

# PCSD Updates

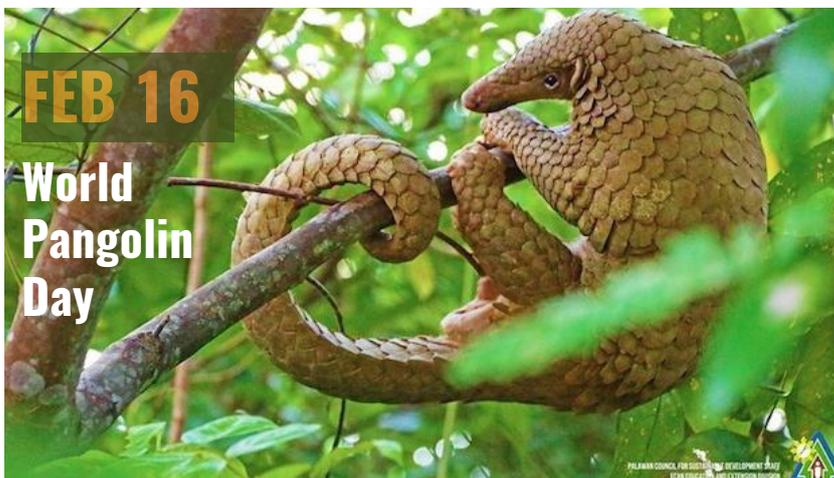
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development



**A LOVE AFFAIR:** As the Valentine’s Day sun rises, people of Puerto Princesa come together to show their love for the environment by planting trees and mangroves, while some folks get married in a mass wedding, an annual activity every 14th of February called “Love Affair with Nature”.

## PCSDS in protecting the world’s most trafficked mammal

WHILE THERE ARE still more to be known about the mysterious and unique scaled-mammal, pangolins, their population is already rapidly declining due to habit loss and poaching—making them the “world’s most trafficked mammal”... (page 8)



**FEB 16**

**World Pangolin Day**

## THIS ISSUE:

**Sulubaaï Foundation to start a new project in Palawan (p.14)**

**New template for Solid Waste Management Plan introduced to LGUs (p. 7)**

**DMOs attend Project Evaluation Cliniquing Workshop(p.13)**

**PCSDS consults NVH Global for Wastewater Treatment Facilities(p.6)**

**Airports and seaports officers review wildlife laws and protocols (p.2)**

**North municipalities adopt flagship species (p.4)**

**Integrating new and improved Environmental Education Program in DepEd Curriculum (p.5)**



## Airports and seaports officers review wildlife laws

*ABOUT \$7B TO \$25B feeds the pocket of wildlife traffickers every year, topping the list of most lucrative crimes around the world next to drugs and human trafficking, said Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Project Development Officer IV Levita A. Lagrada during an orientation-seminar against wildlife trafficking for airports and seaports officers last Jan. 30 to 31 at City State Asturias Hotel.*

The orientation seminar, organized by PCSDS in partnership with USAID Protect Wildlife, gathered PCSDS Wildlife Traffick Monitoring Officers, and other officers from airports, seaports, and courier companies to review and discuss existing laws and protocols governing the transport of wildlife in attempt to end wildlife trafficking within the boundaries of Palawan.

Lagrada said that about 7,000 species in Southeast Asia are subject to trafficking, not sparing the ones in the Philippine’s last ecological frontier, Palawan.

To date, a total of 6,436 heads of freshwater turtles, 1,490 heads of mynah and parrots, 1,914 marine turtles, 3,088 pangolin 8,301 pieces of assorted shells, and 150, 882 lumbers were

confiscated in Palawan alone starting 2010.

This problem causes corruption in different aspects, Lagrada explained.

Traffickers pay protection money, easily bear the fines or penalties of the law with its huge amount of income, and initiate activities such as clearing forests that make communities vulnerable to natural calamities.

Despite existing laws protecting the wildlife, the illegal trade continues.

At airports and seaports, traffickers have devised ways to conceal illegally-gathered wildlife.

Lagrada urged the airports and seaports officers to be wary of traffickers’ different modes of concealment which includes hiding the items in hidden compartments, in the

**“To date, a total of 6,436 heads of various freshwater turtles, 1,490 heads of mynah and parrot, 1,914 individuals of marine turtle, 3,088 heads of pangolin, 8,301 pieces of assorted shells, and 150,882 lumbers were confiscated in Palawan along starting 2010.”**



*PCSDS Project Development Officer IV Levita Lagrada stresses the need for airports and sea ports officers to work together in combatting illegal transport of wildlife during the orientation-workshop.*



*THE WORKSHOP: Groups composed of representatives from different agencies and companies worked together to solve situational problem involving wildlife trafficking.*



Participants and organizers of the Orientation Seminar on Wildlife-Trafficking Laws, Rules, and Regulations for Palawan Airports and Sea Ports in a group photo, last Jan. 30 to 31 at City State Asturias Hotel.

luggage; mixing illegal goods with legal ones, and mislabeling items.

On the other hand, Atty. Irish Villamor, ran through the provisions of Republic Act 9147: Wildlife Resources and Conservation Act and PCSD Administrative Order 12 that contains the detailed guidelines in the implementation of RA 9147.

She emphasized that the permit for commercial breeding and propagation is applicable only to non-threatened species, while the collection of threatened species is allowed only for conservation breeding and non-commercial

scientific research.

Participants were given a book containing an updated list of terrestrial and marine wildlife in Palawan and their categories pursuant to RA 9147.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) El Nido Station Deputy Commander Harvey Marmol said the event is helpful for coast guards since it is important for them to be knowledgeable on the laws pertaining to the transport of wildlife to avoid faults and ensure “smooth enforcement up to the court.”

He added that the workshop

helped government agencies to meet and discuss each other’s roles and functions in implementing the law.

The event was attended by officers from northern and central part of Palawan. Last Oct. 16 to Oct. 17, the same orientation-seminar was conducted for the southern part of Palawan. The date for Calamianes Group of Island is yet to be announced. 🍃



PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS: El Nido Station Deputy Commander Harvey Marmol presented his group’s answers in response the situational problems given during the workshop.



*THE SUMMIT: LGUs in the southern part of Palawan convened in “Flagship Species Summit (Southern Palawan)” last Feb. 21 at the Narra Municipal Hall.*

## Southern municipalities adopt flagship species

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS in the southern part of Palawan convened in a summit to identify and declare flagship species that will serve as emblem of conservation for their respective municipalities, last Feb. 28 at Narra Municipal Hall.

The activity, called “Flagship Species Summit for Southern Palawan”, is in line with a resolution by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development approving “The Guidelines on the Selection and Management of Flagship Species by the Local Government Units”.

The resolution was passed to promote long term conservation goals for endemic species in the municipalities driven by the pride of place the locals will attach in the species.

Moreover, the resolution states that once a species is declared by a municipality as its flagship species, its LGU must formulate action plans and strategies for the management and conservation of the species.

In response, an ordinance declaring flagship species for each municipality has already been drafted.

Initially, Aborlan was for Honey Bee; Tabon Bird for Quezon, Nicobar Pigeon for Bataraza; Blue Napped Parrot for Brookes Point, and Katala for Narra. The municipalities of Rizal, Sofronio Espanola, and Balabac are still yet to decide. 🍃



*DANCING WILDLIFE: Pangolin, Katala, and Mynah from Katala Foundation rendered a dance number during the Summit.*



*Dr. Lita B. Sopsop, dean of Western Philippine University College of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences, presented to the LGU officers the Key Flora Species of Palawan.*



*Student from Sta. Monica Elementary School reads a material about Palawan Pangolins during the Save the Pangolin Campaign of PCSDS*

## **INTEGRATING NEW AND IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN DEPED CURRICULUM**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL agencies in Puerto Princesa City and the Province of Palawan will sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to integrate new Environmental Education Program to the curriculum of elementary students.

The program will include environmental principles and laws, especially the R.A. 7611, also known as the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act.

The initiative aims to widen the knowledge and awareness of every Palaweno regarding environmental conservation and sustainable development in the City and in the Province; in the long run, make the city and the province champions of integrating environmental education among elementary schools in the national level.

In the past, an Environmental Education Program for elementary schools was implemented by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), thru the Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Program, but it was discontinued due to lack of funding and other difficulties.

In 2017, PCSDS, Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI), Department of Education (DepEd) Palawan, City DepEd, and Palawan State University (PSU) initiated to develop a new agreement that will consider the sustainability of the project.

The new agreement will cover only the initial step which is the integration through selected teachers. It shall then be monitored, assessed, and evaluated. The data gathered will be used as an instrument to lobby with the City and Provincial Council to foster legislations that support the program to make it sustainable.

The contracting parties to sign the MOA on March are PCSDS, DepEd Palawan, City DepEd, City Environment and Natural Resources Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and PSU. 🍃



*The contracting parties met last Feb. 8 at DepEd Palawan, PEO Compound to discuss and finalize the MOA. In the photo (from right to the left) are Marsha Ocampo from DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa, Ma. Christina Rodriguez from PCSDS, Eva Malabanan from PSFI, and Ann Malazarte of PSU.*



*Wastewater is being directly discharged in an open canal in Brg. Maligaya, El Nido, Palawan.*

## PCSDS consults NVH Global for Wastewater Treatment Facilities

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR Sustainable Development Staff met with NVH Global, University of the Philippines, and University of Surrey ast Feb. 19 to Feb. 23. to seek consultation in its plan to install wastewater treatment facilities in Puerto Princesa City, El Nido, and San Vicente.

NVH Global is a company based in United Kingdom and India focused on creating efficient and low-cost wastewater treatment processes for urban and rural communities around the world.

After site visits, the team were able to identify three open canals as candidates for the project: the drainages located in Sitio Cabigsing, Brgy. Maligaya, El Nido, in Brgy. Port Barton San Vicente, and in Sabang Puerto Princesa City.

The team discussed the plan with the affected local government units which, in return, expressed support and assured their cooperation.

The wastewater treatment facility by NVH Global is an ideal and immediate solution to treat wastewater in drainages since it is compact and can be installed directly in open canals.

This technology will be built locally by NVH Global with all materials sourced from the local market, thus, further reducing the costs.

To realize the project, the LGUs will be looking for possible funding opportunities. As of the moment, NVH Global is drafting the project proposals. 🍃



*Dr. Hannah Simcoe-Read and Dr. Devendra Saroj of NVH Global discuss the wastewater treatment technology to the officers of the Local Government of El Nido.*



*SITE VISIT: Dr. Hannah Simcoe-Read visits the candidate site for the Wastewater Treatment Facility in Brgy. Port Barton, San Vicente.*

## New 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan template introduced to LGUs

ENGR. REYNALDO L. ESGUERRA, an environmental management specialist from Department of Science and Technology, introduced a new 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) template to officers of local government units in Palawan, during the PCSDS Project Evaluation Cliniquing Workshop last Feb. 13 at PCSD Conference Room.

The template, Esguerra created, is a comprehensive report document and a guide for local government units for the preparation of SWMP.

It is especially designed consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework.

The template contains 12 chapters including the presentations of the city or municipality's profile, its initiatives and strategies for source reduction, waste collection and transfer, and management of biodegradable, recyclable, and

special wastes.

Also included in the template is the funding component of the 10-year plan, project costs, revenues and sources that will be used in the implantation of all the plan's components.

The plan noticeably calls for active role and participation of each household, barangays, cities and municipalities.

LGU officers were given copies of the template while Esguerra urged them to write the plans themselves rather than hiring an outsider to do it.

Esguerra also reminded the participants of the workshop to promote waste reduction more than recycling, *"As much as possible, dapat hindi lang no littering, no generating din... Recycling is just the second-best option, the best is no generating."*

He continued, *"Kabit sa recycling, walang forever, eventually masisira rin ang nirecycle na basura."*



Photo of Dr. Esguerra during the cliniquing workshop

Esguerra is the Division Chief of the Environment and Biotechnology Division of the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. He has also served as consultants to various resource efficient and cleaner production and industrial environmental management projects funded by local and international agencies.



Table from the presentation of Dr. Esguerra during the Cliniquing Workshop

# World Pangolin Day

Every third Saturday of February,  
World Pangolin Day is celebrated to tell the nations that  
there exist pangolins—  
beautiful, important, and in need of help.

*A Palawan Pangolin positioned itself back to the wild after being released from captivity.*

## PCSDS in protecting the world's most trafficked mammal



*(from page 1)*

Of the eight species of pangolins around the world, one is endemic in Palawan alone known as the *Manis culionensis* or Palawan Pangolin.

Although Palawan, dubbed as the country's last ecological frontier, seems like a safe sanctuary for the Palawan Pangolin to thrive due to existing laws that protect it, the poaching still continues, even further escalating its status to "Critically Endangered" in 2014.

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, vested with the authority to manage the terrestrial and aquatic resources in

Palawan, is facing the challenge to protect and conserve the remaining Palawan Pangolin.

In 2010 to 2018, total of 3,188 heads of pangolin were confiscated by PCSDS, 137 kgs of scales, and 20 kg of meat. Behind these figures are stories of locals daring to report the trafficking and rangers risking their lives for successful apprehension of illegal operations.

### 25-YEAR PHILIPPINE PANGOLIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

This year, PCSDS has begun its 25-year journey of conservation program for saving pangolin, together with IUCN Species

Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group, Katala Foundation Incorporated, and Zoological Society of London.

First of the four major strategies, and perhaps most critical, is the study of pangolins' province-wide status and distribution to identify and validate its population strongholds. The outputs of the research will be used to meet the requirements in establishing and declaring an area as a Critical Habitat. This will be an initial step towards understanding and prioritizing conservation strategies for Palawan Pangolins and its habitat.



To ensure the successful conservation and management, the next strategy is to start a conservation research that will gather data and generate information about Palawan Pangolin's biology and ecology, given that only few is known in these areas.

After the researches, the following strategy is a three-year information and education campaign that leads towards changed behavior within or near the identified sites with high densities of the species.

Last strategy is creating functional communities quick response teams in areas with pangolin population.

#### **STUDY OF PALAWAN PANGOLIN IN SOUTHERN-CENTRAL PART OF PALAWAN.**

Research teams in Victoria-

Anepehan studies the indicative population, habitat preferences and extent of threats to the Palawan Pangolin.

Initial findings show that that the illegal trade of pangolin still persist, with every kilo of meat sold for \$3 to \$5, and \$130 to \$190 per kilo of scales.

The team found out communities know the hunting and trade of pangolins are illegal, but they expect stricter enforcement of wildlife laws from authorities.

Ground surveys of Katala Foundation showed that slash-and-burn farming, charcoal making and timber poaching still continue in forest habitats where the pangolin are recorded. 🍃



*Field research team from Katala Foundation is installing camera traps in 6 plots of 4,000 hectares of forests in Victoria-Anepehan to record and take photos of pangolins and other Palawan wildlife at any time of day.*

# SAVE THE PANGOLIN CAMPAIGN



**SAVE PANGOLIN:** Fifth and sixth graders of Tiniguiban Elementary School raise their infographic materials about pangolin after a successful information and education campaign to save Palawan Pangolins. Photo taken at Tiniguiban Elementary School last Feb. 19.

**INTRODUCING PANGOLINS TO THE CHILDREN IN THE CITY**

ABOUT 800 STUDENTS from Tiniguiban Elementary School and Sta. Monica Elementary School pledged to help protect Palawan Pangolin, during Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Information and Education Communication (IEC) campaign last Feb. 19 at their respective schools.

The IEC campaign aims to raise awareness on the importance

and the plight of pangolin, in celebration of the World Pangolin Day every third Saturday of February.

Pangolin, known as the world's most trafficked mammal, perform an important ecological role of regulating social insect population.

However, their number is rapidly declining due to illegal harvest and habitat loss. Out of

eight species in the world, one is endemic in Palawan which is now enlisted as "critically endangered."

After the lectures, the students answered crossword puzzles, performed a play they created about pangolins, and signed a commitment board to help raise awareness of the importance of pangolins and the laws that protect them. 🍃



*A young girl signs the commitment board to protect Palawan Pangolins.*



*Students present what they can do for the conservation of Palawan Pangolins through a role play.*



*Students read IEC campaign materials.*





PCSDS ONE STOP SHOP: Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff placed a One Stop Shop area in the El Nido Municipal Hall to offer its services to the proponents in the northern part of Palawan last Feb. 18 to Feb. 22.

## SEP Clearance Express Processing in El Nido, concluded; proponents call for extension

EIGHTY-FOUR PROPONENTS in the northern part of Palawan were served during the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff's week-long SEP Clearance Express Processing last Feb. 18 to Feb. 22 at El Nido Municipal Hall.

The express permitting has launched for the first time the newly improved and streamlined SEP Clearance processing system.

Compared to the previous system that takes months of processing time, the new system now

only takes a maximum of 7 days.

This is in line with RA 1132 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act".

The changes were also in time for the requests of business establishments and companies in El Nido to answer their immediate need for a faster processing system due to their business permits' deadline on April.

Clients include accommodations, resorts, commercial spaces,

gasoline stations, quarry project, and others.

Out of the 84 proponents, 2 falls in Category A of ECAN, 16 in Category B, 54 in Category C, and 12 are for verification.

After the activity was concluded, it was suggested by PCSDS Deputy Executive Chief Adelina B. Villena to the Council that an extension of the Express Permitting be conducted in response to requests of numerous proponents.



# DMOs attend Project Evaluation Cliniquing Workshop

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE Development Staff gathered its District Management Offices technical staff from all around the province to undertake Project Evaluation Cliniquing Workshop and help improve their evaluation skills and raise the quality of evaluation reports, last Feb. 12 to Feb. 13 at PCSD Conference Room.

Project evaluations are conducted by PCSDS DMO technical staff to determine the extent to which the activities and projects inside Palawan are achieving objectives of sustainable development.

PCSDS Deputy Executive Chief Adelina Villena shared during the program that the manner of conducting evaluation should be enhanced and reports must be improved. She also reminded new evaluators to continually review the proper ways of evaluating projects.

The technical staff, coming from different municipalities in Palawan, reviewed the guidelines on the Initial Environmental Examination Standards, a process that examines the environmental and socio-economic consequences of an activity and designs management measures.

The workshop tackled the evaluation of mining and quarry projects, tourism establishments, and infrastructure projects, especially in the aspects of ecological viability, social acceptability, and integrated approach or economic viability.

According to Section 5 of Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, for a project to be sustainable, it must improve the people's quality of life, protect life-support ecosystems and rehabilitate exploited areas, and sustain development growth. 🍃



*Ian Christian Vega, PCSDS DMO Staff in Quezon, participates in a discussion with the speakers during the cliniquing workshop.*



*Leonora Francisco Mansueto of Environmental Management Bureau-DENR delivers lecture on Initial Environmental Examination Standards during the cliniquing workshop.*

## PCSD Updates

PCSD Updates is a monthly publication produced by the PCSDS ECAN Education and Extension Division

MA. CHRISTINA D. RODRIGUEZ  
EDITOR

NELSON P. DEVANADERA  
ATTY. ADELINA B. VILLENNA  
EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

SOMMER J. BUYANTE  
WRITER / LAYOUTS

CELSO S. QUILING, JESSIE M. CERENO,  
PHOTOGRAPHER

RACHELL ANN CARIÑO, KATHARINE VILLAGOS  
ADS / GRAPHICS



## Sulubaaï Foundation embarks on a new project in Shark Fin Bay, Palawan

# “SEA ACADEMY”

After Sulubaaï Environmental Foundation (SEF)’s successful ecological restoration in Pangatan Island, Taytay, Palawan, it is embarking on a new project in Shark Fin Bay, Palawan called “Sea Academy.”

SEF is a non-profit organization that aims to conserve, protect, and restore the natural resources of Palawan.

During the project presentation to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) last Feb. 28, SEF said the Sea Academy has three main goals.

First, to create participative marine protected areas (MPAs); second to educate children and adults to reduce pressure on marine ecosystem, and, lastly, to recreate fish stocks using an advanced technology.

Three MPAs with about 20 to 300 ha are planned to be established. According

to SEF, about 50 ha of these MPAs will be covered by coral restorations.

In the long run, SEF is planning to make locals of the villages manage the MPAs.

For its educational advocacy, SEF said it is eyeing to partner with WPU and school missions to hold educational trips at the project sites.

Lastly, SEF is planning to use PostLarvae Fish Capture and Culture (PCC), a method of capture, culture, and release, where fish larvae will be harvested and placed in controlled condition wet labs to ensure that big percentage of the larvae will survive. Once they grow into sustainable size, 50 percent of the population will be released back to MPAs, the other half will be for public consumption.



*Releasing cultured fish, photo taken from SEF project presentation*

The Council has agreed for SEF to apply for SEP Clearance and other legal requirements necessary for the project.

Last year, PCSD Staff and SEF signed an agreement to establish a partnership in environmental conservation. 🍃



*GET SET, RUN: People of Coron start running in a marathon for biodiversity conservation last Feb. 16.*

# Gorokodan sa Kadagatan (RUN FOR THE OCEAN)

OVER 300 PEOPLE joined Fish Right's "Gorokodan para sa Kadagatan", to show their support to marine biodiversity conservation, last Feb. 16 at Coron, Palawan.

Gorokodan sa Kadagatan is a local statement that translates to "Run for the Ocean". It aims to raise public awareness on marine protection and sustainable fisheries in Calamianes.

Aside from the run, the program also included mangrove

planting and a commitment wall signing by Fish Right champions in the locality.

Local government units, national government agencies, private sector groups, and community stakeholders pledged to improve fisheries management in the Calamianes Island Group.

Kids have also participated in an amazing race with games incorporating values in marine conservation.

Fish Right is a project of USAID to help improve fisheries management in Calamianes.

The run was organized with its implementing partner, PATH Foundation, Inc, together with Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff, and its private sectors and community partners.



*Photos by: Romwell Mari Sanchez for USAID/Philippines*

# Snippets of the Month



**FEB 4 | CITY GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL SANTOS VISITS PCSDS TO OBSERVE AND STUDY ITS PRACTICES AND FRAMEWORKS IN IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.**

**FEB 11 | BRITISH AMBASSADOR DANIEL PRUCE VISITED PCSDS AND EXPRESSED BRITISH EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO BE A PARTNER IN THE CONSERVATION OF THE WILDLIFE IN PALAWAN.**



**FEB 14 | PCSDS JOINED THE 17TH ANNUAL LOVE AFFAIR WITH NATURE AT SITIO TAGBARUNGIS, BRGY. INAGAWAN SUB.**

**FEB 22 | PALAWAN QUICKSILVER MINES, INC. AND PCSDS KICKED OFF REHABILITATION PROJECT LOCATED AT BRGY. STA LOURDES, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY.**



**FEB 28 | PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HELD ITS 252ND MEETING AT THE LEGEND PALAWAN.**