

**CCEF**  
Sustainable coasts, involved communities.



# Annual Report 2025





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# Annual Report 2025

Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. (CCEF)

In 2025, CCEF strengthened its role as a leader in science-based coastal conservation and community empowerment. Across Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor, and national platforms, the organization carried out more than 50 activities that advanced coastal and marine governance, supported local livelihoods, and deepened environmental education.

A key achievement was the reinvigoration of the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council (SCCRMC) through projects supported by the Unico Conservation Foundation. By fostering collaboration among coastal municipalities in Southeast Cebu, CCEF enhanced reef monitoring, trained enforcement teams, and certified local government staff as divers—ensuring long-term, science-driven stewardship. Community engagement remained central, with fishers and local organizations gaining new skills in mangrove rehabilitation and ecotourism, linking conservation directly with sustainable livelihoods.

Education and youth projects flourished, from ocean literacy initiatives in Olango Island to citizen science workshops that equipped communities with monitoring skills. Partnerships with companies such as Manulife, LEAR, Rocket Station, and Full Scale expanded conservation reach through coastal cleanups, mangrove rehabilitation, and equipment support. At the national level, CCEF contributed to fisheries governance, and coral restoration platforms, ensuring that local experience informed broader policy. Long-term monitoring through the Saving Philippine Reefs Expedition and innovative restoration projects further reinforced evidence-based conservation.

When Typhoon Tino struck in December, CCEF mobilized relief operations for 366 affected individuals, reflecting its commitment to both ecosystems and community resilience. CCEF received the Lagerwey Award for Communication Excellence on Social Action, affirming its leadership in environmental storytelling.

***Looking ahead, CCEF will scale MPA networks, support small-scale fisheries management, expand scientific monitoring, enhance community-based ecotourism, deepen youth engagement, build financial inclusion and strengthen climate resilience. These priorities build on 2025's momentum, positioning CCEF to protect marine ecosystems while empowering coastal communities to thrive.***



# President's Note



**Alan T. White, PhD**  
President and Founder

The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF), founded in 1998, helps conserve coastal and marine resources for the benefit of all Philippine coastal residents. It supports coastal stakeholders to become good stewards of the marine life and coastal ecosystems they depend on. In our 27 years, we have undertaken hundreds of projects to make this vision a reality by working with a large variety of partners to address their ongoing challenges. Our partners range from municipal governments, fishing communities and NGOs to national agencies, academic institutions, volunteers and donors. Building capacity for long-term success is our goal.

Being adaptive is critical for CCEF to achieve positive outcomes and I am amazed at what CCEF accomplished in 2025 through the implementation of a large range of projects and activities highlighted in this annual report. We have engaged with more than 1,700 individuals through more than 100 different organizations and collaborative groups involved in training and capacity building programs. We have strengthened more than 50 marine protected areas through improved planning, biophysical and governance evaluations and training. In addition to all the ongoing coastal conservation projects, CCEF responded quickly to the urgent needs of assistance in November after typhoon Tino hit Cebu Island and City with massive impact and damage to people's homes and food supplies. Our team raised funds to provide food and water for hundreds of residents as well for some of our staff to repair their houses. We thank the donors who responded so quickly!

In 2025 CCEF embarked on several major fund-raising drives and developed new proposals for projects to fill the gaps as some donors phased out their support. This is essential to maintain the ongoing work of CCEF in Siquijor Island working with the province, municipalities and other partners where the establishment of a resilient network of marine protected areas is producing measurable results as noted by our Saving Philippine Reefs expedition to Siquijor in May. Fortunately, several new projects are slated to start in 2026 that will ensure continued support for progress in Siquijor, Cebu Province and other project areas.

Given the ongoing work, our lean staff and the relative difficulty of covering all expenses in an ever more expensive operating environment, I encourage our supporters to work with us and share their creative ideas about how to make our organization financially sustainable. We have set up an endowment as a core asset that if augmented will ensure long term financial stability. The energy, creativity, and hard-working ethic of our CCEF Staff deserve full support and periodic compensation increases. We realize that nothing would be possible without our dedicated staff and our very qualified Executive Director, Mr. Glenn Labrado who joined CCEF in 2025. Indeed, the CCEF team is committed and can respond to the issues of the day while maintaining a solid focus on our long-term goals if we support them!

**Let's all join to Sustain Coasts through Involved Communities!**

# Letter from the Executive Director



**Glenn R. Labrado, MDA, MPhil**  
Executive Director

CCEF has long been a place I call home, a space where I can trace my roots and reflect on my growth within the country's conservation sector. I first joined the foundation as a Project Manager and later served as Development Director some 15 years ago. Returning this July as Executive Director feels, in many ways, like a meaningful homecoming.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with both gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility. 2025 has been a year of meaningful progress alongside significant challenges. More importantly, it has reaffirmed why we continue to do what we do. Across Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor, and beyond, we have advanced marine governance, strengthened Marine Protected Area networks, and empowered coastal stakeholders to become stewards of the ecosystems they depend on. These achievements underscore a fundamental truth: lasting conservation is built on trust, participation, and shared responsibility. When people are genuinely engaged, conservation evolves from a program into a way of life.

At the heart of our work is the belief that science must serve people, and people must lead conservation. Through initiatives such as the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council and our sustained investments in capacity building, local governments and communities are becoming active drivers of change rather than passive participants. From training fish wardens and certifying divers to equipping communities with monitoring and sustainable livelihood skills, we are witnessing a critical shift toward locally owned and sustained conservation. Fishers, local governments, and community organizations are increasingly taking the lead in managing marine resources, applying science, and making informed decisions. This is the transformation we have long envisioned— conservation that is owned by the people, sustained by their commitment, and strengthened by their knowledge.

This year also highlighted the importance of resilience, both ecological and human. Our efforts in reef restoration, including innovative approaches such as artificial clay reefs, and our long-standing monitoring work through the Saving Philippine Reefs Expedition continue to provide essential evidence for adaptive management. When Typhoon Tino struck, we stood alongside our partner communities, extending support beyond conservation into humanitarian response. These experiences remind us that our mission goes beyond protecting ecosystems; it is equally about enabling communities to endure, adapt, and move forward together.

Engaging the youth of Olango Island collaborating with the Marine Education Committee through the Ocean Education Program has been another powerful source of inspiration. By nurturing a new generation of conservation leaders, we are planting seeds of hope for healthier oceans and a more sustainable future. This work is made possible through the dedication of our partners, including US Peace Corps Volunteer Rachel Davis, as well as our trustees, staff, and volunteers who continue to guide and inspire young stewards of the environment.

Looking ahead, I remain both hopeful and determined. While significant challenges lie ahead—curbing biodiversity loss and strengthening resilience to climate change—I am confident that the foundation we are building is strong. As we move toward our 30th year in 2028 and contribute to the global 30x30 biodiversity ambition, we will continue to expand our reach, deepen partnerships, invest in people, especially the next generation of ocean stewards, and strengthen our resources and systems.

*To everyone who has walked this journey with us—our partners, donors, trustees, staff, interns, volunteers, and communities—thank you!! Your trust and commitment drive us forward. Together, we will continue to sustain our coasts through empowered communities and work toward a future where both nature and people thrive.*

## About CCEF

The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. (CCEF), is a Cebu-based non-stock, non-profit organization established in 1998. Its board and staff are composed of multi-disciplinary professionals who work closely with local governments and coastal communities to strengthen coastal management and promote healthier ecosystems.

## Our Vision

The management and sustainable use of Philippine coastal resources through active leadership and participation of coastal communities and stakeholders.

# Our Mission

## Promote



**Promote coastal resource management through partnerships with communities, local governments, and the private sector in key coastal areas.** (Photo taken during the MPA MEAT focused group discussion in Oslob, Cebu facilitated by CCEF.)

## Research



**Conduct research on coastal environments, local economies, and resource governance to raise awareness and strengthen knowledge for effective coastal management.** (CCEF Marine Biologist conducting fish visual census during a biophysical assessment in Southeast Cebu.)

## Build Leadership



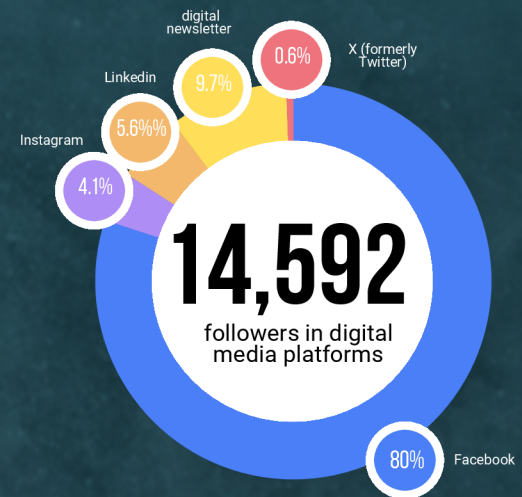
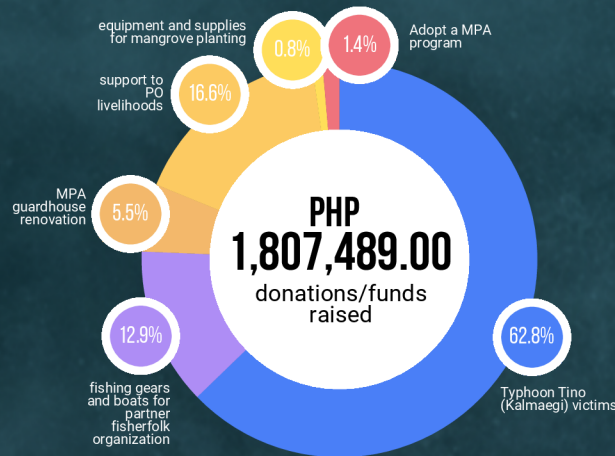
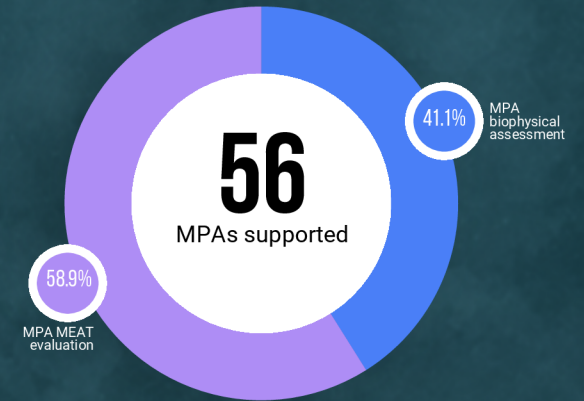
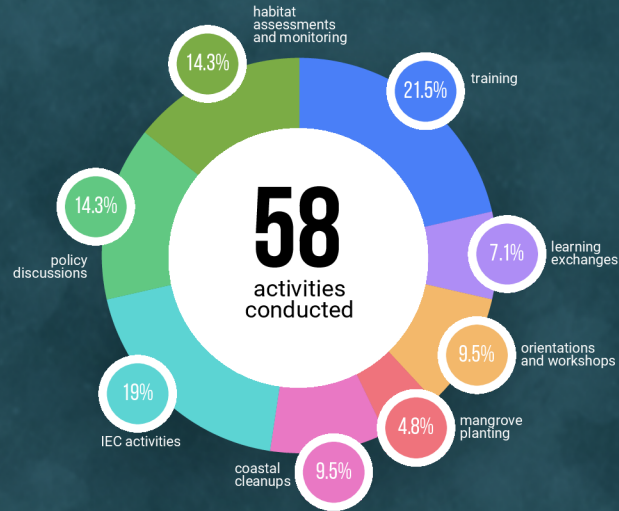
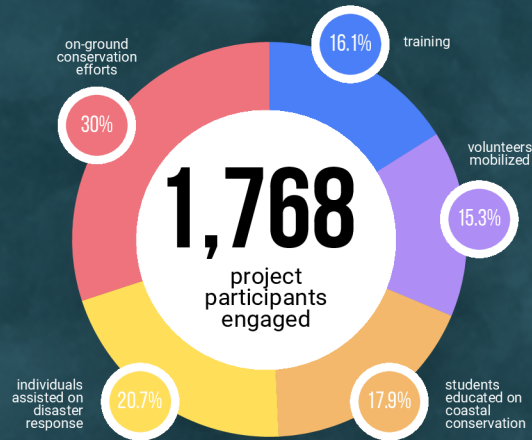
**Build leadership capacity for better coastal resource management through training and hands-on learning.** (Photo taken with BUFFALOO PO members during Mangrove Identification Training in Badian, Cebu.)

## Spread Information



**Provide accessible information on coastal environments and governance to guide better coastal management.** (CCEF Board Secretary Joey Gatus discussing marine conservation during Ocean Club at Olango Island, Cebu.)

# 2025 AT A GLANCE



# PROMOTE



15 January 2025 – 25 members of Kahugpungan sa Gagmayng Mag-uuma ug Mangingisda sa Sinandigan (KAGAMMASI) in Sinandigan, Ubay, Bohol received fish pot materials through USAID-GRF INSPIRE and partners. This support strengthens community-led marine conservation and sustainable livelihoods.



21 January 2025 – CCEF and Manulife BPS donated 50 rain boots and 107 heavy-duty gloves to the Day-as Fisherfolk Organization in Cordova. This CSR partnership equipped local fishers to protect coastal resources as part of CCEF's 27th anniversary celebration.



31 January 2025 – CCEF formally turned over the newly renovated MPA Guard House of the Hingotanan West Fisherfolk Association (HIWeFA) in Bien Unido, Bohol. With support from Booth and Partners, the MLGU, and BLGU, the project benefits 30 fisherfolk members by strengthening their capacity to protect marine resources.



27 April 2025 – CCEF partnered with Rocket Station for coastal cleanup in mangrove area of Day-as, Cordova, Cebu. This initiative immersed 15 employees in hands-on conservation, reinforcing corporate commitment to cleaner oceans and mangrove protection.



29 April 2025 – CCEF and LEAR Philippines Engineering Branch supported the Poblacion Marine Protected Area in Alcoy through the Adopt a MPA program. The partnership provided MPA marker buoys, which were received by 15 members of the People's Organization, while also raising awareness among 16 community children



21–23 May 2025 – CCEF supported the SCUBASURERO and Debris Removal in Casay Reef, Argao, led by the MLGU. The dive event removed 1,500 kg of marine debris, strengthening local efforts for ocean protection and community collaboration

# PROMOTE



4 July 2025 – Full Scale, through its CSR initiative **Frontline Undertaking for Littoral Landscape Restoration and Environmental Sustainability Transformation (FULL REST)**, partnered with CCEF for a **Mangrove Growing and Coastal Cleanup** in Brgy. Cotcot, Liloan, Cebu. The activity **engaged 50 employees** highlighting corporate commitment to coastal restoration.



17–18 September 2025 – CCEF joined Para el MAR in Iloilo City, the country's premier platform for recognizing excellence in MPA management. **CCEF provided communications support for event coverage and materials design**, and **affirmed its active membership to the MPA Support Network (MSN) during the MOA signing**, strengthening its role in national marine conservation.



19 October 2025 – CCEF partnered with Manulife BPS, MLGU and BLGU for a Coastal Cleanup in Cordova, Cebu. The activity **mobilized 120 volunteers including 50 employees, 10 UC CARES students, and fisherfolk members** and collected **515.86 kg of trash from a 1,247.78 m<sup>2</sup> mangrove area**.

# BUILD LEADERSHIP



4–6 February 2025 — CCEF, with **Aboitiz Foundation** and the City of Talisay, trained **20 participants from two POs** in Dumlog and Biasong on **mangrove education and rehabilitation**.



26–28 August 2025 — CCEF, in partnership with **CENRO Talisay**, supported by **US Peace Corps Philippines**, held a **Citizen Science Workshop** in Brgy. Tangke, Talisay City. The training equipped **33 fisherfolk and LGU personnel** with **standardized coastal habitat assessment skills**.



18–19 November 2025 — CCEF assisted the **Bohol Provincial Environment Management Office (BPEMO) CRM Division** to conduct a **Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA) Training**, held in Dauis, Bohol. The activity benefited the Province of Bohol, **training 60 CRM officers from all coastal municipalities**.



25–26 November 2025 — CCEF supported LGU Oslob (MAO and MENRO) in conducting MPA Management Planning Workshop. The activity **trained 28 personnel, strengthened five existing MPAs, and added two proposed sites**.

# RESEARCH



11–13 March 2025 – CCEF joined the Visayas Cluster Consultative Workshop in Cebu City in **crafting the IRR of the PENCAS Act**, led by PSA with DENR, NEDA, LGUs, NGOs, and academe. CCEF **contributed inputs to strengthen the law's implementation** for environmental and economic impact.



24–26 March 2025 – CCEF joined the **3rd National Key Biodiversity Areas Workshop** in Parañaque City, organized by DENR and conservation partners. CCEF **contributed to discussions on strengthening Marine KBAs** to contribute to the global 30x30 biodiversity ambition.



4 April 2025 – CCEF joined the **CLEAR-7 Meeting** in Cebu City led by the **Philippine Coast Guard District Central Visayas and BFAR 7**. CCEF **contributed to strengthening collaboration on coastal law enforcement** and unified efforts against IUU fishing in Region 7.



3–11 May 2025 – the **Saving Philippine Reefs (SPR) Expedition** conducted its **32nd annual coral reef monitoring** in Siquijor, **completing 13 underwater surveys across six municipalities**. The effort mobilized **15 divers and nine volunteers**, producing a technical report. *see pages 28-29*



23 May 2025 – CCEF participated in the **2nd Quarter FMA 10 Science Advisory Group Meeting** at BFAR Region 7 in Cebu City. As SAG member, CCEF **contributed inputs to strengthen fisheries management in FMA 10**



3–8 July 2025 – CCEF, with rreefs, and partners **carried out the 7th-month monitoring of the Artificial Clay Reef (ACR) installed inside the Minalulan MPA, Maria, Siquijor**, reinforcing collective commitment to marine conservation and the long-term health of Siquijor's coasts.

# RESEARCH



16–19 September 2025 – CCEF supported LGU Oslob in conducting a **Baseline Biophysical Assessment and IEC activities in seven coastal barangays**, leading to the identification of seven proposed MPA sites.



21–23 October 2025 – CCEF participated in the **National Coral Restoration Governance Workshop** at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City. The event focused on **strengthening institutional frameworks and policy alignment for reef restoration**, with CCEF contributing to policy reform discussions and reinforcing its influence in national coral restoration governance.



27–28 October 2025 – CCEF participated in the **FMA 10 Joint SAG and TWG Meeting** at Elizabeth Hotel, Cebu City. The gathering reinforced collaborative, evidence-based fisheries governance in the Camotes Sea - Cebu Strait, with CCEF contributing its expertise and strengthening its influence within FMA 10's advisory group.

# SPREAD INFORMATION



7 July 2025 — CCEF conducted an IEC activity at Minalulan Elementary School, Maria, Siquijor as part of the Artificial Clay Reef project. The activity stirred 82 Grade 1–3 pupils awareness on artificial coral reefs and MPAs management.



6 September 2025 — 3rd Ocean Education Program was launched at Tingo National High School, Olango Island. Students learned about coral reefs through interactive lessons and engaged in marine awareness activities, with 69 junior and senior high participants taking part in the kickoff of the month-long Ocean Club initiative.



13 September 2025 — 50 Tingo National High School students joined the Ocean Club's second session on ocean literacy and marine careers. The event highlighted biodiversity, disaster resilience, and typhoon science, culminating in the election of the first student officers to lead the club.



20 September 2025 — 40 Tingo National High School students joined the Ocean Education Program's third session. Through mangrove planting, a coastal cleanup, and lessons on climate change and ocean acidification, they took part in youth-led environmental stewardship.



27 September 2025 — 40 Tingo National High School students joined the Ocean Education Program's final session at Talima MPA. They delivered oral presentations on the sanctuary's importance, showcasing their learning and passion, and concluded the day with snorkeling activities that gave them firsthand experience of the ecosystems they studied.

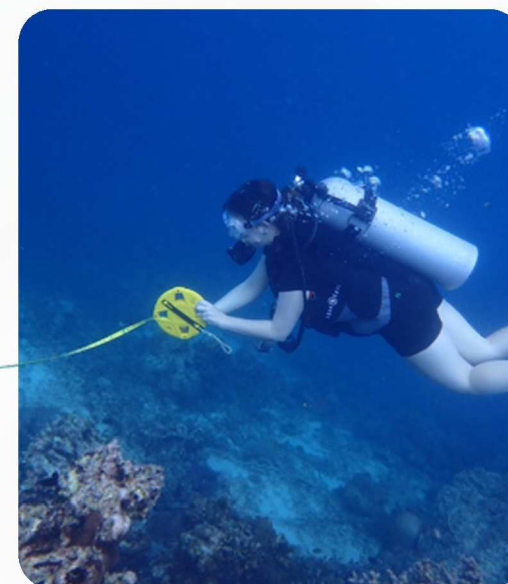
## Networking of MPAs thru Coastal LGUs Alliance Project (NMCLAP)

### Objective

The NMCLAP aims to strengthen coastal governance in Southeast Cebu by supporting the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council (SCCRMC) and advancing the establishment of a climate-resilient network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Over the next three years, this initiative will continue to build collaborative governance structures and adaptive management systems.

### Output

The project will provide ongoing technical support to SCCRMC and assisting local governments across Argao, Dalaguete, Alcoy, Boljoon, Oslob, Santander, Samboan and Badian. Efforts will focus on improving MPA management, generating scientific data, and building local capacity. Over the three year period, these activities will be scaled and refined to ensure sustained impact.



# Strengthening a Network of Resilient Marine Protected Areas

The foundation of NMCLAP rests on long-standing partnerships. Building on earlier coastal resource management initiatives, CCEF continued to engage LGUs across Southeast Cebu early in the year to reaffirm commitments and align stakeholders under a shared vision for resilient coastal governance.

Rather than starting anew, municipalities are sustaining and deepening collaboration, working not as isolated units but as part of a broader coastal alliance.

This collective effort has been reinforced through the revitalization and strengthening of the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council (SCCRMC), which now serves as a more active platform for unified decision-making and coordinated action.

1

coastal alliance strengthened

8

MLGUs united for long-term action

3

major council engagements

1

strategic plan co-developed



9–10 January 2025 – CCEF formally launched two new UCF-funded projects across Argao, Dalaguete, Alcoy, Boljoon, Oslob, Santander, Samboan, and Badian.



27 February 2025 – SCCRMC held its First Quarterly Meeting, uniting council members from seven LGUs to strengthen coordination on MPA governance.



25 September 2025 – SCCRMC held its Second Quarterly Meeting, sustaining collaboration through regular dialogue and aligning shared coastal management priorities.



12–13 November 2025 – SCCRMC conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop, producing a 3-year strategic plan with active participation from seven LGUs supported by DENR.

# Science for decision-making

## TURNING DATA INTO ACTION

Science lies at the heart of effective marine conservation. Through a series of biophysical assessments and baseline studies, CCEF worked with LGUs to evaluate reef health, fish populations, and biodiversity across key MPAs.

These assessments provided critical information into ecosystem conditions, enabling local governments to move beyond assumptions and toward evidence-based management.

Complementing these efforts, MPA MEAT evaluations allowed stakeholders to assess not only ecological health, but also the effectiveness of governance structures and systems governing these MPAs.

15

MPAs biophysically assessed

18

MPAs assessed using MEAT

3

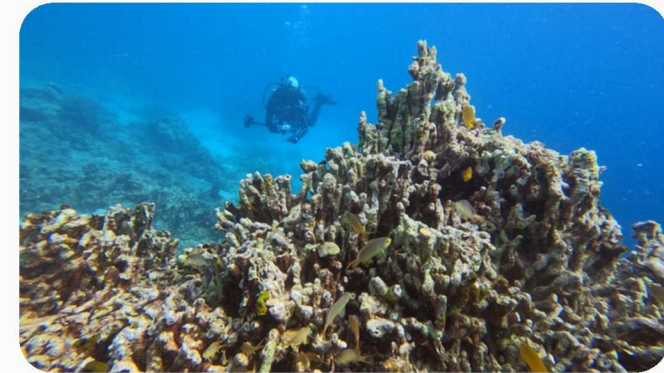
technical reports produced

7

new MPAs proposed



February and March 2025 — **Biophysical assessments were conducted across 13 MPAs in seven LGUs** across Southeast Cebu.



April 2025 — **A biophysical assessment evaluated two MPAs in Badian**, generating localized data to support management planning.



September 2025 — CCEF conducted a **baseline assessment and IEC sessions in Oslob, Cebu supporting the planned establishment of seven new MPAs while raising awareness across coastal barangays.**



May and June 2025 — **MPA MEAT evaluations assessed 18 MPAs in Southeast Cebu and Badian**, generating management effectiveness data to inform and influence local policy-making.

# Empowering People

## EQUIPPING FRONTLINE STEWARDS

Sustainable marine protection depends on empowered people. NMCLAP invested in strengthening the skills and capacities of those directly responsible for managing coastal resources.

From deputizing fish wardens to training LGU personnel in habitat assessment and certifying divers, the project equipped local actors with the tools needed to protect and monitor marine ecosystems.

Community members were also engaged through mangrove training, reinforcing their role as stewards of coastal habitats and partners in conservation.

58

community partners capacitated

17

trained and deputized fish wardens

9

MLGU personnel certified as open water divers

17

personnel equipped with coastal habitat monitoring skills

30

community members trained in mangrove conservation



2-4 April 2025 – **Fish Warden Training** equipped 17 wardens across eight LGUs to strengthen coastal law enforcement.



28-30 July 2025 – **Dive Certification Training** certifying nine LGU personnel as open water divers, enhancing local capacity for marine assessment and monitoring.



11-14 August 2025 – **Coastal Habitat Assessment Training** equipped 17 personnel with technical monitoring skills to strengthen coastal resource management.



27-29 November 2025 – **Mangrove Training** capacitated 15 community members in nursery establishment and rehabilitation.

# Expanding and Restoring Ecosystems

## SCALING PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Beyond strengthening existing MPAs, NMCLAP opened pathways for expansion and restoration of degraded habitats.

Scientific assessments informed the identification of new potential MPAs, while site validations laid the groundwork for mangrove nurseries and innovative reef restoration solutions such as Artificial Clay Reefs (ACR).

These initiatives represent a forward-looking approach ensuring that conservation efforts not only protect what exists, but actively restore what has been damaged.

2

mangrove rehabilitation areas identified

1

artificial coral restoration site proposed



14-15 October 2025 — **Mangrove Rehabilitation Site Validation in Badian, Cebu** identified areas for restoration, strengthening the foundation for coastal resilience under the stewardship of Bugas Farmers Fishermen and Livestock Owners Organization (BUFFALOO).



21-22 October 2025 — **In Argao, Cebu, Mangrove Rehabilitation Site Validation identified sites** for future restoration activities that will be managed by Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Taloot, Argao (NAGMATA).



21 October 2025 — In Dalaguete, Cebu **introducing the ACR model presented an innovative reef restoration technology**. CCEF identified a potential site for implementation, advancing local reef rehabilitation efforts



# Breaking Barriers, Building Resilience

## SCIENCE IN THE HANDS OF STEWARDS

Justine Jace R. Baisac, CCEF Communications and Impact Officer

It often begins with a sigh over coffee in the Municipal Agriculture Office. *“We need CCEF to assist us in assessing our reefs. We don’t have enough manpower to do monitoring. We’re waiting for the organizations which did an assessment in our reefs for their feedback and they haven’t gone back to us.”*

These conversations reveal the quiet frustrations of local government staff who care deeply about their seas but feel the weight of limited resources. Over the years, continuous reef monitoring was something LGUs wanted for —an external team arriving with clipboards, dive gear, and scientific jargon.

That is why the recent reorganization and training of the Southeast Cebu Coastal Resource Management Council’s (SCCRMC) monitoring team feels so different. It is not just another project activity. It is a bold, ambitious attempt to put science directly into the hands of those who live with the ocean every day.

Through the NMCLAP, funded by the Unico Conservation Foundation, CCEF facilitated two critical phases:

- **Open Water Dive Certification Training** – equipping LGU personnel with the ability to safely enter the underwater world.
- **Coastal Habitat Assessment Methodologies Training** – teaching standardized techniques to assess coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and reef fish populations.

*Together, these training transformed nine certified divers and 17 trained personnel into the backbone of SCCRMC’s official monitoring team. No longer dependent on outside schedules, they now hold the skills to generate their own data, analyze reef conditions, and translate findings into actionable reports.*

Although councils like SCCRMC have weathered political differences, shifting priorities, and contrasting management styles, building an in-house monitoring team asks them to rise above those dynamics and commit to a shared responsibility. It is not about adding another task to already stretched LGU staff, **it is about adding strength**. It is about giving them the tools to do what they have always wanted: to care for their reefs with confidence and integrity. Where once there was frustration, now there is cautious pride. *“At least now, we can do it ourselves.”* The divers, once nervous about descending into the blue, now surface with data sheets and stories of fish schools and coral cover. The Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental officers, once waiting for external reports, now begin to imagine how their own monitoring results can influence policy and enforcement.

## Local Champions, Lasting Stewardship

The true success lies not only in the skills gained but in the emergence of localized champions—people who can translate technical data into digestible insights for mayors, councils, and communities. They become the bridge between science and governance, ensuring that habitat conditions are not just numbers but narratives that influence decisions and policy.

This is the quiet revolution of NMCLAP: shifting conservation from being externally driven to locally-led. It is about trust, trusting that LGUs, given the right tools, can steward their own municipal waters. It is about resilience, ensuring monitoring continues even beyond project timelines. And it is also about ownership, making conservation not a borrowed responsibility, but a lived one.

Perhaps the most powerful lesson is this: **coastal ecosystems do not wait**. They shift with the warming seas of climate change, with every storm that lashes the coast, with every unregulated extraction of fish that depletes their abundance, and with every damage inflicted on corals that weakens their integrity. For too long, communities have waited for outsiders to interpret what those changes mean. Now, with SCCRMC's monitoring team in place, they no longer have to wait.

The question is not whether this ambitious vision will be easy—it will not. The question is whether we believe enough in local hands, local voices, and local stewardship to let them lead. Because the data these teams generate is more than numbers; it is the teeth that can back governance, sharpen enforcement, and influence policy toward heightened conservation efforts.

*In the end, the reefs of Southeast Cebu and Badian will not be saved by distant reports or delayed feedback. They will be saved by the people who dive into them, measure them, and fight for them—people who call these coasts home, and who now hold science in their hands as stewards of their seas.*



## Promoting Community-based Ecotourism in MPAs and Mangrove Areas (ProComTour)

### Objective

Through the ProComTour Project, CCEF continues to link coastal conservation with sustainable economic opportunities by strengthening community-based ecotourism in Southeast and Southwest Cebu, particularly in Argao, Alcoy, and Badian. Over the next three years, the project aims to help communities steadily generate income from ecotourism while deepening awareness of the value of natural resources.

### Output

The project will strengthen ecotourism enterprises providing technical support and capacity-building, and sustaining reef rehabilitation, mangrove enrichment, and climate resilience initiatives. At the same time, it will promote non-extractive livelihoods, ensuring that communities are progressively equipped to balance conservation with sustainable economic growth.



# Learning Visits

## LEARNING FROM WHAT WORKS

Communities were immersed in real-world ecotourism models through learning visits to the Bojo River Cruise in Aloguinsan, Cebu. These exchanges provided people's organizations with practical insights on operations, visitor management, and community-led enterprise development.

By experiencing a successful model firsthand, participants gained a clearer vision of how conservation-driven tourism can translate into tangible economic benefits. These visits helped bridge knowledge to practice—turning inspiration into actionable ideas for their own communities.

3

MLGUs actively engaged

3

People's organizations supported

60

PO members immersed in learning exchanges



24 March 2025 — Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Taloot, Argao (NAGMATA) experienced Bojo River Cruise to strengthen ecotourism skills and community conservation efforts.



11 April 2025 — Bugas Farmers, Fishermen, and Livestock Owners Organization (BUFFALOO) of Badian, visited Bojo River Cruise to learn how community-based ecotourism supports livelihoods and conservation.



23 May 2025 — Sta. Cruz Daanlungsod Fishermen Association (SADAFa) of Alcoy, explored Bojo River Cruise, gaining practical insights on ecotourism and coastal stewardship.

# Strengthening Ecotourism Enterprises and Capacities

## BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOTOURISM

ProComTour advanced community readiness by uniting ecotourism orientation, capacity-building, and enterprise development. Through site validations, communities identified local ecotourism potential, while training in culinary development, product development, and business planning equipped people's organizations to design and develop enterprises.

These efforts strengthen local ownership, linking conservation outcomes with sustainable livelihoods and reinforcing long-term stewardship of coastal and marine resources.

3

MLGUs actively engaged

3

People's organizations participated

90

PO members capacitated in ecotourism training



19-21 June 2025 – Equipped **BUFFALOO** members with skills in culinary to enhance visitor experience and livelihood opportunities.



28 November 2025 – Led multi-day **planning sessions to develop and refine ecotourism products in Argao and Alcoy**, focusing on site enhancement and visitor experience design.



17-18 December 2025 – **Supported communities in Badian through training on enterprise development, strengthening business models** for sustainable ecotourism operations.



20-22 December 2025 – **CCEF held a Ecotourism Product Development and Business Planning Workshop for BUFFALOO members**, equipping them with tools to refine products, strengthen business strategies, and sustain ecotourism livelihoods linked to coastal conservation.

# Milestones of the ACR Project in Minalulan MPA, Maria, Siquijor

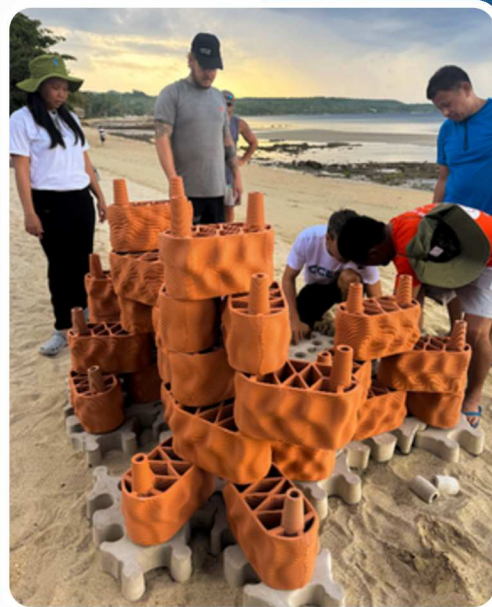
Dionel L. Molina, CCEF Marine Biologist

In the coastal waters of Maria, Siquijor, Philippines, a silent transformation is taking root across the reef. For years, the Minalulan MPA bore the scars of a violent history. Between 2012 and 2014, three powerful typhoons tore through the region, shattering the delicate coral structures and leaving behind a landscape of rubble and sand that struggled to heal on its own.

By 2024, the reef was a shadow of its former self, but a unique collaboration between the CCEF and Swiss organization **rrreefs** set out to change its fate. Their tool of choice wasn't concrete or steel, but the Earth itself: 3D-printed modular clay bricks.

## A New Foundation

In December 2024, divers assembled a 50 m<sup>2</sup> Artificial Clay Reef (ACR) using 297 modular units. This "ecological bridge" was designed with a porous texture and complex microhabitats to invite coral larvae to settle and grow.

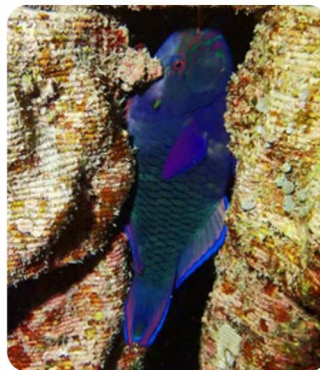


## The Year of the Great Return

One year of monitoring has revealed explosive growth that exceeded all expectations:

- A coral nursery: From a zero baseline, the ACR attracted nearly 5,000 coral recruits by December 2025.
- Accelerated growth: The average size of these recruits nearly tripled in just five months, reaching 65 mm<sup>2</sup>.
- Biodiversity hub: Invertebrate abundance and diversity on the ACR eventually surpassed both natural and control reef sites.

*Despite mid-year sedimentation and regional declines in fish populations, the ACR remained the most stable environment in the MPA. This project proves that combining technological innovation with local expertise can provide the "structural niche" nature needs to recover, serving as a scalable model for coral reef restoration.*



## Ocean Awareness Starts Young: IEC Activities in Minalulan Elementary School

On July 7, 2025, CCEF and rreefs held IEC sessions at Minalulan Elementary School in Maria, Siquijor, **engaging 82 Grade 1–3 students through storytelling and activities.** Using the children's book **Discovering the Wonders Beneath the Waves**, the session introduced young learners to coral reefs, the threats they face, and how artificial reefs aid recovery. Each child received a copy to extend learning at home.

*By making reef conservation relatable and fun, the activity planted early seeds of stewardship. Not only it raised awareness but also empowered children to see themselves as future guardians of the ocean, linking education with long-term conservation outcomes.*



# Every Step a Story

## CARE FOR MANGROVES IN DEL CARMEN, SIARGAO ISLANDS

Justine Jace R. Baisac, CCEF Communications and Impact Officer

On any given morning, the Del Carmen Mangrove Boardwalk comes alive with rhythm and movement. Joggers pace steadily, tracking their runs on Strava; families stroll leisurely, savoring the cool breeze; and visitors pause to listen to the rustle of mangrove leaves and the calls of birds overhead. I was there during the installation of the Community Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) boards, and at first, I thought of them as nothing more than design features—visuals to decorate the boardwalk's layout. But the people of Del Carmen quickly proved me wrong.

Their attentiveness was striking. The boards did not fade into the background; instead, they sparked curiosity, drew questions, and invited reflection. What seemed like simple visuals became touchpoints for dialogue, reminders that even in the midst of recreation, learning and stewardship can take root.

The Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) is one of the Philippines' most critical biodiversity frontiers, encompassing vast areas of beach forests, mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. Within this huge protected area lies the Del Carmen Mangrove Ecopark, home to the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the country—a living shield against storms and a cradle of marine life. Despite ongoing conservation efforts, a gap remained: visitors enjoyed the beauty of the mangroves but lacked accessible materials to understand their ecological, cultural, and economic importance. The challenge was clear—how could the Ecopark transform casual recreation into meaningful conservation awareness?



The Care for Mangroves Project was designed to bridge this gap. Over three months, the project developed and installed CEPA materials that now serve as permanent fixtures of the Ecopark's interpretive framework.

- **14 interpretive signages along the boardwalk share scientific facts and conservation messages.**
- **An outdoor signage (#ProtectOurMangroves) at the Del Carmen Mangrove Information Center reinforces the call to action.**
- **A vibrant mural artwork, created by local artists and youth, celebrates biodiversity and community stewardship.**

The project elevated the Ecopark's role from a site of recreation to a hub of environmental education. Joggers, walkers, and tourists now encounter messages that remind them: mangroves are nurseries for fish and crabs, buffers against storms, and vital carbon sinks. Every step along the boardwalk is an opportunity to learn, reflect, and act.





This initiative strengthens SIPLAS' broader conservation mandate by embedding education into daily visitor experiences, aligning biodiversity conservation with public awareness. Most importantly, it demonstrates how conservation can be woven seamlessly into everyday life—turning leisure into learning, and recreation into reflection.

This success was made possible through strong collaboration. The LGU Del Carmen, Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), SIPLAS PAMO, USAID-SIBOL Project, CCEF worked alongside Rosario Evangelina M. Farrarons and Leslie S. Tinapay, who made the CEPA boards scientifically grounded, culturally resonant, and visually engaging.

Their participatory approach fostered community ownership and ensured that the outputs reflect both local identity and global conservation priorities.

At first glance, one might think the CEPA boards are just visuals—mere design. But the people of Del Carmen showed that even simple materials can spark interest and insight. This is not about the *illusory truth effect* or the *mere-exposure effect*, though repetition does play a role in shaping perception. For me, **it is about lived experience**. Information, whether printed or spoken, only takes root when it resonates with what people already know, feel, and have lived. Del Carmen residents know the worth of mangroves because they've lived their protection through storms, fisheries, and daily life.

As Mayor Alfredo M. Coro II recalled after Typhoon Odette (Rai) in 2021.

*“It took us ten years to prepare for a typhoon that lasted for hours, but it’s all worth it—now that everyone understands, no one dares to cut our mangroves anymore.”*

***CEPA boards amplify these truths, echoing stories already alive in the community and strengthening the resolve to protect mangroves for generations.***

And so, as I watched joggers and walkers pass by, tracking their routes on their fitness apps, pausing to read, nodding in recognition, I realized the true impact of this project. It is not just about signage. It is about connecting daily habits with deeper truths, turning recreation into reflection, and ensuring that every step taken on the boardwalk is also a step toward stewardship.

The mangroves of Del Carmen are more than trees; they are guardians of coasts, providers of life, and symbols of resilience. With the Care for Mangroves Project, their story is now told vividly and permanently, woven into the rhythm of walking, jogging, and living. Together, let us protect what protects us, because the future of our coasts, and our communities, depends on it.



## Reefs of Resilience

### SAVING PHILIPPINE REEFS EXPEDITION 2025 - SIQUIJOR

For over 30 years, the Saving Philippine Reefs (SPR) Expedition has built one of the most comprehensive coral reef monitoring datasets in the Philippines. In May 2025, CCEF returned to Siquijor for the fourth time since 1992, conducting 13 underwater surveys across 11 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in four municipalities. This effort was powered by nine CCEF staff and board members and nine international volunteers from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Every dive, every transect, and every data point collected over three decades has built the foundation for science-based coastal resource management. This long-term record allows us to see beyond snapshots in time, revealing the hidden stories of decline, recovery, and resilience. It is the evidence that transforms concern into policy, observation into enforcement, and community effort into lasting stewardship.

### MPAs Surveyed

The 2025 expedition covered the following 11 MPAs across Siquijor:

- Maria Municipality: Olang Marine Sanctuary, Candaping B Marine Sanctuary, Minalulan Shell and Fish Sanctuary
- Siquijor Municipality: Caticugan Marine Sanctuary
- San Juan Municipality: Catulayan Marine Sanctuary, Cangmunag Marine Sanctuary, Maite Marine Sanctuary, Paliton Marine Sanctuary, Tubod Marine Sanctuary
- Lazi Municipality: Napayong Marine Sanctuary, Lower Cabangcalan Lalag Bato Marine Sanctuary

### Findings from Siquijor 2025

- Coral cover:
  - 7–8m depth: 13.3%–62.8%, average 38.88%
  - 2–3m depth: 15.7%–62.7%, average 33.99%
  - No clear overall trend since 2017; some sites declined due to storms, others showed recovery.
- Fish biomass:
  - Range: 1.82–20.8kg/500m<sup>2</sup>, average 10.41kg/500m<sup>2</sup>
  - Biomass has increased since 2017.
  - Caticugan MPA stood out for high fish diversity despite lower coral cover, reflecting strong enforcement.
  - Catulayan MPA recorded low fish metrics, likely due to fishing pressure.
- Municipal trends:
  - San Juan sites showed higher coral cover.
  - Maria and Lazi sites had more sand and rubble.
  - Ecological strength was not fully reflected in their MEAT ratings, underscoring the need to align documentation with ecological realities.

### Recommendations

- Strengthen LGU enforcement capacity with boundary markers and mooring infrastructure
- Expand IEC outreach in coastal barangays
- Address Crown-of-thorns (COT) outbreaks
- Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term MPA management

***The SPR legacy is not only about monitoring coral and fish—it is about building trust between scientists, volunteers, and coastal communities. Ensuring that the reefs of the Philippines remain a source of food, livelihood, and wonder for generations to come. Each expedition adds another layer of knowledge, another thread of partnership, and another step toward a future where reefs are not only protected but thrive as symbols of resilience and pride.***

### Our thanks

This expedition was made possible through the dedication of our volunteers, CCEF staff, and partners. We thank Geof and Denise Iling and Barbara Best for their support, and acknowledge the expertise of Dr. Aileen Maypa, Dr. Alison Green, and Dr. Graham Edgar. Our gratitude also goes to the Provincial Government of Siquijor, municipal leaders, and Siquijor State College, with special appreciation to Coco Grove Beach Resort for their hospitality and safe diving services.



# Giving the Reef a Voice:

## A LAGERWEY AWARD SUCCESS

Justine Jace R. Baisac, CCEF Communications and Impact Officer

At CCEF, our mission has always been clear: to protect and restore the country's vital coastal ecosystems. Much of our work is anchored in biophysical assessments, capacity building, and stakeholders engagement, important steps that deliver outputs, outcomes, and measurable impact. But over time, we have been reminded that conservation requires more than just technical interventions. It requires systematic and intentional communication—communication that not only informs but inspires communities toward lasting behavioral change.

The people we interact with are not just beneficiaries—they are co-stewards. When they feel involved, when their voices are heard, they too are willing to act, protect, and sustain the ecosystems they depend on. This understanding was deepened through our participation in training with the Communication Foundation for Asia (CFA), where we were introduced to the AKAP (Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice) framework. This framework quietly shaped the way we approached communication: laying a foundation that moves beyond awareness, builds knowledge, nurtures attitudes, and ultimately influences practices that lead to real change.

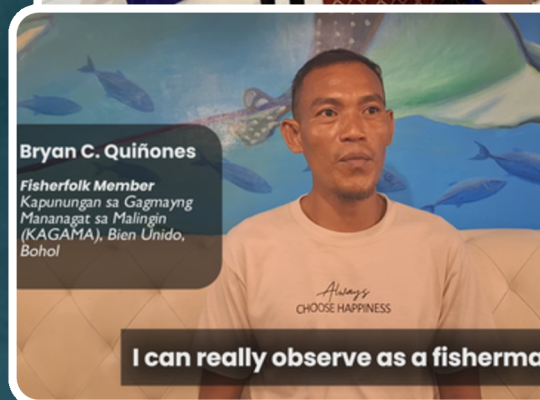


It was within this intentional approach that our flagship Protect Danajon Project, supported by the Gerry Roxas Foundation through the USAID INSPIRE Project, found its voice. One of its most powerful outputs was the Danajon Bank Audio Visual Presentation (AVP), which did more than presenting data: it gave the reef itself a voice. Formed over the last 6,000 years, Danajon Bank is one of only three double barrier reefs in the Indo-Pacific, and the only double barrier reef in the Philippines, spanning 214,000 hectares, 699 km of coastline, and 40 islands off Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, and Southern Leyte. Through the words of a fisher who depends on it, the AVP laid bare the stark realities of a declining reef and the urgent call for behavior change.

The AVP carried both urgency and hope. It asked viewers not only to understand the problem but to feel it, and to consider what role they could play in protecting the Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef. This authenticity—truths spoken from the ground by those who live with the reef every day—moved audiences during the CFA Amplifying Local Voices Learning Exchange. Broadcasters and media practitioners were not only informed; they were compelled. The AVP evoked urgency, sparking a commitment among media participants to use their platforms to amplify the conservation message. From this moment of shared truth and empathy, collective social action began to ripple outward.

It was this kind of communication—purposeful, empathetic, and transformative—that the Lagerwey Awards were created to honor. Established in 2020 to continue the legacy of Fr. Cornelio Lagerwey, MSC, and Filipino journalist Genaro V. Ong, the awards celebrate communication initiatives that drive social action and human development.

***CCEF to be named as recipient of the 5th Lagerwey Award for Communication Excellence on Social Action is therefore not only a recognition of our work, but a reminder that communication and behavior change lie at the heart of effective conservation.***



The Lagerwey Award is more than just a trophy; it affirms that stories are bridges—connecting science with culture, urgency with empathy, and vision with action. For CCEF, this award energizes our mission to deepen partnerships and innovate in storytelling, ensuring that conservation is not just about protecting ecosystems but about empowering communities to thrive with them.

***Communications must go beyond mere messaging or words. They must embody the very purpose for which they are created. In the conservation sector, that purpose is clear: to bring forth the message of conservation, and to show people how they can be part of it.***

Scan to see CCEF Protect Danajon project promotional materials:



Protect Danajon CEPA board design



Protect Danajon audio visual presentation



# Ripples of Legacy, Currents of Change:

## MICHAEL A. ROSS/ TALIMA MPA OCEAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Rachel Davis, *US Peace Corps Volunteer*

Justine Jace R. Baisac, *CCEF Communications and Impact Officer*



When Mike Ross founded the Talima Marine Sanctuary in 1999, he showed what one person's vision could do for Cebu's coasts. His passing in 2020 left behind not just a sanctuary, but a legacy, a call to continue protecting the reefs and inspiring young people to care for the ocean.

In 2023, Dr. Gregor Hodgson, Mike's lifelong friend and fellow US Peace Corps Volunteer stood with Mike's brother Steve Ross and Cebu-based partners to turn memory into action. Together they formed the Marine Education Committee (MAREd) and launched the first Ocean Education Day at Santa Rosa National High School. Students listened to experts, joined contests, and snorkeled at Talima MPA, many seeing the reefs for the very first time. In 2024, the program grew with oral presentations, showing that young voices could speak powerfully for conservation.

By 2025, CCEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MAREd to co-implement the Michael A. Ross/ Talima MPA Ocean Education Program, expanding the initiative from a single day to a month-long series of activities. In collaboration with US Peace Corps Philippines, the program added structure, resources, and volunteers. A 15-minute video on MPAs reached more than 1,000 students, and the Ocean Club was born, giving senior students a space to learn, lead, and act.

A local school and students benefit from it. September 2025 became a turning point:

- Sept 6, 69 students joined the kickoff, led by Rachel Davis, Dr. Hodgson, and CCEF Trustee Joey Gatus.
- Sept 13, students elected their first Ocean Club officers after hearing from conservation experts about careers in biodiversity and disaster resilience.
- Sept 20, they planted mangroves, cleaned coasts, and learned about climate change from US PCV Aubra Sharp and the Olango Island Eco-Tourism Association.
- Sept 27, 30 students stood up to present why Talima MPA matters for Cebu's biodiversity, then snorkeled at the sanctuary to see it firsthand.

Throughout the journey, local organizations and guest speakers, from CENRO officers to marine biologists, professors, and eco-tourism leaders shared their expertise. Their involvement showed students that careers in conservation, science, and tourism are real and within reach.

### Why This Matters

The program shines a light on a gap in the Philippine education system: ocean science is missing from the standard K-12 curriculum. Even students living on islands often grow up without learning to swim, snorkel, or understand the reefs that surround them. The Ocean Education Program fills this gap, giving young people direct experiences with the ocean and teaching them why MPAs matter.

For the students, this is more than just lessons, it is opportunity. They are the "second liners" in our pursuit of coastal conservation: the next generation who will inherit the responsibility of managing our coasts. They have the vigor to be the voice, the energy to lead, and the potential to become scientists, conservationists, and community leaders.

The program nurtures this potential not only through education but also through scholarships. By supporting students who wish to pursue ocean-related courses in college, the initiative opens doors to futures that might otherwise be out of reach. These scholarships are not just financial aid, they are investments in shaping leaders who will carry forward the legacy of protecting our country's reefs and coasts.

### A Challenge to Us All

The story of the Mike Ross Ocean Education Program is proof that remembrance can become momentum, and that youth are the most powerful allies in conservation. They are crucial to the future of our coasts.

*The challenge now is ours: Will we join in this pursuit? Will we help educate, support, and empower these young people, so that the reefs of the Philippines, and the communities that depend on them, will thrive for generations to come?*





## Stronger than the Storm: HOPE BEYOND TINO

Justine Jace R. Baisac, CCEF Communications and Impact Officer

On November 1, 2025, Cebu was placed under Blue Alert as Typhoon Tino loomed in the Pacific. Within hours, the warning escalated to Red, signaling imminent danger to life and property. For us Cebuanos, the shift was more than technical, it was a chilling reminder of what was to come. Anxiety spread quickly as families, schools, and offices braced for impact.

By November 3, I vividly remember preparing with my family, stocking canned goods, rice, and water, hoping supplies would last a week. As the sun set, the sky turned a haunting shade of red. It was beautiful, yet unsettling, recalling the ominous skies before Typhoon Odette in 2021. I prayed this time would be different.

That night, the storm arrived with full force. Winds howled like whistles tearing through homes. Heavy rains pounded relentlessly, and by midnight, Cebu was plunged into darkness. In Danao City, where I live, the rainfall was record-breaking. By dawn, a flash flood surged through our city—water rising from ankle-deep to above human height in seconds. I clung desperately to my motorbike as furniture and appliances drifted past, swallowed by the flood.

We suffered, and the communities around us suffered too. Families scrambled to higher ground, clutching children and belongings. Neighbors shouted across floodwaters, checking if others were safe. The fear was collective, the struggle shared. Though the waters subsided within an hour, the damage was irreversible—homes filled with mud, livelihoods swept away, and food supplies scarce.

In the days that followed, leadership and compassion rose above despair. Under the guidance of our Director, Glenn Labrado, with the support of the CCEF Board, the Rise Beyond Tino: Donation Drive and Relief Operation was launched. From December 4–9, 2025, three batches of relief operations reached Biasong and Dumlog in Talisay City, and Cotcot in Liloan:

- **366 individuals assisted**
- **6 people's organizations supported**
- **3 coastal communities reached**

Each family received food packs, hygiene kits, medicine, and home essentials. Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Mabolo Ward repacked goods with care, transforming supplies into lifelines.

The success of this operation lies in the communities we reached. These were not just recipients of aid—they have long been our partners in conservation, our allies in protecting Cebu's coastal ecosystems. For years, fisherfolk associations, women's groups, and urban poor organizations have stood with CCEF in safeguarding mangrove forests, sustaining fisheries, and nurturing resilience along their rivers and coasts. They have planted mangrove, monitored reefs, and taught stewardship to their children. They are the guardians of resources that sustain us all. Supporting them was not only about meeting immediate needs—it was about honoring their role in conservation, ensuring they could continue their vital work, and reaffirming that they are not alone.

This success was built on collaboration. CCEF, the Unico Conservation Foundation (UCF), Philippine Coast Guard–Auxiliary (PCG-A), City of Talisay through CENRO, barangay governments, private donors, and volunteer groups all played a role. Individual donors extended compassion across oceans, proving that generosity knows no boundaries.

Looking back, I can only say: God preserved us. In the chaos of winds and floods, His hand was there, sparing lives and reminding us that survival carries a purpose. That purpose is clear—to rise stronger, to care deeper, and to act urgently.

As a conservationist, I have spent six years teaching children about the effects of climate change. Typhoon Tino made me no longer a stranger to those realities—I lived them. The world is in a state of climate emergency. We cannot treat this as distant; it is here, reshaping our lives and communities.

#### What can we do as a community?

- Act locally: reduce waste, conserve energy, protect mangroves and forests;
- Build resilience: strengthen communities, prepare for disasters, support adaptation;
- Speak up: demand sustainable policies, support conservation initiatives, educate others;
- Live responsibly: make choices that honor the environment.

*We will never know when the next typhoon will hit, but the lessons have been taught. The climate emergency is as real as it gets. Together, we rose beyond Typhoon Tino. But the greater battle lies ahead—the fight against climate change. With faith, unity, and action, we can rise beyond storms, beyond fear, and toward a future where communities are resilient, ecosystems are thriving, and hope is stronger than any typhoon.*



Stronger than the storm: Hope Beyond Tino

# When Communities Speak

## ENCOUNTERS WITH CCEF

For decades, CCEF has walked alongside coastal communities, not as an outside authority but as a partner in stewardship. These encounters have been marked by shared learning, capacity-building, and mentoring of local organizations. Through orientations, training, and hands-on support, communities have discovered new ways to connect conservation with daily life—whether in local governance, fisheries, or livelihoods. More than technical skills, these experiences fostered confidence, ownership, and a sense of agency. The voices that follow reflect this journey. They are stories of people who have seen their natural assets not only as resources to protect, but as legacies to pass on. **Their words remind us that conservation is most powerful when it is community-driven, rooted in lived experiences, and sustained by collective commitment.**



When I was young, I saw how people would dig up the reef flats during low tide. They would hammer the reef just to get fish. But things changed when the concept of MPAs were formally introduced to us with the help of CCEF. The sanctuary created a safe zone for fish to spawn and grow. Fish from the inside eventually go out, that's where the fishers catch them now. With initiatives like fishing holiday policy, we embraced sustainable practices, understanding the need to give the sea time to replenish. It helps, we've seen changes. They also taught us about savings, not just about sanctuary establishment but also financial discipline.

**ROSELYN A. ACAIN**, Member,  
*Olang Marine Sanctuary Maria, Siquijor*



I recalled how CCEF never exploited the community but consistently helped, providing critical resources like flashlights and pumpboats. The sanctuary's ecological impact was clear, fish stocks increased and fish come out of the sanctuary, so we can catch more. I also noticed that the community behavior have changed, people became more cooperative and protective to the sanctuary.

**NOEL B. LOMO**, Member,  
*Binoongan Marine Sanctuary,  
Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor*



Because of CCEF, I was able to shift my life's direction. They taught us how to know if fish were increasing, how to check the condition of our sanctuary. Now we see different species again inside the sanctuary. If we destroy the sea, what will be left for those who come after us? They helped us understand that our actions today affect tomorrow's generation. They never forgot me, when there's work, they call me.

**HAROLD BONGAT**, Local sanctuary guide,  
*Tulapos Marine Sanctuary,  
Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor*



CCEF provides valuable support in the technical aspects of CRM planning by delivering targeted training programs for our fish wardens, including specialized scuba diving certifications. These initiatives significantly enhance our capacity to effectively monitor and manage activities in the future

**JUANA TANGPOS**,  
*Fishery Technician,  
Dalaguete, Cebu*



We extend our sincere gratitude to CCEF for the valuable technical trainings you have generously provided to our fishery technicians. Your dedication to capacity-building has significantly strengthened their knowledge and skills, enabling them to better serve our communities. We also deeply appreciate the collaborative efforts you continue to share with us in advancing, improving, and safeguarding our fisheries sector. Your support plays a vital role in promoting sustainable development and ensuring the long-term protection of our aquatic resources. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and partnership.

**LGU Santander**, Southeast Cebu



We, the members of BUFFALOO, sincerely and wholeheartedly express our deepest gratitude to CCEF. In one of the most challenging times in our journey, you chose to believe in our community and stand with us when we needed it most. Your support has been a great source of strength and hope for us. Beyond financial assistance, you generously shared your knowledge, time, and guidance, helping us rebuild not only our facilities but also our confidence and capacity as an organization. We were able to regain our direction and work toward a stronger and more sustainable future

**Bugas Farmers Fishermen and Livestock Owners  
Organization (BUFFALOO)**,  
*PO Partner, Badian, Cebu*



CCEF is constantly by our side as we struggle in our journey toward the conservation and sustainable management of coastal resources. It provides necessary training and important skills. Most importantly, it opens our vision to a wider knowledge of the ideals and the realities of the magnificent treasures entrusted to us by the Almighty. CCEF is truly our advocate in the conservation of our coastal resources. Thank you, CCEF, and more power.

**EDWARD VIÑAN**, Fisheries Technician,  
*Argao, Cebu*



We would like to sincerely thank the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF) for being part of our journey this year. Working with CCEF has been a truly meaningful experience for us. We learned a lot—not just about coastal resource management and fisheries, but also about how important it is to work together as a community. Their guidance and support helped us become more confident and more active in protecting our marine resources. We are very grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow with CCEF, and we hope to continue this partnership in the years ahead.

**JEFFERSON G. BOOC**, Fisheries Technician,  
*Oslob, Cebu*

# Financial Summary & Acknowledgements

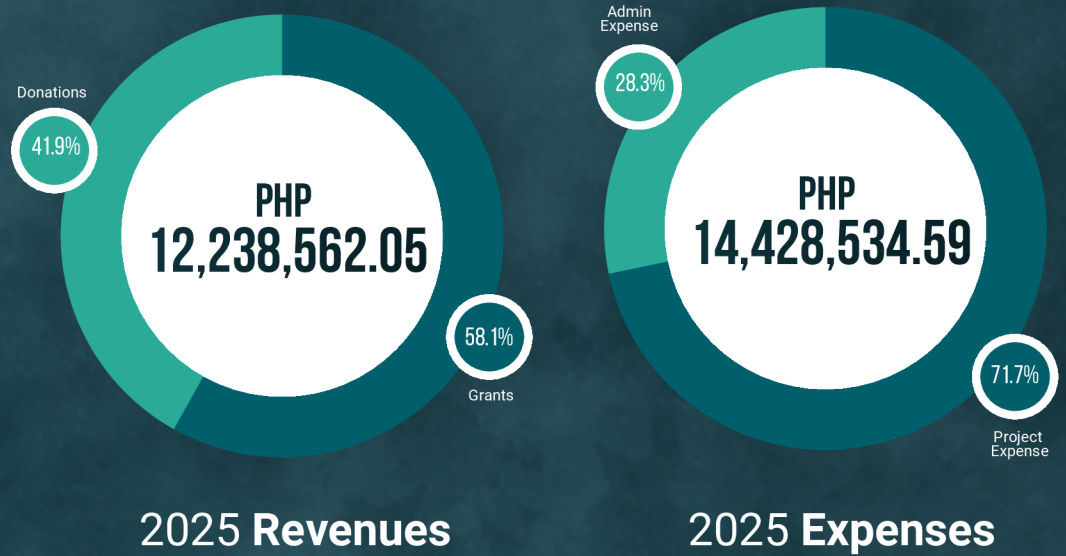
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## CCEF STAFF MEMBERS 2025

**Evelyn T. Deguit**, Executive Director  
(resigned June 2025)  
**Glenn R. Labrado**, Executive Director  
(beginning July 2025)  
**Marilou T. Gallarde**, Administrative and Human Resources Officer  
**Wilfredo S. Baguio Jr.**, Finance Officer  
(beginning September 2025)  
**Ranie C. Ibañez**, NMCLAP Project Coordinator/CRM Officer  
**Celda B. Dinoy**, ProComTour Project Coordinator/Enterprise Development Officer  
(resigned November 2025)  
**Rean Gerald Osmond C. Catitig**, Build REEFS Project Coordinator (beginning January 2026)  
**Nicholson D. Tan**, Senior Marine Biologist  
**Dionel L. Molina**, Marine Biologist

**Al Jiireil M. Lozada**, IT and Database Administrator  
**Justine Jace R. Baisac**, Communications and Impact Officer  
**Francis Miguel Z. Isok**, Partnerships Officer  
**Larra Jean M. Soncados**, Development Officer  
(resigned September 2025)  
**Marie Ann L. Lausa**, Bookkeeper  
**Franchesca Marie Hortel**, ProComTour Project Assistant  
**Peeve KC Layague**, Assisting Marine Biologist  
(beginning January 2026)  
**Pablita T. Huerbana**, Disbursement Officer/Administrative Assistant  
**Marilyn E. Alilay**, Office and Field Assistant  
**Joseph H. Huerbana**, Driver

## SPR VOLUNTEERS

**Dr. Alan T. White**  
**Vangie White**  
**Dr. Alison Green**  
**Vittoria Thomley**  
**Sheree Marris**  
**Roland Thomas**  
**Mark Hillebrand**  
**Dr. Graham Edgar**  
**Julia Cichowski**  
**Thomas Matula**  
**Dia Besida-Matula**  
**Mark Copley**

## VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS/INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**Rachel Davis**, US Peace Corps Volunteer  
**Eunice Ashley Estenzo**, USC-Management Accounting Intern  
**Dioshe Mae Rosales**, USC-Management Accounting Intern  
**Franchesca Marie M. Hortel**, USC-Biology Volunteer  
**Sister Kristen Sabatin**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
**Jhon Manuel Aninipot**, SLSU-Bontoc Marine Biology Intern  
**Johnny Castillon**, SLSU-Bontoc Marine Biology Intern  
**Jeofrey Nechole Matulen**, SLSU-Bontoc Marine Biology Intern  
**Andre Pauline Ortiz**, USC-BS Accountancy Intern  
**Peeve KC P. Layague**, USC-Marine Biology Volunteer  
**Daniela Talamantes**, Our World Underwater Scholarship Society Volunteer  
**Dr. Karstein Schroder**, Donated dive equipment  
**David Jackson**, Monthly donor  
**Edgardo Ganon Jr.**, Coastal cleanup volunteer

## CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS

**Joselito "Boboi" Costas**, ProComTour Project Ecotourism Consultant  
**Martin Gonzales Jr.**, ProComTour Project Culinary Consultant  
**Mario Marabol**, Ocean Education Program Consultant  
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Copy editing: **Glenn R. Labrado**

Proofreading: **Dr. Alan T. White, Glenn R. Labrado, Justine Jace R. Baisac**

SPR Photos: **Dr. Alan T. White, Vangie White, Alison Green, Vittoria Thornley, Sheree Marris, Roland Thomas, Mark Hillebrand, Dr. Graham Edgar, Julia Cichowski, Thomas Matula, Mark Copley, Dionel L. Molina, Nicholson D. Tan, Al Jieryl M. Lozada, Agnes Sabonsolin, Rachel Davis**

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CCEF ANNUAL REPORT 2025