



**El Nido
Foundation**

**ACCOMPLISHMENT
REPORT
2019**





Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
Municipality of El Nido

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT the El Nido Foundation, Inc. (ENFI), a duly-organized non-government organization (NGO) registered with the Securities and Commission on June 21, 1994, has been assisting the municipal government of El Nido in the implementation of the following programs and projects in the municipality of El Nido, Palawan since 1994. For the year 2019, the following are the programs accomplished by the Foundation, all in accordance with the municipality's Resource Management Framework, specifically the environmental management and development plans as embodied in the municipality's Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP):

PROGRAMS / PROJECTS

- I. El Nido Foundation, Inc. (ENFI) continues to fulfill its mandate to El Nido community – improving the quality of life of the communities while preserving the area's natural integrity through implementation of the following activities for the period January to December 2019:

Component 1. Conservation Management

A. Working towards sustainability of Community-Managed Marine Areas (CMMAs), ENF continued to support five (5) out of 14 barangays with CMMAs in the implementation of their management activities through:

1. Conduct of regular review and updating of CMMA management plan in Barangay Sibaltan, Mabini, New Ibajay Villa Paz and Tres Marias in collaboration with the LGU – MCRMO. The Barangay Council in each barangay endorsed its updated CMMA management plan through a Barangay Resolution.
2. Continued conduct of MPA MEAT (MPA Effectiveness Assessment Tool) Assessment in Barangay Sibaltan, Mabini, New Ibajay Villa Paz and Tres Marias which were integrated in the updating of CMMA management plans.

B. Involvement of ENF as member of the municipality-mandated Technical Working Group for the CLWUP enhancement, through participation in meetings and presentation of related policies to the Sangguniang Bayan which will aid the SB members in the finalization of the updated Zoning Ordinance. The enhanced El Nido CLWUP was presented to the stakeholders during the year. Work on draft CLWUP is still in progress. Once approved, the new plan will help regulate tourism development and address problems in zonation.

C. Continued advocacy on responsible ecotourism by supporting mooring buoy installation activities in the municipality.

D. Continued support to El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area Management Board (ENTMR-PAMB) through involvement in policy formulation and advocating for reforms, with the objective of improving Protected Area (PA) management through:

1. Participation in the regular conduct of ENTMRPA – PAMB meetings, both en banc and ExeCom.

A highlight of ENF's involvement is the lobbying for policies on improving island destination management to conserve and protect frequently visited tourism sites, following the principle of carrying capacity. CENRO-Taytay supported this policy advocacy moves through drafting of resolution and conducting stakeholders' consultations targeting affected stakeholders. As a result, there was a suspension of application of MOA in lieu of SAPA in PA sites, and subsequent cancellation of previously released MOAs by the local DENR offices. Also, there was an endorsement of the carrying capacity study for Lagoon Management which is now implemented by the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).

E. Capacity- building activities conducted / attended by key target local stakeholders and staff, to enhance management strategies in the implementation of CRM-related projects:

1. Participation in various capacity-building activities such as partners meetings and training workshops, which strengthened skills and knowledge of 'CRM managers' and partnership between ENF and other CRM key players in the implementation of CRM-related activities in the municipality.

Component 2. Marine Enforcement

ENF continued to advocate for strengthening of environmental law enforcement and protection to address increasing environmental problems brought by rapid economic growth and urbanization through the following activities:

1. ENF served as key contact point in the transmission of classified information from reports of concerned individuals in barangays where alleged violations such as indiscriminate mangrove cutting, unregulated sand and gravel quarrying, and *kaingin* farming, to concerned agencies such as the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Council Staff (PCSDS), El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area Office (ENTMRPA), Department of Environment and Natural

Resources

2. (DENR) and the Local Government Unit;

Participation in related LGU Special Bodies such as the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic

Resource

Management Council (MFARMC), Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (MAFC), where actions and/or recommendations on marine and terrestrial environmental problems relating to agricultural and fisheries management / production were advocated to ensure conservation and protection; and in the Municipal Quasi-judicial Body where ENF is involved in coming up with

3. consensual decisions in relation to violations reported by the Municipal Environmental Law Enforcement team (under the MENRO);

4. Helped maintain the two CMMA guardhouses in Barangays Sibaltan and New Ibayay that contribute to marine enforcement operations in the municipality.

Acquisition and regular maintenance of fiber glass boat- *Mamsa*- used in the enforcement that

serves

as floating station in Tres Marias for 24/7 patrolling in the vicinity of the marine sanctuary and surrounding areas. *Rumpi* speedboat is maintained and regularly used as logistic support

for Tres

Marias Bantay Dagat and transport service during conduct of Three - Tier biological monitoring within Bacuit Bay area.

Component 3 – Information, Education and Communications

1. Continued IEC support to existing CMMAs through conduct of Community Feedbacking of CMMA results in four (5) barangays with CMMAs: Sibaltan, Mabini, New Ibajay, Tres Marias and Villa Paz where in a total of 44 community members were reached and informed on the status of their CMMA management and biodiversity. The activity was integrated in the conduct of updating of CMMA management plan and in the course of MPA MEAT assessment. With continued submission of results to the *Marine Protected Area Support Network (MSN)* since 2013, Tres Marias CMMA in Barangay Bebeladan was shortlisted as one of 15 semi-finalists of the *2019 Para El Mar Awards and Recognition*, a nationwide bi-annual process organized by the MSN to recognize the most effectively managed MPA in the Philippines and enable MPA managers to share and learn from best practices of exemplary MPAs. ENF facilitated the courtesy call to the office of the Mayor by the Evaluation Team, and the actual site visit at Tres Marias, as well as the preparation of all the documents needed by the MSN Evaluators in their visit held in September 2019.
2. Continued to impart and raise awareness on environmental conservation and protection through facilitation of sessions on the UNEP- Green Fins Approach conducted in partnership with the DENR- PAO. A total of 112 individuals were reached, imparting values on their roles and responsibilities as partners / stakeholders/ ambassadors of marine environmental conservation and protection. Four (4) booking offices were assessed by ENF trained assessors during the year.
Participated in the municipality –led environmental activities such as International Coastal
3. Clean-up, held in September.

Component 4. Sustainable Livelihood

1. Continued implementation of Environment – Friendly Economic Enterprise Development (EED) activities in El Nido for a comprehensive and integrated approach in the enhancement of agricultural production, thereby benefiting other livelihood activities in the municipality. For 2019, a total of 1,097 EED beneficiaries comprising of households, individuals and establishments were reached by ENF. The EED activities implemented are as follows:
 - a. Seeds beneficiaries – 446 new and 382 continuing
 - b. EME distribution (187 individuals, households, and establishments benefiting) to increase agricultural production as a component of organic farming method, and to help in sanitation requirements of the municipality.
 - c. Continued operation of ENF Demo Farm (*Gulayan, Babuyan, Atbp.*) showcasing sustainable agriculture concepts such as organic farming methods in the production of high- value vegetables and in raising organic pigs (“Happy Pig”), thus enabling local communities to become self-sufficient in terms of food production. Improvement of Demo Farm facilities is on-going, as well as community mobilization, in preparation for the implementation of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) in the municipality.
 - d. Continued Marketing linkage – coordination with Farmers and establishments on their farm produced availability.
2. Continued technical assistance on High Value Organic Vegetables Farming and raising Organic Pigs (“Happy Pig”) in El Nido.
3. Technical assistance to beneficiaries of Bamboo Treatment Project installed in 3 barangays (Bgy. New Ibajay, Villa Paz, and Sibaltan) in El Nido to increase quality of bamboo production and to serve as additional source of income.
 - 76 pieces of Bamboo were treated and sold to consumers.

Component 5 – Institutional and Financial Sustainability

1. Continued support to the ETDF Management Board through participation in meetings wherein improvement in the utilization of ETDF fund was discussed to aid in the implementation of tourism and environment related programs and projects, as mandated in the Ordinance.
2. Participated in the ETDF Board meeting held on October 11, 2019 and the ETDF Committee hearing held on December 3, 2019
 - . Continued monitoring of collection and utilization of ETDF as Committee Chair on Project Monitoring and Evaluation. ETDF collection for the year 2019 amounted to PhP 91,265,350.00.
3. Continued advocacy on responsible ecotourism by supporting the mooring project. ENF lobbied for
4. additional allocation of PhP 2.3M coming from the ETDF savings fund.
 - . Regular attendance in Municipal Fishery Agriculture Council (MAFC) special body, where ENF is a
5. member.
6. Participation in the conduct of Solid Waste Management Plan Formulation Workshop, the objective is to come up with an action plan for El Nido Solid Waste Management to address the growing waste problem brought about by rapid tourism development, increase in population, and to improve efficiency of garbage collection system.
 - . Attended Municipal Solid Waste Management Board IEC meeting and brainstorming during Search
7. for best barangays and school on the implementation of the SWM Program on March 13, 2019.

Component 6 – Biodiversity, Research and Monitoring

1. Continued implementation of the Three-Tier Marine Biological Monitoring Protocol, developed under the GEF Project, to measure improvement of marine habitat quality and fish abundance in relation to the establishment of CMMAs. The following activities were conducted:
 - For Tier 1 monitoring, on a quarterly basis, 1 out of 29 monitoring activities conducted in nine (9) CMMA monitoring sites, wherein a total of 4 community members were engaged; for Tier 1 monitoring, members ranged from 3 – 9 per monitoring activity, who were able to directly observe fish abundance / status of their CMMAs. LGU-MCRM staff were encouraged to join in the team to observe and assist in the conduct of community monitoring. For Tier 2 fish and coral reef monitoring, one (1) out of 27
 - Tier 2 – fish and coral monitoring activities conducted in eight (8) designated sites (5 CMMAs, 2 dive sites and fishing site). The Tier 2 monitoring team is composed of ENF staff and is ideally conducted bi-annually by the composite monitoring team (ENF and LGU thru CRM Office) with an average of 4 members per monitoring activity.
2. Maintained biodiversity databases and information systems to support policy advocacy and planning. Data gathered are continuously recorded and analyzed and serve as feedback information to communities in 14 barangays during the Community Feedback sessions conducted on the progress of the CMMAs, and are also used to aid policy formulation at the PAMB-LGU level.

II. El Nido Coral Reef Restoration and Education Program

- A. Lobbied for support from the LGU to sustain enforcement activities of Tres Marias Bantay Dagat through access to ETDF funds; enforcement activities are done with 24/7 patrolling by eight (8) Tres Marias Bantay Dagat members.
 - . To enhance Bantay Dagat operations, orientation and assessment meetings were regularly held during
- B. the year.

C. Continued enforcement activities with 24/7 patrolling by active Tres Marias Bantay Dagat members. Assessment meetings were held three times during the year to continuously improve the enforcement system in Tres Marias. Other activities of the Tres Marias Bantay Dagat are as follows: a) maintain mooring buoys installed in the area and b) participate in fish and coral monitoring activities.

Conducted regular bi-annual Tier 2 (management-level) fish and coral monitoring and

D.

underwater photo documentation in the reef restoration site by the composite monitoring team (composed of representatives from Municipal CRM Office and ENF).

E. IEC activities conducted for the year 2019 are as follows:

- Organized *Pasyar Adal* in Tres Marias with participants from Calibangbangan and Barangonan, Linapacan CMMA Management Body, which aimed to showcase the management practices of Tres Marias Marine Sanctuary and help the participants reflect on lessons learned from the activity and utilize these in improving management in their own local CMMA.

III. Green Fins Initiative – is a United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) conservation initiative implemented in El Nido with ENF as local implementing partner since 2012, with the objective of helping local tourism operators adopt and promote eco-friendly/sustainable diving and snorkeling practices. In its seventh year in El Nido as of 2019, the following were implemented:

- Continued Green Fins (GF) awareness activities on responsible ecotourism in El Nido through conduct of Green Fins Training for Green Fins membership certification with a total of 112 individuals (tour guides, boat crew staff members) reached. The aim of the program is to effect behavioral change towards marine conservation and protection.
- Served as Resource Person during the Green Fins Conference: Benefits of Responsible Tourism organized by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau for Protected Area personnel, held on November 21-22, 2019 in Cebu City. The Conference also featured two Green Fins member Tour Booking Offices in El Nido, namely Leatherback Travel and Tours, as well as El Bacuit Travel and Tours whose owner/representative shared lessons learned and benefits derived from being Green Fins members.
- Continued conduct of Green Fins membership held in December, targeting tour booking offices in El Nido. During the year, there were four (4) tour booking offices that were assessed by the local assessment team, leading to the establishments' Green Fins membership renewal.

IV. Reproductive Health

- Latest data on Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), an indicator of Modern FP user rate, is constantly increasing with the 2019 data at 80.50% (source: Rural Health Unit – El Nido), given the ready availability of FP commodities in town both at the RHU and in commercial stores (sari-sari stores and pharmacies). ENF continues to promote RH methods.

V. Community-Based Malaria Control Project

- A. For the period (January – December), a total of 4 pieces bed nets was sold amounting to PhP 860.00. The amount generated is plowed back to the bed net revolving fund, established by ENF from initial funds set up under an Embassy of Japan grant, to ensure continuous bednet supply in the municipality. As of end of December 2019 the revolving fund stood at PhP 200,645.23

□ Latest data on actual malaria cases in the Municipality of El Nido shows recurrence from zero (0) in 2014 (third consecutive year of El Nido as zero malaria case) to three (3) reported cases in 2019.

B. Holding of the 21st Annual Celebration of *Pista ng Kulambao* on December 6, 2019. The fiesta is a culminating event held every first Friday of December as an awareness campaign against Malaria, with the integration of environmental conservation and protection and sustainable livelihood promotion in the municipality. Mr. Dennis Abacial, RN, gave a message on behalf of Dr. Mary Ann H. Navarro, Provincial Health Officer¹ from Provincial Health Office. The year's celebration's theme was "*Non Reusable Plastic Sugpuin, Kapaligiran at Kalusugan ay Pagyamanin*" with public and private sector supporting the costs of the celebration through cash and in-kind contributions. Highlights of the event were:

□ Active participation of 18 barangays in various activities conducted such as: *Most Creative Group, Lantern Contest, Jingle contest, Search for Mrs & Mr. Kulambo,*

VI. Institutional Highlights

- Participated in the joint Asian Development Bank (ADB)-DOT organized stakeholder meeting/workshops
- Together with LGU representatives, ENF participated in the Palawan Provincial Marine Protected Area (MPA) Summit organized by the Palawan Office of Provincial Agriculture, held in Puerto Princesa on August 19-20, 2019.
- Participated in the finalization of the management focuses, management zones and prescriptions and the preparations of the 10-year Work & Financial Plan as part of the updating of the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) of ENTMRPA, held on December 4-6, 2019.
- Continued participation in El Nido Municipal Tourism Council in meetings to discuss ENMTC Manual of Operations.
- Participated in the planning workshop for the drafting of Executive and Legislative Agenda facilitated by the Technical Persons from the Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG), held on October 28-30, 2019.
- ENF renewed its accreditation with the Local Government of El Nido in August 2019, thereby keeping the Foundation as an active member in LGU's Municipal Development Council and other special bodies to continue its advocacy in promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability. Special bodies where ENF is a member:
 - Municipal Zoning Board Review Committee (MZBRC)
 - Municipal Agriculture & Fisheries Council (MAFC)
 - Municipal Fisheries Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMC)
 - Eco-tourism Development Fee Management Board
 - Municipal Quasi-Judicial Body
 - Municipal Ecological Solid Waste Management Board
 - Municipal Risk Reduction Management Council
 - Bids & Awards Committee
 - Municipal Council for the Protection of Children
 - Municipal Local Health Board
 - Municipal Peace and Order Council
 - Municipal ECAN Board
 - Municipal Local Investment Plan for Health Planning Management Structure
 - Municipal Sewerage Treatment Technical Working Group
 - Municipal Nutrition Council
 - Municipal Anti-Drug Abuse Council
 - Market Committee
 - Technical Working Group of the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan
 - Municipal Development Council

- Technical Working Group of the PAMB Manual of Operation
- Municipal Law Enforcement Committee
- Municipal Project Monitoring Committee

This certification is being issued upon the request of El Nido Foundation, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of Memorandum Circular No. 8, Series of 2006, of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Issued this 5th day of June 2020 in El Nido, Palawan.



Hon. Edna Gacot-Lim
Municipal Mayor