



DAF Newsletter 2019

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Annual Tamaraw Population Count 2019 – Testing a new method (April)

The last tamaraw count conducted in April 2019 (an operation conducted every year in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park since 2000), was the opportunity to introduce and test a new assessment approach using the double observers' method. The method, proposed by Christophe Bonenfant, our French CNRS Wildlife Researcher collaborator, has already proven consistent for several other ungulate species. It aims to extract a probability of detection, which with time would allow conducting assessment in any type of habitats. The final goal is to develop population

dynamic indicators based on non-invasive protocols. This method reduces the need to use fire regime through grassland burning before each count.

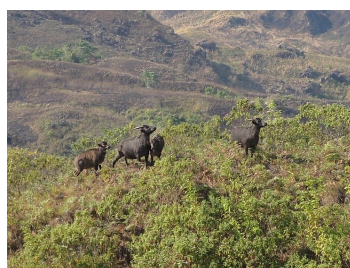
The method was deployed over 5 vantage points and was an exciting challenge for rang-

ers and DENR participants.

The consolidated count results estimated a population of 473 to 483 individuals. Further statistical analysis will help refine these results and measure accuracy of the annual count.



Visit of the Philippines German Ambassador to Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park – March



In March 2019, DAF President, Mr. Hubert d'Aboville and German Ambassador, Dr. Gordon Kricke, visited MIBNP for a 3 days hike, in order to inaugurate the Tamaraw Multipurpose Field Station building ("DAF KUBO") that

the German Cooperation in the Philippines has funded through its Small Scale Project.

The visit was also the chance for Hubert to follow up progress of the overall program in the field, meet DAF field team and discuss with DENR partners, as well as to acknowledge the quality of the work of the PAMATEC technical team who installed the two solar power systems in both rangers' base camps last May.

We were also blessed by rewarding observation of tamaraws in the wild; nearly 30 animals over the three days, with a few close encounters!



DAF Team with German Ambassador

Solar electrification in Puerto Galera – barangay Baclayan (March)



DAF Team with panel installation

“Let’s bring power to those who need it most”

In January, DAF and Together-Ensemble have sponsored and installed (through PA-MATEC sister company) a solar system in Barangay Baclayan (Puerto Galera). The barangay did not have electricity in their main buildings, so when DAF inquired about helping them, the Kagawad of the village have together requested for an electrification of the Barangay Hall as well as their Health center.

leading to better standard of living in the village. This will allow the barangay permanent access to lighting at night, the use of computers and cell-phone charging, as well as the ability to use medical equipment like Nebulizers in the Health center.

The electrification was completed on January 29, 2019,

Deployment of cyber trackers and SMART platform to fight illegal activities (April)



Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park was selected as a pilot site by the DENR to establish the SMART international platform system (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool). GWC Wildlife Crime Prevention expert, James Slade assisted DAF and its local partners in Mindoro to set up the system during a 3 weeks training addressed to office staff and field rangers.

There is now 12 cyber trackers deployed and 3 dedicated computers with SMART software operating at the TCP office and PAMO MIBNP.

Coordinators and rangers can now organize and monitor patrolling efforts, increasing effectiveness, resource management and personnel safety.

Capacity building will be continued to improve the data model, increase skills and expand the use of the SMART system in other sites.



In December 2019, James Slade visited the Philippines again with Andrew Tilker - Species Conservation Officer at GWC - to continue the work initiated in April and strengthen the implementation of law enforcement in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park using SMART technology (A software that helps organize all info, during

ranger patrols). During the visit, the pilot implementation of SMART and data model used in SMART patrolling was reviewed and updated to incorporate inputs of the rangers since the introduction of the technology in May. Strategies to improve patrolling and ways to use SMART in adaptive management was further dis-



cussed, as well as the patrol planning feature of SMART. The team composed of PAMO and TCP rangers, GWC and DAF staff visited Stations 2, 3, and 4 in Iglit to further test the updated data model.





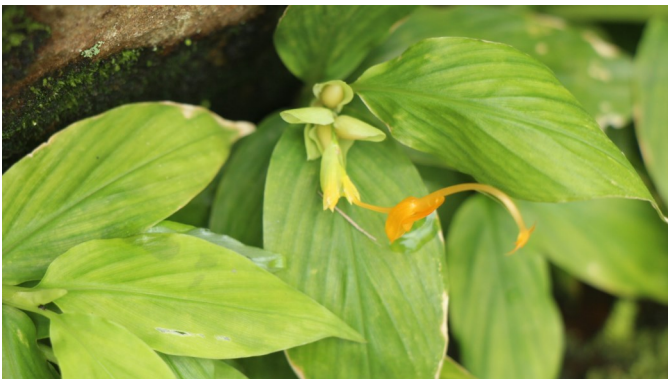
Mindoro Wildlife Photo Gallery by A. Gonzalez Monge



Mindoro tree frog - *Philautus schmackeri*



Pacific dulcetia - *Dulcetia japonica*



Globba campsophylla



Dragonfly - *Neurothemis ramburii*



Wild Banana - *Musa sp.*



Pongapong - *Amorphophallus paeoniifolia*

Mindoro Wildlife Photo Gallery by A. Gonzales Monge - 2



White-collared kingfisher - Todiramphus chloris-



Mindoro narrow disked gecko - Gecko Mindorosis



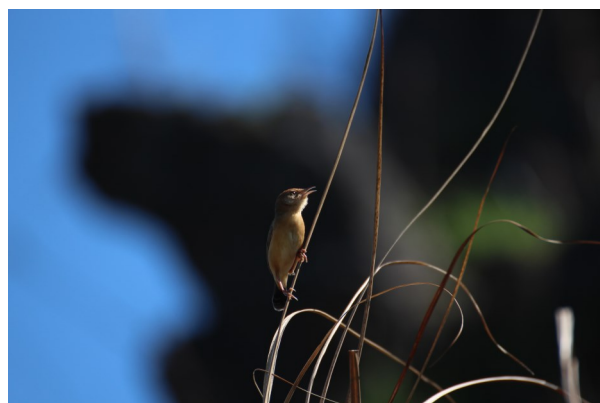
Hypoxis aurea



Small-billed raven - Corvus Enca



Red Costate tiger moth - Aloa lactinea



Golden - headed cisticola - Cisticola exilis

Welcoming our new Tamaraw Conservation Research Officer (August)



Freshly landed from Spain, our new Tamaraw Conservation Research Officer (TCRO), Fernando Garcia Gil, challenged the mud and the rain of Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park in full rainy season in order to meet with local DAF team and rangers and get a glimpse of the natural context of the Park.

Fernando's mission will be in the continuation of Alvaro's fieldwork, our previous TRO and will concentrate on several aspects:

- Develop alternative census method of tamaraw
- Initiate deeper experiment on

the dynamic of the natural habitat and impact of fire regime in the Park.

- Expand knowledge on the ecology of the tamaraw and other wildlife in several sites in Mindoro.

Presenting camera trap methodology to LGU Sablayan during Tamaraw month (October)

"Camera Traps are a consistent way of collecting data in remote places"

October is the Tamaraw month in Mindoro. At this occasion, the DENR TCP organizes events and site visits with local stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness about the species and its habitat.

At the invitation of our partner, Fernando, DAF Tamaraw Conservation Research Officer, joined the TCP during a meeting with the LGU Sablayan and the Municipality Mayor office. It was a good opportunity to discuss about

the small population of tamaraw still found in the Aruyan Malati area. Fernando presented the camera traps methodology as a consistent way to collect information on this small and secretive population. Such study would help understand the conservation status and ecology of the species there and support the proclamation of the area as "Critical Habitat".

The LGU committed to deliver a resolution in order to implement such research approach in the soonest. Use of camera traps in the Aruya Malati area will be conducted as a common effort between TCP and DAF and help to meet the objectives defined in the TCMAP.



Camera trap training of the Aruyan Malati tamaraw ranger's team (December)

Following successful meeting with the LGU Sablayan in October regarding tamaraw research using camera traps, DAF is conducting further training, thus preparing the tamaraw rangers team assigned there to deploy and monitor camera traps in this area in the future.



Furthering documentation of the living space and social organization of the Tau buids Tribe (October)

Fufuamas (elders) from the tribal villages of Tamisan, Tagurades, and Balagit in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) participated in a workshop on October 9, 2019 to provide information in documenting their traditional natural resource management system and customary practices. The workshop was organized by the Park office, with support of DAF. A young Tau buid leader facilitated the discussion, which also started his engagement with DAF as community mediator and documenter. This event was followed by several successive meetings and discussions.

The documentation process is an initial step that will feed into a wider socio-agro-ecological investigation of the living conditions and traditional practices of the Tau-buids that will take at least three years to complete. The documentation of the Tau-buid way of life is a key target of the General Management Plan (GMP) of the Park and Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP).

Based on the information provided by the *fufuamas*, a seasonal calendar was created that showed the major livelihood

activities (crop growing, gathering of forest products, handcrafts-making, fishing, and hunting) showing in which months these were carried out during the year. The *fufuamas* also provided information on their indigenous political structure, customary laws pertaining to managing natural resources, and their concept of land ownership (communal). The collection of information aims to design appropriate approaches in conserving biodiversity and preserving the culture of the Tau buids in MIBNP.



Training the newly assigned tamaraw rangers of Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (November)

Following the successful survey within Mt Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, June 2019, which confirmed that tamaraw is still present in the PA, the TCP hired two additional rangers who will be assigned there. DAF made the most of their latest visit to Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park in order to provide them with basic training

on the use of GPS and camera traps.

There is a need to increase survey and monitoring efforts of this small isolated population. DAF is eager to support its local partners in this by initiating camera traps design in the area.



Furthering research on the different habitats found in MIBNP (October)

In 2018, DAF initiated ecological studies on the habitats where the tamaraw can be found in MINBP. Fernando is now expending the work accomplished by his predecessor in order to guide the Park in undertaking shift of habitat management; main measure being the phase out of grass-

land burning prior to tamaraw counts.

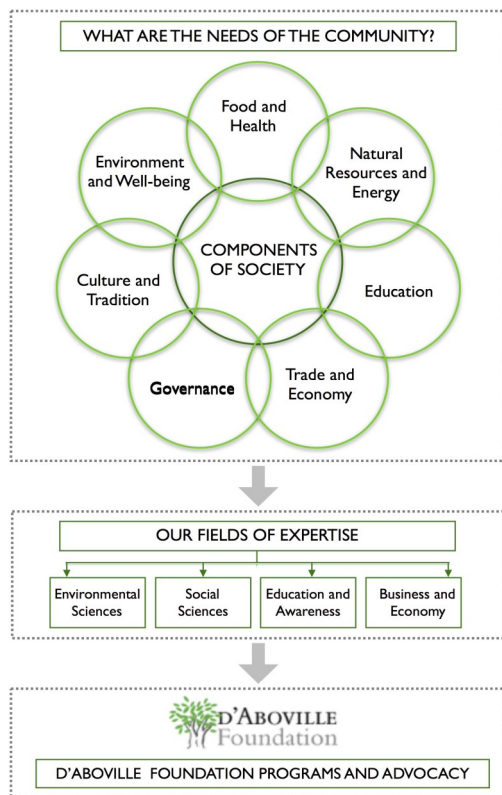
On that matter, one of the most relevant activities to understand the habitat dynamic over time is to repeat protocols and create time series of the different data collected. The

DAF field research team is thence repeating most of the vegetation quadrats that they implemented within the core zone of the monitoring at time of Alvaro.



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.

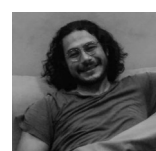
Board Members



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Program Manager



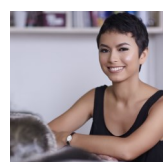
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Hubert d'Aboville
President - Executive Director

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Our Partners

