





The 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium

New and Emerging Trends in Biodiversity Research and Conservation Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City 18-22 July 2017



NARRATIVE REPORT

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

WWW.BIODIVERSITY.PH info@bioiversity.ph









The 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium and General Assembly of the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP)

New and Emerging Trends in Biodiversity Research and Conservation Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City 18-22 July 2017

REPORT

The 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium was successfully held at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City on 18-22 July, 2017 with over 280 local and international participants in attendance. The theme of the symposium was "New and Emerging Trends in Biodiversity Research and Conservation". The symposium featured various events including three inspirational messages, seven plenary presentations, institutional exhibits and partners' presentations, contributed scientific oral presentations, pecha kucha and poster presentations, workshops, public hearing, and book presentations.



26th Annual Philippine **Biodiversity Symposium**

Background and Rationale:

Since 1992, the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), formerly the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP), has been gathering local and international researchers and practitioners working on Philippine biodiversity and conservation. The symposium, hosted in partnership with academic institutions, NGOs or local governments, have been held in various venues throughout the country to bring to light scientific research and conservation practices. Attendees comprise of professionals from the government, non-profit and private sectors; independent researchers; and high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

The Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is the suitable venue to offer an opportunity for researchers, scientists and conservation practitioners to share information on current studies and projects on Philippine biodiversity, foster collaboration among practitioners and scientists, and engage students and young conservationists to pursue this interest.

Accomplishments:

The annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium was successfully held.

The symposium was attended by 280 participants covering students and professionals from local and international research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and the private sectors.

The symposium was made possible through the commitment of the host institution, Ateneo de Manila University, and the generous support from our partners.

Organizers:







Co-presenters:













Major Sponsor:



Partners:













Associate Partners and Donors:







Opportunities for capacity building and sharing new ideas, skillsets, and tools were created through special events held during the symposium.

Inspirational messages were delivered by three prominent Philippine biodiversity conservationists, all of whom have the distinction of being awarded with the Whitley Awards for Nature:

- Marites Gatan-Balbas, Mabuwaya Foundation (2014 winner)
- Dr. Jayson C. Ibanez, Philippine Eagle Foundation, Inc. (2015 winner)
- Indira Lacerna-Widmann, Katala Foundation (2017 winner)

The symposium featured seven plenary talks from experts who provided rich insights on new and emerging trends in biodiversity research and conservation in their respective fields and projects:

- Conservation of Philippine bats insights offered from a global perspective, Dr. David L.
 Waldien, Christopher Newport University
- Wildlife forensics at the forefront of protecting Philippine biodiversity, Dr. Ian Kendrich C.
 Fontanilla, Institute of Biology, College of Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman,
- Using drones as a biodiversity research and conservation tool in the Philippines, Dr. Merlijn van Weerd, Mabuwaya Foundation, Inc.
- Remote sensing in support of biodiversity studies: opportunities and challenges, Dr. Ariel Blanco,
 UP Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry and Department of Geodetic
 Engineering, College of Engineering, University of the Philippines Diliman
- The conservation of migratory sharks and other marine wildlife, Moonyeen Nida R. Alava, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc.
- The Significance of the Philippines in the conservation of migratory birds, Dr. Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez, University of the Philippines-Los Banos
- Global action towards the conservation of migratory species, Anson M. Tagtag, Biodiversity Management Bureau

A forum on the Updated Philippine Red List of Wild Fauna was organized to give constituents the opportunity to be informed and comment on the proposed revisions to the Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2004-15. Dr. Perry S. Ong, Vice Chair of the Philippine Red List Committee (PRLC) presented the proposed species list from the five taxonomic groups assessed.

Figure 1. Summary of the Proposed List of Threatened Terrestrial Fauna as of July 2017.

Conservation			Taxonomic	Group			
Status	Mammals	Birds	Amphibians	Reptiles	Invertebrates	Total	
Critical	8	32	1	6	11	58	
Endangered	9	41	1	6	6	63	
Vulnerable	15	78	21	3	319	436	
Other							
Threatened	3	33	9	53	441	539	
Species							
	35	184	32	68	777	1096	
See full list at http://www.bmb.gov.ph/bmb/BPKMD/Announcement/Draft_Dao_for_Fauna_2017_as_of_7July2017.pdf (proposed policy section) Once approved by the DENR Secretary, the list will play an important part ir enforcing/prosecuting laws against wildlife exploitation, including illegal trade							

Biodiversity Symposium

Five three-hour workshops were delivered covering various topics from LiDAR to fundraising.

- Forest and coastal resources information extraction from LiDAR
- Conservation fundraising: lessons learned
- Workshop for developing standardized tools for urban biodiversity assessment
- Freshwater arthropods: state of knowledge in the Philippines and priorities for future research and conservation (a hands-on workshop)
- Consultation workshop for the Flying Fox Conservation Action Plan

Recent scientific information on Philippine biodiversity and ecology were shared through scientific talks and posters.

Ninety-three contributed papers for oral and poster presentations were accepted and delivered at the 26th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium. The topics covered the thematic areas of biogeography and distribution, wildlife biology and ecology, taxonomy and systematics, biodiversity and conservation threats and issues, and biodiversity conservation, management and governance.

Table 1: Summary of presentations delivered at the 26th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium

Presentation Type	High School	Undergraduate	Regular
Oral talk	2	7	36
Poster & Pecha Kucha	5	27	16
Total	7	34	52

Further, BCSP entered into a partnership with Pensoft for the publication of the Proceedings of the 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in the Biodiversity Data Journal. Pensoft is a publisher of open-access journals, contents of which are indexed by ISI Web of Science, Scopus, BIOSIS, Google Scholar, Directory of Open Access Journals(DOAJ), Zoological Record, CAB Abstracts, Vifabio, BHL Citebank, Globalnames, JournalMap, etc; contents are archived in PubMedCentral, CLOCKSS and ZENODO (https://pensoft.net/). This is an exciting opportunity for biodiversity research in the country as the proceedings will have a wider, and a more international audience.

Networking among participants was facilitated through the Institutional Exhibits and networking night.

Twenty-six local and international organizations and conservation projects were showcased at the Institutional Fair, which provided a venue for participants to interact with agencies and projects who are committed to further biodiversity research and conservation in the Philippines and in the Southeast Asian region. Included in the exhibitors were the following organizations.

- Team Energy Foundation, Inc. (TEFI)
- Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE)
- Roots.Asia
- Center for Conservation Innovations Philippines (CCI-PH)
- TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
- Mabuwaya Foundation
- Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)
- Phil-LiDAR 2
- Tebtebba Foundation
- Oceana
- Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc. (CPPI)
- Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI)
- MODECERA
- US-AID Protect Wildlife Project
- Philippine Eagle Foundation, Inc. (PEFI)
- Katala Foundation
- Mammals of Luzon Project
- Whitley Awards
- Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP)
- Philippine Center for Terrestrial and Aquatic Research (PCTAR)

- Primer-CORE Group of Companies
- Pensoft
- Ateneo de Manila
- Ateneo de Manila University Press
- Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP)

Partners were also invited to present their programs and strategies related to the theme of the symposium, including the following plenary presentations:

- Financing the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Anabelle Plantilla, United Nations Development Programme
- Wildlife trade findings: suspicious captive animal management and other dodgy doings, Serene Chng, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
- WildTech: bringing technology into the wildlife conservation battlefield, Edmund Leo B. Rico, Center for Conservation Innovations

IEC materials and advertisements were produced to increase awareness on the symposium in particular, and Philippine biodiversity in general.

BCSP continued to go digital and use social media and email platforms in disseminating ads and circulars, but with a more improved setting to reach more audiences.

For the 1st time, the Philippine Biodiversity Symposium website was published using its own domain: www.biodiversity.ph. This would create a centralized database of all Philippine Biodiversity Symposium meetings, which would make information about the meetings easier to link, more manageable, and more sustainable to maintain compared to free online blogs. Book of abstracts and symposium proceedings can also be downloaded through the site to make these information available to everyone.

BCSP has re-organized its social media platforms to reach its members and the public better. Advertisements, circulars, and information about the symposium were posted at the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines Facebook page, which by the time of the symposium had over 6,000 followers. We also used Facebook's features to respond to various symposium queries, post updates from the venue, and share live videos of plenary talks.



BCSP has improved its electronic mailing system with the use of a mailing subscription app, Mail Chimp, which automatically sends circulars and announcements to those registered in the mailing list. Readers can also automatically opt in to subscribe to the mailing list to keep abreast of the events at the symposium.

Provided opportunities for mentoring.

The symposium encourages students to take interest in conducting research on Philippine wildlife, and every year, we have recognized exemplary oral and poster presentations delivered by high school and undergraduate students through the Student Presentation Awards. Mr. Merlijn van Weerd chaired the Awards Committee. The list of winners were the following:

High School	ol Oral Presentation Winners
1 st	Yvoni Xandra Marie Tiu and Harriet Limpot, Philippine Science High School – Southern
	Mindanao Campus: GIS-based suitability analysis of possible nesting sites of the
- nd	Philippine Eagle at Mt. Apo forests
2 nd	Victoria Aubrey C. Manalo, Philippine Science High School – Central Luzon Campus:
	Change detection of mangrove coverage in Masinloc and Palauig, Zambales from 1995,
THE CALL	2005, and 2015 using remotely-sensed imagery
1st	ol Poster Presentation Winners
	Anjela Lu B. Arellano, Holistic Education and Development Center: Temporal and spatial variation in species diversity of spiders (Araneae) in Masungi Georeserve
2 nd	Nicolas Czar Basilio Antonio and Reneir John G. Tuason, Philippine Science High Schcool
	- Central Luzon Campus: Ethnobotanical and phytochemical study of the medicinal
	plants used by the Ayta Negrito indigenous group in Sitio Kanawan, Morong, Bataan
3 rd	Mijon Anne C. Tangye, Holistic Education and Development Center: Diversity of volant
	fauna in Masungi Georeserve — a newly established karst ecotourism site
	luate Oral Presentation Winners
1 st	Shari L. Guerra University of the Philippines – Los Banos: Bioacoustics analysis in
- nd	Philippine hornbills
2 nd	Alexis E. Belen, University of Sto. Tomas: Effects of urbanization on biodiversity: a
	comparison of stream benthic macroinvertebrates in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and other sites in the Marikina Watershed
3 rd	Al Christian D. Quidet, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology:
	Population status and habitat requirements of the threatened Visayan hornbills in
	Central Panay Mountains, Panay Island
Undergrad	luate Poster Presentation Winners
1 st	Jeraldine Mae A. Villaruz, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology:
	Diversity, abundance and occurrence of canopy birds in the unprotected (non-NIPAS)
	region of the Mt. Apo Key Biodiversity Areas: a vital key for forest management
2 nd	Marianne Allison G. Lee, Ateneo de Manila University: Risk of zoonotic pathogen
- vd	transmission through the Philippine illegal wildlife trade
3 rd	Flourence Ray B. Bess, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology:
	Microhabitats of herpetofauna in the lowland forests of Central Panay Mountains,
ard	Panay Island
3 rd	Mica Xiena Yungca, University of Sto. Tomas: A timeline and spatial trend review of
	selected aquatic invasive alien species (IAS) in the Philippines

The Philippine Biodiversity Symposium is committed to provide a venue for all sectors to be engaged in biodiversity research and conservation in the country. To realize this, BCSP is supportive of students who wish to attend and present their projects at the symposium. BCSP offers the travel award and publications award, which is intended to encourage students and early career professionals to engage in biodiversity related studies, publish their research findings, and potentially, pursue a career in this field. For the 2017 symposium, we were able to fully or partially support 22 high school, undergraduate, and graduate students to attend the symposium.

High School

- Mijon Anne C. Tangye, Holistic Education and Development Center
- Anjela Arellano, Holistic Education and Development Center
- Jacob Berja, Holistic Education and Development Center
- Jaime Ferrer, Philippine Science High School
- Harriet Limpot, Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao Campus
- Yvoni Xandra Marie Tiu, Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao Campus

Undergraduate

- Carina Llaneta, University of the Philippines-Los Banos
- Felix Benedict Fabunan, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Flourence Bess, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Ediessa Ong, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Ferenz Cavalles, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Kate Janoba Bullecer, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Samantha Nicole Dizon, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Jeraldine Mae Villaruz, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Joegen Sanguenza, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Ruth Degamo, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Al Christian Quidet, Mindanao State University-IIT
- Hanni Bless Linconada, Mindanao State University-IIT

Graduate/Early Career Professionals

- Paul Gojo Cruz, Central Luzon State University
- Levi Necesito, , University of Sto. Tomas
- Abigail de Layola, University of Sto. Tomas
- Anton Lorenzo, University of Sto. Tomas

Learnings:

When conducting the symposium at a highly urbanized city, pushing back on the start of the day's session would also encourage participants to be on time and thus, preventing delays in the morning program. Since the venue was in Quezon City – and that many participants opted to live out of the venue – the daily commute was hampered by the rush hour and the frequent rains. Another alternative, which was effective during the 24th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in Catarman, Northern Samar, was holding mini side events prior to the start of the morning session (i.e. breakfast with scientists, birdwatching), which encouraged participants to be at the venue early.

Utilizing the use of online platforms has allowed the organizers to be more efficient in organizing the symposium. We've created online forms for abstract submissions and registrations that collated participants' information into lists and matrices that were easy to use and navigate to. The online registration form, in particular, was effective in ensuring a smoother registration on-site. Internet

connection was fundamental, which Ateneo de Manila University was able to provide. Ensuring internet connectivity in future meeting venues is helpful to duplicate the registration process success; however, alternatives must still be considered as back-up particularly in places where internet connection is not that reliable.

Funding the annual symposium is a major consideration for symposium organizers. BCSP is aware that sourcing funds through project grants is not sustainable; often times, too, this type of funding would only fund specific aspects of the symposium, whereas expenses meant for logistics and operations remain unfunded. To augment this, BCSP increased registration fees; while subsidies for the local organizing committee, travel and publications grant awardees, BCSP members, and early-bird registrants are still provided. Fundraising merchandises have proven to be a very good investment for BCSP: sales of small items such as stickers, bag tags, and t-shirts helped in generating funds to support activities, including the symposium. It would be wise for BCSP to expand and allot capital money for merchandise items which can be sold at events to sustain BCSP's funds.

In recent years, BCSP has been approaching projects and organizations who are willing to partner with BCSP in organizing the symposium. BCSP is aware that cash contributions are not an option for some partners (i.e. from government organizations), but nonetheless, we do not discount the fact that inkind contributions from organizations and institutions have also been significantly helpful in running the symposium, and in lowering the cost for participants by subsidizing some of the meals and materials. BCSP's partnership with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) is an exemplary partnership in that by co-organizing events with BMB, we not only received in-kind support (i.e. meals), but it also allows BCSP to contribute to policy development and capacity building in-line with the national government's programs.

BCSP has been providing support – through the BCSP Travel Award – for student presenters to attend the symposium; students whose abstracts have been accepted for presentation at the symposium were given either full or partial subsidies. In recent years, we have also provided support to presenters who submitted full manuscripts to be included in the symposium proceedings. However, there are concerns that the grants are limited to students and not all of these students will pursue a career in conservation, thus not reaching those who would truly benefit from attending the symposium and the network it provides. For future meetings, it is recommended to institutionalize the awards: it is suggested to offer awards to students and early-career conservationists based on merits to be assessed through an application scheme.

Collaborating with efficient and committed local hosts has helped BCSP in organizing the annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium. We are grateful to have local partners, such as the Ateneo de Manila University, who have the capacity to provide technical support, equipment, and manpower to guide the symposium through its completion. This, on the other hand, comes with the awareness – especially if BCSP wants to be more inclusive and reach areas and partners throughout the country-that not all potential hosts would have the amenities that AdMU graciously provided for the 2017 meeting. Having a minimum list of logistics and support needed in hosting the symposium would help BCSP and the potential hosts determine the local institution's capacity. Tapping into other partners would likewise help fill gaps in logistics and manpower (similar to the 25th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in Calapan City experience).

There are still several aspects of the symposium and its organization that can still be improved:

- Setting policies and deadline for cancellation and refund of registration fees.
- Issuance of electronic certificates to lessen paper usage and waste.

- Continuing workshop on scientific writing (writing scientific manuscripts for publications, scientific poster-making, and abstract writing)
- Dedicated and updated office equipment (i.e laptops, printer) from BCSP to speed up secretariat and logistical work.







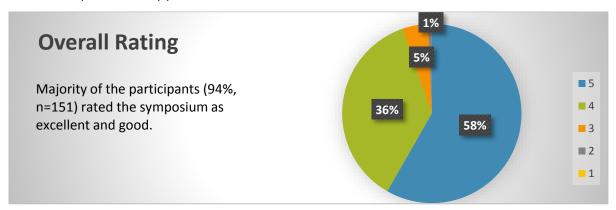


The 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium and General Assembly of the Biodiversity **Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP)**

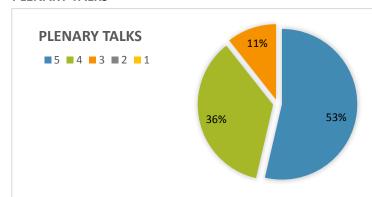
New and Emerging Trends in Biodiversity Research and Conservation Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City 18-22 July 2017

EVALUATION

Participants were asked to evaluate the aspects of the symposium with 5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = neutral, 2 = poor, 1 = very poor.

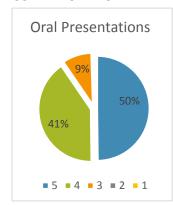


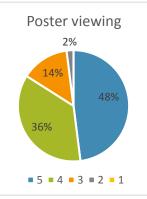
PLENARY TALKS



Seven plenary talks were delivered by invited speakers on topics ranging from the use of drones to the Convention on Migratory Species. On the average, 89% of participants rated the plenary talks positively.

CONTRIBUTED ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

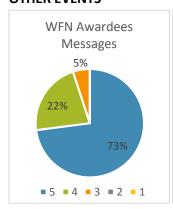


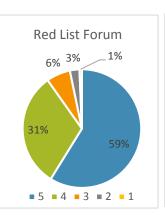


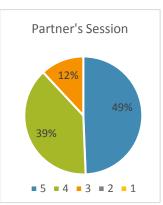


The contributed oral sessions, poster, and pecha kucha were rated positively with 90%, 89%, and 82% of participants scoring excellent or good, respectively.

OTHER EVENTS



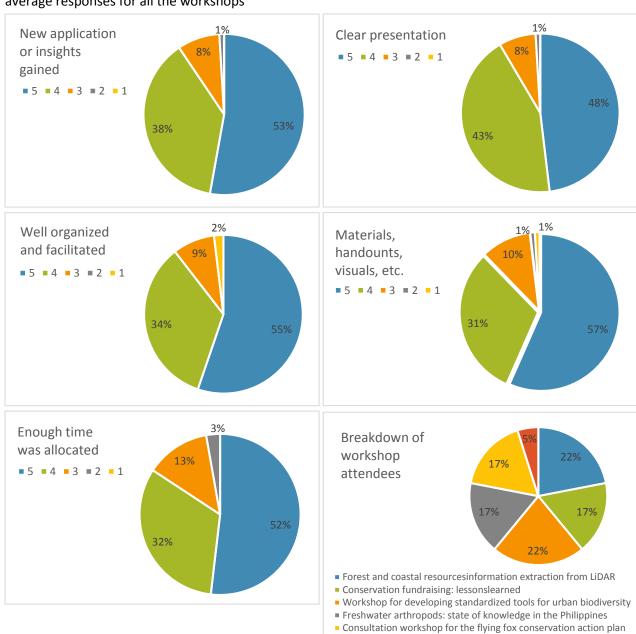




Favorable feedback from participants were received in other events, wherein majority rated these events as either excellent or good.

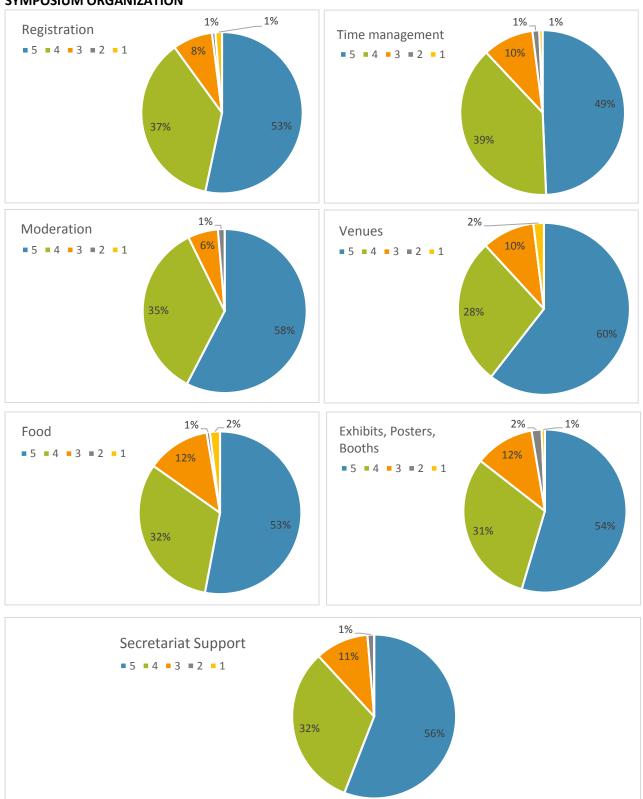
WORKSHOPS

Participants rated the workshops they attended based on several aspects. The graphs below are the average responses for all the workshops



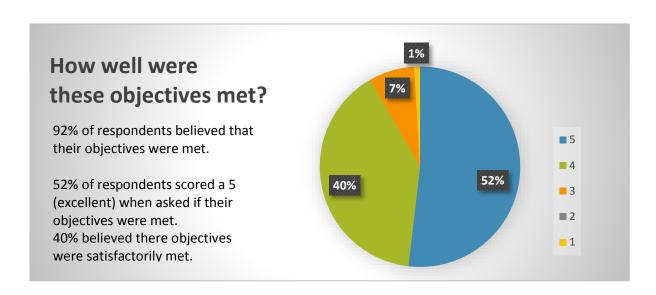
N/A

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZATION



OBJECTIVES FOR ATTENDING THE SYMPOSIUM

Percentage	Objectives
61%	Have a venue to gain knowledge and insights , and to participate on discourse
	about Philippine biodiversity and conservation
20%	Network and interact with peers, mentors, and experts on Philippine biodiversity
	research and conservation
13%	Disseminate research and share knowledge relevant to biodiversity research and
	management to a wider audience
5%	Gain ideas and inspiration that can be applied to research and training (i.e. thesis
	topic, curriculum and program development)
4%	Opportunities for professional/ personal development and experience (i.e.
	publishing., volunteering)
2%	Learn about the BCSP and the Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium
2%	To have fun and enjoy the symposium











The 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium and General Assembly of the Biodiversity **Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP)**

New and Emerging Trends in Biodiversity Research and Conservation Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City 18-22 July 2017

РНОТО ВООТН



Group Photo. Participants of the 26th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium



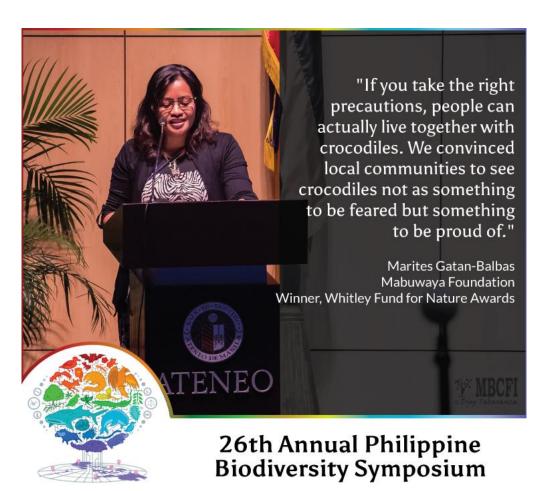
Master of Ceremonies Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez of UP-Los Banos



Dr. Evangeline Bautista, Dean ADMU School of Science and Engineering, welcomes the participants



Dr. Antonio Manila, BMB Asst. Director, delivers a message at the opening program









Scenes from the Institutional Fair









Scenes from the Institutional Fair



Day 2 Plenary Presentations Dr. Ian Fontanilla of UP-Diliman Institute of Biology and Dr. David Waldien, Newport University





Consultative meeting on the National List of Threatened Terrestrial Fauna moderated by Dr. Perry Ong, PRLC Vice Chair



Scientific poster viewing



Partners' presentations from Mr Edmund Rico (CCI-PH), Ms. Serene Chng (TRAFFIC), and Ms. Annabelle Plantilla (PBSAP)





Plenary session moderators Ms. Mae Diesmos (UST) and Dr. Leticia Afuang (UPLB)





Day 3 Plenary Speakers Dr. Ariel Blanco of UP Diliman-College of Engineering and Dr Merlijn Van Weerd of Mabuwaya Foundation









Contributed scientific paper presentations







Day 3 Plenary presenters Ms Moonyeen Alava of CEPF, Mr. Anson Tagtag of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, and Dr. Juan Carlos Gonzalez of UP Los Banos



BCSP General Assembly



Tribute to Danilo S. Balete



Workshop on Fundraising for Conservation

















Scenes from the Closing Program and Awarding Ceremonies