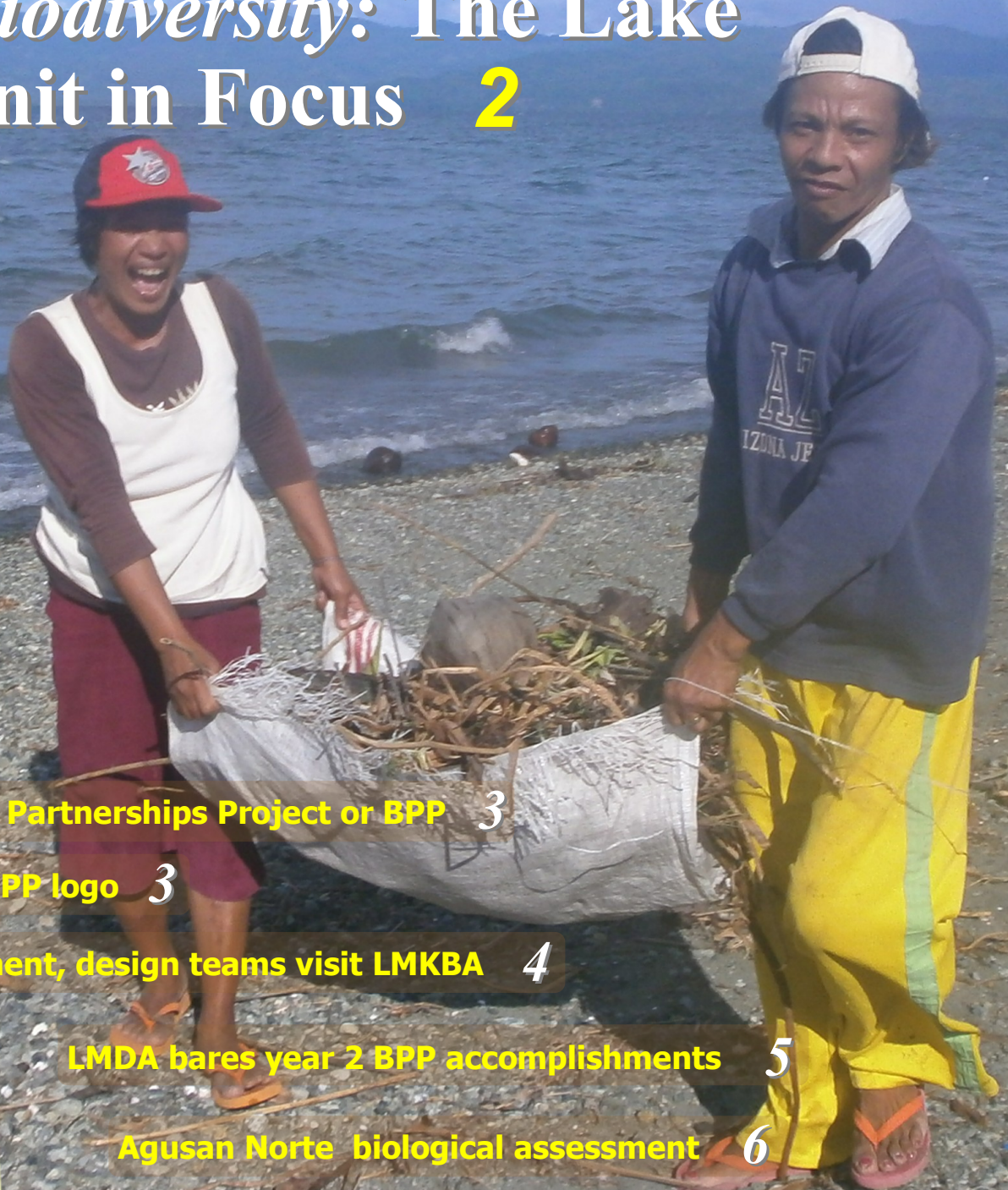




# Lake Mainit Chronicle

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About the Cover. Peoples of Barangay Tapian participate the clean-up activity of their Lake Mainit shore in preparation for the tourism festival last April 2013. Photo by Johny S. Natad



The Lake Mainit Chronicle is the official newsletter publication of Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA), 3/F New Tourism Building, Provincial Complex, Surigao City

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The Lake Mainit Chronicle welcomes featured articles/ contribution especially those which concern on environmental advocacy and protection of Lake Mainit Key Biodiversity Area (LMKBA). Kindly send it to the above-mentioned address. The Editorial Staff reserve the right to edit any submitted articles for clarity and space.

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A screenshot of the Facebook page for the Lake Mainit Biodiversity Partnerships Project. The page header includes the Facebook logo and the text 'LIKE US ON facebook'. The main content area shows the project name, a cover photo of the lake, and various posts and photos. The page has 104 likes and 5 friends.

# Our Biodiversity: The Lake Mainit in Focus

Lake Mainit is one of the cleanest lakes in Philippines. It is also considered as vital key biodiversity area in Mindanao that plays a significant role as habitat of important flora and fauna species. The lake is very potential in agri-fishery and tourism development too.

With its significance, the Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA) is currently implementing the Biodiversity partnerships Project (BPP) to Lake Mainit Key Biodiversity Area (LMKBA) with an aim to protect the lake and its biodiversity. The project is made possible with the active partnership of the DENR-Caraga who is the implementing partner of the BPP through the Protected Areas, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Services (PAWZCMS).

The LMDA as the coordinating body within the LMKBA and as the responsible partner of the BPP project has intensifies its information and communication campaign via print and social media as part of its key role in promoting and protecting LMKBA and its vital resources. The alliance continues to update its website blogs and other social media to update partners for sustainable development. Moreover, the LMDA printed and distributed flyers, newsletters among others to disseminate relevant information about the updates of alliance operations.

Our last issue of the Lake Mainit Chronicle in 2010 depicts on the significant development updates of the LMDA and we continue this with new design. This new publication will showcase the significant activities to promote and help save the LMKBA will focus on our Lake Mainit biodiversity with the BPP implementation updates within LMKBA.

## LAKE MAINIT CHRONICLE ONLINE!

Read latest and previous issues of Lake Mainit Chronicle at <http://issuu.com/lmdachronicle> or download copy at <http://lmda.wordpress.com/about-lmda/official-publication/>

A collage of images related to the Lake Mainit Chronicle. It includes the cover of the 'THE LAKE MAINIT Chronicle' magazine, a screenshot of the 'THE LAKE MAINIT Chronicle' website, and a page from the magazine showing a person fishing in the lake. The magazine cover features the title and various photos of the lake and its surroundings.

# What is Biodiversity Partnerships Project or BPP?



**P**artnerships for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes”, otherwise known as the Biodiversity Partnerships Projects (BPP) is a six-year conservation project funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) which commenced on September 2012 to August 2016. The lead project implementing partner is the DENR-Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB now called as the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in partnership with the NEDA, DA, DILG, DTI, NCIP, DOT, NCW, League of Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities, CI-Phils, Haribon Foundation, FFI, PEF, LMDA, and PBCFI.

The BPP general objectives is to assist Local Government Units (LGUs) in critical eco-regions of the Philippines to better incorporate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in their development planning systems and economic growth strategies.

The project outcomes includes the national-level systems, policies, tools and capacities are in place to support LGU level biodiversity conservation efforts; Local Government Units encompassing at least 1.6 million hectares in 5

key bio-geographic regions have the tools and capacities to integrate sustainable management into decentralized government structures; and Systems, policies, tools and capacities for landscape-level biodiversity conservation and sustainable development are applied in 8 pilot sites covering at least 700,000 hectares across 5 critical bio-geographic regions (Luzon, Palawan, Negros-Panay, Mindoro and Mindanao).

In Mindanao, the two project sites are the Mt. Hamiguitan in Davao Region with Philippine Eagle Foundation as the responsible partner and the Lake Mainit Key Biodiversity Area in Caraga Region with DENR-PAWZCMS 13 as implementing partner and LMDA as responsible partner. At present, the project milestone target focuses on project launching, partnership orientation, and assistance to municipal LGUs in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation efforts to its Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP) especially to the eight members municipal LGUs of LMDA in Lake Mainit influence area. ■



## What signifies BPP logo?

**T**he project logo was created to highlight the concept of partnerships for biodiversity—Partnerships that we need to foster to be able to create a culture that shares the same goal of weaving the web of life to maintain ecological balance and promotion of responsible stewardship among human beings.

The “hands” in the logo symbolically denote support and strength. It also represents our pledge to take care of other life forms, as we pledge to be a protector of all living things, especially the unique species and key biodiversity areas that we are blessed us with.

The colors used in the logo are symbolic of the various key ecosystems that provide the life-enhancing processes that BPP aim to support, conserve, and protect. Dark greens represent the forests and key biodiversity areas, while the lighter greens are used to depict production and agricultural landscapes. Browns were used to represent urban and settlement areas while shades of blue were used to represent coastal and marine waters.

The different figures in the logo signify the different key

elements of the biodiversity. The white shape figure in the middle of the logo embodies the trees and other plant communities while the image of the Philippine eagle and the Tamaraw represent the key indicator species in the BPP demonstration sites that need to be protected. The white circle denotes the people as part of the ecosystem and an integral component of the Philippine Biodiversity.

Overall, the design of the BPP logo symbolizes the harmonious relationship between all forms of life. It speaks of the need to recognize that we are all essential in maintaining a balance in this web of life. ■



# BPP investment, design teams visit LMKBA

**B**iodiversity Partnerships Project (BPP) investment specialist and product design specialist recently visited the four Lake Mainit municipalities on March 4-5, 2014.

Vivian Castillon, the BPP investment specialist met the LGU officials, employee and peoples' organization (POs) of the municipalities of Tubod, Alegria, Kitcharao and Jabonga to validate the identified existing biodiversity-friendly business enterprises and to determine needed supports of intervention.

"The BPP is promoting biodiversity-friendly enterprise existing in the area and help to determine the needed intervention to scale up the enterprise in order to match it in the prevailing market," Castillon emphasized.

Castillon added that the visit also intend to determine existing skills of the POs on their existing business enterprise. The enterprise identified should be enhanced and the products should be value added. With this, the project aims to help the existing enterprise enhance its design or improve the product packaging.

Along with Castillon are the designing specialist from Design Center of the Philippines like Ms. Ria Ann Legaspi, the senior industrial designer and Mr. Jesus Dumilod, the junior researcher who identified necessary skills



*Ms. Vivian Castillon (left) explains to Jabonga Municipal Mayor Jasmin Monton (center) the rationale of the visit during a courtesy call. Mayor Monton bares her support to the BPP initiatives. ■*

training and product development to POs who engage their biodiversity-friendly enterprises. During the visit, the participating POs presented their products mostly used of fabric cloths and jean, bamboo, rattan, abaca, nito, agsam and water lily.

Based on the colloquial conversation with the POs and the LGU representatives, the team identified skills enhancement and product design development of the participating POs who are engaging biodiversity-friendly enterprises as part of the project support intervention.

The visit was made possible with the assistance of the LMDA-BPP Team Leader Omar Barillo, DENR-13/PAWZCMS-BPP Staff Albe Duyapat, and the four LMDA action officers of Jabonga, Kitcharao, Alegria, and Tubod. (JSN) ■



**Product presentation.** *The peoples' organizations (POs) and LGU-Kitcharao representatives during a meeting with the BPP investment & product designing specialist. Kitcharao Municipal Mayor Aristotle Montante (center), encourages the POs to actively participate to the product enhancement related training. Mayor Montante also reveals his commitment to support the BPP especially on the capability of the POs in handling sustainable enterprises. ■*

# LMDA bares year 2 BPP accomplishments

**D**uring the 6<sup>th</sup> LMDA Expanded Technical Working Group (ETWG) meeting held on February 17, 2014 at Philippine Gateway Hotel, Surigao City, the Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA) recently revealed accomplishments on its Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes otherwise known as the Biodiversity Partnerships Projects (BPP) second year implementation.

In his presentation to ETWG, Mr. Omar Barillo, the LMDA-BPP project coordinator bared the 2013 target deliverables and its achievements particularly on the mainstreaming of biodiversity-friendly projects programs and policies in local government units (LGUs) within Lake Mainit influence area.

He bared that all LGUs have received necessary trainings/workshops and there are seven out of 8 LGUs having Biodiversity Responsive Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs).

The project also conducted biodiversity mainstreaming in the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) in the Municipality of Tubod, Surigao del Norte as the pilot area among LGUs within Lake Mainit Key Biodiversity Area (LMKBA) which was done on December 12-13, 2013 and February 12-14, 2014 while the third phase of the training process will be set on March this year.

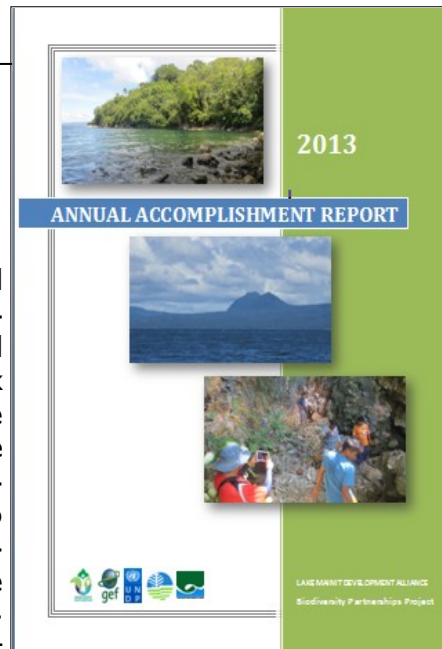
Barillo said that the “Local Project Site Committee (LPSC) is operational. The LPSC is also known as the Expanded Technical Working Group (ETWG) of LMDA”.

In terms of data and knowledge management, Barillo bared that at least six workshops were conducted in the transboundary planning. The workshop output aims to update and enhance LMDA Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

As part of the project deliverables, the LMDA also maintained website blogs; conducted a documentation on LM- Unified Fishery Ordinance implementation and level of attainment; conducted two (2) Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting; and attended four (4) Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) meeting, two (2) workshops and a Mid-Year end Assessment.

Barillo added that the project has conducted conservation awareness on biodiversity conservation in Lake Mainit KBA documented. There were already two (2) local conservation areas delineated and been lobbied with the Sangguniang Bayan of Alegria, Surigao del Norte and Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte for deliberation at the different committees.

Meanwhile, the MS-Center for Optimal Research and Development (MS-CORD) has completed the biodiversity assessment in four Agusan del Norte municipalities. Another biodiversity assessment to Surigao del Norte municipalities will be conducted this year. (JSN) ■



## January-March 2013 Chronology of Activities More LMDA Updates?

Visit and log on to LMDA website at <http://lmda.wordpress.com/>

Dates	Activities/Places
February 3-5	Transboundary Planning (3 <sup>rd</sup> phase) at Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City
February 10	Financial Management Team Orientation Meeting at PTO, Capitol Complex, Surigao City
February 6-7 & February 12-14	BD Mainstreaming into CDP at Tubod, Surigao del Norte
February 17	6 <sup>th</sup> Expanded Technical Working Group (ETWG) Meeting at Gateway Hotel, Surigao City
March 3-6	BPP Partnerships & Investment Specialist visits (Tubod, Alegria, Kitcharao, & Jabonga)





# BPP reveals Agusan Norte biological assessment

**T**he Biodiversity Partnerships Project (BPP) presented the result of the biological diversity assessment to members of the LMDA Expanded Technical Working Group (ETWG) during the 6<sup>th</sup> ETWG meeting at Philippine Gateway Hotel, Surigao City on February 17, 2014

The BPP contracted the MS-Center for Optimal Research and Development (MS-CORD) who recently conducted Biological Assessment in Lake Mainit Key Biodiversity Area in four Agusan del Norte municipalities.

The biological assessment conducted to four sampling areas specifically Barangay Pangaylan in Santiago, Barangay La Fraternidad in Tubay, Barangay Sangay in Kitcharao, Barangay San Pablo in Jabonga, all in province of Agusan del Norte.

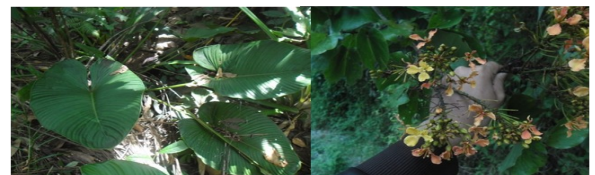
Dr. Romell A. Seronay, the assessment team leader presented the species richness of flora in four sampling areas. The study shows that there are 92 species identified in Santiago of which 24 are endemic species and 11 are threatened. In Tubay, 68 are identified flora species with 22 are endemic and 6 are threatened species. There are 56 species identified in Kitcharao with 23 are endemic and 10 are threatened species while 79 species are found in Jabonga with 21 endemic and 8 are threatened species.

Based on the data analysis, Seronay explained that the sample area of Santiago and Jabonga are rich in biodiversity with Shannon index of 2.94 and 2.17 respectively, followed by Tubay and Kitcharao with index 1.28 and 1.04.

Seronay also presented a total of 103 species of vertebrate fauna found in four sampling area. There are 38 birds, 6 amphibians, 3 reptiles, 6 bats and 1 non-flying mammal recorded in Santiago. Some 23 birds, 4 amphibians, 3 reptiles, 3 bats and 1 non-flying mammal are found in Tubay. Documented fauna in Kitcharao are 48 birds, 4 amphibians, 4 bats, and 1 non-flying mammal. In Jabonga, there are 64 birds, 5 amphibians, 4 reptiles, 5 bats and 1 non-flying mammals.

With this data, the study team recommended that “priority areas for biological conservation should be identified within the proposed ecological zones in Lake Mainit watershed. It is also recommended that indigenous species should be planted instead of invasive species and fruit trees. This will retain the original vegetation and revive wildlife community and will help regenerate the watershed as well”.

Meanwhile, the MS-CORD will be conducting another biological assessment to four municipalities in Surigao



<https://www.facebook.com/LakeMainitBiodiversityPartnershipProject>

del Norte this year as part of the continuing contract service with the project. This is to achieve the overall objective of the study which aims to determine three priority species which are currently found thriving within the 2000 hectares watershed encompassing eight municipalities in Lake Mainit influence area. (JSN) ■