

# PCSD Updates

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

*INTRODUCING SID: For the first time, the new face of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development was out in the streets of Puerto Princesa, one afternoon of the Subaraw Biodiversity Festival 2019. Children who were dragging their parents' hands to see a closer look at the new and unfamiliar mascot soon learned its name- "Sid" - a name coming from the word "sustainable development".*



## Start of RFF closing season moved to March, PCSD impose stricter conditions for LGUs, traders, catchers

THE CLOSING SEASON for reef-fish-for-food (RFF), which was set to take effect yearly from November 1 to March 31, will be moved to March 1 to May 31 every year, but with corresponding stricter conditions for LGUs,

traders, and catchers.

It can be recalled that PCSD declared last October that it will lift the suspension of the implementation of the closing season for Suno to ensure its sustainable yield, enable reefs to recover and

regulate the unrestricted catching.

However, after a consultation meeting of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). . . (continue to Page 2)



 PCSD News  
**PCSD pushes for inter-LGU management of Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range** p.6

Photo credits: Wild Expeditions Palawan



**CONCIUSNESS WEEK**

**NOV 18 TO 25**



**PCSD News**

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**Start of RFF closing season moved to March; PCSD impose stricter conditions for LGUs, traders, catchers**

## Start of RFF . . . (from page 1 )

with the stakeholders of Suno last Oct. 21 at VJR Hall Palawan Provincial Capitol, the parties agreed on some changes after deliberating the conflict between the socio-economic aspect and the ecological effects if the closing season will proceed every November.

While Suno has the “highest” fecundity or repro-

duction rate from November to February, it also has high demand and high prices in the market from October to March.

Due to this, the parties agreed to move the closing season to March 1 to May 31, considering that Suno also reproduces in April and May but at a slower rate compared to the months covered in the previous closing season schedule.

To compensate for the said changes, and as a condition by the PCSD, the LGUs and Suno catchers and traders signed a manifesto last Nov. 8 that binds them to perform specific duties and obligations in ensuring the conservation and sustainability of Suno.

Meanwhile, the PCSD maintains the size restriction of 32 cm to 47.5 cm.

The Manifesto contains the following agreement:

### LGUs’ Obligations and Responsibilities

- 1.) Establish 30 percent of their respective municipal waters as Marine Protected Area (MPA), where 10 percent shall be designated as a sanctuary, and formulate MPA management plan, MPA management board, and other related activities;
- 2.) Impose fees for RFF sourced within their respective



Suno traders and sellers met with the PCSD in a consultatio meeting last Oct. 21.



The League of Mayors in Palawan reviews the conditions set before signing in the Manifesto, last Nov. 8 at VJR Hall.

municipal territory, the proceeds from which shall be utilized for municipal-based enforcement activities related to the protection of RFF species and their habitat through local coastal/marine enforcement (Bantay Dagat) in close coordination or jointly with ECAN Board Enforcement Committees; Police members of RFF industry against violations of laws, rules and regulation, or acts that are damaging to the coastal/marine environment;

3.) Enact an ordinance creating the local coastal/marine enforcement (Bantay Dagat) with a specific provision therein that the latter shall form part of the ECAN Board Enforcement Committee and of the Palawan Environmental Enforcement Network (PalawEEN) being organized by the PCSD as part the whole of government

approach in order to increase integration, capacity and coordination among stakeholders against environmental crimes; Refrain from buying RFF species caught through the use of cyanide or other illegal means;

4.) Support the PCSD in the implementation of total prohibition of “trade” involving wild-caught “suno” during the close season, including those from cages (except for hatchery-bred species from facilities with corresponding Wildlife Farm Permit);

5.) Enact an ordinance banning the use of compressors for fishing activities, including the catching of RFF species, where the penalties shall include the forfeiture of bancas or motorboats where such compressors are found;

6.) Enact an ordinance regulating the construction of cages in their respective municipal waters through the issuance of Water Lease Agreement or other equivalent permit, which will be made as part of the requirements prior to issuance by the PCSD of Wildlife Special Use Permit for those engaged in caging of RFF species;

7.) Support the PCSD in the organization of RFF industry traders and collectors into geographical sectors for purposes of rehabilitation and protection of the coastal environment; and

8.) Support the PCSD in implementing not only the seasonal control under Administrative Order No. 05 but also other regulatory mechanisms established therein, such as size restriction from 32



*RFF traders and catchers review the terms and conditions in the RFF Manifesto right after it was signed by concerned parties. Photo taken last Nov. 8 at VJR Hall.*

to 47.5 cm.

### **RFF Traders and Catchers’ Obligations and Responsibilities**

The members of associations of traders and catchers for RFF industry also undertake to:

1.) Support the establishment of 30% of municipal waters as MPA and actively participate in the formulation of MPA management plan, MPA management board, and other related activities;

2.) Support the imposition of LGU-based fee system for RFF industry by the municipal governments, to generate income

for the protection of RFF species and their habitat;

3.) Police members in RFF industry against violations of laws, rules and regulations or commissions of acts that are detrimental to the coastal/marine environment and for other rehabilitation initiatives.

4.) Refrain from “trading wild-caught suno” during the close season, including those from cages (except for hatchery-bred species from facilities with corresponding Wildlife Farm Permit);

5.) Refrain from buying RFF species caught through the use of cyanide or other illegal means;

6.) Refrain from the construction and maintenance of cages in municipal waters without Water Lease Agreement from the appropriate municipal government;

7.) Refrain from the use of compressor for fishing activities, including the catching of RFF species; and,

8.) Support the PCSD in implementing, not only the seasonal control under Administrative Order No. 05 but also other regulatory mechanisms established therein, such as the size restriction from 32 cm to 47.5 cm. 🍃



Republic of the Philippines  
**PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
 (Republic Act No. 7611)

# NATIONAL *Climate Change* CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

19 - 25 NOVEMBER 2019



## SEA LEVEL RISE

“Over the five-year period May 2014 -2019, the rate of global mean sea-level rise has amounted to 5 mm per year, compared with 4 mm per year in the 2007-2016 ten-year period. This is substantially faster than the average rate since 1993 of 3.2 mm/year. The contribution of land ice melt from the world glaciers and the ice sheets has increased over time and now dominate the sea level budget, rather than thermal expansion.”



## OCEAN HEAT AND ACIDITY



“More than 90 % of the excess heat caused by climate change is stored in the oceans. 2018 had the largest ocean heat content values on record measured over the upper 700 meters, with 2017 ranking second and 2015 third.

The ocean absorbs around 30% of the annual anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, thereby helping to alleviate additional warming. The ecological costs to the ocean, however, are high, as the absorbed CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with seawater and changes the acidity of the ocean. There has been an overall increase in acidity of 26% since the beginning of the industrial revolution.”

## SHRINKING ICE

“The Greenland ice sheet has witnessed a considerable acceleration in ice loss since the turn of the millennium.

For 2015-2018, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) reference glaciers indicates an average specific mass change of -908 mm water equivalent per year, higher than in all other five-year periods since 1950.”

Source: World Meteorological Organization. Retrieved from [https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2015-2019-climate-change-accelerates?fbclid=IwAR01-rwuIjfyqrItC7gQaD467VT3nQkcZP1GnnkfsGBt8f44GKr\\_\\_khCwx](https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2015-2019-climate-change-accelerates?fbclid=IwAR01-rwuIjfyqrItC7gQaD467VT3nQkcZP1GnnkfsGBt8f44GKr__khCwx)

## PCSD Staff visits Brgy. Bucana to raise awareness on climate change

In observance of the 12th National Climate Change Consciousness Week from November 19 to 25, the PCSDS ECAN Education and Extension Division held a lecture for coastal communities in Brgy. Bucana on the science of climate change and its effects on their daily lives, held last Nov. 21.

The activity also became a venue to discuss environmental issues concerning locals living in the coasts were discussed such as wildlife trafficking, mangrove cutting, and plastic pollution.

The National Climate Change Consciousness Week is declared in pursuant to Proclamation No. 1667 to unite

and engage people in climate actions and raise awareness on the immediate threats of the extreme changes in the world’s temperature.

In a report by the World’s Meteorological Organization, the greenhouse gases continue to increase in the atmosphere to new records. It says that carbon dioxide growth rates nearly 20 percent higher in 2015-2019 compared to the previous five years. If this continues, the Philippines-being geographically prone to natural hazards- will suffer stronger impacts of climate change including sea-level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperature, and extreme rainfall. 🍃





PCSD News

## PCSD pushes for inter-LGU management of Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range

Photo credits: Wild Expeditions Palawan

TO PROVIDE SPECIAL protection for the Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range (VAMR), the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is pushing for joint management and governance of the Local Government Units (LGUs) that have jurisdiction over it.

VAMR, which has a total land area of 164,789 hectares, straddles 31 barangays in Puerto Princesa City, Aborlan, Narra, and Quezon. Though studies show that it holds astounding biodiversity of unique species and widely-intact ecosystem, it still has no defined management framework and is continually threatened with conservation issues such as illegal logging and wildlife poaching.

PCSD believes that inter-LGU management and agreement will effectively mobilize the protection and development needed by VAMR, founded in

Article III Section 33 of the Republic Act 7160 that states LGUs may group themselves for purposes commonly beneficial to them through appropriate ordinances.

The proposed agreement will create an autonomous and independent body known as Victoria-Anepahan Mountain Range Management and Planning Board (VAMR-MPB), composed of the chief executives of concerned LGUs and representatives from PCSDs, DENR, NGO/CSO, Academe, and chairperson of its Technical Committee.

In order for the Memorandum-of-Agreement (MOA) for VAMR to be finalized and signed, the respective Sanggunian of four LGUs must first draft their respective resolution authorizing their mayors to enter into the said MOA.

The Provincial and City Department of Interior and Local Government and PCSDs are looking forward to facilitating the inter-LGU MOA signing this coming December 18.

The initiative for VAMR's protection, conservation, and sustainable management started in 2015 by the VAMR Technical Working Group composed of representatives from PCSD Staff, Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc., IDEAS, Western Philippine University, NTFP, and DENR-PENRO. 🍃

THE PCSD AND ITS STAFF JOINS IN THE CELEBRATION OF

# Subaraw Biodiversity Festival 2019

The Subaraw Biodiversity Festival is celebrated in Puerto Princesa City every year to commemorate the declaration of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) as one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature” in the year 2011.

“Subaraw” comes from the word “suba” (river) and “taraw” (limestone cliff) that makes up the underground river distinct not just for its natural beauty but also for the unique and very important biodiversity it holds.

## FLIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES

In partnership with PCSD Staff, elementary students lit up the streets of Puerto Princesa using flashlights that symbolizes the presence of fireflies in PPSRNP. Fireflies are often associated with peace and tranquility. Some of the values locals wish to keep in PPSRNP despite its long years of fame among tourists.

## GRAND PARADE and FLOAT COMPETITION

Crowds were cheering for PCSD's newest Sustainable Development Ambassador, “Sid.” Sid was introduced to the public for the first time during the festival's Grand Parade and Float Competition.

## BIODIVERSITY PHOTO EXHIBIT

Public and private environmental organizations displayed photos and informative graphics on Palawan wildlife in an exhibit that runs for a week.

## KATALA FESTIVAL

As Puerto Princesa City and the Philippines celebrates Palawan's biodiversity, the Katala Festival was also being held. A runway showcasing Palawan endemics was organized by the Katala Foundation Inc.





**GET THE UPDATES, LIVE!**  
 TUNE IN TO THE PCSD RADIO PROGRAM  
 9:00- 10:00 AM, EVERY TUESDAY - RADIO MO NATIONWIDE!

**103.9** PUERTO PRINCESA  
**103.1** QUEZON **113.4** ROXAS  
**103.7** BROOKE'S POINT **79.2** NARRA



References:  
 Press Release from the Department of Agriculture  
 DA-BFAR MIMAROPA

A possible indication of stock recovery for galunggong was observed after four years of implementing the closed fishing season in the Northeastern Palawan.

Based on NSAP MIMAROPA and Western Visayas Data, an

increasing trend on the annual catch of galunggong from 2016-2019 was observed in the management area.

An increase in the maturity size from 17.85 cm (2015-2016) to 18.74 cm (2018-2019) was also recorded. Likewise, an increasing

catch trend of large pelagics (such as yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, marlins, and mackerels) from 2016 to 2018 was observed.

Reports from Law Enforcement Sub-group also show high compliance and support from the industry as evidenced by the decreased number of boats monitored in the management area, from 828 boats in 2015-2016, to 221 boats in 2018-2019.

On the other hand, the Livelihood Sub-Group reported assistance to a total of 1,302 affected fisherfolks in Cuyo, Roxas, Araceli, and Dumaran amounting to about P5M.

DA-BFAR and DILG announced last Oct. 29 the 5th year implementation of the closing fishing season for galunggong in waters of Northeastern Palawan, prohibiting commercial fishing activities starting Nov. 1, 2019 to Jan. 31, 2020.

This management plan is sustained by BFAR, DILG, Provincial Fisherfolk of Palawan, WWF-Philippines, WPU, PCG Palawan, PNP-Maritime, PSA, PDFA, DA, DSWD, DOLE, DTI, PCSD, and Provincial Agriculture Office.



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