

DAF Newsletter

From Legacy to Future
CHARTING A NEW JOURNEY FOR MINDORO'S NATURE AND CULTURE

Celebrating 20 years of dedicated conservation efforts in Mindoro, we honor our past achievements and also set our sights on the road ahead—embracing new challenges, innovations, and collaborations to protect the island's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. Join us as we chart the next path in sustaining Mindoro's biodiversity for generations to come.



- Hubert d'Aboville
Founder and President

- Araceli d'Aboville
Trustee & Corporate Secretary

Highlights on the three main axes of interventions of the DAF program on tamaraw conservation:

- *Understanding tamaraw Ecology and Threats to Better Preserve It. (page 3)*
- *Exploring how tamaraw Translocation or Conservation Breeding could Help Save the Species - Progress of a Collaborative Effort. (page 5)*
- *Engaging Local Indigenous Communities in a Bio-Cultural Landscape Approach. (page 7)*

Featuring other stories, as we move forward looking to the future:

- *Thriving Together With tamaraw: joining forces to scale up our conservation success –a new phase of collaboration is underway. (page 10)*
- *Messages from partners and board members. (page 12)*
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A Message from the Founder - President

It all started in 1977 when I first arrived in Manila while I was travelling on a shoestring budget with a tiny backpack on my way around the world. I spent my first night sleeping under the stars at Rizal Park.

At that time, the population of the Philippines was just 44 million, while in France and the UK, it was around 54. The Philippines was 20% smaller in terms of population.

Today, 48 years later, the Philippine population has nearly tripled to more than 120 million. Whereas in France or the UK, it's around 69 million only ! The Philippines is now 70% larger in terms of population.

Then, in early 1981, I returned to Manila with a job as regional director of a French multinational company in the timber business for Southeast Asia. And a year later, I first heard about the tamaraw when I was invited to join a trekking expedition in Mindoro island to hunt tamaraws and wild boars. Although the expedition sounded exciting, I declined the invitation. *(continue inside)*



A Message from the Founder - President

(continuation) After I got married to my wife Araceli Valenzuela and we started having children, as fate would have it, on our 10th wedding anniversary, we found our dream piece of land at the foot of Mount Malasimbo, overlooking the magnificent bay of Puerto Galera. That was where we built our house and where we raised our 4 children during week-ends and school breaks in the midst of mother nature, away from the noise and pollution of Metropolitan Manila.



In 1977, Hubert d'Aboville arrived in Manila, spending his first night at Rizal Park under the stars.

And in 2004, 20 years ago, I founded D'ABOVILLE Foundation & Demo Farm in Puerto Galera so that my wife and I could teach our 4 children the great importance of protecting the natural environment and being involved in helping the local community we lived in. We started by giving scholarship to a few youngsters to high school whose parents had no financial means, and created a demo farm of cultivating coffee for the displaced coconut farmers.

And then, my Croatian son-in-law Miro Grgic, Olivia's husband, had a brilliant idea of creating a music festival in our land, and the Malasimbo Music & Arts Festival was born in February 2011 based on 4 pillars: Miro took care of the music. Olivia curated the arts. I took care of the environment. And my wife took care of the Mangyan indigenous people and culture.

The Malasimbo Music & Arts Festival put Puerto Galera in the world map of music festivals and brought thousands of domestic and foreign tourists from more than 30 countries to the annual week-end festival that helped develop local tourism. And it also brought us wonderful people who became dear friends namely Agnes Arellano, a multi-awarded Filipina sculptor and her partner Billy Bonnevie, a veteran environmentalist. Both have been named Honorary Board members of DAF.

And once again, as fate would have it, I met a young man, a wild-life ecologist from France, Emmanuel "Manu" Schütz who arrived with a singular mission and vision to save the endangered tamaraw in 2014.

This led Manu to start his tamaraw Conservation Mission within the legal structure of DAF. This excellent personal and professional relationship that we have together during the first decade has led us to develop DAF towards a great horizon with the best perspective.

I also want to thank and congratulate our directors, Ronet Santos and Fernando Garcia Gil as well as their staff in the field for their dedication and firm commitment to our long term goals. And here, I wish to name particularly Efren Velasco (†) who has been my most dedicated driver from 1983 to 2022 and also an original DAF board member; Zeny Flores, my admin/accounting assistant who has supported me since 1988, and Delh Endaya since 2002.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our Board Members who share our passion and dedication to our mission, and or sharing their expertise and knowledge, and for their active participation in our Board meetings, and regular attendance to our Special Board meetings.

Long life to D'ABOVILLE Foundation !

Now that DAF has reached 20, I must plan its next 20 years!

During our last Board of Trustees Meeting, that took place at the Alliance Française on Nov. 13, 2024, it was decided that Dr. Nikki H. Dagamac would be elected "president elect" at the next board scheduled within Nov. 2025. For the following 3 years, Dr. Nikki will be appointed the president elect.

I am very happy and proud to pass the helm of DAF to a highly competent and dedicated Filipino. Thank you Nikki for accepting this challenge. I know you will excel at the position. Nikki will hold that position for the next 3 years before assuming the full presidency.

At that time, I'll be named past-president, and a new "president elect" will be named. By doing so, the one called to head the foundation will be active for a total of 9 years: groomed, in charge, and as the memory of DAF.

Further, the president-elect will assume the responsibilities and tasks the president will assign to him while on leave.

UNDERSTANDING TAMARAW ECOLOGY AND THREATS TO BETTER PRESERVE IT

Improving tamaraw protection efforts through customized training and framework

The Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) staff is undergoing comprehensive training to master the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and adaptive management—both crucial for improving wildlife protection and tamaraw conservation strategies. This training combines hands-on office sessions with field practice, ensuring effective monitoring and decision-making.

Spearheaded by DAF, this full capacitation program is centered around the creation of a specific position of tamaraw Protection Operations Manager to bridge rangers in the field and the technical team at the headquarters. Geronimo Barcena, a dedicated and exemplary staff of TCP is being provided customized training to become this key person.



Learning use of SMART device in the field.

Leveraging Wildlife Crime Science to Uncover the Hidden World of Poaching

Our young conservationist, John Carlo Santos, is leading an important investigation into hunting practices affecting tamaraw and other large mammals using the Situational Crime Prevention Approach. He is supported by James Slade, a Wildlife Crime Prevention Specialist at Re:wild. While the detailed results of this pilot study are confidential, it has already provided valuable insights into the often-hidden world of bushmeat and local trade on the island.



Learning to analyze data collected and build patrol plan.

The Preliminary findings were presented at the 32nd Annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, from

September 12 to 24. Together, they discussed the use of problem-oriented policing and situational crime prevention to identify the drivers and facilitators of harmful activities threatening the remaining tamaraws in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, Mindoro.

Their presentation highlighted how crime and harm scripts can help understand both illegal poaching by non-indigenous hunters and traditional hunting by Taobuid Indigenous communities, offering insights for better prevention strategies to complement existing tamaraw protection efforts.



A hunter's bullet



Applying lessons learned in the field in real situations.

Investigating Human-Wildlife Conflict in Indigenous territories to preserve small tamaraw population

Jackie Belmonte Jr., a Taobuid Indigenous member and DAF technical staff, has been working with tamaraw rangers to document the conflict between tamaraws and Mindoro warty pigs entering Taobuid crops in the Aruyan-Malati region. In 2024, Jackie received a Species Rapid Action Fund from the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) to investigate this ongoing issue in the Aruyan-Malati tamaraw Reservation (AMTR), Occidental Mindoro. The tamaraw population in AMTR is low and restricted, living near the semi-nomadic Taobuid communities whose land-use activities impact the species' behavior.

For the past two years, the Taobuid have reported tamaraw crop damage, affecting their subsistence farming. Indigenous methods to deter tamaraw depredation have worked temporarily, but long-term solutions are needed.



Investigating farming system of Taobuid in Aruyan-Malati Region

Since May 2024, Jackie, with the help of TCP rangers, has been documenting crop depredation and gathering key data to understand the situation. Their work includes analyzing annual crop cycles, affected crops, and indigenous strategies.

Their efforts have gained support from both the Taobuid communities and the local government unit of Sablayan which will help identify sustainable solutions for coexisting with wildlife in this limited space.



Landscape of Aruyan-Malati.

Law Enforcement Forum – Thematic workshops to tackle protection issues

In 2024, the Law Enforcement Forum was revived to bring together local stakeholders, tackle key issues, and boost coordination among agencies to protect tamaraw populations and habitats. Led by the DENR-TCP and other government agencies, the initiative strengthens protection efforts against threats in tamaraw-inhabited areas.

As part of the forum, three workshops equipped key stakeholders with knowledge and skills on tamaraw conservation. The first workshop enhanced DENR-TCP personnel's capacity in wildlife law enforcement and paralegal aspects of wildlife protection. In September, the second LEF deputized 82 Mindoro locals as Wildlife Enforcement Officers under Katutubong Bantay tamaraw (29), Barangay Bantay tamaraw (29), and Bantay Lupang Ninuno (24), through the DENR-TCP and Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor partnership.



CENR Officer and TCP Coordinator Efren delos Reyes providing the introduction during the Law Enforcement Forum in 2024

In November, a workshop reviewed existing DENR standard operating procedures (SOPs), identifying gaps and paving the way for a more unified and efficient approach tailored to Mindoro's landscape and indigenous communities.

Revitalizing this forum strengthens coordination among stakeholders to protect tamaraw and their habitats.



Multi stakeholder thematic workshop to tackle specific topics.

Tamaraw number is not what we think

The third repetition of the tamaraw count using the double observer estimator method corroborates, once again, that the number of tamaraw in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) is lower than previously believed, with estimates now closer to just 200 animals. This information is crucial to envisage options in terms of conservation strategies that could be undertaken for this sub-population, MIBNP being the stronghold of the species in Mindoro.



A group of tamaraws at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park - “tamaraw Barkada.”

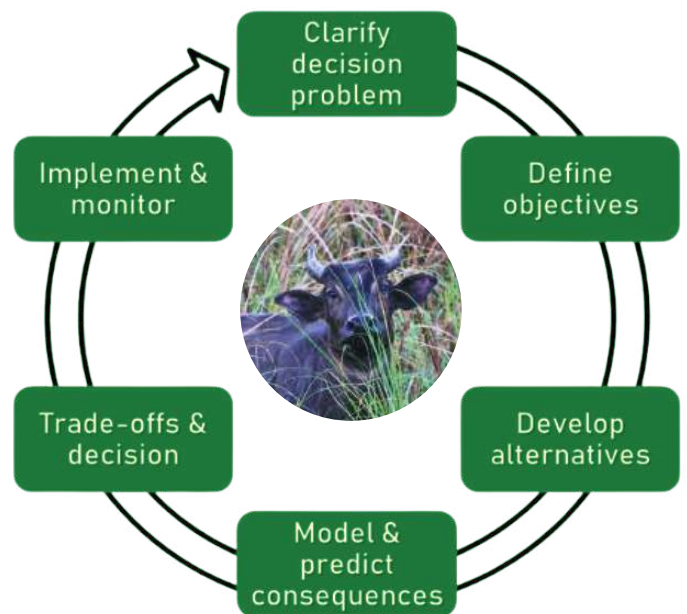
EXPLORING HOW TAMARAW TRANSLOCATION OR CONSERVATION BREEDING COULD HELP SAVE THE SPECIES – PROGRESS OF A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

Using Structured Decision-Making process to engage stakeholders

Led by Dr. James Burton of the IUCN SSC, in partnership with the Zoological Society of London, the tamaraw Feasibility Study made significant progress in 2024.

Originally launched after the 2018 tamaraw Habitat Viability Assessment, the study was delayed by the pandemic but has since resumed thanks to funding from the SEGRE Foundation.

The study assesses whether in-situ conservation alone is enough to protect the tamaraw or if additional measures—such as translocation or captive breeding—are needed to ensure the species' survival. To make informed decisions, the Structured Decision Making (SDM) process gathers input from all key stakeholders from the outset.



The six steps in structured decision making (SDM) cycle (adapted from Benson, J. F. et al.)

Site visit to collect biological data

A key part of the tamaraw Feasibility Study (FS) is developing realistic long-term conservation strategies. This requires up-to-date biological and ecological data, a clear understanding of threats, and an assessment of the capacity to implement conservation interventions.

To support this effort, several international experts traveled to the Philippines in June to visit tamaraw habitats and assess potential sites for ex-situ conservation. Their mission was to evaluate key factors such as capture methods, disease transmission risks, and logistical challenges associated with direct interventions—essential steps in determining the best path forward and testing feasible scenarios for long-term tamaraw conservation.



Mindoro team guiding expert partners in tamaraw sites.

Expert elicitation workshop to run predictive population models

A specialized workshop was thereafter held in France, bringing together experts from the Philippines and around the world to analyze data and explore different scenarios. Using expert insights, the team worked on developing realistic population prediction models to better understand future trends based on different strategies of intervention.



Assessing feasibility of ex-situ intervention in tamaraw landscapes.



Evaluating parameters for the modeling.

Trade-off workshop to build recommendation

In late 2024, the FS team reconvened to review the results of the modeling and determine the best way to present meaningful recommendations to Philippine authorities. It became clear that further investigation was necessary to refine the final recommendations, highlighting the need for a second phase of the process.



Debriefing workshop output around good meal and wine.



FS team together with the participants of the trade-off workshop.

ENGAGING LOCAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN A BIO-CULTURAL LANDSCAPE APPROACH

Expanding the Tamaraw Safe Reproduction Zone and the Taobuid Community Conservation Plan: A Milestone Conservation

One of the biggest milestones this year was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the elders of the Taobuid Indigenous group, represented by their Tribal Leader, and the Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), represented by DENR Regional Executive Director Felix Mirasol.

For generations, the Taobuid people have lived alongside the tamaraw, sharing the same living space. Nowadays, the tamaraw is restricted to a very small area inside the territories of a few Taobuid upland communities.

Despite the creation of a Strict Protection Zone (SPZ) of 1600ha to become the core habitat of tamaraw, in agreement with the Taobuid, recent ecological studies highlight that this area is far from being large enough to enable the number of animals to grow and reach a viable population size.



MOA signature between DENR and Taobuid.

Recognizing this ecological limit, conservationists, local authorities, and the Taobuid worked together to develop a plan to extend the Tamaraw Safe Zone. This effort ensures that the species has more space to thrive while respecting the traditions and rights of the Taobuid people.



One of the many consultations with the Taobuid.

The expanded safe reproduction zone, the subject of the MoA, is part of the Taobuid Community Conservation Plan (CCP) and consists of:

- The respect to the 1600 SPZ
- An additional core area of 600 hectares with clearly defined boundaries, ensures the same protection level as the SPZ
- A reserved or fallow area of 1,800 hectares, under the stewardship of the Taobuid but where disturbance will be reduced for a long period and ranger’s patrol organized in coordination with Taobuid to fight illegal activities and outsider intrusions

Two field surveys were conducted with guidance from Taobuid elders, some over 70 years old. Their knowledge helped identify sacred sites, locate landmarks, and define boundaries.

Under the MOA, a ranger station will be built in the expanded safe zone to strengthen anti-poaching efforts, following existing no-hunting regulations. The signing of this MOA marked the culmination of the tamaraw Month which is held every year in October in Mindoro.



Culminating activity for Tamaraw Month in October 2024.

Permaculture Success at Station 2: A Model for Sustainable Food Production

After two years, the permaculture initiative at Station 2 has flourished, providing sustainable food for rangers, field staff, and some Taobuid community members. The experiment diversified food sources, now boasting over seventy species of edible plants, including tubers, leafy greens, beans, seeds, and fruits. Many seedlings planted last year have survived their first dry season and are preparing for their second.

Four zones were designed to support different aspects of sustainability, from providing shelter and food to enhancing biodiversity and restoring ecosystems.

Zone 1: Living Quarters

Recent repairs, including roof and flooring replacements, have ensured a functional living space.



Food production at the ranger station 2.

Zone 2: Vegetable Gardens

These gardens provide fresh vegetables and seeds, serving as a vital food source and foraging area for rangers and visiting Taobuid members.



Bale Mangibok created in Station 2.

Zone 3: Food Forest

Perennials like kadios (*Cajanus cajan*) and bananas (*Musa paradisiaca*) have yielded multiple harvests, supporting long-term food sustainability.



Work in the food forest of the permaculture experiment.

Zone 4: Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement

Over 50% of the 2,000 out-planted tree seedlings have survived two dry seasons, now exceeding two meters in height. Research on different planting methods is ongoing to improve survival rates. New plant species, insects, and birds are being observed, contributing to the increasing local biodiversity of this originally poor grassland.

This proves that biomass attracts biomass and is the key to restoring ecosystems. It highlights the critical role of reforestation in combating biodiversity loss. With continued efforts, this zone can serve as a model for ecological restoration and climate resilience.

The success here underscores the importance of community involvement and sustained monitoring in ensuring long-term ecological recovery.



Bale Mangibok kubo overlooking Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park

The 'no-intervention' control area on the western side of Landing has shown that more than 60% of observed tree seedlings are *Anapla* (*Albizia procera*). While the numbers increase in the wet season, many do not survive the dry season or are outcompeted by grasses. Further research is planned to refine restoration strategies.



Forest trees growing on the biomass mounds after nearly 3 years intervention.

During the last two years, we observed a pair of eastern grass owls (*Tyto longimembris*) in the area. Late last year, the female owl laid four eggs. The photos below show the size of the owl chicks as of the last week of January 2025. This highlights that the absence of regular fire (no burning occurred in this area since we started the permaculture experiment and built a fireline) enables ground species to come back and nest.



Angry Eastern Grass Owl (*Tyto longimembris*) finding a refuge in our control zone.



Developing new permaculture design to be tested.

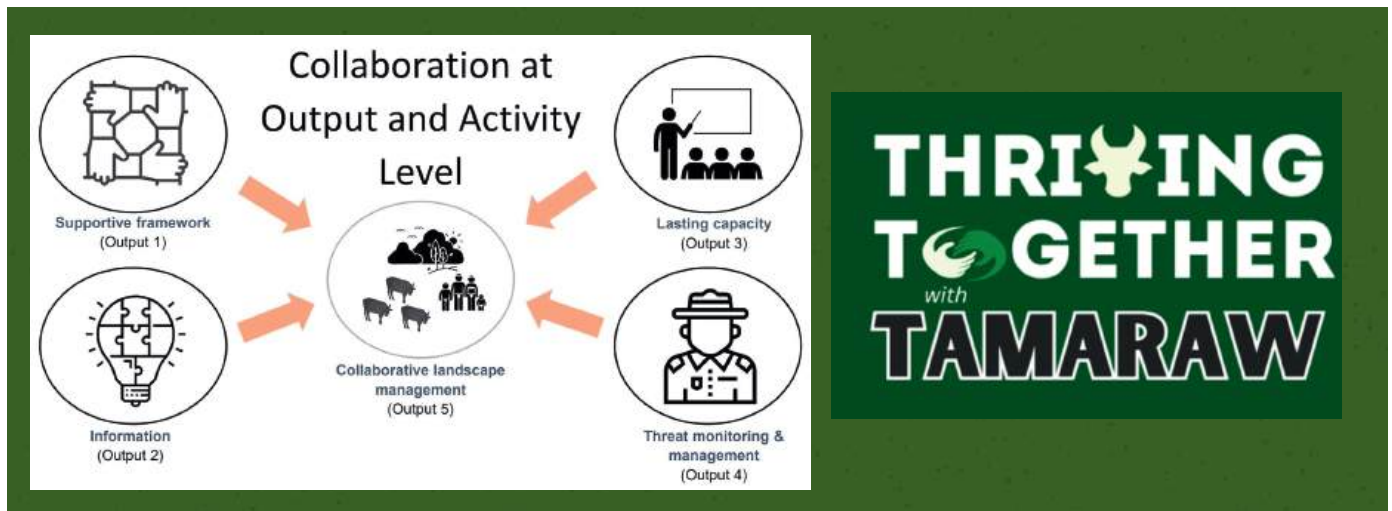
The Station 2 permaculture initiative demonstrates how ecological design can create resilient food systems and restore biodiversity. With continued monitoring and adaptive management, this project is paving the way for a more self-sustaining ecosystem that benefits both people and nature.

DARWIN EXTRA: CHARTING NEW PATHS FOR TAMARAW LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Thriving Together with Tamaraw: A United Effort to Save Mindoro's Endangered Icon

From humble beginnings back in 2013, which has been dedicated to tamaraw conservation, and over the years, that commitment has gained strong momentum. With more partners eager to join, we've been able to expand our efforts and achieve significant milestones.

Thanks to the leadership and support of Re:wild, and despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, the three-year **UK AID DARWIN Initiative** funded project (2021–2023) became a shining example of how local projects can balance biodiversity conservation and human needs.



The diagram of Thriving Together with Tamaraw

This success opened doors to a second UKAID DARWIN Initiative grant, which will build on our progress and scale up effective conservation approaches to cover all tamaraw habitats across Mindoro.

In partnership with the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI), the consortium led by Re:wild launched this exciting new phase last September.

The Thriving Together with tamaraw Project, running until March 2029, is designed to address the threats and challenges that tamaraws face today.

One of the project's main goals is to empower Indigenous leadership in conservation. By strengthening legal protections and fostering collaboration between government agencies and conservation groups, the project supports both national and global biodiversity goals.

Through this effort, we aim to bring together conservationists, local communities, and stakeholders to ensure that future generations can experience tamaraws thriving in the wild.



A tamaraw in the wild at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

Project partner's reunion workshop in May to kick off the consortium

The consortium officially came to life in May 2024, marked by Tobias Garstecki of Re:wild visiting the Philippines and the board of trustees of DAF and MBCFI convening. This pre-inception workshop served as a vital step in aligning goals and laying the foundation for a collaborative journey ahead.



A group of tamaraw at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park.



Gathering of the stakeholders and partners for Thriving Together with Tamaraw.

Inception workshop with local stakeholders to present the new conservation journey

On November 18, 2024, the consortium hosted a one-day convention workshop, bringing together over 40 participants from the DENR, local government units, NCIP, Indigenous peoples' groups, and academia. The workshop aimed to discuss the scope of the new phase of collaboration and present the proposed work plan of action under the initiative, "Thriving Together: Lasting Solutions for Collaborative Management of tamaraw Landscapes." This gathering marked an important step in fostering partnerships and aligning efforts for the initiative's success.



Dr. Tobias Garstecki
*Re:Wild, Director of Protected
Area Planning and Management*

A Message from Dr. Tobias Garstecki

My organization, Re: wild, has had the privilege of accompanying the D'ABOVILLE Foundation in its efforts since 2016. Together, we have taken meaningful strides in conservation, including the implementation of the project “Creating a Sustainable Landscape for the Taobuid and the tamaraw” (2021-2023) with support from the UK Darwin Initiative.

This is what makes the work of the D'ABOVILLE Foundation so inspiring—it is not just a vision, but a living, breathing model of Indigenous-centered conservation in action. Alongside its partners, the Foundation has created a groundbreaking pilot initiative that harmonizes official tamaraw conservation efforts with Indigenous land management practices.

Building on this success, we are thrilled that the UK Darwin Initiative has awarded a new round of funding to a consortium comprising the D'ABOVILLE Foundation, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) as a valued new partner, and Re: wild. The project – Thriving Together with tamaraw – will now support the scaling up of collaborative conservation across the entire tamaraw range until 2029.

The tamaraw holds deep cultural and symbolic significance for the Philippines. Now is the time to match this immense national treasure with an equally ambitious, unified, and sustained conservation effort—one that ensures that tamaraw landscapes remain thriving habitats for the Taobuid and Alangan Indigenous communities, as well as the tamaraw itself, for generations to come.

A Message from Kathy Lene "KYLE" S. Cielo

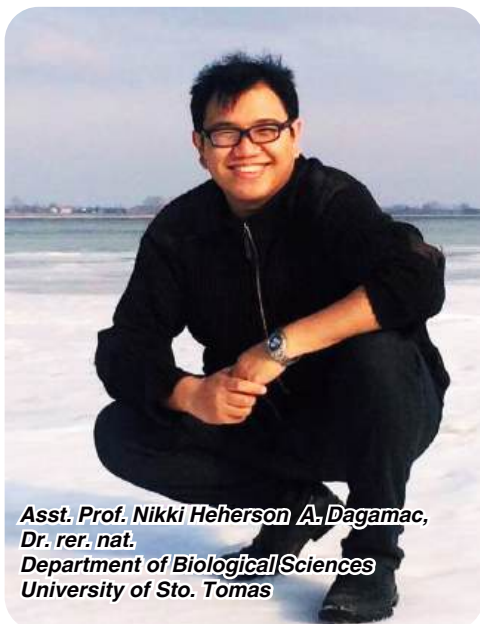
Congratulations on DAF's 20 Years of Existence and new collaboration.

On this incredible milestone, we celebrate the vision, dedication, and efforts that have driven your foundation to its achievements. May you continue your good work, making a lasting impact and reaching new heights of success. MBCFI would also like to celebrate with you as we establish a new partnership for the tamaraw Landscapes.

This exciting new chapter marks the beginning of a strong collaboration, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Collaborations like this are built on a shared vision and a mutual commitment to conserve the island of Mindoro. We are confident that this one will bring outstanding achievements, growth, and opportunities for everyone involved, not only to the members of the consortium but also to the stakeholders we are working with. May this project flourish and set the stage for future triumphs! Cheers to 20 years and beyond!



Kathy Lene "KYLE" S. Cielo
*Deputy Executive Director
MBCFI*



Message from Dr. Nikki Dagamac Acceptance as the President-Elect of the D'ABOVILLE Foundation

After the board resolution last November 13, 2024, I am deeply honored and humbled to accept the role of President-Elect of the D'ABOVILLE Foundation starting November 2025.

As a returning scientist and conservationist, my journey has led me back to the very heart of my passion: the rich biodiversity of Mindoro. The plight of the tamaraw, alongside other endangered species in Mindoro, underscores the urgency of sustainable conservation efforts—a cause that both the D'ABOVILLE Foundation and I hold dear.

The foundation's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, habitat preservation, and community engagement mirrors my vision of holistic conservation. Beyond safeguarding wildlife, we recognize the indispensable role of Indigenous communities, local stakeholders, and policymakers in fostering an enduring legacy of environmental consciousness. I advocate that by integrating scientific research, traditional knowledge, and innovative conservation strategies, we can cultivate a future where both people and nature thrive in harmony.

To my colleagues, mentors, and fellow conservationists—your trust and support fuel my determination. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to the natural wonders of our nation, safeguarding the precious emblems that define our identity and enrich our shared heritage. I embrace this new chapter with gratitude, enthusiasm, and an unwavering pledge to serve with integrity and passion. Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

DAF and ICOLABB Partnership

Partnerships between academic institutions and NGOs are crucial for raising environmental awareness and developing practical solutions to today's ecological challenges. Academic institutions contribute research expertise, innovative ideas, and the enthusiasm of young minds, while NGOs provide community connections, policy advocacy, and hands-on experience.

The D'ABOVILLE Foundation and ICOLABB, part of the Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences, exemplify collaboration by turning research into action through workshops, awareness campaigns, and community projects that benefit people and shape policies.

This partnership also provides students with hands-on training, making ICOLABB a hub for practical learning and conservation efforts.

Notably, some of the staff working on the Mindoro project began as thesis students from UST who collaborated with the D'ABOVILLE Foundation.

By bridging the gap between theory and practice—such as applying tamaraw habitat research in remote communities—this partnership accelerates solutions, inspires future leaders, strengthens advocacy, and fosters a more sustainable future.



Dr. Nikki with his students.

OTHER KEY STORIES, NEWS, AND EVENTS

DAF celebrates its 20 years of existence with friends, partners, and government representatives

The D'ABOVILLE Foundation (DAF), led by founder Hubert d'Aboville, celebrated its 20th anniversary at Alliance Française de Manille on November 13, 2024, joined by UK Ambassador Laure Beaufile, French Ambassador Marie Fontanel, Senator Cynthia Villar, and Dr. Neric Acosta.



The event started with showing videos of DAF conservation work in Mindoro followed by thematic panel discussions of DAF team and partners with the public.



The event also marked the official launch of DAF's partnership with Rewild and MBCFI under the UK AID DARWIN Initiative grant for the Thriving Together with tamaraw project.



DAF’s Vision for the Future at the center of the 20th board of trustee meeting

The board of trustees of DAF gathered for a luncheon meeting to mark its 20th anniversary, together with its core management team and our partner from Re: wild Tobias Garstecki.



DAF’s Board of Directors convening over a luncheon meeting on its 20th anniversary. In front is Dr. Nikki Dagamac on the right with Olivia d’Aboville behind him. Dr. Neric Acosta on front left with Tobias Garstecki of Re:wild, with DAF’s specialized experts in wildlife ecology led by Emmanuel Schütz and Ronet Santos.

Save from Extinction Campaign - DAF joins the pledge to preserve 6 iconic Philippine animals

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has partnered with the private sector and top conservation groups to launch “Save From Extinction,” a campaign to protect six critically endangered species, including the tamaraw, a rare Mindoro dwarf buffalo, for which DAF is involved since many years.

In collaboration with SM SuperMalls, Kultura, BDO, Forest Foundation Philippines, WWF-Philippines (Dugong & Philippine Turtle), ZSL (Palawan Pangolin), PEF (Philippine Eagle), and Katala Foundation (Philippine Cockatoo), the campaign aims to raise awareness and funds for conservation efforts.

The signing of the MOA with DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, marks the commitment of all parties to this pledge.



MOA signing held during the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 in Manila.

Re:wild Recognizes D'ABOVILLE Foundation as an Outstanding Partner in Mindoro Conservation



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Hubert d'Aboville
President and Founder
D'ABOVILLE Foundation

10 April 2024

Dear Hubert,

This is to confirm that the D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm Inc. (DAF) has been a critical, outstanding partner organization of Re:wild in the Philippines – particularly on Mindoro – since 2016, and our leading NGO partner on Indigenous-led collaborative tamaraw conservation at Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

Our collaboration on Mindoro has mainly focused on conserving the critically endangered tamaraw in its last strongholds in Indigenous Taobuid and Alangan territories. Based on the innovative bio-cultural approach spearheaded by DAF, our consortium is developing and upscaling Indigenous community co-management, sustainable land management and restoration approaches from Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park to the entire tamaraw range.

Following a successful joint project funded by a Darwin Main grant of the British Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2021-2023, we have jointly been able to secure an additional Darwin Extra grant to continue upscaling this collaboration during 2024-2029, together with our new partner organization Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. This will enable transformative change of the socio-ecological system of all tamaraw landscapes of Mindoro.

Please let me take this opportunity to thank you and your dedicated team headed by Emmanuel Schütz and Ronet Santos for our excellent collaboration over the last eight years and express my confidence in its long-term successful continuation, for the benefit of the people and biodiversity of Mindoro.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Langhammer

A letter to Hubert d'Aboville from Penny Langhammer, PhD, Executive Vice President Re:wild.



UK Ambassador Hosts Luncheon Honoring ZSL CEO and D'ABOVILLE Foundation

On December 31, 2024, UK Ambassador Laure Beaufile hosted a luncheon at her residence in honor of Matthew Gould, CEO of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), a key partner of the D'ABOVILLE Foundation (DAF).

In attendance were Senator Loren Legarda, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, Mr. Gould, and DAF's Hubert d'Aboville (second row in the photo), underscoring the strong collaboration in wildlife conservation.

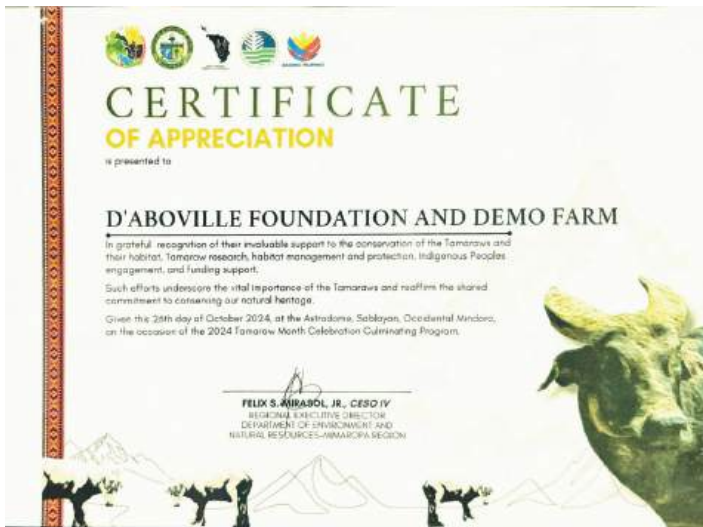
DAF Honored for tamaraw Conservation Efforts by DENR

During the tamaraw Month 2024 culminating event in Sablayan, the D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc. received a Certificate of Recognition for their vital role in tamaraw conservation, habitat protection, research, and indigenous community engagement.

DAF Program Director Emmanuel Schütz was also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation for his 12 years of dedicated research and conservation efforts.



Hubert d'Aboville
Gawad Tamaraw, June 2012



Certificate of Appreciation awarded by DENR to DAF.



Emmanuel Schütz
Gaia Award, April 2017

Thanking donors in 2024: ASAP (new), Mandai Nature, AFDPZ, ZGAP (continuation)

We are grateful to Mandai Nature, the AFdPZ, and ZGAP for their continuous support and trust in our endeavor for many years. We also want to thank the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) for rewarding us with their rapid action fund, enabling us to address the emerging human-wildlife conflict issue in one of the tamaraw sites.



Tamaraws at Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park.



Landscape of Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

Published journals and work

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Four years after the population and habitat viability assessment, what do we know about the status of tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis) in Mindoro? Status of research and findings and implication for conservation. IUCN BULLETin 8: 16-27.



Preprints are preliminary reports that have not undergone peer review. They should not be considered conclusive, used to inform clinical practice, or referenced by the media as validated information.

Applying Geomatic Analyses Using Landsat Imagery in Occidental Mindoro, the Philippines

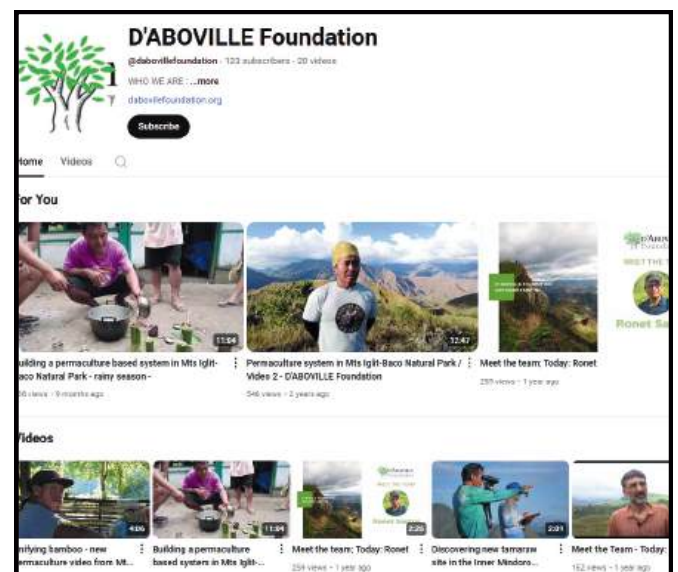
Nicole Alexia Veridiano-de Castro (✉ nicolealexia@gmail.com)
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James Eduard Limbo-Dizon
University of Santo Tomas
John Carlo Redeña-Santos
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Nikki Heherson Dagamac
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Reyes FMM, Yepes JMF, Nagera FLV, Dy AC, Ambrosio ERD, Escobar MIJ, Veridiano-de Castro NA, Gil FG, Dagamac NHA, Redeña-Santos JC. (2024). **Single season occupancy modelling of Philippine Long-Tailed Macaques (Macaca fascicularis) in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary Based on Bycatch Camera-Trap Data.** Asian Primate Journal 11: 30-43.

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BULLETin July 2023 | Issue 8

RESEARCH

Four years after the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment, what do we know about the status of tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis) in Mindoro?

Status of research and findings and implication for conservation.

By Emmanuel Schütz^a, Fernando Garcia Gil^b, John Carlo Redeña-Santos^c, Nikki Heherson A. Dagamac^d, Christophe Bonenfant^e, Andrew Tilker^{f,g}, Neil Anthony Del Mundo^h
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Introduction

The tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), or Mindoro dwarf buffalo, is endemic to the island of Mindoro

new information on the status of each population as of 2023 and discuss how finding or changes in recent years may impact tamaraw conservation

GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF DAF



Emmanuel Schütz
Program Director

Emmanuel is a French biologist with a specialization in wildlife ecology and large terrestrial mammals. Under the umbrella of DAF, he initiated the program of conservation of the tamaraw in Mindoro in 2012, rapidly moving it from a pure species protection project to a holistic approach integrating indigenous communities in their living landscape at the center of the strategy of intervention.



Ronet B. Santos
Senior Program Operations Manager

Ronet has been engaged in development work for decades. At DAF, his hands-on approach is evident in Station 2's continuous permaculture initiatives, as well as in strengthening the collaboration between stakeholders of tamaraw conservation.



Fernando García Gil
Senior Program Research Adviser

Fernando is a Spanish environmentalist with an MSc in Ethology, Fernando specializes in the ecology and conservation of large mammals with a significant interest in the issue of human-wildlife conflict.



Bryan I. Villanueva
Deputy Program Operations Manager

Bryan is a biologist with 18 years of experience in humanitarian response, development, and conservation work in the Philippines.



Juanita Mallillin-Saet (Nina)
Community Outreach Officer

Nina has more than 20 years of experience as a community development worker. She has dedicated herself to social development, advocacy for the cause of women and IPs, and support to biodiversity conservation initiatives.



Jackie M. Belmonte Jr.
Field Technical Coordinator

Jackie belongs to the Taobuid ethnolinguistic group and has a Bachelor's Degree in History at Occidental Mindoro State College. Jackie is working in all tamaraw sites across Mindoro.



John Carlo Redeña-Santos
*Protection and Law
Enforcement Coordinator*

Carlo is a young Philippine conservationist who has been working in Mindoro since 2018, he graduated with a Master's degree in Wildlife. He has published his works in multiple journals about Philippine wildlife.



Ronald L. Amada
Research Output Coordinator

Ronald is a researcher with hands-on experience in environmental conservation and community development. He also has a background in community-managed ecotourism projects with local communities.



Illana Kimani A. Barraquias (Grant)
*Monitoring, Evaluation, and
Learning Officer*

Grant is a forester by profession and scuba diver by passion. Her background is in social forestry and forest governance. She brings with her experiences of conservation work in South and Southeast Asia. She is passionate about transformative change and believes in working towards a better world for all living beings.



Edson V. Urieta,
Bio-cultural Output Coordinator

Edson and his experiences focuses on community development, humanitarian and forest restoration, along with promoting children's rights and gender equality through gender transformative and disaster resilience programs.



Mariflor A. Gargar
Finance and Admin Assistant

Mariflor is pursuing her degree in economics and has extensive experience in the tourism industry. Her professional interests include business, technology, sustainable development, and agriculture. She presently has a farm project in Masbate.



Nicole Alexia V. de Castro
Project Coordinator

Nicole is an early Philippine conservationist with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and management and a master's in biology. Her research involvements include climate change, qualitative and quantitative social research, and GIS.

DAF STAFF FEATURE



Diego N. Agman
Field Research Assistant

Diego, a member of the Taobuid ethnolinguistic group, has been documenting the knowledge system, beliefs, and traditional practices of the Taobuid living in the uplands.



Fransly Ignacio
Permaculture Field Senior Officer

Fransly belongs to the Hanunuo ethnolinguistic group and works on the permaculture-based system for food production and habitat restoration at Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.



Cleo Angeline R. Hechanova
Field Permaculture Coordinator

Cleo is an agroforester who has contributed tremendously to the design of the permaculture-based system at Station 2 in Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park and will now lead permaculture-related activities in other tamaraw landscapes.



Jhanny Jhan M. Delos Santos
Field Technical Officer

Jhanny, an agro-forestry graduate, brings extensive experience in conservation and community development, working in partnership with both Mangyan and coastal communities. He is eager to expand his expertise in research and habitat restoration.



Pauline S. Maglipon
Field Technical Specialist

Pauline is one of the first product of DAF-academe collaboration. She has recently finished master's in biology. The mentorship from DAF paved the way to a successful completion of her thesis which focused on an untapped field of study - fire ecology, where she investigated the recovery of plant communities after fire in the core zone of monitoring in MIBNP.



Juanito C. Lumawig, Jr.
Assistant Field Technical Specialist

Juanito is a member of the Taobuid ethnolinguistic group, he has dedicated much of his career to teaching at an exclusive Mangyan school in Occidental Mindoro. He integrates Mangyan indigenous culture, knowledge, and practices into his work together with communities involved in taramaw landscapes.



Laurianne Cruzol
Finance and Admin Head, San Jose

Laurianne has 22 years of experience in public finance. She brings deep expertise in financial management. She has led various high level financial affairs and is passionate about public research policies, public finances, and societal challenges and ecological transition.



Zenaida A. Flores
Admin and Accounting Assistant

Zeny was formerly one of the pioneer employees of PAMATEC. She worked first as an Accounting Staff, then assigned as Executive Assistant to Hd'A. She joined DAF as an Admin & Accounting Assistant since 2019, and partially as Secretary to Hd'A.



Rafael A. Endaya, Jr.
Admin Support Staff

Delh was formerly with Hd'A company PAMATEC in 2002 and currently with DAF since in 2019. He works as messenger, in-charge of DAF Manila carpool like LTO registration renewal and insurance, repairs, maintenance & other related tasks, and serves as driver to Hd'A.



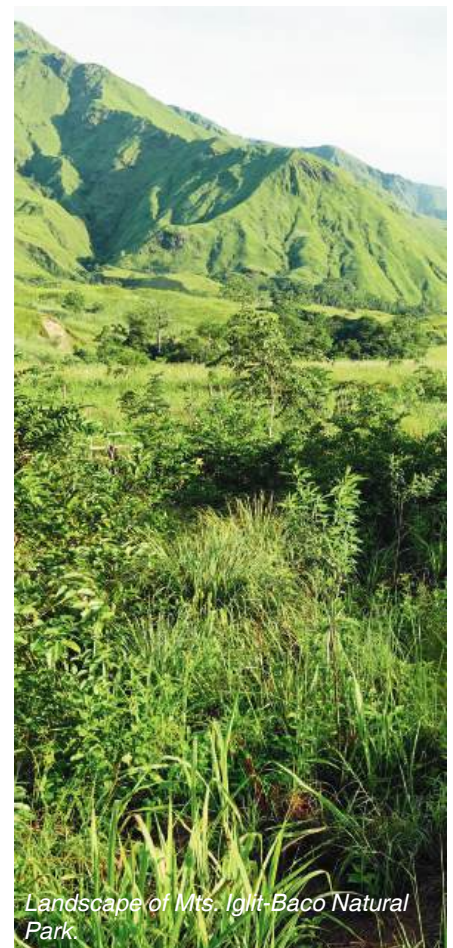
Daniel T. Enriquez,
Adviser to the President

Danny pushed for the conservation of Puerto Galera, he ran for a political position as municipal councilor for four terms (12 years), handling the Committee Chairmanship of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. As a municipal councilor, he authored 45 environmental ordinances published by the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Jonalyn A. Gargar
Bookkeeper Assistant

Jona has developed her sharp skills on technical office and administrative work through the years. Her background is in Education and continues to apply her knowledge in her career. At DAF she supports the team in daily admin and financial tasks.



Landscape of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



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*Trustee, President,
and
Executive Director*



Araceli d'Aboville
*Trustee
and
Corporate Secretary*



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d'Aboville**
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*Honorary Board
Member*





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.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

ACCOUNT NAME: D'ABOVILLE FOUNDATION AND DEMO FARM, INC.
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 100300032332
SWIFT CODE: CHBKPHMM
BANK: CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
BANK ADDRESS: China Bank Head Office, 8745, Paseo de Roxas corner Villar Street, Makati City, 1226, Philippines



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."

WHO WE ARE

The D'ABOVILLE Foundation has 4 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.*

