



**Mangrove
Matters PH**
To restoring mangrove forests with you.

Donation Primer

Prepared by: Leo Anthony C. Castro





Mangrove Matters Philippines

Mangrove Matters Philippines (MMPH) is a youth-led environmental organization that mainstreams marine conservation, with a primary focus on mangrove forests and their inhabitants, and coastal communities who are among the most vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis. Through advocacy, science communication, policy lobbying, and nature-based solutions, we work to raise awareness and take concrete steps to promote the sustainable management of these invaluable natural resources.

Mission

To mainstream mangrove conservation in the Philippines; engage the youth in global and local environmental awareness; and provide nature-based solutions such as mangrove planting initiatives and mangrove nursery managements to restore mangrove forests, and combat the climate crisis.

Vision

To become the Philippines' foremost youth-led organization dedicated to mangrove conservation through science communication, research, advocacy, and community engagement, striving for a sustainable and resilient future.



Click to visit Mangrove Matters Philippines' website to learn more about us.



Mangrove Matters Philippines



MMPH is a proud member of the Global Mangrove Alliance (Philippines Chapter), a group of 9 organizations that aims to halt loss, double protection, and restore half of the

Philippines' mangroves. Members of the alliance are: Zoological Society of London, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation international, Wetlands International, Rare, Oceana, Oceanus Conservation, Forest Foundation Philippines, and MMPH.



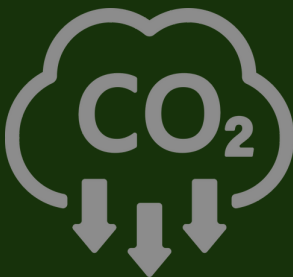
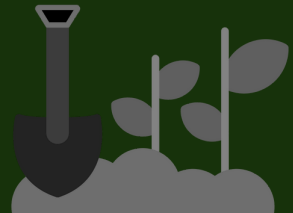


Why do mangroves matter?



Mangrove forests act as natural barriers against tidal surges induced by storms and typhoons. Their extensive root systems absorb wave energy and reduce the impact of extreme weather events on inland communities.

Mangroves provide direct economic benefits through fisheries, eco-tourism, and mangrove restoration projects. They support the livelihoods of millions of Filipinos living in coastal communities.




Mangroves can store up to four times more carbon per hectare than tropical or terrestrial rainforests. They are among the most effective natural carbon sinks for mitigating global warming.

The complex root systems provide critical breeding and nursery grounds for fish, crabs, shrimp, and other marine species. Many commercially important fishes depend on mangroves during their juvenile stages.



Mangrove forests reduce wind speeds and provide shelter for coastal communities, protecting buildings and infrastructure from salt spray and strong coastal winds.



 Photo by LAC Castro
Tambobo Bay, Siit, Siaton





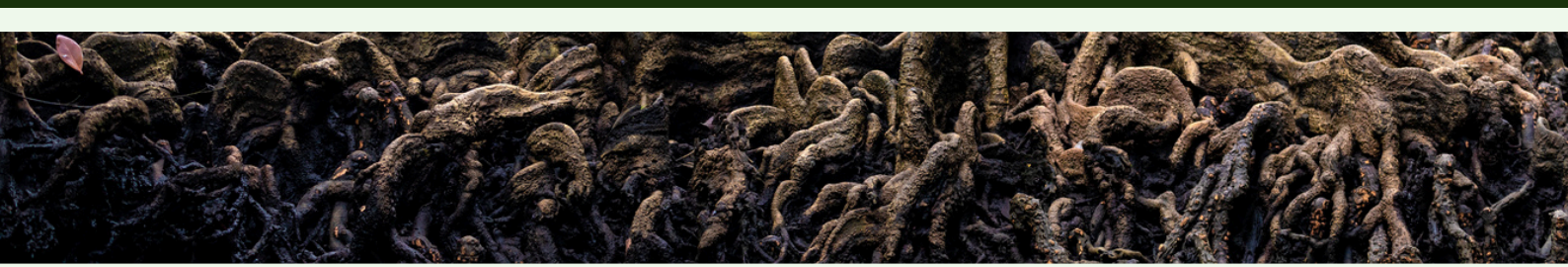
History of Tambobo Bay

MMPH Reforestation Partner

What began as an environmental crisis in Barangay Siit became a remarkable story of community-led restoration spanning over two decades. In the early 1990s, the once-thriving mangrove forests of Tambobo Bay had been nearly decimated by widespread illegal cutting, as desperate villagers harvested the trees for firewood to sustain their livelihoods. The environmental destruction reached a tipping point when an oil spill accident struck Tambobo Bay, compounding the ecological damage and virtually eliminating the fish, prawns, and crabs that local fishers depended upon for survival.

It was in the aftermath of this ecological disaster that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched a community-based reforestation project, partnering with local fisherfolk groups including the newly-formed Palinpinon-Palayuhan-Siit Multipurpose Cooperative (presently Siit-Palinpion Mangrove Conservation Walk Association (SIPAMACOWA)) in 1994. Through their unwavering dedication and the strong partnership with government agencies, what was once a denuded coastline has been transformed into the flourishing mangrove sanctuary that visitors see today—a testament to the power of community resilience and environmental restoration.

Since MMPH's establishment in 2020, SIPAMACOWA has served as our primary partner in mangrove restoration efforts. Through our collaborative relationship, we raise funds and work with various organizations to support their existing mangrove nursery operations and help establish new ones. We purchase seedlings from SIPAMACOWA and organize planting activities for different causes across various MMPH events. This partnership creates a meaningful cycle of environmental and economic impact—by providing materials, purchasing seedlings, and supporting their nursery operations, we're able to offer sustainable "green jobs" and reliable livelihood opportunities to the SIPAMACOWA community. When you donate to MMPH, you're directly contributing not only to mangrove restoration but also to the economic wellbeing of our local partners, creating a lasting positive impact on both the environment and the community.





EVELYN R. BUCAD
President of SIPAMACOWA

A resilient leader and environmental defender, Evelyn Bucad has been the heart and soul of the women-led Siit Palinpinon Mangrove Conservation Walk Association (SIPAMACOWA) for four transformative years. Raised in the embrace of Tambobo Bay's mangrove forests, she has dedicated her life to protecting these critical ecosystems.

Entrusted by their Mayor to manage the Siit Mangrove Eco-Park, Evelyn has fearlessly defended these precious habitats. She has confronted those with harmful intentions, rehabilitated degraded areas, and consistently worked to restore mangrove forests through partnerships with local, national, and international environmental organizations.

About Siit Mangrove Eco-Park



Nestled within the pristine Tambobo Bay of Negros Island, the Siit Mangrove Eco-Park stands as a remarkable testament to biodiversity and environmental conservation. This extraordinary site boasts an unprecedented collection of 28 out of 32 mangrove species found in the Philippines, making it a critical sanctuary for marine ecosystems and a living laboratory of botanical diversity. The park also features a dedicated mangrove nursery, which plays a crucial role in preserving and propagating these essential coastal species.

The park's 500-meter bamboo boardwalk, constructed with support from Marine Conservation Philippines, offers visitors an immersive journey through an intricate landscape of genera like *Sonneratia*, *Avicennia*, *Aegiceras*, *Rhizophora*, and the exceptionally rare *Camptostemon*. Beyond its tourist appeal, the Siit Mangrove Eco-Park represents a vital educational platform for understanding mangrove ecosystems' crucial role in climate change mitigation, coastal protection, and marine biodiversity preservation.





Donation



As a purely voluntary organization, MMPH depends entirely on grants, partnerships, donations, and even fundraising to sustain our environmental mission. We've developed a transparent funding model in partnership with SIPAMACOWA: for every PHP50 mangrove seedling sponsorship, PHP20 goes directly to SIPAMACOWA for seedling production and transplanting, while the remaining PHP30 supports MMPH's operational needs, including but not limited to travel expenses for various events, website monthly subscription and annual domain fee.

Your donation, regardless of amount, will be converted into mangrove seedlings at PHP50 each—meaning every contribution directly translates into trees planted in your honor or your organization's name. In recognition of your support, we provide a personalized 'Certificate of Planting' and feature your contribution across our social media platforms, ensuring your environmental impact is celebrated and documented. This model ensures that 100% of your donation creates tangible environmental and community benefits while maintaining full transparency in how your contribution makes a difference.





'Certificate of Planting' Sample



**Mangrove
Matters PH**
To restoring mangrove forests with you.

Certificate of Planting

This certifies that

Organization Name

has planted

100 mangrove (*Avicennia* sp. & *Sonneratia* sp.) seedlings

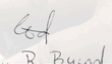
Mangroves protect coasts, nurture marine life, support sustainable fisheries, and store up to five times more carbon than other tropical forests for climate change mitigation. Their mangrove seedlings will be planted in Siaton, Negros Oriental, Central Visayas, Philippines, where they will grow to become part of a thriving forest that supports rich biodiversity, from small crustaceans to endangered bird species, creating a complete and interconnected ecosystem that benefits both nature and people.

This initiative is made possible through the dedicated efforts of Mangrove Matters PH in partnership with the Siit Palinpinon Mangrove Conservation Walk Association, a women-led community organization committed to protecting and restoring these crucial coastal forests for all living things.

MARCH 2025


Matthew Vincent Tabilog
FOUNDER & ADVISER
Mangrove Matters PH


Leo Anthony Castro
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mangrove Matters PH


Evelyn Bucad
PRESIDENT
Siit-Palipinon Mangrove Conservation Walk Assn.



'Recognition Post' Sample

Thank you



**for your
generous donation!**

Together, let's protect and restore Philippine mangroves!





Donation Contact



LEO ANTHONY C. CASTRO
Project Lead Coordinator



+639988587570 | +639771367570



[instagram.com/leoxolotl](https://www.instagram.com/leoxolotl)



[facebook.com/anthony.caro1107](https://www.facebook.com/anthony.caro1107)



leoanthony.caro.castro@gmail.com

A passionate advocate for nature, Leo earned his B.S. in Marine Biology from Silliman University's Institute of Environment and Marine Sciences, where he completed an individual thesis on ichthyoplankton and marine protected areas. A licensed SDI scuba diver and freediver, his passion for the environment translates into action through active efforts to remove trash from the sea. In 2023, he served as a delegate at the Local Conference of Youth (COY) PH (the national counterpart of the global COY by UNFCCC through YOUNGO), representing coastal communities. In 2024, he led a successful social media campaign that helped secure the passage of 11 new protected areas in the Philippine Senate. Leo also serves as Communications Lead for the Global Mangrove Alliance (Philippines Chapter) and leads the youth sector in advancing the National Coastal Greenbelt Bill through his initiative "Youth for Mangroves," which networks young mangrove advocates from across the country. As Executive Director of Mangrove Matters PH, he applies his expertise in mangrove conservation through strategic leadership, implementing various programs, events, and campaigns for the protection and restoration of the Philippines' mangroves. He is also an advocate for animal welfare and sustainable living.

