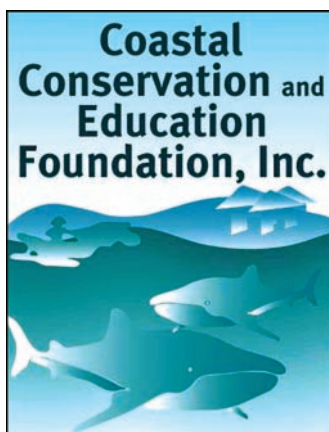




CCE Foundation (formerly Sulu Fund)

April, 2009
Issue No. 19

NEWSLETTER
(semi-annual)



CCEF Promotes *Wise Ecology* through Earth Day Celebration

Once a year, citizens from around the world come together to celebrate Earth Day for a healthy and sustainable planet, and to promote environmental awareness. This year, the importance of bringing the public's attention to the impending effects of climate change was CCE Foundation's main goal. Hand-in-hand with Global Legal Action on Climate Change (GLACC), CCE Foundation staged Cebu's 2009 Earth Day celebration with the theme "*Wise Ecology Starts With Me.*"

The Earth Day activities began at 5:00 A.M. and ended at noon on April 25, 2009. It was held on a Saturday to gather wider support from the working sector. The events kicked off at 5:30 A.M. with the Fun Run that started in front of Cebu's Provincial Capitol building and ended at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) to make a full 10 km run. The run also provided 3km and 5 km finish lines for runners. The route took runners through Escario St., Gorordo St., Salinas Dr., and Juan Luna St.

A program was held at CICC wherein the participants were invited to participate in a petition-signing activity on climate change issues. With the petition-signing, the runners and other



CCE Foundation organizers and volunteers worked hard for a successful fun run.

participants joined in the spirit of conservation by supporting environment-friendly causes. The program was also the launching of a Monthly Waste Market in all major shopping malls, and the creation of the Cebu Network of Environmental NGOs.

Lastly, a Bulb Exchange activity was held at Barangay Centro, Mandaue City where the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP or TransCo) provided free energy-saving bulbs to be exchanged with non-energy saving ones with barangay residents. The event was graced by Cebu City Councilor Nestor Archival, Provincial Board member Tito Gastardo and Barangay Centro officials.

The Earth Day activities were celebrated to advance environmental actions for sustainable environment to (1) encourage the public to take action; (2) highlight environmental problems affecting health, communities and environment; and (3) engage businesses and other organizations to participate and adopt sustainable business, but environmentally-friendly, practices.

Special thanks goes out to our sponsors: dyLA radio, Smash radio, GMA, Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Timex Philippines, TransCo or NGCP, Rotary International - District 3860, Federation of Visayas Radio Communicators, and Zzubu Eco-Tourism Society.



Registered runners enjoy the run for a good cause - wise ecology.

EDITORIAL

The Coral Triangle Initiative
- A Response.....2

PROJECT NEWS

CCEF Promotes Wise
Ecology..1

Updates

CCEF Going to Northern
Cebu.....3
Reflections about CCE
Foundation.....4

FEATURES

Learning About How
Effective.....6
IMPACT....6
The Southwestern Cebu
Story.....7
Surviving Sierra Leone -
My CRM.....7

TIDBITS/FEATURES

Staff Profiles.....8
Wishlist.....8

Editors:

Dr. Alan T. White
Atty. Rose-Liza Eisma Osorio

Layout and Design:

Mrs. Evangeline White
Sheryll Tesch

Managing editor:

Sheryll Tesch

The Coral Triangle Initiative—A response from CCE Foundation

Atty. Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio

The Coral Triangle, covering around 647 million hectares, is considered an area of high marine and coastal biodiversity. It holds the richest concentration of corals, fish, crustaceans, mollusks and marine fauna in the world; and serves as nesting, breeding and feeding grounds of a variety of sea turtles, whales and other commercially valuable species like tunas. It supports the food security, livelihoods, income and coastal protection to more than 120 million people.

The region's natural wealth, however, is severely threatened by anthropogenic and natural pressures. Hence the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) was proposed in August 2007 among six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste) to support six strategic goals for which member countries are developing programs of action.

Engaging government and non-government sectors in a highly consultative process, the Philippines and the other CT countries are now finalizing their national programs of action. These plans will be formally adopted during the World Ocean's Congress in Manado, Indonesia in May 2009.

As a key stakeholder in the Coral Triangle, CCEF has been actively participating in the various national and regional consultations. It has generously shared its expertise in coastal management initiatives, including marine protected area (MPA) management effectiveness. It has drawn from its experience in community-based MPAs and ecosystem-based management in Central Visayas and other Regions of the Philippines and influenced key strategies in the national program of action. In short, CCEF has been implementing CTI work plans even before their formal adoption through its field programs since 1998.

The work of CCEF has always been focused on responding to the rapid resource degrada-



tion in a country replete with natural marine wealth and biodiversity. One of the significant strategies of CCEF is to encourage partnerships and initiatives among key stakeholders working towards a common goal of ecosystem-based management. Accordingly, with the current initiatives focusing on the Coral Triangle, CCEF's support is crucial to help the CTI achieve its laudable goals at a local scale. In addition, the expertise of CCEF can contribute to building capacity in areas throughout the six countries of the Coral Triangle.

Board Members and Affiliations

President

Dr. Alan T. White

(Senior Scientist, Global Marine Initiative,
The Nature Conservancy)

Vice-President/Treasurer

Mr. William Jatulan

(Deputy Chief-of-Party, Fisheries Improved for Sustainable
Harvest (FISH Project))

Secretary

Mrs. Evangeline White

(Volunteer Program Coordinator, Waikiki Aquarium)

CRM Advisor

Dr. Patrick Christie

(School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington)

Visayas Advisor

Mrs. Rebecca Pestano-Smith

(IEC Coordinator, FISH Project)

Community Work Advisor

Mrs. Evelyn Deguit

(Training Coordinator, FISH Project)

Institutional Development Advisor

Dr. Thomas J. Mueller

(Independent Educational Consultant)

CCEF Going to Northern Cebu: Moving towards strategic MPA networking

Glenn Labrado

“This is very timely!”, said San Remigio Mayor Mariano Martinez, a staunch supporter of marine conservation and dynamic political leader in northern Cebu in my first project meeting with him. “We highly welcome CCEF’s presence in the north to assist us in the protection and management of our marine sanctuaries especially now that we’re gearing up in developing our dive destinations in this part of the province.”

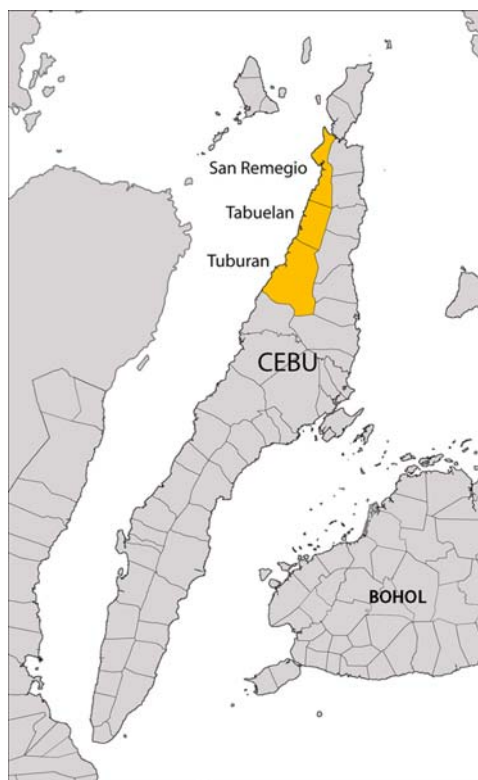
It is laudable, but marine protected areas (MPAs) are not just a question of tourism and the revenues they generate—such a case would only be peripheral. MPAs, more importantly, are essentially a proven tool to manage fisheries productivity towards greater food security and reduce poverty in the country in the long-run. Such would aptly be the case in high poverty-stricken towns, such as the mid-western and far northern municipalities of Cebu, where the poor subsist on marginal farming and fishing due to diminishing natural resources.

However, MPAs in the country are poorly governed and protected. Since the 1970s, over 1000 MPAs have been legally established throughout the country, yet only 10 to 20% of these are fully functional and achieving protection (White et. al. 2002; Pajaro 1999). In Cebu Province, 81 MPAs covering 1,717 hectares out of the total 62,462 hectares of coral reefs have been established. However, only 17 MPAs are ‘enforced’ and 43 are ‘established’ based on the CCEF MPA Rating System. The challenge of sustaining the management effectiveness of these MPAs have become great in view of unabated anthropogenic environmental degradation, poor coastal resource governance, increasing population pressure over marine resources due to worsening poverty conditions, and the global climate change.

In October 2008 the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) granted CCEF support for a project: Developing a Provincial MPA Management Effectiveness Program in the Province of Cebu, Philippines. The project aims to: (1) develop a provincial learning network and MPA management effectiveness system for MPAs using the CCEF-developed National MPA effectiveness rating and database; (2) improve MPA management capacity for MPAs in Cebu Province resulting to an increase in MPA rating by at least one level higher; (3) assess and monitor MPA management effectiveness by utilizing biophysical, socio-economic and governance indicators; (4) strengthen the Provincial MPA monitoring and database system while contrib-

uting towards the enhancement of the national MPA management effectiveness system; and (5) to disseminate lessons learned and best practices.

In concrete terms, the project intends to improve the management effectiveness of 14 MPAs by at least one level (using CCEF’s National MPA Rating System) in the towns of San Remigio, Tabuelan and Tuburan, as project pilot sites, all located in the midwestern to far northern seaboard of the province. In total there are 13 MPAs.



Initial assessments done by CCEF in these MPAs have shown that a majority are experiencing management issues similar to other project-driven MPA establishments, such as poor governance, lack of/weak management bodies, un-sustained law enforcement within MPAs and adjacent municipal waters, unabated illegal activities within the MPAs, weakened people’s organizations as MPA managers, failed supplemental livelihoods, and poor social acceptability or unresolved resistance from community members.

“For an 18-month project, the challenge to improve the management effectiveness of these MPAs is great”, says Neil Antoque, CCE’s Community Officer (CO) assigned in Tabuelan and Tuburan towns. CCEF commits to assist the beneficiaries in making their MPAs functional again through: (1) MPA management strengthening; (2) Capacity building of MPA managers and duty-bearers in areas like CRM planning, MPA management planning and implementation,

coastal resource assessments, coastal law enforcement, users’ fee system formulation and installation; (3) Information and education for wider social acceptability and stakeholder participation; (4) Technical assistance in marker buoy installation, signs and guard house construction, equipment procurement, etc.; (5) Project development and resource accessing for supplemental/alternative livelihoods; (6) Coastal tourism/ecotourism development; (7) Sustainable financing using ‘Adopt-a-Reef’ approaches mobilizing corporate citizenship/and social philanthropy; and (8) Biophysical and social monitoring and evaluation of impact of MPAs.

“We are now intensifying our MPA education activities at the barangay-level to increase community awareness and project buy-in”, emphasized Joel Erediano, our CO assigned in San Remigio. It is unfortunate that half of the MPAs in the municipality were initially established through the Community-based Resource Management Project managed by the Department of Finance with poor social acceptance. That project ended in 2006 with community resistance left unresolved. “IEC is very important for wider stakeholder buy-in”, Joel added. This is one of the preliminary activities of the Project for most of San Remigio MPAs.

One of the untapped potentials in MPA management effectiveness monitoring is the available resources and capacity of provincial governments to support municipal MPA management efforts. The project will encourage the readiness of the Cebu Province to assist the municipal governments within its locality especially in ensuring management effectiveness of MPAs in the entire province. CCEF will activate and solicit the support of the Cebu Provincial CRM Partners as the provincial learning network to assist the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of the Province of Cebu establish an MPA management effectiveness program. Simply put, CCEF will facilitate the formation and further capacitate the learning network through the existing Cebu Provincial CRM Partners to act as a pool of MPA effectiveness evaluators, trainers, and reef monitors to technically equip the LGUs in MPA management and provide venues for cross learning across the province.

With CCEFs efforts and commitment, one can only hope that CCEF will make a substantial dent in improving and restoring the condition of reefs and other marine habitats in this part of the province. This way, skeptical fishing communities, duty-bearers, and private interests alike will finally settle the case that conservation, indeed, pays-off.

Reflections about CCE Foundation in 2008, after 10 years of operation

Atty. Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio

2008 was a very significant year for the CCE Foundation as we celebrated the 10th year of our existence as a foundation for marine conservation in the Philippines and beyond. As we remember our deeds of the past years, we must recognize our present actions that are built on past project and are making a difference in the coastal areas. Project accomplishments for 2008 follow:

The Saving Philippine Reefs expedition to Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park was again highly successful due to the unfaltering support of our volunteers. In 2008 the foundation garnered support from a team of 13 volunteers and 8 staff members. The volunteers hailed from the USA, UK, Australia and the Philippines. Most of

ing support from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation for the Phase 3 of the Local Governance for Coastal Management Project from 2008 to 2010. The final phase of the project will focus on improving effectiveness of coastal resource management through biophysical and socio-institutional networking of MPAs at the cluster and provincial levels and other best coastal management practices, constituency-building and education for MPA networks, and integrating research, training and information for improved MPA management. Field interventions were started early this year in 20 municipalities in

Southern Cebu and Siquijor. The project focused on strengthening the municipal clusters of Southeast Cebu, Southwest Cebu and Province of Siquijor, conducting law enforcement and youth camp trainings, MPA biophysical monitoring and feedback of results, establishing user fee systems, among others.

2008 also marked the start of the National Geographic Society project entitled: "Determining Management Effectiveness of MPAs in the Asia-Pacific Region." This project will determine the geographical extent of MPAs in the Philippines and

Indonesia and estimate the level of management effectiveness so that the relative level of marine conservation being achieved can be measured. MPA management effectiveness will be determined through the application of an existing MPA rating system developed by CCEF and now currently utilized in the Philippines. A geographical database for all MPAs in the two countries will be the main output of this project.

Along with the aforesaid project, the Foundation also implemented various MPA projects in different locations. The "Marine Protected Area for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Associated Habitats in the Municipality of Tingloy, Batangas Project" has provided technical assistance to the Tingloy municipal government and local resource managers to strengthen the management and conservation of coral reefs and associated habitats through MPAs. This project, which is funded by the First Conservation Philippines, Inc., is ended in December 2008.



Community buoy installation at Cawayan Marine Sanctuary.

A new MPA project was initiated in the Province of Cebu, particularly in the Northern Cebu municipalities, namely: San Remegio, Tuburan, and Tabuelan. With funding support from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this "Developing a Provincial MPA Management Effectiveness Program in the Province of Cebu, Philippines" project is focusing on improving management effectiveness of MPAs by building capacities and implementing a provincial learning network and MPA management effectiveness system for MPAs in the Province of Cebu that contributes to and assists to refine the national MPA Rating and Database System.

The Foundation continued its campaign for "One Million Mangroves for Cebu" through a project supported by the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, Inc. With the over-all aim of mangrove rehabilitation and restoration through planting, establishment of mangrove nurseries, provision of alternative livelihoods, and active campaigning for private sector participation, the project has successfully reached its goals by the end of the year. The project will be replicated in other areas in Cebu and Siquijor as it has been deemed an important aspect of our marine conservation efforts.



Liza Osorio plants mangroves with Councilor Odilao of Talisay.



Ian, Vangie and Alan White filmed for Tubbataha ABS-CBN special.

them are seasoned Saving Philippine Reefs Expedition volunteers who have joined in one or more of the previous expeditions. The team surveyed 7 sites in the north and south reef atolls and during the trip the team was also featured in a local TV show called the Correspondents which covered the history and development of Tubbataha Reefs and its management. Several newspaper and magazine articles were also published about the expedition. The results were shared with various management stakeholders to assist in future decisions for improved management.

In 2008 we finished the implementation of the Private Sector Mobilization Project (PRISM) project of the USAID with positive reviews and notable achievements in the field of reproductive health for export business firms in the Visayas. This adds another dimension of richness to the experience of CCE Foundation as an excellent technical assistance provider for trailblazing projects on integrated population, health, and coastal resource management.

The CCE Foundation likewise gained continu-

Adding substantially to the above portfolio of projects above is the Pew Fellows project entitled: "Understanding and Planning for the Socio-Ecological Dimensions of MPA Networks in the Philippines and Beyond," which is implemented in collaboration with Patrick Christie, Ph.D. Now in its second year, the project aims to establish a functional network of 36 MPAs in the Central Visayas of the Philippines within an EBM framework and foster other networks elsewhere. This is accomplished through targeted research as well as local and international education programs.

The project "Environmental Education for Media Practitioners" was likewise implemented successfully by CCE Foundation under the small-grants program of the Foundation for Philippine Environment. The project intended to expose media practitioners in Cebu to environmental issues and to ensure their significant contribution towards educating the general public about the environment.

Aileen Maypa, our Fulbright-Philippines Agriculture Scholarship Program scholar and



Aileen Maypa and research assistant do an underwater survey.

Ph. D. candidate at University of Hawaii at Manoa also began her dissertation research called: Mechanisms by which marine protected areas enhance surrounding fish yields: implications to food security in developing countries. This study aims to contribute both to coral reef fishery conservation and food security in developing countries by utilizing existing fishery management tools, such as no-take marine protected areas (MPAs). Part of the data for this project is being used by the local management and governance bodies of Apo Island Marine Sanctuary in reviewing its status and in proposing a second MPA in the island. It also contributed in conflict resolution at the local level.

Several members of the staff attended and presented papers (oral and poster) at the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A on July 7-10, 2008. Those presenting and their papers included: Dr. Alan T. White presented: "Networks of MPAs in the Philippines: Status and Considerations for Effectiveness", Atty. Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio presented: "Finding the Right Fit for EBM in the Philippines", Mr. Rizaller Amolo presented: "Improving Governance of Marine Protected Areas through Inter-Local Government Collaboration in Central Philippines", and Mr. Roxie Diaz presented: "Community Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation of MPAs in Central Philippines". Meanwhile, another staff member attended the 2008 Summer Institute for Coastal Management at the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, June 9-29, 2008.

CCEF Organizational Sustainability

A new thrust for CCE Foundation in 2008 was to embark on the Organizational Effectiveness Project to improve organizational effectiveness and overall sustainability. The major focus on this program is on governance style, management capacity, human resources, financial resources, service delivery, and external relations. With the support from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, this is a crucial undertaking for the Foundation's sustainability and expansion of its marine conservation activities. To achieve this, there were several workshops facilitated by an external consultant with the active participation of staff members and the Board of Trustees.

The highlights of the project are the Staff Teambuilding and Strategic Planning Workshop as well as the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting and strategic planning workshop at Kailua, Hawaii. The objectives of the BOT meeting were to (1) set the Foundation's strategic direction in implementing environmental management, education, and training; (2) consider sustainable directions in staff development; (3) decide on financial sustainability of the Foundation; (4) draft a strategic plan to incorporate all ideas and directions. In this workshop, the BOT built upon the outputs of the Staff Workshop held in October 2008. A classification of actions into CCEF organization and personnel, programs and services,



Dr. Aragon interviewed during a media dolphin watching trip.

business development and expanding conservation activities was made and which was further developed to create the first draft of the Foundation strategic plan.

Key result areas in this meeting were to (1) Achieve CCEF growth in terms of revenues and programs within three years, aiming for a 200% growth in 3 years (Jan 2009-Dec 2011) with the baseline end-of-year budget on December, 2008; (2) Expand coverage of programs and services of CCEF by identifying expansion growth targets and enhancing CCEF as a coastal resource management resource and service provider on a national and international scale; and (3) Develop the organization to support its growth in products and services, particularly in the areas of sustainability in funding, to be addressed by the hiring of a Development Director.

Indeed, 2008 was a year filled with blessings along with the opportunity to improve the CCE Foundation's organizational missions in order to attain its vision and goals. With this sense of accomplishment, the Foundation is ready to embark on another challenge-filled year towards its purpose of attaining the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources for present and future generations.



CCEF Board of Trustees meet for an OD workshop in Hawaii.

Learning about how effective no-take marine protected areas are in enhancing fishing grounds

Aileen Maypa

Marine protected areas (MPAs) contain zones of no extraction in the marine environment in which all forms of human physical disturbances are banned, and used as conservation and fishery management tools (Gell and Roberts 2003, Hughes et al. 2006). To be functional as a fishery management tool, MPAs are expected to enhance adjacent fishing grounds through net export of adult and juvenile organisms (spillover) and/or net export of eggs and larvae (recruitment subsidy; Bohnsack 1998, Russ 2002, Sale et al. 2005). Many studies report MPA local successes through increases in fish biomass inside MPAs but very few provide empirical evidence of spillover. At present the underlying question about how effective MPAs are in addressing food security needs to be answered in light of the fact that fish stocks and yields continue to decline (Worm 2006). MPA design is likely to play a major role in determining how MPAs function. In the Philippines where fish is the primary source of protein, fishing ground enhancement is essential. Yet to date, very little attention has been devoted in identifying factors that influence spillover.

CCE Foundation is currently implementing a study to investigate the mechanisms by which no-take MPAs enhance surrounding fish yields. This is part of the dissertation of the author, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa under the Fulbright-Philippines Agriculture Scholarship Program. This study is composed of two components. Study A is testing the density-dependent hypothesis which assumes spillover as a direct consequence of fish density build up inside a MPA (Russ and Alcala 1996, Bohnsack 1998). Data collection for this compo-



Aileen Maypa

nent started in June 2008 in seven coral reef sites (a site includes a MPA and two adjacent fished areas) in the central Philippines. Ecological and management variables that influence spillover over temporal and spatial scales are being examined.

Study B, on the other hand, investigates a potential density-independent mechanism. The ontogenetic shifts in habitat use and MPA use by two species of jackfish at Apo Island are being studied. This research will be completed in December 2009. To date, this is the only study on *Caranx ignobilis* and *C. sexfasciatus* ecology and reproductive biology in the Philippines.

Expected Impacts of this study include: (1) capacity building of fishing communities and MPA management bodies, (2) a better understanding of the spillover concept for improved MPA management, (3) provision of recommendations for science based MPA designs that will influence local MPA policies for sustainable fisheries conservation and management. Conservation Food Health Foundation and PADI Foundation provided funds for Study A, while the Hawaii Fishery Cooperative Unit provided partial funding to Study B.

References

- Bohnsack, JA 1998. Application of marine reserves to reef fisheries management. *Australian Journal of Ecology* 23: 298-304.
- Gell, FR and C M Roberts. 2003. Benefits beyond boundaries: the fishery effects of marine reserves. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 18: 448-455.
- Fisheries Research 25: 279-292.
- Hughes, TP, et al. 2006. No-take areas, herbivory and coral reef resilience. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 22:1-3.
- Russ, GR and AC Alcala. 1996. Do marine reserves export adult fish biomass. Evidence from Apo Island, central Philippines. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 132:1-9.
- Russ, GR. 2002. Yet another review of marine reserves as fishery management tools. Pages 421-443 in: P.F. Sale, editors. *Coral Reef fishes, dynamics and diversity in complex ecosystem*. Academic Press, San Diego, California, USA.
- Sale, P, et al. 2005. Critical science gaps impede use of no-take fishery reserves. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 20:74-80.
- Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science 55: 347-359.
- Worm, B., et al. 2006. Impacts of biodiversity loss on ocean ecosystem services. *Science* 314: 787-790.

IMPACT

Roxie Diaz

IMPACT is the latest initiative of the Fisheries and Habitat Management (FHM) program of the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council (SCCRMC) which focuses on the biological and social monitoring of the MPAs of its member municipalities. Upon the recommendation of the cluster management committee, a resolution was passed and approved last September 30, 2008 creating "IMPACT" or the Inter-agency Marine Protected Area Cluster Team as part of the SCCRMCs banner programs.

IMPACT members include at least 2 representatives from seven member LGUs, Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office, Cebu, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, University of San Carlos Sociology and anthropology Department and Dive Point Alcoy (private sector).. It was formally convened in Argao, Cebu last November 26-27 2008 for a two-day training on the methodologies of biological

and social monitorings for marine protected areas which was enthusiastically planned and facilitated by the CCEF staff.

During the first day, the participants were oriented on the importance of the basic coastal ecosystems and their relationship to one another. They were briefed about the current status of MPAs in Southeastern Cebu and they were introduced to the concept of biological connectivity highlighting the principles of effective MPA design to maximize connectivity benefits. Further, they were trained on the standard methods of biological and social monitoring.

On the second day, participants spent the morning collecting data and putting into practice the theories they learned the previous day, which they transcribed, analyzed and presented in the afternoon. The test site for the training was Barangay Talaga in the Municipality of Argao since it had a good representation of the three

basic coastal ecosystems and had a community population ideal for social surveys. Although participants found that the two day activity had gone too quickly, this did hold anyone back from pledging their commitments by signing their names on an accord and committing themselves to promote fisheries and habitat management and the enhancement of biodiversity to improve fisheries production. They expressed their appreciation for the activity and that they looked forward to more related activities.

On December 16, 2008, a formal oath-taking ceremony was held in the presence of the SCCRMC Chairman and Alcoy Vice-Mayor Hon. Antonio Plando during the SCCRMC monthly and year-end meeting. IMPACT is planning on a meeting to discuss their organizational structure and the proposed redesigning of marine protected areas in Southeastern Cebu.

The Southwest Cebu Cluster Story

Romel Kirit

The southwestern Cebu municipalities organized the Southwest Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council in 2006 to consolidate efforts and resources to jointly managed their coastal ecosystems. Following the successful clustering of municipalities in Southeast Cebu, the clustering efforts have opened doors for other municipalities adjoining the same marine ecosystem, to group and share resources for the purposes of protecting and preserving what is left of their dwindling resources. To date, there are five cluster municipalities in Cebu Province. Although the organizational development of each cluster varies considerably, the same vision of the development of abundant fishing grounds and well-managed coastal resources is perceived.

Banking on the gains of the Southeast Cluster Council since 2002, CCE Foundation set the direction of the southwest cluster towards a more responsive council attuned to the jurisdictional limitations of its member municipalities. CCE Foundation facilitated various capacity-building workshops and trainings beginning with planning workshops that helped formulate the operations' manual of the operations group. The common vision of the Southeast Cluster Council is "Sustainable and productive marine resources through responsive, effective, collaborative, and harmonious efforts of fisherfolk and other stakeholders towards rehabilitation, protection and conservation." It further identified four major components in their efforts, namely: coastal law enforcement, habitat management, eco-tourism and financial management.

CCE Foundation also provided financial management training since a common problem among cluster municipalities has been inadequate funds management. There was an issue of how cluster funds were to be treated evolving from the basic question of whether the cluster was a distinct entity or an extension of local government units (LGUs). The council finally opted to treat cluster funds as public funds subjecting them to the rules of the national Commission on Audit. Currently, the

municipality of Dumanjug, where its mayor is the current chairman of the council, is the depository of the cluster fund.

CCE Foundation conducted a coastal law enforcement (CLE) training focusing on the patrolling of their respective marine protected areas. In order to address the commercial fishing problem, the southwest cluster identified coastal law enforcement as its priority program. 35 fish wardens were trained and deputized to become the core group of the southwest cluster CLE team with the training done in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime group in Region-7. The graduates of the training were sworn into office by the PNP Chief, General Jesus Versoza, and to add more strength to the CLE team, the cluster signed a memorandum of agreement with the PNP-Maritime group for the assignment of two maritime personnel to lead the seaborne operations.

The release of the Cebu provincial government's financial assistance to the southwest cluster accelerated the already growing momentum of the cluster operations. To date, the construction of the Maritime outpost in Moalboal is on-going which will be the base of the CLE operations in the southwest cluster. The purchase of CLE equipment and logistical paraphernalia is also in progress.

CCE Foundation also conducted ad-measurement training upon the request of member municipalities that had initiated their own municipal fishing boat registration but encountered the technical difficulties in determining the gross tonnage of fishing boats. Fisherfolk and boat registration is now a regular fisheries management activity in the southwest. In line with this, member municipalities now observe the color coding of registered boats.

In 2009, the Southwest Cluster already drafted its Coastal Law Enforcement Protocol, its Unified CRM Policies, and is beginning the drafting of the strategic plan for its eco-tourism component. The eco-tourism component identifies eco-tourism potential sites within the Southwest Cluster and how to promote and market the southwest as an eco-tourism destination. The whole eco-tourism plan will be focused on promoting coastal resource management gains and accomplishments from years of joint implementation with CCEF and other partner LGUs.

The enthusiasm shown by Southwest Cluster members is a good indicator of the desire to share in the success of ecosystem-based resource management initiatives. Although its success still depends on the earnest efforts of government officials, CCEF continues to work hand-in-hand with its partners to provide guidance and the mechanics for the sustainable management of Southwest Cluster waters.

Surviving Sierra Leone - My CRM experience as a VSO volunteer

Elline P. Cañares



I joined the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in Sierra Leone, West Africa after working with CCE Foundation for the past five years to find out if I really wanted to do development work for the rest of my life.

As I packed my bags a few days before my flight to Sierra Leone, I tried to pack every resource material I could think of in order to help me replicate what CCEF does in the Province of Cebu. I even left a pair of rubber shoes and some of my clothes to make room for my books. The day I landed in the country was five days behind schedule since we were stranded in Dubai and I had to pass through three other African countries. Aside from the delay, I was shattered to find out that my luggage did not arrive with me. But I had to adjust immediately as I learned to live on one pair of jeans, some borrowed skirts and shirts, a camera and a notebook where I wrote my experiences of compromised vanity and depression.

It seemed everything was a test for me. When I was finally in my area of assignment, there was an upcoming presidential election making funds for my project implementation virtually inaccessible. The coast is 56 miles away from where I lived and my counterpart collaborator in the town was a councillor who was campaigning incessantly. It was also the rainy season which is a terrible time to travel due to the bad condition of the roads. The most trying moments were those that I spent alone in a big house for four months without electricity, clean water, and extremely limited food choices. I realized my references could hardly be applied in my area. It was entirely different from the Philippines. So without my books, I tried to learn the structure of this foreign government and how things worked in the municipality.

Although the physical conditions were trying, the culture presented fewer problems as Sierra Leoneans behaved almost like Filipinos. I felt like I was back in one of CCEF's municipalities in Cebu, only that the pace was much slower and the people are easily fascinated by what computers can do to make their life easier. In Moyamba, the town where I was based, I learned that after

(continued page 8)



MPA Network Orientation workshop for Southwest Cluster.

the 10-year civil war, the people are still hurt and afraid to invest in anything. Decentralization had just begun in 2004 and councilors were still not trained to make municipal by-laws or ordinances. Initiatives in fisheries were still centralized and municipal leaders have not been informed or trained yet of the functions devolved to them. Although I expected these things since VSO already briefed us about it, it was quite different facing the reality of the situation. I felt I was in limbo and really didn't know where to start to perform my tasks as a coastal resource management advisor.

My luggage finally arrived after two months, which was timely because it was already election time and we were instructed by the VSO Programme Office to assemble in the capital city, Freetown, for security reasons. I used this time as an opportunity to browse through everything that I had brought with me which helped me decide to accomplish three things during the rest of my one-year stay. First, to establish a link between the council and the Ministry of Fisheries; then to facilitate an orientation on devolved functions; and last, to carry out a simple fisheries assessment in the fishing villages of the municipality. I did not worry about the budget too much since I was lucky to get funding from the Moyamba District Council with the help of Councilor T.S. Bangura (my counterpart), and support from VSO.

I was privileged to work with very dedicated people from the Ministry of Fisheries and the Moyamba District Council. We conducted a focused group discussion in 17 villages (barangays in Philippine context) on the coast of Moyamba. Overall, I realized that there is not much difference between our Philippine experience in terms of fisheries management and those in Sierra Leone. They face the same problems with illegal fishing gears like the use of fine mesh nets, encroachment of international trawlers that oftentimes cut their nets, the poaching of sharks and the selling of shark fin, and poor coastal law enforcement and facilities. Local fishers paddle small boats and if they are part of a bigger fishing boat, income is distributed according to catch according to the number of working days in a week. They use bottom set and drift gill nets and use single and multiple hook and lines. They also banned the use of nylon nets though some fishermen were still using them. Mangrove trees are rampantly used for fuel and for drying or smoking fish. All this information was consistent in all the villages I visited with minor variations. I left copies of the resource assessment with the VSO-Sierra Leone Programme Office, the Moyamba District Council, and the Ministry of Fisheries hoping that it would be useful in time.

As I prepared for the orientation on devolved functions at my town, I realized how passionate

the staff of the Ministry were in their work. During the orientation they discussed the two main devolved functions which included the licensing of small canoes and attendant fishing gear, and the establishment and management of fishponds and inland lakes. This was a good strategy of decentralization since the functions were devolved to the municipalities gradually with a corresponding budget. A major accomplishment of the orientation was that, together with the Ministry of Fisheries, activities to be implemented for the next six months were identified.

Now, back with CCE Foundation, I have realized that my working habits, approaches and strategies in Sierra Leone are in line with CCEF's vision (but I appreciate the luxury of our facilities, internet, good roads and big buses!). Nevertheless, the satisfaction of working with local communities, no matter which part of the world, has made me realize that I am making a connection between what really what I want to do and how I can maximize myself as a development worker. In the end, it seemed like I never left CCEF at all!

Staff Profiles

A warm welcome to our new CCEF staff!

Joel Erediano is a Community Officer assigned in the Municipality of San Remigio in northern Cebu for the NOAA Project. Joel has previously worked with Project Seahorse Foundation and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Neil Antoque is the Community Officer assigned in the Municipalities of Tuburan and Tabuelan in northern Cebu for the NOAA Project. Neil worked in PROCESS-Bohol, Inc. and the Maribojoc Bay Resource Management Office.

Welcome back to:

Analeh Patindol who is now assigned to the Malapascua Solid Waste Management Project supported by the Philippine Department of Tourism.

Kenneth Sotto who is now the Information, Education and Communications/Training Asst.



The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc.

3rd Floor, PDI Condominium,
Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Banilad,
Cebu City, Philippines

Phone: (6332) 233-6909 or 233-6947

Fax: (6332) 233-6891

Email: ccef@mozcom.com

Website: www.coast.ph

"Promoting leadership for improved coastal resource management"

The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. (formerly Sulu Fund) was Founded in 1998 to support marine conservation in the Philippines. The first name was taken from the Philippines' southern Sulu Sea known for its extremely high marine biodiversity unequalled in the world. The new name, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, is more functional and reflects the organization's goals. The CCE Foundation is focused on protecting the marine environment. It tries to help conserve and manage coral reef ecosystems and other coastal resources while promoting sustainable uses for the benefit of people throughout time.

The A. White Library and Learning Center for Coastal Resource Management

The A. White Library and Learning Center's information resources on coastal resource management and related disciplines are continuously growing! The library and learning center serves as a one-stop-shop for information and training needs on coastal management. It houses more than 2000 volumes and 5000 reprints and reports, by far the most extensive library on coastal management in the southern Philippines. At the same time its training facility provides a conducive venue for experts, community leaders, and other key sectors to come together and discuss issues, ideas and concerns on coastal conservation.

For more information on the A. White Library and Learning Center's services and rates, please contact us at ccef@mozcom.com or the above mentioned contact numbers.