



ENVIRONMENT

Update

VOLUME 10 NO. 2
APRIL-JUNE 2019

Bambang town inaugurates PhP65M sanitary landfill

The local government of Bambang in Nueva Vizcaya has strengthened solid waste management as it inaugurated its PhP65-million sanitary landfill (SLF) on June 26, this year.

Sanitary landfills are engineered facilities that serve as final disposal site for solid and residual wastes providing a leachate management system simultaneously storing solid waste while decomposition process takes place thus, protecting the underlying groundwater against contamination. These facilities also prevent air pollution and diseases.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Cagayan Valley Regional Executive



Rev. Fr. Clarence Sadangsal blesses the sanitary landfill in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

Director Atty. Antonio A. Abawag, who represented Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, led the inauguration of the engineered waste management

facility which is the first of its kind in Region 2.

In his message delivered by Director Abawag, [TO PAGE 4](#)

DENR launches Apagonan River rehab proj

More than 300 volunteers participated in a river cleanup activity as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched the Apagonan River Rehabilitation Project in Aparri, Cagayan on June 17, this year.

DENR Region 2 Executive Director Atty. Antonio Abawag

in his message appealed to the local government officials to pass ordinances in support of the rehabilitation of the 18-kilometer Apagonan River as he warned the public on its compliance with environmental laws.

"I'm giving the business establishments and households along the riverbank six months to comply with environmental laws particularly the [TO PAGE 7](#)



Regional Executive Director Antonio A. Abawag leads the river cleanup activity along Apagonan River in Aparri, Cagayan.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Youth leaders clean coasts, plant trees in Cagayan



3

Cagayan River council urges water quality mgt. area monitoring



4

Envi Day fete yields about 2krunners in CV



7

The sweet aroma of success



16

More effective solid waste management

Region 2 has recorded another milestone in solid waste management. On June 26, 2019, it launched its 27th sanitary landfill (SLF) particularly in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

The sanitary landfill, worth the huge amount of 65 million pesos from the funds of Bambang Local Government Unit (LGU), is in compliance with Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

EDITORIAL

Topping the long list of objectives of RA 9003 is to “ensure the protection of the public health and environment.”

It is not arguable that solid waste is a threat to human health and environmental stability. This is why Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has included solid waste management in his top ten priority programs. In fact, Secretary Cimatu congratulated LGU Bambang for coming up with the SLF to address the garbage situation in the locality.

Sanitary landfills are the final destination of solid and residual wastes. These are equipped with facilities that protect the aquifer, the source of potable water, from contamination due to leachate. In sanitary landfills, solid and residual wastes are properly managed so that disease vectors are controlled.

Truly, the establishment of a sanitary landfill is expensive. This is the constraint of some LGUs in complying with the provisions of RA 9003. But quite a number of LGUs have succeeded in constructing their SLF. Does this mean that it is a matter of prioritizing?

We often hear people complaining that they sort at source but they are not sure if these classified solid wastes land in their proper places after collection. We cannot give them categorical answers because we know that our partner-LGUs are mainly responsible in the establishment of a sanitary landfill.

During the launch of the SLF in Bambang, Regional Executive Director Abawag expressed optimism that other municipalities will follow suit in properly managing their solid wastes.

Thus, we urge all partner-LGUs to establish their sanitary landfill for a more effective solid waste management not only for a cleaner environment but also for healthier constituents as well.

RED's Corner



ATTY. ANTONIO A. ABAWAG, CESO IV

For this year's celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, we highlighted the top three priority programs of Secretary Roy Cimatu: Clean Air, Clean Water and Solid Waste Management. Undoubtedly, these are also the most serious environmental problems we confront today.

The theme for the 2019 celebration, “Beat Air Pollution,” encourages the collective effort of the community in improving air quality for the protection of the environment and human health. With the continuous development of infrastructures and industries in the region, it is foreseeable that the environment might also be compromised. To address this, we plan to forge a Memorandum of Agreement with the LGUs of the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, and the city of Tuguegarao, being identified as centers of development in the region, for the turn-over of emission testing equipment.

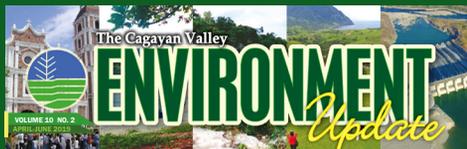
I also instructed the Environmental Management Bureau to conduct free emission testing of all government vehicles as well as those personally owned by the employees.

Earlier this year, we conducted a regionwide cleanup of rivers and esteros. This activity, though not new, had left a much greater and wider impact as we began engaging the local government units, communities and other national government agencies.

In fact, last June 10, a cleanup activity was conducted along the 3.5-kilometer stretch of Pinacananan River in Peñablanca, Cagayan with the participation of the Philippine National Police. On the 17th of the same month, we also led the cleanup of Apagonan River in Aparri. The Local Government Unit of Aparri also joined in the cleanup.

As what I repeatedly say, combatting these environmental problems is a continuing process and a matter of collective obligation. It is important to strengthen our partnership and engagement with the stakeholders, local government units and national government agencies to achieve better outcome.

I hope that with these initiatives of the DENR, we also do our part as government employees to educate and influence the public in taking part in the protection and conservation of our environment.



EDITORIAL BOARD

CORAZON C. CORPUZ
Editor

VICTORIA D. BALIUG, BATANES
RACQUEL M. CALDEZ, ISABELA
MARICEL A. DELA CRUZ, NUEVA VIZCAYA
JACQUELINE FAITH S. PUNO, QUIRINO
JEMAICA ANNET. AQUINO, ORED
SUNSHINE G. ASUNCION, CDD
PRINCESS MARGARETT S. ASTUDILLO, RPAO
RALFFE C. CONCEPCION, RPAO
CAROLYN A. TUMAMAO, RPAO

Contributing Writers
CRIS VINCENT P. RONCALE
JEOFREY EMIL S. SORIANO
Photographers/Artists

CONSULTANTS

ATTY. ANTONIO A. ABAWAG, CESO IV
OIC, Regional Executive Director

ENGR. MARCOS G. DACANAY
ARD for Management Services

FOR. FELIX C. TAGUBA
OIC, ARD for Technical Services

FOR. MARCELO G. BUMIDANG, BATANES
ATTY. ISMAEL T. MANALIGOD, CAGAYAN
FOR. MARLON C. AGNAR, ISABELA
MARIAM FRANCES T. MALANA, QUIRINO
FOR. EDGAR T. MARTIN, NUEVA VIZCAYA
PENR Officers



VOLUME 10 NO. 1
April - June 2019

The Cagayan Valley Environment Update is the official publication of DENR Region 2 with office located at the Regional Government Center, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City. For comments, suggestions and contributions, please email us at rporegion2@yahoo.com

Youth leaders clean coasts, plant trees in Cagayan



SK officials participate in coastal cleanup and tree planting activities in celebration of the Month of the Ocean.

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in 10 coastal towns of Cagayan have affirmed their commitment in marine protection as they participated in a coastal cleanup and tree planting activities of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2.

In the environmental youth camp held in Claveria town on May 28-30, the youth leaders were engaged in sustainable outdoor activities to enhance their environmental sensitivity and social relationship.

Claveria was awarded second runner-up in the “Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan,” a national search for the most outstanding coastal community in 2017.

In his message, DENR provincial chief Ismael Manaligod said the agency acknowledges the role of the youth in spreading the message of environmental and resource conservation and protection. He added the youth are key influencers in environmental advocacy.

“You have the power in pushing agenda in order for other Filipinos to be aware on environmental issues and consequently take actions,” Atty. Manaligod said as he discussed the drivers of deforestation and

threats to terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

The best practices in environmental protection in the coastal municipalities were presented by the young officers for possible replication. These include trashion show, coastal and river cleanups, “bayong mo, bitbit mo”, garbage in-garbage out, mini vermi composting per household, mangrove forest rehabilitation, proper solid waste management, tree planting and energy conservation.

Prior to their tour at a portion of the 900-hectare marine protected area along Brgy. Taggat Norte on May 29, the SK officials have interacted with the Taggat Norte Fisherfolk Association, an active people’s organization (PO) partner of the DENR in coastal resource management. The PO members imparted success stories and best practices particularly in the management and protection of the 21-hectare marine sanctuary. Marine sanctuary is a no-take zone breeding ground of fishes.

The participants were trained on formulating resolutions by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). They were also required to craft resolutions on environment. Local Government Operations

Officer Luis Udanga said environmental protection is one of the aspects in the assessment for the Seal of Good Local Governance by the DILG. He challenged the SK officials to check on the Ecological Solid Waste Management committee in their respective barangays.

“Environment is everybody’s concern. It is not territorial. It is boundless,” Udanga said.

Hivenus Gonzales of the Environmental Management Bureau talked about solid waste management, and prohibited acts and penalties for violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Charo Caise from the Department of Tourism discussed the power of youth in making a difference through sustainable tourism.

The youth camp was conducted in celebration of the Month of the Ocean (MOO). Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1999 declares the whole month of May as Month of the Ocean.

This year’s MOO theme, “Free the Sea from Marine Debris,” is centered on the rising issues concerning marine debris and their negative effects on coastal and marine biodiversity. [@CCC](#)

Cagayan River council urges water quality mgt. area monitoring

The Cagayan River Basin Management Council (CRBMC) has urged the monitoring bodies to strictly enforce environmental laws within the two designated Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs) covered by the CRB during its executive committee meeting on June 19, this year in Cabarroguis, Quirino.

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, the Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao River in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and Calao-Delinquente-Diadi River System in Santiago City, Isabela along the CRB were designated as WQMAs to protect and further improve the water quality of said river systems.

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Regional Focal Person for Solid Waste Management George Canapi cited the major threats to the water quality of both rivers. These include the direct discharge of untreated wastewater to the rivers, soil erosion, accumulation of solid wastes at the riverbanks, increasing fecal coliform, and other human activities that degrade the quality of the water.

Maria Ines S. Bunagan of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tuguegarao City however reported the improvement of the Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao since the establishment of wastewater facilities in three sites of the river.



The CRBMC members discuss environmental compliance of businesses along the Cagayan River Basin during their executive committee meeting.

The CRBMC commended LGU Tuguegarao for its implementation of no bathing and washing of clothes and vehicles along the river that led to the improvement of its water quality from Class C to B.

Class B denotes that the river is suitable for primary contact recreation such as bathing or swimming, while Class C signifies that the river is only suitable and limited for propagation and growth of aquatic resources, recreational activities such as boating and fishing, and irrigation and livestock watering.

As of June this year, there are 15 monitoring stations established along the Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao including tributaries in Peñablanca, while 12 sampling stations were installed at Calao-Delinquente-Diadi River System.

Piggeries nearby irrigations and other water systems will now

be counterchecked by the EMB whether or not the pigger owners already secured their Environmental Compliance Certificate. This was recommended from the observation of Engineer Jovanni Otoman of the National Irrigation Administration in Quirino that wastes from some piggeries are directly discharged to irrigations.

Forester Canapi added that monitoring within the river systems should also include reporting or filing complaint against violators such as those who dump wastes in the water bodies for them to be legally addressed.

The management of said rivers according to RA 9275 aims to protect and improve the water quality of the rivers making these a sustainable resource of the communities benefitting from the water bodies. 🌍RCC

Bambang town inaugurates...

FROM PAGE 1

Secretary Cimatu congratulated the municipality for coming up with the SLF to address the garbage situation in the locality.

“Whether we like it or not, garbage will always be with us and its volume will increase correspondingly as the population grows, hence, we need a right place to dispose our garbage in a proper manner without any risk to public health,” Secretary Cimatu said.

The country’s environment top official also reminded the local officials that there must be a conscious effort to change the culture of insensitivity and indiscretion among the people.

“Conceiving and enforcing ways to keep our surrounding clean will be futile as long as some people and entities remain thoughtless and wanton in the disposal of their wastes,” he added.

For his part, RED Abawag pinned his hope that other municipalities will follow suit in properly managing solid wastes for a clean environment. He also reported the river and estero cleanups which are now regularly conducted by the DENR with the stakeholders.

Bambang outgoing mayor, Atty. Flaviano Balgos Jr., said waste segregation should start at source for the facility to last.

He also challenged the incoming administration to be forward-looking and always consider the future of the children as he emphasized that the government is serious in the enforcement of environmental laws.

To ensure the protection of public health and environment, the local government units (LGUs) are mandated to be primarily responsible in the implementation and enforcement of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 within their respective jurisdictions. It likewise mandates the LGUs to construct, operate and maintain waste disposal site. 🌍CCC

Region 2 strengthens forestland management

The Cagayan Valley Region continuously intensifies forest conservation and socio-economic conditions of communities through the Forestland Management Project (FMP).

To improve forest condition, plantations were established. In Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, a total area of 23,566 broken down as 8,479 hectares for reforestation, 8,805 hectares for agroforestry, 3,561 hectares for coffee, 582 hectares for soil and water conservation and 2,139 hectares for fuelwood was established.

A total of 167,958 seedlings was also produced for the 126 hectares of coffee plantation under the 2019 target of Nueva Vizcaya.

To ensure survival rate of the planted seedlings, activities like ring weeding, strip brushing, fertilizer application, cultivation, replanting of dead spots, and fire line construction were conducted. These are part of the maintenance and protection

activities of the Project.

For the implementation of Agroforestry Support Facilities (ASF), three sub-projects were already completed, namely: Nursery Capacnaan Farm-to-Market Road, Pallas-Nansiakan Farm-to-Market Road and Ammoweg Reinforced Concrete Deck Girder Bridge located in Nueva Vizcaya.

The construction of Baguio Village to Don Mariano Perez Farm-to-Market Road and Ifugao Village Irrigation Pipeline System in Quirino which started in 2018 were also completed.

For 2019, the concreting of the Carolotan Access Road and Sitio Lacong-Babadi Access Road both in Nueva Vizcaya has started. Also, another four proposed ASF sub-projects were approved and another four were conditionally approved by the Regional Subproject Approval Committee during its meeting on May 16 in Diffun, Quirino.

To strengthen forestland management through community-based management

strategies, 63 trainings were conducted to capacitate and strengthen the partner people's organizations (POs) in managing their respective areas.

To ensure that all activities are efficiently performed, the Regional and Provincial Project Monitoring Offices regularly conduct monitoring and evaluation of activities in all sub-project sites.

The FMP is a joint project of the Philippine government thru the DENR and the Japan International Cooperation Agency with the main objective to rehabilitate degraded forestlands in three river basins in the country.

In Region 2, FMP is implemented in nine sub-watershed sites namely Bukig, Upper Matuno, Lower Matuno, Sta. Cruz, Cabanglasan, Manga, Dupax and Benay in Nueva Vizcaya and Ganano in Quirino within Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basin. 🌐PMSA

PROJECT SITES MONITORING

DENR Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director (RED) Antonio Abawag (2nd from right) leads the monitoring of the 4.5-hectare of mango plantation established in Lannig, Solana, Cagayan under the National Greening Program (NGP) on May 23, this year. In a meeting, RED Abawag reminded the technical personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) Office of Solana to continuously conduct monitoring not only to the plantations established but also to its beneficiaries needing the expertise of the DENR to improve more of the area they are developing. "As our beneficiaries get more years in supporting the NGP, we need to guide them to sustain their efforts in planting and growing the trees they have planted. We have to assist them technically to equip them with necessary skills and knowledge in so far as maintaining their plantations is concerned," RED

Abawag added. Among the sites visited were the individual establishments of Mark Anthony Soriano and Marigold Soriano, both in Barangay Cadaanan; and Rogelio Ataban and Roberto Valdez in Barangay Lannig in Solana. These were all planted with forest and fruit bearing trees. Also in photo are



(L-R) Enforcement Section Chief Mario De Asis, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Felix Taguba, NGP beneficiary Rogelio Ataban, OIC CENR Officer Andres Guiquing and Conservation and Development Section Chief Luzviminda Pascual. 🌐

PHOTO NEWS

DENR, DOT push for PO tour guiding accreditation

The environment and tourism departments in Cagayan Valley are now working for the accreditation of the members of Palau Environmental Protectors Association (PEPA) as tour guides.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources tapped the Department of Tourism (DOT) for the Eco-Tour Guides Training which was conducted on May 21-27, this year at the Nature Village, Palau Island, Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

According to Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section Chief and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program

(CMEMP) Regional Focal Person Maria Salome G. Bonnit, the training was held to help the members learn the techniques in dealing with the tourists without disturbing and destroying the environment and marine resources. It also aimed to sustain the livelihood of the members of the people's organization.

"They are our active partners in protecting and preserving the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape. We need to continuously capacitate them by providing means to increase their income and to avoid exploitation of the environment," Engr. Bonnit said.

Tour guiding is one of the initiatives under the Biodiversity-Friendly Social Enterprise (BDFE), one of the seven components of the CMEMP. Through BDFE, people's organizations are provided with alternative livelihood options and sustained support to assure sustainability of coastal and marine resources.

The training covered lectures on Sustainable Tourism and Ecology; Overview of the Philippine Tourism Industry, Current Trends and Culture of Tourism; Tourism Situationer and the Local Tourism Destinations; Flora and Fauna; Birdwatching; Tour Guiding Principles, Customer Service and Values Formation; Fundamental First Aid; Water Safety and Search and Rescue; Ropemanship; and High Angle Rescue.

Focus group discussions and simulated activities were also conducted during the training.

In his presentation, Roderick Gonzales of the DOT emphasized that ecotourism is a sustainable tourism within a natural and cultural heritage area where the community participates in the management and protection of natural resources.

The participants will be endorsed by the DOT to the Local Government Unit of Sta. Ana to easily comply with the requirements needed for accreditation. Once accredited, the directory of the PEPA members will be shared to tour operators within the region. 🌐PMSA



PEPA members simulate water safety measures during the training.

RETREAT FOR A CAUSE

Honeybee Carmona, co-founder of KAYA Yoga PH, shares to the locals of Punta Verde at the Palau Island, Sta. Ana, Cagayan ways on how to mitigate the effects of climate change during the team's retreat activity on June 15, this year at the island. She said the locals must strictly implement the 'garbage in, garbage out' policy especially that many tourists visit the island. She also encouraged the residents not to burn solid waste. KAYA Yoga PH is a group of yogis in Region 2 that promotes healthy lifestyle, and an advocate of gender equality, women empowerment and healthy environment and sustainable natural resources.



It has been holding retreat activities at the Palau Island since 2016. Aside from various outreach programs, the team conducts activities that empower the community to protect and

preserve Palau Island. For their next yoga retreat, the team will launch the 'eco-bricks project' to help the locals manage their solid waste. 🌐

PHOTO NEWS



Envi Day fete yields about 2k runners in CV

In celebration of the World Environment Day, about 2,000 individuals joined the Fun Run initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cagayan Valley on June 5.

To kick off the Philippine Environment Month celebration, the fun run dubbed “Takbo para sa Inang Kalikasan” was held simultaneously in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; City of Ilagan, Isabela; Diffun, Quirino; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; and Basco, Batanes.

In his message delivered by Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Felix C. Taguba, Cagayan Valley environment head Atty. Antonio A. Abawag expressed

the Department’s gratitude to the runners who responded to the call to “Beat Air Pollution.”

“Despite the holiday, you are here with us. This is a clear manifestation of your commitment in the preservation and enhancement of the environment,” Director Abawag said.

The regional environment chief urged the participants from different government agencies, local government units, private firms, mining companies and business establishments to strictly follow Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, and other environmental laws and regulations.

Activities to be conducted in

the celebration of the Environment Month include tree planting, river and estero cleanup, sports fest, emission testing, air quality monitoring and recognition of environmental partners.

This year’s theme encourages collective effort in improving air quality to protect the environment and human health. “Air pollution, which kills more than 6 million people every year, is the biggest environmental health risk of our time,” the United Nations Environment Programme said.

The month of June is declared as Philippine Environment Month by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 237 issued in 1998. 🌍CCC

DENR launches Apagonan River...

FROM PAGE 1

Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and Clean Water Act. Otherwise, we will issue notice of violation and file cases against those discharging waste directly to the river,” Director Abawag said.

The regional environment chief has ordered the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENR) Officer to meet the barangay officials and remind them of the prohibited acts and penalties under Republic Act (RA) 9003 and RA 9275. He also instructed the provincial head to attend Sangguniang Bayan (SB) sessions.

In July 2018, the DENR launched the RIVERS for Life Award, a nationwide search to recognize individuals and institutions of their efforts in the conservation and protection of rivers.

Classified as Class C, the Apagonan River covers 10 barangays. According to PENR Officer Ismael Manaligod, the Apagonan River is a breeding ground of both freshwater and marine species as it is connected to the estuary of the Cagayan River and the Babuyan Sea.

During the occasion, SB member and acting mayor Ria Capiña committed to pass ordinances for the strict implementation of RA 9003.

“The rehabilitation of our Apagonan River is important being one of the primary sources of income of the people of Aparri,” Capiña said.

A total of 102 sacks of solid waste was collected by volunteers from the different government agencies, non-government organizations, business sector, media and DENR employees. 🌍CCC



PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT





PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT MONTH



Gov't vehicles undergo emission test

Highlighting this year's theme of the Philippine Environment Month, "Beat Air Pollution," the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 2 conducted a one-day free emission testing for all government vehicles in Tuguegarao City on June 20, this year at the EMB Regional Office, Tuguegarao City.

The activity aimed to strengthen the campaign for clean air as one of the banner programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

The activity also aimed to address the problem of air pollution caused primarily by motor vehicles which pose threat to public health and the environment.

A total of 48 vehicles of the Philippine National Police, Local Government Unit of Tuguegarao City, Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, DENR and EMB availed of the free smoke emission test.



EMB personnel test the emission level of a vehicle of the City Government of Tuguegarao.

The EMB in partnership with the LTO regularly conducts anti-smoke belching operations to ensure that vehicles comply with the in-use emission standards set forth in the DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-81 also known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine

Clean Air Act.

The EMB is also set to turnover emission testing equipment to the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, and Tuguegarao City to intensify the anti-smoke belching operations within their areas of jurisdiction. [PMSA](#)

DENR CV maintains NGP plantations

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is continuously undertaking maintenance and protection activities of the plantations established under the National Greening Program (NGP).

A total of 27,394 hectares of forest and fruit bearing tree plantations for Calendar Year 2017 and 2018 are currently maintained in the provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Activities for the maintenance and protection include replanting, ring weeding, strip brushing and establishment of fire break.

According to Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Technical Services Felix C. Taguba,

the Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) are also rehabilitating the NGP sites that were damaged by fire, typhoon and other natural calamities.

"I encourage the NGP implementers in the field level to keep on monitoring those NGP sites vulnerable to forest fire to have some measures on preventing and suppressing the occurrence of fire especially during summer season," ARD Taguba said.

In order to ensure that rehabilitation activities are being undertaken in NGP damaged areas, the Enforcement Division is strengthening its forest patrol to the project sites through the Landscape and Wildlife Indicator

(LAWIN) Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, a monitoring tool to determine the conservation status of the different reforestation areas.

Meanwhile, the field offices in collaboration with the member beneficiaries of various people's organizations have rehabilitated almost 300 hectares of damaged plantations due to strong typhoons that hit Cagayan Valley two years ago.

For this year, there is no target of plantation establishment to focus more on the maintenance and protection of existing NGP sites to sustain their growth and development. [CAT](#)

DENR limits energy project permit processing to 30 days

All applications for permits, licenses, certificates, lease and production sharing agreement for the establishment and operationalization of Energy Projects of National Significance (EPNS) within forestlands, mineral lands and national parks must be processed within 30 working days from the date of application.

This was the order of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to all Regional Executive Directors in his Memorandum dated May 8, this year.

EPNS are major energy projects for power generation, transmission, and ancillary services including those required to maintain grid stability and security, identified and endorsed by the Department of Energy as

'projects of national significance' that are in consonance with the thrusts and specific goals of the PEP.

The environment chief also ordered that in the event that the 30-day period lapse without a final action on the application, the Regional Executive Director or the Regional Director concerned shall issue the corresponding permit within five working days counted from the date when the 30-day period lapsed.

With the aim "to streamline the regulatory procedures affecting energy projects," the Secretary's order is in support of Executive Order (EO) No. 30 s. 2017 otherwise known as "Creation of the Energy Investment Coordinating Council".

EO 30 emphasizes that there

is an urgent need to construct additional power plants to accelerate economic growth in an open and competitive market.

It aims at ensuring the continuous, adequate and economic supply of energy, and that a comprehensive and efficient administrative program proves for EPNS should be developed in order to avoid unnecessary delays in the implementation of the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP).

In Region 2, the Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division through its Forest Utilization Section is currently undertaking an inventory of all applications related to energy projects to ensure the implementation of the provisions stipulated in the said order. 🌐CAT

PRESERVING PHILIPPINE EAGLE

DENR Region 2 Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section Chief Robert V. Rivera talks about the Philippine Eagle Week (PEW) celebration on June 5, this year over DWPE Radyo Pilipinas, Tuguegarao City. He discussed the importance of Philippine Eagle in attaining the ecological balance of the terrestrial ecosystems. He said the presence of Philippine Eagle in the wild is an indicator of having a stable and healthy forest. He also described the Philippine Eagle, a giant raptor formerly known as Monkey-Eating Eagle, as one of the largest and most powerful eagles in the world. As of today, there are more or less 400 pairs of Philippine Eagle recorded nationwide that need further protection to prevent these endemic species from extinction. In Region 2, these rare species



have been sighted within the Northern Sierra Madre Mountain Range particularly at Mt. Hamut in Peñablanca, Cagayan, Mt. Mudmud in the province of Quirino, Asinga Via in Baggao, Cagayan, and in Dinapigue, Isabela. With the theme,

"The Philippine Eagle: A National Symbol, A Global Treasure," the PEW from June 4-10 of every year is in accordance with Presidential Proclamation No. 79 dated Feb. 24, 1999. 🌐

PHOTO NEWS

SK officials learn SWM on Earth Day

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials in Cordon, Isabela gains more understanding on solid waste management (SWM) in an environmental lecture held in celebration of the Earth Day on April 22, this year.

The lecture put emphasis on proper waste disposal in line with Earth Day theme, "Protect our Species."

Solid wastes especially single-use plastics are found to have caused massive harmful effects to wildlife and human health.

"They should lead and set an example to their fellow youth in terms of proper waste management," said Maryjane A. Peralta, Ecological SWM focal person of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in San Isidro, said province.

Peralta taught the participants about the seven "Rs" of sustainability which are: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle, and Rot.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) priority programs which include Clean Water, Clean Air, Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation, and Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-illegal Logging were also discussed.



Youth participate in the Earth Exhibit at the Robinsons Place Tuguegarao.

Meanwhile, other DENR offices in the region conducted simultaneous cleanup drives along creeks, riverbanks and coastal areas in observance of the Earth Day.

Officials in CENRO Cauayan

were invited to lead in the evaluation and selection of winners for the Search for Model Purok in Sto. Domingo, Alicia and Search for Model Barangay and School in Cauayan City both in Isabela

➔ TO PAGE 14

RIVER CLEANUP – In celebration of the DENR anniversary and in observance of the Coral Triangle Day, officials and employees of the DENR Regional Office, Environmental Management Bureau, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, PENRO Cagayan, CENRO Solana and PENR Sub-Office Cagayan participate in the cleanup activity along the 3.5-kilometer stretch of Pinacanauan River in Peñablanca, Cagayan. Regional Executive Director Atty. Antonio A. Abawag led the cleanup which was also participated in by members of the Philippine National Police. 🇵🇭



PHOTO NEWS

PENRO Isabela holds envi symposium



PENR Officer Marlon C. Agnar appeals support for environmental protection.

Following the thrust of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu for an integrated implementation of the Department's priority programs by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB), an environmental symposium was conducted for barangay officials and members of various people's organizations (POs).

Aimed at understanding the fragility of the environment and the importance of its protection, the activity was held on June 21, this year at the PINAROC Hall, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENR) Office, City of Ilagan.

Through engaging lectures, the participants learned about Ecological Solid Waste Management; Presidential Decree 705 (Forestry Reform Code of the

Philippines) Section 78 specifically cutting, gathering, collecting and removing of forest products and possession of timber or other forest laws and regulations without legal documents; Geohazards in the Philippines; land matters and Advocacy and Social Mobilization Strategy: *Tayo ang Kalikasan*.

The participants that include the forest protection officers and extension officers of the DENR had an opportunity to better understand environmental goals of protecting limited natural resources and improving the quality of life. They gave impressions on the topics discussed. Queries raised by some of the participants were answered by the speakers.

PENR Officer Marlon C. Agnar said in his closing remarks that the symposium counts towards continuing education on most critical environmental topics.

"The virtual symposium offered an opportunity to share innovative ideas, new trends and information in the fields of safety and occupational health, environmental protection and interact with subject matter experts of various specialties," Forester Agnar said.

According to one of the barangay officials, the activity was a unique opportunity for members of the community to interact with the regulatory agency responsible for developing and implementing environmental policy.

Senior Environment Management Specialist Danie D. Bayani, Environment Management Specialist Baltazar S. Rañin, Land Management Officer Alma Abanto, Science Research Specialist/ Geologist Jomar L. Puerta and Development Management Officer Julie A. Duran served as resource speakers. [@RMC](#)

FREE THE SEAS FROM MARINE DEBRIS

Officials of DENR Region 2 Conservation and Development Division (CDD) solicit public support in the conservation, protection and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity over DWPE Radyo Pilipinas, Tuguegarao City. CDD Chief Sanrose M. Pulangco encouraged the public to take part in the celebration of the Month of the Ocean (MOO). Now on its 20th year, the MOO is celebrated annually during the month of May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 s. 1999. The local chief executives whose jurisdictions cover marine protected areas were also encouraged to form an alliance that would strengthen the conservation of marine habitats which include mangroves, coral reefs and sea grasses. [@RMC](#)



PHOTO NEWS

MGB alerts residents on geo-hazard effects

The residents of Quirino Province will now become more resilient to fight against the effect of natural calamities after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) conducted an intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on the importance of national geological hazards awareness on June 18, this year at the PENR Office, Diffun town.

Senior Geologist Oliver Hans Laviña of the MGB said the Philippines is prone to various types of mass wasting and landslide due to its geologic and climatic factors.

“Our country is located within the Pacific ‘ring of fire’ where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions usually occur,” Laviña added.

Mr. Laviña also explained that the climatic condition of the Philippines does not only favor the occurrence of various types of flood due to the frequency of typhoon and extended rainy season but also facilitates the weakening and mobility of rocks because of the alternating wet and

dry seasons through the process of weathering and erosion.

Landslides are often triggered by rainfall particularly in the tropical climate of Southeast Asia which is characterized by very intense and long duration of rainy season.

“We are not here to threaten but to give you warning. I encouraged you to adhere to precautions. Do not ignore if authorities order you to evacuate your area because of it being unstable and highly susceptible to landslide. Which do you prefer, *bahay o buhay?*” he forewarned.

In 2018, a landslide incident happened in barangay Maria Clara in Diffun where almost half of the residential houses were wrecked.

In order to prevent the recurrence of the incident, the MGB recommended to declare the areas with highly susceptible to recent and repeated flooding as unsuitable for permanent habitation and reclassify these to other alternative uses like green park zone and semi-agricultural forest zone.

Other areas with low to moderate susceptibility to flooding and landslides are recommended as possible sites for evacuation and relocation. However, these should be supported by slope stability and flood or drainage mitigation measures based on both site specific geo-hazard assessment and geotechnical or engineering investigations. 🌐JFSP/CAT



Personnel from the PENR Office of Quirino analyze the geo-hazard map of the province during the workshop.

SK Officials...

FROM PAGE 12

Province. Winners were selected according to their best practices in implementing Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Moreover, three Philippine Crocodiles were released at Dunoy Lake, Dibulan, San Mariano, Isabela. The release of the species was facilitated by personnel from CENRO Naguilian and the Mabuwaya Foundation.

Activities relating to forest protection were also held in April, the Month of the Planet Earth. These include tree planting activities and the “Oplan Huli-Week,” a regular activity of DENR Region 2 during Lent.

To raise awareness and consequently take action to end plastic pollution, an Earth Day Exhibit was also held on April 22-26 at the Robinson’s Place, Tuguegarao City. The exhibit features advocacy to reduce plastic use through information, education and communication materials such as the “Sarah: Kaibigan ng mga Basura,” a comic booklet about proper waste management given free.

The Philippine Earth Day and Earth Month are celebrated annually by virtue of Presidential Proclamations Nos. 1481 and 1482, respectively, to raise the level of awareness on the gravity of environmental degradation and destruction in the country that threatens the very quality of life of many Filipinos. 🌐RCC

The sweet aroma of success

FROM PAGE 16

Coffee in the market by participating in the Manila Coffee Festival. The Cooperative did not have the apprehension that it will run out of supply because of the festival’s limited duration that also limited the interested buyers. It was thinking that the product will be fully advertised only when supplies are sufficient to address the bigger demand.

The problem on supply is addressed when the yield of

coffee tremendously increased. “We got a surprising yield of 2.5 tons in 2018 compared to 300 kilograms in 2017,” Tan-chi proudly declared.

Today, through the support of the Department of Agriculture and the Municipal Local Government Unit of Dupax Del Sur, BCCI and BCCPC easily acquired the machineries used for coffee processing. They are now using one Dehuller machine used in

peeling the cherries and Depulper machine for removing the pulp after the red cherries are picked from the coffee bushes before fermentation.

The members of the BCCPC are very lucky. They found a partner, the BCCI, who did not only uplift their economic status but more importantly, brought missionaries that have awakened their spiritual life. The sweet aroma of success indeed! 🌐MADC

PEPA establishes organic farm in PIPLS

The members of the Palaui Environmental Protectors Association (PEPA) has a new sustainable way of providing products and services to the tourists visiting the Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) following the conduct of a Training on Organic Container Gardening at the Nature Village in Sta. Ana, Cagayan on May 7-8, this year.

The training was conducted under the Biodiversity Friendly Social Enterprise, one of the seven components of the CMEMP implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Aimed at encouraging the association to serve traditional and unique dishes freshly harvested from their garden which will distinctly introduce and market Palaui in a way that is remarkable for the tourists, the learning event was participated in by the culinary enterprise members of PEPA.

In her opening message, Engr. Maria Salome G. Bonnit, Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section (CRFMS) chief and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) regional focal person encouraged the members to be the frontrunners in improving not only the socio-economic status of Palaui but also the quality of life of all locals in the island.

“The learning event will serve as a way to augment the limited produce of the community and promotes low food production cost since most of the vegetables are imported from the mainland,” she explained.

Engr. Bonnit added that the activity will also address proper ecological solid waste management as it also promotes the use of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials such as old buckets, sacks, plastic bottles, among others, as pots.

In his discussion, Sta. Ana Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) representative Richard Alibania tackled Organic Agriculture and its Advantages and Basics of Organic Container Vegetable Gardening. He emphasized that organic agriculture ensures food safety and upholds ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible agricultural production system.

“Organic vegetable gardening is a science and an art as it incorporates the entire landscape design and environment to improve and maximize the garden soil’s health, structure and texture and it maximizes the production of developing plants without using synthetic commercial fertilizers, pesticides or fungicides,” Alibania added.

To learn the concept and techniques on organic gardening

for a self-sustaining vegetable production, the agriculture officer showed samples of vegetables and other ornamental plants fixed on plastic soda bottles. During his demonstration, he said the culinary members are allowed to make their own plan or layout just as long as they consider the kind of vegetables they plant in the same pot or container.

Moreover, to ensure higher yield using inexpensive and harmless natural substances, Dr. Elma Bermudez introduced natural farming inputs to the participants. These farming inputs were made out of natural products which can be easily found in the community such as fruits, *guraman* or seaweed, rice bran, eggshells and molasses.

The participants were also exposed to a hands-on crafting of their own kitchen garden using banana trunk and carbonated drink plastic containers. They also made few organic fertilizers and pesticides such as fermented fruit juice and seaweeds extract which were made out of papaya, banana, *guraman* or seaweeds and molasses.

Other topics discussed during the two-day learning event include Organic Rice Production by Elizabeth M. Capina from LGU-MAO and Agri-farm Tourism by Charo T. Caise of the Department of Tourism Region 2. 



Sta. Ana Municipal Agricultural Office representative Richard Alibania (2nd from right) guides the participants in crafting a medium for an indoor kitchen garden using a banana trunk.



The *sweet aroma* of success

Looking for inspiration to start or continue with the National Greening Program (NGP)? Learn from the success of the Bugkalot Casecanan Coffee Producers Cooperative (BCCPC).

In 2014, the BCCP partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for a 200-hectare site for the NGP. This area is planted with coffee. After four years of maintenance and protection, the project yielded a product that rocked the international market.

The product, named Bugkalot

Coffee, comes in a package of 250 grams of ground coffee beans which is at par with those produced by Latin America, Eastern Africa and Arabia. Its smooth taste and relaxing aroma when brewed captivates the taste of every coffee lover. Best roasters classify the Bugkalot Coffee as Grade 1 to 2 following the coffee standards.

This Pinoy product was first introduced by Mr. Joseph C. Tanchi, Chairman of the Bugkalot Coffee Company, Inc. (BCCI), to his friends in the United States who later considered it to be the best gift

during special occasions because of its quality and aroma. Besides, the price is a bit lower than the best in the international market considering that it is a starter.

Bugkalot Coffee is also offered in the form of roasted coffee beans. The roasted product is being distributed to a coffee company who converts these roasted beans to granules. This company advised the BCCI to join in the Manila Coffee Festival in 2018 to advertise the Bugkalot Coffee.

In 2018, BCCI decided to introduce Bugkalot [TO PAGE 14](#)

