

MINDORO

Biodiversity



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

October to December 2023

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Program Highlights



RESEARCH

Tamaraw Dietary Analysis:

- Laboratory analysis of dry season samples conducted
- Final Report for project funder Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP) submitted
- Final Report for project funder Chester Zoo preparation in progress
- Request to prioritize CADT Application of CADC 086 from Alangan (Oriental Mindoro) submitted to RDC MIMAROPA

Biophysical Site Profiling Survey:

- Final survey report preparation in progress

Apo Reef Natural Park Waterbird Monitoring Survey:

- Survey report, which was prepared with ARNP PAMO, submitted to DENR MIMAROPA

Citizen Science:

- Held Bat Count Training and Orientation for 73 students in Puerto Galera, in partnership with Stairway Foundation Inc.



ARNP waterbird monitoring

Photo by EHTan



Dalaw Turo at Regional Science High School in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro

Photo by CJBantiling



Grace Diamante with UNACOM representatives during the 2023 International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability

Photo by GDiamante

CARE

International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Activity:

- Participated in Shore It Up Puerto Galera on September 16, 2023, with over 300 community members from Dulangan
- Conducted the Oceans Decade Campaign last September 16, 2023, in partnership with UNACOM, involving participants from Brgy. Dulangan and members of EACY Alliance from Stairway Foundation

Tamaraw Month Activities:

- Presented Mindoro Biodiversity as part of Dalaw Turo at Regional Science High School in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro last October 20, 2023
- Co-organized the Puerto Galera Trail Run for Tamaraws on October 22, 2023, with 106 participants
- Launched the Trail Run and Shirt for A Cause, raising over Php 20,000 as proceeds for the Tamaraw Conservation Program
- Featured in Tamaraw Vision Network (TVNet) & PIA Oriental Mindoro's live stream (October 18) and SpiritFM Calapan's radio schedule (October 21) as part of their special feature for Tamaraw Month
- Simultaneously conducted the Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest for Oriental and Occidental Mindoro last October 28, 2023, with 101 total participating schools

Public Engagements and Partnerships:

- Grace Diamante served as a Resource Speaker during the 2023 International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan last November 3 to 7, 2023
- Assisted Mindoro delegates in their participation for the National Wildlife Quiz Contest
- CJ Bantiling served as a Guest Speaker during the Launch of the Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth (EACY) Alliance of Stairway Foundation held on September 16, 2023
- Grace Diamante served as a Guest Speaker for the Annual Science Week Celebration of City College of Calapan held on December 11, 2023, with more than 300 student attendees
- Participated in Regional and Local Council Meetings, including the Launching of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) of the BD Corridor Project in Mindoro and Planning Session for the Convergence Forum on the Island Ecosystems Approach in Mindoro, held last November 30, 2023

Program Highlights



MISSION

Mt. Halcon

- Monthly KAWARAS meeting held in Bayanan, Baco in October 2023
- Conducted Paskuhan sa Pamayanan activity with KAWARAS and SARIG on December 10, 2023
- Handmade nito products made by female members of KAWARAS
- Payment received from the Municipality of Baco for the sale of seedlings reared by KAWARAS members

Mt. Malasimbo

- Ensured the continuous maintenance of vermicomposting beds in Mt. Malasimbo and implemented a regular collection schedule of vermicast every three months



Paskuhan sa Pamayanan with KAWARAS and SARIG members



Contained loose soil around transformer area

MBCC

- Topographic survey completed; results have been presented to relevant stakeholders (LGU, Suzara, and Corona Families) on November 14, 2023, awaiting submission of final topographical map on the developments for MBCC
- Road Right of Way Form prepared
- Booster pump power supply transferred to the grid from the hybrid solar inverter
- Commercial space 3D render completed, and ready for posting for potential lessees
- Kyle Cielo attended the month-long Biodiversity Digitization Course last October 2023 to enhance knowledge and skills
- Tour guiding script for MBCC drafted to prepare for visitor engagement
- Identified locations for additional CCTVs to enhance security measures
- MBCC area assessment conducted, and punch list for rectification drafted
- Visit from Department of Energy representatives on September 20, 2023
- Kyle Cielo attended the "Waste No More" Conference held in Cebu last November 28 to 30, 2023 for insights into sustainable practices
- Ongoing coordination with EDC-Binhi for the establishment of the arboretum
- Submitted all necessary documents to DOST for the formal turnover of solar panels and research equipment
- Coordination with Spiderhook for the drafting of business plan
- Routine patrolling by security personnel conducted
- Nursery area grounds maintenance carried out

The MBCFI Way

Puerto Galera Trail Run for Tamaraws



The Puerto Galera Trail Run for Tamaraws was nothing short of extraordinary, bringing together passionate individuals to run, conquer challenging trails, and raise awareness for the conservation of the majestic Tamaraws. The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Tamaraw Conservation Program, Run Pinamalayan, and Mindoro Adventours, with special thanks to the unwavering support from the Local Government of Puerto Galera and Barangay Dulangan.

The driving force behind the success of the event was a consortium of dedicated organizations, including the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., Tamaraw Conservation Program, Mindoro Adventours, and Run Pinamalayan. Additionally, crucial support came from various government entities such as the Puerto Galera Local Government Unit, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Rural Health Unit, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Police, and the Tourism Office. The active participation of Brgy. Dulangan further added to the community engagement, making the event a true collaboration.

The trail, set around Brgy. Dulangan, took participants through the vicinity of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center and Sitio Lapantay. Expertly marked by the renowned “Coach Rai Cabanig,” the trails offered both challenge and scenic beauty, allowing the runners to connect with nature while advocating for the conservation of the Tamaraw habitat. A total of 106 participants joined the run, each contributing to the cause with their determination and enthusiasm.

A notable highlight was the inspiring performance of 11-year-old Ayumi Balajadia, who not only participated but also finished the challenging 10km trail run first in her age bracket, exemplifying the spirit of the event.

In the male category for the 10km trail run, the winners were Lawrence Dela Cruz, Kurt Savalbaro, and Lawrence Capino, while the female category saw Beverly Fruelda, May Belle Bacod, and Eunice Bell clinching the top spots. In the 5km category, Arnold Asis, Glyncis Carandang, and Igi-Boy Cual emerged victorious in the male division, while Lielzel Manibo, Cassandra Oracion, and Gheneca Samalea claimed the top positions in the female category.

The success of the Puerto Galera Trail Run for Tamaraws was further amplified by the generous contributions of sponsors. Run Pinamalayan, Rotary Club of Calapan, Burp Station, Tamaraw Fire Volunteers, and Sanlahi Group of Builders, Inc. played pivotal roles in ensuring the event's success.

The true success of the Puerto Galera Trail Run lies not just in the physical feats accomplished but in the collective effort to support the Tamaraw Conservation Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The proceeds from the event will contribute to the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the Tamaraw population and their natural habitat.

As we reflect on this incredible day, let's carry the spirit of the Puerto Galera Trail Run forward, continuing to push for a brighter and sustainable future for the Tamaraws and the rich biodiversity of the region. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the conservation of our environment and its magnificent inhabitants.



Photos by CJBantiling, KCielo and TCP

The MBCFI Way

Citizen Science Bat Count Training and Orientation



On October 22, an exciting and educational event unfolded in Puerto Galera as young minds were introduced to the fascinating world of Citizen Science Bat Counting. Hosted at Muelle Bay, the event aimed to educate and engage students in the art of observing and counting bats, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among the next generation. This initiative was made possible through a collaborative effort between the organizers and the Stairway Foundation Inc. and KAPAKA, two organizations dedicated to environmental conservation and education.

Muelle Bay served as the picturesque backdrop for this enlightening event. Nestled in the heart of Puerto Galera, this location provided a captivating roosting site for bats, allowing students to witness the mesmerizing spectacle of these nocturnal creatures in their

natural habitat. The bay's lush surroundings and diverse ecosystem created the perfect environment for the students to immerse themselves in the world of citizen science.

The heart of the event lay in the training session, where the enthusiastic participants were guided in the art of Citizen Science Bat Counting. The training covered various aspects, from understanding bat behavior to the importance of their role in the ecosystem. Students learned how to observe and count bats during their flyout, gaining hands-on experience in collecting valuable data for scientific research.

A significant highlight of the event was the collaboration between the organizers and two prominent organizations, the Stairway Foundation Inc. and KAPAKA.

These organizations played a pivotal role in making the event possible, contributing their expertise and resources to create a meaningful and impactful experience for the students. The partnership exemplifies the power of collective efforts in fostering environmental awareness and education.

The event aimed not only to educate but also to empower the next generation of environmental stewards. This was achieved by instilling a sense of responsibility and appreciation for biodiversity, turning the students into active participants in the larger effort to conserve and protect the natural world. The hands-on nature of the training provided a unique and memorable experience, ensuring that the lessons learned would leave a lasting impact on the participants.



Photos by KArellano

The MBCFI Way

Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest 2023



The 2023 Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest marked a triumphant conclusion to Tamaraw Month, celebrating the island’s unique biodiversity. The competition, held simultaneously in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro on October 28, showcased the impressive knowledge and dedication of participating students.

Manoot National High School secured the prestigious 1st Place, showcasing their comprehensive understanding of Mindoro’s wildlife. Following closely were Abra De Ilog National High School, claiming the 2nd Place, and Rizal National High School, securing the 3rd Place.

Simultaneously, the Oriental Mindoro Run, hosted in Calapan City, saw another set of remarkable achievements.

Holy Infant Academy emerged as the 1st Place winner, showcasing their commitment to environmental awareness and wildlife conservation. Canubing National High School claimed the 2nd Place, while San Agustin National High School secured the 3rd Place.

The success of the event was attributed not only to the students but also to their diligent coaches and enthusiastic volunteers. Additionally, the support of key partners, including Occidental Mindoro Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources, DENR-PENRO Occidental Mindoro, DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program, and Rotary Club of Calapan played a crucial role.

The culmination of these regional contests led to the National Wildlife Contest, which took place on November 27-28 in Ormoc City.

Representing their respective regions, the winners from Occidental and Oriental Mindoro demonstrated their expertise on a national stage. Holy Infant Academy, the 1st Place winner from Oriental Mindoro, continued to shine as they secured the 1st Runner-Up position in the national competition.

This remarkable achievement not only highlighted their dedication but also underscored the success of the Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest in fostering a deep appreciation for the rich biodiversity of the island. The collaborative efforts of students, coaches, volunteers, and event partners made the entire journey an inspiring testament to the importance of wildlife conservation education.



Photos by KArellano, EHTan, and PhilBio

The MBCFI Way

MBCC Construction and Operation Updates



The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) is making significant strides in its construction phase, marking a dedicated effort towards the preservation and promotion of biodiversity.

A comprehensive topographic survey has been conducted, and the results were presented to relevant stakeholders including the Local Government Unit (LGU), Suzara and Corona Families. The Road Right of Way form has been signed by the Suzara Family and is now awaiting the signature of the Mayor of Puerto Galera. This crucial step ensures smooth accessibility to the MBCC and is a testament to collaborative efforts.

The power supply of the booster pump has been seamlessly transferred to the grid from the hybrid solar inverter, emphasizing sustainable energy practices at the MBCC. The inverters have been successfully connected to the Thinkpower App, granting the Site Supervisor easy access to monitor and manage the energy systems efficiently.

An MBCC area assessment has been conducted, and a punch list for necessary rectifications has been drafted. A visit from representatives of the Department of Energy further underscores the significance of the project.

MBCC Manager, Kyle Cielo, attended a Biodiversity Digitization Course, enhancing her knowledge and skills in the latest technological advancements in biodiversity conservation. She also participated in the "Waste No More" Conference, aligning with sustainable practices.

Tamaraw bones were also loaned by the Tamaraw Conservation Program and assembled at the Museum for eventual display. Ongoing coordination with EDC-Binhi for the establishment of the arboretum signifies collaboration with key players in biodiversity conservation.



Photos by KCielo and RMagcale



*Heartfelt Thanks and Wishing You
a Prosperous New Year from MBCFI*

As we bid farewell to an eventful year, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared with you at MBCFI. Your unwavering support and commitment have played a pivotal role in our achievements and milestones throughout 2023.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, growth, and positive change. Thank you for being an integral part of the MBCFI community. Together, let's continue our journey towards a sustainable and vibrant future.





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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