

Project Update: January 2018

From December 17th-20th 2017 we conducted a joint field expedition with the local communities of Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary. During the fieldwork, we taught the locals (majority forest guards "Bantay Gubat" and DENR personnel) basic biodiversity sampling protocols. After the fieldwork, we brought all the specimens to our research and education centre for segregation and processing. During this time, the locals have had the opportunity to experience studying their own specimens. During an interview with Bantay Gubat he said:

Bisaya: "Ka nindot ba diay sa mga nawong sa mga insekto nga ato nakuha sir. Sa una mag sige lang man gud mi ug guide2x ug porter sa mga researcher pero karun naa najud mi experience maka kita jud sa actual nga mga nawong sa atong nakolekta. Nindot kaayo ni nga experience e share sa akong mga bata ug sa uban"

English: How beautiful the faces of the insects we gathered sir. Before we are just used to guide and act as porters to researchers visiting MHRWS, but now we have actual experience studying our specimens. This is a very nice experience I could share to my kids and others.

We are hopeful that through this activity we can capacitate local communities surrounding MHRWS to organise themselves and act towards conservation of their natural resources particularly the biodiversity. In the near future, we are aiming to form a 'Peoples Organization' in the community to strengthen our conservation efforts. This is a work in progress.

The last piece of materials needed in the research centre are the boxes for specimens which are now being prepared. We are targeting to complete all the materials in the centre by February 2018.

Fieldwork





Working in the laboratory

