



## BIATF'S LIFE UNTIL JUNE 2022, TO FINISH ALL REHABILITATION PROJECTS



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the lead agency of the Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF), is determined to finish the rehabilitation of the island before its extended terms expires, this after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte extended the BIATF life until June 2022 through Executive Order (EO) 147 dated September 13, 2021.

"We must ensure that we have the proper mechanisms in place, so that our hard work and efforts would not turn to naught," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said during the BIATF Principals recent meeting in Boracay Island.

"We hope that what we leave behind for Boracay would be those that are worthy to be sustained or built upon by those succeeding us," he added.

During the meeting BIATF Chair Secretary Cimatu and co-chair Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and Department

of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año reported remarkable improvement of the island of Boracay, after the island had undergone rehabilitation last 2018.

The water quality in the beaches and other water sampling stations of Boracay, from 900 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml) down to 45 MPN/100ml on average.

A total of 282 of the 339 structures including commercial, residential, and other establishments encroaching on the 25+5-meter beach easement have been demolished, with only just few remaining houses left for demolition.

The rehabilitation of adopted wetlands are still on progress, while Wetland No. 9 located in Brgy. Manoc-mamoc is almost cleared of illegal settlers except for one remaining house.

For the enforcement of the 12-meter road right of way for the widening and improvement of the Boracay Circumferential Road, 86% of establishments or 1,057 of 1,230 total structures are now compliant.

Aside from the progress of the rehabilitation, BIATF Co-chair and DOT Secretary Puyat said that the COVID-19 vaccination of the island's residents and tourism workers is expected to reach 100% by the end of October 2021 thus, the first tourism area to have a fully vaccinated residents and tourism workers.

Almost 92% of the tourism workers including tricycle drivers, souvenir shop personnel, and

massage therapists have received their first dose or 11,779 of 12,809 workers while 77.87% or 19,039 of 24,451 residents have received their first dose.

"Boracay Island Rehabilitation is one of our major accomplishments here in DENR 6. We have a visual proof that this rehabilitation is a success," DENR 6 RED Duran said.

"We will not stop here, this environment protection will continue for our future generations," he added.

Meanwhile, the BIATF member and Aklan Governor Florencio T. Miraflores said that Boracay Island will accept fully vaccinated individuals without needing to secure a negative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test result. It is one way of the Local Government of Aklan to regain the low tourism industry of the island and the province as well.###





# RED Duran Conducts Regionwide Consultative Conference

Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran led the Consultative Conference, to the six provinces of the region namely: Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Negros Occidental, Aklan and Guimaras from August 19 to September 15, 2021, respectively.

During this Consultative Conference RED Duran laid down the Departments' goals and targets that need to be accomplished before the year ends.

Welcomed by the respective Provincial ENR Officer, RED Duran together Assistant Regional Director for Special Concerns Ivane Reyes who tackled issues and concerns related to ENGP and other special projects of DENR; ARD for Technical Services Raul Lorilla presented the proposed implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling or the Devolution of government programs and functions to LGUs; ARD for Management Services Noel C. Empleo tackled management concerns; COVID updates by the Chief Administrative Division Ernest Federiso; the physical status of accomplishments was handled by Chief Planning and Management Division Edna B. Locsin; while the financial status by office was presented by Chief Finance Division Amelee Sardia.

"The remaining months before Christmas should be the best time for us to meet and accomplish all the necessary performance compliance. We have to focus on our goals so we can end the year right." RED Duran emphasized in his message.

RED addressed and reiterated the updates on the targets; implementation and accomplishments each PENROs and CENROs that is still need to accomplish, the implementation of the 10 priority programs of the department, the importance of sustaining a good partnership and collaboration with local government units, and lastly to discuss the operational related concerns of DENR Region 6.

Further actions and plans were also discussed to improve survival rate of planted seedlings and trees for NGP. The conference was also designed to focus on accomplishments under the National Greening Program (NGP) which is Secretary Cimat's main priority to improve the quality of our environment, particularly our air, water and address solid waste problems.

Despite the face-to-face activity the participants observed the minimum health protocol set by the IATF.###



## DENR 6 ENGP Seedlings Production Now 100%



Under the Duterte Administration, the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) of the DENR targets to reforest some 1.2 million hectares between 2017 to 2022 in accordance with the updated 2016 to 2028 Master Plan for Forestry Development.

Thus, the DENR Region 6 announced that as of November 04, 2021, five of its provinces have striking percentage in seedling production with a total of 109.35% accomplishment to wit:

Aklan - 115.07% with 100% Plantation Accomplishment  
 Antique - 118.89% with 100% Plantation Accomplishment  
 Capiz - 105.13% with 100% Plantation Accomplishment  
 Iloilo - 101.84% with 100% Plantation Accomplishment  
 Negros Occidental - 110.31% with 93% Plantation Accomplishment

Aside from greening natural resources the ENGP aims to contribute in reducing poverty among upland and lowland poor households, indigenous peoples, and in coastal and urban areas, provide food, goods and services to its beneficiaries, and improve the air quality of the area.





## Barangayanihan: Duterte Legacy

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) led the launching of caravan, with the theme: Barangayanihan Caravan Towards National Recovery, aimed to promote the Duterte's administration accomplishments nationwide.

The Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR) Region 6 was attended by DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran and delivered a message in behalf of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu as the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS)

on September 30, 2021 during the regional launching at Brgy. X-Estado, Victorias City, Negros Occidental. With him are Assistant Regional Director for Special Concerns Ivone Reyes and Provincial ENR Officer Egdardo M. Rostata.

In his message RED Duran highlighted the success of the government in bringing real change to the lives of the Filipino people in terms of poverty reduction, infrastructures, and peace and order. Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict is considered as one of the major thrusts of this government, thus, Executive Order (EO) 70 was issued pushing for a whole of nation approach with all line agencies and

mechanisms of the government to work and act as one.

As of 2019 data of National Task Force-End Local Communists Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), seventy-four (74) barangays in the region were identified as cleared and considered as Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) barangays that qualified and availed of the Local Government Support Fund – Support to Barangay Development Program (LGSF-SBDP) intended for the realization of the conflict-free barangays' plans and programs amounting to 20-M pesos each or a total of Php1.48-Billion worth of programs and projects.

RED Duran likewise underscored the "big tickets" the government are providing and sustaining to uplift the lives of the people of Western Visayas.

He made mention of the following projects at the local level: solar energy in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental, considered as the biggest in the whole of SE Asia; wind energy in the provinces of Guimaras and Aklan and the hydropower project in Antique, Iloilo and Aklan. These are also considered as sources of renewable energy.

He also highlighted the Jalaur River Irrigation Project in Calinog, Iloilo and the proposed Panay River Irrigation Project in Capiz. The bridge soon the link the island of Panay to Guimaras and Negros Island hopefully will follow. The clean-up and rehabilitation of Boracay Island after it was tagged as "cesspool" by no less than the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, DENR Secretary Cimatu was tapped to lead the challenge of bringing back the lost glory of the island and he did it exemplarily.

Distribution of food packs, conduct of medical mission and different serbisyo caravan of National Government Agencies, which benefited about 200 residents of the said barangay highlighted the activity.###

## BDFE and Gears for Guides

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Negros Occidental and the Buhay Dagat Snorkeling guides of Sagay Association inked its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise Development (BDFE) on September 08, 2021 at Balay, Kauswagan, Sagay City.

BDFE are economic activities and practices of micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises,

local government units (LGUs), and people's organizations (POs) that promote the sustainable use of biological resources, create wealth and value, and open opportunities for the equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders.

PENR Officer Edgardo Rostata and Sagay Mayor Alfredo Marañon III led the MOA signing spearheaded by the Community ENR Office of

Cadiz through its Sagay Marine Reserve (SMR).

Furthermore, Buhay Dagat Snorkeling guides received 30 sets of life vests, 30 sets of full foot fins, and 30 sets masks and snorkels as support to their biodiversity-friendly enterprise as snorkel guides and offering various packages to enhance visitor's and tourists appreciation of the marine ecosystem while giving them the opportunity to gain income.###







## Capisonon leads PENRO Capiz

Forester Joel Labanza Navarra, a native of Roxas City, Capiz was born on September 8, 1966 become the newly promoted Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer for the province of Capiz.

Served DENR for almost twenty-three (23) years, For. Navarra is a graduate of Panay State Polytechnic College with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1988. He also finished his Master's degree in Public Administration in the same school.

PENRO Navarra is a former OIC-CENR Officer of CENRO Mambusao in Capiz, CENRO Boracay in Aklan, OIC-Chief Technical Services Division of PENRO Capiz and recently become the OIC-PENRO of PENRO Capiz where he proves that he can lead and supervise a province.

He took his oath as the newly promoted Development Management Officer V of PENRO Capiz during the virtual oath taking ceremony on October 27, 2021 for all promoted DENR personnel nationwide, before DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimat.###

# Seven Municipalities Now Have Approve FLUPs

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 6 has sealed its approval of the Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) of seven municipalities in Western Visayas.

Although it was a face-to-face, it was a 3-day event and participants come by batches for their scheduled FLUP Review and Approval and Signing of the Implementation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to strictly limit the participants coming from the different municipalities in order to observe social distancing.

The DENR have identified the local government units of San Remigio, Bugasong and Culasi in Antique; Malinao, Madalag and Ibajay in Aklan; and Tapaz in Capiz as having completed their respective FLUPs.

Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran personally led the activity together with Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services, Raul L. Lorilla, Conservation and Development Division Chief Danilo L. Lorilla and Attorney III of Legal Division Francis Glenn Arceta.

Also in attendance were DENR 6 field officials, namely: Provincial ENR Officer of Antique, Andres T. Untal, Community ENR Officer of Belison, Louie L. Laud, PENR Officer Joel L. Navarra of Capiz, and CENR Officer Gregoria D. Alenaje of Mambusao who stood as witness during the MOA signing.

The first day of the event was attended by the delegation namely: Hon. Margarito C. Mission, Jr. of San Remigio and Hon. John Lloyd M. Pacete of Bugasong, both in the province of Antique; and Hon. Roberto O. Palomar of Tapaz, Capiz.

During the 2nd day, representatives from the municipality of Culasi, Antique led by Mayor Jose Jeffrey Y. Lomugdang. From the municipality of Ibajay, Aklan, with SB members Nestor Francisco Inocencio, Audinnei Aguirre and staff.



On the last day of the activity, Aklan province representatives from the municipality of Madalag led by Mayor Alfonso A. Gubatina, and for the municipality of Malinao, led by Mayor Josephine Equiña.

FLUP is a planning tool that equips LGUs, DENR and other stakeholders to comprehensively map out future economic progress of an area in the context of sustainable forest management, biodiversity management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and management and forest degradation.###



## Wrong House: Phil. Hawk Owl Enters Residents Home

A juvenile Philippine Hawk Owl (*Ninox philippensis*) was turned-over to CENRO Guimbal Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit Head, For. Jogie Gereza last August 10, 2021. The said wildlife was seen inside the house of Christine Joy Dipus at Brgy. Cabitu-onan, Purok I, San Joaquin, Iloilo at 4 in the morning.

Considering that the wildlife is still juvenile with chick-like size, it was temporarily handed for safe keeping under the care of Veterinarian Practitioner Jaira D. Paguntalan at Brgy. Baybay Sur from August 10-12, 2021 and was released at Brgy. Cabitu-onan, San Joaquin, Iloilo on August 13, 2021 at 3 in the morning.

The Philippine hawk owl is listed under the Least Concern in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN 3.1).###



# Former Rebels now secure tenure

Payapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn or commonly known as PAMANA is a program of the Office of the Presidential Assistant on Peace Process (OPAPP) which also supports Executive Order No. 70 or the Whole-of-Nation Approach.

They were composed of the men and women that used to belong to a rebel group formerly known as Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade-Tabara Paduano Group (RPMP/RPA/ABB-TPG), now collectively called as Kapatiran. Hired as the forest guards or being enrolled in the National Greening Program (NGP) by entering a contract with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 to engage in seedling production, plantation establishment and other forestry activities in the region. As forest guards, they have become a force to reckon with and have averted threats of illegal cutting within the forestlands territory where they were assigned.

After many years of having returned to the folds of law, the DENR 6 has finally issued the Kapatiran their security of tenure with the identification and the ongoing development of their Peace and Development (PDC) sites.

In the province of Aklan, there is an ongoing construction of the 44 core shelters for the same number of families of the Kapatiran members at Brgy. Cabugao, Ibajay with a total area of 57.51 hectares within the forestland. Meanwhile, in Negros Occidental, the construction of the 20 core shelters had also commenced and will soon house 68 Kapatiran members in Sitio Mambinay, Brgy. Locotan, Kabankalan with an area of 179.64 hectares.

All PDC sites that are now under construction and those that are yet to be established are milestones in the attainment of peace in this part



Aklan PDC site located in Brgy. Cabugao, Ibajay



PDC Site at Brgy. Locotan, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental

of the country. It was done through the awarding of a tenurial instrument called Community-Based Forest Management Agreement or CBFMA. This is one of the components under the socio-economic reintegration under the peace negotiation of the government to the Kapatiran.

The CBFMA is a production sharing agreement between DENR and the participating Peoples Organizations for a period of 25 years renewable for another 25 years and shall provide tenurial security and incentives to develop, utilize and manage specific portions of forestlands as stated in DENR Administrative Order No. 96-29.

The Whole-of-Nation Approach aims to address the root causes of insurgencies. It is a big shift from the traditional military-centric scheme to a civilian-led approach in untangling the influence of the CTGs especially among hinterlands communities.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) of Western Visayas serves as a link to regional and sub-regional government units to better harmonize peace, development, and security efforts especially to end the nation's insurgency problem.###

## LIFE OF FOREST STEWARDS

What is it like to be a Forest Ranger or a Forest Extension Officer? How do you bear patrolling on foot the 10,000 hectares per month target? Or what are the challenges in assisting communities that implements the government's flagship greening program? There are a lot of interesting facts about being forest stewards.

Let us listen to their stories.

It's a hard, tough climb, the second highest peak at 2,117 meters above sea level (masl) in Western Visayas looked imposing even from afar. As



Margarito Manalo, Jr. (extreme right) with his team reached the top of Mt. Madja-as where the bonsai forest is an amazing sight to see.

majestic as it looks, Mt. Madja-as also holds diverse biological treasures yet to be discovered but more to be protected.

In this beautiful mountain landscape works Margarito Manalo, Jr., one of the Forest Rangers assigned in the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Culasi, Antique which covers the jurisdictional upland territories of the municipalities of Culasi, Sebaste, Barbaza, Caluya, Tibiao, Pandan and Libertad. Margarito is one of the team leaders who patrol the forestland areas spanning 64,669.00 hectares.

Armed with loving courage and knowledge on forestry laws, Forest Rangers like Margarito would face consequences along their patrol trails that sometimes surprise them and challenge their innovation skills. At one time during their LAWIN patrol, he and his team found abandoned lumbers in the timberland area of Alojipan, Culasi. Regretfully, they could not ask for reinforcement to haul the forest products since it was a dead spot area and they could neither send a text message nor make a call. But this did not deter him and his team to do what they deemed is right within the bounds of the law. The four of them in Lawin Team 1 manually hauled the timbers and dropped it off at the Brgy. Hall for temporary custody.

"The hardest part of our patrol work as rangers is that we risk our health and safety. We do not know the various circumstances we will be in - either we meet up with natural hazards or illegal activities among upland dwellers," he said in vernacular.###





## PENRO Antique New Building, 60% Complete

As of November 5, 2021, the construction of DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Antique's new office building located at Maybato Sur, San Jose, Antique has a 60% over all completion rate.

The remaining items that need to be finished are the following:

1. Architectural finishes
2. Comfort Room finishes
3. Tile works

4. Electrical and mechanical works

5. Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Water Tanks

The "balangay" inspired building structure carries the vision of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu of becoming the "voyage towards the better environment". It is based on the historical significance of the place where it is located as the cradle of the Pre-Historic Malayan settlement in the country.

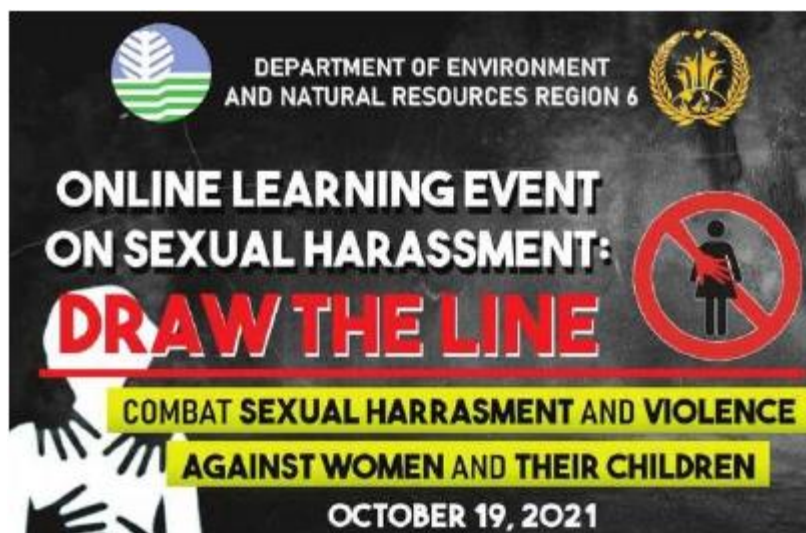
DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu wanted to fast track the completion of the construction of PENRO Antique building by December 2021 so that services offered by the department will be more accessible to the public. Furthermore, he envisioned the new building as the best PENRO building ever built in the whole country which is designed by Antiqueños architects and engineers.###

## DENR 6 Employees "Draw the line" To Combat Sexual Harassment

The public never know that many men and women are being subjected to offensive behaviors in the workplace –such as sexual jokes and malicious behavior this often results to psychological anxiety and stress for victims and if ignored, may be costly for organizations through loss of productivity, low workers' morale, absenteeism, and staff turnover.

In raising awareness among its employees, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 through its Human Resource Development Section (HRDS) conducted online Learning Event on "Sexual Harassment: Draw the Line, Combat Sexual Harassment and Violence Against Women and their Children," on October 19, 2021 via Zoom platform.

Seasoned resource speaker, retired P/Col. Ma. Cecilia R. Detablan, MPA clearly oriented DENR 6 employees on the things they need to know in order to combat sexual harassment. She led the participants towards understanding the use of the legal



RED Livino B. Duran



P/Col. Ma. Cecilia R. Detablan, MPA

groundwork for safe and healthy work environment.

**Detablan's topics include:**

- Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 (Republic Act 7877)
- The Safe Spaces Act (Republic Act 113)
- Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act 2004 (VAWC) or RA 9262.

Women are the most common, but not the only, targets for sexual harassment. But sexual harassment in the workplace is by no means limited in this dynamic. Men, particularly those who don't conform to traditional masculine norms, and others seen as outsiders, like LGBTQ and gender nonconforming people, can be targets. Women can be harassers, too. People of color, especially women of color, are more likely to be subject to sexual harassment than their white counterparts.

The Department's personnel are also thankful for the activity conducted and hopes that the other agency will do the same to give justice to the silent victims and give fair credits to all.###



# REGION 6 ENR AMBASSADORS LAUNCHES ENR PROJECTS

After the launching of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Ambassadors Project, an initiative of the Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the DENR 6 was chosen as the pilot region of the 4-Saturdays workshop entitled: **ENR Ambassadors in Action: Shaping Tomorrow's Green Campaigners**, which tackled the priority programs of Tayo ang Kalikasan, such as Solid Waste Management, Clean Air, Clean Water and bamboo plantation/innovation.

After the workshop mentored by the GREENducation Philippines, the ENR Ambassadors of each provinces proceeded to the launching/implementation of their respective projects;

The province of Aklan launched their **Go for BaMBu Mo (Basura Mo Bulsa Mo)** project focused to the Ecological Solid Waste Management. The five ENR Ambassadors designed the project to strengthen advocates on reduction of waste and proper waste disposal among the youth in the community to achieve a greener, cleaner, and healthy environment within the target municipalities.

**TRASHMission Mararison** is the project title of the ENR Ambassadors for the province of Antique. This project aims to empower the locals of Barangay Mararison, Culasi, Antique on the effects of marine pollution towards marine resources affecting coastal communities. It was done with an interactive talks and workshops that capacitated the communities towards promoting awareness on this cause.

Due to the perennial flooding problem in their province the ENR Ambassadors from Capiz conducted the **Kawayan Project** a bamboo planting activity. A total of 30 bamboo culms (Dalosan) were planted at the riverbanks

of Panay River in Brgy. Poblacion Ilaya, Panitan, Capiz on October 23, 2021 as their launching activity.

ENR Ambassadors of Guimaras launched the **Ekonomiya** project with aim that encourages the residents to collect their 2 kilograms of plastic wastes in exchange of kilo of rice at the Brgy. Hoskyn, Jordan, Guimaras last September 22, 2021. It covers 108 beneficiaries out of 600 households in the barangay.

Due to high cases of COVID-19 restriction in Iloilo are tightened thus, Iloilo ENR Ambassadors focused on solid waste management by using the social media platforms as their medium, symposiums for the youth of Oton, Iloilo through zoom or Google meet and conduct of virtual/online contests such as: Poetry writing: **"Handog Kasulatan para sa Kalikasan"**, Spoken poetry: **"Sambitin at Damdamin sa Kalikasang Sumasalamin"**, and song composition, **"Awit para sa Kalikasan: A Virtual Song Writing Composition"**.

In the province of Negros Occidental, the ENR Ambassadors named their project **ECO 143** which is comprised of EcoTuro, ECO1, ECO4 and ECO3 campaigns, focused on solid waste management with an aim to increase awareness of the community about the importance of natural resources and its conservation and in instilling values of responsible environmentalism.

These campaigns are in line with the rationale of TAK ENR Ambassadors Project to train, guide, and develop the skills of the selected ENR Ambassadors and provide appropriate resources to expedite communication and coordination with them.###



AKLAN



CAPIZ



ILOILO



ANTIQUE



GUIMARAS



NEGROS OCC.



# FMP Highlights

## DENR 6 conducts Save Our Watershed Provincial Launch



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources 6 holds the virtual provincial launching of Save our Watershed (SOW) on August 10, 2021, at 9 o'clock in the morning via Zoom. The event aims to recognize the shared responsibility in keeping our watersheds healthy and effective, maintaining healthy forests, and working closely with others to create thriving communities.



## Save Our Watershed Exhibit and Photo Contest Share Stories of Protecting Water Ecosystems

The DENR 6 - PENRO ILOILO through the Forestland Management Project (FMP), in partnership with the Iloilo Provincial Government ENRO, VieWS, and Robinsons Land Corporation concluded the Save Our Watershed Exhibits and revealed the Save Our Watershed Photo Contest winners held on October 23, 2021, at Robinsons Place Pavia.

From September 11 to October 23, the organizations held the Save Our Watershed Exhibit in three Robinsons Malls (Pavia, Jaro, and Iloilo Main) with a collective data and visual representation of the province's water ecosystems, and student artworks and photographs.



LOOK: The Central Project Management Office and Consulting Firm OICDI visited the FMP JICA-funded sites in Janiway, Lambunao, and Calinog to evaluate the enterprises of the 22 people's organization.

## Masaroy: How one barangay flourished with FMP gov't projects



According to MISFO president Edmar Capillo, their enterprise started in October 2019. While it started small, the business flourished and even caters to nearby barangays like in Garangan and Agcalaga.

Likewise, PO members tend to their site development (SD) plantation that covers about 664 ha; ranging with various agroforestry

cultivated vegetation like coffee, bananas, and cacao among a few. When Capillo learned about FMP, he asked the community to join the project.

Due to their improved livelihoods through enterprise development and SD plantation sites, many PO members were able to purchase tractors and motorcycles to sustain their agribusiness.



## 22 POs and DENR 6-FMP visits Orchard Valley Iloilo for sustainable practices



Twenty-two people's organizations (POs) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Forestland Management Project (FMP) benefited from the cross-farm visits to grocery store demos on November 16 and 17, 2021



# DENR enforces environmental law to sustain Boracay rehab gains

In upholding the provisions outlined in Presidential Decree 705, or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines signed in 1975, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) now implements the environmental law in collaboration with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) by ordering illegal occupants to vacate the area. This is to also sustain the Boracay rehabilitation gains which began in 2018.

Boracay Island has a total land area of 1,006.64 hectares. During an inventory conducted in 2018, a total of three hundred thirty-nine (339) illegal structures were found within the forestlands of the island, to wit:

- Two hundred and twelve (212) commercial structures
- One hundred seventeen (117) residential structures
- And, ten (10) others

A joint team composed of NBI-Manila, DENR Region 6, Boracay Inter-agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) and CENRO Boracay, conducted a joint ocular inspection and investigation on the illegal occupants/structures within

classified timberland/forestlands and at the same time, check on their compliance to the issued Notice to Vacate specifically those located at Mt. Luho, Brgy. Balabag, Malay, Aklan, last September 21, 2021.

DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran disclosed that back in 2018, the DENR had issued Show Cause Orders (SCOs) and Notice to Vacate to all illegal encroachers found within the forestland areas of the island.

According to Mr. Rizaldy Rivera, Chief Enforcement Division of NBI-Manila, there were arrested individuals that were found lacking the required legal documents to justify their presence within the contested structure. Neither land title

nor Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism Purposes (FLAGT) from the DENR were issued to them, thus, they are considered illegal occupants and were immediately arrested.

Regional Office Legal Division headed by Atty. Noel C. Empleo prepared all the necessary affidavits for filing to the assigned court. As of August 2021, there are sixty-three (63) illegal structures that are still non-compliant to PD705.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu once said "we want to preserve all the good things that resulted from rehabilitation of Boracay, which brought it back as one of the best islands in the world," thus, this activity.###



**Left Photo:** NBI- Environmental Crime Division (ECD) executive officer Marvin Matamis (extreme left) together with his staff (in blue uniform) and DENR-CENRO Boracay Lawin Patrollers (in green shirts) hanged the Notice to the Public in one of the illegal structures in Boracay Island during the operation.



DENR 6 lawyers has sworn oath upon filing the cases against the violators before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office in Kalibo, Aklan.

## PROTECTED AREA SHOULD REMAIN PROTECTED!

In the recent campaign of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 6, Western Visayas against illegal occupation in protected areas, the Community ENR Office of Bago City in Negros Occidental reported issuance of Notices of Violation (NOV) and Show Cause Orders. A total number of fifty (50) NOVs, and two show cause orders were issued recently to the illegal Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP) occupants.

"They are the home to our diverse floras and faunas, they are our biodiversity and of course, the trees in our protected areas (PAs) provide us with abundant supply of oxygen for our daily needs, so therefore, protected area should remain protected," said DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran.

NNNP is located at the northwestern part of Negros Island

within the Province of Negros Occidental. With a land area of 70,826.16 hectares, it covers eleven (11) local government units. It is home of the threatened and endangered species that are endemic to the area such as the Negros

Bleeding Heart Dove, Visayan Warty Pig, Visayan Spotted Deer, and Red Lauan.

NNNP Protected Area Superintendent Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya disclosed that violators failed to secure building permits, or a tenurial instrument such as the Special-use Agreement in Protected Area (SAPA), and clearance from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) prior to construction.

He cited Section 18 of Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, which states that it is unlawful for any person to occupy or dwell in any public land within the protected area without clearance from the PAMB and could warrant a fine of P200,000 to 1P million and/or imprisonment of one to six years.

The Department installed public notice and signages in strategic locations across the protected area to warn potential buyers of public lands.###



Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP) in Negros Occidental





## WBD 2021: Plants more than 300k bamboos in a day

A total of 338,394 bamboo propagules were planted across 1,187.49 hectares of land in the different areas of the region, recently.

All Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 6 provincial offices supported the goal in making Western Visayas the country's "bamboo capital" by joining the simultaneous Bamboo Planting Activity in celebration of the World Bamboo Day 2021 with the theme: "Alay ng Bayan sa Inang Kalikasan, Kawayan." It helped to attain the planting of more than 300k bamboo in one day.

The activity also raises awareness on the importance of conserving and promoting the bamboo industry. It was participated by 531 individual composed of the personnel from DENR-NGP 6, PENROs and CENROs personnel, 4Ps Beneficiaries, DAR, DTI, BFP, DOLE, TESDA, academe, men in uniform, LGUs, and PO members.

The list of participating areas per provinces in Western Visayas are follows;

- Aklan - Ibajay, Makato and Tangalan
- Antique - San Remegio
- Capiz - Jamindan
- Guimaras - Sibunag
- Iloilo - Maasin



- Negros Occidental - Cadiz City, Calatrava, Candoni, Cauayan, E.B. Magalona, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Kabankalan San Carlos, and Sipalay

World Bamboo Day is a day of celebration to increase the awareness on the benefits of bamboo globally. Where bamboo grows naturally, bamboo has been a daily element, but its utilization has not always been sustainable due to exploitation. The World Bamboo Organization aims to bring the potential of bamboo to a more elevated exposure – to protect natural resources and the environment, to ensure sustainable utilization, to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions around the world, as well as promote traditional uses locally for community economic development.

"Bamboo are used for variety of purposes, apart from helping combat the effects of climate change, and this product is widely used in our country, especially in our region," said Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu pursue bamboo plantation in the same way which the National Greening Program (NGP) is being implemented. He saw its potential of mitigating the impacts of climate change. Indeed, bamboo forests serve as carbon sink while producing oxygen as well.###



## DENR 6 keeping employees mentally, physically safe and well

During the COVID-19 epidemic, most of us may experience negative feelings –sadness, anxiety, fear, and even depression thus, keeping positive attitude and healthy body is one of the important things to get through this difficult period.

The DENR 6 had been helping its employee to become a positive thinker and a healthier one with the following activities; Keeping Sane: Beating, Surviving and Thriving Amidst Quarantine and Isolation Challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar, Flu and

Pneumonia Vaccination; And distribution of vitamins.

Aside from that, the Department are still looking for a way to further help those who are affected by the pandemic whether they are regular, casual and contract of service employees.###



Keeping Sane Webinar



ARD for Management Services Atty. Noel C. Empleo received Flu Vaccination



RED Duran (2nd from right) led the distribution of vitamins to DENR employees



# EMB 6 gives WV LGUs SWM Equipment

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) as the primary government agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate, integrate, coordinate, supervise and implement all policies, programs, projects and activities relative to the prevention and control of pollution as well as the management and enhancement of environment thus, the EMB 6 provides forty (40) sets of Solid

Waste Management Equipment to forty (40) Local Government Units (LGUs) in the region.

Consisting of brand-new Biodegradable Waste Shredder, Composter and New Solar Powered 4G Network Camera Kit, this activity aims to help LGUs improve their compliance in increasing waste diversion of solid wastes pursuant to Section 8 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

EMB 6 Regional Director Atty. RamarNiel V. Pascua said that, providing LGUs with the equipment will transform the diverted wastes into assets as organic fertilizers and will also help increase the collection of recyclable materials.

SWM equipment receipts are the following; six LGUs in the Province of Aklan - Balete, Banga, Batan, Nabas, New Washington and Numancia; seven in the Province of Antique - Bugasong, Culasi, Hamtic, Laua-An, Pandan, San Remegio and Tobias Fornier; eight in the Province of Capiz - Dao, Ma-ayon, Mambusao, Panay, Panit-an, Pilar, Pontevedra, and Sigma; two in Guimaras Province - Jordan and Nueva Valencia; fourteen (14) in Iloilo Province - Alimodian, Balasan, Banate, Barotac

Viejo, Concepcion, Dingle, Dueñas, Guimbal, Igaras, Leganes, Lemery, Maasin, San Dionisio and San Enrique; and three in Negros Occidental - Moises Padilla, Toboso and Valladolid.

Furthermore, from CY 2012 to 2020, six (6) provinces in the region were provided with plastic molders; fifty eight (58) LGUs provided with Bio-composter with Shredders, forty-two (42) LGUs had received financial support for the establishment of their MRFs; forty-three (43) LGUs for the procurement of shredders; sixty-eight (68) LGUs for the establishment of MRF and purchase of equipment; seventeen (17) LGUs received support for the establishment and operationalization of ESWM for public markets; ten (10) LGUs for their Safe and Closure Rehabilitation of dumpsites; twenty-seven (27) LGUs for the National Eco-savers Program; and three (3) LGUs have received eco-bikes.###



## Mining Permit Holders meet for unified IEC program

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Regions 6, 7 and 8 facilitated a virtual meeting on November 3, 2021 with the Visayas regions mining permit holders associations.

MGB 6 Regional Director Raul A. Laput said the major objective of the virtual meeting is to organize a Visayas-wide permit holders association through the election of a Board of Trustees (BOT) per region and select representatives to the national oversight committee of the National Unified Information, Education and Communication Plan (NUIECP).

NUIECP is a unified IEC campaign plan focusing on responsible mining practices of the mining industry with the tagline #MineResponsibility. The NUIECP initiates for the collaboration of IEC plans of the minerals industry required to mining permit holders and contractors as embedded in the Social Development Management Program (SDMP) to meet the minimum basic needs of the mining communities, promote conservation and intellectual management of the environment, and to protect the socio-cultural values and local patterns amidst improved economic condition and human advancement.

Pre-event activities was launched on November 2020 at The Elements Eton Cetrin in Quezon City, with displays of information and photo walls, a 360° virtual reality experience of mining communities, videos on best practices of responsible mining, and

pledge of commitment from the stakeholders. Furthermore, MGB Director Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano issued a memorandum to all RDs on January 2020, instructing all mining contractors and permit holders within their jurisdiction to allocate funds for the implementation of the NUIECP Plan from the IEC component of the SDMP.

Twenty-one (21) permit holders from Visayas regions attended the meeting. For 2021-2022, the president of mining permit holders from Region 6, and Region 7 as alternate will represent the Visayas cluster to the NUIECP Plan oversight committee. In the succeeding years, the body agreed to rotate the representation of Visayas cluster among the BOTs from three regions.

The NUIECP Plan national oversight committee will regularly convene to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plans and programs of the #MineResponsibility campaign. ###



## EDITORIAL BOARD

### ADVISER

LIVINO B. DURAN

Regional Executive Director

### CONSULTANTS

RAUL L. LORILLA

OIC-ARD for Technical Services

ATTY. NOEL C. EMPLEO

OIC-ARD FOR Management Services

IVENE D. REYES

OIC-ARD for Special Concerns

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ARTEMIO SALVADOR C. COLACION

### WRITERS/PHOTOGRAPHERS

JESSIE L. REYES

MYRA C. MESTOSAMANTE

JOSIE ELDINEE A. LANDERO

### LAY-OUT & GRAPHIC EDITOR

JOVETTE AIMEE B. ARCETA

### PUBLICATION STAFF

ROANNE JOY B. SALLAVE

### CONTRIBUTORS

EMB INFORMATION OFFICERS

MGB INFORMATION OFFICERS

PENRO/CENRO INFORMATION OFFICERS



# PLASTICS STILL TOP ICC COLLECTIONS

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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 has already put its hand on this matter long before. Since, scaling up coastal and marine ecosystem is one of the priority programs of the Department.

For the second year the ICC is celebrated with the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the minimum health standards set by the DOH and COVID IATF, was observed by the DENR 6 and other volunteers who conducted small-scale clean-up on September 18, 2021.

The DENR Regional Office in partnership with the different stakeholders and organizations conducted along the 1500 meters stretch of Esplanade 1 Extension, Iloilo City with twenty-one (21) participants

from DENR Regional Office 6, Iloilo City ENR Office, Youth Proyekto Philippines and Iloilo City Metro Lions Club.

After the clean-up, the participants weighed a total of 12 sacks, weighing 36 kilograms were collected during the clean-up.

On the other hand, the Provincial ENROs and Community ENROs also conducted ICC on their respective jurisdiction. All in all, they have accumulated more than 2,250 kilograms of trash collected across the region.



CENRO Boracay



PENRO Antique



PENRO Capiz

## The top 10 collected trash were the following:

1. Plastic bottles/plastic wastes
2. Disposable masks
3. Cigarette butts
4. Styrofoam
5. Grocery bags (plastic)
6. Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)
7. Cups, plates (foam)
8. Food containers (plastic)
9. Discarded fishing nets/gears
10. Bottle caps (plastic)

DENR 6 makes sure that all PENROs and

CENROs do their job as to maintaining the cleanliness of their coasts and also DENR 6 finds ways to help our ocean, disseminate facts about coastal management, causes and effects of ocean pollution and ways to mitigate ocean pollution respectively.###



PENRO Guimaras



PENRO Iloilo



CENRO Bago