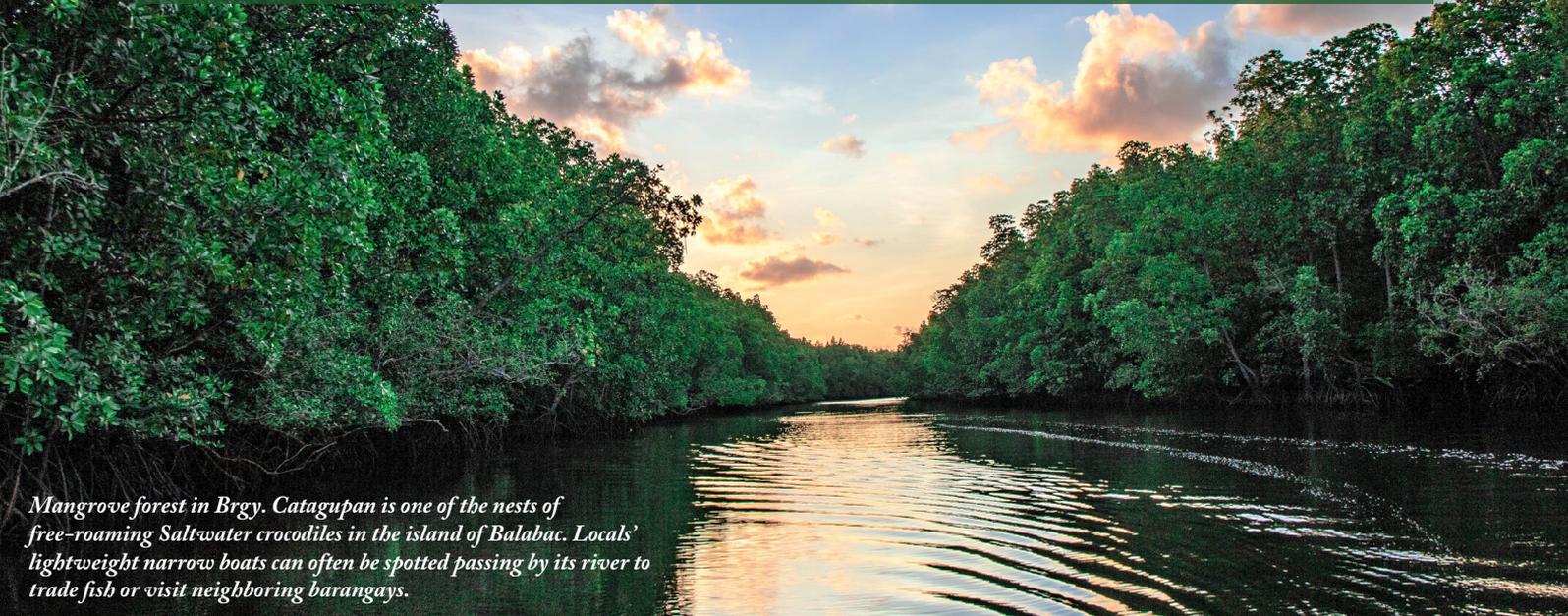


PCSD UPDATES

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development



Mangrove forest in Brgy. Catagupan is one of the nests of free-roaming Saltwater crocodiles in the island of Balabac. Locals' lightweight narrow boats can often be spotted passing by its river to trade fish or visit neighboring barangays.

Action plan for Balabac's crocs, initiated

AFTER THREE DAYS of workshop to resolve the conflict between the crocodiles and the residents of Balabac, stakeholders were able to determine short and long-term solutions that will be consolidated by Palawan Council

for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) into a concrete action plan. The participatory consultation and planning workshop held by PCSDS and USAID Protect Wildlife last April 22 to 24 at Publacion, Balabac, convened 200 representatives

from the public and private sectors of Balabac to address the issue of human-crocodile conflict. Balabac island has one of the densest populations of saltwater crocodile in the country . . . (continue to p. 4)



Photo of caged Palawan mynahs confiscated by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Enforcement Team

Over 100 Palawan mynas seized from poacher (p.7)

Check inside:

- Balabac plans to save Pilandok (p. 5)*
- LGUs trained to use new digital tools for planning (p.2)*
- Teachers, to teach Environmental Education in schools (p.6)*
- PCSDS trains wildlife law enforcers for Cleopatra's Needle (p.6)*
- Palawan Knowledge Platform welcomes 3 new members (p.8)*
- PNS students rescue sick owlet (p.8)*
- PSDCS's IECs (p.7)*

Cleopatra's Needle. Photo courtesy of Centre for Sustainability.



LGUs train to use new digital tools for planning

OFFICERS FROM 13 local government units in Palawan were trained on how to integrate new digital tools in group discussions and decision makings related to the management of natural resources, last April 1 to April 4 at PCSD Conference Room.

The new digital tools, namely Socio-Ecological App for Mental Model Elicitation (SESAMME) and SYSTORY, are two of the 16 tools provided by an international project called Capturing Coral Reef and Ecosystem Services (CCRES).

Both are digital applications that can be downloaded freely on the Apple App and Google Play stores. PC and Mac versions are also available online at cces.net.

Prof. Marissa Pontillas, one of the tool trainers from Palawa State University (PSU), said,

“SESAMME allows us to map the elements of a system and determine how each element is interrelated to another to give us a better and deeper understanding of how the system behaves or operates.”

According to her, the tool helps users visualize the interaction of the elements in the system, identify solutions, and know how these solutions can affect each component of the system.

The tools were piloted at Selayar, Indonesia and El Nido, Palawan at 2014. Professor Pontillas said that the more a community is alike to El Nido in terms of livelihood and natural resources, the more ideal for it to use the application.

On the other hand, SYSTORY application visually narrates the interaction of humans and coastal ecosystem. It also has an “Experiment” function that enables users to run and simulate actions or interventions and will show its effects to the whole system for the next

20 years.

Pontillas said, “For policy making, we think it is important that we have this application na simple lang at makikita natin, masisimulate natin among possibleng mangyari kapag nagpasok tayo o nagbago ng mga polisiya.”

She shared, “Ang gusto natin ay mas maraming tao ang maka-access. Maipaabot ito, maituro kung paano gamitin... Local communities, policy makers, and teachers.”

CCRES project designed technical tools and knowledge products that assist managers, policy-makers, and planners to improve the management of coastal ecosystems. It is funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and The University of Queensland (UQ), implemented by UQ and World Bank. It is also partnership with Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, PSU, El Nido Foundation, and University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. 🍃

Stepping up focused group discussions among communities



Using the SESAMME tool, an LGU officer drags icons of various natural resources into a map during a Focused Group Discussion simulation activity using SESAMME last April 4 at PCSD Conference Room. A script using SESAMME tool for focused group discussion is available at <https://ccres.net/resources/ccres-tool/sesamme>

Prof. Marissa Pontillas encourages LGU officers to utilize SESAMME and SYSTORY during the first batch of the training workshop on integrating CCRES Systems Tools comes into conclusion. Photo taken last April 2 at PCSD Conference Room.



A facilitator leads the Focused Group Discussion by gathering information from the stakeholders while another person incorporates the details in SESAMME tool. A script using SESAMME tool for focused group discussion is available at <https://ccres.net/resources/ccres-tool/sesamme>





**DOWNLOAD
SESAMME
AND SYSTORY**






SESAMME AND SYSTORY are available for Apple iPhones and iPads at App Store, and at Google Play Store for Android phones





[ccres.net](https://www.c cres.net)

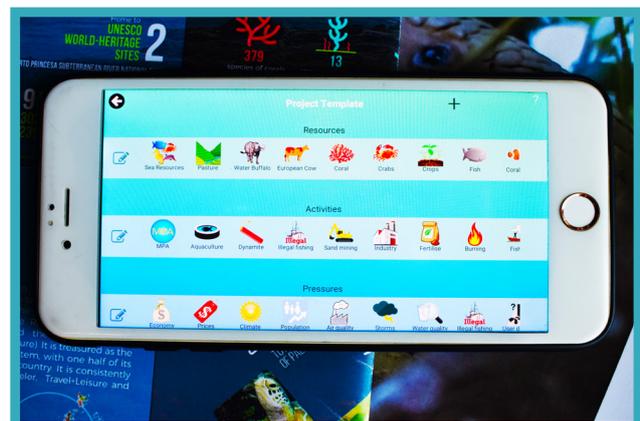
SESAMME AND SYSTORY download links for Windows PC and Apple Mac computers are available at [ccres.net](https://www.c cres.net).



SESAMME

Socio-ecological Systems App for
Mental Model Elicitation

By Russell Richards and Carl Smith



RESOLVING HUMAN-CRODILE CONFLICT AND PROTECTING PHILIPPINE MOUSE-DEER IN BALABAC, PALAWAN

Aerial shot of Balabac bordered with mangrove forests

PCSDS, Balabac... (from p.1)

From year 2000 to 2019, 28 crocodile attacks were recorded by PCSDS, 13 of which occurred in Balabac.

The attacks triggered mixed response not just from the residents of Balabac, but from the whole province. Some demand the removal of these predators, while some opposes. One thing sure is that the conflict must be addressed to protect both the humans and the crocodiles.

To bridge the gap of Science and the incidents, reports related to the study of crocodile were presented by *Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI)* during the workshop,

while PCSDS discussed the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protect Act (RA 9147).

Through the guidance of experts from CPPI, participants were able to identify activities in the island that trigger crocodile attacks. Some of these include the discharging of kitchen wastes directly to the sea, harvesting of mangroves, and tending livestock near the crocodiles' habitat.

After identifying the problems, they proposed corresponding solutions for each of the issues.

PCSDS Planning Development Officer IV Levita Lagrada said, "Basically, the Action Plan is the consolidated solutions proposed by the participants.

"First draft will be finished before May ends. It will then be finalized, and if the Council [Palawan Council for Sustainable Development] approves, it will be endorsed to concerned entities. . ."

She said PCSDS will create working groups who will focus on the implementation of the plans.

The whole planning workshop was in partnership with USAID Protect Wildlife with the cooperation of CPPI, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Tourism Office, Katala Foundation Inc., CPPI, Palawan Wildlife and Conservation Center-DENR, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, PNP Maritime 2nd SOU and the Municipal Government of Balabac.



Secretary to the Council of Balabac Said-Alib K. Sha shares practices Balabac can do to address the human-crocodile conflict.



Rainer Manalo of Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI) helps participants brainstorm short and long term solutions to human-crocodile conflict in Balabac.



Officers and representatives from the academe, Municipality of Balabac, barangays, and Armed Forces of the Philippines joined the participatory consultation and planning workshop to address human-crocodile conflict and conserve Balabac Mouse Deer, held from April 22 to April 24 at Publacion, Balabac.

CHANGED PERSPECTIVE TOWARD CROCODILES

During the workshop, Rainer Manalo taught the nature of crocodiles and their ecological significance.

He mentioned the way of living of Manobo Tribe in Agusan Del Sur, where humans are able to peacefully live in areas inhabited by crocodiles.

Crocodiles help in the fish production, Manalo said. Their movements plow the river beds causing nutrients to arise, thus, feeding the fishes.

He said the Manobo tribe sees crocodiles as an indicator of a healthy fish sanctuary.

Manalo reminded that unauthorized removal of crocodiles in the wild enables the remaining crocodiles in the area to expand territory and grow into larger sizes capable of attacking humans.

The best solution, he said, is to stop the destruction of the crocodiles' habitat.

Before the workshop ended, one of the barangay

officers in Balabac expressed his gratitude for having such event and said, *“Maganda na nagkaroon tayo ng pag-uusap kung ano nga ba ang burwaya, ang sa akin lang, gusto ko sanang malaman pa ito ng labat ng mga tao dito, lalo na yung mga wala dito.”*

Another public officer of the Municipality of Balabac said, *“Ako noon, kayo man, galit sa burwaya. Pero naliwanagan tayo na hindi pala kaaway ang mga burwaya sa mabuting paraan.”* He said he is hundred percent positive that the whole Balabac population will learn to value the crocodiles within 10 years if everyone in the workshop will work together. 🍃

“Ako noon, kayo man, galit sa burwaya. Pero naliwanagan tayo na hindi pala kaaway ang mga burwaya sa mabuting paraan.”

Balabac plans to save Pilandok

During the same planning and consultation workshop to resolve human-crocodile conflict in Balabac last April 22 to 24, participants also gathered as a community to discuss the ways they can commit to halt the population decline of Balabac Mouse Deer or popularly known as *Pilandok*.

Pilandok is endemic in the island of Balabac. It is enlisted by IUCN as Endangered which means that it is highly at risk of being extinct when no concrete actions are taken.

Prof. Christian Supsup of De La Salle University, an expert in the study of Balabac Mouse Deer, shared his knowledge to help the participants develop plans to conserve the Mouse Deer.

Up until now, few is still known about *Pilandok* and studies on its nature and population is still limited.

Prof. Supsup said one of the major contributor to the loss of *Pilandok* is forest degradation. Participants said some residents of Balabac practice slash and burn or *kaingin* and illegal logging.

Participants identified solutions to address the problems which will be consolidated by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) into an action plan.

The said plan will be finalized, proposed to the PCSD and becomes operational once approved. 🍃

PCSDS trains wildlife law enforcers for Cleopatra's Needle

FORTYSTAKEHOLDERSOF Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat were trained to become wildlife enforcement officers (WEO) and volunteers (WEV) for the protection and management of Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH), one of the oldest and most diverse forests in the Philippines.

The training, running from April 1 to April 5 at Bulwagang Puerto Princesa, was led by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and organized and initiated by Centre for Sustainability PH Inc. (SC).

SC is a non-government organization of six young Palawenos who initiated efforts for the declaration of Mt. Cleopatra's Needle as critical habitat in 2016.

According to Republic Act 9147, known as Wildlife Resource and Conservation Protection Act, an area will have additional protection as a critical habitat if it is outside a protected area but serves as habitat to threatened species, considering its endemicity and richness in the area as well as the presence of threats to its survival.

CS Project Officer Robert Arangorin, said CS initiated to hold the event and prepare a set of trained wildlife law enforcers so the working group for CNCH can have a set of reserved

enforcers while the management plan for CNCH is being prepared, thus saving more time.

The training included courses on wildlife handling and enforcing Palawan's special environmental laws such as RA 7611 (Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan), RA 9147, and RA 9175 (Chainsaw Act of 2002).

Twenty-four of the trainees were WEVS who already completed the same training in 2017 and retook it as a refresher. Most of them are part of indigenous communities in CNCH.

Out of the 40 trainees, 16 has passed the exam for WEO. After passing, the candidates must pass all the requirements to PCSDS and take their oaths before the Council.

Arangorin said, "Since declared na ang Cleopatra na critical habitat, kulang ang enforcement sa area kaya nag-tratrain kami ng mga locals para sila na mismo ang magbantay at mangalaga sa CNCH."

He said CS were able to gather funds from its donors to start the operations of the WEVS and WEOS from June to August while the management plan is still being prepared. 🍃



Wildlife Enforcement Volunteers for Cleopatra's Needle takes the Pre-Test for Wildlife Law Enforcement.



Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff and Centre for Sustainability PH Inc. in a photo with the applicants for Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers for Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat.



City DepEd Elementary teachers prepare a visual aid for a demo of teaching ecological balance to students.



Edong Magpayo delivers a talk on freeing Puerto Princesa City from plastic pollution.

Teachers prepare to teach Environmental Education in schools

THIRTY-THREE ELEMENTARY schools. teachers, principals and supervisors from DepEd Division of Puerto Princesa City were trained to incorporate Environmental Education in their respective subjects.

The training, held last April 29 to April 30, 2019 at Skylight Hotel and Convention Center, refreshed teachers on the ecological principles and the provisions of special environmental laws in Palawan.

Furthermore, Edong Magpayo of Pilipinas Shell Foundation Incorporated (PSFI) shared his advocacy to free Puerto Princesa from plastics.

Participating teachers of the training will be the ones to pilot the integration of Environmental Education among their respective

A module for the integration was specially prepared by Palawan State University (PSU) using facts and information provided by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS).

The initiative hopes to raise a generation of Palawenos that are conscious of Palawan's rich but fragile biodiversity and aware of the existing environmental laws in Palawan, especially the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act also known as Republic Act 7611.

PCSD, PSFI, PSU, DepEd Puerto Princesa, DepEd Palawan has agreed to sign a memorandum of agreement to work together for the integration. 🍃

Over 100 Palawan mynas seized from poacher

ABOUT 129 HEADS of Palawan mynahs were rescued from a poacher during an enforcement operation at around 10 p.m. in Brgy. Bono-bono, Bataraza last April 18.

The mynas, seized from a man named Genesis Palasigue, were stuffed in cramped baskets and cages.

According to the records, Palasigue had also been charged in February 2014 for possessing 11 talking mynas and 2 leopard cats, but he was able to evade arrest.

Palawan Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa palawensis*) Palawan hill mynas are included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Bird Species.

These birds are vital to the ecosystem as they help in pollination and regulation of insect population.

The rescued mynas were turned over to Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center for quarantine and eventual release back to the wild.

On the other hand, Palasigue is subjected to inquest proceedings for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act which prohibits the trade and abuse of wildlife.

The enforcement operation was by Philippine National Police Intelligence Group RIU4B PIT-Palawan, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Enforcement Division, and Bantay Palawan of the Provincial Government of Palawan. 🌿



The confiscated Palawan mynas crammed in small cages.



PCSDS's Information, Education, and Communication Campaign

📍 Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm



About 30 participants from concerned barangays and operators of Iwahig River Firefly watching attended an IEC on Human-Crocodile Conflict and Wildlife Act last April 2, 2019 at Iwahig and Penal Farm's Amin Building

📍 Magarwak, PPC



PCSDS joined JCI Puerto Princesa Peacock's Dare to Be Green, a trail run marathon in Mt. Magarwak last April 13, to campaign to save Palawan Pangolin.

📍 Cagayanacillo, Palawan



During the Panagat Festival of Cagayanacillo last April 22 to 27, PCSDS held an Express Permitting of SEP Clearance and an exhibit and information campaign on Wildlife Act where 166 youths and kids joined.

Palawan Knowledge Platform welcomes 3 new members

THIS APRIL, THE Palawan Knowledge Platform (PKP) officially welcomed Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Aquos Foundation, and Fullbright College as its new members.

PKP is the working body of Palawan Knowledge Platform for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (PKPBSD), an online platform designed by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development to serve as a device for sharing of information and data regarding biodiversity and sustainable development in Palawan.

During the 20th PKP Meeting last April 23 at Ivy Wall Hotel, ZCL Project Manager Charity Apale and Aquos

Foundation President Janet Oquendo signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with PKP.

On the other hand, Fullbright College President Engr. Eustacio Edualino also signed before the month concluded.

ZCL is an international charity that promotes worldwide conservation of wildlife; Aquos Foundation is by Banwa Private Island that aims to enrich marine flora and fauna, while Fullbright College is a private, non-sectarian educational institution.

PKP has now a total of 29 members from the academic institutions, government agencies, and civil society in Palawan. 🍃



Palawan Knowledge Platform welcomes two of its new members during the PKP 20th Meeting last April 23 at IvyWall Hotel. Sitting from left is Aquos Foundation President Janet Oquendo, PCSDS Executiver Director Nelson Devanadera, ZCL Project Manager Charity Apale, and PCSDS EPKMD Head Madrono Cabrestante Jr.



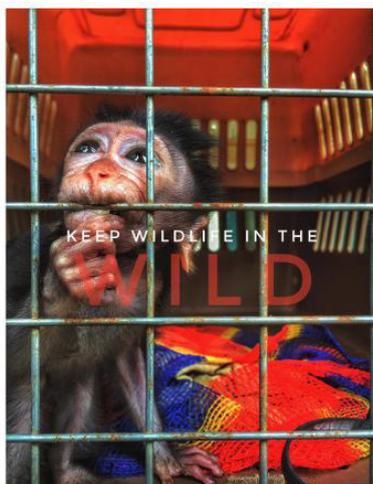
PNS students rescue sick owlet

Three young students of Palawan National School turned over to Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff a juvenile Spotted Wood Owl which they found weak and soaked in the rain at H. Mendoza Street, last March 25 at PCSD Main Office.

The rescuers, namely Justine Boco, Justin Matienzo, and Kent Paolo Daguinod, said they suspect the owlet fell from its nest on an acacia tree.

Justin Matienzo said, “Bibihira nalang din po kasi makita yung ganung ibon sa panahon ngayon tsaka makabubuti sa kanya yung pagtuturn over namin sa pcsd kasi maaalagaan sya ng maayos at pwedeng maparami pa yung ganong uri ng owl.”

Under the PCSD List of Threatened Species, Spotted Wood Owl is an endangered species. This means that its survival in the wild is unlikely if causal factors continue. The owl is now under the care of Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center. Maraming salamat sa inyo! 🍃



May naringig o nakita ka bang umaabuso sa mga buhay-ilang at sumisira sa tahanan nito?

MANGYARING I-REPORT ITO SA PCSD ENFORCEMENT TEAM TEXT LINE

0935 116 2336 (GLOBE/TM)

0948 937 2200 (SMART/TALK AND TEXT)

PCSD Updates

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