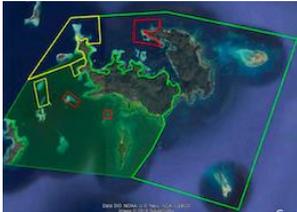


Chairman of the Board's 2019 REPORT



The progress of programs we have seen in 2019 continue to be encouraging but is not without challenges:

MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



The positive gains from conservation partnerships in several coastal communities like increasing fish abundance and habitat recovery have inspired many to expand and increase sizes of their marine protected areas (MPAs) to multiply the results which have translated to improved livelihoods and food security. Likewise, communities are seeing apex predators and endangered species return to their oceans, indicating regenerated and healthy marine ecosystem trophic levels resulting from the conservation actions and effective partnerships.



In 2019, our conservation partner site Ranzo Fish Sanctuary in the municipality of Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro won third (3rd) place at the prestigious Para El Mar national awards, despite being the smallest MPA in its category at merely 24 hectares, it bested other more popular, bigger and more stunning MPAs in the Philippines. We signed the original conservation agreement with Ranzo in 2013.



Last year we successfully pioneered the spawning and breeding of the Philippines' true giant clam species, the native *Tridacna gigas*, which was once declared extinct in the 80's but confirmed by our late MFI co-trustee National Scientist Dr. Edgardo Gomez in his last and final dive at Honda Bay in Palawan in 2017 where a few mature (50+ years old) individuals still reside under the care of a private resort. We will start restocking these cultured native gigas species in our effectively-managed partner MPA sites starting 2020 to enhance the recovery and health of the reefs in those areas.



MFI's conservation program reached over 4,000 children in 2019 through Environmental Youth Camps and school-based education drives that are continuing investments that aim to plant the seeds of hope to future environmentally-responsible leaders in coastal communities. The youth sector together with community elders were also engaged in regular coastal clean-up and reforestation activities with nearly 18,000 trees planted during the year alone.



By year-end of 2019, our marine conservation program area spans 329,627 hectares under 30 conservation agreements with 30 barangays and 14 municipalities, of which 18 out of 34 MPAs have been externally-recognized as Best-Managed at the provincial/regional and national levels and are now used as models by other municipalities in the Philippines aiming to improve coastal and marine conservation efforts in their areas.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS

In 2019 we produced 1,096 graduates for our employment generation program Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST). While community-based self-employment trainings reached 1,375 individuals under Sanayan sa Ikauunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP) and Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA). The most rewarding aspect based on monitoring and evaluation of our employment and self-employment programs is that we have seen as much as 900% immediate increase in monthly incomes after capacitating and providing people with the proper tools to make a living.



Under Enterprise for Conservation, services and trading enterprise continue to be top-performers and earners, giving back what is due to conservation and return social benefit to their communities. Our teams have found community groups with smaller profits performing better than ones with larger earnings. Those producing food and non-food enterprise products need to work harder or shift to services and trading to gain better profits for their association. Some of our partners into biodynamic animal-raising and fattening were affected by a phenomenon beyond our control such as the African swine flu affecting hogs, while those in tourism services enterprise experienced a decline in tourist arrivals and affected the bottom-line.

OTHER PROGRAMS



Last year we started the operation of a native tree nursery in Batangas to optimize use of leased space above Malampaya’s pipeline right-of-way spanning the Barangay Cuta area as part of a safety and encroachment mitigation measure. We join other civic groups propagating seedlings to save the Philippines’ unique native tree species that will be used to rehabilitate denuded coastal and terrestrial areas.

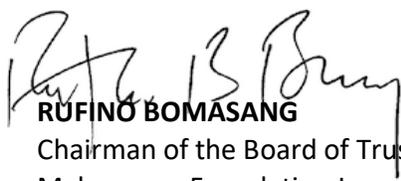


The Malampaya Clinical Laboratory continues to provide cost-effective diagnostic and free doctor services to its host community and adjacent barangays, providing a total service count of 3,795 in 2019. Environmental defenders such as park rangers & bantay dagats (sea rangers) and new generation of youths continue to be capacitated in basic first aid, life support and rescue skills under our disaster-preparedness program Shoreline Communities Onwards to Resiliency (SHORE).



Before the curtain fell on 2019 we found ourselves having to conduct disaster relief in Batangas City’s Isla Verde, several municipalities in Oriental Mindoro and Concepcion island of Romblon when typhoons Tisoy and Ursula struck before and during Christmas. Rehabilitation work support for typhoon-damages in select program areas will continue until Q2 of 2020.

In these challenging times, we will exert all effort to sustain the successes and overcome challenges through our fruitful partnerships and the Lord’s guidance and protection.


RUFINO BOMASANG
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Malampaya Foundation Inc.