

SEP @29

*Time to Reimagine, Recreate, and Restore
Palawan through Sustainable Development*



PCSDS celebrates the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act's 29th Anniversary

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) celebrated the 29th Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act (SEP) anniversary through the conduct of an online program held via Facebook Livestream on June 19, 2021.

The SEP Law had been the key instrument of Palawan in attaining sustainability in its development for 29 years now. This was made possible by ensuring a balance between economic development and protection and conservation of Palawan's rich and abundant natural resources.

To kick off the momentous occasion with the theme "SEP @ 29: Time to Reimagine, Recreate, and Restore Palawan through Sustainable Development," the PCSDS held month-

long online competitions such as the Restore Palawan Art contest, Plantito/Plantita Photoblog contest, and Spoken Word Poetry contest for all the Palaweños to promote sustainable development and to stir up their passion for nature through arts, poetry, and photography.

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PCSD approves the proposed amendment to the ECAN zones map of Quezon, Palawan



The PCSD members discuss through a virtual meeting the amendments of Quezon's ECAN Map.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) approved the proposed amendment to the ECAN Zones map of the municipality of Quezon, Palawan during the 280th Regular Council meeting on June 21, 2021.

diversity and their conservation status biodiversity of Dangla area. Results on flora assessment of Dangla revealed that out of 36 species, only *C. pulgarensis* or locally known as "Pangasaan" is categorized as vulnerable while the rest fall under non-threatened status. When it comes to rapid assessment of fauna in the area, it was found out that the Dangla area had a very low faunal presence based on their species composition and number of individuals.

Before such amendment, the Rapid Biodiversity Resources Assessment of Dangla area, Sitio Talabongan, Bgy. Berong, Quezon, Palawan, which was conducted by the team of researchers from Palawan State University on March 2021, was presented during the Joint PCSD Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) Virtual meeting on June 9, 2021.

Said assessment was conducted to establish baseline information on the current state of flora and fauna

In the proposed updated ECAN map of LGU Quezon, the Dangla area is part of the town areas included for downgrading in light of the indigenous people's intent to conduct non-timber forest products (NTFP) gathering on it. The ECAN validating team led by the PCSD has found that the area is below 500 masl with slope class ranging from 19% to 36% and covered with open forest. Based on the findings of the Rapid Biodiversity Resources Assessment of Dangla area, the following are recommended: a) re-classification from being a restricted to lower

category zonation for more suitable and sustainable management decisions of the area; b) conduct of an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to the establishment of any development projects in the area which must include an estimation on the areal extent of different land cover types, a study of food plants of existing forest cover, stream of river network profiling and profiling of settlers and claimants and their extent of development at Dangla area; and c) designation of a separate and wider area that has an array of resources, physical and biotic factors that could allow the survival and reproduction for those threatened flora and fauna species.

With the presented data being factual and because there were no recommendations for future use and utilization in the area, the ENRC proposed the matter to be endorsed to the Council members for their approval. Also, the ENRC agreed to recommend to the PCSD to update the ECAN Map of Quezon with the additional condition of strict monitoring by the PCSD. The joint committee also called for the solidarity of all concerned agencies and other stakeholders for the environmental conservation and protection of the town of Quezon.

The proposed amendment to the ECAN Zones map of the town of Quezon got approved during the Council meeting on June 21, 2021. With the approval, the Council agreed to direct the PCSD staff to identify rehabilitation zones or restoration areas within the zones in the next six months. They also proposed the delineation of the metes and bounds of watershed areas of the town and stressed that assistance from NGOs is necessary to safeguard the threatened species in the area.

PCSDS celebrates the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act's 29th Anniversary



Ms. Kishia Grace L. Hardioien
IEC Officer, PCSDS

>>> Continuation (from page 1)
 >>> Before the online event, a Program on Rewards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) awarding ceremony was conducted by the PCSDS on June 17, 2021, to give recognition to the institution's DMO frontliner of the year, Division chief of the year, top-performing staff, the loyalty awardees, and permanent staff who had been with the agency for decades now. Following the event, the 6th annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) was convened on June 18, 2021. The SAP composed of 13 scientists/ experts/ academicians and six institutions formulated policy statements and recommendations to the PCSD concerning the issues on the zones of the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) in Palawan under Republic Act 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act (SEP Law) and alien invasive species in the province on the said day.

The above-mentioned online program dubbed as "SEP Talks" that was held on June 19, 2021, featured PCSDS' Youth and Kiddie Wildlife Ambassadors, who elucidated the

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Word Poetry



SEP @29
Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan
Republic Act No. 7611


Word Poetry



Spoken Word Poetry



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Spoken Word Poetry



SEP @29
Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan
Republic Act No. 7611


Spoken Word Poetry



PALAWAN, KASAMA MO
KAMI SA LABAN
by: ADEL L. PULA

SEP @29
Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan
Republic Act No. 7611

Entry No. 3 :
"PALAWAN, KASAMA
MO KAMI SA LABAN"
Adel L. Pula
Palawan State University
Brooke's Point

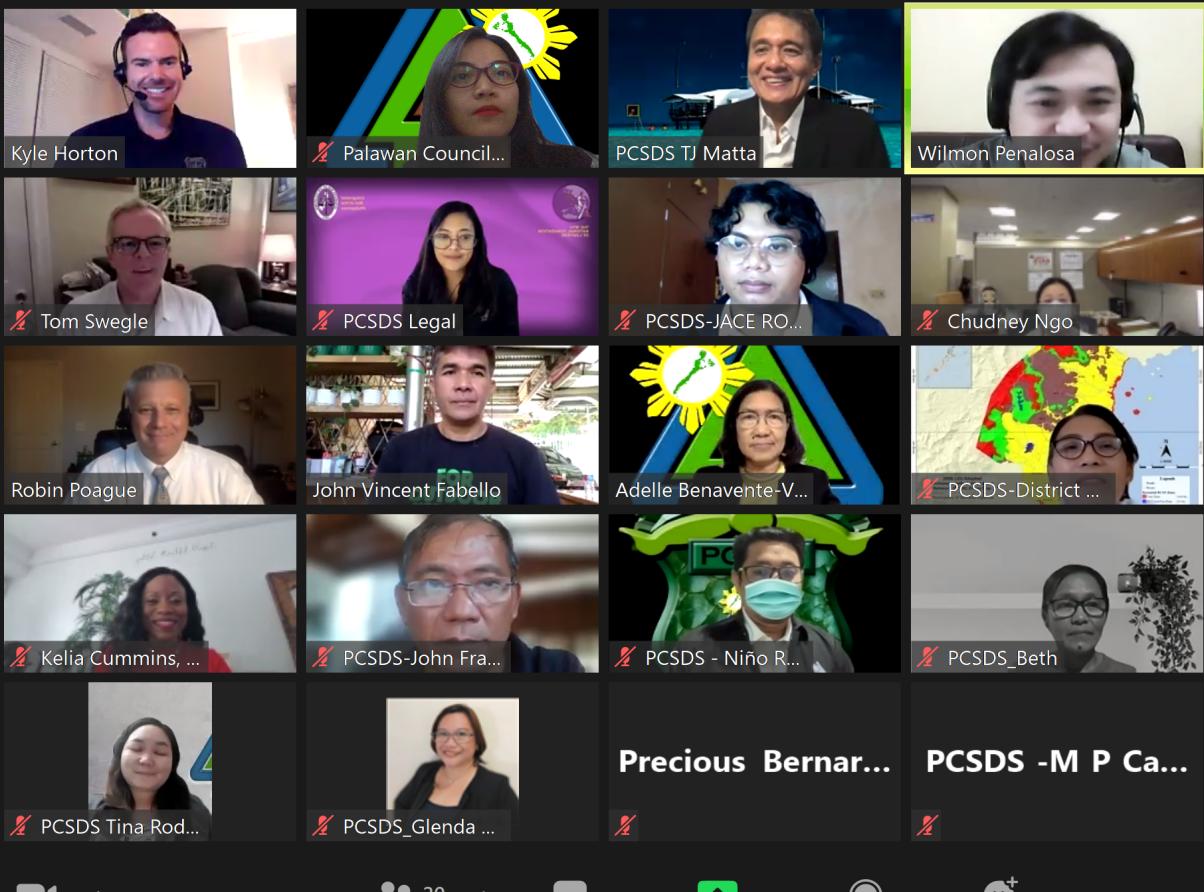
Entry No. 7 :
"Pan ay Ingatan"
Jan M. Fermin
Main Campus Graduate

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SEP Law being a framework for other agencies enforcing environmental laws in Palawan, the ecosystem restoration's role in sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, and practices that Palaweños can adopt to prevent the destruction of the environment. Through their talk, the online viewers were encouraged to support and participate in the environmental programs geared towards achieving sustainable development in the province.

To cap off the online event, a brief tour of the Palawan Biodiversity Resource Center (PBRC), one of the newest innovations of the PCSDS, was made by the Youth and Kiddie Wildlife Ambassadors to engage the online viewers in biodiversity conservation efforts through showcasing Palawan's endemic and threatened species with global significance.

Member of the US Forest Service & PCSDS pose for a photo-op during the virtual meeting.



Unmute Stop Video Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Leave

PCSD joins the US Forest Service's Project Launch Meeting for the Law Enforcement Training Program

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) participated in the US Forest Service's project launch meeting for the law enforcement training program, which was held via Zoom at 9:00 am – 11:00 am, on June 29, 2021.

The US Forest Service (USFS), one of the primary land management agencies in the United States and one of the largest Natural Resource Management Research institutions in the world, collaborated with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in the Philippines (INL) to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and their partners to combat environmental crimes.

Knowing that the PCSD enforces environmental laws in Palawan, the USFS deemed that extending international technical assistance could greatly enhance the capacity of PCSD and its partners to address the increased violations of environmental laws in the province in recent years by strengthening the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes.

The online project launch meeting for the law enforcement training program of the USFS was held to update the progress of the program and project of USFS with PCSD, which started in November 2018 when the USFS had their scoping trip to Puerto Princesa City, Palawan to meet with PCSD and

various other agencies to assess the viability of the project. The scoping mission entailed field visits to high threat areas and in-person consultations. Consultations included meetings with all relevant agencies involved in environmental law enforcement and with other development partners working in this technical area, such as USAID's Protect Wildlife program.

Through these consultations, field visits, and review of existing materials, USFS gets to understand the current legislative framework for environmental crimes, the challenges faced by PCSD and other local partners in the detection, enforcement, and prosecution of these crimes in Palawan, and what other organizations are already doing to address the problem. Such activities also help the USFS technical support in addressing existing gaps in the institutional capacity of PCSD and associated partners for detecting, enforcing, and prosecuting environmental crimes.

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The USFS team has worked with PCSD leadership and INL to develop five objective areas which focus on the following: 1) enhanced interagency collaboration from initial investigation to prosecution; 2) strengthen technical and organizational capacities of provincial law enforcement and investigation programs; 3) support case build-up and other prosecutorial efforts for environmental cases; 4) develop manuals and guidance for evidence storage; and 5) build capacity of key counterparts through global seminars on natural resource management and law enforcement.

The program goals of USFS include the following: a) improve people's lives globally by mobilizing expertise to assist in conservation and natural resource management activities, disaster preparedness and response, policy development, and trade issues; b) bring important research, technology, and other innovations back to the U.S.; and c) expand and leverage their international engagement to promote a more diverse and inclusive agency.

The long-term goal of the project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of PCSD and its law enforcement partners to combat and prevent environmental crimes from apprehension to prosecution. The project is intended to provide technical exchange and training to address wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and other environmental crimes on the island of Palawan.

Observing PCSD's strong commitment to combat wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, the USFS team has trained and has been continuously training and capacitating the PCSD staff regarding enforcement and investigative techniques. This involves gathering physical evidence, undercover and surveillance operations, interviewing suspects and witnesses, evidence management, serving search and arrest warrants and testifying in court. When it comes to the legal services section which manages large caseloads, the USFS and PCSD identified the need for training and assistance on drafting affidavits, evidence storage, record keeping and case management.

Some of USFS's near term plans for collaboration include the following: a) building out the capabilities of the USAID-Funded Biodiversity Resource Assessment Investigation Network (BRAIN) program as a Law Enforcement Tool and work to increase usership by multiple agencies; b) conducting trainings for PCSD investigators on investigation techniques such as investigative report writing; c) holding mentorship Program for Legal Services section, etc.

from the GAIA South Inc., an all-Filipino professional service organization that is after the promotion of sustainable development and provision of expert advice on sustainability and effective project management support, presented the results of their study conducted in Mt. Bulanjao, Bataraza, Palawan in 2015. With the presented data being factual, the ENRC proposed the matter to be endorsed to the members of the council for their appropriate action.

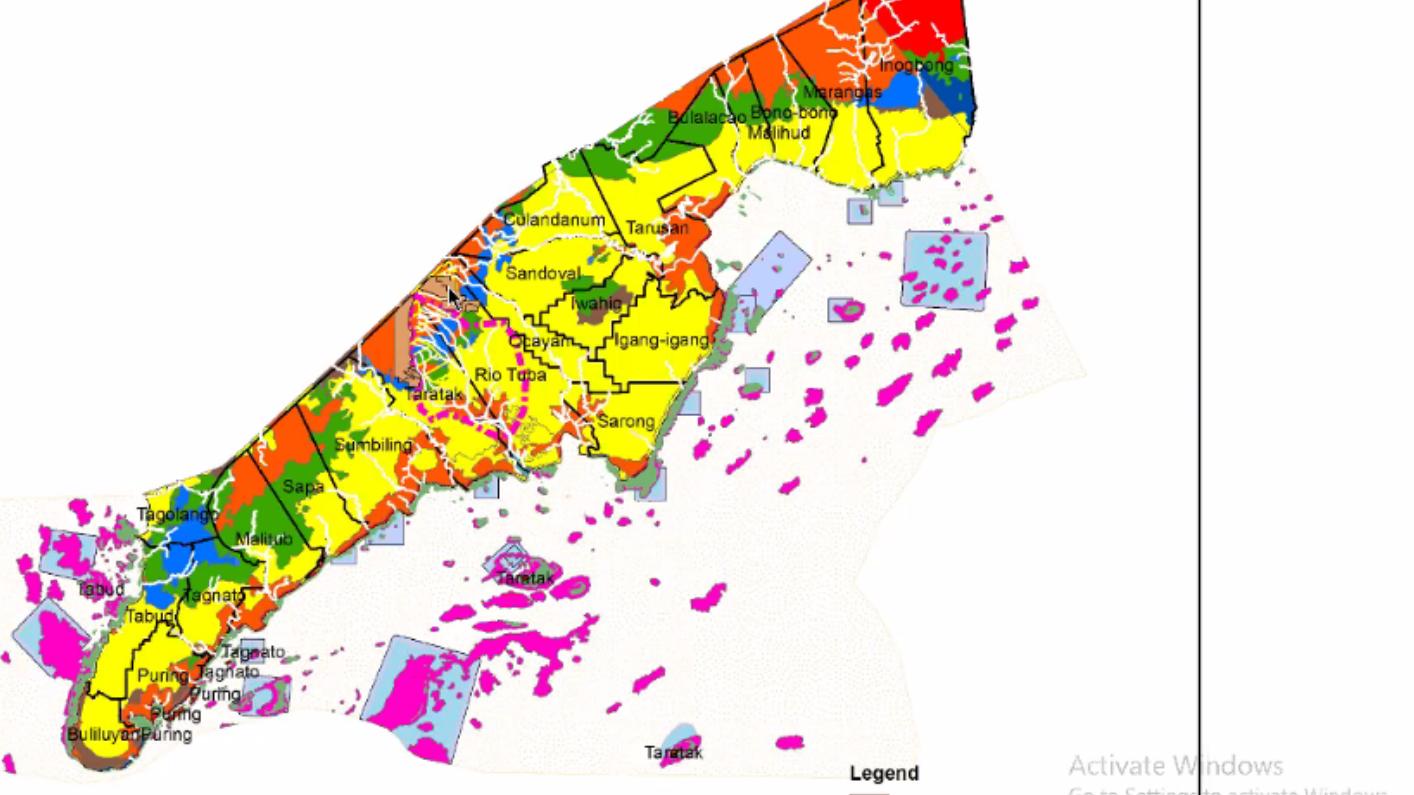
During the presentation of the proposed revised ECAN map of Bataraza on June 21, 2021, it was elucidated by the town's MENRO that the current terrestrial core zone of the town, which is 16, 473.56 ha would be changed to 19, 483.45 ha. Similarly, the town's restricted use zone and multiple-use zone which measure 2, 689.21 ha and 34, 499.97 ha would be changed to 3,903.16 ha and 38, 069.25 ha, respectively. On the other hand, the controlled use zone and traditional use zone's total area would decrease from 13, 901.60 ha and 2,769.69 ha to 10, 646.97 ha and 1,488.61 ha, respectively. Moreover, from having no delineated core zone, buffer zone, and multiple-use zone since 2005, the town has now identified a core zone that has a total area of 9,640.22 ha, a buffer zone with a total area of 5,000.96 ha, and a multiple-use zone with a total area of 118, 336.26 ha.

Mayor Abraham Ibba of Bataraza stressed that the purpose for the ECAN map updating of Bataraza is to harmonize the ECAN map with the current environmental and socio-economic condition in the municipality of Bataraza and to establish the coastal/marine ECAN Zones of the Municipality. He emphasized that the future of the municipality of Bataraza depends on their new or updated ECAN Map.

PCSD approves the Updated ECAN Map of Bataraza, Palawan

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development approved the Updated ECAN Map of Bataraza, Palawan during the 280th Regular Council meeting on June 21, 2021.

Said revision or update of Bataraza's ECAN map came after the presentation of the Biodiversity Resources Assessment of the municipality of Bataraza during the Joint PCSD Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) Virtual meeting on June 9, 2021. In the aforementioned meeting, members



PCSDS holds webinars in celebration of SEP's 29th Anniversary

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) broadcasted webinars on "Maintaining Mental Health and Wellness in times of Pandemic," "Small Space Gardens in the City" and "How to do Food Waste Composting," facilitated by the Lyceum of the Philippine Psychology Association and the Lasallian Institute for the Environment, on June 14-15, 2021, as part of the agency's activities held in celebration of SEP's 29th Anniversary.

In the webinar on maintaining mental health and wellness in times of pandemic, Ms. Emely Linatoc, a faculty member of the Psychology Department of Lyceum Philippines University-Batangas and a practicing counselor, echoed the World Health Organization's definition of good mental health which is related to mental and psychological well-being.

According to her, mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being, affects how we think, feel and act, and helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. She oriented everyone about the factors that contribute to mental health such as biological factors, life experiences and family history of mental health problems, and the signs of mental health problems.

Through her discussion, the online participants ascertained that mentally healthy individuals can realize their full potential, cope with the stresses of life, work productively, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. They also realized that the ways to maintain positive mental health include getting professional help if one needs it, connecting with others, staying positive, getting physically active, helping others, getting

enough sleep, and developing coping skills.

The online participants also learned that to enhance mental health and wellness, one must have good nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, rest or sleep, and trust in God. Moreover, they were able to grasp that wellness involves a healthy attitude and a healthy lifestyle; that living a fit and healthy life will make one feel better, look better, perform better, and live longer; and that it is never too late to change bad habits and start making healthy choices.

In the discussion about small space gardens in the city, Professor Maria Eda Apple Suprido talked about pocket gardens and their purpose, benefits, and considerations. In her discussion, the online participants learned that pockets or small areas of the house are utilized in growing plants. They were enlightened that pocket gardens allow people to brighten a corner of their house, utilize forgotten space, tap into their creative side, enable people to have fun and bond with their family, and wake up a person's little green

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Some of the lectures discussed during the webinars hosted by PCSD.

It's good for the environment, community, and economy.

Earwin Belen



Compost is a good source of nutrients for plants

This will lessen the garbage being brought to landfills

Why food waste composting?

MAINTAINING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS TIMES OF PANDEMIC



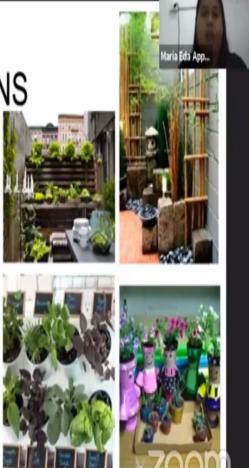
EMELY MACATANGAY-LINATOC, RGC



zoom

POCKET GARDENS

- Allows us to brighten a corner of the house
- Utilize forgotten space
- Tap into the creative side in us
- Have fun
- Bond with family
- Wake-up that little green thumb



thumb. They also came to know that having pocket gardens in their homes would enable them to breathe fresh air, exercise, unwind, and have clean and safe food.

In the webinar on food waste composting, Mr. Earwin Belen, a licensed urban agriculturist, explained the need for food waste composting, the truth about trash, how to kickstart composting for agriculture, and food waste composting in practice. He stressed that compost is a good source of nutrients for plants and lessens the garbage being brought to landfills. He emphasized that one should realize a composting mindset by keeping in mind the 5 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse and Rot), driving one's waste to their proper bins and conquering composting like a pro, and ensuring that proper techniques and management of the composting process are done. Lastly, he informed the online participants about conventional, Bokashi, vermicomposting, and Black Soldier Fly composting.

The above-mentioned activities were conducted by the PCSDS to enlighten and motivate the PCSD Staff to maintain their mental health and wellness, to venture into productive leisure like gardening, and to engage in environment-friendly and sustainable practices at home that are good for the environment during this time of the pandemic.

Aside from the conduct of webinars, the PCSDS also conducted online competitions on its Facebook page which include the Restore Palawan Art Contest, Spoken Word Poetry Contest and PlanTito/PlanTita Photoblog competition, which were all done in celebration of SEP's 29th anniversary.