



REVITALIZATION MEETING OF THE PALAWAN MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

30 September 2021



PCSDS-EPRPD holds Palawan MPA Network Revitalization Meeting

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), through the ECAN Policy Research and Planning Division (EPRPD), organized the Palawan Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN) Revitalization Meeting via Zoom on September 30, 2021.

The event was initiated to revitalize the MPA Network Clusters of Palawan, tap existing initiatives, and provide technical assistance that

can assist in strengthening implementation. It was attended by representatives from various LGUs, Academe, Palawan MPAN Partners, and PCSD staff.

Notable persons present in this event are PCSDS Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta who welcomed the participants; Dr. Romeo Cabungcal, Provincial Agriculturist of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA); Ms.

Marvi Trudeau of the Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI); Dir. Josephine S. Matulac, PCSDS Director for Planning; PCSDS EPRPD Chief Mr. John Francisco Pontillas, EnP; Calamianes MPA Network Chairperson Mr. Jose Mazo; USAID Fish Right/PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc (PFPI) Field Program Coordinator Ms. Vivien Facunla; City Agriculturist of the City Agriculture Office Ms. Melissa Theodora Macasaet; and Mr. Bonifacio Tobias

>>> Continuation at Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

03 PAGE PCSD approves the endorsement of the Kibbutz Farming System to LGUs

04 PAGE PCSD opens up about Mining on the #MineResponsibility Forum with DENR MGB MIMAROPA

05 PAGE PCSD celebrates MIMAROPA RDC Week 2021 through "Kapihan at Kamustahan sa MIMAROPA"

08 PAGE WPS 101 Webinar Series continues its 3rd and 4th installment this September

09 PAGE PCSDS-EZMED holds Wildlife Deputation Training

11 PAGE PCSDS, PSU-CS conduct garden monitoring in Barangay Sta. Lourdes: maintain the School-Plus-Home Gardens Project

PCSDS-EPRPD holds Palawan...



The participants while taking a photo op during the Palawan MPA Revitalization Meeting



PCSDS Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta while delivering his opening remarks during the Palawan MPA Revitalization Meeting

of the Northeast Palawan MPA Network and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines.

Dr. Romeo Cabungcal provided an overview of the Palawan MPA Network, the organizations, and its milestones. He shared the initiatives in the formation of the Palawan MPA Network at the onset of the activity. He shared in retrospect the beginning of the Palawan MPA Network, its formation, status, opportunities, and challenges.

“For our locally managed MPA, which is being established through municipal ordinances, dito naka-focus ang ating pag-ooperate or pag-maintain ng ating mga marine protected area,” he stated.

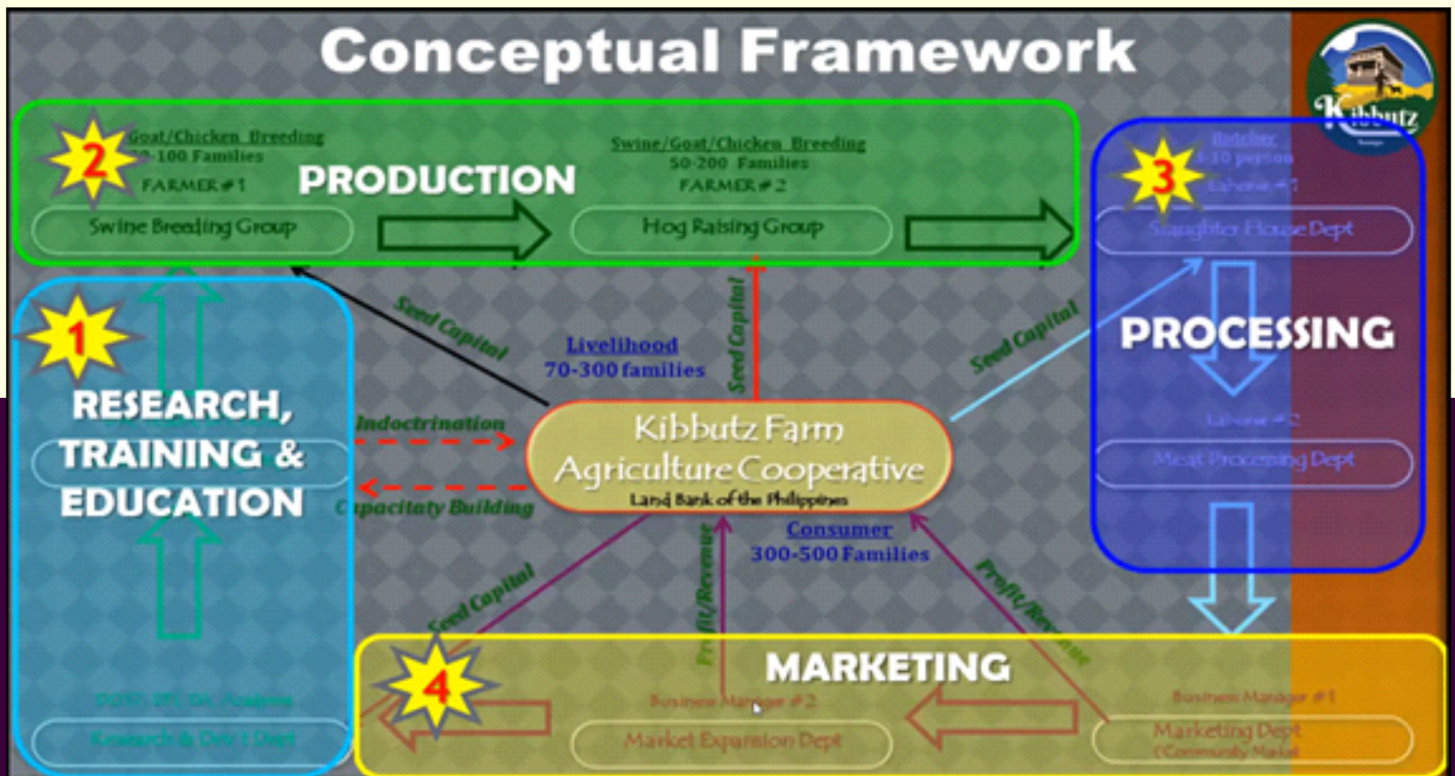
The succeeding topics were the updates on the Palawan MPA Network Clusters shared by Dr. Romeo Cabungcal, the South East MPAN and Calamianes MPAN presented by Mr. Jose Mazo, chairperson of the Calamianes MPA Network, and Ms. Vivien Facunla of the USAID Fish Right/PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc (PFPI) Field Program Coordinator, PPC MPAN Experience presented by Ms. Melissa Theodora Macasaet, City

Agriculturist of the City Agriculture Office, and North East MPAN shared by Mr. Bonifacio Tobias of the Northeast Palawan MPA Network and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines.

After the situationer, break-out sessions were conducted and the participants were divided into three groups: South and PPC Cluster, North Cluster, and Calamian Cluster. Each group discussed the MPAN challenges and implementation needs.

Culminating the group sessions, the participants were gathered again and presented their work plans during the plenary session. Ms. Glenda S. Cadigal, Project Development Officer IV, provided the synthesis of the Palawan MPAN Revitalization meeting, focusing on the summary of all the presentations of the clusters, as well as the salient points that participants must include in their activities and in the implementation and ongoing management of the MPA Network.

Dir. Josephine S. Matulac then advised about the next steps for the Palawan MPAN. *“Napakahalaga po ng inputs ninyo sa workshop na ginanap sa mga susunod pa nating gawain para i-pursue natin ang ating adhikain para sa Marine Protected Areas natin...according to literatures MPA is considered as a conservation tool rather than a fisheries management tool. Why? Because we protect the components of the ecosystems thereby preserving the biodiversity and allowing the ecosystem to gravitate to a more natural state,”* she stated.



PCSD approves the endorsement of the Kibbutz Farming System to LGUs

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development approved the endorsement of the Kibbutz Farming System (KFS) to the Local Government Units in the province of Palawan during the 283rd PCSD Regular meeting on September 29, 2021.

LTC Engelberto A. Nioda Jr. PAF, the proponent of Kibbutz, presented the details of the aforementioned platform to the Council. According to him, the KFS is a community-based rural socio-economic development platform that aims to address the development of food security that has evolved into national security problems. It was prompted by a lack of development opportunities in rural areas, as well as the same cycle of economic conditions, no income, and odd jobs, which will lead to people being easily swayed by anti-government recruitment.

LtCol Nioda went on to say that the farming system has been established in Batangas to create sustainable and progressive communities that will prime national economic development, ensure food security, and sustain national security. It aims to transform the geographically isolated and disadvantaged area into progressive and sustainable agricultural communities capable of socio-economic development.

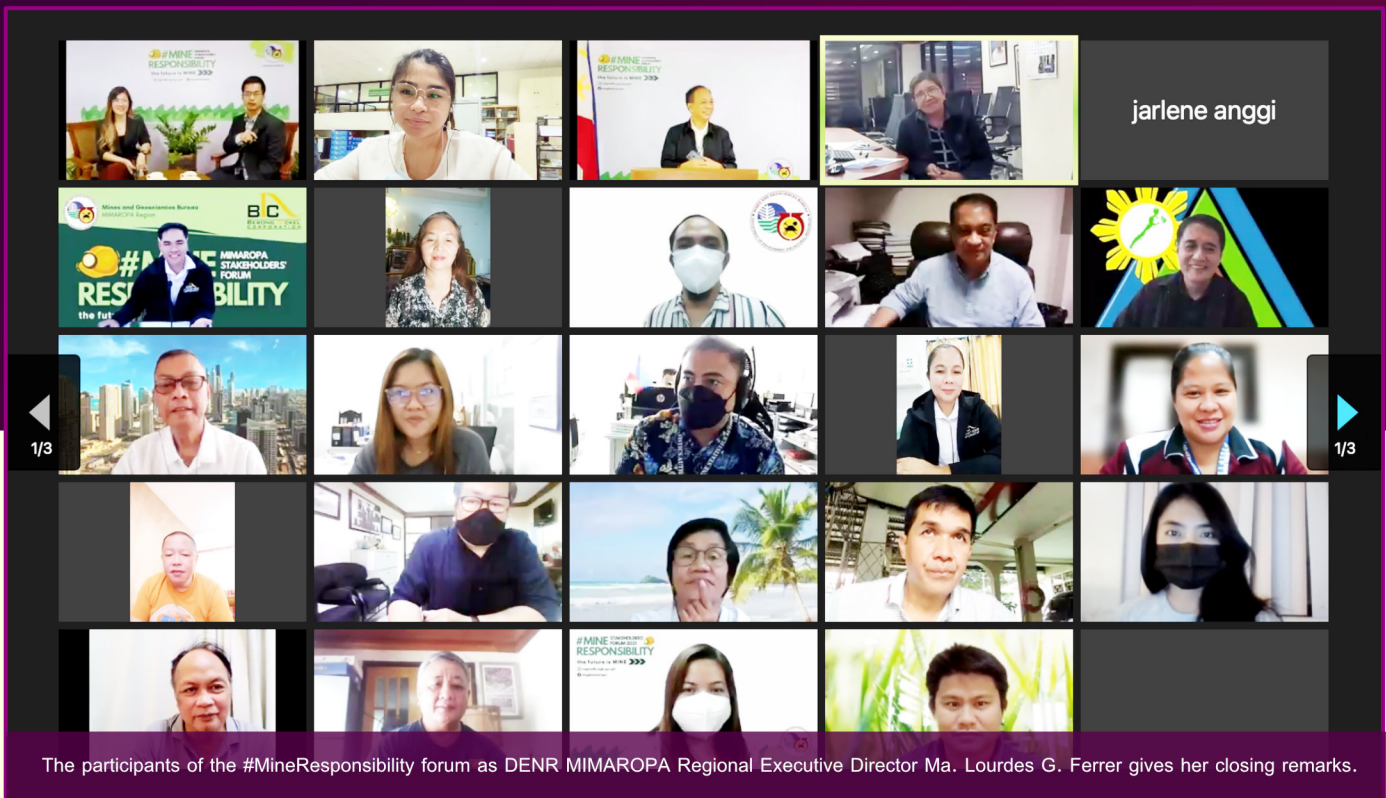
He shared that each farmer in the community receives training support from the KFS. When the product is

ready, KFS will act as the buyer, eliminating the need for middlemen and allowing the farmer to earn more. Every municipality is encouraged to form at least ten groups to form a communal farming community. The cooperative will facilitate production, marketing, and processing at the start of KFS operations. Local governments can channel funds to assist the cooperative while also addressing the insurgency problem.

He also expressed a desire for support from the people of Palawan for the system's implementation in the province, based on the Batangas experience.

PCSD Chairperson and Governor Jose Ch. Alvarez stated that the strategy of addressing insurgency problems with socioeconomic components is a very sustainable concept. He stated that he intends to implement the system to start in Barangay Port Barton, Municipality of San Vicente.

The Council approved the endorsement of the KFS for consideration by the LGUs in Palawan after deliberating that the project could have a long-term and progressive impact on the beneficiaries.



PCSD opens up about Mining on the #MineResponsibility Forum with DENR MGB MIMAROPA

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, through Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta, attended as a resource speaker at the second day of Mine Responsibility Stakeholders' Forum on September 17, 2021, via Zoom.

The forum was joined by esteemed local government units and mining companies all over the MIMAROPA region, including DENR Mine Management Division Chief Engr. Ellen Grace R. Galiste; Berong Nickel Corporation's Occupational Safety and Health Consultant Mr. Rolando Sajot and Community Relations Department OIC Ms. Deborah A. Arquio; National Commission for Indigenous Peoples MIMAROPA Director Dr. Marie Grace Pascua; BMP Environment & Community Care, Inc. Dr. Rolando Cuaño; Kgd. Doreen Sayo of Brgy. Rio

Tuba; Nickel Asia Corporation's VP of Corporate Communications Mr. Jose Bayani Baylon; and Ms. Nheslaine Eval of Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) MIMAROPA.

“May kakulangan tayo sa pagsabi ng mga nagagawa ng mining; you get so much bad feedback about the mining but we have to look at the benefits it does to the communities.”

In his video presentation, Executive Director Atty. Matta stated the importance of PCSD's involvement in mining from its inception until its closure. As part of the MOFFAT (Mining, Offshore Energy, Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture, and Tourism) Industries of Palawan, Mining plays an important role in the economy not only in the province but for the whole country; he also mentioned the manifestation of mining's crucial role

in development through the latest Executive Order No. 130 which lifts the moratorium of Mineral Agreements. Based on its provisions, the aforementioned Order aims to provide support by providing raw materials for construction of government projects and employment opportunities for the local communities within the mining area, among others.

Atty. Matta reiterated that PCSD, above all, is an agent of the environment. With this, Executive Director Atty. Matta noted that being aware of the reservations on mining of some Palaweños, the authority that the PCSD has bestowed upon its Staff enables the Council to strike a balance between preservation and utilization, and that the PCSDS shall always refer to RA 7611 and its current provisions, all the while considering the latest national



government orders. And this, according to him, is what responsible mining is.

As the program came to a close, DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Ma. Lourdes G.

Ferrer reiterated the purpose of popularizing mining in our country. She said that the #MineResponsibility aims to change the negative image of mining by highlighting environmental and societal contributions of mining. She called for strong enforcement and regulation of mining in order to prevent mistakes from the past. *“May kakulangan tayo sa pagsabi ng mga nagagawa ng mining; you get so much bad feedback about the mining but we have to look at the benefits it does to the communities,”* she stated.

The #MineResponsibility was established in 2019 through DENR Undersecretary Roy Cimatu in order to shed light on the significant contributions of mining in the Philippines.

PCSD celebrates MIMAROPA RDC Week 2021 through *“Kapihan at Kamustahan sa MIMAROPA”*

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) gave its full support in commencing the festivities of the Regional Development Council (RDC) MIMAROPA by serving as one of the keynote speakers at the *“Kapihan at Kamustahan sa MIMAROPA”* virtual

event, held on September 20, 2021, via Zoom.

This year’s theme is *“MIMAROPA RDC Through the Years: Providing Service Excellence for a more Participative, Sustainable, and Resilient Future”* which aims to recognize the valuable contribution

of the RDC in regional development and commits to further improve its services to MIMAROPA in order to realize its potential as a *“destination of choice.”*

The said event was spearheaded by the current MIMAROPA RDC Chair and Romblon

>>> Continuation at Page 6

PCSD celebrates MIMAROPA RDC...



Governor Jose R. Riano, who reminded the different partner agencies, LGUs, and other participants about the importance of aiming to do more and consider sustainability and resiliency before making a policy recommendation or endorsing projects for regional development. He also encouraged everyone to work together and remain united by taking the RDC Week as an opportunity to deepen their understanding of RDC as the highest policy-making body in the region.

The PCSD, through PCSDS Executive Director Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta, was a part of Session 2: Providing Service Excellence for a more sustainable MIMAROPA of the “*Kapihan at Kamustahan*” which was a sharing session between RDC Officials and members on the good practices of the RDC in providing an avenue for sustainable development. During the discussion proper, Executive Director Atty. Matta commended the public-private relationship of the RDC as it fuels the fire in participation and is beneficial to planning and projects of the region. He also stated that stakeholder management is active and ongoing, as the RDC understands how to

empower stakeholders and recognize the need for provincial guidance.

In terms of improving MIMAROPA RDC’s services in terms of sustainable development, Executive Director Atty. Matta suggested a “bottom-up” strategy or in other words, start a project by consulting first the grassroots or its target beneficiaries. He said that “nobody knows what is needed more than the people that the projects are intended for.” And for his last note, he reiterated the potential of Green Technology in solving the current issues brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and helping to realize solutions in anticipation of the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.

Executive Director Atty. Matta was joined by Private Sector Representative (PSR) Mr. Rodne Galicha of Bayay Sibuyanon, Inc., and DILG MIMAROPA Regional Director Mr. Wilhelm M. Suyko at the closing the event, NEDA Regional Office (NRO) MIMAROPA Regional Director Mr. Agustin C. Mendoza hopes that this event has been a reflection of the exemplary service of the MIMAROPA RDC despite the challenges it has endured over the years, and may the MIMAROPA continue to work together for sustainable development and for the development of the whole of the region.

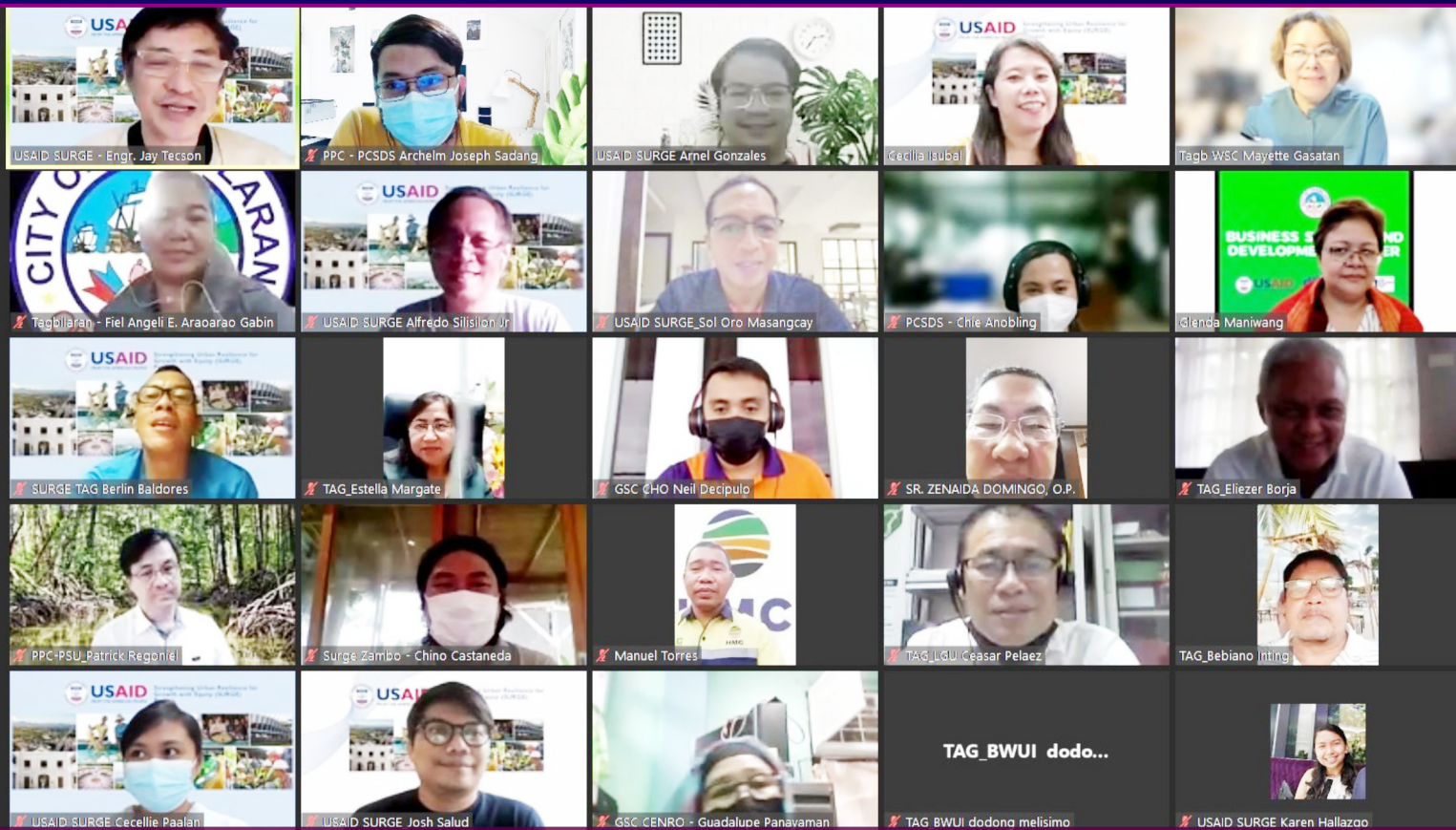
Pursuant to PD 1164, series of 1998, the Regional Development Councils Week is celebrated every 4th week of September in commemoration of the “birth of the RDCs as the key structure for regional planning and for integrated local planning and programming.” The PCSD serves as one of its partner agencies.

PCSDS joins Online Training on Developing Water Demand Management (WDM) Promotion Programs for Cities Development Initiative (CDI) Cities of General Santos, Tagbilaran, and Puerto Princesa City

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), through the ECAN Monitoring and Evaluation Division (EMED), in collaboration with the academe and local governments, participated in the Online Training on Developing WDM Promotion Programs for Cities Development Initiative (CDI) Cities of General Santos, Tagbilaran, and Puerto Princesa City. It was

hosted by USAID’s Strengthening Urban Resilience and Growth with Equity (SURGE) Project on September 9-10, 2021.

The training aimed to introduce a strategic, systematic, and consultative approach to implementing promotion programs and to build



The participants while taking a photo op during the online training on Developing Water Demand Management promotion programs for CDI Cities of General Santos, Tagbilaran, and Puerto Princesa City

capacity for future Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) promotion campaigns.

Engr. Jay Tecson, Senior WASH Specialist of USAID SURGE, spoke about the importance of promoting “Developing Water Demand Management.” He went on to say that the most common cause of failure is a lack of understanding of the motivations of the target audience and the failure to launch a promotion that is relevant to the target audience.

“The training aimed to introduce a strategic, systematic, and consultative approach to implementing promotion programs and to build capacity for future Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) promotion campaigns.”

During the training, the participants were given an overview of the 10-Step Promotion Program. The following are the ten steps in developing and launching a WDM promotion program: a) define the problem, audiences, and behaviors; b) gather information; c) focus on feasible practices; d) detail strategy for change; e) develop the promotion plan; f) prepare materials and

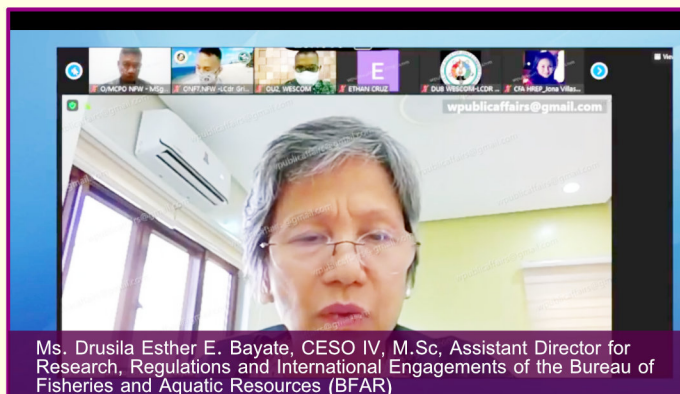
activities; g) pretest materials and activities; h) implement; i) monitor; and j) evaluate.

Engr. Tecson discussed the significance of defining the problem, ideal behavior, and the promotion's target audience. He emphasized that the organizers should assess the target audience's informational needs, such as ability, influence, and motivation. He also highlighted the importance of determining the target audience's behavioral status and listed all feasible practices to promote.

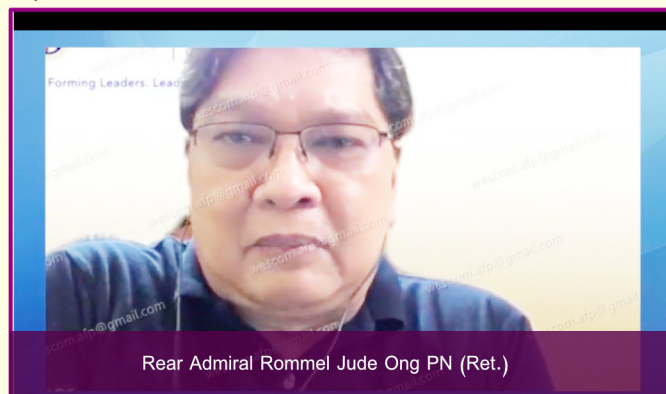
The three-day workshop included the development of a WDM promotional campaign that included the problem statement, primary target audience, secondary and tertiary audiences, and ideal behavior desired for the target audience, as well as a discussion on harnessing the power of social media to reach and connect with the audience and the completion of the WDM promotion campaign. The activity concluded with the presentation of the results of the groups.

WPS 101 Webinar Series continues its 3rd and 4th installment this September

The IECTG ATF-West continues with its 3rd and 4th of the 7-part WPS 101 Webinar Series with Rear Admiral Rommel Jude Ong PN (Ret.) and Ms. Drusila Esther E. Bayate, CESO IV, M.Sc. on September 17 and 22, 2021, 2-4 PM via Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live.



the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Her topic “Economic & Environmental Dimensions of the WPS” included the specification on the marine resources within the WPS which include the coral reefs, seagrass, seaweeds, mangroves, fishery resources, and aquatic wildlife.



In the first half of the September program schedule, RADM Ong first proceeded with his topic “Context, Dynamics, & Implications of the WPS Dimensional Interplay.” His experience as a naval officer and commander while in the Naval Task Force and Naval Force in the West Philippine Sea has equipped him with a significant amount of knowledge about the strategies of the Philippines, specifically on aspects such as its Maritime Strategy, China’s Global Insurgency, United Front Works, Impact on Philippine Security, and its Notional Defense Posture.

Also, RADM Ong highlighted the environmental security of the WPS dispute which consists of Mining and Modernization. There, he introduced the Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) Development Strategy, a concept in which the Philippines shall “fuse” economic and social strategies with its security strategies. He also added that through mining and modernization, the WPS security shall be able to impose a Shipbuilding and Modernization program which shall cover submarines, surface combatants, amphibious warfare ships, aircraft carriers, and auxiliary ships. The said program shall develop advanced weapons, sensors, and command and control capabilities.

In his takeaway, RADM Ong said that even though there are military efforts to establish our defense in the WPS, islands are not militarily defensible. As a single state, RADM Ong pronounced that the Philippines needs a “sea denial” capability to neutralize China’s naval advantage and that our country needs to work with a coalition of states.

Meanwhile, the other half of the series was graced with Ms. Bayate who is the current Assistant Director for Research, Regulations and International Engagements of

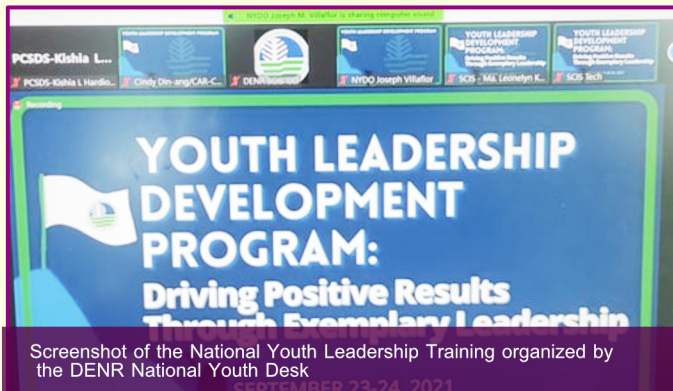
Asst. Director Bayate also discussed the WPS as a part of the Coral Triangle. The Coral Triangle, she claims, is home to the world’s richest marine species, sustaining the livelihood and food security of 120 million people. Such areas of importance highly contribute to the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, as well as the functions and benefits they provide to humans.

On the economic aspect, Asst. Director Bayate revealed that the West Philippine Sea contributed 325,358.89 metric tons to the Philippine food fish production in 2020, accounting for 11% of the entire PH food fish production of 2,931,719.75 in the said year. It was also in 2020 that the MIMAROPA region topped the number of registered fisherfolk with a record of 99,175 people. With this, she highlighted the different livelihood assistance programs of the government which include the gillnets; hook and lines; squid jiggers; motorized bancas; marine engines; multiple hand lines; tuna hand lines; and Payao, a fish aggregating device used to attract free-schooling tunas and small pelagics (sardines, scad, mackerel, etc.).

The WPS 101 Webinar Series is a collective initiative of the ATF-West IECTG that aims to disseminate firsthand information about the WPS through Palawan local agencies. Currently composed of 11 Palawan-based local government units since its establishment in 2020, the PCSDS ECAN Education and Extension Division (EEED) serves as its chairperson.

The 5th, 6th, and 7th episodes shall continue to run in October. Further updates will be posted on the ATF-West and PCSD’s Facebook page.

PCSDS joins DENR National Youth Leadership Development Program



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Strategic Communications and Initiatives Service (SCIS) and the DENR National Youth Desk organized a two-day learning and development event for the first batch of Youth Desk Officers of DENR in their respective offices, affiliated bureaus, and attached agencies in the Philippines last September 23 and 24, 2021 via Zoom.

The PCSDS participated in the webinar series through the ECAN Education and Education Division (EEED) staff. The webinar was organized with the intention of equipping youth leaders to mobilize the youth toward the realization of identified goals and objectives. Furthermore, the training included a discussion of the Five Practices of Exemplary Leaders as a key strategy for moving this initiative forward.

Mr. Audie B. Masigan, a management consultant, was the activity's lecturer/trainer. His discussion focused on the qualities that a good leader should possess. It aimed to identify the factors that influence the integrity of public officials or offices. Following the breakout

sessions, the top three factors identified by the participants were: (1) values system, (2) pressure from higher authorities and coworkers, and (3) organizational system/culture. They were also apprised of three proactive strategies to reduce dishonesty in public service: (1) eliminating inconsistencies between what we say and what we do; (2) living the organization's vision, mission, and principles by reducing socio-political disparities; and (3) doing the right thing even when it is inconvenient.

The activity entailed the participants' identification of the key strategies for mobilizing youth and getting involved in environmental advocacy, which includes the following: a) Increase social media engagement; b) Use platforms where learners can have healthy conversations about environmental issues and solutions; c) Strengthen links with other agencies such as the National Youth Commission, DepEd, CHED, and the tourism sector, among others; and d) Involve young people in engaging activities such as tree planting, coastal clean-ups, and IEC campaigns.

The training culminated in an understanding of the organization's strengths, opportunities, and ambitions or results they wanted to attain and also with the presentation of outputs, which proved to be extremely valuable in finding opportunities for reinforcing specific programs or efforts. The participants gained insight into how current efforts are executed to accomplish the organizations' goals and missions in environmental sustainability by identifying tangible results.

PCSDS-EZMED holds Wildlife Deputation Training

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff ECAN Zones Management and Enforcement Division (PCSDS EZMED) recently held their PCSDS Enforcement Refresher Course Training/PCSDS Wildlife Deputation Training via Zoom on September 21-22 and practical training on September 23, 2021.

The training involved a series of refresher lectures wherein the Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) and Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Officers (WTMOs) were informed of the RA 7611 (SEP Law), RA 9072 (Caves Act), RA 9175 (Chainsaw Act), and RA 9147 (Wildlife Act).

The training included a series of refresher lectures in which Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) and Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Officers (WTMOs) were informed of the RA 7611 (SEP Law), RA 9072 (Caves Act), RA 9175 (Chainsaw Act), and RA 9147 (Wildlife Act).

The WEOs and WTMOs were introduced to the data on marine wildlife, specifically the marine turtles and mammals by the Consultant of *Crocodylus porosus* Philippines, Inc., Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, and Tubbataha Management Office, Dr. Ma. Teresa R. Aquino. There, she introduced the marine

PCSDS-EZMED holds Wildlife...



Sustainable Interventions
for Biodiversity, Oceans,
and Landscapes
(SIBOL)

PCSDS WILDLIFE DEPUTATION TRAINING

September 21-23, 2021

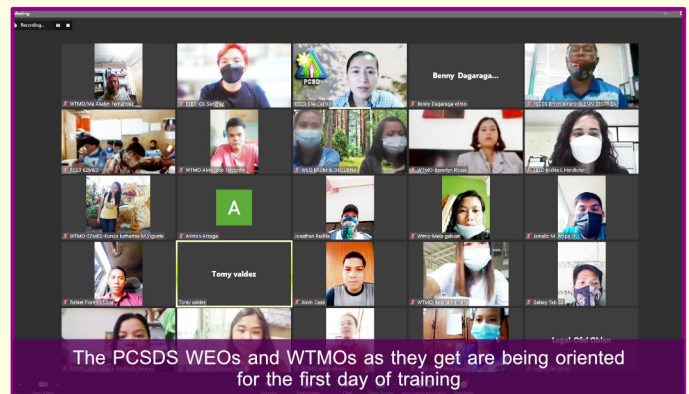
EEED Project Development Officer Ms. Rachell Ann Cariño as she gives the run-through of the Wildlife Deputation Training session for September

turtles through classifying their parts and their geographic location. She also talked about the proper handling of marine turtles, the routine when you encounter marine turtle hatchlings. Dr. Aquino went on and showed examples of malpractices of marine turtle recovery, in which she presented photos from her documentation.

Dr. Glenn Rebong, the on-call veterinarian for the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (PWRCC), also gave a presentation on the basic guidelines for collecting Necropsy Samples during the activity. Dr. Rebong discussed the concept of a tissue sample and the materials required to retrieve it. He also provided common types of sampling and safety precautions when handling a dead animal.

Mr. Nerben Salazar, PCSDS Curator, discussed the economically important species based on Section 18 of RA 9147, or the Wildlife Act, during the virtual training. Mr. Tiburcio Bautista III, PCSDS Web and System Developer, then trained the WEOs and WTMUs on the SUMBONG Feature as part of the BRAIN System, a PCSD project in collaboration with USAID Project Wildlife. Mr. Bautista demonstrated the SUMBONG feature to the enforcers as responders in a step-by-step manner.

Then, PCSDS Enforcement Chief Lt. Col. Glenn Destriza, discussed the Surveillance and Casing Operations that the WEOs and WTMUs shall need on their enforcement operations. He talked about the



purpose of surveillance, its objectives, the characteristics of a successful Surveillance Officer, and the challenges that they may face, using examples from his personal experiences. Also, he presided over the practical part of their training at the Old Public Market and around Purok Sandiwa, Brgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, in which they inspected the said areas and applied the necessary points from all of the topics that were lectured, among others.

The Wildlife Deputation Training is part of the efforts of the PCSDS EZMED in keeping the WEOs and WTMUs updated with the current legal provisions and procedures on their enforcement activities. Since the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training has been conducted virtually except its practical part wherein the attendees would be limited, and the safety guidelines are strictly observed.



A close-up shot of a Leopard Cat turned over to PCSDS

One Leopard Cat turned over to PCSDS

One Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) was turned over by Mr. Genesis Segovia of Pathmosville Village, Brgy. Tagburos, Puerto Princesa City to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) Enforcement Team on September 15, 2021.

Mr. Segovia narrated that on August 7, 2021, a certain person from the municipality of El Nido, Palawan, captured the Leopard cat for consumption purposes. However, he decided to save the wildlife species and transport it to Puerto Princesa City to be handed over to the PCSDS.

The Leopard Cat was brought to the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (PWRCC) on September 15, 2021, for its rehabilitation.

The PCSDS urges persons who happen to find or rescue wildlife to turn them over to our office, which can be contacted thru hotline numbers 0935-116-2336 (Globe/TM) and 0948-937-2200 (Smart/TNT). You may also send a message to our Facebook page for your other concerns.

PCSDS, PSU-CS conduct garden monitoring in Barangay Sta. Lourdes; maintain the School-Plus-Home Gardens Project

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), in partnership with the Palawan State University-College of Sciences (PSU-CS), conducted a garden monitoring in Sta. Lourdes National High School (SLNHS), as well as in the homes of Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) members, on September 9, 2021.

Said activity was developed as a follow-up to the PCSDS' Teachers' Training on School Gardening and Biodiversity Enhancement (Species Management) held on August 25-27, 2021, and as part of an ongoing effort to maintain and expand the School-Plus-Home Gardens Project, or S+HGP. This garden monitoring activity integrates the knowledge acquired by the participants

from the PCSDS' Teachers Training in terms of improving the state biodiversity in their area.

Ms. Rachell Ann Cariño, PCSDS - EEED Project Development Officer, and CS Extension Coordinator Ms. Lilia Margallo, along with some PTA Members, visited each garden on the said day. This initiative aimed to ensure that the seedlings given to them on August 27, the final day of the Teachers Training on School Gardening and Biodiversity Enhancement (Species Management), are properly cared for and that they can apply what they learned during the three-day training.

Following that, Ms. Margallo provided an overall evaluation. According to her, the seedlings given to the

>>> Continuation at Page 12

PCSDS, PSU-CS conduct garden...



PTA members pose for a pic at the Sta. Lourdes National High school (SLNHS), the first stop for garden monitoring



PTA members while giving their suggestions for the enhancement of the SLNHS school garden



PTA members showing their garden and asking for the must-do steps to properly handle a garden.



members by the Yamang Bukid Farm grew well in some way. She also described the must-do methods for growing healthy crops, such as the use of “Chili Sidin”, a pesticide containing dishwashing liquid and chili that kill pests. Aside from that, the CS Extension Coordinator advised the PTA members to use pots instead, citing the fact that the soil in the area is contaminated with mercury.

“Maganda to kung instead sa lupa natin itanim ay sa mga pot nalang natin siya ilagay kasi ang lupa dito ay contaminated. Kapag kontaminado ang lupa, maa-

absorb ‘yan ng halaman at mayroong hindi magandang epekto sa kalusugan natin,” she explained.

Ms. Margallo also intends to propose a new project called “Bioremediation”, which entails planting trees to absorb the element that contaminates the soil.

Furthermore, in connection with the desire to train SLNHS on gardening and biodiversity enhancement, the PCSDS and PSU-CS intend to supply more seedlings that will aid in the development of knowledge on effective livelihood once they see that the PTA members are competent and ready to handle gardens.