



DAF Newsletter

Malasimbo Festival Showcases DAF advocacies

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Since its beginnings in 2011, the Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival and the D'ABOVILLE Foundation have been partners and working hand in hand in promoting music, arts, Filipino tribal culture, and environment. Projects for the development of the local community such as reforestation efforts and the application of solar energy for the Iraya Mangyan community in Barangay Baclayan, Mindoro, are examples of the work completed through this partnership. Every year, for the Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival, members of Philippine Mangyan indigenous community are invited to perform their local dances, present and sell their products and to hold workshops teaching weaving techniques or other local crafts.

Also, as part of a committed effort to educate the public about Mindoro's indigenous people and culture, the Foundation built a life-sized Mangyan Village at the Malasimbo Festival Grounds that features the lifestyle, handicrafts, language, and music of the seven Mangyan tribes of Mindoro.



Mangyan Product Stand at Malasimbo



Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival Grounds

Malasimbo Festival four pillars :

- Music
- Arts
- Indigenous people
- Environment

Protecting Tamaraws working hand in hand with Mangyan Communities



DAF meeting with Iglit Baco communities

DAF periodically meets with its partners and specifically Mangyan elders and tribal leaders of the residing communities in order to continually discuss about common goals, visions for this region and desire to work closely together. Past results and proposed ac-

tivities are presented and discussed. Collaboration and involvement of residing communities is crucial to ensure successful changes and sustainable effects.

Water Filter from “Water with Blessings”



Distribution of water filters in Mount Iglit Baco National Park

“Water should be a God given right”

Clean drinking water is a major problem amongst the communities in far-flung barangays, causing malnutrition among children and adults. “Water with Blessing”, who provides free water filters to those in need, are the newest partner of the D’Aboville Foundation in putting into action its aim to provide better life for the Mangyan indigenous peoples. These filters are of premium quality and could bring out drinking water out of non-

potable water.

A total of 120 water filters were distributed in Manlasay, covering a total of 500 families and four schools.

The foundation was also able to deliver 35 water filter systems to the Tao-buid Mangyan tribe living within **Mts Iglit-Baco National Park** in Occidental Mindoro. The activity was initiated following assessment from our local staff of drinking water problems in the

communities during the rainy season. It ended up into an interactive day activity to prepare and set up the systems and make demonstration to the recipients. Activity was supervised by DAF in cooperation with the Tribe Leader. The water filter systems benefit here nearly 250 people scattered over four different settlements inside the Protected Area.

DEMAIN



Screening of film “Demain” at Alliance Française

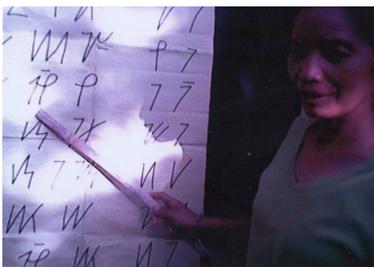
DAF organized the screening of the film “Demain”, which received the César award for best documentary.

The screening was graced by the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) coming in force with about 50 members of their team, as well as a few respected personalities in environmental activism and private

and public sectors. His Excellency Ambassador Gordon Kricke of the German Embassy to the Philippines as well as French Embassy’s Mr. Yves Zoberman of the Council for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs and French Consul’s Mr. Christian Hue. Environmental leaders were also present such as WWF Philippine Chairman of the Board Mr. Aurelio Mon-

tinola III, Convenor of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Australasia Ms. Caroline Lees, Chairman of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Dr. James Burton, PhD., Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Executive Director Ms. Grace Diamante, and Environmentalist Mr. Billy Bonnevie.

Surat Mangyan Education Program



“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 De-

partment of Education does not teach indigenous culture to schools attended by IPs. Therefore, the D’Aboville Foundation recognized the need to operate this program. Presently, there are 600-700 Mangyan student beneficiaries who are enrolled in three public elementary

schools and one high school in Mansalay, Mindoro.

Lecture/Discussion on Gross National Happiness (GNH)

The team of the D'ABO-VILLE Foundation was invited to attend the workshop organized by the **Central DENR** office on the initiative of Secretary Gena Lopez, in UP Diliman. Dr. Saamdu Chetri, Executive Director of the GNH Center of Bhutan was one of the Honorius guest and gave a talk about this model.

Gross National Happiness (also known by the acronym: **GNH**) is a philosophy that guides the government of Bhutan. It includes an index which

is used to measure the collective happiness and well-being of a population. Bhutan uses the Happiness Index for a holistic approach to development" urging member nations to follow the example of Bhutan and measure happiness and well-being and calling happiness a fundamental human goal. In our modern society, where materialism may take over more ideal virtues GNH gives the world a beautiful direction to strive for.



GNH Diagram

Visit of International Partners

Last May, our international partners, Dr. James Burton of **Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group**, Mike Appleton of **Global Wildlife Conservation** and Ms. Caroline Lees of

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, visited the Philippines in order to meet with the **Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR BMB)** and other

partners- *photo left.*

In November 2017, Christian Kern and Nadja Niemann of **Berlin Tierpark** and Johanna Rode-Margono and Scott Wilson of **Chester Zoo**,

traveled to the Philippines to visit our program's sites in Mindoro and explore further activity development and collaboration. - *photo right.*



Workshop and Training on use of Wildlife Camera Trap

Program Manager Emmanuel Schütz and its partners of **Chester Zoo** conducted a workshop at the **Gene Pool Farm**, to train **DENR MENRO** staff and **TCP/PAO** rangers on the use of camera traps. This method will

be used to gather additional data on Tamaraw and other wildlife of Mindoro. A group of three Tamaraws was subsequently captured using camera trapping method in the Aruyan-Malati area where a small population of 12

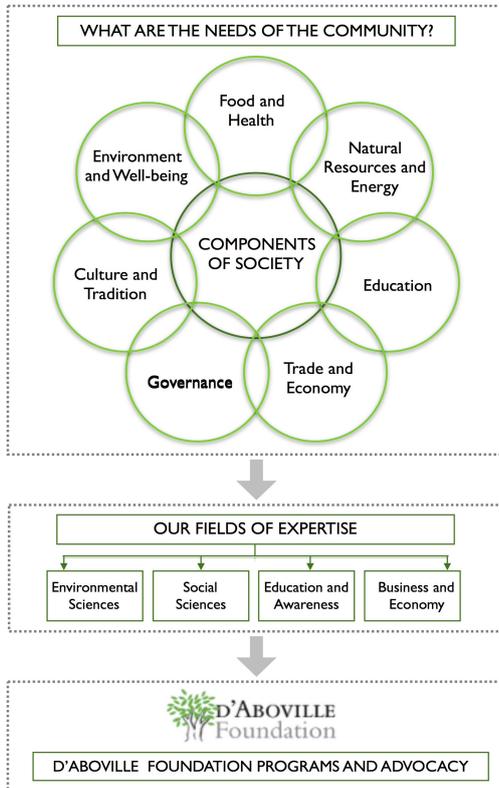
animals struggle to survive. This method will be also used to complement monitoring patrols of the rangers in this area.



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How we work

APPROACH AND STRATEGY OF ACTION



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WHO WE ARE

The D'Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc. is a French-Filipino non-profit, non-government organization established in 2004 to work with the indigenous Mangyans, environment, and eco-cultural tourism in the Island of Mindoro in the Philippines.

The Foundation has four principal platforms of action:

- alleviation of poverty and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Mangyan indigenous people
- the protection of the environment and biodiversity;
- development of sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices;
- uplifting of the community through responsible tourism and eco-friendly development.

OUR VISION

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.

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Our Partners

