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DAF message of founder and president

The year 2020 has been eventful, in the sense it has changed the world and our every day lives. A great deal of measures have been put in place to fight a pandemic that has transformed our existence.

In this new normal we have found new ways to work together, and we have adapted our activities.

2020 was different from anything we have ever seen, so much hindering of the people freedoms and opportunity for earning a living, certainly we have experienced great damages to the economy where the most fragile have suffered loss of means of life, and capacities.

But we have also seen a big increase in mutual support among the community at large, to help the most in need, and address the problems incurred.

Resilience has enable us to adapt, and we have found in 2020 shifts in focus, we have also found new opportunities or problems to address in order to stay productive.

With the help of technology, our team has kept operational.

2020 will be remembered as a year of drastic change, bringing us back to the basics; it can also be seen as many new openings, in the way of doing and also thinking.

And now as in the Philippines we hope to return to more activity and beating this virus. We look to the future with excitement, to continue our work and advance in preserving the indigenous culture and biodiversity of Mindoro Island.

To all our partners and loved one, we wish for 2021 to be a blessed year, full of love, productivity, and excitement to advance in life, and for the good work!

Hubert d'Aboville

DAF welcomes new board member : Aidan Hilker

Welcome to DAF Aidan Hilker. An avid sailor and diver, Aidan has been exploring the waters around Mindoro since he was a small child. He studied at the American University of Paris, then returned to the Philippines and to his family home in Puerto Galera.

In 2005 as part of his Eagle Scout project, he organized a donation drive for the Puerto Galera hospital,

culminating in a medical mission where a dozen doctors from Makati Medical Center travelled down to treat patients, which was well attended by the Mangyan tribes, and opened his eyes to the number and need for support to the tribes of Mindoro.

Taking over from his father he's been on the board of PUERTO GALERA MOST BEAUTIFUL

BAY, Inc. Since 2014 where he's worked closely with the d'Abovilles through the years, as they successfully hosted the 2015 world congress, and continue to work to preserve and promote the beauty of Puerto Galera bay.

Progress of the Mangyan Tamaraw Driven Landscape Program by Emmanuel Schutz, Program director

The Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent measures taken by governments to attempt to overcome it have definitely reshuffled the way we can and must conduct conservation efforts. It has hindered our capacity to conduct field work, impacted office running of local authorities and partners and donors are struggling to sustain their support. All this adds challenges and imposes the need to restructure budget, work plan and way we work in the field, especially with local communities.

The D'ABOVILLE Foundation and Demo Farm Inc. has luckily limited severe impacts

while applying a set of means and strategy to continue working and developing its programs and vision. We are very grateful to all the partners and donors that maintain their trust and support in this harsh period.

In 2020, actions and energy were therefore mostly focused on successfully harnessing all options to move forward with objectives of the MTDL Program despite the constraints posed by the pandemic, and to align it with the targets of the **Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP)** and the **Protected**

Area Management Plan for Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (PAMP MIBNP). Basically it involves the following objectives:

1. Improve law enforcement by the concerned offices and patrolling efficiency of the Tamaraw rangers through Wildlife Crime Prevention Approach
2. Conduct ecological work on the biology of the tamaraw and other wildlife, the habitats they can be found in, and develop consistent monitoring methods, thus assisting the local authorities to adapt and implement relevant habitat management measures.

3. Reinforce engagement with the indigenous communities concerned by Tamaraw presence to assist them in their adaptation to a fast changing world that is pushing them to restructure their overall living space and adapt their cultural practices.



Meta-Population Approach

Meeting with Philippine government officials to pave the way of the TCMAP implementation

Several constructive meetings with DENR and government officials were organized in March during the visit of Dr. James Burton, chair of the IUCN SSC – AWCSG.

The DENR BMB and Regional Office are working hand in hand to pass the Department Administrative Order (DAO) that will help to institutionalize the TCP as an office and create the Tamaraw Conservation and Coordination Council (TC3).

Congresswoman “Nene” Sato of Occidental Mindoro committed to support this DAO and all initiatives in the TCMAP.

Her good reputation among the Mangyans of Mindoro will greatly help the concerned

communities to understand and embrace the Tamaraw Action Plan and all the activities in which they will be involved.

The DAO is on its final stage and we impatiently wait for the global situation to improve to move forward, including resuming on the Feasibility Study for assessing the potential of ex-situ intervention for tamaraw conservation. This was supposed to happen in May and would require the ability of foreign partners to travel to the Philippines.



Tamaraw verification survey in MIBNP

DAF provided technical and financial support to the tamaraw survey in the Blue Mountain region in the heart of Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park in November 2020. Report on the possible presence of tamaraw in that area was suggested by local community members attending the PHVA workshop in 2018.

Despite not being able to confirm the presence of the species, the operation provided the chance to survey this natural area located at the junction between the ancestral domain of the Buhid tribe and Bangon

tribe and the forest line literally dividing oriental and occidental Mindoro. In addition, we were able to assess the northern limit of the area used by lowlander cattle ranchers considered as non-tenured migrants since the endorsement of the Park Management Plan in 2020.



As suspected, the survey proves that this vast natural area could be very favorable for tamaraw translocation once phase out of cattle ranchers is

successful, while the presence of the species further north is considered plausible and will require another verification survey.



Law Enforcement and Wildlife Crime Prevention

Strengthening patrol assessment and planning and the use of the SMART Platform

Last February, the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) for MIBNP and the TCP conducted their first joint meetings aiming at assessing and organizing patrol results and target's planning using the information collected through the SMART technology. This first meeting was facilitated by DAF, upon the request of both offices. This initiative was disrupted by the pandemic measures affecting patrolling

duties and office attendance since March. Most of the year was therefore harnessed to provide personal coaching of TCP staff responsible for data management in order to improve their skills in using the system and organizing data.

The establishment of the SMART system in MIBNP and the experience gained was subject to a collaborative work in producing an article that was

published in the last BULLETIN edited by the IUCN - SSC

Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group.



Contribution to the cultural sensitivity approach towards mutual respects and co-management efficiency



One of the issues that was highlighted during the series of consultative workshops and meetings that paved the way to both the MIBNP Management Plan and the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP), is the persisting cultural gaps between Indigenous people and Tagalogs. This can exacerbate tension or hindered work relations when affecting DENR offices involving local Mangyan field staff. Therefore,

both plans included cultural sensitivity approach related with activities to address this.

An initial cultural sensitivity training workshop was held last November, organized by Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park Protected Area Management Office. It gathered rangers and officers of both TCP and PAMO.

Among other speakers, DAF Program Officer Ronet Santos was invited as one of the

resource speakers in order to facilitate a session on "Section 13 of the ENIPAS Act of 2018 on Ancestral Domains and Customary Rights". It emphasizes that "territories and areas occupied and conserved for and by IPs and communities shall be recognized, respected, developed, and promoted". Such training and brainstorming must be continued and evaluated.

Support to the development of the Wildlife Crime Prevention approach

Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement are key targets for both tamaraw conservation and protection of the attributes of Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park.

On that matter the Park office (PAMO) has been conducting a series of training and workshops together with the TCP. DAF facilitated a session on “Salient Features of the ENI-PAS Act of 2018 that concerns Wildlife Crime Prevention”, which is the legal compendium for the protection of the Protected Areas in the Philippines.

DAF partner and Wildlife Crime Prevention expert at Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), Mr James Slade, is progressively introducing the concept of Situational Crime Prevention as applied in wildlife, or how to approach wildlife crime prevention as a science aiming at preventing the crime before it happens rather than reacting to it. This approach steps away from the usual patrolling routine from the rangers pushing them to apply investigation and intelligence approach and to interact

with local communities as a source of information and collaboration. Inception during these workshops shall be followed by

further training through case studies and situational exercises on site.



Research work on species and habitat

Tamaraw population monitoring in Mts Iglit-Baco Natural Park using alternative census method

In February we effectively conducted the first pilot test operation using distance sampling of dung with double observer technique as an alternative and complementary method to monitor tamaraw abundance in the core zone of tamaraw in MIBNP. Twenty-nine randomly plotted transects were set up covering an area of 2200ha. The operation was successful in creating synergy between the tamaraw rangers, the Park's rangers and DAF team. Representatives of the residing local indigenous communities joined the operation as witness and to ensure that we don't trespass sacred places or settlements.

The use of this combined method (distance sampling + double observer) is quite innovative.

This activity is part of the primary target of the Tamaraw Conservation and Management

Action Plan (IUCN – DENR TCMAP) to find ways to assess population dynamic and abundance without using grassland burning.

Time during the compulsory lock down was thereafter used to produce a technical report analyzing the data collected. This was the support for an article published in the IUCN-AWCSG BULLETIN, issue 4 (July 2020). The results highlights additional findings on the Mindoro warty pig and the Philippine brown deer that raise concerns about their conservation status in the area as well as interesting biological

questions on species interactions and how high tamaraw density could impact the distribution of other species. Assumption will be tested and corroborated with ongoing and future efforts.

A replicate operation was conducted during the rainy season in December in order to highlight possible seasonal effect, standardized the protocols and monitor tamaraw distribution. Data are

currently being organized and analyzed. Two additional operations will be repeated in 2021 in order to cumulate two samplings in dry season and two samplings in rainy season.

Results will be thereafter thoroughly cross-analyzed with results from the annual count to estimate (a) actual tamaraw abundance and (b) index of conversion from dung density to animal density.



Monitoring tamaraw and other wildlife with camera traps outside Protected Areas

DAF is supporting local stakeholders seeking to document if additional endemic and endangered species, besides the tamaraw, can be found in the Aruyan-Malati forest complex, in order to foster its proclamation under "Critical Habitat" category. On that purpose we coordinated a rapid camera trap survey in the Siburan forest area targeting the Mindoro bleeding heart pigeon (*Gallicolumba platenae*). Five devices were installed between July and October 2020 cumulating four rotations in

three distinct areas. This operation was done in cooperation with the TCP at the request of the Municipality Environmental and Natural Resource Office (MENRO) of Sablayan (where the target site is located) seeking for assistance on that matter.

Unfortunately this rare bird species was not captured on camera, calling for a more extensive survey in the area. Anyway, this rapid survey was an opportunity to train the local ranger team, better understand the natural context of the area and develop closer contact with

the residing indigenous communities with whom free prior and informed consent is required.

In November, we moved and expanded the operation towards the heart of the Aruyan-Malati area where a small population of tamaraw is persisting. Fifteen devices are currently mobilized and will have four rotations (every 4-5 weeks) following a semi-random occupancy survey design. The study is conducted in collaboration between DAF team and the Tamaraw

Conservation Program and aims at assessing the situation of the tamaraw and the rest of ungulates inhabiting the area, including a rapid habitat assessment associated with the protocol, while capacitating the tamaraw rangers to fully handle this type of technology and protocol.



Habitat study within the count zone inside Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park

DAF team was able to continue its field work and implement habitat study protocols for the whole year thanks to the fact that our field technical officers are mostly members of the indigenous communities living on site.

Therefore, they were not refrained from accessing the field.

Two studies are currently maintained and developed:

- Monitor vegetation dynamic in areas with fire regime within

the annual count area using quadrats and local indigenous knowledge on biodiversity;

- Forest-grassland ecotone to measure the capacity of trees to re-colonize open areas under and without fire regime.

These studies shall help prepare the phase-out of grassland burning for the tamaraw count and evaluate the best options for habitat restoration as well as estimate possible impact of a changing habitat on the tamaraw population (carrying capacity).



Bio-cultural landscape approach and working with local indigenous communities

DAF is particularly involved in integrating the residing Mangyan Indigenous communities in the overall movement induced by the implementation of the MIBNP Management Plan and the various actions envisioned towards Tamaraw conservation.

Documentation of traditional natural resource management practices of the Tau buids

In 2020, DAF continued assisting the PAMO MIBNP in documenting traditional practices of the Tau Buid communities residing inside the Park in managing natural resources.

The purpose of understanding these traditional practices is to harmonize these with the MIBNP protected area management plan. The Tau Buids generally have low-impact lifestyles. Some of their traditional practices involve respecting sacred sites where natural resource extraction is not allowed or strictly spiritually regulated, designation of areas that are called *fagfatungkudan mangilafang* (wildlife refuge where wildlife can reproduce), observance of fallow system in swidden farms to allow farmed areas to be restored, limiting some natural resource extraction activities to specific sea-

sons (fishing during dry season only), and installation of *efalimuan wani em tanoman* (protection system for swiddens). The series of discussions resulted in a diagram that depicts a traditional natural resource management practice related land-use and hunting that must be validated and improved through further series of discussions with the elders. The diagram will be part of the documentation of the Tau Buid traditional practices which will be included in their application for Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).



Towards a larger safe zone for tamaraw following IPs principles and cultural basis

The “concept” of *fagfatungkudan mangilafang* (wildlife refuge where wildlife can reproduce) was dug further through continuous discussion with the tribe’s elders through the year as it could be a way to re-clarify the establishment of the “no hunting agreement area” of 2016, while finding a salient

way to validate and extend it through consensual decision process by the communities themselves.

Such approach, where communities are the one to propose and control land-use adjustment under their own cultural modalities and terminology must be promoted as more

effective than trying to apply strictly speaking state imposed concepts of regulation.

This aspect is one of the many targets in assisting the Park and the tribe to find common grounds in improving lifestyle by addressing land-use management.



Welcoming new support to foster our main vision

We are honored that the UK Government through its **DARWIN Initiative Partnership Project**, has rewarded

our MTDL Program to foster the Bio-Cultural Landscape approach with Mangyan Communities. This section will be

closely developed and coordinated with our partner Global Wildlife Conservation.

New collaboration with Philippines Taxonomic initiative (PTI)

Our new collaborator Philippines Taxonomic Initiative (PTI), is focused on advancing the discovery and description of native and endemic flora and fauna in the Philippines.

Having knowledge of the extreme difficulty it is to do research in the Philippines PTI seeks to help both local and foreign researchers who work and research in the country.

PTI has lead multiple expedition mainly in Palawan, a place of great biodiversity, where

they have authored dozens of publications regarding new previously undocumented species. It is now looking to explore Mindoro, - Talipanan, Puerto Galera, also a promising area for research.

D'Aboville Foundation will look to use it's logistics capabilities in Puerto Galera to help with permits and in the future provide PTI with resources in PG in order to facilitate the future missions and expeditions planned in Talipanan.



Hanunuo Surat-Mangyan Teaching Program

“Surat Mangyan” is one of the few remaining Filipino indigenous pre-hispanic “baybayin” or syllabic scripts. This program was designed for the preservation and teaching of “Surat Mangyan”, The Department of Education does not teach indigenous culture to schools attended by IPs. Therefore, the d'Aboville

Foundation recognized the need to operate this. The program lasted for 10 years, and over those years about 600 to 700 Mangyan student were enrolled in three public elementary schools and one high school in Mansalay, Mindoro.

The program is now on hold because of lack of teachers

trained to share this knowledge.

The students that have participated to the program now live carrying their amazing indigenous culture and face the world with new found pride in their origins.

That is why DAF wishes to continue the program and is

now looking for possible new teachers willing and able to pass on this beautiful indigenous script and language.



Feeding program Mangyans of Balatero Puerto Galera

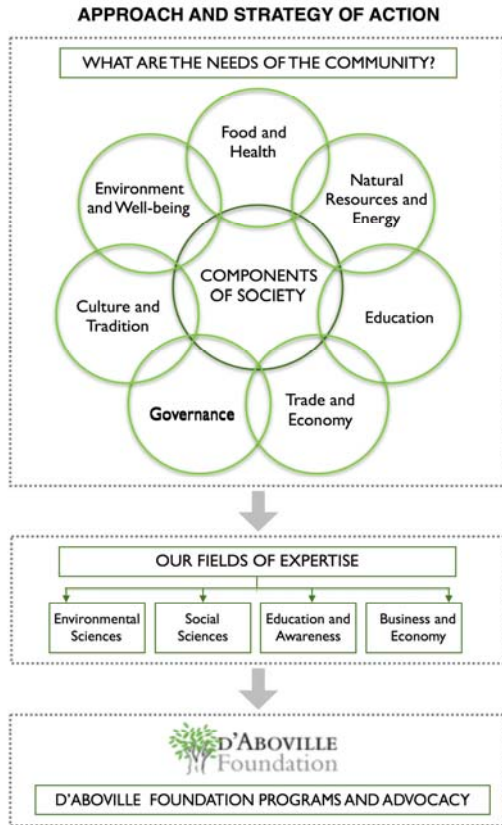
d'Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm is giving away to 12 families (mostly Mangyans) whose houses were badly damaged by the super typhoon last November. Thank you to the French Pinay community, DAF was able to increase it's budget from 18 to 25k. The

donations have been given out right on time for Christmas.





How we work



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WHO WE ARE

The D'Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm, Inc. is a French-Filipino non-profit, non-government organization established in 2004 to work with the indigenous Mangyans, environment, and eco-cultural tourism in the Island of Mindoro in the Philippines.

The Foundation has four principal platforms of action:

- alleviation of poverty and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Mangyan indigenous people
- the protection of the environment and biodiversity;
- development of sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices;
- uplifting of the community through responsible tourism and eco-friendly development.

OUR VISION

The unique natural and cultural heritage of the Island of Mindoro is preserved for future generations and the well being of its people is enhanced.

Board Members and Directors



Hubert d'Aboville
President - Executive Director



Ara d'Aboville
Board Member



Emmanuel d'Aboville
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Aidan Hilker
Board Member



Olivia d'Aboville
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