted by the Stairway Foundation. This immersive experience provided a unique perspective on marine conservation efforts and the importance of experiential learning in environmental education.

In the afternoon, the delegation traveled to Bayanan, Baco, for a visit to MBCFI's Peoples Organization (PO) site. Here, they actively participated in a seedlings bagging demonstration, sharing a technique for optimal seedling growth. The engagement with the Mangyan community underscored the significance of inclusive approaches in sustainable development.

The DOST team also visited Silonay Mangrove the day after, lead by Blue Alliance. The visit culminated in a sense of shared purpose and commitment towards fostering a harmonious coexistence between nature and technology. The DOST Science and Technology Foundation Unit departed Mindoro inspired, with a renewed vigor to contribute to the region's conservation endeavors.

This immersive experience in Mindoro exemplified the power of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable development, leaving an indelible mark on all participants and setting the stage for future partnerships in the pursuit of environmental preservation.



Photos by CJPBantiling

The MBCFI Way

Green Gathering for Community Champions for Environment Month Celebration



In celebration of Environment Month last June, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) orchestrated a truly memorable event, aptly named “Green Gatherings for Conservation Champions.” This gathering served as a unifying platform, bringing together the vibrant community members of Barangay Dulangan and enthusiastic youth volunteers. Their collective presence resonated with a shared purpose—to celebrate and protect Mindoro’s exceptional biodiversity and environment.

The proceedings commenced with a warm welcome from Ms. Carmela Datingguino, the Municipal Administrator of Puerto Galera, whose unwavering dedication to environmental sustainability has been instrumental in promoting a culture of conservation in our region.

Next, Mr. Neopolito Babao, Barangay Captain of Dulangan, shared his insights and encouraged all attendees to continue championing environmental stewardship in their own communities. His message resonated deeply, inspiring all present to take action.

Ms. Kyle Cielo, Manager of the MBCC, took the stage to delve into the beauty and significance of Mindoro’s biodiversity. She provided fascinating insights into the initiatives undertaken by the MBCFI to protect and preserve these natural treasures, leaving the audience enlightened and motivated.

The event didn’t just consist of speeches; it offered engaging games and interactive activities designed to educate and entertain. The participants also took part in a tree planting activity where their names are tagged in the tree they planted. A total of 100 seedlings were planted by the participants.

These activities created an immersive experience, deepening participants’ appreciation for Mindoro’s environmental conservation.

In a powerful conclusion, Ms. Kyle Cielo returned to the stage to deliver closing remarks. The event’s success was a testament to the hard work of all speakers, participants, and volunteers. “Green Gatherings for Conservation Champions” stands as a call to action for greater collaboration, increased awareness, and sustained efforts in protecting the extraordinary biodiversity of Mindoro.

In closing, the event organizers expressed their heartfelt gratitude and called for continued unity in championing conservation for a greener and more sustainable future.



Photos by CBantiling

The MBCFI Way

MBCC Operation Updates



In the second quarter, it was decided that a comprehensive topographic survey was to be conducted to assess the size of the area intended for future development. Constructive meetings were held with the Puerto Galera LGU and Legal Officer of the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro to discuss the construction of access road and pathway.

A Memorandum of Agreement with the National Museum was also signed, signifying the partnership between the National Museum and MBCC on the use and display of Mindoro-related specimen and artifacts. The second quarter also saw MBCC play host to distinguished visits from Prime Energy and Prime Infra.

Simultaneously, the Operations Manual of MBCC has been finalized. Alongside this, the drafting of a Post-Earthquake and Typhoon assessment checklist demonstrates MBCC's proactive approach to disaster preparedness and recovery. With the receipt of the Occupancy Permit from Puerto Galera LGU, MBCC is poised to continue its mission with even greater confidence and vigor.



YOU CAN SUPPORT MBCC BY DONATING.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://mbcfi.org.ph>



Photos by CBantiling and KCielo

Species in Focus

Black-hooded Coucal



Photo by Bob Natural

Common Name:
Black-hooded Coucal

Scientific Name:
Centropus steerii

Conservation Status:
Critically Endangered
(IUCN, 2019; PRLC, 2020)

A large, long-tailed bird of lowland primary forest on Mindoro with a brown back and belly, dark wings with brown-edged feathers, a dark tail with a bluish iridescence, and a black hood with some light streaking on the back of the neck. Note the strong curved bill. Similar to Philippine Coucal, but has a brown rather than black belly and is restricted to primary forest rather than more open habitats. Song is a descending series of very deep hoots.

This species is rare and elusive. Only found in Mindoro Island, it dwells in dense understory and canopy vegetation in primary and advanced secondary forests from lowlands up to 950 m, where it is more frequently heard than seen. The head and throat of the species' males and females are both black with a green sheen, as are the tail and wings. The remainder of the body is dark brown. Confined environment that is being changed and degraded more and more puts it in danger.

References: Black-hooded Coucal - Ebird, ebird.org; Philippine Red List of Threatened Wild Fauna, 2020

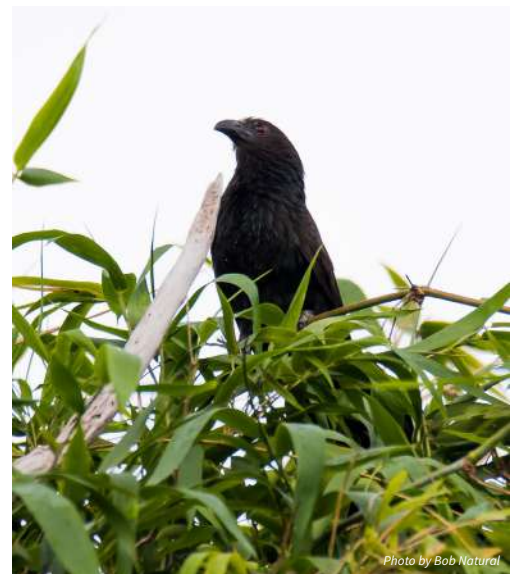


Photo by Bob Natural



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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