



2022

REPORT





ABOUT THE COVER

Part of educating the youth annually through environmental education camps and school-based information campaigns is getting their thoughts and reflections in art form. Among the winning paintings in recent years are painted by Catherine Aceveda (top) and John Ermar Alumisin (bottom) from San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro.

Investing in youth education and empowerment is a major component of MFI's marine biodiversity conservation program in north Palawan, Oriental Mindoro and Batangas City.





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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

THE YEAR 2022 showed steady recovery from the impacts of Covid lockdowns, especially for some of our socio-economic improvement programs. Our marine conservation partnerships likewise continue to make consistent progress with regards to conservation management and biological improvements. However, as I deliver this report today March 15, 2023, we are in the midst of supporting oil spill response in south Oriental Mindoro which has negatively impacted some of our conservation sites in the province, particularly in the municipality of Pola, where thick sludge landed from the spill site of the sunken oil tanker.

MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In 2022, our marine biodiversity conservation program was awarded “Best ESG Campaign to Prevent Marine Pollution” by UNICEPTA & Co., an international award recognizing excellence in CSR and contribution to the U.N. Sustainable Development goals. Our site in Bulalacao, Coron in Palawan was likewise accorded “Best Locally-Managed Marine Protected Area (MPA)” in Palawan at the province’s 2022 Pearl Awards.

Our 37 active conservation agreements cover 337,206.5 hectares in 39 sites spanning the areas of north Palawan, east Oriental Mindoro and Batangas City. From 2013 to 2022, we have recorded an average 73.71% increase in the abundance of target reef-associated fishes and 43.1% increase in live coral cover in our monitoring stations. Across all sites in 2022, a total of 17,654 trees were planted comprised of mangroves, beach forest and watershed species. In reaching the next generation, 221 youths were educated at our environment youth camps which finally resumed after two (2) years of hiatus due to Covid restrictions. Our support to partner community People’s Organizations members is continuous through capacity-building and incentives, most especially the volunteer (un-armed) bantay dagats who risk their lives to protect MPAs from illegal intrusions.

The **String of Pearls Project** suffered a major setback in 2022 in view of typhoon Odette in December 2021, resulting in mortalities of all juveniles and breeders in the hatchery when the typhoon hit. The hatchery was only able to resume operations in April 2022. The **Coral Rehabilitation Research** continue to show encouraging high survival rates ranging from 28%-50% across all blasted reef sites in El Nido, Linapacan and Coron.

MFI is also engaged in large-scale fisheries conservation efforts of the national government having been designated as the Scientific Advisory Groups (SAG) NGO representative for Fisheries Management Area (FMA) 5 and FMA 12 Management Board alternate representative. Both FMAs cover a total area of about 52.2m hectares. Decent gains included the drafting and finalization of the implementing rules of FMA 5, and the FMA 12 Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management Plan (EAFM). MFI as an NGO representative to the Committee on Economically-Important Species of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) played a key role in the development of a criteria for the establishment of the list of economically important species for Terrestrial and Aquatic Flora and Fauna in the province which was approved by PCSD through Reso. No. 20-752. MFI is also the only NGO member of the Protected Area Suitability Assessment Team of the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape (MSPLS) wherein we were the key advocate to retaining a significant parcel of marine waters within the boundaries of the national park.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

The **Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST)** program produced 1,016 graduates in 2022, bringing to 11,225 the total number of vocational scholars from 2007-2022. Hiring pace has returned to normal and employment levels remain at an average of 85-95%. Self-employment generation programs **SIKAP** and **Project GANDA** capacitated 156 and 260 respectively. From 2013-2021, SIKAP has trained a total of 6,569 trainees and 4,745 for Project GANDA.

We have 117 ongoing micro-enterprise projects supported under **Enterprise for Conservation**, involving 37 conservation-partner People's Organization with a total 1,274 members throughout Palawan, Batangas and Oriental Mindoro. There are many challenges in this area as well as best practices. Challenges include severe fluctuation of market prices and Asian swine flu for those in animal raising, and ningas cogon attitude in a few areas. Best practice includes those in eco-tourism, some of which have recovered from pre-pandemic levels. In early December, we have recorded nearly P415,000 in conservation funds from net earnings of the enterprises for use in direct conservation actions. It is also apparent that the communities with marginal performances on their enterprise projects are the ones who are most active and effective in their conservation initiatives making MFI's investments in these areas more valuable.

OTHERS

The **Punlang Katutubo Native Tree Nursery** where we propagate and nurture important indigenous and/or endemic Philippine tree species that are either critically-endangered, endangered or threatened, produced more than 14,230 new seedlings in 2022. Of this number, 7,694 seedlings were deployed for reforestation and green-scaping in different areas in Batangas province. The **Malampaya Clinical Laboratory** operated by our partner Philippine Red Cross-Batangas Chapter logged a service count of 679 for the free doctor consultations, 745 for laboratory services, and 147 for the medical mission held in Barangay Cuta, Batangas City.

We signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Adventist Hospital of Palawan in Q3 last year to put in place support for emergency response for Malampaya's operations in north Palawan which comes with a charity program for Palaweno indigents. We renewed agreements to revive the **Malampaya Sustainable Development Scholarship** with Palawan State University and Batangas State University for engineering, geology and environment management degrees. We likewise started work on a renewable energy program which includes the establishment of decentralized solar micro-grids in off-grid locations close to Malampaya's areas of operation.

There is still a lot to look forward to insofar as helping Malampaya's fenceline communities and impact areas are concerned, especially now that Prime Energy has come onboard the joint venture with growth plans for the near future. To God be the glory!


RUFINO BOMASANG
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Malampaya Foundation Inc.



MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

MFI retained in 2022 partnerships and support for 337,206.6 hectares of marine protected areas (MPAs), marine management zones, and fisheries management areas (FMAs) in its marine conservation sites throughout north Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, and Batangas City.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY

We resumed environmental youth camps (EYCs) and information education campaigns in 2022 after cessation for two years due to Covid lockdowns. Our various EYCs in the areas reached 252 children who will be leaders, educators, and experts in their own fields in a decade or two, some of whom will be active in the planning and decision-making process for the MPAs and other environmental matters in their communities. We target youths aged 13-18, which is the right age group to start building champions for the environment as they will be entering adulthood in a few years.



Education youth camps and information campaigns are regularly conducted as part of the conservation program

Work with our conservation-partner people's organizations in 2022 involved the formulation of Operational Manual Framework to improve governance and performance in conservation, organizational framework and systems, enterprise and asset management, and partnership building. It will help guide the groups in consistent and systematic decision-making processes and more efficient conflict resolution in the years to come. MFI's partner people's organization in Brgy. Ilag, in the municipality of San Teodoro was recognized as one of the top performing community organization in the Province of Oriental Mindoro during the 2022 Local Tourism Stakeholders Excellence Award. This annual recognition is the Provincial Government's way of honoring community organizations who are active in the development of tourism, culture, and art in the province.

MFI’s regular support for enforcement strengthening is continuous: insurance and rice incentives for some 300 active volunteer bantay dagats (sea rangers) and national park rangers. When opportunity arises, sessions for capacity-building are also held in partnership with agencies such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to ensure proper enforcement standards are maintained and to cover instances of turn-over of rangers. The ranger station in Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape was also turned over in June 2022 together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Protected Area Office.



ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

In 2022, we kicked off in Batangas and Oriental Mindoro species inventory of all MPAs and marine management zones covered in the conservation program. Preliminary results (see Table 1) indicate that all MFI focal MPAs have breached the overfished status having High to Very High fish biomass ranging from 21.4 mtons/km² to 133.8 mtons/km², with one outlier site, the Baco MPA, having a biomass estimate of 235.7 mtons/km². The survey site within Baco MPA is categorized as an artificial reef with the sunken old town center of Baco serving as its main substrate which provides a fish aggregating effect thus the extremely high fish biomass estimate.

Overfished reefs are known to have low fish biomass of only less than 5 mtons/km² (Nanola et al. 2006). Some 608 species belonging to 52 families of reef-associated fishes were identified in 189 transect sites covering 16 MPAs from Brgy. San Agapito in Batangas City down to the southernmost site in Brgy. Maasin, Bulalacao Oriental Mindoro, and critical reef areas within the Puerto Galera Man and Biosphere Reserve.

	Balatasan	Maasin	Agsalin	Sta. Theresa	Pili	Ginapangan	Simburio	Ranzo	Calima	Putting Cacao	Misong	Baco	Bulaso	P. Ilag	Verde Is.
#transect (n)	8	6	6	2	6	4	4	6	6	8	8	1	2	2	18
Species richness (Total)															
Species	176	230	242	102	185	219	228	223	174	247	194	101	92	193	284
Family	36	39	41	27	33	33	36	37	35	36	33	27	28	36	43
Abundance (Individ./500m ²)															
Abundance category	M	M	H	P	M	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	P	M	H
Target species	46	172	189	70	87	74	103	112	110	96	84	142	96	248	375
Coral indicator species	26	15	20	3	13	18	15	21	18	16	18	13	26	40	40
Major species	390	302	1157	198	604	544	735	971	519	625	541	726	107	362	1251
Total	461	488	1366	270	704	636	852	1104	647	737	643	881	229	650	1665
Biomass (mtons/Km ²)															
Biomass category	H	VH	VH	H	H	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	H	VH	VH
Target species	11.1	58.0	85.7	16.7	29.3	34.5	47.6	63.6	39.9	36.5	32.3	132.4	19.8	106.7	65.4
Coral indicator species	2.0	2.2	5.9	0.3	1.2	2.4	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.4	3.2	1.7	3.6	6.8	5.0
Major species	8.2	8.5	28.9	6.4	5.8	5.9	12.0	18.8	7.4	9.9	8.9	101.6	4.9	20.3	25.3
Total	21.4	68.7	120.6	23.4	36.4	42.7	62.3	84.8	50.3	48.8	44.4	235.7	28.2	133.8	95.7

Legend: P= Poor, M= Medium/Moderate, H= High, VH= Very high

Table 1. Hard coral cover (%), reef fish species richness, Abundance and biomass of fifteen (15) marine protected areas from seven municipalities in Oriental Mindoro. Note: P=poor, F=fair, L=low, M=medium/moderate, H=high and VH=Very high.

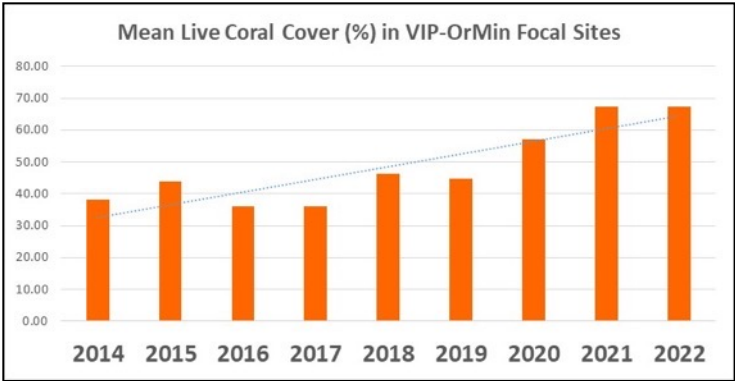
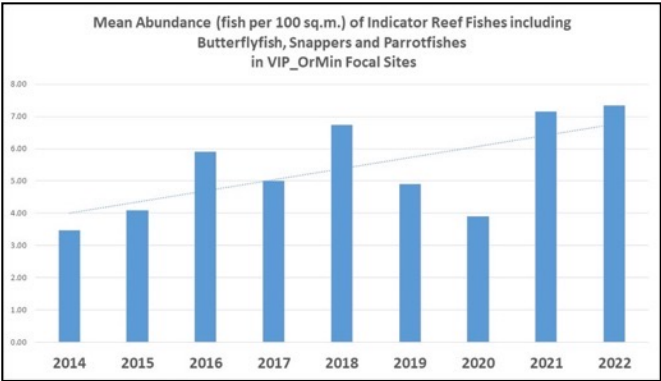
Category	Biomass in mt/km ²
VERY LOW	< 5
LOW	6 – 10
MEDIUM	11 – 20
HIGH	21 – 40
VERY HIGH	> 41

Results of reef monitoring in the Verde Island Passage (VIP) and south Oriental Mindoro sites (see figure 1) show encouraging recovery in the abundance of target reef fishes by 112% from 2014 to 2022 which is evidence that the MPAs are biologically functional as a result of effective management by conservation partners. In north Palawan, post-Haiyan (Yolanda) baseline (2014) still indicates a 35% increase in fish abundance by end-2022, despite a 3% drop from 2021-2022 (see figure 3).

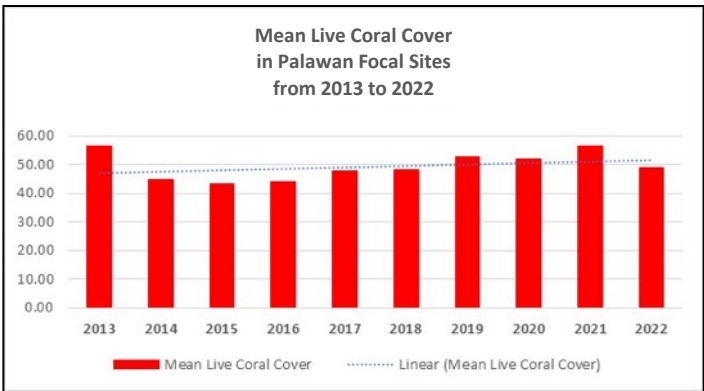
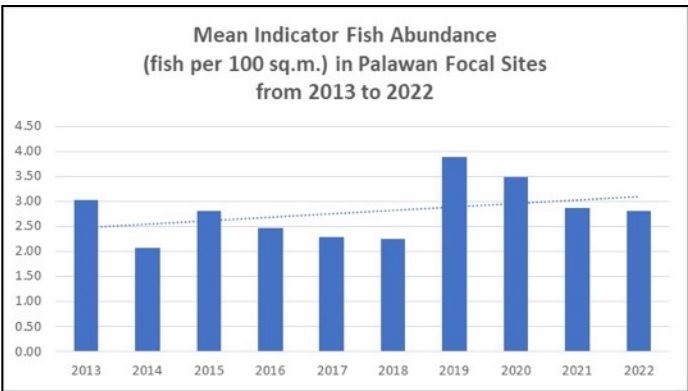


Ecological monitoring is regularly undertaken twice a year in MFI's conservation sites.

Live hard coral cover in the VIP and south Oriental Mindoro sites (see figure 2) also demonstrate 77% improvement from 2014-2022, contrary to the negative national trend. In Palawan, post-Haiyan recovery of live coral stood at 9% from 2014-2022 (see figure 4). Some Palawan monitoring stations suffered outbreak of crown-of-thorns infestations in 2022 and completely inundated previously-thriving coral communities, specifically in the waters of Linapacan.



Figures 1 and 2. Shows mean abundance of indicator reef fishes and mean live coral cover in the Verde Island Passage and rest of Oriental Mindoro focal conservation sites.



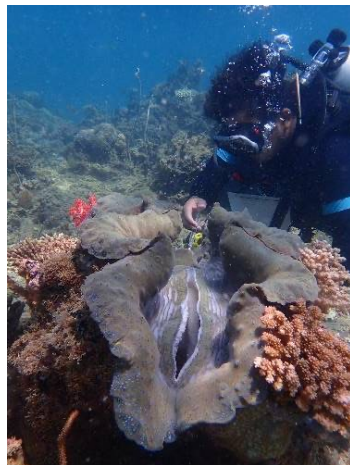
Figures 3 and 4. Shows mean abundance of indicator reef fishes and mean live coral cover in the north Palawan focal conservation sites.

The major improvements in the Oriental Mindoro fish indicator species and hard coral cover may also be attributed to the successful seasonal closures which commenced in 2017 and has completed six cycles by end-2022.

ECOLOGICAL REHABILITATION

Planting of mangroves, beach-forest and watershed species continued to be undertaken in 2022 by community members supported by MFI, with total number of trees planted reaching 17,654 in all sites. The seedlings and propagules are sourced in the planting areas and nurtured by the community until ready for out-planting.

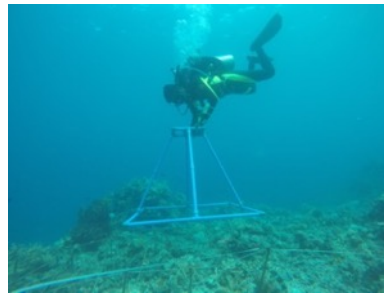
Under the String-of-Pearls project, some 600 new Philippines' true giant clam *Tridacna gigas* and 6,000 abalone were produced and restocked in ocean nurseries in west Taytay, Linapacan and Coron sites. The largest ocean nursery is located in outer Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape with 26 cages stocked with grown clams ranging from 6-10 inches in length. In-situ spawning of the locally-extinct native *Tridacna gigas* was undertaken in June 2022 at Honday Bay in Puerto Princesa, Palawan yielding some 600 juveniles. Hatchery-bred giant clam species *Tridacna crocea*, *maxima* and *noae* were added in 2022.



(Upper row): Planting of watershed, beach forest and mangrove tree species on the coastlines is part of the partner communities' commitment under the conservation agreement.

(Lower left and right): Spawning, propagation and restocking of invertebrate shell species such as the Philippines' true native giant clam *Tridacna gigas*, among others, is continuous within well-managed marine protected areas.

The coral rehabilitation research which started in mid-2020 in select blasted reef areas in El Nido, Linapacan and Coron showed survival rates ranging from 29% (Coron) to over 50% (El Nido and Linapacan). The research project is being conducted in partnership with Western Philippines University.



High survival rates of corals of opportunities continue to be high over blasted reef sites.

In 2022, Crown-of-Thorns (COTs) infestations were experienced in El Nido, Linapacan, Polam Pinamalyan, and Gloria reefs, with over 18,000 extracted through MFI-supported COTs clean-ups with various partners from the local government and private sector. At least four (4) size classes which may represent generations of COTs, were collected. These size classes possibly represent less than 1 year old, more than 1 year old, over 2 years old, and possibly much older megaspawner individuals. The collection of COTs helped ease its impact of infestation on coral reefs within the focal MPA sites of MFI.

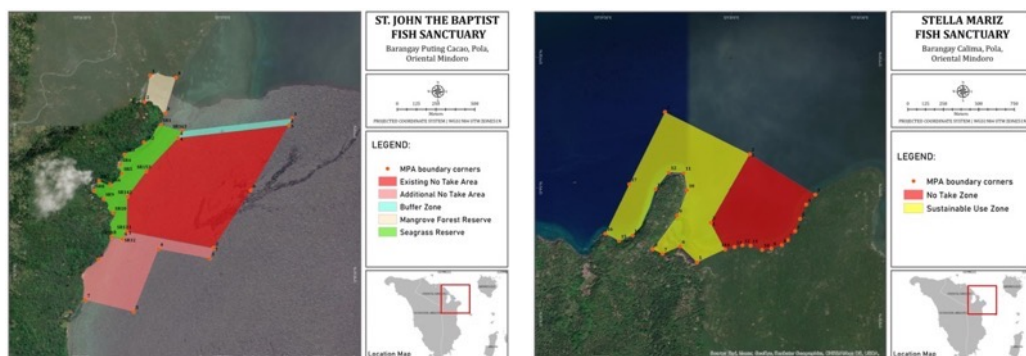
Before the end of 2022, the sixth (6th) cycle of Oriental Mindoro's seasonal closure which runs from November 15 to January 15 started. The fisherfolks and Coastal Resource Management Coordinators of LGUs reported on the increase in the abundance of fish juveniles in their coastal waters. They also reported on the increase in catches of small and large pelagic fish species which benefit marginal fisherfolks. The general perception of marginal fisherfolks and CRM coordinators was the obvious difference in catches during seasonal closure which focuses on the 2-month ban on the use of commercial fishing gears within the Municipal waters.

Sea turtle conservation training in 2018 sponsored by MFI and PGOM PAGO together with DENR heightened the conservation of active turtle nesting beaches in Oriental Mindoro. The recorded nesting incidence was 31 with estimated 3,872 eggs laid. A total of 1,717 Baby Sea Turtles have been released in the coastal waters of Oriental Mindoro from 2017 to 2022.



The seasonal closure in Oriental Mindoro, which has completed six cycles, continues to be successful in increasing juveniles and near-shore fish abundance.

The Municipality of Pola enacted a policy on the expansion of five (5) of their MPAs. Together with the Provincial Agriculture Office of Oriental Mindoro, MFI provided support from field assessments, community consultations, MPA design, and policy synthesis. The MPAs of Bacawan, Song of the Sea, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter the Rock, and Stella Mariz were expanded from an estimated 200 hectares to 489 hectares.



Technical maps of two (2) of the five (5) MPAs expanded in the municipality of Pola in 2022 with full support from MFI.

MFI's active role in grassroots-level conservation work in Verde Island Passage and Northern Palawan paved the way for its selection as NGO representative for the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of Fisheries Management Area (FMA) 5 and as the NGO Alternate Representative for the Management Board (MB) of Fisheries Management Area 12. Both FMAs 5 and 12 straddle a total area of 52,209,100 hectares of Philippine waters with the SAGs and MBs crafting fisheries management measures to ensure the perpetual fisheries productivity based on FAO 263, s.2019 (Establishment of Fisheries Mgt Areas (FMAs) for the conservation and management of fisheries in Philippine waters).

ACCOLADES

MFI is pleased to report that its work in marine biodiversity conservation was recognized internationally and awarded in 2022 a "Best ESC Campaign and Case Study to Prevent/Reduce Marine Pollution" by Unicepta. Similarly, the Bulalacao, Coron MPA was again awarded a "Best Community-Managed Marine Protected Area in Palawan" by the Palawan provincial government under its PEARL Awards.



An international and a local award were earned in 2022 by MFI's marine conservation program.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Among the mission and advocacy of MFI is “helping alleviate poverty one person at a time”, a goal that has been attained many times over through various means since 2007 through the various socio-economic programs of MFI focused on helping out-of-school youths, the unemployed and under-employed adults. The objective is for these sectors to obtain gainful employment through trade skills capacity building, and for fisher families to diversify sources of income through self-employment or social enterprise development.

Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST), a vocational training in industrial skills, has helped 11,225 since 2007. Through the years, MFI has seen employment rates ranging from 80-100% per class that completed the courses and provided NC2 certification (see Table 2). Career progression is evident and has proven to be lucrative especially for those that have been employed internationally.

Year	Location	Number trained	Employment Rate
2022	Palawan	165	93%
2022	Batangas	355	81%
2022	Oriental Mindoro	501	81%

Table 2. Table demonstrates the employment rates of BEST trainees in Palawan, Batangas and Oriental Mindoro for 2022.

Community-based skills trainings Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP) and Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA) supports fisherfolk families’ income diversification efforts by providing alternative means of livelihood via self-employment and entrepreneurship. All finishers of capacity-building trainings are provided starter kits/tools to support the trainees in practicing the trade they learned immediately after the training. Number of SIKAP trainees in 2022 was 156, while for GANDA, 260.



Sewing remains a popular choice of alternative livelihood for women, while scaffolding enjoys high employment rates.

Enterprise for Conservation are biodiversity-friendly social enterprises that support conservation actions of a community from 10-15% of net profits made by the partner people's organization or association from the project. The enterprises are micro only in scale but have the potential to grow and expand if managed properly. Conservation actions supported by enterprise profits range from MPA management, protection and enforcement activities such as fuel for patrolling, coastal clean-ups, maintenance of buoys and markers, allowances for bantay dagats, etc. Net profits from conservation enterprises also go to social causes in the community such as support for indigent students and senior citizens.



Touring boat services and kayak rentals in tourism-g geared locations are run by conservation-partner groups. Food processing is undertaken in areas rich in natural raw materials such as seaweeds in Coron, Palawan and Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

Enterprises supported by MFI range from trading, services, processing and production. Capacity-building, mentoring and monitoring are continuous years following the launch of enterprise projects to increase the communities' chances of success and sustainability. In many cases, MFI provides rehabilitation support to enterprises damaged by natural or man-made calamities that pass through and leave trails of destruction in the last decade.



CONSERVATION ENTERPRISE FEATURE:

THE 'DIVIDENDS' OF HARD WORK

The people of Banilad have learned that it pays to take good care of their environment and their MPA—especially when it's almost Christmas

AT Christmas time, the members of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mangingisda ng Barangay Banilad (SNMBB), the people's organization (PO) in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, can truly feel a celebration in the air. That's because many are able to enjoy a patronage refund from the local mini-grocery, bringing a much-needed year-end windfall. Through the system, store patrons earn points for purchases made throughout the year, including non-members.

"Malakas kami sa gasolina dahil mga mangingisda kami, at may piso kami sa bawa't bote" (We use a lot of gasoline because we're fishermen, and we get a one-peso refund for every bottle), explains SNMBB head Exbert F. Famudulan. Every November 30, the store manager begins checking patrons' records. *"Hindi namin namamalayan na yung piso-piso namin, para kaming nag-alkansya, nakakaipon na rin pala kami at makukuha mo yan na cash o mga grocery items din."* (We didn't realize that with every one peso, it's like a piggy bank, we were able to earn and you can get that in cash or grocery items.)

The store is open to both members and non-members of the PO, although the rates for members are different, explains MFI Community Development Officer Girlie Garcia. *"Pero kahit taga ibang lugar ka, doon ka na bibili dahil sa refund. At pag December, masaya, kakatay sila ng baboy at imbitado lahat."* (But even if you're from a different place, you'll buy there because of the refund. And come December, it's happy, they slaughter a pig and everyone is invited.)



The mini-grocery, built as an output from MFI's carpentry-masonry skills training in 2016, is just one of five enterprise projects managed by SNMBB and brought to the community by the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI). In 2013, MFI signed conservation pacts with fisherfolk organizations in several coastal barangays in eastern Mindoro to boost coastal and marine conservation efforts. The original conservation agreement was signed September 12 with the then Samahan ng Mandaragat ng Banilad, the Banilad Fish Sanctuary Management Council, and the Sangguniang Barangay ng Banilad, *"kaugnay sa pagapatupad ng pangkabuhayan bilang insentibo sa pagpapalakas ng pamamahala ng likas yaman, lalo na ng Banilad Fish Sanctuary ng Barangay Banilad, Bayan ng Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro"* (in relation to providing livelihood as incentive for strengthening the management of natural resources, especially the Banilad Fish Sanctuary of Barangay Banilad, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro).

Fishing community

Livelihood projects were also meant to replace any lost income of those who fished in the sanctuary, which was declared a marine protected area (MPA). The conservation pact was renewed in 2015, witnessed by the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAGO), a partner of MFI in project implementation. SNMBB, meanwhile, was spun off from the original PO, but this time composed of members living near the coast, particularly from Sitio Simborio, a fishing community of some 80 households, thus encouraging more fishermen to join, Garcia says.

The five enterprise projects MFI launched in Banilad were a *bigasan* (rice retail) business, a water system, goat raising (where the provincial government gave counterpart support), *payao* or fish aggregating devices that also serve as boundary markers for the MPA, and the mini grocery. Garcia reveals that from an initial capital of P20,000, the grocery has built up its value to some P400,000, and the patronage refund has become the PO's popular means of *Balik Tangkilik*, or giving back to the community. "*Talagang malaking tulong sa mga tao.*" (It's really a big help to the people.) They also use the "*alkansya*" to save for what they need at the end of the year, like a new kerosene lamp or stove.

For its part, says Banilad Barangay Captain Joelito Perlas, the LGU

helps facilitate livelihood training by providing the training venue, screening possible students, and accommodating the trainers for sessions in such skills as carpentry or masonry. "*Nagtutulungan kami, pero ang laki talaga nung pagbabago dahil sa mga proyektong binigay ng MFI. Pinagkakakitaan hanggang ngayon.*" (We help each other, but the projects MFI gave us have made such a big difference. We are earning from them, until today.)

The "dividends" shared by PO members have also become a powerful incentive for people to do their part for the environment. "*Naging sukat siya ng participation sa conservation activities, at makukuha mo lang yung buong halaga kung 100 percent participation ka sa coastal clean-up, tree-planting. At dapat 100 percent din attendance mo sa monthly meeting. Kung hindi, porsyento lang. Basta dapat laging handa para sa conservation activities*" (It became a measure of participation in conservation activities, and you will only get the full amount if you have 100 percent participation in activities like coastal clean-ups, tree planting. And you should have 100 percent attendance in monthly meetings. If not, you just get a percentage. You always have to be ready for conservation activities.)





Active PO

The success of conservation enterprises in Banilad may be credited directly to SNMBB, one of the most active POs in MFI's focal sites in terms of conservation and organizational initiatives, formed by the residents of Sitio Simborio who united to look after the MPA when MFI nearly cancelled the partnership in 2014 due to non-performance. The MFI reports that the PO is consistent in regular meetings, MPA patrolling, coastal clean-ups, and beach forest and watershed rehabilitation, and in paying their monthly organization dues.

"Masipag sila mag-meeting, at mas madalas pa nga sa monthly schedule yung paglinis sa coastal area" (They're diligent about meetings, and they even do coastal clean-ups more often than the monthly schedule), says Garcia. *"Yung mga project na nabigay sa kanila, yun talaga yung kailangan nila. May feasibility studies, kaya napagaralan na ito ay kikita. May dispilina ang mga members, may pakinabang, nagpapagod."* (The projects that were given them were what they really needed. There were feasibility studies, and it was determined that they would earn. The members have discipline, are productive, and they work hard.)

They also have the initiative, Famudulan says; in order to facilitate tree-planting, the barangay established its own nursery for fruit trees to be replanted. Famudulan further notes that the enthusiasm comes

from seeing the benefits of conserving their MPA. In 2018, MFI and the provincial government financed an MPA volunteer Bantay Dagat station, built by the actual graduates of carpentry and masonry training in the community.

The increase in fish populations has been dramatic and life-changing, Famudulan concludes. *"Mula noong magkaroon ng MPA, dumami ng mga 200-300 percent yung mga coral at isda. Dati dinarayon kami ng mga illegal, may compressor, may mga lambat na three-ply at nakakasira. Nababantayan na namin. Gumaganda ang buhay; kahit mangingisda lang kami, yung mga bahay dito, simple lang pero pinturado, gawa sa plywood.* (Since the MPA was established, the coral and fish have increased by 200-300 percent. We used to be the destination of illegal fisherman, who had compressors and three-ply nets that did a lot of damage. We can watch over the MPA now. Life is getting better; even if we are just fishermen, the houses here are simple, but painted and made of plywood.)

"Nakikiisa and mga tao sa hangarin namin na pagandahin ang barangay. Katuwang kami ng barangay sa kaunlaran." (The people are one in the desire to make the barangay beautiful. We are the barangay's partners in progress.)

PUNLANG KATUTUBO NURSERY

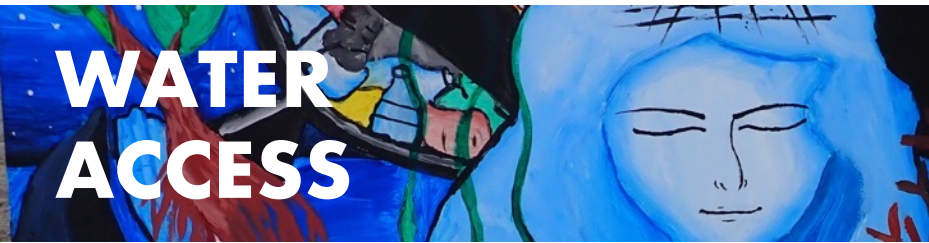
PUNLANG KATUTUBO NATIVE TREES NURSERY is MFI's contribution to helping save critically-endangered, endangered and endemic tree species of the Philippines.

Located in Batangas City, the nursery has propagated 32 indigenous/native tree species that are important to the country since starting in July 2019. In 2022, some 14,230 new seedlings were produced with more than 7,600 deployed for reforestation efforts and urban green-scaping. Over 40,000 new seedlings have been grown from seeds since starting operations. Partner organizations and local governments support the planting of the native seedlings in different parts of Batangas province.



Above: A Balai Lamok seedling blooms; Top right: A row of Salinggogon seedlings; Middle right: A tree planting activity with partners at Bgy Tabangai Ambulong; Bottom right: MFI shares knowledge on urban gardening with neighboring schools and residents of the nursery.





PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO BUILD OR REHABILITATE community water systems is a marine biodiversity conservation incentive to MFI’s conservation-partner communities that have performed well in managing their marine protected areas (MPAs) and have persevered despite challenges.

From 2017-2022, MFI completed six (6) community water systems benefitting a total of 616 households. These are in Linapacan, Coron, El Nido, Pinamalayan and Baco. The first to be completed in 2017 is the Lajala, Coron solar-powered water system benefitting mostly the indigenous peoples of the island, followed by Pical island in Linapacan, El Nido and three communities in Oriental Mindoro (Baco and Pinamalayan).

The availability of flowing water even from modestly-built community water system is a source of happiness for communities who have struggled for years with water supply. First water flow is usually a day of celebration, marked with tears of joy from the residents.



Year Est	Location	Number of beneficiary households
2017	Lajala, Coron	38
2019	Pical, Linapacan	245
2019	Villa Libertad, El Nido	10
2021	Banilad, Pinamalayan	100
2021	Pili, Pinamalayan	161
2021	San Andres, Baco	62

Table 3. Table shows location of conservation-partner communities incentivised with water systems and number of beneficiary households.

Residents of Barangay Banilad in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, who were first skeptical about the water project, celebrate first flow of water tapped from nearly seven kilometers away, ending decades of hardship.



WATER ACCESS FEATURE:

WHEN WATER FINALLY FLOWED

A conservation incentive in the barangays of Banilad and Pili in Oriental Mindoro has brought running water to these communities for the very first time in their history

THE people of Banilad, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro must have felt like they won the lottery in March 2019: for the very first time in their lives, the community could finally experience the life-giving boon of running water.

Eddie Fegalan was head of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mangingisda ng Barangay Banilad (SNMBB), the people's organization (PO) composed of fishermen from the coastal area, from 2014 to March 2021, during which time this milestone event took place. He recalls how they let the water run through the hoses for a few hours to rid of the system of impurities, but people were already lining up by the faucet in anticipation. *"Lahat may kanya-kanyang palanggana at balde, naghihintay, kanya-kanyang ligo. Hindi makapaniwala yung mga tao na nabiyayaan kami nito."* (Everyone had their basins and buckets, waiting, taking a bath. They couldn't believe we had been blessed like this.)

"Pati yung mga senior citizen dito, mga kapitbahay, naging parang mga bata na nagtatampisaw sa tubig" (Even the senior citizens and neighbors here became like children, splashing around in the water), says Exbert Famudulan, who succeeded Fegalan as SNMBB head.

"Yung unang nagpatulo ng tubig," adds MFI Community Development Officer Girlie Garcia, *"yung isang nanay na 71 years old, mangiyak-ngiyak sa pasasalamat."* (When the water first began to flow, one 71-year-old mother was almost in tears with gratitude.)

Meanwhile, Gilbert Senio, Barangay Captain of Pili, also in Pinamalayan, is elated that his community's own water system, part of the same network, is now completed. *"Giginhawa talaga yung buhay pag may tubig. Hindi ka na maaabala, hindi katulad dati na hindi ka makagalaw kasi wala pang tubig. Salamat sa MFI."* (Life will really be easier with water. You won't be inconvenienced anymore, not like before, when you couldn't move because the water had not yet arrived. Thanks to MFI.)

MFI is the Malampaya Foundation Inc., which funded the water system for the two neighboring conservation partner communities as an enterprise incentive, after a job well done in taking care of their respective marine protected areas (MPAs). MFI signed a conservation agreement earlier, in 2013, with Banilad's PO, SNMBB, along with the Banilad Fish Sanctuary Management Council and the Sangguniang Barangay ng Banilad, to safeguard the Banilad Fish Sanctuary. In 2019, the conservation agreement in Pili followed, signed by MFI, the local PO, the Samahan sa Barangay Pili para sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan (SBPPK), as well as the Pili Fish Sanctuary Management Council and the Pamahalaang Barangay ng Pili.



Environment-friendly initiative

A plaque unveiled in Banilad during the February 18 inauguration reads thus: “The Banilad Water System Improvement Project was built out of a community-based marine biodiversity conservation partnership with the community organization, the Barangay Local Government Unit of Banilad, the LGU (local government unit) of Pinamalayan, the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, and MFI. This project provides a venue for a collaborative, environment-friendly initiative linked to the basic needs of the community, while performing their roles as environment stewards to enforce and manage their community’s MPA and the wider area of the VIP to reduce external threats and IUU fishing practices, help the marine ecosystem regenerate, and recover and maintain its biological productivity for future generations.”

The VIP is the Verde Island Passage, where a conservation program is in place for Mindoro and Batangas under MFI’s broader Marine Biodiversity Conservation Program. IUU, meanwhile, refers to the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices that have plagued these waters for years—that is, before MPAs were established, with the POs and local governments leading the way.

With fish productivity increasing because of the safeguarded sanctuaries, the local POs asked MFI for livelihood options, and water became a priority as both a basic need and an additional income source. “Sabi nila, kahit humina yung ibang business, hindi hihina yung tubig kasi kailangan talaga ng tao” (They said, even if the other businesses slowed down, the water enterprise wouldn’t because people really need it), says Garcia.

Effective MPA management, in fact, became a prerequisite of sorts to this livelihood incentive. “Ginawang challenge sa amin ng Malampaya ang MPA” (Malampaya treated the MPA as a challenge for us), says Fegalan, a

fisherman who also helps guard the sanctuary. “*Ilang taon din namin naalagaan yan, at may awareness na kami, kaya nabigay yung patubig.*” (We took care of it for years, and we now have awareness, so we got the water project.)

The water enterprise will be managed by the local PO, which will charge fees based on each household’s consumption—thus, the immediate goal is to install water meters in each home. Some 75 percent of households in Banilad, for example, already have faucets with running water, but until meters are installed and become fully operational, residents are paying a monthly flat fee of P50 to SNMBB for now—with 10 percent of the total income going back to MPA conservation and maintenance.



Invested

Before the water flowed, residents of both barangays had to walk a considerable distance to get water; for the people of Banilad, the nearest source was 3.5 km away. “*Ginastusan talaga ng Malampaya*” (Malampaya really invested in it), says Garcia. “*Hinanap yung source sa malayo na bundok, pero malakas, binaba sa community, at sila na ang nagtuloy. Yung mga tao na ang nagdagdag ng mga tanke, galing sa income nila sa ibang enterprise. Yung iba na may personal na tanke ay nag share din. Sa community na galing ang mga improvement.*” (They found the source far up in the mountains, but a strong source, and brought the water down to the community, which continued the work. The people added water tanks, using their income from other enterprises. Those with personal tanks shared its use with others. The improvements came from the community.)

"Meron engineer ng MFI na nakatutok dito," recounts Banilad Barangay Captain Joelito Perlas.

"Umakyat sa pinanggagalingan ng tubig sa kabundukan, mga 7 km ang layo. Manpower yung kontribusyon namin, tumutulong, naghahakot ng buhangin at semento. Materyales ang galing sa kanila." (An MFI engineer supervised it. They went up to the water source in the mountains, about 7 km away. We contributed the manpower, we helped, we carried the sand and the cement. The materials came from them.)

The work took between two and three months, community leaders estimate, but the people did the work willingly.

"Noong natuloy na yan, ako pa ang minamadali ng mga tao mag-meeting, kasi matinding pangangailangan talaga" (When that pushed through, people would hurry me up about setting meetings because it was really an urgent need), Fegalan recalls with a laugh. *"Bata, matanda, lahat tumulong."* (Young, old, they all helped.) Fegalan even solicited food contributions like rice and fish to feed the willing workers.

"Bayanihan kami," says Famudulan. *"Sa hrap ng tubig, kung minsan umaasa lang kami dati sa buhos ng ulan para makasahod ng inumin. Pag inabot ng Cuaresma, mahabang pagtitiis. Hindi pa ako ipinapanganak, ganyan na yan, wala pa sa history namin na nagkaroon ng tubig."* (We did it bayanihan style. With the scarcity of water, we used to just rely on rainfall to collect drinking water. During Lent, it was a lot of suffering. Even before I was born, that was already the way it was, never in our history did we have water.)

Tree-planting

Famudulan estimates some 80 rolls of heavy-duty hoses were buried in the ground to transport the water, and the PO even carried out tree-planting activities near the source to further protect the watershed.

Things have gotten so much better in Banilad, in fact, Garcia reports, that Sitio Palong, a small farming community of some 30 households that had been virtually abandoned because of the lack of water, was now seeing the return of its former residents. Finally, the corn and root crops they plant no longer have to die from lack of irrigation.

In Pili, meanwhile, an existing water system had been installed by the local government, but the source was neither consistent nor abundant, many pipes were leaking, and the area where most of the PO members lived, Sitio Lower Bungol, still needed to be serviced.

There's an additional, important reason why individual meters are essential, however, says Maria Erlinda Palermo, head of Pili's PO, the SBPPK. *"Kailangan ng contador sa bawat household para magkaroon ng responsibility ang mga tao na ingatan ang mga gripo, para hindi masayang ang tubig. Sa ngayon, maraming hindi marungong mag-control; kahit may tagas, hindi inaayos. Pag nagbabayad na sila, magiging disiplinado din sa gamit."* (We need a meter in each household so people develop the responsibility of taking care of their faucets, so the water is not wasted. For now, many don't know how to control; even if there's a leak, they don't fix it. When they're already paying for the water, they will be more disciplined in using it.)

Senio can only be grateful that, after all the help MFI has extended for Pili's MPA, the organization is also giving the priceless gift of water to their barangay. *"Ang dami na nilang tulong—sa Bantay Dagat, kahit sa simpleng lubid at buya at pagpapagawa ng banca, pati na sa bigas. Tapos ngayon, pagbukas ng gripo, may lalabas pa na tubig."* (They have helped us so much—with the Bantay Dagat, even with simple lines and buoys and fixing our boats, even in giving us rice. And now, when we open our faucets, water will also come out.)



The Malampaya Clinical Laboratory in Batangas City offers level 2 diagnostic laboratory tests and twice-weekly free doctor services to fence-line communities of the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant. Opened in March 2016, the clinical lab is operated in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross – Batangas Chapter.

The clinical laboratory continues to service nearby communities for check-ups with a medical doctor and low-priced diagnostic laboratory services. The laboratory likewise provides mobile extraction services for patients who are unable to travel to the clinic.

A medical mission was held in 2022 at Barangay Cuta in Batangas city reaching 147 residents of the community.



Particulars	Service count
Clinical Laboratory	745
Doctor’s consultation	679
Medical mission	147

Table 4. Table shows service counts for lab services, doctor consultations and medical mission in 2022.



Top: The Malampaya clinic is a level 2 clinical laboratory in partnership with Philippine Red Cross-Batangas Chapter. Bottom: A medical mission in Barangay Cuta.

CALAMITY ASSISTANCE

In 2022, MFI provided rehabilitation support to partners affected by severe tropical storm Paeng that passed Luzon in late October. The storm brought with it heavy habagat rains that destroyed homes, boats and conservation infrastructures.

Materials for marine protected area buoys and markers and some enterprise facilities were provided to conservation-partner communities in Oriental Mindoro and Batangas to replace lost and damaged ones. In Palawan, support materials were likewise given to active conservation partner members for destroyed homes and boats.



Top: Materials for a Tagbanua family's damaged home in Coron is delivered. Bottom: Materials to replace lost or damaged MPA buoys and markers was provided in Batangas and Oriental Mindoro conservation sites.

