

# NARRATIVE REPORT ON 2004 WORLD WETLANDS CELEBRATION

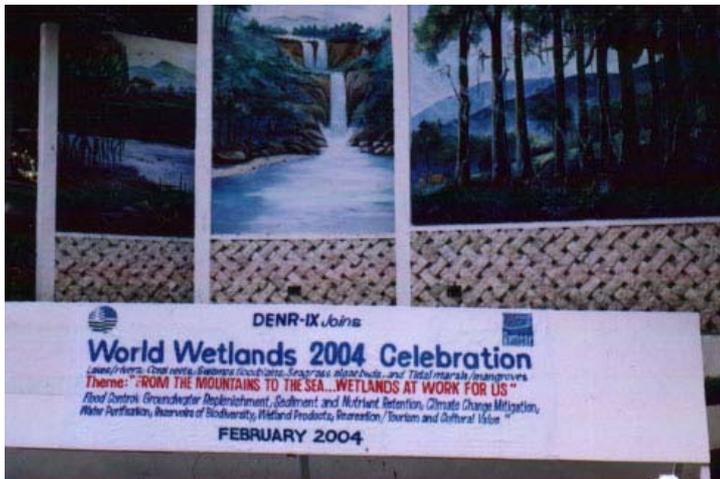
## **THEME:**

***"From the mountains to the sea – Wetlands at work for us"***

## **INTRODUCTION**

February 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year is World Wetlands Day (WWD). This also coincides with the celebration of National Wetlands Day as provided for under Proclamation No. 74.

In Region IX, the said occasion is usually celebrated the whole of February in order to raise public awareness so that students and local residents will learn to appreciate the values and benefits that they can derive from wetland areas in their own locality.



The month long activities were coordinated and facilitated by the Protected Areas, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Service (PAWCZMS) in coordination with the different field offices, other

sectoral services and attached bureaus of DENR-IX.

This year's theme "From the mountains to the sea - wetlands at work for us" connects all types of wetlands to mountain wetlands. Many of the world's major rivers have their origin in mountain wetlands and more than half of the freshwater used by human population depend upon mountain sources. Secretary Elisea G. Gozun

mentioned in one of her press statement that our water source traces its origin from the mountains to the rivers and ends up to the sea. Whatever people do up there will certainly affect those residing below, thus we have to protect this water source.

Through this occasion we hope to change the negative perception of people that wetlands are wastelands.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

### Zamboanga City

#### *Asian Waterfowl Census*

The conduct of Annual Waterfowl Census (AWC) in different



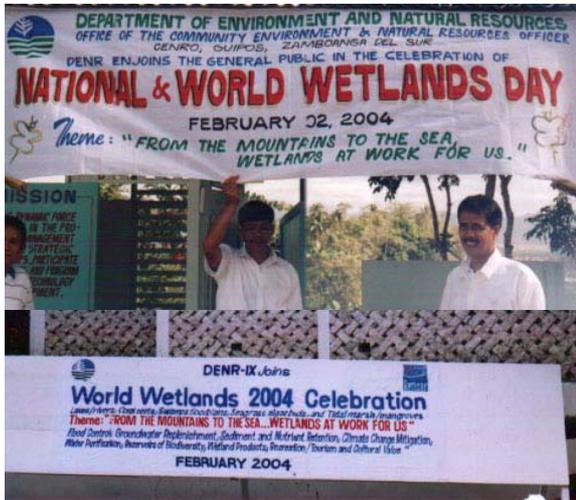
identified wetland areas in the region forms part of the celebration of WWD. This is done simultaneously with other Asian Countries and this year it was scheduled from January 10-25. Five (5) wetland areas were monitored in

Region IX namely:  
Mampang-Tugbungan  
Wetland Area, Sa-az River  
Mouth & San Ramon  
Shoreline Wetland Area,  
Talon-Talon Wetland Area,  
Vitali Wetland Area - all in  
Zamboanga City and  
Murcielagos Island  
Wetland Area in Labason,  
Zamboanga del Norte.



## *Hanging of Streamers*

Streamers were hanged in office premises and other public places to promote public awareness in the region.



## *Radio Plugging & Press Releases*



Radio interviews were done at Radyo ng Bayan and Radyo Agong from January 31 to February 2, 2004. Among the topics discussed were :

Wetland values and functions; activities for CY 2004 WWD Celebration; Asian Waterfowl Census & Migratory Birds; Protected Area Management; Biodiversity and Wildlife Management; and ENR Laws and Policies.

Phone in questions were entertained during the radio interviews. Among the questions raised were :

- Importance of wetlands and the effects of continuous destruction of wetland ecosystems
- Health and status of wetlands
- Ill effects of land conversion
- DENR initiatives in support to wetland and wildlife management
- Bird Flu or avian influenza

All queries were properly addressed and answered by the following DENR personnel : OIC, Chief PAWD Evangeline D. Estoconing, Ecosystems Management Specialists Michael F. dela Cruz, Georgina L. Fernandez and Cidur Julsadjiri.

Press releases were done through the Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) of DENR IX and through invited media personalities. Peace Works, Zamboanga Today, Daily Zamboanga Times and Sunstar were among the leading newspapers where these articles were published. Please see attachments.

### *Special Convocation last February 02, 2004*



A special convocation was held at the DENR-IX Kalikasan Open Stage last February 2<sup>nd</sup> on WWD itself at 8:00 AM.



Doxology and singing of the National Anthem was rendered by DENR-IX Choral Group. Ms. Ma. Theresa P. dela Paz lead the Panunumpa sa Kalikasan. RTD Eduardo M. Bisquera, Jr of PAWCZMS gave the Opening remarks while calendar of activities for 2004 Wetland Celebration was given by

Ms. Georgina L. Fernandez. OIC PAWD Chief Evangeline D. Estoconing and CMMD



Interim Chief Neneth T. Ordoño gave a short talk on Inland Waters Ecosystems and Mangrove Ecosystems respectively. Sectoral updates were done by the different RTDs and RDs present during the said convocation while RED Samuel R. Peñafiel delivered his inspirational



message and closing remarks. Interpretative dance numbers were provided by high school students of Ateneo de Zamboanga University (ADZU) and Regional Science High School.

Other intermission numbers were given by PAWCZMS, LMS, Ms. Marilyn Francisco and Ms. Emma del Rosario. Mr. Benjamin A. Rubia of RPAO was the master of ceremony.



### ***Meeting with Bantay Dagat Group***

In the afternoon of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a meeting with the Bantay Dagat Group and Barangay Officials of Upper Calarian was held at the Headquarters of Bantay Dagat at Arcillas Beach, Zamboanga City. Issues and problems on ecological preservation were among the topics discussed during the said meeting.

### ***Adopt-a-Wetland Program***



The High School Science Club of Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Regional Science High School and Mampang Elementary School had a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DENR through PAWCZMS and CENRO Zamboanga City-West last year. Part of the MOA requires these institutions to come up with Development/Management

Plan for their area. Said Plans will be implemented in the next school year. Installation of billboards, orientation on site preparation, propagule collection, planting techniques and initial planting were done at Mampang Coastal Resource Management Project Area last February 21, 2004.

### ***Awarding of Dugong Badges***

Fifty (50) Gawad Luntian Dugong Badges were awarded to Boy Scouts of the Southern Support Command Elementary School in Upper Calarian, this City. Barangay Chairman Rolando Gregorio awarded the

said badges and assisting him were RTD for PAWCZMS Eduardo M. Bisquera, Jr., Evangeline D. Estoconing and the school Principal. Also present during the occasion were parents of the awardees.

### ***Orientation on Spelunking***

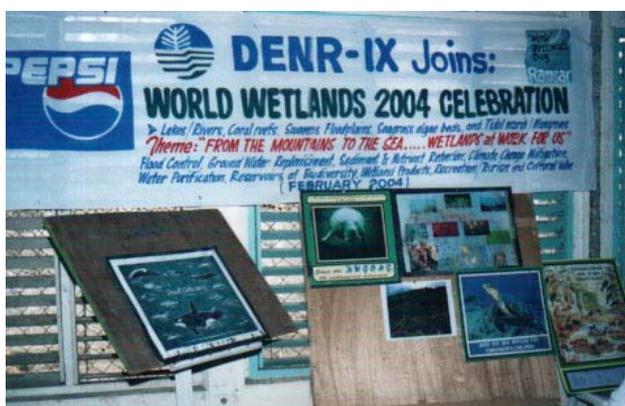
In their effort to help in the protection and conservation of our environment, ADZU through their Social Awareness and Community Service Involvement Office (SACSI) requested DENR to conduct an Orientation on Basic Caving/Spelunking last February 5, 2004 at the High School Audio Visual Room from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

A total of thirty-three (33) college students, mostly taking up B S Biology attended the said orientation. Sr. Geologist Mustansir V. Manjoorsa of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB) lectured on the Mineral Resources in Zamboanga Peninsula and Formation of Caves while PAWCZMS personnel talked on Basic Caving , Cave Ethics, RA 9072, State of Cave Management in the Philippines, Cave Classification, Cave Fauna, and Cave Survey and Mapping. PAWCZMS was represented by Sr EMS Mussaenda G. Tee, EMS II Georgina L. Fernandez and Michael F. dela Cruz.

Actual field exposure was held last February 29, 2004 at Salaan Cave, Zamboanga City.

### ***Conduct of IEC/Dalaw-Turo in Selected Schools***

A total of sixteen (16) Schools from the East and West Coast of the city were visited by the Dalaw-Turo Team from February 9-20,



2004 namely: Arena Blanco Elementary School - West; Mampang Elementary School; Talon-Talon Elementary School; San Ramon Elementary School; Ayala Central School; John Spirig Sr. Memorial Elementary School; Canelar Elementary School;

Zamboanga East Central School; Zamboanga West Central School;

Sangali Elementary School; Manicahan Central School; Don Magsaysay Elementary School; Cabaluyay Elementary School; Culianan Learning Center; Zambowood Elementary School; and Boalan Elementary School. About 1,318 students participated in this information campaign. Topics discussed were: Vision/Mission of DENR; Wetland Types, Values & Benefits and WWD Celebration; and Solid Waste Management. Environmental Clap and Chanting were taught to the students. Environmental games such as Find your Mate and Web of Life were also introduced. The



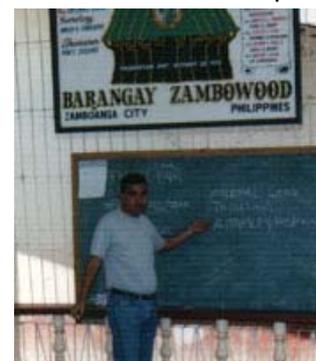
Environmental Skit "El Mensaje" (The Message) served as the finale of



the IEC wherein the help and commitment of the students were solicited in order to protect and care for mother nature.

Community information drive were also done in the following Barangays : Mampang, Zambowood and Boalan. Among the topics discussed were RA 7586 & RA 9147, Gender & Development and Wetlands: Values & Benefits.

The Open Forum yielded a fruitful interaction between local residents and DENR representatives.





Community IEC was also done during the People's Day at Barangays Talosan and Buenavista last February 17-18, 2004 with CENRO-East personnel . "Happy Nature - Happy People; living with dignity and at peace with each other was the Theme for said activity.

Incidentally, DENR was invited to lecture on "The State of Philippine Environment" last February 29 2004 during the Inter-School Science and Math Camp dubbed as "ODESSY 2004." This was held at the Auditorium of the Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School in Pitogo, Zamboanga City. About sixty (60) students and thirteen (13) teachers coming from different public schools in the City attended the forum.

### ***Nature Walk and Bird Watching***



Barangay Officials of Zambowood joint DENR IX personnel for a visit to the wetland areas in their community and had the chance

to see several shorebirds present in these areas . Among the species observed were Stilts, Egrets, Herons, Plovers, Shanks and Sandpipers. It was noted during the field visit that portions of the wetland areas in Barangay Zamwowood are connected to the identified Mampang-Tugbungan wetland area hence , it will be included in the quarterly monitoring of DENR.

### *Community Clean-up*

The Boy Scouts of Tictapul Elementary School together with CENRO East personnel initiated a community and river clean-up last February 19, 2004. Prior to the clean-up, Forester Lorina Callorina lectured on the importance of wetlands. This was participated by fifty-five (55) Grades IV - VI students.



### *Seminar-Workshop for Science Teachers*

The highlight the month long celebration on Wetlands is the two (2) day Seminar-Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation and Wetland Values for Elementary Science Teachers. It was held at the HRD Conference Room, DENR-IX Office at Pasonanca Park last February 24-25, 2004.



Twenty-three (23) public school teachers coming from the East and West Coast of the City attended the said workshop. Field trips to Pasonanca Natural Park and Mampang Wetland Area were also organized during the seminar which the participants very much appreciated.



The main objective of the seminar-workshop was for the inclusion of biodiversity and wetland conservation in their science curriculum. This was manifested by the commitments the teachers submitted at the end of the training.

Topics discussed during the workshop were as follows:

- National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Program
- Wetland Values & Functions

- Mangrove & Marine Resources of Talon-Talon & Mampang
- Establishment & Management of Protected Areas under NIPAS (RA 7586)
- Wildlife resource Conservation & Protection Policy
- Status of Philippine Flora & Fauna
- Biodiversity of Pasonanca Natural Park & its Eco-tourism Potential
- Cave Resources/Assessment and RA 9072
- Mainstreaming gender concern in biodiversity conservation

Certificates were distributed to the participants during the closing ceremony in the afternoon of February 25, 2004 with RTD Agustin Piñol (In-charge Office of the RED) and RTD for PAWCZMS Eduardo M. Bisquera, Jr.

Summary and updates on the accomplishments for 2004 World Wetlands Celebration was given last March 1<sup>st</sup> during the Opening program for Women's Month.

### Zamboanga del Sur

#### ❖ *Office of PENRO Pagadian City*

- ➔ *Provided streamers to CENROs Pagadian & Guipos.*
- ➔ *Conducted IEC on the importance of conserving Lake Maragang at the following areas:*
  - *Barangay Datagan, Guipos (January 26, 2004)*
  - *Barangay Limas, Tigbao (January 28, 2004)*
  - *Barangay Guinlin, Tigbao (February 7, 2004)*
- ➔ *Broadcasted basic information on Wetlands on the following local Radio Stations:*
  - *DXPR*
  - *DXCA*
  - *DXKP*
  - *DXKV*
  - *DXWB*
  - *DXWD*
  - *DXLN*
  - *Radio Natin*
- ➔ *Emphasized the importance of Wetland Conservation during the Monday Convocation.*

→ *Spearheaded Mangrove planting with Miss*



*Philippines-Pagadian 2004 Candidates at Barangay Kawit last February 24, 2004. A total of 85 mangrove propagules were planted.*

❖ *CENRO Guippos*

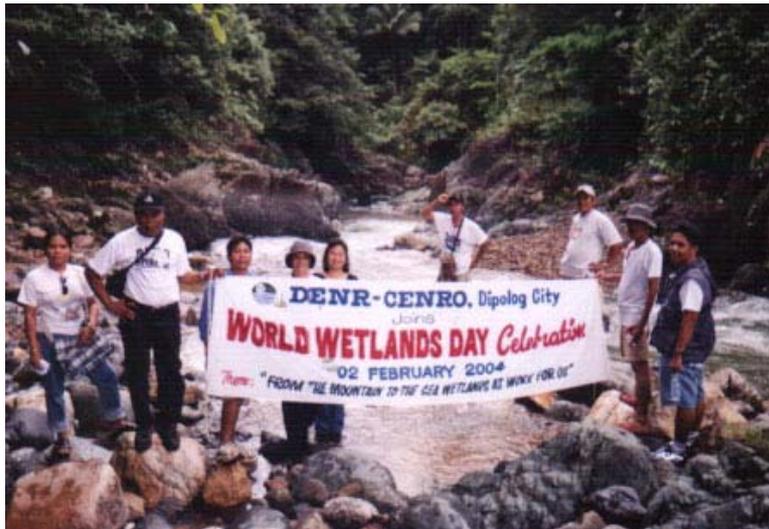


- *Conducted a special convocation for the opening of National & World Wetlands Day Celebration last February 2, 2004.*
- *Hanged streamer at office entrance to inform the public of the celebration.*
- *Offering of Holy Mass at CENRO Office and Conducted lecture with CENRO Guippos personnel and Staff on the Importance of Wetlands.*

## Zamboanga del Norte

### ❖ *Office of PENRO & CENRO Dipolog City*

- *Hanged Streamer from January 19 - February 2, 2004 to promote public awareness.*
- *Wetland visitation and nature walk at :*
  - *Sungkilaw Falls*
  - *Cogon Eco-Park*



- *Conducted Mountaineering course with Dipolog Outdoors Society at Pamansalan, Diwan, Dipolog City last February 7-8, 2004.*
- *Lecture with 1<sup>st</sup> District Ready Reserve Battalion of the Philippine Army on the Values of Wetlands & Wetland Resources last February 7, 2004 at Jose Rizal Memorial State College, Dapitan City.*

### ❖ *CENRO Dapitan*



- ➔ *Conducted a special convocation last February 2, 2004*
- ➔ *Conducted Mangrove Planting with LGU of Barangay Talisay*
- ➔ *Held an On-the-Spot Drawing contest at Talisay Elementary School*

❖ *CENRO Liloy*



- ➔ *Hanged Streamer to promote awareness*



- ➔ *Conducted Coastal Clean-Up together with CEP members and residents along the coastal Barangay of Gil-Sanchez, Labason.*
- ➔ *Awarded Dugong Badges to deserving Boy Scouts of Labason Central School and Sr. Scouts of Kipit-Agro Fisheries High School. Certificate of recognition were also given to the school Principal and Scout Masters of the said schools.*
- ➔ *Conducted an Environmental Symposium at Kipi-Agro Fisheries High School last February 17, 2004.*

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