

# Banyuhay

Para sa malusog, ligtas at maunlad na pamayanang kostal

Issue No. 1, April 2020



Siete Pecados Marine Park rangers repair damaged garbage fence net, following the recommended social distancing measures.

## Coron fisherfolks continue protecting marine resources despite COVID threat

By Jomel Baobao, PFPI

Coastal and fishing communities are considered to be among the most vulnerable in the midst of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But in the small village of Maquinit, Barangay Tagumpay, Coron, fisherfolks were able to adapt to this challenging situation and ensure that marine resources are conserved to sustain local fisheries and protect theirs and other people's source of food.

"Even in these hard times, we cannot just turn our backs and forget our commitment. We need to continue our work to safeguard our MPA (Marine Protected Area), for our own good and the welfare of others," says Jojo Mazo, manager of the Siete Pecados Marine Park located in Maquinit.

Mazo says the MPA, a favorite tourist destination in Coron, is not generating income right now due to the absence of tourists. "But that is not reason enough for us to stop protecting and maintaining the MPA," he adds. "We have to do our job, COVID or no COVID, because the ultimate beneficiaries of this MPA are our people, not the tourists."

Fish is a main source of protein of Filipinos, and Mazo and his peers understand this very well. While the seafood supply chain has been

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### From the Editor's Desk

*Banyuhay* is a word derived from the Tagalog phrase *bagong anyo ng buhay*. Roughly translated into English, it means "metamorphosis", "transfiguration" or "transformation." It could also mean "adapting" into a new way of life to meet the challenges of the times.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen people – men, women and youth – as well as organizations, both public and private, metamorphose into something else, something that is noble, something that is heroic.

We have read and heard about health workers, the so-called front liners, who unselfishly perform their sworn duty – not minding their own welfare – to protect the health and lives of people despite the grave threats from the virus.

National and local government officials and personnel are also at hand, providing as much help as they can.

Private organizations and NGOs also band together to alleviate people's sufferings, especially the underprivileged.

Indeed, a huge segment of our society has been transformed into heroes, heroes that we have to pay tribute to.

It is with this in mind, that the PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI) thought of coming up with an e-newsletter, the *Banyuhay*, so that the

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disrupted, making fishing unprofitable nowadays, fishers in Barangay Tagumpay continue fishing to meet not only their family's but other's needs as well. And they even find time to intensify MPA enforcement against those who may violate MPA regulations. They are also taking advantage of the lockdown by doing some maintenance works, like repair of garbage fence and guardhouse and monitoring and documenting notable changes in the MPA.

Mazo is thankful that the MPA has generated enough income to sustain its management. From the proceeds of MPA users' fees, at least 10 regular employees of the park, including park rangers, are continuously receiving their salaries, which is a big help for their families in these trying times.

According to Mazo, the municipality and barangay leaderships, and USAID projects, such as the Fish Right Program, have assisted them in their journey towards a self-sustaining, resilient and well-managed marine park. Such assistance, he adds, has also helped improve their capacity to tackle any challenges, may they be climate induced or man-made risks, including the unanticipated COVID-19 pandemic.

# CIG Peer Educators, Eco-Warriors help share information to combat pandemic

By Joan Castro, MD, PFPI

For the past weeks, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) instilled fear and uncertainties, eliciting more questions and ambivalent emotions in everyone. We all watched the number of positive cases and deaths that continue to rise. We thank the health workers for every patient that has recovered. Receiving good news continues to give us hope and faith that everything will be alright. COVID-19 is the equalizer of all times that does not give preference to gender, race, age, even social class. Since it is a novel or "new" disease, knowledge about COVID-19 and how to protect ourselves and our families are precious information.

PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI), a consortium member of the USAID Fish Right Program, recognizes that communities, specially fishers in remote areas, need constant information, and may have questions they would like to raise but unable to do so because of the quarantine. Our trained Peer Educators and our Eco-Warriors in the Calamianes Island Group (CIG) – men, women and youth -- took the challenge to bridge the gap.

With their help as well as that of our partners -- the Culion Foundation and the Community-Centred Conservation Philippines -- information on COVID-19 is now being shared with their peers and fishers through texts and chat groups messages. This info-service provides relevant information and responds to fisheries and medical related concerns of the fishers.

**Para sa malusog, ligtas at maunlad na pamayanang kostal.**

**Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas ayon sa DOH**

**803** Bilang ng nag positibo

**54** Bilang ng namatay

**31** Bilang ng gumaling

**MPA laban sa COVID-19**

Magpakip ng bibig at ilong kapag umuubo at bumabahiran

M/ S/ I

Paratitlin ang isang metrong distansya

Ayusin ang paghugas ng kamay gamit ang tubig at sabon

Ibahagi ang iyong nalalaman, ipasa ang mensahe na ito sa kapwa. Kung may katanungan o gustong makipag usap, magtext sa: 0908-893-3105 (SMART) at 0927-4291967 (GLOBE)  
#OurFish #OurHealth #OurLife  
Source: Department of Health as of March 27, 2020 4:00 PM

**Magtanong kay Dok**

May mga tanong ba kayo tungkol sa COVID-19 na hindi pa nasasagot? Magtanong kay Dok.

I-text ang inyong tanong sa 0927-4291967 (GLOBE) o sa 0908-893-3105 (SMART). Sasagutin po ni Dok ang inyong katanungan sa talong madaling panahon. I-text lamang ang inyong pangalan, edad, sex, barangay/munisipyo at ang inyong tanong.

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#OurFish #OurHealth #OurLife

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**From the Editor's Desk**  
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good deeds of individuals and organizations in Calamianes will not go unnoticed.

Starting with this issue, *Banyuhay* will publish stories, news and updates about COVID-19 and fisheries, about people and organizations in Calamianes, whose dedication to be of service to others, has never wavered despite the odds.

*Mabuhay kayong lahat!*