

# MINDORO

## *Biodiversity*



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

July to September 2023

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# Program Highlights



## RESEARCH

### Tamaraw Dietary Analysis:

- Laboratory analysis of dry season samples in progress
- Program budget realignment discussed with the Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP)

### Biophysical Site Profiling Survey:

- Gimparay survey data analysis and draft report in progress

### Ilin Cloudrunner Purposive Survey:

- Six camera trap units were successfully retrieved after being installed for three months in Stations 2 and 3 in MIBNP. Photos from the camera traps were reviewed.
- Orientation of camera trapping surveys and installation was conducted for UPLB OJTs

### Apo Reef Natural Park Waterbird Monitoring Survey:

- Survey conducted on August 7-11, 2023
- Data and photos from the survey have been processed
- Cage traps turned over to PAMO to reduce invasive rodents in the island

### Others:

- Participated in the Seabird Field Training Program at Bolinao, Pangasinan



Demonstration of camera trap retrieval by MIBNP rangers to OJTs



Measurements and tagging of Green Sea Turtle nesting in ARNP



Participation in the High level Launch of the 30x30 in the Philippines

## CARE

### Participation in the 31st Philippine Biodiversity Annual Symposium:

- Successfully organized the setup for an Institutional Exhibit
- Facilitated the Mindoro Research Agenda Workshop as part of the symposium activities
- Served as a guest speaker at the D’Aboville Foundation’s workshop focusing on Mindoro’s large mammals

### International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Activity:

- Coordinated and prepared for the International Coastal Cleanup activity in Puerto Galera in collaboration with UNACOM, Puerto Galera LGU, and Barangay Dulangan
- Produced campaign materials for the Decade of the Ocean and ICC initiatives

### Preparations for Tamaraw Month Activities:

- Spearheaded the preparation and coordination for specific Tamaraw Month activities, namely, the Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Bee and Takbo Para sa Tamaraw in Puerto Galera
- Actively participated in Tamaraw Month Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings.

### Public Engagements and Partnerships:

- Served as guest speaker for the Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis Talks organized by Stairway Foundation’s Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth Program
- Provided technical assistance for Victoria MENRO’s Wildlife Quiz Contest
- Coordinated with SEARCA to explore potential partnership for the SHGBEE Project

### Social Media Engagement and Newsletter:

- Increase in likes, follows, and overall engagement on both the MBCFI’s Facebook page and Instagram account
- Drafted and released Q2 Newsletter



CJ Bantiling served as guest speaker during the Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis Talks by Stairway Foundation Inc.

# Program Highlights



## MISSION

### Mt. Halcon

- KAWARAS Gabay Akyat Halcon ng Bayanan and SARIG Agunaker sa Bulod Sialdang both officially recognized and accredited by the Sangguniang Bayan ng Baco
- Executed the 2nd Quarter Foot Patrolling in Lantuyang, Baco on July 26-27, 2023, with the active involvement of WEO members from SARIG and two UPLB OJTs
- Successfully sold 1,300 pieces of native tree seedlings from the KAWARAS nursery to the Municipality of Baco-MENRO
- Conducted regular monthly meetings of KAWARAS in Bayanan, Baco from July to September 2023
- Conducted monthly meetings of SARIG in Lantuyang, Baco for the months of July and August 2023, with two UPLB OJTs present during the July meeting
- Female members of KAWARAS crafted handmade nito products
- Conducted maintenance activities at the nursery sites in both Bayanan and Lantuyang

### Mt. Malasimbo

- Ensured the continuous maintenance of vermicomposting beds in Mt. Malasimbo and implemented a regular collection schedule of vermicast every three months
- Maintained the food shed and disposed of 49 chickens reared at the shed



KAWARAS members who attended the PO general assembly meeting



SARIG members who attended the PO general assembly meeting



Maintained pathway from MBCC building to nursery and foodshed

## MBCC

- Received the Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) Advanced Certification
- Installed electrical posts and transformer on July 15, 2023, leading to the successful energization of MBCC
- Received ammonites on loan for the MBCC Museum from Ms. Susan Belen on July 27, 2023
- Completed the commissioning of air conditioning and exhaust systems on September 15, 2023
- Initiated and currently ongoing Building Resilience Index Assessment
- Completed installation of safety and biodiversity signages along trails
- Secured all contracts and procurement papers for the conduct of the topographic survey
- Presented Q3 report to barangay LGU, as well as submitted Q3 report to PNP and BFP
- Pursued funding request from the LGU of Puerto Galera for the access road
- Ground clearing and maintenance undertaken by IP staff for ongoing upkeep and maintenance
- Conducted vegetable planting, yielding 8kg of string beans and 3kg of radish, partially sold and consumed by staff

## Others

- Provided supervision for Wildlife, Forestry, and Ecology OJTs during various activities for their internship, such as observing roosting flying foxes in Muelle Bay, Puerto Galera and onsite lectures on counting techniques, inputs for the Mindoro Research Agenda, and preparations of CEPA strategies for MBCC and MBCFI
- Actively participated in PAMB, PEC, PMEIAMT, PSA, Puerto Galera Biosphere Reserve Management Council and MAARRDEC quarterly and committee meetings

# The MBCFI Way

## ARNP Waterbird Monitoring Survey



ARNP is a Protected Area (PA) and holds the distinction of being an Important Bird Area (IBA) for migratory birds, breeding seabirds, and resident island-specialist birds. It serves as a critical refuge for at least 112 species of waterbirds and non-waterbirds, making it a focal point for conservation efforts. The presence of such a diverse avian community underscores the ecological significance of this natural park.

The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) of ARNP, in collaboration with the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI), has been diligently monitoring the waterbird populations within the park. The monitoring surveys encompass the observation of new species records and the tracking of waterbird dynamics throughout the years. Notably, the southern migration of birds escaping the northern hemisphere's winter brings an influx and peak of migratory birds to ARNP, with

observations indicating July as a key month for such activities.

The recent monitoring survey, conducted from August 8 to 11, 2023, had the following objectives: 1) to assess and document the population of waterbirds in Apo Reef Natural Park; 2) to enhance the capabilities of ARNP PAMO in tagging waterbirds, contributing to ongoing research and conservation efforts and; 3) turnover of cage traps to reduce invasive rodents in ARNP.

During this monitoring period, a remarkable total of 112 bird species were recorded, showcasing the incredible diversity within ARNP. Among these, five are Philippine-endemic species, and 53 are migratory species. Notably, the survey unveiled new occurrence records of the Long-toed Stint and Eurasian Curlew, contributing valuable information to the understanding of the park's avian inhabitants.

Beyond birds, the survey also extended its conservation efforts to marine life. A nesting Green Sea Turtle was observed, tagged, and measured before being safely released back into the sea. This holistic approach to biodiversity conservation reflects the commitment of ARNP stakeholders to preserve not only the avian population but also the broader ecosystem that the park sustains.

The Apo Reef Natural Park Waterbird Monitoring Survey serves as a beacon of hope in the realm of biodiversity conservation. Through vigilant efforts and collaborative initiatives, ARNP continues to thrive as a haven for diverse bird species and contributes significantly to global conservation goals. The dedication to understanding and safeguarding this ecological treasure ensures that future generations will inherit a world enriched by the wonders of nature.



Photos by EHTan

# The MBCFI Way

## Shore It Up Puerto Galera Event for International Coastal Cleanup Day 2023



Barangay Dulangan in Puerto Galera served as the backdrop for MBCFI's active participation in the Shore It Up initiative. The event brought together local communities, environmental enthusiasts, and organizations with a common goal — to address the challenges facing coastal areas and marine ecosystems.

MBCFI, known for its impactful biodiversity conservation efforts, played a pivotal role in the coastal cleanup activities. Volunteers from the foundation, alongside local residents and other environmental organizations, engaged in the meticulous task of collecting and properly disposing of marine debris. This hands-on approach not only contributed to the immediate improvement of the local environment but also fostered a sense of environmental responsibility among participants.

In tandem with the Shore It Up Puerto Galera initiative, MBCFI conducted the Ocean Decade Campaign led by the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM). This campaign aligns with the United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which seeks to galvanize international cooperation to address the challenges facing our oceans.

At the heart of MBCFI's Oceans Decade Campaign was an innovative and interactive component. Participants in the coastal cleanup were encouraged to visit a dedicated booth where they could take photos within a specially designed frame showcasing the campaign logo and messaging. These photos became powerful tools for raising awareness about the Ocean Decade.

Participants were encouraged to share their photos on social media platforms with designated hashtags, creating a digital ripple effect that reached a wider audience. The social media campaign not only showcased the collective efforts in cleaning up the coast but also educated the public about the importance of ocean science and conservation.

The Shore It Up Puerto Galera event, coupled with the Oceans Decade Campaign, left an indelible mark on the community and beyond. The coastal cleanup not only revitalized the local ecosystem but also instilled a sense of pride and ownership among the residents of Barangay Dulangan.



*Photos by CJPBantiling*

# The MBCFI Way

## MBCFI at the 31st Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium



In a celebration of ecological marvels and conservation triumphs, the 31st Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium, themed “Priority Conservation Actions to Sustain Philippine Biodiversity,” became a platform for MBCFI to showcase its unwavering commitment to the preservation of Mindoro’s unique ecosystems. The symposium, organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), and co-hosted by the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) and Sorsogon State University, unfolded its vibrant tapestry from August 22 to 25, 2023.

MBCFI’s presence was palpable throughout the event, most notably through its institutional exhibit that drew inquisitive minds and conservation enthusiasts alike. Attendees were treated to a visual journey through Mindoro’s rich biodiversity, accentuated by interactive displays

and engaging discussions. The booth also became a hub for insightful conversations as MBCFI focal persons interacted with students, researchers, and attendees.

A highlight of MBCFI’s engagement was the concurrent workshop titled “Mindoro Biodiversity Research and Conservation Agenda: Milestones, Gaps Review, and Corridors for Collaboration.” This workshop provided a platform to discuss the progress made in biodiversity research on Mindoro, identify existing gaps, and explore collaborative opportunities to strengthen conservation efforts. The workshop encapsulated MBCFI’s commitment not only to research and preservation but also to fostering a network of partners dedicated to the cause.

Furthering its impact, MBCFI’s Research Program Officer, Elyza Hazel Tan, took on the role of a Guest

Speaker at the D’Aboville Foundation’s workshop, “Exploring New Ideas and Collaboration to Preserve the Big Three of Mindoro: the Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), the Philippine Deer (*Rusa marianna*), and the Mindoro Warty Pig (*Sus oliveri*).”

The symposium not only provided a platform for MBCFI to share its achievements but also reinforced the organization’s commitment to transparency, collaboration, and education. MBCFI’s active participation and the overwhelming response from attendees underscored the shared vision of safeguarding Mindoro’s biodiversity. Overall, MBCFI emerged not just as a participant but as a catalyst for change, echoing the symposium’s call for priority conservation actions in sustaining the rich tapestry of Philippine biodiversity during the 31st Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium.



Photos by CBantiling and GDiamante

# The MBCFI Way

## MBCC Certified as Zero Carbon Ready



The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC), a testament to MBCFI's dedication, received the prestigious Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiency (EDGE) Advanced Certification. This certification level is recognized as being Zero Carbon Ready. Demonstrating precision and commitment, MBCC also initiated a topographic survey for eventual construction of the access road to the building.

Crucial to MBCC's functionality is ongoing efforts to secure funding for the access road, with a pivotal proposal from the LGU to DPWH. Operationalization progress includes the installation of posts and transformers on July 15, 2023, marking the center's energization. Further, on September 15, 2023, the commissioning of the air conditioning and exhaust systems brought MBCC closer to full operational capacity.

MBCC is not just a conservation hub but a repository of knowledge and history. The Materials Transfer Agreement (MTA) with DENR MIMAROPA and preparations for the ceremonial turnover of Tamaraw bones underscore the commitment to preserving and showcasing Mindoro's unique biodiversity.

Supporting this, Ms. Susan Belen loaned ammonite specimens, contributing to MBCC Museum's collection. Sustainability efforts include monitoring the Solar Power Hybrid Inverter, with a submitted terminal report to the DOST. The dedication to green energy was boosted by the donation of ten solar lamp posts from Malampaya Foundation Inc., symbolizing a community-wide embrace of eco-friendly solutions.

In a holistic approach, MBCC shared its concept with Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. representatives and emphasized environmental stewardship through a tree-planting activity last July 12, 2023. As MBCC evolves, each step signifies a collective stride toward harmonious coexistence between the community and Mindoro's invaluable biodiversity, standing as a beacon for all who believe in the profound connection between humanity and nature.



Photos by GDiamante, KCielo and RMagcale

# Species in Focus

## Mindoro Imperial Pigeon



Photo by Robert Hutchinson

**Common Name:**  
Mindoro Imperial Pigeon

**Scientific Name:**  
*Ducula mindorensis*

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

*Ducula mindorensis* is unique to the Philippine island of Mindoro, where it has been recorded from five locations since 1980. It is known from seven locations in the central mountains, while it was likely formerly found across the highlands (Collar *et al.* 1999). It has always been uncommon and local, occurring at low densities. The population is estimated to number 1,000-2,499 individuals based on an assessment of known records, descriptions of abundance and range size.

The two biggest risks are deforestation and food hunting. Although it typically occurs above the area with the most deforestation, this does not guarantee security if it is occasionally dependent on lower elevation fruiting episodes. Lower-altitude woods at important locations like Mount Halcon and San Vicente (Sablayan) are still being lost due to logging and shifting farming.

References: Mindoro Imperial Pigeon - BirdLife International, datazone. birdlife.org; Philippine Red List of Threatened Wild Fauna, 2020



Photo by Robert Hutchinson





## OUR VISION

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

## OUR MISSION

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

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# MBCFI

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

## Mindoro Biodiversity



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