

2018 Report

Issue 2



DAF Newsletter

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Discovery in the heart of Mindoro

Together with the DENR-TCP and in collaboration with MBCFi, a series of three verification surveys were conducted in the heart of the Island, at the border between Occidental and Oriental Mindoro. Results corroborate initial mission and reports from local communities. The region shelters the second largest Tamaraw population of Mindoro with possibly more than 70 animals and the largest area of occupancy (6000ha). Moreover this

signifies the “rediscovery” of the species in Oriental Mindoro. The Tamaraw population is inside the Ancestral Domain (CADT) of the Mangyan Alangan Tribe and benefits from their sustainable land-use system.

This finding proves that the Tamaraw shows wider ecological plasticity than

originally thought, since this subpopulation occupies mountain habitats above 1000m elevation, including tropical mossy forest and dwarf vegetation, with a more fiber rich diet compared to the Tamaraws in MIBNP. This great finding, opens optimism for long term conservation of the species.



Fresh dung of Tamaraw



Exit through Occidental Mindoro

Joining field patrols to assess capacities and needs of Tamaraw rangers

Earlier this February, DAF Program Manager assisted GWC expert in Wildlife Crime Prevention, Mr. James Slade, to survey Tamaraw landscape within MIBNP and Aruyan-Malati area, together with the 4

TCP rangers' teams. The goal was to assess the patrolling/ monitoring activities of the rangers thus to identify gaps, needs and constraints, as well as to initiate new tools/methods for gathering information

(cyber tracker) to improve and develop capacity reinforcement for the Tamaraw rangers.



DAF Mission-Statement

That the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Island of Mindoro is preserved for future generations and the well being of its people is enhanced.

Bamboo Plantation Seminar for Mangyan

This June a free Bamboo Plantation seminar was held at Villa Malasimbo, and organized by the Philippine Military. Its goal was to share and teach bamboo growing techniques, to the local Mangyan living in Puerto Galera. Growing bamboo is a great money making opportunity, specially for the local tribes living in Puerto Galera. The workshop started of with demonstrations on how to grow new shoots using newly cut plants, it was shown how one can take care of these grafted

plants and grow them. Each participant participated with a hands-on demonstration/workshop, creating their own grafted seedlings.

Malasimbo happily accepted the request to use its facilities for the purpose of this educational seminar, which allowed agricultural knowledge to be transferred to its neighbors. Bamboo has many commercial uses and successfully growing this plant can be a lucrative business. The



Group Photo of seminar participants

seminar also included a talk about its commercial uses and possible business opportunity.

Malasimbo opens its door to such events and is grateful to the Philippine Military for the opportunity to participate. The event was quite a success, each participants,

left the place with a certificate, new knowledge and ideas to put in action. A moment of happiness truly shared.

Education is the best weapon in the fight against poverty.

Protected Area Zoning Workshop

A two days workshop was conducted in San Jose by the Protected Area Office of Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park to discuss a possible zoning system which will be established within the Protected Area.

The workshop was facilitated by GWC expert and partner in PA Management Mr. Mike Appleton, who is assisting the Protected Area Superintendent (Pasu) to design the future PA Management Plan for the Park. This event gathered several

Mindoro stakeholders, partners from MBCFi, as well as IUCN-SSC AWCSG coordinator, Dr. James Burton.

The goal was to initiate a round discussion and draft the possible zones that will define and drive

this protected area in the future. One challenge is also to give way for the Tamaraw to expand its range towards suitable areas of the Park.

Inauguration of the new Tamaraw Rangers Station in Aruyan-Malati area

This October after 6 weeks of intense carpentry work, and without fail at their field patrols duty, the Tamaraw rangers completed the construction of the new Ranger's station in Sitio Palbong, Municipality of Sablayan. The structure was blessed by a local priest in pres-

ence of the whole TCP team.

The field station replaces the previous one that eventually collapsed in 2015; this will help the Tamaraw Rangers to patrol the Aruyan-Malati Area where a small, secre-

tive population of Tamaraw survives.



Inauguration

New DAF Biologist : Alvaro Gonzales Monge

This March, Alvaro Gonzalez Monge, began work by visiting Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park in preparation for his upcoming work on Tamaraw ecology and habitat assessment. He is a Spanish biologist who has specialized in the ecology and conservation

of mammals and how local human activities impact them, particularly in South-east Asia. This expertise quickly allowed him to understand the key problematic regarding the Mangyan-Tamaraw Driven Landscape Program.

New "Kubo" in MIBNP

Thanks to the support of the German Embassy in the Philippines, DAF eventually achieve the construction of a Multipurpose Field Station that will serve as a platform to work with local IP communities and the Park office. The project was a

collaborative work combining the skills of the rangers and the traditional knowledge of the Taw-buid tribe to use natural materials.



DAF Kubo

Computer Literacy Program

Last June, DAF provided computer literacy training with the Mindoro Technical and Vocational Skills Training Centre, inc. Field Technical Assistants and several Tamaraw rangers, most of which are Tao-Buid Mangyans, were trained in order to build important technical know-how

useful for the conservation of the Tamaraw.



Training Group Photo

Working with the Fufuamas

Since the beginning of the rainy season, the field research team – in a multi-collaborative effort involving DAF, TCP and the local community – has been working to gather information on Tamaraw ecology and its habitats. The field team, consisting of DAF's Mangyan Field Technical Assistants, some Tamaraw Rangers and local Fufuamas (Mangyan elders), have been

working with our Tamaraw Research Officer (Alvaro Gonzalez), looking at the species composition and movements in the Tamaraw habitat. This is a great opportunity to learn from the local expertise of the Fufuamas who add critical knowledge in our Tamaraw conservation mission, and for the protected area management plans.



Ranger team and Fufuamas

Wildlife photo Gallery by Alvaro G. Monge



Lynx spider - fam. Oxyopidae



Asian field rat - Rattus tanezumi



Wild Gabi gabi boon - Caladium bicolor



Common bluebottle - Graphium sarpedon



Dog-toothed cat-eyed snake - Boiga cynodon



Philippine hawk-cuckoo - Hierococcyx pectoralis



Wild turmeric - Curcuma zedoaria

Photo Gallery on the 3 Expeditions in the remote Centre of Mindoro



Verification survey in tropical mountain Forest



Fresh tracks, first sign of Tamaraw presence



Ranger Leading Expedition



Tamaraw Spotted in the Heart of Mindoro



First Expedition February 2018



Finding of a Tamaraw Skull

Turn over ceremony with local communities and Mindoro stakeholders following the new identified Tamaraw population

Following the last verification survey, the Governor of Oriental Mindoro invited the DENR and its partners to celebrate the “re-discovery” of the species in the Province; the skull that was found during the last survey was then turned over to the Province Capitol. The Province is eager to be

more engaged in further conservation efforts.

The event was also the opportunity to emphasize that this Tamaraw population is within the Ancestral Domain of the Mangyan-Alangan Tribe. This discovery must become a chance for the Tribe to structure and strengthen

its rights and plans over their land title, while ensuring that the natural

environment of these mountains will be better protected.



Group Photo

Mindoro Tamaraw Conservation Action Planning Workshop

An upmost important event was held in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro this December, aiming at discussing and defining the future conservation strategy and efforts to be done to ensure survival of the Tamaraw in the next 30 years. The workshop was facilitated by the Conservation Planning Specialist Group of the

IUCN SSC together with international partners from the Asian Wild Cat Specialist Group (AWCSG), GWC, University of Lyon France, as well as the help of local partners from MBCFi, WWF Ph. Nearly 70 people attended the workshop, representing various local stakeholders from the DENR, LGUs,

Provincial Government and Mangyan indigenous communities. Closing day was blessed by inspirational words from Governor Mendiola and Congresswoman Sato of Occidental Mindoro.

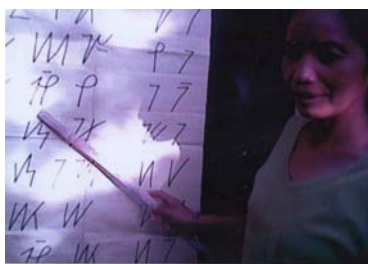
Next step will be to draft and finalize the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Plan, then en-

dorse it to Philippines authorities. This plan will be the guideline for the future species conservation actions.



Workshop— Sharing everyone's vision

The Surat Mangyan Language Program



Teacher showing Surat Mangyan Alphabet

“Surat Mangyan” is one of the few remaining Filipino indigenous pre-Hispanic “baybayin” or syllabic scripts. This program was designed for the preservation and teaching of “Surat Mangyan”, among its young generation who are fast becoming ignorant of a valuable cultural heritage. The Department of Education

does not teach indigenous culture to schools attended by IPs. Therefore, the D’Aboville Foundation recognized the need to operate this program. It allows young Mangyans enrolled in public schools to stay connected to their roots, it gives them knowledge of their precious ancient language, giving them confidence

with a language system they can be proud of. Presently, there are 600-700 Mangyan student beneficiaries who are enrolled in three public elementary schools and one high school in Mansalay, Mindoro.

Highlight of DAF 2019 Planned Activities

Mangyan Village Solar Electrification

DAF's latest project is to provide solar lighting to the nine (9) classrooms / 299 pupils and for the basketball court to the Iraya Mangyan community in Baclayan Village in Puerto Galera. This project will provide a consequent improvement for the village by providing lighting in their public areas therefore uplifting their standards









of living. The lighting of the class-rooms is a key factor in developing and improving the community.

Much of the works will be aided by PAMATEC Corp. (DAF's sister company), an experienced enterprise in rural electrification projects.



*Example of rural
solar electrification
- Masbate*

Mangyan Tamaraw Driven Landscape Program – 2019 planned actions

-  Support the Park Office in initiating the implementation of the Protected Area General Management Plan for Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.
-  Co-elaborate the draft for the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Plan for Mindoro together with the IUCN and local partners.
-  Establish the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) conservation software and use of Cyber Trackers to capacitate local personnel (Park office, TCP, rangers) with monitoring, field data collection, analysis and adaptive management planning for the protection of biodiversity and law enforcement within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park.
-  Conduct additional surveys in the Upper Amnay Region / Alangan Tribe Ancestral Domain to verify Tamaraw presence in Municipality of Baco.
-  Conduct a verification survey with the Taw buid and Buhid Tribes in the Region of Blue Mountain, inside MIBNP to confirm the suspected presence of a small group of Tamaraws.
-  Assist and support the Alangan Tribe in their plan to better protect the upland forest within their Ancestral Domain that shelter both the newly confirmed Tamaraw population and the head water of the Amnay watershed.
-  Expand the ecological research work on Tamaraw and its habitat in MIBNP.
-  Initiate camera trapping for monitoring endangered wildlife in the Aruyan Malate area.

