



The 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium
25 Years of Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines:
Global Relevance, Local Realities

Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro
5-9 April 2016

ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUATION

BACKGROUND:



The Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is an annual gathering of biodiversity researchers, conservationists and managers working in the Philippines. It is organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), formerly the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP).

Mindoro Island:

The island of Mindoro, the seventh largest island in the Philippine archipelago, is rich in mineral resources and biological diversity. There are 10 key biodiversity areas on the island. With at least 250 species of birds, 56 mammals, 15 amphibians, 60 reptile species recorded over the past decade, Mindoro Island is one of the hotspots and priority areas for conservation in the country.

The 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium



On 5-9 April 2016, the 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium was successfully held at the Filipiniana Hotel in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. It was co-hosted by the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) and the City Government of Calapan, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Oriental Mindoro, and the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro. The Symposium was made possible through our partners from the Department of Education-Calapan City District, the UNEP-GEF FORIS

Project-Philippines, the USAID B+Wiser Program, Philippine Tropical Forests Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PTFCF), Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc. (CPPI), Bat Conservation International (BCI), Center for Conservation Innovations (CCI) Philippines, Primer-CORE, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) – UK, Malampaya Joint Venture, Divine Word College-Calapan City, Globe Telecom and Anvil Publications.



The celebration of the 25th year of the symposium officially opened on 5 April 2016 with messages delivered by Dr. Antonio Manila, Assistant Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, Hon. Arman Panaligan, Mayor of Calapan City, Mr. Facundo Roco, Chairperson of MBCFI, and Ms. Cynthia Layusa, President of BCSP. The opening program continued with a parade around Calapan City – with participants donning hats symbolizing the 25 species illustrated in the symposium logo – culminating in Xentro Mall for the opening of the Institutional Fair. Mascots of Philippine endemic species entertained symposium participants and mall-goers alike as various organizations presented their work through exhibits, posters, and information materials. To formally welcome the participants to Calapan City, the city government organized a welcome dinner at the City Hall.

The succeeding days of the symposium were filled with talks and presentations on various thematic areas of importance to local and international biodiversity research and conservation. The symposium activities included plenary presentations from renowned scientists; scientific oral presentations from high school, undergraduate, and graduate students and professionals; pecha kucha and scientific poster sessions, book launching and presentations, a public consultation on the proposed updating of the Red List of Threatened Wild Fauna in the Philippines (DAO 2004-15), and workshops. The activities during the week-long symposium were truly befitting a 25th anniversary celebration.

OUTCOME:

- **Outcome 1:** The 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium was successfully held with at least 280 local and international participants in attendance. Various sectors were represented, from academic and research institutions, local and international non-governmental organizations, local and national government agencies, developmental organizations and private companies.



To support students who are presenting their studies at the Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in Mindoro, the BCSP provided full and partial travel grants to high school and undergraduate student presenters. Specifically, BCSP subsidized the accommodations for all high school and undergraduate student presenters and provided full travel support to 6 undergraduate students. The total travel awards dispersed in 2016 amounted to PHP 158,989.00.

- **Outcome 2:** Recent scientific information on Philippine biodiversity and ecology are shared through scientific talks and posters. In total, there were 14 plenary talks from invited experts and partner institutions, 51 contributed scientific talks, and 79 scientific posters accepted at the 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium.

Table 1: Contributed oral and scientific poster presentations

Category	Oral Presentations	Poster Presentations	Total
High School	7	1	8
Undergraduate	10	39	49
Regular	34	39	73
Total	51	79	130

Select papers from the 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium will be published in a two-volume special issue of the Sylvatrop Journal, the technical journal of Philippine ecosystems and natural resources published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).

- **Outcome 3:** Networking among conservation NGOs, government agencies, research groups and academe, and private institutions was facilitated through the Institutional Exhibits and networking night. At least 20 local and international organizations and government project joined the Institutional Exhibit held at the Xentro Mall in Calapan City.



Further, the participants of the symposium witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the conservation and protection of Naujan Lake National Park through the formation, support and training of community environmental law enforcers.



The MOU was signed by partners from the USAID, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 4B, Philippine National Police, and mayors from the municipalities of Naujan, Victoria, Socorro and Pola. The MOA signing was made possible through the USAID Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER Program).

- **Outcome 4:** New ideas, skillsets, and tools are shared through special events held during the symposium. Six (6) workshops were held concurrently on 8 April 2016. These workshops provided an opportunity for the participants to contribute to developing guidelines and biodiversity assessment tools; increase knowledge in scientific writing; learn methods in forest protection and community involvement:
 - **LAWIN Forest Protection System — science, technology and innovation in partnership with communities, private sector and government, *Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER Program)***
 - **Making effective biodiversity conservation advocacies through social media campaigns, *Apolinario B. Cariño; Romualdo L. Señeris; Trelly A. Marigza, Aidalyn C. Arabe***
 - **Mini-workshop on the enhancement of the draft underwater cave assessment forms, *Tanya Conlu, Alex Santos, and the Biodiversity Management Bureau-CAWED***
 - **Pinoy cinnamons: their state of knowledge and conservation, *Edmund Leo B. Rico, Aedryon Ross Javier, Neil Aldrin D. Mallari, Nian Beceril, Lionel Uytico, Florena Samiano, Jay Picardal***
 - **Scientific writing: improving an abstract, *Nina R. Ingle, Terry Horton and members of the Mentoring and Publications Committees, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines***
 - **Special meeting of the Ad Hoc committee on bird watching and bird photography protocols, *Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, Willem van de Ven, and Biodiversity Management Bureau***

A book presentation event was organized featuring new reference and teaching materials that are useful for researchers, planners, and managers alike:

- **Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines: Hot Spot, Cool Country, *Almira Astudillo Gilles***
- **The Mammals of Luzon Island: Biogeography and Natural History of a Philippine Fauna, *Lawrence Heaney and Danilo Balete, Field Museum of Natural History***
- **State of the Coasts of Oriental Mindoro, *Hon. Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro***



- **Outcome 5:** The symposium became a venue to hold public dialogue and consultations related to policies that will benefit Philippine biodiversity and conservation. One of the key activities held was a constituency presentation and consultation of the proposed amendments to the Philippine Red List of Threatened Species (DAO 2004-15) organized by the BCSP in cooperation with the Biodiversity Management Bureau. A break-out session for the four taxonomic groups (birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, invertebrates) allowed the participants to review the proposed amendments to the list of threatened species, which was prepared by the Technical Working Group of the Philippine Red List Committee (PRLC). The inputs to the plenary presentation and workshop will be forwarded to the PRLC to be incorporated in the drafting of the updated Philippine Red List of Wild Fauna.



Similarly, the technical bulletin on bird watching guidelines was also drafted during one of the concurrent workshops of the symposium. BCSP members play an important role in the bird watching and bird photography ad hoc technical working committee; BCSP board members chair the ad hoc committee.

- **Outcome 6:** Exhibit and IEC materials were prepared for the symposium, including a press statement on the symposium that was released to the media. A meeting with national and local media representatives was organized through the Provincial Information Office on 5 April 2016. The journalists fielded the panel composed of Cynthia Layusa (BCSP), Dr. Antonio Manila (BMB), Ms. Amor de Asi (PENRO), Ms. Marlyn M. Alcañices (Provincial Government), and Mr. Wilfredo G. Landicho (City ENRO). Prior to this, representatives from BCSP, MBCFI, and the Calapan LGU guested at the local radio program, to promote the symposium.

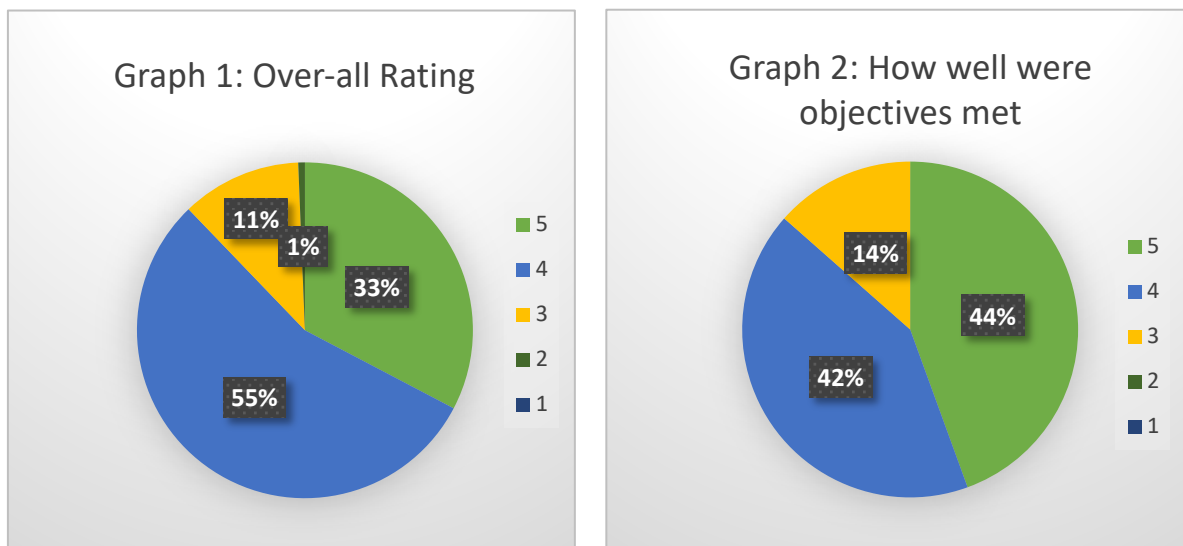
Through the initiative of the Holistic Education and Development Center (HedCEN), an exhibit on the past symposia was prepared and displayed at the Conference Hall. The exhibit featured the different venues that have hosted the annual symposium, along with the themes and photos of each of the symposium that was organized by the Society.

With the help of teachers from the Department of Education-Calapan City Division, headdresses of the 25 species represented in the symposium logo were designed and produced. These 25 species recognize the contribution of the BCSP members to Philippine biodiversity and conservation: these species represent some of the species discoveries or rediscoveries in the past 25 years by members of BCSP. The headdresses were worn and paraded during the opening program and parade.

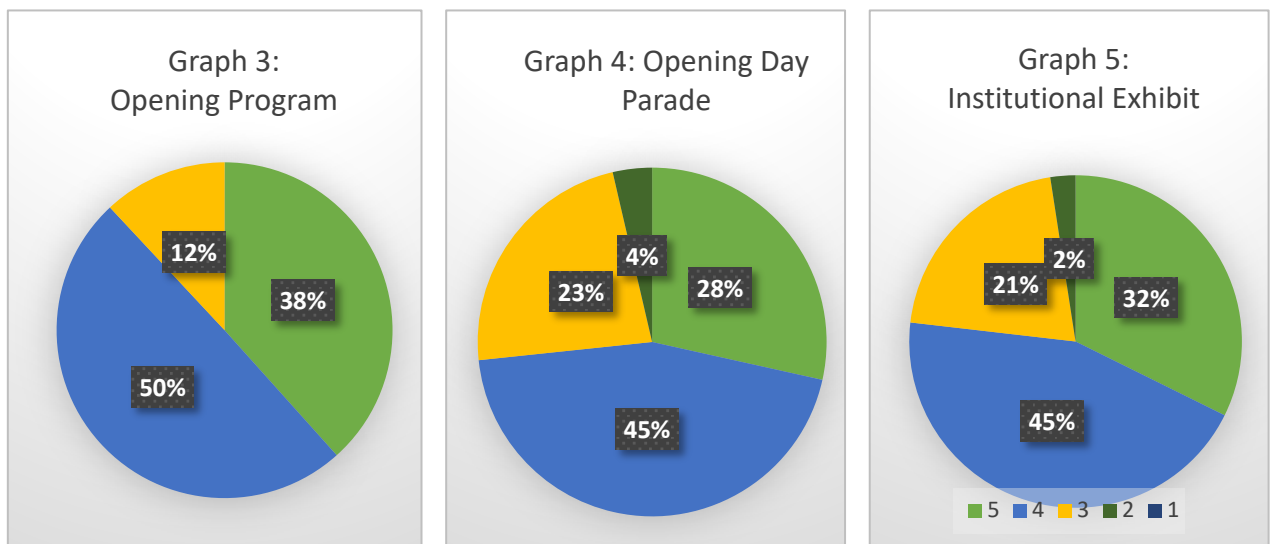
But beyond conservation, BCSP recognizes that nation-building, especially in time of need, is integral in achieving the vision of the Society. Through our local partners and sponsors, we were able to solicit school supplies and text books from participants, local hosts, and sponsors (i.e. Anvil Publishing), which were donated to schools in Baco, Oriental Mindoro, as well as in Catarman, Northern Samar (the latter hosted the 24th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium). These schools were affected by Typhoon Nona.

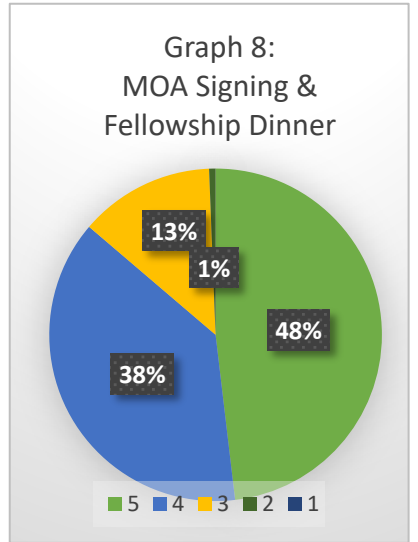
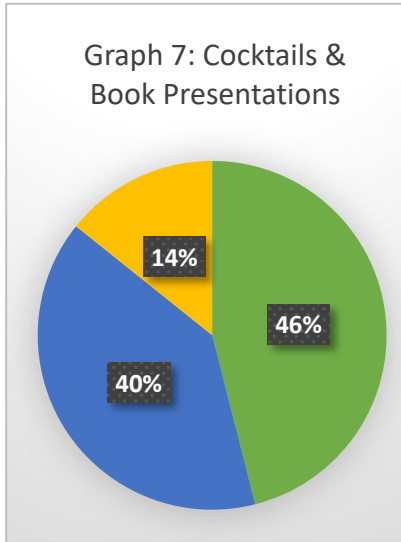
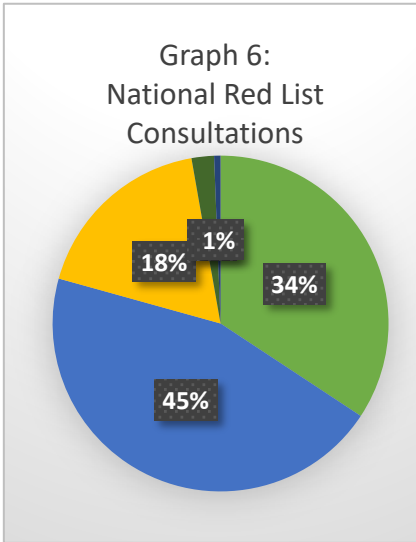
EVALUATION:

Participants were asked to rate the events and organization of the symposium, with 5 as Excellent and 1 being Very Poor. Majority of the respondents (88%) rated the symposium as either Excellent or Good. Eighty-six percent of respondents stated that their objectives in attending the symposium were met. The common objectives mentioned included: a) learning new knowledge and skills on Philippine biodiversity research and conservation; b) networking and meeting colleagues, experts, and potential mentors; and c) presenting a study or proposal. Responses to symposium events, talks, workshops, and secretariat and logistics support, based on the evaluation results, show the high approval rating and reflects the success of the symposium in delivering its objectives.

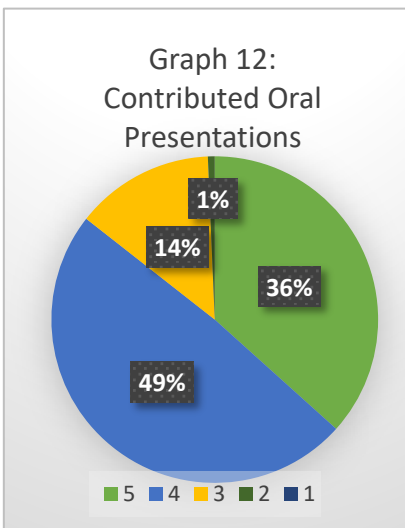
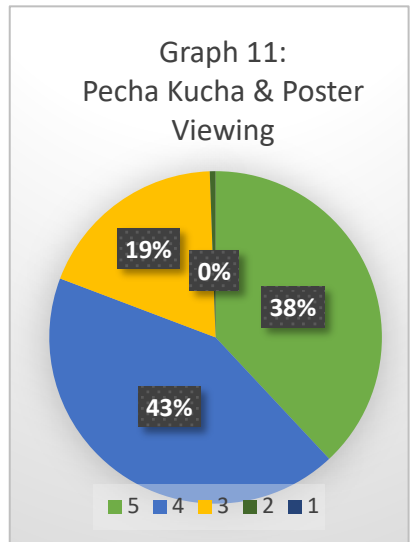
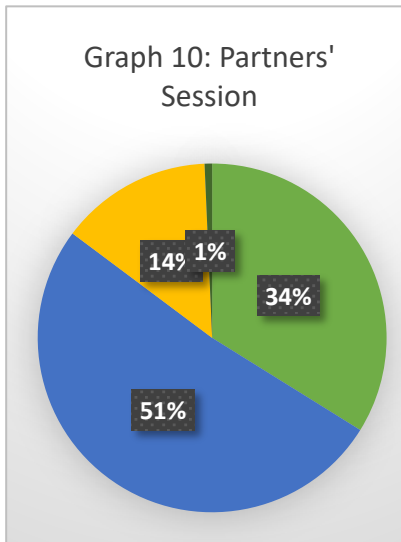
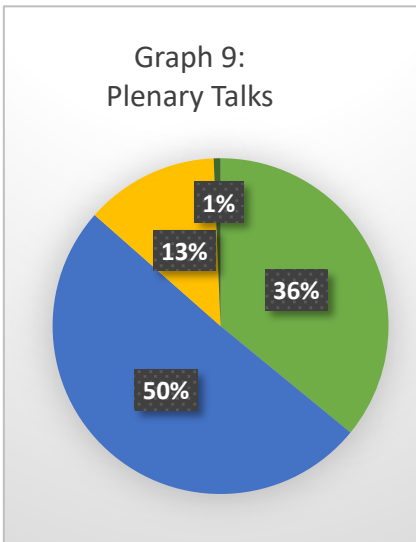


For the events organized during the symposium, majority of the respondents scored the activities as either Excellent or Good. The events and their corresponding scores are reflected in graphs 3-8.

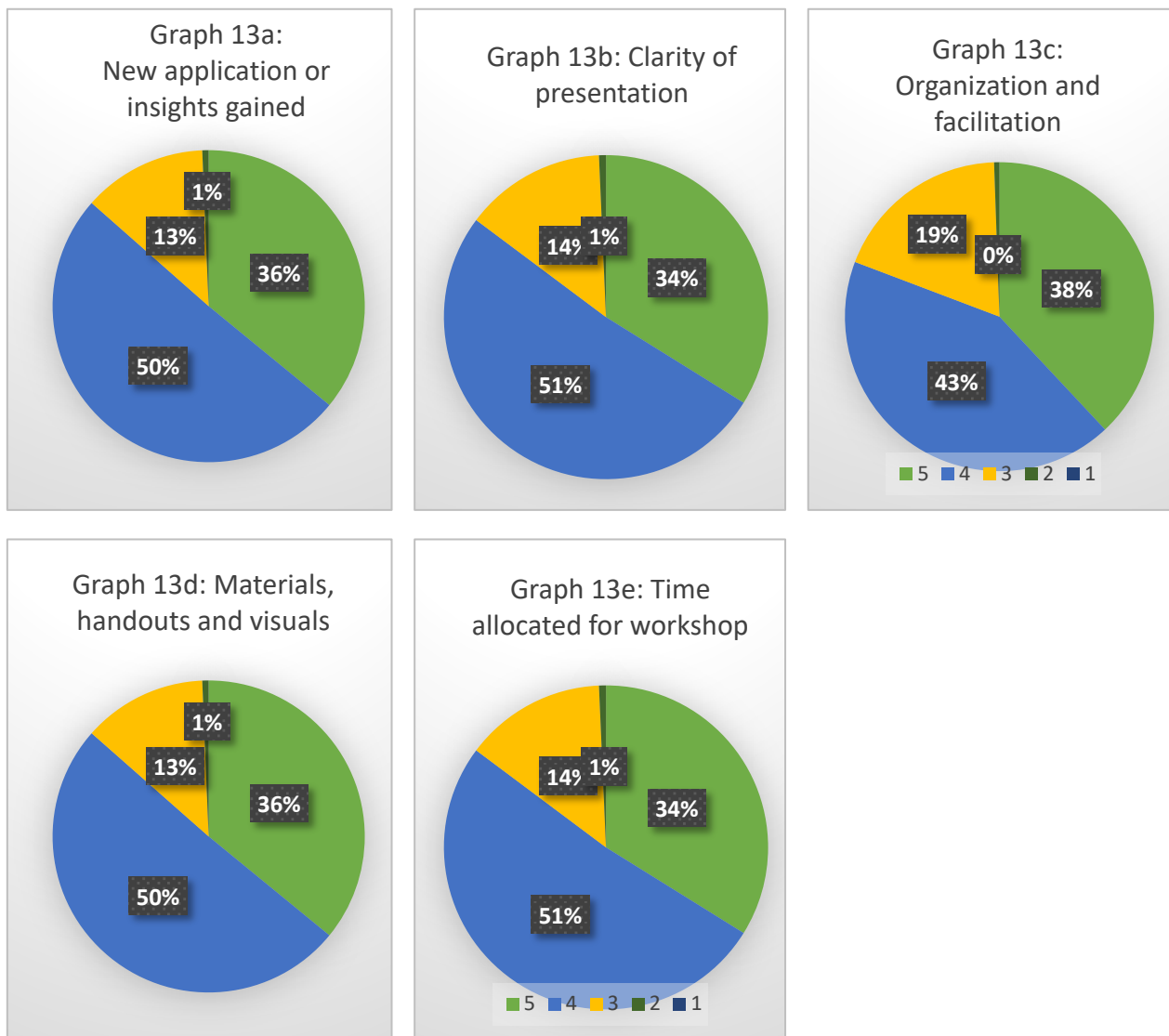




Plenary talks from invited experts and partner institutions and contributed scientific and poster presentations likewise received an 80% approval rating from the respondents (graphs 9-12).

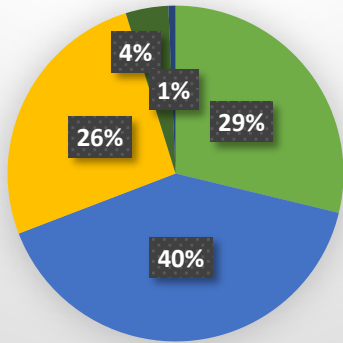


The survey respondents were asked to rate the concurrent workshops based on a) new applications or insights gained; b) clarity of presentation; c) efficiency of organization and facilitation; d) materials, handouts and visuals aids used; e) time allocated for the workshop. The ratings are presented in the following graph 13a-13e) below.

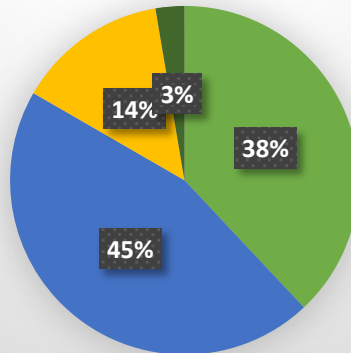


In terms of symposium organization and secretariat support, majority of respondents gave scores of 4 or 5 (Good and Excellent). Respondents were asked to score aspects of symposium organization and logistics, including a) registration procedures; b) time management; c) moderation and MCs; d) venues; e) catering and food at the Filipiniana Hotel; f) exhibits, posters, and booths; and g) secretariat support and logistics. Graphs 14a-14g present the scores.

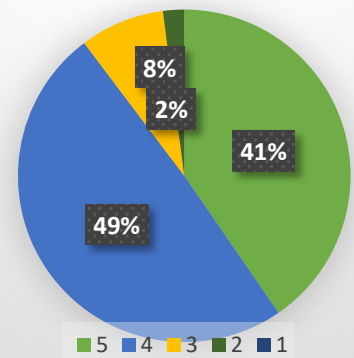
Graph 14a: Registration



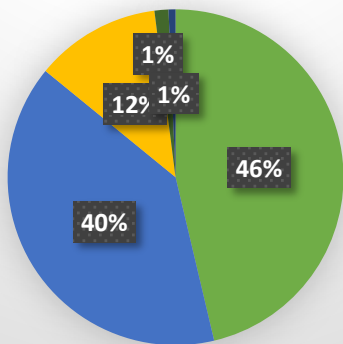
Graph 14b: Time management



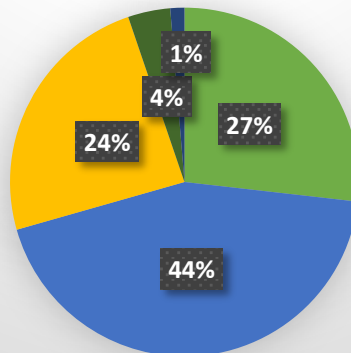
Graph 14c: Moderation and MCs



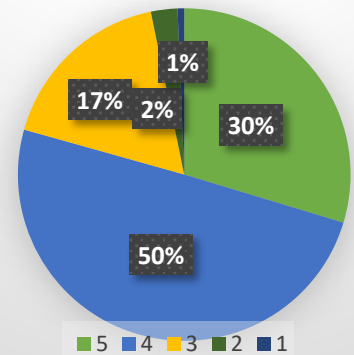
Graph 14d: Venues



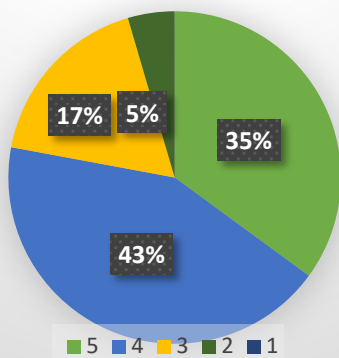
Graph 14e: Food at the Filipiniana Hotel



Graph 14f: Exhibits and posters



Graph 14g: Secretariat support and logistics



FINANCIAL REPORT:

Fundraising Activities:

BCSP was able to raise funding for the 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium, made possible through high registered participants' turnout, cash sponsorships, and valuable support provided by the local hosts (MBCFI and Calapan City LGU) and partner institutions (Tables 2 and 3). The in-kind support that BCSP received for the organization of 2016 symposium was highly effective in defraying the cost of the symposium. But beyond augmenting costs, these organizations and projects became BCSP's partners in delivering key conservation messages to the participants: institutions like the BMB, local and provincial government agencies, USAID and UNEP were able to tie up with a national NGO like the BCSP, wherein we were able to co-organize events (i.e. workshops, MOA signing) that benefitted these organizations' over-all agenda towards biodiversity protection and conservation, with BCSP acting as a key venue and ally.

This year, BCSP invested on fundraising items (i.e. t-shirts, stickers, and bag tags) that made use of the symposium logo and illustrations designed by artist Prime Premne. The merchandise items were sold during the symposium. This strategy, which BCSP initiated on a smaller scale during the 24th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in Samar, is a worthy investment to sustain needed funding for the organization as well as the symposium. The silent auction, a regular fundraising event held during the meeting, also generated income for the symposium organization.

Table 2: 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium source of income

Income Source	Amount
Sponsorship (cash)	PHP 325,000.00
Registration fees	PHP 579,500.00
Merchandise sales	PHP 103,991.00
Silent Auction	PHP 29,680.00
TOTAL	PHP 1,038,171.00

Table 3: 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium In-kind sponsorship

In-kind Support Source	Estimated Amount of Support
Calapan City LGU (meals)	PHP 160,000.00
MBCFI (secretariat, planning, logistics, meals)	PHP 400,000.00
Biodiversity Management Bureau (meals)	PHP 114,000.00
USAID B+Wiser Program (meals)	PHP 122,000.00
UNEP FORIS Project (meals)	PHP 110,000.00
Oriental Mindoro Province (meals)	PHP 70,000.00
Primer-CORE (prizes and tokens)	PHP 25,000.00
DEP-ED (IEC materials)	PHP 15,000.00
Anvil Publications (book donations)	PHP 10,000
Globe Telecom (prizes and tokens)	PHP 10,000

Expenses Report:

Expenses incurred by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP) in planning and organizing the 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. The expenses listed below do not include in-kind sponsorships and support by other organizations (i.e. sponsored meals, project meetings hosted by other organizations, etc.), contracts and payment of which did not go through BCSP's account.

Table 4: 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium Expenses Report (BCSP)

Category	Item	Cost (BCSP)
Venue and Catering	Hotel package	407,830.00
	Organizers' Dinner	10,000.00
Symposium Materials	Symposium logo illustration	8,000.00
	Symposium bags	52,800.00
	Participants' kit	19,567.00
	Program book	43,000.00
	Tokens	7,380.00
Student subsidies	Student accommodations	126,800.00
	Student travel	32,189.00
Accommodations	Board, secretariat, speakers' accommodations	90,780.00
Travel	Board, secretariat, speakers' travel	32,408.36
	Baggage freight charge	2,830.00
Office and administrative cost	Office and symposium supplies	9,935.62
	Courier	160.00
	Administrative fees	45,000.00
Sundries	Meals and Incidental Expenses	30,237.25
Symposium Preparation and Organization	Ocular visit accommodations	5,610.00
	Transportation	13,127.50
	Meeting and workshops	16,063.30
TOTAL		953,718.53

PROGRAM:

The 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium
25 Years of Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines:
Global Relevance, Local Realities
5-9 April 2016
Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Time	Event
5 April 2016	
09:00	Registration Opens/ Ingress of Poster Exhibits
10:00	Press Conference
13:30	Opening Program <i>Master of Ceremonies: Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez, Director, Museum of Natural History, University of the Philippines-Los Baños</i>
	Invocation, National Anthem and Calapan City Hymn, <i>City College of Calapan Choir</i>
	Welcome Remarks, <i>Hon. Arnan C. Panaligan, Mayor, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro</i>
	Opening Remarks, <i>Cynthia Adeline A. Layusa-Oliveros, President, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines</i>
	Message, <i>Facundo Roco, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.</i>
	Message, <i>Mary Jane Maypa, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer – DENR- Oriental Mindoro</i>
	Cultural Presentation, <i>Teatrong Panlungsod</i>
	Inspirational Message: 25 Years of the Society, <i>Blas R. Tabaranza, Jr., Board Emeritus, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines</i>
	Symposium Artwork by Prime Premne: Commemorating 25 Years of Philippine Biodiversity, <i>Don Geoff E. Tabaranza, Program Manager, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.</i>
	Getting to Know You, <i>Apolinario B. Cariño, Vice President, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines</i>
14:45	Group photo
15:00	Break
15:30	Opening Day Parade

16:00	Opening of Institutional Exhibit, <i>Aris A. Reginaldo, Assistant Professor, University of the Philippines-Baguio</i>
18:00	Travel to the New City Hall
18:30	Welcome Dinner and Cultural Presentation hosted by the City Government of Calapan
6 April 2016	
08:00	Plenary Presentations on Biodiversity and Conservation of Mindoro Island
08:05	The Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines, <i>Cynthia Adeline A. Layusa-Oliveros</i>
08:15	Overview of Mindoro's Biodiversity and Introduction to the Plenary Session <i>Moderator: Leticia E. Afuang, President, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.</i>
08:30	Borderless marine ecosystems: strengthening co-management of marine protected areas in Occidental Mindoro, <i>Elmer Cruz, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Province of Occidental Mindoro</i>
08:45	The small mammals of Mindoro Island: an initial assessment of diversity, <i>Lawrence R. Heaney, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, USA</i>
09:00	Current situation of the critically endangered tamaraw and its conservation issues in the inner Mindoro Island, <i>Emmanuel Schutz, Noe Conservation/ D' ABOVILLE Foundation</i>
09:15	An indigenous forest rehabilitation project for biodiversity conservation and promotion of sustainable income for the rural communities in San Vicente, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, <i>Hendrik Freitag, Ateneo de Manila University</i>
09:50	Open Forum
10:40	Coffee Break
10:40	Overview: Updating the National Threatened Species List of Wild Fauna
11:00	Break-out Session: Updating of the National Threatened Species List of Wild Fauna
12:00	Lunch
	Plenary Presentations and Scientific Poster Session <i>Moderators: Ruth C. Martinez, Senior Adviser, ForCLIM Project, GIZ, and Rainier I. Manalo, Program Manager, Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc.</i>
13:30	Partners and Sponsors Presentation: Exploring the Underworld: experiences on underwater cave assessment, <i>Joy Navarro, Biodiversity Management Bureau</i>
13:45	FORIS Project Southeast Asia, <i>Annamalai Siva, CAB International-Southeast Asia</i>
14:00	Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southeast Asia, <i>Serene Chng, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia</i>
14:15	Mechanics of the Pecha Kucha for Poster Presenters
14:30	Poster Session: Pecha Kucha
15:30	Poster Session: Poster Viewing and Coffee Break
17:15	Travel to Playa Ignacio
	Cocktails and Dinner hosted by the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.

	<i>Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Grace Diamante, Board Member, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.</i>
17:30	<p>Message, <i>Neil Aldrin Mallari, Executive Director, MBCFI</i></p> <p><i>Book Presentations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines: Hot Spot, Cool Country, <i>Almira Astudillo Gilles</i> • Mammals of Luzon, <i>Lawrence Heaney and Danilo Balete, Field Museum of Natural History</i> • State of the Coasts of Oriental Mindoro, <i>Hon. Alfonso V. Umali, Jr. Governor, Province of Oriental Mindoro</i>
7 April 2016	
08:00	<p>Plenary Presentations: Biodiversity Threats, Management and Governance: Global and Local Potentials to Conservation</p> <p><i>Moderator, Nina R. Ingle, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines</i></p>
08:05	Center for Conservation Initiative-Philippines, <i>Edmund Rico</i>
08:15	The Phoenix Zoo Conservation and Science Grants: an opportunity for species research and monitoring, <i>Jan Schipper, Phoenix Zoo</i>
	Saving the Verde Island Passage one marine protected area at a time: a film documentary of Pulang Buli MPA in Tingloy, Batangas, <i>Robert Suntay, Science Education Advocacy (SEA) Institute for the Verde Island Passage</i>
	Collaborative Shark Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines: Global Relevance, Local Realities, <i>Moonyeen Nida R. Alava, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation</i>
	Present Status, Impacts and Management of Philippine Invasive Alien Species and its Global Relevance, <i>Ravindra Chandra Joshi, Pampanga State Agricultural University</i>
09:30	Open Forum
10:00	Break
10:30	Concurrent Scientific Oral Presentations: Session 1 and 2
12:15	Lunch
	Plenary Presentation
13:30	Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, Inc.
13:45	Updating of the National Threatened Species List of Wild Fauna
15:00	Break
15:30	BCSP General Assembly
17:30	Travel to Riceland Inn 2 Garden
	Fellowship Dinner hosted by USAID's Philippines Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) Program
18:00	Message, <i>Jeremy Gustafson, Office Director, Office of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, USAID</i>

	MOA signing: Conservation and Protection of Naujan Lake National Park through the Formation, Support and Training of Community Environmental Law Enforcers Fellowship Dinner
8 April 2016	
08:00	Announcements and Raffle
08:15	Introduction to the Sessions
08:30	Concurrent Scientific Oral Presentations: 3 and 4
10:00	Break
10:30	Concurrent Scientific Oral Presentations: 5 and 6
12:00	Lunch
13:30	Concurrent Scientific Oral Presentations: 7 and 8
15:00	Break and Assembly for Concurrent Workshop
15:15	Concurrent Workshop Session
18:30	Travel to Bulwagan, Provincial Capitol
18:45	Closing Dinner and Awarding Ceremonies hosted by the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro Message, <i>Hon. Alfonso V. Umali, Governor</i> Awarding of Tokens and Prizes Closing Remarks
9 April 2016	
06:00	Optional Field Trip Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naujan Lake National Park • Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area and Harka Piloto Marine Sanctuary • Puerto Galera