

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM

October 11, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
DENR, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

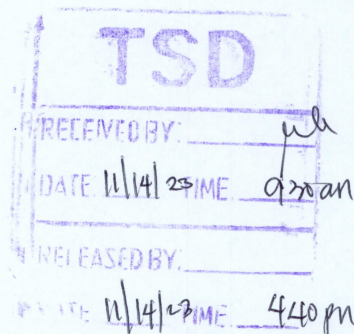
FROM : The TCP Coordinator
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

SUBJECT : SUBMISSION OF 2023 TAMARAW MONTH
CELEBRATION ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT OF DENR-
TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Respectfully submitted is the 2023 Tamaraw Month Celebration Accomplishment Report of the Tamaraw Conservation Program. The annual celebration of the "*Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of Tamaraw in Mindoro*" this October CY 2023 as called for by the Presidential Proclamation No. 273 series of 2002 was held as one of the target activity of the Tamaraw Conservation Program under Protection and Conservation of Wildlife – Celebration of Tamaraw Month 310202100001000.

Attached are the narrative report and photo documentation of the said activity for your ready reference.


NEIL ANTHONY A. DEL MUNDO





2023 TAMARAW MONTH CELEBRATION

The Tamaraw, scientifically known as *Bubalus mindorensis*, is the largest land animal native to the Philippines, categorized as critically endangered species and can only be found in the Philippines, particularly in the island-provinces of Mindoro, and is therefore a source of national pride. Extant populations are specifically found in four (4) areas; a) Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP); b) Aruyan-Malati Tamaraw Reservation; c) Upper Amnay Tamaraw Habitat; and d) Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary.

Furthermore, Tamaraw is nationally and internationally recognized as a critically endangered animal that faces a high risk of extinction. There is also a need to instill into the minds of the Filipino people, especially the Mindoreños, the importance of the Tamaraw as a natural heritage and as a biological resource that offers immense ecological, educational, recreational, historical and scientific resource.

Hence, it is the policy of the State to conserve, protect and develop the country's wildlife resources especially the endemic species for the benefit of the present and future generations. The continuous survival of the Tamaraw mainly depends on the unified efforts not only Mindoreños but all the Filipinos. This is the heart of the Proclamation No. 273 on October 14, 2022, the month of October every year was declared as a "Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw" and the annual celebration started in 2003.

The month-long activities slated in celebration of Tamaraw Month focus on a Mindoro island-wide intensive information campaign, including *Dalaw-Turo* activities, film showing, radio guesting, and distribution of Information and Communication Materials such as leaflets and brochures.

In accordance with the plans/activities for the 2023 Tamaraw Month Celebration, preparatory meeting was conducted and came up with the following details for the said celebration.

I. PREPARATORY MEETING

Preparatory meeting was conducted at Training Center, Capitol Complex, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro and thru zoom on August 4, 2023. The meeting was commenced with a prayer and singing of Philippine National Anthem thru AV Presentation at 1:30 PM. Neil Anthony A. Del Mundo, TCP Coordinator, facilitated the activity and welcomed all the attendees of the meeting.

He asked all attendees to introduce themselves and the office/organization they are representing. He then informed everybody that such meeting was called for to make necessary preparations for the forthcoming Tamaraw Month on October. He thanks also the Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro thru Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) for hosting this event.

The TCP Coordinator presented the agenda for the Preparatory Meeting for 2023 Tamaraw Month Celebration, as follows: a) Presentation of Legal Basis; b) Presentation of Final Theme, hashtag and color; c) Shirt and Tarpaulin Design; d) Presentation of propose activities per office/organization; and e) Other matters;

Hereunder are the highlights of the discussions:

A. Presentation of Legal Basis of the annual celebration

The TCP Coordinator presented the legal basis of the annual celebration. She pointed out that thru Presidential Proclamation No. 273 dated October 12, 2002, October of every year was declared as a “Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro.

He highlighted, as stipulated in the said Presidential Proclamation, the Provincial Governments of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro are tasked to lead the month-long celebration.

B. Presentation of Final Theme, hashtag and color

It was finalized before the preparatory meeting thru online voting. The Theme of this year’s celebration is “**Juan for Tamaraw: A movement for EveryJuan**” with the hashtag **#TamarawMonth2023** and **#ForTamaraws** and **Army Green** or **Forest Green** Color.

C. Shirt and Tarpaulin Design

After careful deliberation of shirt and tarpaulin design, the committee came up with these final designs:



TARPAULIN DESIGN



SHIRT DESIGN

D. Presentation of proposed activities

The details of the activities are as follows:

- a. **Simultaneous Kick Off Activity** - simultaneous motorcade activities will be conducted in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro and in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro and was followed by a program to formally open the celebration in Mindoro on October 3, 2023. In Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, the Kick Off activity and parade was conducted on October 09, 2023;
- b. **Workshop** – three day workshop on review/updating of Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP), Island-wide Tamaraw Protection and Law Enforcement, and Consultation of Feasibility Study on Tamaraw Translocation and Ex Situ Management on October 3-6, 2023;
- c. **Run For Tamaraw Year II** – A fundraising running event which will be held in the Aroma beach, San Jose and vicinities on October 8, 2023 sponsored and facilitated by Mindoro Adventours, Running Mangyan, other NGOs, Private Corporations, and individuals;
- d. **Trail Run For Tamaraw Year I** – A fundraising running event which will be held in Puerto Galera and vicinities on October 21, 2023 sponsored and facilitated by Mindoro Adventours, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc., other NGOs, Private Corporations, and individuals;
- e. **Kali Camp** - “Kabataan para sa Kalikasan” in Building Responsiveness and Volunteerism Experience for Environmental Conservation and Protection” conducted on October 10-13, 2023;
- f. **Save The Tamaraw Ultra Marathon 80km, 50km, And 35km** – a fundraising event which will be held at San Jose Town Plaza to Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm on October 14, 2023 sponsored and facilitated by Mindoro Adventours, Running Mangyan other NGOs, Private Corporations, and individuals. It is the first Ultra Marathon in Occidental Mindoro which will be joining by international and national runners.

- g. **Dalaw Turo Activities** - part of IEC held at Oriental Mindoro on October 18, 2023; October 6, 13, 20, 25 and 27 at Sablayan and October 23-27 at Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro;
- h. **Bamboo Boot camp Training** – training is for further enhance the use of bamboo as a construction materials on October 17-21, 2023;
- i. **Biodiversity Quiz Contest** –a quiz bowl contest of high school students from Occidental and Oriental Mindoro on October 28, 2023;
- j. **Suwag o Suko Film Showing** - is a documentary about the Bubalus mindorensis to be held at Mindoro State University, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro on October 19, 2023.

For there are no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



II. OCTOBER - TAMARAW MONTH CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and the Provincial Government of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro in cooperation with Non-Government Organizations, Private Companies or corporations, Peoples Organizations, academic & scientific institutions & all other interest groups within or outside Mindoro lined up the following activities for this year's celebration:

- A. HANGING OF BANNER / TARPAULIN** - the local governments, partners and agencies hang the 2023 Tamaraw Month Tarpaulin in their respective offices or in public places as support for the month long celebration.



- B. KICK OFF ACTIVITY** - motorcade activities and followed by a program to formally open the celebration was conducted in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro at the following places and date:

- a. October 3, 2023** at the Provincial Capitol of Oriental Mindoro at Calapan City. The Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro with Governor Humerlito “Bonz” A. Dolor conducted flag raising activity led by the PG-Environment

Natural Resources Office (ENRO) followed by “*Indak Tamaraw*” whereas the ENRO staff presented the “Love ko Tamaraw” dance.



- b. **October 4, 2023** at Provincial Capitol of Occidental Mindoro in Mamburao with Vice Governor Diana Tayag. The kick off was led by the PG- Human Resource and Management Office (HRMO) together with PG-Environment of Natural Resources Office (ENRO), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), PhilHealth, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO), and Provincial Government Office (PGO) and other offices, it was started by motorcade and followed by short program supporting the 2002 Presidential Proclamation No. 273.





- c. **October 9, 2023** at Municipal Compound, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. the activity led by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) together with the other agencies and offices in Sablayan. The municipal of Sablayan shows support and appreciation in conservation of Tamaraw thru motorcade and short presentation of Tamaraw information during the convocation.



- C. **WORKSHOP** – A Stakeholders' Workshop on Tamaraw Conservation and Management and Action Plan (TCMAP), Island-wide Tamaraw Protection and Law Enforcement, and Consultation on Feasibility Study on Tamaraw Translocation and Ex-situ Management on October 3-5, 2023 at Aroma Family Hotel and Resort Complex was conducted also in celebration of tamaraw month.

The workshop aims to review and update TCMAP due to changes in the status of Tamaraw populations and the need for an adaptive management process to be as effective and focused as possible; Encourage partners to contribute to the TCMAP implementation; Increase protection efforts and improve coordination between agencies; Introduce the Feasibility Study (FS) process to stakeholders, and to initiate the identification of experts and information gathering. Outline future stakeholder

meetings over next 18 months that will be required to define options for intensive management and to collate data (field and desk-based) as required.

Day 1 - Workshop on Tamaraw Conservation and Management and Action Plan (TCMAP)

The TCMAP review aims to: a). an action audit of implementation of TCMAP; b) redefining of future priorities, including adding new activities in certain sites; and c) new communication tool to be shared with partners to include in their work and financial plans (a simple summary).

Program Director / IUCN Red List Assessor for Tamaraw of D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc., Emmanuel Schutz presented activities conducted that stipulated in TCMAP including:

- a) Research and testing of alternative counting methodology of Tamaraw in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in parallel with the Simultaneous Multi-Vantage Point Count (SMVPC) implemented since 2000;
- b) Verification surveys of Tamaraw that resulted in “rediscovery” of possible Meta-population of Tamaraw outside the known habitats;
- c) Population of the species in Upper Amnay Watershed Region could be bigger than what is previously known. It also noted that public engagement is important in conservation.

Neil Anthony A. Del Mundo, TCP Coordinator, presented the Summary of review – significant successes achieved to date, future major changes, and priorities for 2023-24. According to Del Mundo, the TCMAP review demands updating based on actual scenarios.

DENR MIMAROPA Region – Senior Forest Management Specialist, Karla Mangundayao, talked about the Updates on the endorsement of TCMAP and on-going support for implementation.





Day 2 - Workshop on Island-wide Tamaraw Protection and Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Forum Workshop brought together by different stakeholders from various agencies related to Tamaraw Protection. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and discussed the latest trends, challenges, and the possibility of creating one collaborative group which will work on addressing the law enforcement strategies in Mindoro.

The workshop commenced with an icebreaker from James Slade. All participants were grouped into four (4) to answer these questions relating to Law Enforcement in Mindoro. This set a positive tone for the event gave an opportunity for the participants to reflect on the topic.

The Law Enforcement Forum Workshop served as a platform for different stakeholders to come together, learn from each other, and develop the necessary step towards law enforcement for improved Tamaraw protection. It highlighted the importance of continuous collaboration, communication, and coordination in the ever-evolving field of law enforcement in Mindoro. The valuable insights gained from this workshop are expected to have a positive impact on the participating agencies and gave an overview on the steps moving forward for LEF.

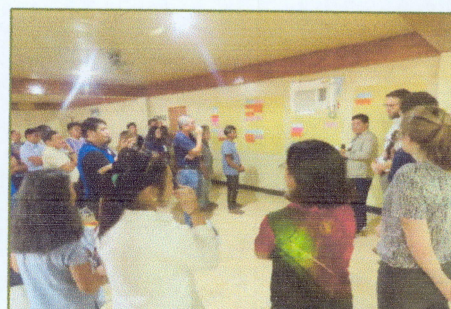




Day 3 - Workshop on Consultation on Feasibility Study on Tamaraw Translocation and Ex-situ Management

As introduction of the Day 3 activities, it started with its historical background and the current status of the implementation of the plans vis-à-vis the status of the population of Tamaraw in each habitat. The results on the exploratory field researches undertaken by the DAF on the Tamaraw status was again presented to the group followed by the decision problem/goal statement written in Tagalog language was read. These understanding became the bases in answering the workshops questions.

Participatory discussions using tools such as small group and plenary reporting and discussions, meta cards, dyads, and slides presentations to impart the backgrounds and objectives of each activity were the processes used.



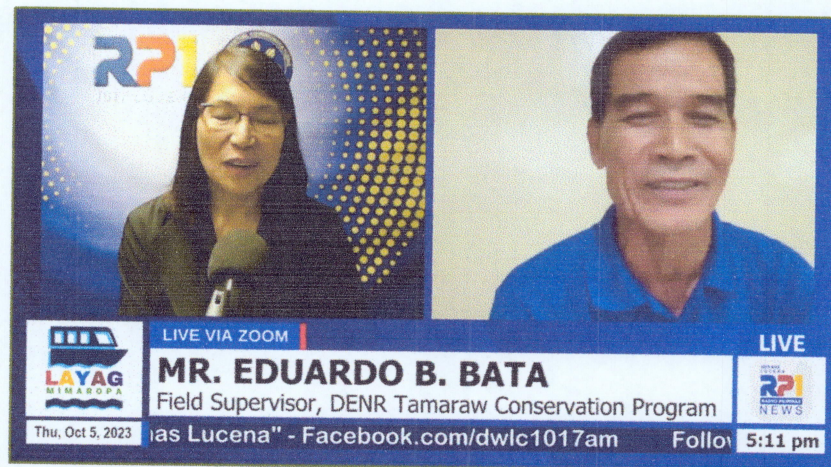


D. RADIO GUESTING - a form of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign to raise awareness about the Philippines' largest endemic land mammal and its fight against extinction and how we can help.

- a. **October 5, 2023** – Bayang Angat sa Pamahalaang Tapat Radio Program of LGU-San Jose Occidental Mindoro thru Municipal Information Office (MIO). The program was live also in BAMBI FM, CARE FM, ONE FM, BAY FM, SPIRIT FM and RADIO NATIN together with the CEFA Staff of TCP, Rona Jean B. Gacusan and Michael Ofielda from Running Mangyan. Hosted by Daisy Del Valle-Leano and Mary Ann D. Gener. Highlighted the activities facilitated by Running Mangyan together with Mindoro AdvenTours which are the Run for Tmaraw Year II and the first ever 2023 Tamaraw Ultramarathon in Occidental Mindoro.



- b. **October 5, 2023** – Radio Show guesting of Field Supervisor Eduardo B. Bata at Radio Pilipinas in Layag MIMAROPA program Lucena hosted by Leonie Algire. It tackle the importance of Tamaraw and how it being protected. Highlighted on how the Tamaraw Conservations gives effort in protecting the Tamaraw specially Tamaraw rangers who guard their post ensuring the safety of Tamaraws on different areas in Mindoro.



- c. **October 11, 2023** — Bayang Angat sa Pamahalaang Tapat Radio Program of LGU-San Jose Occidental Mindoro thru Municipal Information Office (MIO). The program was live also in BAMBI FM, CARE FM, ONE FM, BAY FM, SPIRIT FM and RADIO NATIN together with the Tamaraw Supervisor Eduardo B. Bata, Tamaraw Rangers, Gener B. Fantuyaw, and Ar jay Daptnapu. Hosted by Daisy Del Valle-Leano and Mary Ann D. Gener. Highlighted the Tamaraw Rangers giving their dedication in protecting and saving the Tamaraw from extinction and to keep safe from hunters and poachers.



- E. **KALI CAMP** - “*Kabataan para sa Kalikasan*”, now in its second year. In support of 2023 National Tamaraw Month, the Far Eastern University (FEU) Alumni Relations Office, alongside the Far Eastern University (FEU) Alumni Foundation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – MIMAROPA, and P&A Grant Thorton, organized this event on October 12, 2023, attended by forty (40) students from different schools in Mindoro.

Kali Camp focused on personal purpose, leadership, root cause analysis, project design, 20230 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and sustainability process.

The event featured notable guests such as the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Ernesto E. Tañada, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Efren Delos Reyes, and Tamaraw Conservation Program Coordinator, Neil Anthony A. Del Mundo shared their insights about environment

challenges in Occidental Mindoro, existing conservation programs, and opportunities for collaboration with the youth.

Director of the FEU Alumni Relation Office, Celmer Santos, explored personal and purpose-oriented leadership. The Managing Director of the Foundation for Information Technology, Education, and Development, introduced systems thinking, root cause analysis, project model canvass. And, the Managing Consultant for sustainability at P&A Grant Thornton, Lucky Cimat, discussed sustainability concepts, equipping attendees to lead impactful environment projects.

Generous funding from FEU Alumni Foundation and P&A Grant Thornton supported the three projects, providing essential seed funding of Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) each. One of this projects, “Project Tara Tanim Tayo” to be implemented in Salvacion, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.



- F. RUN FOR TAMARAW YEAR II** - this event aims to consolidate additional funds for further strengthen and sustain the protection and conservation of Tamaraws. It has two (2) categories; Adults and Kids at Aroma Beach, Barangay San Roque, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. The event was participated a total of thirty (30) participants from different individuals coming from the various sectors and groups. Registration fee is P350 for adults, for students and 100 for kids includes singlet, running bib, certificate

for finisher, and post run meal. This event was also in collaboration with Mindoro Adventours and Running Mangyan.



G. SAVE THE TAMARAW ULTRAMARATHON – It was successfully conducted on October 14, 2023 at Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm, Barangay Manoot, Rizal and at Aroma Beach, San Roque, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro for the awarding ceremony. Presented by Mindoro AdvenTours, Running Mangyan & DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program In cooperation with Harabas and in partnership with San Jose LGU & Rizal LGU.

It aims to raised funds and awareness for the protection and preservation of Tamaraw. This race allowed participants to both challenge their physical limits and contribute to the conservation efforts of this magnificent creature and embarked on a thrilling journey across the Municipalities of San Jose and Rizal, traversing diverse terrains including the rocky formations of Devil's Mountain and breathtaking coastal view of Aroma Beach. Along the way, participants were greeted by panoramic views of the island, a reminder of the beauty of Occidental Mindoro.

All categories incorporated thorough safety measures and ten (10) aid stations strategically placed along the routes. Organizers ensured that participants were well supported throughout the race, offering medical assistance and refreshments to ensure their well-being. Stewards coming from different local organizations and BLGUs, also present to guide runners, informing them on the routes they are passing through.

The registration of participants started at 4:00 in the afternoon in front of San Jose Town Plaza on October 13, 2023. All registrants must accomplish first the steps for the registration, fill up the form and waiver for the step 1, medical checkup for the step 2 and issuance of race kit in step 3, and orientation and route briefing after. Gun started at 12:45 AM for 80km, 50km at 2:30 AM and 3:26 AM for 35km.



It was joined by total of forty-six (46) runners composed of thirteen (13) females and thirty-three (33) from across the nation. This event has three (3) categories particularly 80km 50km and 35km and details are as follows:

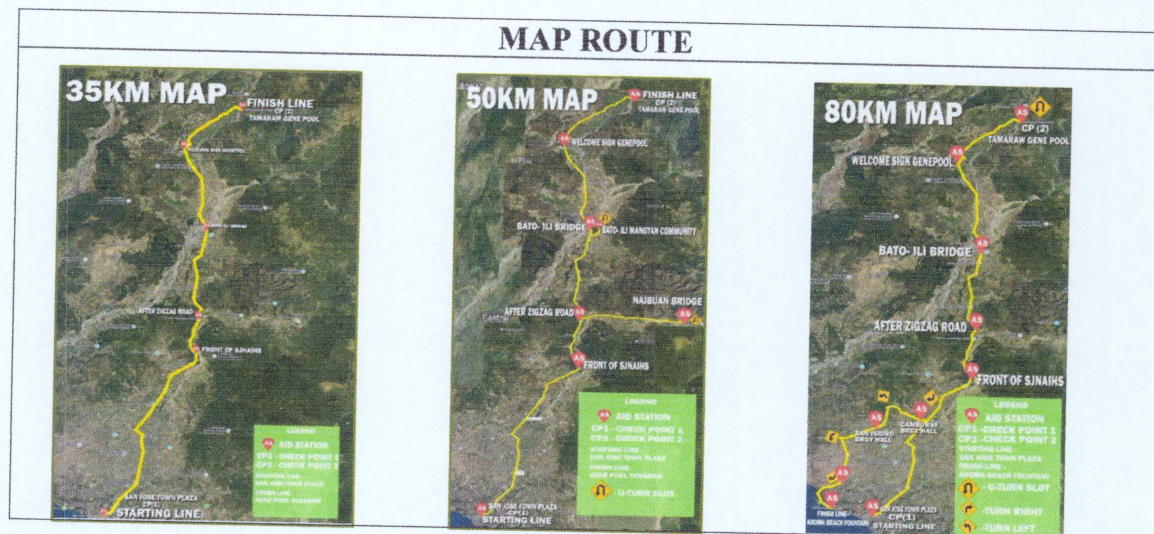
CATEGORIES	CUT OFF TIME	ROUTE	REGISTRATION FEE
80 km	12 hrs	San Jose Plaza to Tamaraw Genepool Farm to Aroma	Php 2,000.00

		Beach	
50 km	16 hrs	San Jose Plaza - Naitan - Bato Ili Mangyan Community - Tamaraw Genepool Farm	Php 2,300.00
35 km	8 hrs	San Jose Plaza to Tamaraw Genepool Farm	Php 2,500.00

Afterwards, the Awarding Ceremony took place at Danglayan, Aroma Beach, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. The following are the winners per category:

CATEGORIES	CHAMPION	1 ST RUNNER UP	2 ND RUNNER UP
80km – Male	Mr. Edwin Grimaldo	Mr. Rico Garcia	Mr. Erwin Villareses
80km – Female	Ms. Melanie Malihan	Ms. Zulfia Kurbaniiazova	Ms. Grace Panalangan
50km – Male	Mr. Jestoni Villones	Mr. Jefferson Tamares	Mr. Kenneth Alvaro
50km – Female	Ms. Fhelrose Villiamor	Ms. Charmaine Declito	Ms. Maria Silva
35km – Male	Mr. Samuel Villajos	Mr. Junry Santiago	Mr. Von Raymund Dela Cruz
35km – Female	Ms. Beverly Fruelda	Ms. Jell Anne Dominguez	

MAP ROUTE





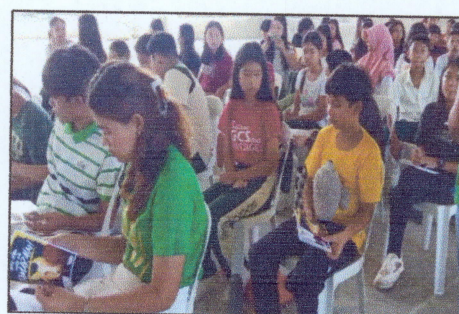
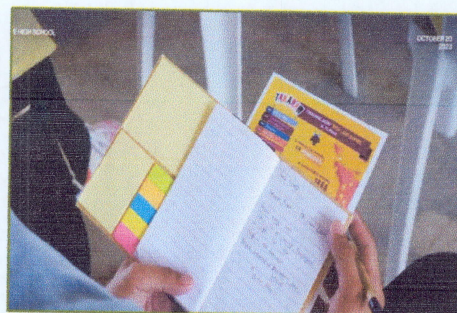
H. DALAW TURO ACTIVITY - *Dalaw Turo*, which comes from two Filipino words that mean "to visit" (*dalaw*) and "to teach" (*turo*) is an innovative educational tool for teaching and promoting environmental messages on nature conservation. It is a non-traditional, non-formal, and participatory approach in raising public awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It makes use of various forms of folk media such film showing and games to make learning about the environment audience-friendly and effective.

The activity aimed to (1) raise awareness about the importance of the biodiversity and inculcate environment ethics among the schools and communities in Mindoro; (2) encourage the involvement and participation of the general public and community for the conservation and sustainable development; and (3) generate support from the community in the implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation Program and other biodiversity conservation efforts of the government.

The basic procedure employed in carrying out the *Dalaw-Turo* included the following: (1) coordination to the target schools in Occidental Mindoro; and (2) preparation of the *Dalaw-Turo* program. The program included a combination of the informal teaching methods such as lectures on Biodiversity, Tamaraw and Tamaraw Conservation Program, film showing and games.

The TCP Dalaw-Turo Team distributed information materials such as brochures and leaflets about the Biodiversity, Tamaraw and the Tamaraw Conservation Program.

IEC MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED



- Lectures during the *Dalaw-Turo* includes presentation of the following,
1. Tamaraw and the Tamaraw Conservation Program. This lecture aimed to
 - a. Understand the background information of the Tamaraw and the Tamaraw Conservation Program;
 - b. Describe a Tamaraw and identify their distribution and their general behavior;
 - c. Enumerate the program components and accomplishments of the Tamaraw Conservation Program, and;
 - d) Understand the laws and policies governing the Tamaraw, other wildlife and the Environment in general.
 2. Lecture in Mindoro Biodiversity, at this part, one of the *Dalaw-Turo* team member discussed first the presentation
 - a. "When and Where Mindoro Island originated" which was followed by
 - b. the concepts Mindoro Biodiversity, importance, uses and functions and
 - c. the threats confronting the biodiversity in order to inculcate consciousness to the audience about the environmental issues.

And to maintain the interest of the community member's participation in the activity, environmental games were conducted as ice breaker after the lectures. The community actively participated in the games "**Tamaraw Quiz**".

the *Dalaw-Turo* conducted in the following schools in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro:

1. **October 9, 2023** at **Sto Niño Elementary School** together with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro;
2. **October 10, 2023** at **Buenavista Elementary School** together with Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro;
3. **October 11, 2023** at **Baclayan Mangyan School** together with the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources (ENRO) in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro;
4. **October 13, 2023** at **Saclag Mangyan Settlement School** in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro together with the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources (ENRO);
5. **October 17, 2023** at **Bansud National High School – Regional Science High School for MIMAROPA**, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro together with the Mindoro AdvenTours, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Oriental Mindoro, Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources (ENRO), Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) – Roxas, and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.(MBCFI);
6. **October 23, 2023** at **Mindoro State University (MINSU)** at Victoria, Oriental Mindoro together with the Mindoro State University- Main Campus, MINSU Environmental Science Society, Mindoro Adventours, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., and DENR PENRO Oriental Mindoro;
7. **October 25, 2023** at **Poblacion Elementary School** together with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro;
8. **October 26, 2023** at **Sablayan Central Elementary School** together with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro;





- I. **SUWAG O SUKO FILM SHOWING** – “*Suwag O Suko: Saving The Tamaraws from Extinction*”, a fund-raising activity for tamaraw conservation. It is a documentary film showing the hardworking rangers and the dwindling tamaraw populations are the lead characters. The film was produced in partnership with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the DENR-TCP.

This film tells the story of the Tamaraw and the conservation efforts for it through lenses other than science. It will explore, for the first time ever, the economic, political, social, and cultural significance of the tamaraw and how its existence and survival is invariably tied to the Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), the indigenous Mangyan, and the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) of DENR. Finally, this documentary will make the case for the need to conserve the tamaraws by increasing the funds for TCP, the agency mandated to protect and conserve the remaining population of tamaraws in the wild.

On October 23, 2023, the Tamaraw Conservation Program together with the Mindoro AdvenTours, Mindoro State University- Main Campus, MINSU Environmental Science Society, Mindoro Adventours, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., and DENR PENRO Oriental Mindoro at Mindoro State University (MINSU), Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. Participated by total of fifty-five (55) students and teachers

This cinematic journey, unveils the dedication of those on the front lines of Tamaraw conservation. Witness the remarkable efforts, the challenges they face, and the triumphs they celebrate. By uniting at this event, the students explore how they can all play a crucial role in protecting these majestic creatures and their fragile habitat.



- J. BAMBOO TRAINING** - Training on bamboo was held at Station II-Anahawin on Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) from October 16 to 21, 2023. Participants in the training included MIBNP Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) rangers, Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) rangers, D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc. field staff, and Taobuid residing near the station. This activity is supported by Re:wild and Darwin Initiative UK Aid.

With bamboo experts from the Philippine Permaculture Association (PPA) as resource persons, the participants learned about the ecological benefits of growing and using bamboo, clump management, planting bamboo culm cuttings, bamboo harvesting, treatment of bamboo, design, making of bamboo nails, actual bamboo construction, and maintenance. After five days, the participants were able to construct the main structure of a bamboo house at Landing. The participants agreed to name the bamboo house "Bale Mangibok" (Mangibok House). Mangibok is the Taobuid name of Mount Iglit. The participants also cleaned a bamboo clump near the station and planted bamboo culm cuttings near the station.

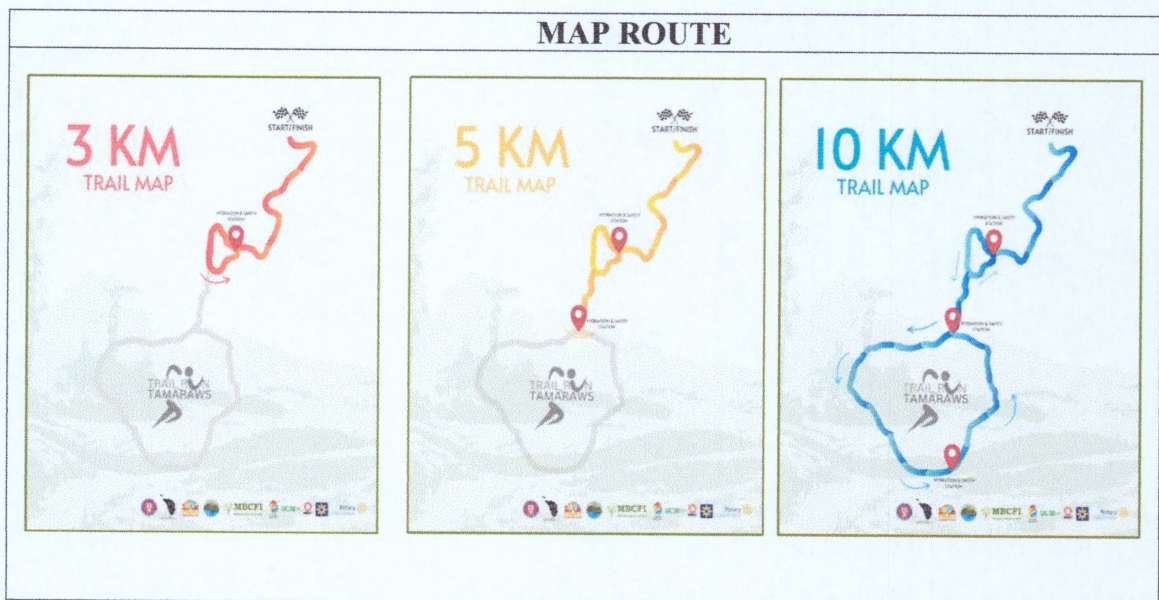


- K. TRAIL RUN FOR TAMARAWS**- a run for a cause embarked on a thrilling adventure this Tamaraw Month on October 22, 2023 at Barangay Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. Part of the proceeds goes to the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. Presented by the Running Pinamalayan, Mindoro AdvenTours, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. and Tamaraw Conservation Program in cooperation with the Local Government and Barangay Dulangan of Puerto Galera, Malampaya Joint Venture Partners, and Rotary Club of Calapan.

This event aimed to raise awareness for the conservation of majestic creatures to keep pushing for a brighter future for Tamaraws and their natural habitats. Also, it this opportunity makes a positive impact while enjoying the breathtaking beauty of Puerto Galera's trails.

All categories incorporated thorough safety measures and three (3) aid stations strategically placed along the routes. Along the route, water and food stops, and medical assistance are provided.

It was joined by total of one hundred six (106) runners from across the nation. This event has three (3) categories particularly 3km (for newbie) 5km (Challenging Technical Terrain) and 10km (Challenging Technical Terrain).



Registration of participants started at 5:00 in morning in Barangay Covered Court. All registrant must accomplished first the steps for the registration, fill up the form and waiver for the step 1, medical checkup for the step 2 and issuance of race kit in step 3, and orientation and route briefing after. Before the gun start all participants required to participate in zumba dance exercise as preparation for the run Gun started at 6:35 AM for 10km, 6:40 AM for 5km and 6:45 for 3km.

Afterwards, the Awarding Ceremony took place at and the following are the winners per category:

CATEGORIES	1 ST RUNNER UP	2 ND RUNNER UP	3 rd RUNNER UP
10km – Male	Lawrence Dela Cruz	Kurt Savalbaro	Lawrence Capino
10km – Female	Beverly Fruelda	May Belle Bacod	Eunice Bell
5km – Male	Arnold Asis	Glyncis Carandang	Igi-Boy Cual
5km – Female	Liezel Manibo	Cassandra Oracion	Gheneca Samalea





- L. TAMARAW UPCYCLING ART COMPETITION** - The Municipality of San Jose recently witnessed an exhilarating night to finally celebrate the Tamaraw Upcycling Art Competition Awarding Ceremony held within the remarkable San Jose Night Market this October 27, 2023. Organized by the Local Government Unit of San Jose through Municipal Tourism and Community Development Office (MTCDO) in partnership with the DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP).

The event was a significant part of the month-long celebration of Tamaraw Conservation Month, aiming to raise awareness about the critically endangered Tamaraw species and promote sustainable practices through upcycling art. The awards ceremony was a resounding success, leaving attendees inspired and committed to the cause.

The competition garnered enthusiastic participation from local artists, schools, and creative minds, which showcased their extraordinary talent in transforming waste materials into awe-inspiring art pieces. With a focus on sustainability and repurposing, artists breathed new life into discarded materials while amplifying the urgent message of Tamaraw conservation.

The awards ceremony was inspired with an impactful message of the Municipal Mayor, Hon. Rey C. Ladaga, highlighting the importance of Tamaraw Conservation Month and the crucial role of upcycling in spreading the message of sustainability. The speech emphasized the need for collective effort to protect the Tamaraw species and its natural habitat while adopting eco-friendly practices.

The following are the winners of the Upcycling Art Competition:

GRAND PRIZES	
FIRST PLACE	San Jose National High School
SECOND PLACE	Philippine Central Islands College
THIRD PLACE	San Jose National Agricultural and Industrial High School
SPECIAL AWARDS	
MED CARE CHOICE AWARD	San Jose National High School
MOST NUMBER OF REACTIONS	San Jose National High School
MOST NUMBER OF SHARES	Ms. Ramah F. Ramos and Mr. Frederick F. Aquino



M. MINDORO WILDLIFE QUIZ CONTEST - in support for the Tamaraw month the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) conducted Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest, it is simultaneously done in the provinces of Mindoro (Occidental and Oriental) on October 28, 2022. The target participants are all public and Private High Schools (Grade 7-12) in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro. Winners will join the National Wildlife Quiz on November 2023 organized by the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.

The contest aimed not just to test Junior High School and Senior High School students' knowledge of Philippine biodiversity, biogeography and wildlife, environmental laws, biodiversity conservation, and environmental issues and current events, but more importantly, raise awareness and engage students in the environmental conservation.

Quiz has three (3) rounds, the easy rounds, Average and Difficult rounds with different kinds of categories:

- a) Biodiversity/conservation;
- b) Environmental Science/Issues;
- c) Philippine Biodiversity;
- d) Mindoro Biodiversity; General Information;
- e) Philippine Environmental laws;
- f) Events; and
- g) Philippine Biogeography.

Each participating schools is invited to nominate one (1) team, consisting of two bona fide students. The students can either be: two Junior High school students or two senior high students, or mixed. Winners of the Mindoro Wildlife Quiz Contest are automatically qualified to the National Biodiversity Quiz Contest to be held in Sorsogon on November 26, 2023.

- a. **Occidental Mindoro** – conducted at the Provincial Capitol Training Center, Mambuar, Occidental Mindoro, participated by twenty (20) schools in the province. Below is the list of the winners:

1st Place	Manoot National High School
2nd Place	Abra De Ilog National High School
3rd Place	Rizal National High School



- b. **Oriental Mindoro** - conducted at City College of Calapan Activity Center, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro participated eighty one (81) schools in the province. Below is the list of the winners:

1st Place	Holy Infant Academy
2nd Place	Canubing National High School
3rd Place	San Agustin National High School



- N. **TAMARAW FIESTA** – conducted at Occidental Mindoro National High School in Barangay Payompon, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro on October 20, 2023 initiated by Biodiversity Corridor Project.

The activity primarily aims to provide a support measure for learning, information exchange, and knowledge sharing on the conservation, management, and protection of Biodiversity of Mindoro for concerns offices and academic institution. Also, it aims to communicate the various activities conducted by the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) for Tamaraw conservation. However, unlike *Dalaw Turo* activity that centers only on species conservation, the activity also invited a representative and Gender and Development (GAD) champion among the indigenous communities.

It was participated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) staffs, Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro staffs and Senior High School Students – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) from Occidental Mindoro National High School.



Indeed, the 2023 Tamaraw Month Celebration has been a success with the support of various partners' offices and organizations in conservations.

Prepared by:

RONA JEAN B. GACUSAN
IEC Officer

Noted by:

NEIL ANTHONY A. DEL MUNDO
TCP Coordinator