### ETHNOECOLOGY
FOR A CHANGING WORLD

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Daluhay is a non-profit non-government organization based in Baler, Aurora Province, Philippines. We aim to sustain the flow of life by becoming catalysts in strengthening the link between people and their environment from ridge to reef through a multi-stakeholder approach to biodiversity conservation.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Magandang Daloy ng Buhay!

Approaching the anniversary of the global pandemic, the world is united in a stress that few would have imagined just twelve months ago. Challenges are uniquely national, yet the loss of lives-lived stretches across the planet. Many quarantined are experiencing anxiety, while less fortunate have lost their lives. The root cause is a disregard for the sanctity of mother earth. Though vaccines will emerge, future pandemic prevention may well depend upon each finding their way to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Watts, Dr. Sc.
President

“Gusto kong maiparating sa mundo ay ang pagrespeto sa aming lupaing ninuno. Dahil sa gustuhan nilang lumago ang ekonomiya ng bansa, higit kaming naapektuhan sa mga pagtatayo ng istruktura at pagsira ng dagat. Humihingi kami ng pansin na nawaý kami ay inyong tulungan. Baka sa pagdating ng panahon, tuluyang mawala sa amin ang lupaing ninuno at kami ay tuluyan nang mawasak (maubos). Baka pagdating ng panahon, kwento nalang kami o kayaý maging isang alamat nalang ng bansa.”

Jessa Estanes
Katutubong Kabataan
Tribong Agta
The coastal province of Aurora faces challenges in food security and nutrition where protein deficiency among mothers are common while stunting and wasting are prevalent among children due to several factors that promote decline in natural resources. Most Indigenous and artisanal communities in Aurora rely on natural resources for nourishment through fishing, farming and gathering of forest products. However, the current mindset is to go along with whatever the changes in season and climate can put on the table. Efforts disregard planning for nutritious diet and food security which negatively affects the health and well-being of communities.

In 2016, seven-day maternal diet assessments of coastal mothers in the province indicated protein intakes are only 20—25% of international/national maternal recommendations (DOST-FNRI and International Standards), exasperated by seasonal typhoons and related depletion in fish catch.

In partnership with Korea SHE Foundation, Daluhay implemented a 5-month seed project that aims to alleviate this problem using an Ecohealth lens that links the health of the people and that of the environment. We focus on mothers of the household who play central roles in family values, decision making and nutrition; thus, enabling mothers to take the lead in food security and good health of the community.
Daluhay worked with Indigenous maternal community leaders to raise the awareness of their community in the health of families and that of the environment they depend upon. The technical working group (TWG) of Agta mothers in Brgy. San Ildefonso in Casiguran formed, welcomed a leadership role in the project implementation and completed relevant capacity building workshops facilitated by the NGO. They led the conduct of a survey on the Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices of pregnant & lactating mothers in their barangay towards health and the environment in order to understand the current situation in detail. The results of the survey were used as bases for the TWG to plan a Communication Education and Public Awareness Campaign (CEPA) for the survey respondents. A Maternal Ecohealth Workshop was successfully conducted using multimedia in the form of lectures, games, a video, a song & open forum.
San Luis ICCA
Harmony in Policies

in partnership with Rainforest Trust

San Luis Forest Guard President, Jeffrey Natividad, presenting the Community Conservation and Protection Plan (CCPP) to the Barangay Local Government Unit of Dibut

As the project ended on July 2020, efforts in monitoring and patrolling of the Indigenous Forest Guards continuously moves forward to secure the protection of their Ancestral Domain. Despite the challenges brought about by the current pandemic, most of the activities were able to push through. An initial presentation of the formulated Community Conservation and Protection Plan (CCPP) to the Barangay LGU of Dibut was conducted. It aimed to identify collaborative strategy between the Barangay Council and Tribal Council on the harmonization of the identified plans for environment protection with the Barangay Development Plan.

In Barangay Dimanayat and Barangay Dikapinisan, the forest guards continuously patrols in partnership with the Barangay Council. This collaboration between the barangay and the forest guards not only strengthens the enforcement of environmental laws but also and secures the safety of the communities from COVID-19. The forest guards in Diteki conducted a 5-day monitoring activity in their area with an objective to document and identify the possible nesting site of the Philippine Eagle. Despite not locating the Eagle’s nest, they were able to record indicator species associated with it. Lessons from this activity are well taken note of for the next tentative monitoring activities.
Meanwhile, the San Luis ICCA was officially registered to the ICCA Global Registry which gives emphasis and recognition towards the efforts of the indigenous communities in biodiversity conservation, particularly in their ancestral domain. (see more at https://www.iccaregistry.org/)

As part of building partnership with other stakeholders, Daluhay, together with the Forest guard coordinator Chieftain Diego Sindac, had an initial conversation with the newly appointed CENRO Officer Marivic Santos. The discussion tackled issues being faced by the indigenous communities on the project sites about a government project that will operate within their ancestral lands. To move forward with the identified issues, Daluhay has set a tentative schedule for a meeting with the CENRO and other stakeholders to identify Quick Response Team (QRT) for monitoring.
Bagong Sibol
A New Generation of Indigenous Environmental and Cultural Leaders

in partnership with Forest Foundation Philippines

On August 10-14, 2020, Daluhay through the Forest Foundation Philippines held the Aurora Indigenous Youth Environmental and Social Artistry Camp. The first of its kind, the camp was themed: “Bagong Sibol: Katutubong Kabataan, Kultura, at Kalikasan”. The five-day camp gathered indigenous youth participants from all four of the Ancestral Domain holders in Aurora: the Agtas, Dumagats, Egongots, and Altas.

Different methodologies for learning were employed throughout the camp. Several experts in their respective fields were invited as resource speakers in the activities to impart their knowledge with the camp participants.

Stories have been an important medium for the campers to find commonalities in their challenging experiences on discrimination, on the loss of their traditional cultures, and on the deteriorating states of the ancestral domains. This served as the strong foundation of their bond that would later be formed.

Campers, elders and camp facilitators pose for a group picture during the first Aurora Indigenous Peoples Network Youth Camp

Alta elder sharing about traditional knowledge during the evening bonfire where the youth also had the chance to share their stories
One important methodology employed throughout the camp was Social Artistry, which enabled the campers to reflect and freely express their values, their deepest desires, and their vision for a sustainable future. Through songs, dances, and drawings, the youth articulated their thoughts when words were not enough to convey them. This approach was particularly a breakthrough for two of the campers, Clarissa Guerra and Christian Estanes, differently-abled youth who were not able to speak and hear but were talented with visual arts. Through their paintings, they were able to show their vision for their respective communities.

The camp culminated with a bonfire night where each and every one of the participants showcased their talents to portray the essence of the theme “Bagong Sibol”. Some portrayed traditional practices, some dramatized the empowerment of indigenous youth, while others wrote songs to express their takeaways from the camp. The highlight of the night was the coming together of all four tribes to spontaneously dance to the music “Magkaugnay” by Joey Ayala, which imparted that amidst their differences, each one is intrinsically connected to another and they are all united in their goal of protecting their Ancestral Domains.
Campers putting together their vision of a “better reality” through Social Artistry on Day 3

Campers presenting a skit about protecting their environment during the last night of the event
The first ever Youth Camp for the Indigenous Youth of Aurora proved to be a successful starting point for the long-term conservation of the Ancestral Domains. By the end of the camp, the campers were not merely participants but has emerged as leaders in their own communities. Some have joined forest monitoring activities, while others have begun to form youth groups in their settlements. The camp ended but the impact didn’t. The first batch of Indigenous Youth Leaders continue to stay in touch and are now moving toward the formation of the Aurora Indigenous Youth Network.
COVID-19 challenges are not over. However, there is some light at the end of the longest tunnel of despair that the world has faced in generations. Vaccine science indicates that within a year, people will be much freer to work, play and travel. Some countries are even now able to support a move to a new normal that allows for the flow of the economy and urban life. The world has yet to reach a point where focus is on priorities for global post-pandemic development, nor on how we best prevent future pandemics. Emerging strategies are somewhat characterized by Daluhay. As our regular readers know, Daluhay is dedicated to sustainably improving the lives of resource dependent communities. Indigenous People and others in this sector are often considered to be the poorest of the poor. There is global concern about a ‘K shaped’ economic recovery, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. An April paper in the American Journal of Economics (1) pointed out that it is the poor that are most devastated by the need to quarantine and restrict activities. Indeed, it is the poor of the world that need the most attention as we emerge from COVID-19 and move forward. Daluhay’s mission with Indigenous Peoples and fisherfolk fit this strategy. A May article in the journal Coastal Management (2) outlined a plethora of challenges for small-scale fisherfolk in the corona-era and called for a mobilization of resources to support their sustainability. In partnership with the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Daluhay aims to build a model provincial network of fisherfolk and Marine Protected Areas, for Aurora, the Northern Philippine Sea and the nation. As we begin to look ahead to preventing pandemics Daluhay’s work in the Natural Resource Forum (3) linked poor Ecohealth quality with pandemics may be of use in defining reflexive programs that helps the world to heed the warning.

1.DOI:10.5923/j.economics.20201004.02  2.DOI:10.1080/08920753.2020.1766937  3.DOI:10.1111/1477-8947.12083
Daluhay is pleased to share another milestone in conserving Aurora’s coastal and marine ecosystem. Back in early 2000s, Daluhay has started supporting marine conservation through the establishment of Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Dibut. Since then, Daluhay has actively partnered and participated with communities, local government units and other institutions in developing strategic management approaches to marine conservation across the province. Today, these efforts are further strengthened with the plan to establish the Aurora Marine Protected Area Network - a new project funded by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE).

Aurora’s marine waters is teeming with diverse flora and fauna including the threatened species of dugongs, marine turtles and whale sharks. To protect these resources, one of the approaches is the establishment of Marine Protected Areas. Currently, there are 10 existing MPAs and around 10 more are being proposed across the province. Daluhay with the support from FPE now aims to harmonize these MPAs into one functional network with complementing enforcement and integrated management plan. Network of MPAs is more beneficial than isolated individual MPAs because it provides wider coverage for protection, opportunity to share resources and optimize strategies for collaboration between municipalities. The project highlights participatory approach in the adaptive management cycle where multi-stakeholders will be engaged in biophysical, economic and socio-cultural data collection, MPA network management planning including business and communication planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The Strategic Aurora-Northern Philippine Sea MPA Network now complements and connects Daluhay’s effort in forest conservation through the network of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and Agriculture Protected Areas as one Ridge to Reef approach to biodiversity conservation.
THE TEAM

The DALUHAY team consists of a dedicated Board of Directors, other volunteers and contractual front-line community workers applying their passion for sustainable development through contractual opportunities. Current team members and their areas of overall contribution are:

DALUHAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Teh
Chairman of the Board

Paul Watts
President and Vice Chairman of the Board

Purisima Juico
Secretary/Treasurer and Founding Board Member

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Thematic Board Member - Community Development

FRONT-LINE COMMUNITY WORKERS

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Mark Edison Raquino
Research & Development Coordinator

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Forest Specialist & Researcher

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Ria Esteves
Community Development Coordinator

Erica Jeniece Zafra
Resource Management Specialist

Daniel Amores
Community Development Assistant

Jeffrey Natividad
Community Networking Assistant

Isabell Kittel
Volunteer
Did you enjoy reading any of the articles? We are open to your insights regarding our stories. Do you think we can collaborate in the future? To learn more about our projects and activities, you may visit our website [www.daluhay.org](http://www.daluhay.org) or you can send us an email at daluhay@gmail.com. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

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