

DATE : 09 OCT 2016

DAY : Sunday

DENR
IN THE NEWS



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mining, exports to suffer from DENR audit

By LAWRENCE AGCAOILI

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. believes the massive audit of mining companies may adversely affect the industry's output as well as export earnings.

Eugenia Victorino, economist at ANZ Bank, said the environmental audit of the mining industry could significantly cut production and export revenues.

"While we see limited impact on growth, the risk is that more suspensions in mining production could lead to a further deterioration in the trade deficit, resulting in a much nar-

rower current account surplus next year," she said.

Latest data showed the country's exports earnings contracted by 8.3 percent to \$31.5 billion from January to July this year, while imports jumped 14.4 percent to \$45.47 billion.

However, Victorino said cash remittances from Filipinos abroad as well as receipts

from the business process outsourcing sector would cushion the decline in export earnings.

"We expect ongoing remittances and growth in the business process outsourcing sector to provide an offset," she added.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez has ordered a massive audit of the operations of mining companies since her appointment as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) by President Duterte.

The audit resulted in the suspension of the operations

of 10 mining companies for violation of environmental standards.

The audit team has recommended the suspension of eight more companies including Filminera Resources, Marcventures Mining and Development, Agata, CTP Construction and Mining, Hinatuan Mining, Benguet, Lepanto Consolidated Mining, and OceanaGold Philippines.

DENR Undersecretary Leo Jasareno, head of the mining audit team, earlier said only 11 of the 41 operating metallic mines in the country

passed the audit while 20 were ordered to explain why their operations should not be suspended.

Several mining firms that are members of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) already slammed the audit conducted by the DENR.

COMP vice president for policy Roldan Recidoro earlier said the premature release of audit reports has damaged the reputation of mining companies.

He pointed out the government's premature announcement would have a serious impact not just on current min-

ing projects but also on the new ones.

"The repercussions go well beyond our mining communities. Investments are in danger. A lot of these companies with alleged violations are publicly-listed companies, jeopardizing stocks and shareholders especially at a time that the peso is struggling," Recidoro said.

The COMP emphasized that the DENR's action was inconsistent with President Duterte's thrust to honor existing contracts and support responsible mining.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



• **Sarangani: Seized
lumber for DepEd**

ALABEL, Sarangani – Gov. Steve Solon has asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to dispose some 25,000 board feet of illegally-sawn lumber earlier seized by police authorities and use it for the construction of school buildings and education materials. Police seized last August some 25,000 board feet of hard wood species in the mountain village in Barangay Tuanadatu, Maitum, Sarangani. The seized lumber was placed under the custody of the provincial police force in Alabel town since no case was filed against the suspects behind the illegal timber poaching. DENR-12 Regional Executive Director Tungko Saikol said his office is coordinating with the provincial government of Sarangani to process the documents needed for the donation of the seized lumber to Department of Education. He said the DENR and the police are still conducting an investigation on the illegal logging activity. Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez had earlier ordered the creation of a task force, composed of the DENR, police, military and provincial government tasked to go after illegal mining and logging operations and operators in Sarangani. (Joseph Jubelag)

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COASTAL FOREST – Thousands of mangrove seedlings were planted by members of the Action for Nurturing Children and Environment, assisted by men of the 7th Forward, Service Support, Army Support Command along the coast in Barangay Mambaling, Cebu City. The aim is to rebuild nursery areas for fish, maintain water quality and clarity, filter pollutants and trap sediments from land-based sources. (Juan Carlo de Vela)



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SEIZED. Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer forester Alfredo Palencia said 43,613 board feet of illegally sawn flitches and lumber, with an aggregate volume of 78,792.75 board feet, were seized since January to September. Photo shows one of the biggest haul of illegally-sawn flitches in Bgy. Anastacia, Tiaong, Quezon.

Photo by Gemi Formaran

EDITORIAL

Reef alert

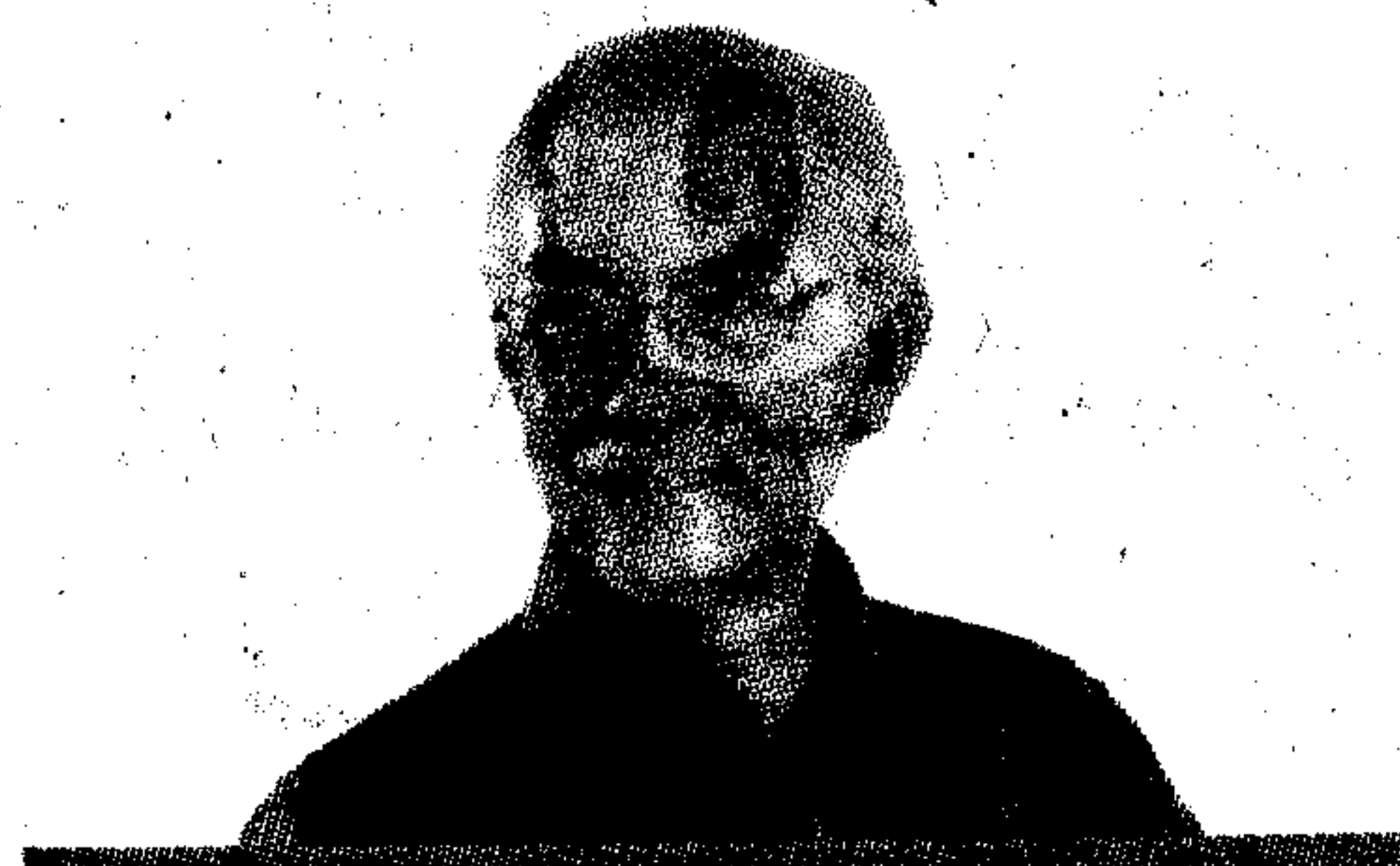
There is no way attention will be directed at the crying urgency of protecting the coral reefs unless we belabor the issue and repeat ourselves. At the rate coral reefs are being destroyed by human activity or damaged by bleaching due to global warming, it won't be long before these "colorful gardens under the sea where marine life thrives" die off, never to be appreciated by future generations.

Indeed, though the Philippines is "the richest place on earth" in terms of biodiversity, according to scientist Wilfredo Licuanan, he has warned that because of climate change, "we can lose our corals in a matter of weeks, not years."

There is, thus, not a moment to lose. INQUIRER correspondent Yolanda Sotelo reports that at the Hundred Islands National Park in Pangasinan, divers search for fragments of live coral in the waters for nurturing in the coral nursery or planting in the sea bed. The coral regeneration program is financed by the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, and implemented by Pangasinan State University and the city government of Alaminos. The intention is clear: "We do not introduce anything that can't be found in the sea, such as artificial reefs; we are replanting dislodged corals," said Virna Salac, coral reef restoration national coordinator.

Pollution is also wreaking havoc on coral reefs: Plastic waste, for example, "smothers corals," according to World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines head Joel Palma. (Additionally, the Philippines will lose at least 59 fish species endemic to the reefs in the coming 25 years because of overharvesting and illegal fishing, said the environmental group Haribon. "The belief we once had that the sea is of unlimited resource is not true. The alarming loss of fishes is telling us that there's not much time left for action," Haribon project manager Margarita N. Lavides said in a statement. "We are slowly losing once-common, wide-ranging, yet inherently large vulnerable reef fishes [that] have very important ecological roles.")

Why we curse



PUBLIC LIVES

RANDY DAVID

At the International Coral Reef Symposium held at the East West Center in Hawaii last June, marine scientists John McManus and Ed Gomez reported that much of the rich coral colonies in the South China Sea had been destroyed by China's construction of artificial islands in the area. McManus pointed out that a "Scarborough peace park" could be established in the disputed area, and "could be the foot in the door for the entire situation" involving maritime territorial disputes. He suggested that China and the Philippines resolve their disagreement in order to save the reef that the Philippines calls Panatag, and which it considers among its traditional fishing grounds. Said McManus: "Scarborough reef is in a critical stage. If China builds [an island] there, it's going to be a horrible waste. This is probably the most beautiful reef in the world."

Environmentalist Antonio Claparols, president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines, is part of a broad, continuing effort to establish that marine peace park in the South China Sea. Last month, he and his colleagues presented an emergency motion to that effect, titled "Conservation in the South China Sea," at the 6th World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii. The motion reads in part: "[T]he coral colonies in the [South China Sea] are five times more diverse than anywhere in the world, and they serve to protect, replenish and rehabilitate the fisheries and natural resources of the Pacific Ocean."

But to our dismay," Claparols said, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature rejected it.

The continuing deterioration of coral reefs is a distressing phenomenon that is happening worldwide. In the Philippines, where coral reefs help sustain the livelihoods of millions and continue to draw tourists because of their beauty, it behooves everyone to add voice and effort to the cause. Once the reefs are gone, there is no replating them. It's crunch time.

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Kalibasib: The last captive tamaraw

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

IF you have not seen Kalibasib yet, better do it now or forever lose the opportunity of a close encounter with a live Philippine tamaraw.

Kalibasib, short for “*kalikasan bagongsibol*” (nature newly sprung), the first and, perhaps, the last tamaraw bred in captivity, is the lone attraction at the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation, Research and Educational Center (MBCREC) in Barangay Manoot, Rizal town, in the province of Occidental Mindoro.

Also called Mindoro dwarf buffalo, the Philippine tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) is a wild forest buffalo endemic to Mindoro islands.

It is smaller, compared to their domesticated cousins, the Philippine carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*), and is considered critically endangered or in the brink of extinction.

There are only a few hundreds of these unique species left from the 10,000 or more population in the 1900s. The population of the tamaraw shrank to less than a hundred in the 1970s, prompting the government to launch the Tamaraw Conservation Program, which later gave birth to the captive-breeding program that saw the birth of Kalibasib.

Dying of old age

KALIBASIB'S mother, Mimi, died of old age in August 2011. Mimi was among the 20 tamaraws captured and placed at the MBCREC, formerly the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm, in 1980 as part of the captive breeding program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to conserve the tamaraw species.

Experts believe Kalibasib may soon die also because of old age.

Born on June 24, 1999, Kalibasib is now 17 years old. Experts say a Philippine tamaraw could live up to 20 years.

Given the protection provided by authorities, Kalibasib may have actually outlived many of his cousins because of the various threats that make tamaraw's life expectancy a lot shorter in the wild.

Although born in captivity, Kalibasib remains wild and as aggressive as other tamaraws out in the wild.

Last chance

“THIS may be the last chance for all to see a tamaraw. If you want to see a live tamaraw, better go to Mindoro now,” Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Lim said Kalibasib may soon be gone and it would be the last chance for people to visit the star attraction of MBCREC. Students from various schools in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro will have this rare opportunity of having a close encounter with Kalibasib.

The visit to the MBCREC is part of the monthlong activities of the Tamaraw Month. Presidential Proclamation 273 of 2002 declared October of every year as a special month of the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro.

The activity is part of the DENR's communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) campaign for the tamaraw, said Rodel Boyles, head of the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and the Protected Area Superintendent of the Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP), where the highest concentration of the remaining tamaraw population can be found.

Boyles said the activity offers students from various schools in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro to view how a tamaraw looks like.

The age of Kalibasib

“Kalibasib is getting old. Its vision is getting blurry because of old age,” Boyles said partly in Filipino.

All about tamaraw

THE monthlong celebration, Boyles said, focuses on intensifying CEPA to educate Mindoro's youth of the importance of biodiversity conservation, particularly the tamaraw.

He said a training-workshop for teachers from October 24 to 27 at the MBCREC aims to strengthen alliance with various stakeholders to enhance the protection of the tamaraw and their natural habitats.

A School Day Camp would also be held for high-school students. “We are targeting 30 schools, three schools a day for 10 days. It started last October 5 and would end on October 19,” Boyles said.

He said it is important for Mindoro's students to have close encounter with Mindoro's most treasured wildlife for them to have a connection. “So that they would come to appreciate the tamaraw more,” he said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Hard to find

THE tamaraw is hard to find in the wild. Even in the MIBNP, this aggressive beast could only be seen foraging in the open grassy areas every summer. The DENR-led teams conduct its annual population count at this time.

"Most of the time, they are hiding in the thick forest. That is why they are hard to find," Boyles said.

The latest tamaraw population count in April shows there are 413 tamaraws in the MIBNP.

The actual number of tamaraws maybe a lot bigger, considering that its population count held every year since 1990s was limited to a small area in MIBNP.

There are also tamaraw habitats in Mounts Aruyan, Calavite, Eagles Pass, Halcon and other areas in both Occidental and Oriental Mindoro.

The DENR, as well as its partners in the conservation of the tamaraw, has yet to conduct a study of the so-called remnant populations in detail.

Even in areas where there are reported sightings of tamaraw, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Mindoro Project Manager John Manul said the search continues.

"There are traces, dung and footprints, but none of the residents can say they have actually seen one in these areas," he said.

He said it would take a team of trackers to verify the reported sightings, underscoring the need to verify their presence to discuss ways on how to better manage the area and protect the critically endangered species against potential harm.

With a successful tamaraw conservation program, BMB's Lim believes Mindoro's eco-tourism package would soon include a rare opportunity of viewing the tamaraw.

Expanding search area

LIM and Boyles agree that there is a need to expand the coverage of the tamaraw population count to get a more accurate figure.

Lim said this would help the DENR-BMB to have an idea which areas, other than Mounts Iglit-Baco, need stronger protection for the conservation of the tamaraw.

"There is really a need to expand and enhance our search to identify other habitats. That way, we will know how to protect them against threats like hunting or logging and other human activities," Lim said.

Boyles added that it would help the DENR and various stakeholders plan how to better manage resources geared toward biodiversity conservation, particularly of Mindoro's most treasured wildlife.

Manulechoed the need to expand the coverage of tamaraw population count. However, he said it would entail additional costs and resources to do it. In the Mounts Iglit-Baco area alone, it takes at least three teams to do the count simultaneously.

The results are crossed-checked to come up with an accurate population count every year.

Close encounters

GREGG YAN, communication and media manager of WWF said searching for the tamaraw is not as easy as it looks.

Yan had experienced "close encounters" with a wild tamaraw, while trying to take photos.

He said the tamaraw can hear or smell threats from a mile away. Yan said he had tried to use a sniper's cover but to no avail.

"They can smell our scents easily. They can even hear even the touch of our body with the grass as we crawl," he said.

Yan said he got as close as 10 meters from a small group of tamaraws, but still never got to see them, because they were practically in the middle of a sea of tall grasses.

"I was told by the spotters that we were so close. We were told to run if we hear charging sounds," he recalled. According to Yan, his first encounter with the tamaraw in 2012 was heart-pounding. "They were aggressive, almost wanting to charge at us. We had to go behind a tree."

Just a few weeks ago, as part of the Far Eastern University and WWF's Tams2 Project activities, he said the encounter was a bit surprising for him. "The tamaraws ran away," he said.

Born to be wild

WHILE Boyles said he is open to the idea of finding a pair of tamaraws to replace Kalibasib once he passed on, he is not yet convinced that such would be a worthwhile activity.

"For the purpose of education and research, we may recommend it in the future. But right now, we are still studying whether we really need to do it," he said.

According to Boyles, the tam-

araws are better off left in the wild—their natural habitat—where they can thrive. The reason the captive breeding program was stopped.

"They will not survive in captivity. They tend to kill themselves when cornered because that is what

they are. A tamaraw will always be a tamaraw," he said.

Lim said it would be awkward to capture tamaraws only to educate the people that the same wild animals should be protected against threats of human activities to prevent their extinction.

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Breeding in the wild

LIM said she is also against the idea of reviving the failed captive-breeding program of the tamaraws.

"In the 1980s many of them died when the government started to capture them. In the process, they were injured then later died," she said.

At the Ninoy Aquino Parks Wildlife and Rescue Center in Quezon City, Lim said they are keeping "rescued wildlife" in captivity to protect them against falling prey to other animals, or being injured and killed by hunters.

"We don't capture wild animals unless there is a greater purpose," she said.

Since the captive-breeding program for tamaraw failed, Lim said the DENR focused on the Tamaraw Conservation Program to protect their habitats.

The result, she said, gained ground as the tamaraw population count would later show.

"There is slight, but continuous, increase in their population, which means that our protection at Mounts Iglit-Baco is effective. There are more juveniles which means they are breeding," Lim said. Mounts Iglit-Baco is home not just to wildlife. They are also home to the indigenous peoples of Mindoro.



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR warning**By CORY
MARTINEZ****Catching, killing anteaters
can send you to jail**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has warned that criminal charges can be filed against anyone caught catching, trading or killing pangolins or anteaters.

The DENR issued the warning after the pangolins were recently included under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or CITES.

Adopted by over 180 countries, CITES is an international agreement

that aims to ensure that the survival of wild animals and plants is not threatened by their trade. Appendix I lists plants and animals that are threatened with extinction, thus trading them internationally for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited.

Of the eight pangolin species worldwide, only one can be found in the Philippines. Locally known as balintong, the *Manis culionensis* is endemic to Palawan province and is considered critically endangered, with its num-

bers highly threatened by its low fecundity or number of offspring produced per year, loss of habitat, and illegal trade of its scales and meat.

Prior to its inclusion in Appendix I, the pangolin was listed in Appendix II, which provides a modest level of protection as it requires exporting countries to ensure that any traded pangolin specimens have been legally obtained and that their export will not be detrimental to the species' survival.

Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, prescribes various penalties for illegal acts toward threatened species.

Under the law, illegal transport of pangolin may merit imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to P100,000. A jail term of up to four years and a fine of P300,000 await those who will be found guilty of trading pangolin.

The killing of pangolin carries a jail term of up to twelve years and a fine of up to P1 million.

Pangolins mainly dine on ants or termites. A single adult mammal can eat up to 200,000 ants in one meal, or more than 70 million in a year.

The pangolin is considered as one of the world's most illegally trafficked mammal. Its inclusion in the Appendix I of CITES is seen to prevent the continuing decline of its population in the wild, along with its ecological importance in helping regulate insect population and ensure survival of seedlings.

**With Patricia Denise
Peralta (OJT)**



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

2 Palawan areas declared marine protected

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) recently declared two marine protected areas (MPAs) in Palawan.

These are 1,013,340 hectares covering the coastal and off-shore waters of Cagayancillo town and 80,000 hectares of Aborlan.

Joel Palma, WWF-Philippines president and chief executive officer, said the declaration aims to rebuild fish stock in the coral triangle.

"Sadly, many MPAs are plagued by lack of funding. Just over 100 MPAs are properly administered. Many are negatively viewed by coastal people as deterrents to their ability to fish in front of their homes," Palma said.

WWF has been focusing on the value of MPAs to maximize fisheries production instead of merely protecting biodiversity.

WWF said collaborative management is the key to effective and sustainably funded MPAs. Roles, responsibilities and benefits are shared between national and local authorities, communities, the private sector and other resource users, it said.

"Realizing that sustainability means business viability, the initiative works with the local seafood and tourism sectors to finance and manage MPAs and sustainable fishing initiatives," Palma said.

The WWF and its allies are protecting 904,000 hectares of MPAs in the Philippines.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Solo act to save Makiling

An ultra trail runner collects trash thrice a week in the mountain he calls 'Maria'

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—If you studied at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna province in the late 1990s, chances are you have come across George, a lanky man known for wearing skimpy shorts around campus.

At one point, he was often seen jogging barefoot or chugging down bottles of beer until the wee hours in a local bar.

But even after he earned his agriculture degree in 2004, George Javier, 39, remains a constant figure in the university community. The only difference now is he would probably be on Mt. Makiling, an inactive volcano rising 1,090 meters above sea level, collecting trash left by hikers and visitors, and educating people on forest conservation.

"I often pray for the rain," Javier said. "There are usually less hikers when it rains, allowing 'Maria' some time to rest."

Javier, an ultra trail runner, passionately refers to the mountain by the name of the mythical goddess, as if they were in some form of a special commune. Thrice a week, he runs up and down the steep trail crossing the Los Baños and Sto. Tomas (Batangas province) traverse.

"The mountain is my training ground, my playground. It's just but right that I take care of her," he said.



The mountain is my training ground, my playground. It's just but right that I take care of her

Javier takes with him a garbage bag to fill with candy wrappers, rubber soles, handkerchiefs or cigarette butts he sees on his way down. He also cautions hikers and students from killing any creature inside the forest reserve.

"I tell [hikers] how a single candy wrapper could choke up birds," he said.

Use of senses

It was in Mt. Makiling in 2010 when the former campus junkie started taking trail running seriously, with a 3-kilometer run and brisk walk up the mountain. This was followed by a 50-km trail run on the Mt. Pinatubo trail in Central Luzon and a 102-km road run tracing the historical Bataan Death March route.

"Trail running is different from road running. You can run on a flat road with your eyes closed but on the trail, you have to keep all your senses working," he said.

As he joined more competitions, Javier said he felt ready to conquer the

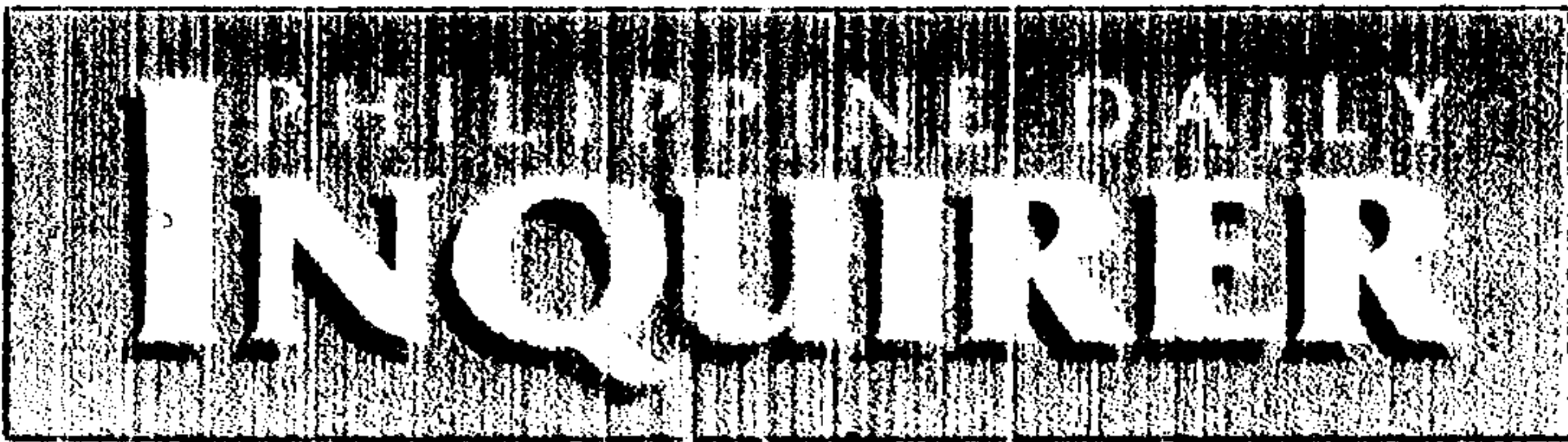
more challenging routes. He had completed an 84-km ultra trail from Clark Freeport in Pampanga province to Miyamit Falls in Porac town, a 100-km race on Mt. Ugo in the border of Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya provinces, and another 100-km trail run in Baguio City, among others.

Between 2014 and 2016, Javier thrice completed the 165-km trail run covering the peaks of Mt. Ugo and Mt. Pulag in Benguet within a 40-hour cut off time.

Javier qualified for the 2015 Ultra Marathon de Mont-Blanc, a prestigious 170-km French marathon dubbed the "toughest" among trail runners. He and four other Filipinos were chosen to join 2,300 others from around the globe for the trek-run on the Alpine course through France, Switzerland and Italy.

Unfortunately, Javier suffered from a bad fall, tripping at Kilometer 95 in Arnuva, Italy.

"We were on a single track and a ravine on our left. On a downhill, a



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Solo act to save Makiling

runner ahead of me suddenly stopped causing me to trip over," he said. Only about half finished the race, among them two Filipinos—Miguel Lopez and Roland Wangwang.

Minimalist

Even so, Javier continues to train with Maria, aiming at another attempt on the French marathon. Locals have begun calling Javier *pulang kabayo* (red horse), with stories of how fast he runs through the forest. The moniker also had something to do with his favorite brand of beer.

Javier calls himself a "minimalist" athlete, taking with him cheap *sari-sari* store *tsitsirya* (junk food) and kitchen salt to sustain his sodium need on the track. But he has something that most athletes don't: cans of beer.

"I get myself drunk a day before the race to get myself in deep sleep," he said. On the trail, Javier downs a can or two, instead of expensive energy drinks, to boost his calories.

Javier, who runs a small shirt printing business, had sold shirts and solicited funds from college friends to raise P150,000 for the French marathon. He hopes the government has enough support for Filipino athletes as they join international competitions.

"Trail running is relatively young in the Philippines. But we have a lot of strong runners, especially those in the provinces," he said. INQ

THE STANDARD

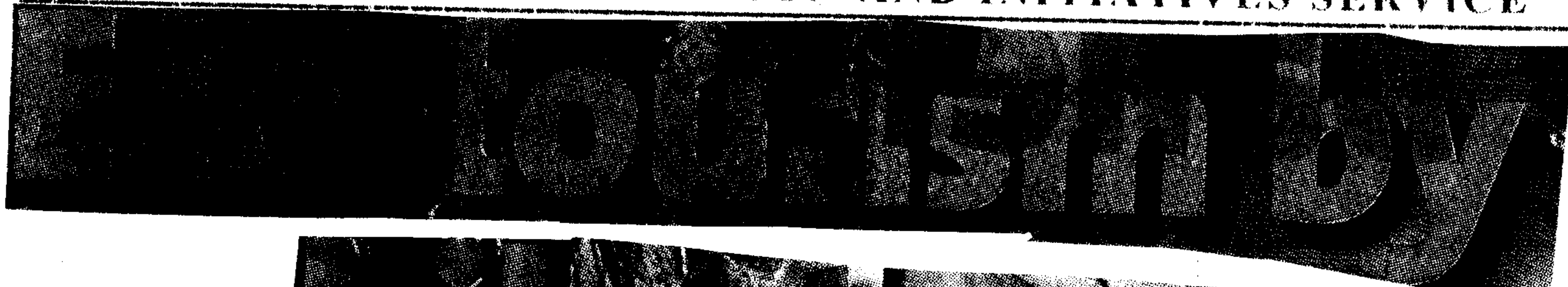
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



By Peter Atencio

ROMI Garduce, who is preparing for two bigger adventures following his conquest of Mt. Everest 10 years ago, is embarking on a quest to raise awareness on the sights, sounds and the wildlife of the island of Palawan.

On Oct. 10 to 23, Garduce and a group of UP Mountaineers will be off to Palawan for a fundraising bike tour.

Dubbed as Padyak Palawan, the tour will showcase some of the country's most impressive heritage sites, as well as highlight wildlife advocacy by promoting different stunning wildlife locations throughout the region.

"This is to promote eco-tourism by bike," said Garduce in an interview with the Manila Standard during the launch of the tour at the Bikers' Café at the

SM by the Bay.

The tour kicks off in Bataraza and culminate in scenic El Nido.

Garduce said he was planning to go to the ends of Palawan via a kayak. But logistical issues came into play.

In between their tour, the group will enjoy traversing beautiful places like the Talbon cave, which is said to be the site of some of the world's oldest human bones dating all the way back to 50,000 years.

Then, there are also plans to go to Estrella Falls in Aborlan, Puerto Princesa, the Matan-

glaw and Umalad Falls in Roxas, and UNESCO sites like St. Paul's underground river in Sabang, and Sta. Isabela in Taytay, a well-known spot for kayaking, diving and snorkelling.

"Maraming sumama dito," added Garduce, who went up the 22,349-foot Ama Dablam in Eastern Nepal last year, which was his preparation for a possible expedition to K-2, the second highest peak in the world. He is also setting his eyes on hikes in the South Pole and North Pole, which is called a Grand Slam in the world of mountaineering.

Padyak Palawan, according to Garduce, will not just to promote adventure tourism in Palawan, but also to spread awareness on wildlife conservation to protect endangered species, interact with local communities unique to each region, and further appreciate the exquisite resources of the country.

The tour will encourage followers to do their part and give back to Center for Conservation Innovation's Palawan Pro-

gramme: Oplan Tandikan.

Oplan Tandikan, the advocacy chosen by Garduce himself, which is a biodiversity conservation project that is committed to increasing the area of land conservation management and building conservation capacity, specifically of high profile endemic species and their rapidly diminishing habitats.

Padyak Palawan 2016 is presented by C.O.R.E., in partnership with the UP Mountaineers.

This event is for the benefit of Center for Conservations Innovations Inc. and made possible by the following major sponsors: R.O.X. (Recreational Outdoor Exchange), Department of Tourism Mimaropa Region, Tourism Promotions Board, Cebu Pacific as the official Airline partner, and minor sponsors: The North Face, FOX, Blackbeard's Seafood Island, and Powerman Philippines. Padyak Palawan 2016, along with media partners: Business Mirror, Business World, Business World University Edition, and **Manila Standard**.