

Project Update: January 2019

A 2-day learning workshop for conservation planning was conducted in July 2018 in the municipality of Paranas, province of Samar, Samar Island. Participants include members of People's Organizations (PO), secondary school students and out of school youths. Brochure on the importance of habitat and orchid conservation was also given during the workshop.

Topics presented for the seminar-workshop includes the following:

1. Lecture on the role of forest in everyday life.
2. Lecture on the orchids: their uses, importance and status.
3. Lecture on conservation and its implications for the community.
4. Lecture on the step-by-step guide in making a conservation and management plan for a localised protection/conservation zone.

After the lectures, a break-out session was conducted wherein the participants were divided into four groups. They were asked to apply the concepts shared to them during the lecture sessions and come up with a proposal for a localised conservation plan for their selected site. Each group were able to identify "priority area/s" for protection in their respective areas. SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis was conducted and presented by each group. They were also able to associate the need for the conservation and protection of such sites with the threats in the native orchids of Samar.

Certificates of attendance and appreciation were given to the participants and speakers during the said workshop. Afterwards, a "nature walk" was conducted by the group to deepen their appreciation of the environment's finite resources and to inculcate the need for the protection and conservation of the threatened orchid-rich habitats.

The first simplified brochure (this is in Filipino language since the aim is to educate local people) for the conservation of orchids and its habitat was distributed to the participants. Additional copies were also given for redistribution to their respective organisations. The same brochure was also given to the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Management Board for their reference. The second set of the conservation campaign materials will be released by the end of January 2019. The following photos show some of the activities conducted from April to May 2018.



Discussions and presentation of one of the groups.



Some participants during the workshop.



Nature excursion after the learning-workshop in Samar, Philippines.



Samples of the first set of orchid conservation brochures released last 2018.



Photo of the survey team during the first round of fieldwork for the permanent monitoring plots of orchids.