



PCSD UPDATES

PCSDS holds Palawan Kiddie and Youth Wildlife Saver's Club 2021 virtual event

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Mr. Edilberto "Edong" Magpayo of the Pilipinas Shell Foundation tells a story of Paw Pawikan during the online event.

APRIL UPDATE 2021

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The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) thru the ECAN Education and Extension Division (EEED) conducted the 2021 Palawan Kiddie and Youth Wildlife Saver's Club virtual event on April 27, 2021.

With the theme "Be better and Consistent: Sustainable Development for young audiences," said event was held via Facebook live and aimed at familiarizing and enlightening the children and youth about the importance of practicing Zero Waste lifestyle, taking action in safeguarding the Palawan Pangolin and promoting its conservation and supporting the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) that is

being observed in the province of Palawan.

The aforementioned virtual program which commenced from 3 PM to 4 PM garnered 313 responses from pupils and students all over the province who participated in the event and reached a total of 3,690 people in the PCSDS Facebook page.

Among the distinguished speakers who shared valuable knowledge and insights on the above-mentioned topics are Mr. Edilberto Magpayo from Tandikan Program of Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., Ms. Darlyn Coroña

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from Zoological Society of London (ZSL) - Philippines, and Ms. Kishia Hardiolen from PCSDS-EEED.

Championing the cause of Palawan Pangolin, Ms. Darlyn Coroña of ZSL-Philippines informed the online participants that there are only 8 species of Pangolin in the world, four of which are found in Africa while the remaining four species can be found in Asia.

event. It made them realize the importance of "Balik-Balikon project" of ZSL-Philippines which is aimed at protecting the remaining populace of the Palawan Pangolins that are still under the threat of being harmed by illegal wildlife traffickers. Also, the initiative of ZSL-Philippines of proposing Lake Manguao in Taytay, Palawan as the Local Pangolin Conservation Area increased their awareness that such place, where

Following her presentation, Mr. Edilberto "Edong" Magpayo of the Tandikan Program of Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. shared practical tips on living out a Zero Waste Lifestyle. He stressed out the importance of reducing waste consumption by using alternative means in buying and consuming products in the market. He introduced the 10 R's in attaining Zero Waste lifestyle which consist of the following: 1) Respect;



Through the discussion, the online participants learned that one of the Pangolin species in Asia can be found in the Philippines, specifically in the province of Palawan. They also came to know that wildlife poaching and trafficking of the said critically endangered and endemic mammal is one of the pressing issues or concerns that need to be addressed and what the ZSL-Philippines have been advocating to reduce, if not eradicate for years now.

The sad reality that Pangolins are being hunted for their scale and meat, which are used in making traditional Chinese medicine and exotic cuisine, also caught the attention of the online viewers of the

occurrence of Palawan Pangolin as well as other endangered wildlife species such as the Palawan Bearded Pig, Palawan Peacock-pheasant, Asian Palm Civet, Palawan Bearcat, etc has been recorded by the camera traps of Taytay's Community Monitoring team, really needs to be established as a conservation area for wildlife species.

At the end of her discussion, Ms. Coroña asked the online viewers what they think they can do to help save the Palawan Pangolin. She even recommended that they should share the knowledge they have acquired in the event to their family and friends, respect all wildlife, plant endemic trees and throw their garbage properly.

2) Responsible; 3) Reuse; 4) Recycle/Re-purpose; 5) Reduce; 6) Refuse; 7) Recover; 8) Rot; 9) Restore; and 10) Rejoice. Through this discussion, the online participants came to know that these things are all practical and sustainable ways to help protect and conserve the environment.

He emphasized that people should respect nature as it brings life and gives us joy by the ecological and tourism-related benefits it provides us. Also, he encouraged everyone to follow the anti-littering ordinances and national laws being observed in the country which are meant to protect nature as many would be affected in the long run if such ordinances and environmental laws

are not observed or neglected. Not only that, he even persuaded them to refuse using single-use plastics and containers and use organic and sustainable materials like eco-bags, bamboo straw, bamboo tumbler and bamboo utensils instead as doing so would help minimize the use of single-use plastics that pollute the environment. He also promoted reusing and recycling things found in each person's household as they

following: What are the wastes? Is it possible to live in a waste-free environment? What kind of wastes or garbage do people contribute to the environment?

Concerning the above-mentioned matter, he shared that one of the nine ecological principles states that everything must go somewhere and one concrete example that best exemplifies this is our problem with

lifestyle, Ms. Kisha Hardiolen of PCSDS-EEED shared insights on Republic Act 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act which is a special law of its kind in the Philippines specifically adapted for Palawan's unique ecological conditions.

She stressed out that SEP law provides an all-inclusive framework for the sustainable development of



“Be better and Consistent: Sustainable Development for young audiences,”

could be turned into another useful kind of material or thing.

According to him, one's creativity could also be exhibited when turning such materials into another form. Even incorporating biodegradable wastes into the soil that makes such soil fertile was also mentioned in his discussion. But in his presentation, he made it clear how people should reduce and avoid improper disposal of plastic wastes as they often end up in seas which could ultimately be eaten by marine life species such as marine turtles causing their eventual death.

At the latter part of his talk, some of the questions that he answered pertaining his topic include the

plastic waste. To illustrate how this is a serious problem these days, he shared a fiction, a story about a turtle ingesting plastic in the ocean that came from irresponsible people not minding such waste they improperly dispose in the environment which often times reaches the ocean. He said that in order to address this problem, we should be mindful of where we throw our wastes or garbage. We should dispose them at the proper places so that the future generation would still be able to see such marine life species in their lifetime and not solely in the books.

Solidifying the event's campaign for environmental conservation, wildlife conservation and zero waste

Palawan that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural resources and endangered environment of Palawan. She also echoed UNESCO's definition of sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Through the discussion of the SEP Law, the online participants were enlightened about the three key features of the SEP Law which include ecological viability, social acceptability, and integrated approach. According to Ms. Hardiolen, ecological viability pertains to the physical and

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biological cycles that maintain natural ecosystems' productivity while social acceptability affirms people's commitment in supporting sustainable development activities in the province. She also emphasized that the SEP employs the integrated approach that provides a holistic view of problems and issues and opportunities for coordination and sharing to implement and sustain SEP activities.

Moreover, she shared the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) zoning system which includes the core zones, restricted use zone, controlled use zone, traditional use zone, and multiple-use zones. To make the online participants understand why such zones were delineated, they were given necessary information on the allowed human activities or developments for each zone under the ECAN zoning system which covers Palawan's terrestrial, coastal/marine, and ancestral domains. During this presentation, the ECAN being established to conserve and protect the forests, watersheds, and biological diversity of Palawan was also given emphasis.

Ms. Hardiolen also pointed out that ECAN is being implemented to protect and preserve the province's indigenous people communities' culture, maintain maximum sustainable yield, and protect the endangered species and their habitat.

At the end of the one-hour virtual program, announcement of the ongoing PCSDS' Vlogging Contest in line with the Earth Day celebration was made, wherein the winner of such contest would become the 2021 Palawan Kiddie and Youth Wildlife Saver's Club ambassador, taking part in PCSDS' environmental conservation campaigns and advocacies in Palawan.

Fossilized Giant Clam Shells seized in Green Island, Roxas, Palawan



More than 150 tons of fossilized Giant Clam Shells were seized in Green Island, Bgy. Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan through the joint operation of PCSD Enforcement team, PNP Maritime Group Palawan, Philippine Coast Guard Roxas-Palawan, Bantay Dagat Roxas, and Naval Intelligence and Security Group West-Naval Forces West on April 16, 2021.

During the operation, the team discovered the piles of fossilized Giant Clam shells on the shore while some were submerged in seawater. Upon further investigation, it was found out that the personalities alleged to be involved in such collection and trade of the abovementioned fossilized Giant Clam Shells in Green Island, Roxas, Palawan are Mr. Rodolfo Rabesa, Mr. Rey Cuyos, Mr. Julius Molejon and Mr. Erwin Miagao.

Appropriate charges were filed against these persons involved in the violation of R.A. 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act." This apprehension is one of the biggest in terms of scale for this year. The PCSDS is reiterating its call to our local fisherfolks and communities that collection and trade of threatened species of terrestrial and marine wildlife is prohibited under Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Act).

The Giant Clam or locally known as "Taklobo" is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is also listed as "Endangered Species" under PCSD Resolution No. 15-521.

Under section 27 of RA 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, collecting, hunting or possessing of endangered wildlife, their by-products and derivatives are prohibited. The penalty for such acts involves imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00), if inflicted or undertaken against such endangered

Dra. Rosalie Tequillo appears before the PCSD to clarify concerns regarding her team's collection of Giant Clams Shells in Palawan.



PCSD identifies persons of Interest in Giant Clams trade in Palawan

The Palawan Council Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Executive Director Teodoro Jose S. Matta, together with PCSDS Enforcement and Legal Services Section staff, identified the involvement of Dra. Rosalee Tequillo's group in the conduct of illegal trading of Giant Clams in the province of Palawan through a meeting held at the PCSDS Executive Director's Conference room on April 16, 2021.

Said meeting came after the latter requested to have an in-depth discussion with the agency about the reports of an unscrupulous group spearheading the conduct of illegal trading of Giant Clams (Taklobo) in the province in recent months. It was found out through their discussion that Dra. Tequillo and her group have been engaging in the collection and possession of Giant Clam species for commercial purposes without legal authority.

Dra. Tequillo is the national facilitator of the National Redemption Program for Fossilized Giant Clams, which is a team of European buyers. This inclined the PCSDS to believe that Dra. Tequillo and her group's activity is not for scientific or breeding or propagation

purposes but for commercial purposes. The PCSDS also determined that Dra. Tequillo's claims that they collect only the fossilized Giant clam species and that their activities are sanctioned by Office of the President (OP) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) are not supported with any valid documentary

collecting and possessing Giant Clam species. But upon examination of the said document, the PCSDS found that it did not and does not, in any way give, Dra. Tequillo and her group or any private individual any authority to collect, extract or possess fossilized Giant Clam species.

Upon knowing the unlawful



Photos of the confiscated Giant Clam Shells during one PCSD's operations.

evidence. She even admitted that she does not have in her possession any document showing that the National Redemption Program is a sanctioned program of the Office of the President.

However, she presented a document purportedly from the BFAR National Director Commodore Eduardo B. Gongona on which they greatly rely on when it comes to

activities Dra. Tequillo's group had undertaken, the PCSDS warned them that the conduct of such undertaking under the guise of possessing legal authority from the OP and the BFAR and misinforming the public, carry the imposition of corresponding sanctions under the law.

Dra. Tequillo also mentioned the name of certain Mr. Joel M. Pamaran who according to her is

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someone who possesses a Treasure Hunting Permit and who has offered to extend to them the said permit. However, she was not able to adduce any documentary proof showing the veracity of her claims. Moreover, Dra. Tequillo's assertion that it is Treasure Hunting Permit that applies when it comes to collection of fossilized Giant Clam species is misplaced. PCSDS, however, stressed that under the existing rules and guidelines issued by the National Museum (NM), natural history specimens such as fossilized Giant Clam species are not covered by a Treasure Hunting Permit. And being a natural history specimen, the collection of fossilized Giant Clam must be solely for the establishment of reference collection and / or taxonomic study and not for trade.

The PCSDS also learned that Dra. Tequillo submitted to BFAR a list of individuals who have stockpiles of Giant Clam. PCSDS reiterated its warning that those individuals can be charged under the Wildlife Act for illegal possession of wildlife by-product.

Having ascertained that Dra. Tequillo's group failed to provide legal basis for their activities and operations, the PCSDS maintains its position that their collection, possession and trading of Giant Clam species are illegal and are punishable under Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. The PCSDS also reminded them that in the province of Palawan, the PCSD is the lead agency to implement the Wildlife Act, and that all activities relative to wildlife species, by-products and derivatives are regulated by the PCSD.

PCSDS Executive Director Matta further emphasized that the PCSD and PCSDS will remain firm in the commitment to clamp down on illegal wildlife trading in Palawan and ensure a sustainable environment for Palawenos.

PCSDS joins DENR Strategic Communication Plan Workshop

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) through ECAN Education and Extension Division (EEED) participated in the Strategic Communication Planning Workshop initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on April 6, 8, 13 and 15, 2021, respectively. The event was held through a series of Zoom teleconferencing engagements that featured several communication strategies to better engage local communities in the participant-agencies' communication campaigns. The key goal of the event is to introduce and widen the reach of DENR's Tayo and Kalikasan program that aims to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation programs initiated by the DENR and its partner agencies.

The PCSDS' engagement with the webinars aims to craft an eight-year strategic communications action plan for the agency. The said output will be the basis of communication initiatives organized by PCSDS to reach communities and hopefully ignite behavior change among local stakeholders. The said four-week workshop entailed insightful, thought-provoking, and valuable presentations on DENR priority programs, Metrics, Key Success Indicators and Measures, Stakeholder analysis, Digital marketing, and Social media marketing. The lecturers also imparted key knowledge and skills on crafting a solid background and information on communication campaigns by formulating a PESTLE analysis. The PESTLE analysis considers six (6) aspects in drafting communication campaigns:

1. Political Aspect – the political aspect looks at the factors that determine the extent to which the government and its policies that influence the behavior of local stakeholders. In terms of environmental conservation, the political aspect looks at how the government implements relevant laws and how these laws affect the locals' behavior.
2. Economic Aspect – the economic aspect looks how certain economic factors directly affect the communities' economic performance; thereby affecting the perception on how a campaign is viewed by the general public. For example, the pandemic displaced many workers who now rely on fishing and farming as main livelihood sources. PCSD's implementation of Reef-Fish-for-Food (RFF) measures may affect the way people perceive this conservation or regulation campaign due to the difficulties brought by the pandemic.
3. Socio-cultural Aspect – the socio-cultural aspect refers to how cultural trends, lifestyle, demographics, income, education, and population analytics affect a communication campaign. Hence, these factors are considered when developing communication action plans to better determine the processes in which communities are urged to take action and participate in environmental conservation programs.
4. Technological Aspect – the technological aspect looks at how technological innovations affect the implementation of a communication plan. Improper analysis of the technological aspect may gain unfavorable results leading to wastage of resources, time, and effort.
5. Legal Aspect – the legal aspect looks at how certain laws affect the implementation of a communication campaign. The role of the

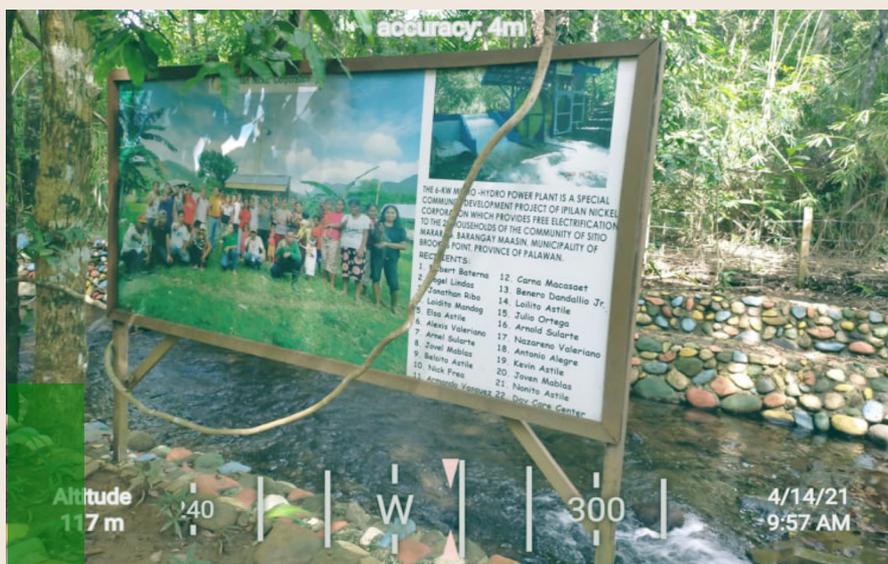
considering legal aspects in crafting a communication action plan is to identify legal bases to support the proposed program or activity.

6. Environmental Aspect – the environmental aspect determines the factors that surround an agency in implementing its campaigns. These factors may include environmental restrictions like weather, workforce health, and pressure from other agencies or NGOs.

The lecturers also discussed the importance of profiling target audiences to better craft communication messages. SWOT analysis and identification of core competencies of communication professionals are also among the significant considerations when developing an effective strategic communication plan. By auditing the capabilities of communication professionals of an organization, the agency develops programs that can be implemented effectively by these professionals. Tailorfitting the staff's competencies into communication strategies create impactful messages that suit the target audience's profile and address communication gaps. A comprehensive results-based strategic communication plan was then required by DENR from the participant-agencies after the event. These action plans will be packaged as the eight-year strategic communication action plan of DENR and attached agencies that will provide direction on their communication programs, projects, and activities.

PCSD's Strategic Communications Action Plan is an eight-year communication plan detailing and incorporating programs relevant to DENR's "Tayo ang Kalikasan" tagline. This was purposely done for Palaweños to support the 10 priority programs of the DENR and to influence behavioral change among them in areas related to protection, conservation, and proper management of the environment and natural resources.

Brooke's Point ECAN Board conducts on-site visit to Ipilan Nickel Corporation mining area



The Brooke's Point ECAN Board conducted an on-site visit to Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) mining area at Maasin Brooke's Point, Palawan on April 14, 2021.

Said on-site visit came after INC's urgent motion to include in the 277th PCSD Execom meeting the reiterative motion to reinstate its SEP Clearance on March 25, 2021. The Council referred it to the LGU of Brooke's Point to give comments on such motion of the INC to reinstate its cancelled SEP Clearance.

It can be recalled that the PCSD has issued SEP Clearance No. MODP-122110-001 to INC for the project Ipilan Nickel Project Mining Operation and Development located at Barangays Ipilan, Mambalot, Maasin and Calasaguen, Brooke's Point, Palawan on December 21, 2010. However, Atty. Mary Jean D. Feliciano, Municipal Mayor of Brooke's Point, Palawan filed a petition before the PCSD to recall INC's SEP clearance on May 17, 2017 due to evident environmental degradation and deterioration of natural resources in areas where the INC was operating at that time.

During the same year, the PCSD found out that over 80% of the areas covered by INC's mining claim were classified as core zones upon revisiting the SEP Clearance it had previously issued to INC. After considering the provisions of RA 7611, particularly Section 9, the PCSD concluded that no SEP Clearance should have been issued to INC as the areas where it had operated its projects were considered areas of maximum protection.

Concerning the issuance of SEP Clearance of INC, it was discovered that the same is not in accord with the updated and existing ECAN Map (2005) of the Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan, which map was approved by the PCSD during the Council's 126th regular meeting on February 24, 2006. The PCSD also came to know the issuance of SEP Clearance to be contrary to the Council's existing policy. Moreover, the INC

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Photo of the roads leading to INC operation site.

failed to secure other necessary permits or clearances from other concerned agencies, such as permits

Furthermore, the PCSD found out through the record from

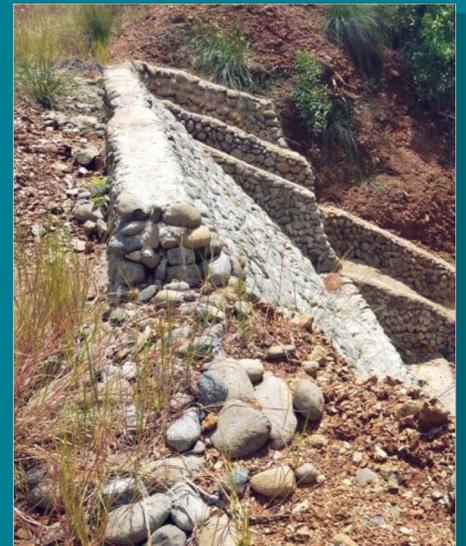
intention to reinstate its SEP Clearance to the PCSD which the Brooke's Point ECAN Board strongly



Photo of Brooke's Point ECAN Board inspecting the INC mining area.



Photo of the damage caused by INC's operation to Brooke's Point's terrestrial Resources.



from the Municipal Government of Brooke's Point. It also was not able to take responsible actions when its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) was cancelled by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at that time.

With all these things being considered, the PCSD recalled the SEP Clearance issued to INC on July 27, 2017 through the issuance and adoption of PCSD Resolution No. 17-588. On the same day, the PCSD also requested the DENR to cancel the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of INC for the Project Iplan Nickel Project Mining Operation and Development through the PCSD Resolution No. 17-589.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau that the MPSA of Celestial Nickel Mining Exploration Corporation which was being operated by INC at that time had expired on September 17, 2018 and the company had filed for its renewal with DENR on October 24, 2017. Because of this, the PCSD showed full support to Mayor Jean Feliciano's action at that time in ordering INC to voluntarily vacate the area it was occupying in Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan through the passing of PCSD Resolution 18-654 on November 23, 2018.

More than three years since its last operation, the INC now expressed its

opposed given the prior violations of the mining company.

Upon learning INC's reiterative motion to PCSD to include in the Council's 277th regular meeting the reinstatement of its SEP Clearance, the Brooke's Point ECAN Board, headed by Mayor Jean Feliciano, then decided to conduct assessment on the INC's mining area and their compliance to the existing guidelines of the DENR in mining operations.

However, the Brooke's Point ECAN Board is yet to submit their report on the aforementioned matter to PCSD for the agency's review and decision on INC's plea for the reinstatement of its SEP Clearance.