



Kalibanasan

Western Visayas



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The Official Newsletter of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Western Visayas

July - December 2022



Left-right: Maria Delia Cristina Valdez (on behalf of EMB Director William P. Cuñado); Atty. Ramar Niel V. Pascua, EMB 6 Regional Director; Atty. Daniel Darius M. Nicer, ASec. For Enforcement, SWM and LGU Concerns; PBB Mascot; Jasmin Linn Maquiling, SM City Iloilo Assistant Mall Manager; Atty. Cesar Emmanuelle T. Buyco, Jr., (on behalf of Iloilo Gov. Arthur D. Defensor, Jr.); and, Mayor John Lloyd Pacete of Municipality of Bugasong, Antique.

PINAS: THE BASURA BUSTER (PBB) MASCOT TO STRENGTHEN ESWM CAMPAIGN

The “what goes around, comes around” cliché holds true in terms of individual’s responsibility of managing whatever wastes we accumulate or produce in this modern living. What is sad though is the fact that we put others at risk with our nonchalant attitude towards proper solid waste management.

After more than two decades of being passed as a law, the implementation of Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act of 2000 still needs some pushing. The real struggle is implementing waste segregation at source – that is from households and business establishments.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with its line bureau – the

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) made the “push” by adopting a brand character to champion the need to adopt a proper solid waste management mindset. The kind of mindset that is highly aware of the impact of our simple actions that results to proper waste management.

“Pinas: The Basura Buster (PBB)” Mascot was that brand character to do the “pushing” and was launched on August 12, 2022 at SM City Iloilo. As a brand character, PBB is now the face and icon for proper solid waste management. He is the modern-day garbage man equipped with special upcycled weaponry to keep the environment clean. With PBB, the DENR in Region 6 hopes to increase awareness on everyone’s mind on the need to properly segregate

wastes.

Moreover, the PBB mascot shall be the image for easy recall on the importance of embracing a waste-free lifestyle by doing recycling, upcycling and even composting. Although authoritative looking, PBB mascot has a friendly smile, an approachable personality and is very likeable both by the young and old.

“With PBB mascot, we hope to both upscale and expand the impact of our solid waste management program and better influence people in all walks of life, especially our youths. Together, we can achieve the goal of a cleaner and safer environment for today’s generation and those who shall come after us,” said Livino B. Duran, DENR 6 Regional Executive Director.



VISAYAS CLUSTER CONFERENCE TACKLED REGIONAL CONCERNS

On November 28, 2022, the DENR 6 hosted the Visayas Cluster Conference held at Hue Hotel in Boracay Island with Region 7 and 8.

Regional concerns were tackled during the Conference with Assistant Secretary Gilbert C. Gonzales, ASec for Field Operations, Luzon and Visayas.

DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran presented the issues in the following areas: reclamation in Semirara Island and the expansion of the coal mine operations to the sea areas, the eroded abandoned tailing pond in Maricalum which affects the city of Sipalay, and the ongoing filing of cases in Boracay Island especially in

forestland blocks.

Concerns and issues from the three regions were gathered for consolidation and which would be elevated to the higher management for further guidance as to the next steps to be taken to address them on the ground.



NATURAL CALAMITIES ARE AN EYE-OPENER

President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' R. Marcos, Jr. visited the province of Antique and extended financial aid to typhoon victims hit by tropical storm 'Paeng'.

The President together with his cabinet Secretaries; Sec. Benjamin Abalos, Jr. (DILG), Sec. Erwin T. Tulfo (DSWD) and OIC Jose Faustino, Jr. (DND), arrived last November 8, 2022 and conducted an aerial inspection in areas with severe damages then proceeded to the Old Provincial Capitol ground to distribute relief assistance to families who were affected.

"We need to stay vigilant in protecting our environment. We do that by planting trees," said DENR 6 RED Livino B. Duran.

"The natural calamities are an eye opener to each and every one of us, to give more focus towards protection and conservation of our natural environment," said RED Duran.

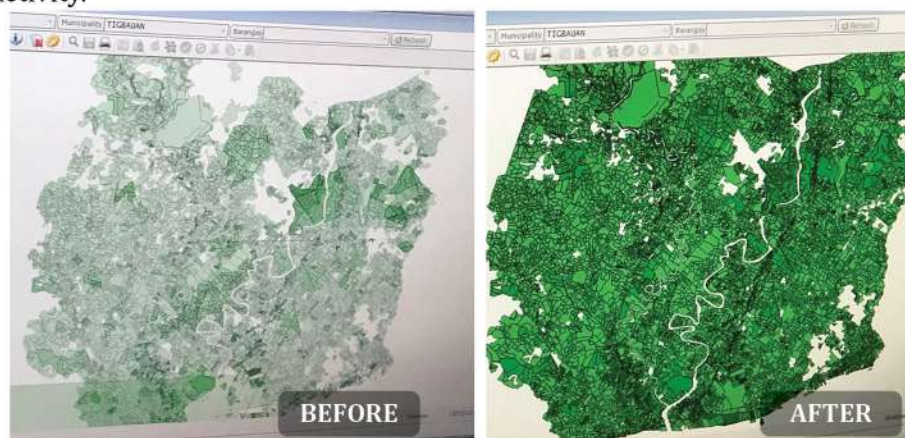


SMD CONDUCTS DCDB CLEANSING

The DENR -Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) Region 6 continues with its Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB) Cleansing of survey records for CY 2022. SMD has a target of twenty-two (22) municipalities for DCDB cleansing - fourteen (14) municipalities are under Regular Fund and eight (8) municipalities are under the National Land Titling Program (NLTP), a Central Office-Based Funded (COBF) activity.

The Division has already cleansed thirteen (13) municipalities of the 14 target municipalities under Regular Fund, namely; Guimbal, Igaras, Tigbauan, and Batad in the province of Iloilo; San Remegio, Sebaste, Tibiao, Sibalom, and Valderrama, in the province of Antique; and, Quartero, Dao, Dumalag and Dumarao for the province of Capiz. On the other hand, out of the 8 target municipalities under NLTP, six (6) municipalities have already been cleansed namely Ivisan, Jamindan, Maayon, Panit-an, Pilar and Pontevedra, all in the Province of Capiz.

As of October 31, 2022, SMD has already accomplished 93% and 75% of its target under Regular Fund and COBF, respectively, for DCDB cleansing activity.



DENR, DOH WV PARTNER FOR PINASLAKAS VACCINATION DRIVE AND PHILPEN RISK ASSESSMENT

One hundred fifty nine (159) employees of the DENR Region 6 availed of free COVID-19 booster shots (for 1st and 2nd doses) directly from the team of the Department of Health (DOH) in August 24, 2022 during the PinasLakas Ceremonial Vaccination drive.

DOH Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire is also thankful for the warm accommodation given to her and her team by the DENR officials and employees. She explained in her brief message that PinasLakas Vaccination Drive is a directive from the President of the Philippines since he wanted Filipinos to stay

healthy.

Meanwhile, DENR6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran also expressed gratitude to DOH for making DENR 6 a pilot site for its Philippine Package of Essential Non-Communicable Disease Intervention (PhilPEN) Risk Assessment conducted last August 22, 2022. The PhilPEN was availed for free by the regional employees and they were given guidance on necessary lifestyle changes or the need to consult a physician and medication for those assessed at high risk of developing hypertension and diabetes.



DENR R6 CONDUCTS REGIONAL GAD MEETING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP IN ILOILO CITY

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Western Visayas Regional Office in Western Visayas conducted the Regional GAD Meeting and Planning Workshop for the Preparation of Gender and Development (GAD) Plan and Budget For FY 2023 and Assessment of the Different PPAs Using the HGDG Tool on October 5-7, 2022 at the Zuri Hotel, Mandurriao, Iloilo City. The workshop was attended by 71 participants; 54 are women and 17 are men. It was a venue for the different offices to showcase their best practices, innovation and lessons learned in maintaining gender and development in the care of ENR operations.

Through her efforts of spearheading the event, the Chief of the Planning and Management Division and Chairperson of Regional GAD Focal Point System, Edna B. Locsin aspires to enhance and develop the GAD Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 ensuring that gender and

development mainstreaming are put across in the different programs, projects and activities in the region including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The plan should be integrated in the GAD Strategic Plan 2022-2027 and the preparation of MOVs as it plays a vital role to support the projects and activities that improve our ENR services.

Divisions and field offices presented their GAD accomplishment reports highlighting salient activities that encourage women empowerment and gender equality.

"Women as leaders raise the bar in advocating gender equality. This can be developed through their participation to ENR projects and activities that address climate change and disaster preparedness," said Edna B. Locsin Chief, Planning and Management Division and Chairperson of Regional GAD Focal Point System.



DENR 6 NEW ENTRANTS' TRAIN FOR GST

DENR 6 Administrative Division led the two-day online Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) for the New Entrants composed of men and women personnel of DENR Region 6 conducted via Zoom application on October 06-07, 2022.



AGEING GRACEFULLY: LIFE BEGINS @ 60

DENR 6 Administrative Division conducts Learning Event on Ageing Gracefully: Life Begins @ 60, Celebrating a Second Take at Life. Held at Diversion 21 Hotel, Iloilo City on October 04 to 05, 2022, this activity taught the retiring employees of the benefits at stake upon actual retiring from the service; provided the steps in preparation of documents needed for retirement claims; discussed the significance of financial planning for the future; and made an impact to the retiring personnel on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and positive attitude upon retirement.



PENRO ANTIQUE CALLS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT ON MALANDOG RIVER ECOTOURISM PROJECT



During the meeting of the Malandog River Rehabilitation and Development Project (MaRiReDep) on October 07, 2022, PENRO Antique PENRO Officer Cynthia Blanca called on all partner agencies and stakeholders to continue supporting the efforts poured into the project.

It could be recalled that the rehabilitation and development of the Malandog River was snowballed after a thorough water quality assessment by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in 2017. Former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu then called Malandog River an “ancient tourism destination” owing to the historical fact that it attracted the ten Bornean datus to its pristine waters.

In the offing is the implementation of Malandog’s tourism development plan which includes the display of fifteen feet statues of the ten Bornean datus, made of cement with bronze coating sculpted by John Alaban in Sitio Sumakwel, Brgy. Malandog, Hamtic, Antique. It thereby immortalizes the heritage of the Bornean datus and reinforces the importance of Malandog River as the cradle of civilization in Panay Island especially in the consciousness of the younger generations.

Also part of the tourism development will be the Malandog River floating restaurant, and a river cruise.

SICOGON ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AS NEW LEGISLATED PA

The DENR Region 6 now listed fifteen (15) Protected Areas and six of those were legislated, with the recent proclamation of Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary (SIWS) by virtue of Republic Act (RA) 11933, which was added in the category of wildlife sanctuary under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Republic Act (RA) 11933 or the Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary Act, described the area as located in the northern part of Iloilo within the municipality of Carles and with a total land area of 283 hectares, composed of two parcels (Parcel 1 with 251 has. and Parcel 2 with 32 has.) spanning the three Brgys. of Buaya, San Fernando and Alipata, Sicogon Island.



SICOGON ISLAND
CARLES, ILOILO



BMB VALIDATES NPPNP BOUNDARY, ILLEGAL STRUCTURES DESTROYED

The DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) together with personnel from Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park (NPPNP) conducted field validation and demarcation of boundaries of the legislated Protected Areas (PAs) on October 10-13, 2022.

Meanwhile, during the patrol work of Forest Park Rangers of Philippine Initiative for Conservation of Environment and the People (PhilinCon) at San Juan, Libertad, Antique on November 15-16, 2022 it was found out that

there are illegal structures inside the NPPNP strict protected zone.

After it was properly documented, coordination with authorities followed by a demolition plan was formed on November 18, 2022. A joint operation composed of DENR Enforcement team, PhilinCon Forest Park Rangers and Philippine National Police 2nd Coy Culasi Mobile Group proceeded to the area and dismantled the illegal structure and confiscated the tools inside.



BEFORE



AFTER

RED DURAN LED TALKS ON PANAY RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT

DENR Region 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran conducted a coordination meeting on September 15, 2022, with Capiz Governor Fredenil H. Castro in line with the development plan at the Panay River and highlighted those areas that considered as big tickets for possible funding.

Together with the RED were ARD for Technical Services Raul L. Lorilla, Planning and Management Division Chief, Edna B. Locsin, Conservation and Development Division Chief Danilo L. Lorilla, Provincial ENR Officer Joel L. Navarra, Community ENR Officer of Mambusao Gregoria D. Alenaje.



DENR CONDUCTS TRAINING AND WORKSHOP ON AUUF REVERSION IN ILOILO CITY

The DENR conducted a training-workshop on Abandoned, Undeveloped and Underutilized Fishponds (AUUF) 101 from October 17 until October 20 in Iloilo City in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) project.

Sixty-five participants from DENR, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and SIBOL participated. The training and workshop included lectures and discussions led by renowned experts on fishponds, fishpond lease agreements, AUUF reversions, and mangrove rehabilitation

among others. The discussions emphasized the problem on thousands of hectares of AUUFs in the Philippines which could have been reforested or reverted to mangrove areas.

As an initial action, DENR, in consultation with BFAR, drafted a Department Administrative Order (DAO) on AUUF Reversion.

DENR's initiative, in collaboration with SIBOL, to revert AUUFs back to the Department's jurisdiction and convert them into forestlands or mangrove areas contributes to the larger goal of speeding up the process of restoring degraded ecosystems in response to the impacts of climate change.



ASec. Marcial C. Amaro, Jr.



RED Livino B. Duran



PENRO CAPIZ INKS MOA FOR MANGROVE PLANTATION

DENR-PENRO, Capiz under the leadership of OIC-PENR Officer Joel L. Navarra, together with CIT- DAT H.S BATCH '79 represented by Brgy. Tanque, Roxas City, Punong Barangay Hermenia F. Dillo, and Lawis Baybay Small Fisherfolks Association (LABSFAR), Inc. represented by its President Nelida Dela Cruz inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on August 9, 2022, for the establishment of 0.06 hectare mangrove plantation situated at Cadimahan River, Brgy. Tanque, Roxas City as part of the commitment of CIT-DAT HS Batch '79 to promote environmental protection and sustainability and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The 0.06 ha. area was planted with a total of 600 potted bakauan propagules in a 1m x 1m planting distance. Said plantation will be maintained and protected by the members of LABSFAR, Inc. in close coordination with PENRO Capiz while financial support will be provided by CIT-DAT HS Batch '79. The contract duration is July 2022 to March 2023.

FASPS LGIS: EXPERIENCE FOR BETTER

The DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) led the discussion during the Lessons Learned, Good Practices, Innovations, and Success Stories (LGIS) Forum with a theme: Addressing Forest Degradation through Natural Resource Management: The Negros and Panay Island Experience on November 8-10, 2022 at Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan.

FASPS LGIS is a forum to address and bring together insights during project implementation

that can be considered in improving the implementation of other projects, policy formulation/re-formulation and future project development, and decision-making.

The LGIS covers the implementation of Forestland Management Project (FMP), Community-Based Forest and Mangrove Management Project (CBFMMP), Forest and Climate Protection Project in Panay (FORCLIM).



FMP COMPLETES SUBPROJECTS

A total of twelve (12) subprojects were completed under the Forestland Management Project (FMP) as of October 2022, namely: hanging bridge in Hilwan, Bagongbong, Aglonok and Atimonan; irrigation pipeline systems in Marandig, Caratagan, Atimonan, Bagongbong, and Panuran; and, pathways in Jayobo-cabatanan, Panuran (with RCBC structure) and Quipot-Barasalon.

This is in line with one of the objectives of the project which is to provide agroforestry support facilities like pathways and access roads that

can provide easy access in and out of the locality most especially, on the transport of agroforestry products from FMP sites.

The FMP is a ten-year DENR- Japan Intergrated Cooperation Agency (JICA) project that aims to strengthen forestland management in three critical river basins –Upper Magat and Cagayan, Upper Pampanga, and Jalaur, through the implementation of collaborative and comprehensive Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) strategies.



KABANKALAN AND BAGO WELCOME NEW CENROS

The turn-over ceremony of incoming Kabankalan CENRO Officer, Wilfredo P. Canto, and Outgoing Kabankalan CENRO Rosievel I. Dimatulac (now CENRO Officer of Bago City), was held on September 27, 2022.

Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Management Services Andres T. Untal and ARD for Special Concerns Ivne D. Reyes, together with Chief of Legal Division Atty. Noel Empleo, OIC-PENR Officer Joan Nathaniel F. Gerangaya and Cadiz City CENRO Mamad T. Gandarosa, Jr. graced the turn-over ceremony.

SWIS GIVING VISIBLE HAPPINESS

The DENR Region 6 has inaugurated the newly established Small Water Impounding System (SWIS) in the provinces of Antique and Negros Occidental.

Located at the far-flung area in the province this project benefited the communities and the People's Organization (PO) in the area involved in the successful implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

SWIS is a water storage consisting of an earth embankment spillway outlet, where the water is being sourced out from the nearest spring or any body of water that can be tapped, so as to be used for the watering of the existing established plantations under ENGP and for domestic needs of the recipient communities.



VP DUTERTE LAUDS GUIMARAS' THRIVING BAMBOO INDUSTRY

"Guimaras is more than its sweet mangoes, more than the beautiful views of white beaches to visit and do island hopping. Congratulations for the successful conduct of agri-tourism and bamboo summit," said Vice President Sara Z. Duterte in her message during the event "ONE Guimaras: Convergence for Sustainable Agri-Fishery and Eco-Tourism Development."

The event have gathered agri-tourism stakeholders, representatives from national government agencies, duly elected provincial, municipal and barangay officials of the Province last August 25, 2022 at the Provincial Capitol Gym in San Miguel, Jordan Guimaras.

Moreover, VP Duterte lauded the efforts of the province in promoting and enhancing the bamboo industry in Guimaras. It provided an alternative source of livelihood for the communities in Guimaras, alleviate poverty, generate employment and helped create ecotourism destinations while mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The ONE Guimaras event was conducted to



further build up opportunities for the Province of Guimaras and have enjoined the support of the national government.

PENR Officer Edgardo M. Rostata and Technical Services Division Chief Julieta M. Gabayeron represented the DENR in the event.



NGP ACCOMPLISHMENT ALMOST 2M

What may be considered as Enhanced National Greening Program's (ENGP) lifeblood, the production of high quality planting materials is essential to the success of the Program. Thus, the DENR-NGP Region 6 had produced a total of 2,168,506 seedlings, 110.60% of the year's target of

1,960,743. It comprises of bamboo, rattan, timber, fruit and indigenous trees.

This year's ENGP Accomplishment Report, as of November 24, 2022, have a total of 1,960,743 seedlings planted in the 2,817.50 hectares across the four provinces, namely; Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental.



The ENGP aims to cover the remaining 7.1 million hectares of unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands nationwide in accordance with the updated 2016-2028 Master Plan for Forestry Development.

PENRO GUIMARAS AWARD SPECIAL PATENT FOR SANITARY LANDFILL

PENRO Guimaras led by PENR Officer Edgardo M. Rostata, awarded two (2) Original Certificate of Titles to the municipal government of Buenavista, namely: Special Patent with Lot No. 1999-C and Lot No. 1999-E which covers a total area of 35,997 square meters for the Sanitary Landfill, situated at Sitio Kalalan, Barangay Piña, Buenavista, Guimaras on October 24, 2022.



The partnership with DENR, Local Government Unit of Buenavista with Municipal Mayor Hon. Samuel T. Gumarin, M.D., MPH, and Registry of Deeds, fast-tracked the issuance process and strengthened the agency's linkages with the constituents pursuant to Republic Act 10023, otherwise known as Residential Free Patent Act.

LARGEST MARINE TURTLE IN THE WATERS OF GUIMARAS

The PENRO Guimaras together with personnel from Nueva Valencia Municipal ENR Office rescued a female Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), at Sta. Ana Bay, Brgy. Poblacion, Nueva Valencia on August 25, 2022. It is categorized as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the biggest marine turtle documented since 2008, with carapace curve length (CCL) of 115 cm. and carapace curve width (CCW) of 64 cm., in the province of Guimaras.



FLYING-FOXES GET FOCUS ON CONSERVATION MEASURES

A conservation forum on Flying-foxes was conducted from July 1-6, 2022 at Mambukal Resort and Wildlife Sanctuary, Murcia, Negros Occidental.

Organized by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) together with the Mabuwaya Foundation Inc. and the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PhilBio), the Forum also discussed practices that

support Flying-fox conservation and regulate hunting of the species and establish standard monitoring protocols for flying fox roost site counts.

In Negros Occidental, Flying-foxes have sites in Hinoba-an, Murcia, San Carlos and Sagay Marine Reserve. In Mambukal, at least three species have been identified, namely: Golden-crowned Flying-fox, large Flying-fox and the common island Flying-fox.



ICC 2022 RECORDS 11K KGS

The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) is celebrated yearly by virtue of Proclamation No. 470, s. 2003. Observed every third Saturday of September, ICC is the largest volunteer effort for the environment and is participated by over 199 countries

The ICC 2022 Philippines adopted the #SeatheChange and gathered a total of 11,048.5 kilograms of trash in the six provinces –Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental.

With the help of the Ocean Conservancy Ocean

-Trash Data Form used by the DENR regional and field offices, the clean-up was a combination of land/coastal clean-up and underwater clean-up, it has a total of 4,690 volunteers coming from other Government Agencies, NGAs, academe, communities and different volunteers.



DENR 6 BAGS ADR AWARDS

The DENR Region 6 was recognized in its efforts in contributing for the promotion and utilization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The awarding was held during the celebration of National ADR Day on December 06, 2022 at the DENR Central Office. This activity was made to honor productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness in delivering ADR services.

In the region, Orland Julius M. Padios from CENRO Bago City, Negros Occidental, earned the top post for the Best ADR Officers and Jose Angelo Nermal Fabila from CENRO Belison, Antique, comes second for CY 2022.

The DENR Region 6 Pool of ADROs also earned the first place for the Best Pool of ARD Officers awards for CY 2022.



DALAW TURO TEAM GOES TO ILOILO

PENRO Iloilo Information Officers (IO) together with its CENRO IOs from Guimbal, Barotac Nuevo and Sara, conducted a *Dalaw-Turo* at Burak National High School and Burak Elementary School in the municipality of Maasin, Iloilo on September 29-30, 2022; Bitaoan Elementary School in Passi City on November 10, 2022; and Brgys. Daculan and Tanza in the municipality of Estancia on November 24-25, 2022.



SIKAD, TAKLAD, TANUM

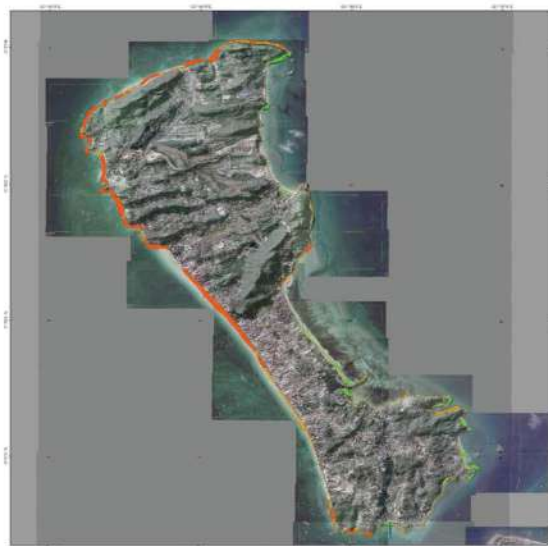
The environmental celebration-stacked month of November was emphasized by the staging of the first ever “Sikad, Taklad, Tanum” of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 6 headed by Atty. Ramar Niel V. Pascua, from the town plaza of the Municipality of San Dionisio to the planting site at Brgy. Dapdapan, Lemery, Iloilo on November 19, 2022.

In celebration of the National Clean Air Month, Environmental Awareness Month, and the Climate Change Consciousness Week, biking groups from the LGUs, NGAs, PNP 6, PCG 6, BFP 6, and other volunteers participated in the 3-activity event.

Event partners, Smart Communications, Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc., Robinsons Malls, Metro Pacific Iloilo Water, Metro Iloilo Bulk Water Supply, the Municipalities of Lemery, Sara, and San Dionisio also made their presence felt in the hiking portion of the day and planted their seedlings at the site.



1:10,000 SCALE COASTAL SEVERITY MAP OF BORACAY ISLAND



LGU CRAFTED LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS RECOGNIZED BY EMB 6

Timely as it is for the Climate Change Consciousness Week, the Environmental Management Bureau Region 6 recognized batch 2 of the local government units with complete Local Climate Change Action Plan on November 25, 2022 at Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City.

EMB 6 Regional Director, Atty. Ramar Niel V. Pascua welcomed the awardees with a human intervention-centric message to start the program followed by the Division Chief for Local Government Capability Development of the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 6, Mr. Christian Nagaynay, who voiced his message on local governance and compliance to the mandated Climate Change action plan. The program was also graced by the Climate Change Commissioner, Albert P. Dela Cruz as he delivered the keynote speech of the event by presenting a 2-part mini documentary on the works that the Climate Change Commission has achieved in Metro Manila.

Municipalities and cities from across Western Visayas were awarded in a face-to-face manner for the first time in 3 years, following the events of the COVID pandemic. Grateful to each public servant in attendance, the officials and their programs centered on climate change combat were acknowledged by EMB Regional Director Pascua,



DILG Division Chief Nagaynay, and Commissioner Dela Cruz.

This set of local government units boosted their actions plans with a proper set of programs on renewable energy and the regular conduct of tree planting to name a few.

GEOLOGIC HAZARD MAPS AS GUIDE TO SAFETY

The geologic hazard maps produced by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the past years contain vital information on the susceptibility of a certain locality to geologic hazards, specifically landslide and floods that fall within the scope of MGB’s program. Thus, the DENR issued Department Administrative Order No. 2000-28 on April 25, 2000 requiring engineering, geological and geohazard assessment (EGGA) prior to the approval of an

Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for subdivision, housing and other land development and infrastructure projects.

The geohazard map is useful not only to locate disaster-prone areas but also identifies relocation sites and provides inputs in the preparation and updating of the local government’s Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs). Hence, it is not just a disaster area predictive tool but also a guide to safety.

Geohazard mapping is only a part of the whole disaster risk reduction and management work. MGB, for its part, has always been an active member and source of information in the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (RDRRMC) spearheaded by the Office of the Civil Defense. Up to the present, the MGB geohazard maps continue to be a source of information for pre-disaster needs analysis of different government agencies and LGUs.



8TH NATIONAL BICYCLE DAY AT CALATRAVA ECOPARK

More or less 200 biking enthusiasts from different biking groups and organizations in Negros Occidental joined the 8th National Bicycle Day at Calatrava Ecopark on November 27, 2022.

DENR-PENRO Negros Occidental led by OIC-PENRO Joan Nathaniel F. Gerangaya fully supported this activity with the theme: "Clean Air through a Bicycle Friendly Philippines."

One of the highlights of the activity was the

planting of 100 White Lauan seedlings in designated planting areas at the ecopark. Bikers then pledged their commitment as they synchronously stated the *Panata sa Kalikasan*.

The National Bicycle Day was initiated and organized together with DENR since 2014. In 2020, it was officially declared by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 1052, that every 4th Sunday of November as National Bicycle Day.



DENR 6 ISSUES MORE THAN 2K PATENTS

DENR Region 6 had transmitted to the Registry of Deeds (ROD) a total of 2,129 patents (1,276 residential and 853 agricultural patents) under the *Handog Titulo* Program as of the end of October 2022.

More or less forty-one hectares of residential free patents were transmitted by DENR 6 to ROD

and five hundred eighty-five hectares of agricultural patents coming from the different provinces of the region.

Republic Act No. 10023 or the Residential Free Patent Act mandates the issuance of residential free patents to Filipino citizen who is an owner and actual occupant of a parcel of agricultural land

(alienable and disposal) for at least 10 years.

Furthermore, the applicant must be without pending land registration fees. Whereas, an agricultural free patent applicant must be a natural-born Filipino citizen, not owner of an area that exceeds 12 hectares, a resident in the area for the last 30 years, and has paid real state tax.



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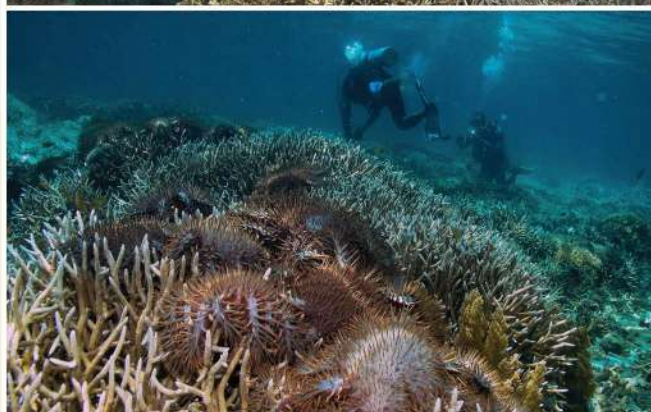
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COTs REMOVAL IN ESCALANTE

The DENR- Tañon Strait Protected Seascape (TSPPS) together with the Local Government Unit of Escalante City and volunteer divers removed more than 1,200 Crown-of-Thorns (COTs) at Malabagon Reef, Escalante City on August 3-4, 2022.

The COTs (*Acanthaster planci*), is a large starfish that preys upon coral polyps. It is locally known as "Salanay or Dap-ag". This species is a well-known coral predator, and outbreaks could cause serious harm to coral reefs in our marine ecosystem.



PENRO AKLAN SPEARHEADS ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH SUMMITS

The DENR-PENRO Aklan have engaged the Indigenous People (IP) youths in Boracay Island and the young Kalibonhons in three (3) batches of Environmental Youth Summits with activities like tree planting, clean ups and learning events for them to better understand the importance of environmental protection and conservation.

Batch 1 entitled: "Youth and Indigenous People's Summit for Better Boracay: Action Towards Innovation (ATI) for Environmental Sustainability of Boracay Island," gathered thirty six (36) youth members of the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization (BATO) who actively participated in various activities.

Batch 2 of the Youth Summit entitled as "Youth of Aklan for a Better Environment Today and

Tomorrow" was conducted at the Ati-atihan County Inn in the capital town of Kalibo, Aklan. A total of forty-eight (48) Aklanon youths attended Batch 2 of the Summit with invites from the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Ambassadors, Youth Artists, Future Leaders of the Philippines Officers ASU – Banga, Regional Science High School for Region VI (RSHSVI) YES-O Officers, Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairpersons and Members from different municipalities including Balete, Banga, Batan and New Washington.

And the Batch 3, held at DENR Aklan Regional Training Center, Jawili, Tangalan, Aklan on September 22-23, 2022 was participated by the youth from Western side of the Province of Aklan composed of Sangguniang Kabataan Chairpersons

and members, student leaders from Aklan State University-Ibajay and Makato Campus, Akeanon Bukidnon Tribe members from Tangalan, Aklan and ENR Ambassadors.



THE POWER OF YOUTH: TAK ENR AMBASSADOR

The DENR Region 6 together with its field offices in the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental, had identified fifty-eight (58) deserving youths/students from the academe and established groups for the Tayo Ang Kalikasan (TAK) ENR Ambassador Project Year II.

Series of activities were conducted by the ENR Ambassadors for the second semester of 2022, as follows; ENR Ambassador Aklan participated in the Youth and Indigenous Summits, tree planting activity, clean up, and social media posting/sharing of videos.

Antique ENR Ambassador joins the celebration of "Dulangan Month" by the virtue of Provincial

Ordinance No. 2020-208 with IECs and skills demonstration. Another activity conducted is the "kasUbAyanihan 2022", a clean-up activity on August 26 conducted in the University of Antique. The Dulungan Youth, under the leadership of Jann Vinze I. Barcinal, one of the ENR Ambassadors, conducted the "ResilienSEA Camp: A Climate Resilience Camp" on September 16-18, 2022.

For the province of Capiz the ENR Ambassadors joins the International Coastal Clean-up 2022, with the theme: "Fighting for Trash-Free Seas, Pilipinas! – Ending the Flow of Trash at the Source". They also made their Advocacy and Special videos on Pawikan Conservation and other environmental related infographic, posted in PENRO Capiz official

FB page.

The ENR Ambassadors in Guimaras also joined the tree/mangrove planting and clean-up activities organized by PENRO Guimaras and posted environmental related infographics in their personal social media accounts.

PENRO Iloilo ENR Ambassadors also posted environmental related infographics and videos on their respective social media accounts. An IEC Activity like "Dalaw Turo" at Brgys. Daculan and Tanza in the municipality of Estancia and sharing of IEC materials were also done. ENR Ambassador Vince Patrick Viejo also attended the launching of "Pinas: The Basura Buster (PBB) Mascot" at SM City Iloilo on August 12, 2022.

The ENR Ambassador Negros Occidental, continue the "ProSeed Project" with their Phase 2 (webinar session) and a tree planting activity on July 09, 2022, at the Old dumpsite of Sitio Carmen, Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City. A "Youth ECO 143 Workshop – Year II" was also conducted on November 11, 2022. On November 25, the ENR Ambassadors also joined the "Negros Wildlife Foot Parade" in celebration of the 18th Provincial Wildlife Month Celebration.

Furthermore, the DENR 6 ENR Ambassadors were invited for the TAK "Pangkalikasan Pangkamping" a virtual walk through of the selected Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Ambassadors from the Region 6 and Region 13 last September 30, 2022, and its culminating activity on October 14, 2022, via Zoom platform.



NNNP: THE GREEN CROWN

Located in the northern part of the island, the Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP) was proclaimed as Protected Area (PA) by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 895, signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act.

NNNP has a total area of 70, 826.16 hectares and covers eleven (11) local government units, namely: municipalities of Murcia, Don Salvador Benedicto, E.B. Magalona, Toboso and Calatrava, and cities of Talisay, Silay, Victorias, Cadiz, Sagay and San Carlos.

NNNP is the stronghold for both flora and faunas and is home to threatened endemic species including the endangered Negros bleeding-heart pigeon (*Gallicolumba keayi*), Rufous-headed hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni*), Visayan warty pig (*Sus cebifrons*), Visayan spotted deer (*Rusa alfredi*). It is now being managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Office 6 with other government agencies and stakeholders as members.



STILL A TURTLE HAVEN

Since the start of October 2022, there are more than 350 protected Olive Ridley turtle eggs recorded by the CENRO Boracay – Oct. 6 with 109 eggs, Nov. 10 with 135 eggs, and Nov. 17 with 108 eggs.

Some eggs were relocated to a much safer place after a team from CENRO Boracay assessed the area where the egg-laying took place. Incubation of the eggs reached a 65-day period before it finally hatches.



DENR 6 JOINS TREE AND BAMBOO PLANTING ACTIVITY

In the conduct of the National Simultaneous Tree and Bamboo Planting Activity with the theme: “*Buhayin ang Pangangalaga sa Kalikasan*” on September 13, 2022, more than three thousand (3,000) seedlings of native trees and bamboo culms were planted by around one thousand (1,000) volunteers and participants.

The activity was spearheaded by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Region 6 in close collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Agriculture (DA). It was conducted simultaneously in the

selected sites of the six provinces, namely; Iloilo-Brgy. Caigon, Maasin; Aklan – Brgy. Cabugao, Ibayay; Antique – Brgy. Aningalan, San Remegio; Capiz – Brgy. Cudian, Ivisan; Guimaras – Brgy. Sapal, San Lorenzo; and, Negros Occidental – Brgy. Kumaliskis, Don Salvador Benedicto.

The simultaneous tree and bamboo planting activity was in line with the birthday celebration of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and as mandated by Proclamation No. 1401 which declares the month of September as the ‘Philippine Bamboo Month’ signed by former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte on June 27, 2022.

