



Wetlands Caravan in Laguna in celebration of



World Wetlands Day

Wetland Tourism:
A great experience

Responsible Tourism Supports Wetlands and People

ACTIVITY REPORT

Date: 02 February to 14 March 2012

Organizers: Department of Social Development and Services, College of Human Ecology,
University of the Philippines - Los Baños
Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc. (SCPW)
Human Ecology Institute of the Philippines, Inc.
Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources (CLEAR)



Department of Social Development and Services
College of Human Ecology
University of the Philippines Los Baños



Partners: Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
CLEAR Youth Network San Pablo City, Lumban and Pangil
Unilever Philippines
Local Government of Lumban and Pangil
Friends of Seven Lakes Foundation, Inc.
Gardenia
Skyquest Travel and Tours

The celebration of **World Wetlands Day** is an ideal venue for communicating this year's theme **Wetland Tourism: A Great Experience**. The *Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc.*, *College of Human Ecology in University of the Philippines Los Baños*, *CLEAR*, and *Human Ecology Institute of the Philippines, Inc.* celebrated the **World Wetlands Day** around the concept of **Wetlands Caravan**, the CEPA Programme of SCPW for wetland conservation. The **Wetlands Caravan in Laguna** aimed to promote wetlands conservation and protection, highlight sustainable wetlands tourism, and feature best management practices in eco-tourism programs in the province and other areas of the country.

There were three parts to the Wetlands Caravan: 1) **Wetlands Forum** held on 02 February 2012; 2) **Viaje Kalikasan** held on all Saturdays between 02 February to 14 March 2012; and c) a **Community Leaders Forum** held last 14 March 2012.

Wetlands Forum

To launch the Wetlands Caravan in Laguna, a **Wetlands Forum** was held on 02 February 2012 at the CHE Research and Extension Center of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna. The event was attended by college students of the University of the Philippines.

Taking turns in sharing knowledge about wetlands and tourism were Dr. Filiberto A. Pollisco, Jr. of the *ASEAN Center for Biodiversity*; Ms. Amy M. Lecciones of the *Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands*; and Director Juliet Villegas of the *National Parks Development Committee of the Department of Tourism*.



Viaje Kalikasan

Every Saturday between the period 02 February to 14 March 2012, the *Civic Welfare Training Service* students of the *University of the Philippines - Los Baños* and the members of the *CLEAR Youth Network (CYN)* in Lumban, Pangil and San Pablo City had an educational tour exchange which was dubbed as **Viaje Kalikasan: Kabataan, Kalikasan, Kalinangan sa Turismo**. It aimed to increase the awareness of the youth on the importance of wetlands and promote appreciation of its functions. It was also a good opportunity for the youth to exchange ideas, practices and activities on lake conservation by actually visiting and observing tourism sites.



Community Leaders Forum

As a culminating activity of Wetlands Caravan in Laguna, a **Community Leaders Forum on Sustainable Wetland Tourism in Laguna** was held on 14 March 2012 at the ERDB Auditorium in Los Baños, Laguna. The forum was attended by local government officials, tourism and development planning officers, representatives from the business sector, academe and civil society. It aimed to, among others, create awareness among the local government units and all sectors of society on how they can incorporate the concept of sustainability within the context of eco-tourism.

Presented during the forum were the following:

- a) *"Wetlands Tourism"* by Dr. Donna Reyes of *Environmental Studies Institute*
- b) A Study on *"Tourism and Carrying Capacity of Mt. Banahaw- San Cristobal Protected Landscape"* by Dr. Lope Calanog of *Ecosystems Research Development Bureau*
- c) *"The Role of Academe in Wetlands Eco-tourism"* by Dr. Joselito Baril of the *University of the Philippines - Los Baños*
- d) *"Developing a Sustainable Wetlands Eco-tourism Vision and Concept: Synthesis"* by Mr. Ricardo Sandalo of the *Human Ecology Institute of the Philippines*
- e) *"Sustainable Wetlands Tourism – Gains and Challenges: The Laguna Lake Experience"* by Assistant General Manager Dolora Nepomuceno of *Laguna Lake Development Authority*





Wetlands Forum, 02 February 2012



Viaje Kalikasan at Pandin Lake, 10 Mar 2012



Community Leaders Forum, 14 March 2012