



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
APO REEF NATURAL PARK
Protected Area Management Office

June 3, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The CENR Officer
DENR-CENRO, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro

FROM : The Protected Area Superintendent

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE
MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CAMP
HELD AT APO REEF NATURAL PARK FROM MAY 27-
28, 2022.**

Respectfully submitted is the Activity Report on the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp held at Apo Reef Natural Park from May 27-28, 2022. The event was participated by members of Sangguniang Kabataan in coastal barangays and officials of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Attached herewith is the narrative report and its appendix.

For information and record.


KRYSTAL DAYNE T. VILLANADA

I. TITLE

ACTIVITY REPORT ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CAMP IN APO REEF NATURAL PARK.

II. INTRODUCTION

In the Philippines, the month of May each year is celebrated as the *Month of the Ocean* (MOO). This is being conducted by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1998 during the administration of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada. This year, the theme of MOO is “*Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity*” which is also listed as one of the Ocean Decade Challenges.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is among the agencies mandated to conduct activities during the annual celebration of the Month of the Ocean. In accordance to this mandate, the DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office – Sablayan (CENRO-Sablayan) prepared a series of activity with the goal of increasing the engagement of locals towards the conservation marine ecosystems within its jurisdiction. This report focuses on the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp which was facilitated by Apo Reef Natural Park – Protected Area Management Office (ARNP-PAMO) and participated by the youth leaders of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

III. OBJECTIVES

This activity aimed to a.) provide youth leaders a background on marine ecosystems and, b.) orient them on existing citizen science initiatives that they can participate in.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

The Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp at Apo Reef Natural Park was participated by members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in coastal barangays of Sablayan and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) officials. It was facilitated by personnel from ARNP-PAMO and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Sablayan.

V. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

The Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp was held at Apo Reef Natural Park, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro from May 27 to 28, 2022. The program was opened by Ms. Anna Ritchelle D. Nicanor, Special Collecting and Disbursing Officer of ARNP-PAMO. She oriented the participants on the goals and objectives of the Camp and ran through the schedule of activities. In addition to these, she discussed the code of conduct which the participants were expected to follow. Ms. Hugo Salvador, CMEMP Extension Officer of ARNP-PAMO, delivered a lecture on marine ecosystems afterwards.

Ms. Salvador started her presentation by providing a brief background on three marine ecosystems: mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs. All of which are present in Sablayan and are well-known among the locals. She highlighted the state of these ecosystems both globally and locally, providing data from best-available science, and the threats that they face. The threats tackled were climate change (primarily sea temperature rise and ocean acidification), Crown-of Thorns Starfish (CoTS) outbreaks, land reclamation, overfishing and destructive fishing practices, illegal poaching, and marine pollution. Ms. Salvador closed her lecture by enumerating ways how the youth and other citizens of Sablayan may help in the conservation of the marine ecosystems discussed. Here, she presented existing citizen science initiatives that the participants may contribute to including the Mindoro Citizen Scientists, Mindoro Biodiversity Wildlife Watch, and Philippine Coral Bleaching Watch. These initiatives will be further discussed later in the day.

Mr. Joselito A. Tiongson, Park Maintenance Foreman of MENRO Sablayan, was the last speaker of the morning. He introduced the locally-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Sablayan to the participants and provided them information on the management zoning that is being implemented in each MPA. Furthermore, Mr. Tiongson discussed the results of their recent coral reef assessments using Reef Check, highlighting the decrease in coral cover and fish abundance observed in some MPAs this year.

In the afternoon, Ms. Salvador presented the process of contributing to citizen science initiatives, focusing on the initiatives of PCBW and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Incorporated (MBCFI). She ran through the Bleaching Report Form which the participants may easily access online and the rules to be followed when joining Mindoro Biodiversity Wildlife Watch and Mindoro Citizen Scientists. At around 3:00 PM, the participants together with ARNP-PAMO personnel proceeded simulate the conduct of a basic coral bleaching and CoTS surveillance. The participants were towed from Ego Wall to Aladin while in snorkeling gear. Afterwards, they discussed their observations with the facilitators. Some participants recorded minimal bleaching (>20% of coral colonies are bleaching) and all of them did not record individuals of CoTS.

After the simulation activity, certificates were awarded to each of the participants who attended the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp. The awarding was led by Ms. Anna Ritchelle D. Nicanor and MENR Officer, Mr. Robert P. Duquil. Each participant also received a token from ARNP-PAMO. MENRO Duquil then delivered his closing remarks, thanking the participants for their attendance and encouraging them to use what they have learned to help conserve the marine ecosystems in Sablayan.

The participants and facilitators rose early the following morning to conduct a coastal clean-up activity and daytime nesting beach survey along the sandy beach in Apo Island, Apo Reef Natural Park. Different marine litter types were collected during the coastal clean-up activity including single-use plastic and derelict fishing gears (DFGs). Meanwhile, there were no fresh sea turtle tracks recorded during the day. Ms. Salvador resorted to using old tracks to discuss the nesting habit of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and method used acquire data from the tracks left by nesting sea turtles. After these activities, everyone had their breakfast and headed back to mainland Sablayan.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The topics covered in the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp were relevant to the participants of the event. The lecturers were successful in delivering the presentations to a non-science audience. This was evidenced by the active participation of the SK members and BJMP officials

It is recommended for future Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camps to have a larger number of participants from the youth and longer duration. Doing such will improve the learning outcomes of the activity but at the same time, entail the need to procure additional survey equipment such as snorkeling gears.

VII. PHOTOS AND ATTENDANCE

The photos during the activity are presented in Appendix A.

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Park Ranger

Reviewed and checked by:



HUGO IGNACIO G. SALVADOR
CMEMP Extension Officer

Noted by:

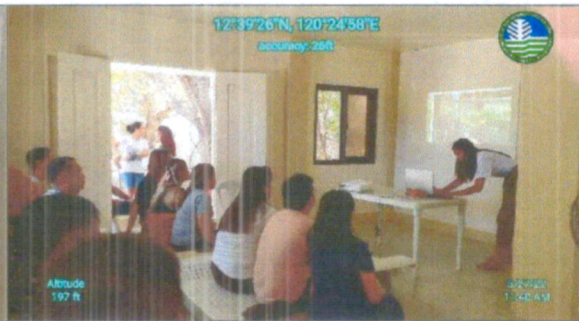


KRYSTAL DAYNE T. VILLANADA
Protected Area Superintendent

Appendix A: Photodocumentation of the 2022 Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp at ARNP.



MENRO Robert P. Duquil leading the invocation.



CMEMP Extension Officer Hugo G. Salvador delivering a presentation on marine ecosystems.



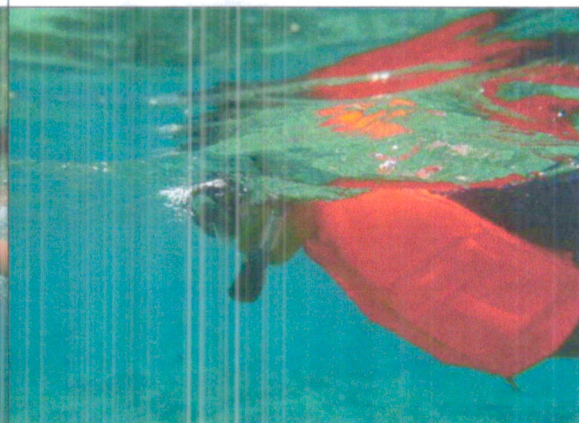
Park Maintenance Foreman Joselito A. Tiongson introducing the locally-managed MPAs in Sablayan.



SK members and BJMP officials actively participating during the lectures.

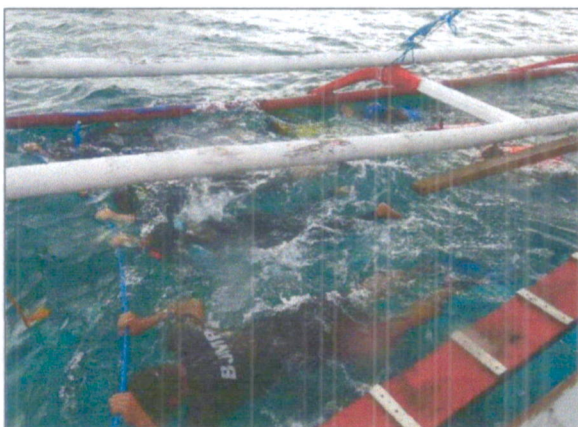


SK Chairman Bernadette Sambaoa searching the benthos for bleached corals and CoTS.



John Mercene surveying Ego Wall in search of bleached corals and CoTS.

Appendix A. (Continuation)



Participants being towed from Ego Wall to Aladin during the simulation activity.



Participants of the 2022 Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp at Apo Reef Natural Park.



CMEMP Extension Officer Hugo G. Salvador facilitating the discussion among the participants regarding the simulation activity.



MENRO Duquil and SCDO Nicanor awarding SK Federation President Marffin B. Dulay a certificate.



MENRO Robert P. Duquil delivering his closing remarks.



Participants and facilitators of the 2022 Marine Biodiversity Conservation Camp



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Activity: _____ Date: _____

Location: _____

No.	NAME	SEX	AGENCY	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
16	JOSE LITO A. TONGSON	M	MENRDO	PUT	
17	Abc Huguio Jr., M	M	OMA		
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Activity: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

No.	NAME	SEX	AGENCY	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	Ma. Inessa Jasta	F	Paetan	SK - Chairperson	
2	APRIL KATE NICANOR	F	BUENAVISTA	SK - Councilor	
3	Fatima Kai Silua	F	Batong-Batong	Representative	
4	Marlyn B. Punday	T	SK Fed Office	SK Fed Office	
5	Emmanuel P. Hernandez Jr.	M	Victoria	SK chair	
6	JORD MERCENE	M	CITUDIO SUCARD		
7	Bernadette Sambaroa	F	Brgy. Ibud	SK Chair	
8	PR-JD-1 B. MADRIGAL	F	BRGY. LIGATAP	SK CHAIR	
9	JETHAN LET E. DEETS	M	PPG-1, San Nicolas	SK Chair	
10	AGUSTO D. ANSTRAIA	M	BRGT. STA. LUCIA	SK CHAIRPERSON	
11	STDJ NOBER DANILO	M	BRGT. BUENAVISTA (BIMP)	DEPUTY SPEAKER	
12	JD2 ERLIN DICKOR	M	BRGT. BUENAVISTA (BIMP)	SK OFFICER	
13	JD1 CECIL JOHNS ESPINO	M	BRGT. BUENAVISTA (BIMP)	SK OFFICER	
14	JD1 FRANK NEL MENDO	M	BRGT. BUENAVISTA (BIMP)	SK OFFICER	
15	JOSEANTO D. DEPAUL	M	BRGT. STA. LUCIA	SK OFFICER	