

## Mindoro Biodiversity 3rd Quarter Newsletter

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**Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.** <info@mbcfi.org.ph>

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Quarterly Newsletter | July to September 2021

### Program Highlights

#### RESEARCH

- Conducted the waterbird population survey in Apo Reef Natural Park as well as a refresher on waterbird survey techniques and species identification for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Protected Area (PA) staff and rangers
- Provided technical assistance to the San Jose Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of DENR for a flying fox survey in Mangarin, San Jose and local informant interviews in Manoot, Rizal
- Conducted informal interviews in Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm to verify the presence of the Mindoro Bleeding-Heart in the area
- Finalization of the Ilin and Ambulong Islands Critical Habitat Management Plan
- Conducted Key Informant Interview in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park regarding the presence of the Ilin Cloudrat



#### CARE

## CARE

- Featured episodes of Mindoro-endemic species in Wildlife Philippines Podcast, in partnership with Tanggol Kalikasan
- Endorsement of proposed ordinance declaring the month of May as Mindoro Biodiversity Month to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Occidental Mindoro and Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Oriental Mindoro. Inclusion of annual budget in their AIP is likewise proposed.
- Conducted “Tamaraw Guardians” Webinar for JCI Philippines about Tamaraws and Mindoro biodiversity



Photo by JCI Makati  
Coordination with JCI Philippines for provision of field gears to Tamaraw rangers

## MISSION

### **Mt. Halcon**

- Establishment of 1-hectare tree plantation site along Mayabig river and initial 100 narra seedlings planted
- Conducted monthly maintenance of woodlot and restoration sites including nursery areas with KAWARAS and SARIG in Bayanan and Lantuyang, Baco
- Collected and replanted 7,800 of native wildlings, fruit bearing, and high value fruit trees
- Provided assistance for the review and revision of Rice Trading Policy and formulation of Bahay-Sandigan Policy
- Assisted in the preparation and submission of requirements for Local Tourism Stakeholder Excellence Award
- Coaching and mentoring of KAWARAS Treasurer on cash receipt records and disbursement

### **Mt. Malasimbo**

- Preparation of 7,500 sqm. demonstration area
- Conducted vermicomposting maintenance activities as well as weed removal in nursery
- Assisted MASiPag in the preparation and submission of requirements for the DOLE's grant assistance Program



## MBCC

- Signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DOST for the installation and use of solar panels
- Conducted coordination and planning for graphics design of museum content



Photo by DOST  
Memorandum of Agreement signed with DOST

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## **The MBCFI Way**



**Apo Reef Natural Park Waterbird Census**



The Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) is considered an Important Bird Area (IBA), serving as a habitat for migratory birds, breeding seabirds, and resident island-specialist bird species. Up until 1999, there were only 42 bird species recorded on ARNP.

Last July, MBCFI together with participants from ARNP Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), DENR CENRO Sablayan, DENR CENRO San Jose, and LGU Sablayan conducted the waterbird survey in ARNP.

The survey was conducted to obtain information on waterbird populations in ARNP during migration (non-breeding) and breeding seasons.

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### Together for Tamaraws: Distribution of Food Packs and Allowances



Last July 6, a second batch of support receives for the Together for Tamaraws campaign was conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) BMB Office, in partnership with Tamaraw Conservation Programme (TCP) and MBCFI.

A total of 59 rangers and wardens from Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) received food packs and allowances for patrolling the core habitat area of the Tamaraws. This initiative was organized to provide much-needed financial support and subsistence to these conservation frontliners so that they can continue to safeguard the Tamaraws and MIBNP.

The Tamaraw, the world's rarest and most endangered buffalo species, has been conserved by committed rangers and wardens in MIBNP and the TCP. The wardens also serve as guides and porters during tours and research expeditions.

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## MBCC Construction Updates

By the last week of October 2021, the actual construction progress for Phase 1 of MBCC is 70%. Finishing works and roofing installation for the museum building are almost completed. In relation to this, coordination and planning for the graphics design for the museum content have also been conducted.

Auxiliary works for the establishment are also ongoing. Likewise, coordinations for the water system, power supply provisions, and excavation works for the retaining wall between the buildings are ongoing.

A memorandum of agreement with the Department of Science and Technology-MIMAROPA has been signed for the installation and use of solar panels in MBCC Research Laboratory. An invitation to bidders will be conducted in the following month.

Daily and weekly HSSE inspections were conducted. In addition, health and safety protocols in relation to COVID-19 are continuously being enforced in the construction area.

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<https://mbcfi.org.ph>



## Species in Focus



## Mindoro Scops Owl



**Common Name:**  
Mindoro Scops Owl

**Scientific Name:**  
*Otus mindorensis*

**Conservation Status:**  
Near Threatened  
(IUCN, 2019)

## Virtual Tour



**Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park**



### Where in Mindoro

San Jose, Sablayan, Calintaan, Rizal  
(Occidental Mindoro);  
Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong,  
Mansalay (Oriental Mindoro)

*The remaining stronghold of the Tamaraw*

### Featured Place in Figures:



Highest Peaks:  
Mt. Baco (2,488 masl),

Mt. Wood (2,024 masl),  
Mt. Iglit (1,324 masl)  
Land Area: 106,655.62 ha



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