

In photo:
Palawan Kingfisher



OCEANUS
CONSERVATION

2024 Annual Report

Oceanus Conservation's Impact in Review

WHO ARE WE?



We are a registered non-profit environmental organization based in Makati, Philippines. We were established during the time of the pandemic in March 2020. Yes, we are pretty new! But that also means great ideas can be turned into life pretty fast because we are a small team.

As the pandemic hit worldwide and the lack of focus back for the environment, we decided to come together and create an organization to bring back the restoration and protection of the Philippine marine habitats especially the undervalued, and unprotected sites.

The founders have more about 10 years experience in coastal resource conservation, marine protected area management, environmental education, capacity building, remote sensing, and GIS. Each team member of this organization contributes to the decision-making and solving the country's coastal and marine issues.

WE BELIEVE THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IS A UNION OF HUMANISTIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS.

MISSION

Our mission is to conserve and restore blue carbon habitats and contribute to their conservation, environmental education and community development.

VISION

To be a leading organization in integrating conservation of coastal ecosystems, community needs and technological solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of the Filipino people.

SNAPSHOTS from the FIELD



2024 MILESTONES



Mar/April

- Trained 15 local members for Migratory Bird-watching
- Ocean Literacy storytelling event with 23 school children
- Mangrove Nursery establishment
- Participated in the National Blue Carbon Action Plan (NBCAP)



June

- Organized Ocean Summit with 60 attendees in Busuanga, Palawan
 - Distributed localized infographics to barangay and LGU
- 27 local members trained for CBEMR in Cagwait



Sept/Oct

- Bioacoustics project with migratory bird and mangrove conservation
- GLFx Internship Program
- ECOP Philippines Launched
- Expansion site of mangrove rehab
- New Oceanus team members



Jan/Feb

- Mangrove Training (CBEMR) of ~25 local members in Zamboanga Sibugay
- Participated in Blue Carbon Training in Medan, Indonesia
- Monitoring visit by two donors: Canada Embassy and Blue Marine Foundation

May

- Project turnover to LGU Bais and provision of Scopes and Binoculars.
- Biodiversity Assessment of the restoration sites

July/Aug

- Organized EmpowerED Siargao marine camp with 23 Youth Leaders of 9 Municipalities
- Presented in Science-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation Methods and the Policy Roll-Out in Iloilo City, Philippines

Nov/Dec

- 10ha of abandoned fishpond restored in Cagwait, Surigao del Sur and 2.75 ha in Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Brunei-Korea cooperation fund (BKCF) launching with 600 mangrove trees data collected
- Community development trainings (Financial literacy, conflict resolution)
- Asian Bird Fair 2024
- Presented in the International Mangrove and Restoration Conference, UAE



OCEANUS BY THE NUMBERS

Oceanus Conservation's 2024 Impact on Local Communities Across the Philippines

108

YOUTH
ENGAGED IN
ADVOCACY

62

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
PARTNERED
(INCENTIVIZED)

129

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
TRAINED

63

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
PARTICIPATED
IN CITIZEN SCIENCE

114

IEC MATERIALS
DISTRIBUTED

15

BIOACOUSTICS
DEPLOYED

16

HECTARES
ABANDONED
FISHPOND
REHABILITATED

41,643

MANGROVES
PLANTED

2

CONSERVATION
PLANS DISTRIBUTED
TO LGUs

29

VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED

16

STORYBOOKS
DISTRIBUTED

600

DATA TREES
COLLECTED

126

REEF FISH
IDENTIFIED

62

BIRDS
IDENTIFIED

3

THREATENED
CORAL SPECIES
IDENTIFIED

13

EQUIPMENT
SUPPORT

1

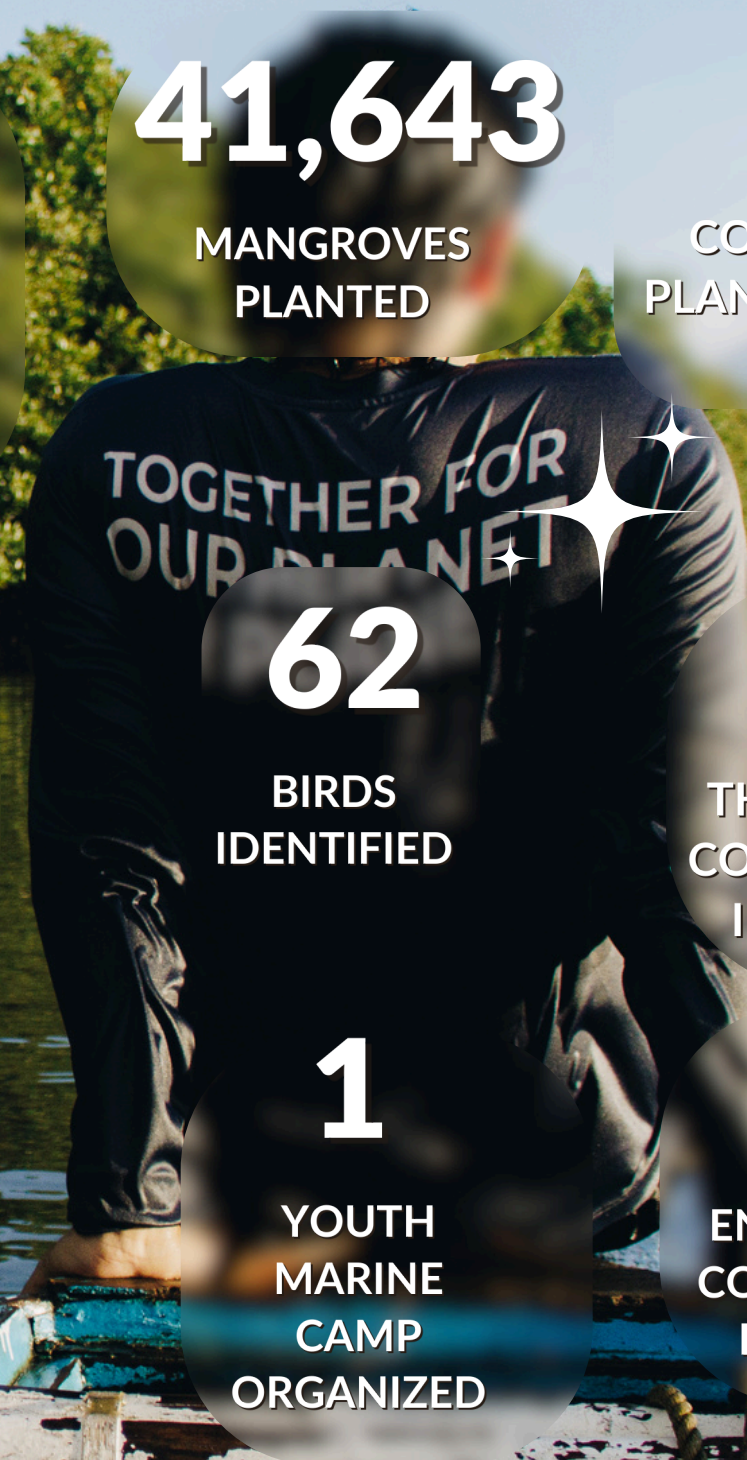
OCEAN
SUMMIT
ORGANIZED

1

YOUTH
MARINE
CAMP
ORGANIZED

2

ENDANGERED
CORAL SPECIES
IDENTIFIED





COMMUNITY-BASED MANGROVE AND MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

This project aims to develop a conservation program targeting the Philippine ecological habitats used by migratory birds of the EAAF - areas with high mangrove density/biodiversity and migratory bird occurrence. We worked with the LGU of Bais and the United Fisherfolk Association in the implementation of the project, and the technical experts from the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines. Currently, we are assisting with the application to designate the area as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) through our assessment. We have also turned-over Equipment (10 binoculars, 1 Spotting scope, 1 tripod, and 1 cellphone mount) and IEC Materials (18 posters, 40 brochures) to the LGU and the Provincial tourism.

62
BIRDS IDENTIFIED

2
IUCN VULNERABLE

3
IUCN ENDANGERED



BIRDWATCHING TOUR TRAINING

A two-day customized training program for 15-20 members of UFAC on guided bird watching tours in and around Talabong Island was conducted with the help of our bird expert consultants from WBCP.

Overview of the training activity design as follows:

- Day 1
 - Lecture on Mangroves and Migratory Birds (the EAAF, PH's role in the EAAF, the importance of preserving mangrove ecosystems, species birds found in the area, info on each of the bird species, etc.)
 - Sample bird watching tour on the bird hotspots around Barangay Capiñahan where the participants did an actual tour simulations/spiels.
- Day 2
 - Fieldwork - sample bird watching tour on the bird hotspots around North and South Bais Bay especially in Talabong Island where the participants did actual tour simulations/spiels.
 - Certificate and Feedbacking
 - Materials turned over
 - 2 Birds of the Philippines Books
 - 20 Bird ID Cards
 - 4 Mangrove ID Cards





RAISED
10K+

150+
BOOTH VISITORS

DISTRIBUTED
49
BROCHURES

13th ASIAN BIRD FAIR

From the project's activities, a partnership with the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) has developed. The WBCP, being the main proponents and partners of the Asian Bird Fair (an annual celebration of avian wildlife and the anthropological activities geared towards their protection and conservation), has invited OC to participate in the 13th Asian Bird Fair held last November 21-22, 2024 at The Tent in Las Piñas City, Philippines.

Oceanus was provided with a booth to showcase its work, raise funds, and raise awareness to the public. This event is also supported by the Global Landscapes Forum through the GLFx Internship Program as Oceanus is also a GLFx Mindanao Chapter





EMPOWERED SIARGAO

The youth are a dynamic and influential part of Siargao Island, and they have a vital role to play in inspiring the entire community to safeguard the environment.

Our initiative goes beyond education. "EmpowerED Siargao" was chosen to reflect our commitment to empowering the 23 active youth leaders, including members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation, as well as engaged members of various youth organizations and student councils in 9 Municipalities through a sense of ownership and leadership. By emphasizing the word "empower," we convey our belief in the potential of the youth to drive positive change.

We hope that through these efforts, the youth of Siargao will already be empowered to take charge of the future of their island and take the lead in environmental conservation efforts.





In photo: IUCN Endangered *Pectinia maxima*



OCEAN SUMMIT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ATTENDEES

4

ACADEME

7

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

8

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

11

VOLUNTEERS

22

PROJECT PARTNERS

21

GUESTS AND OTHERS

11

GOVERNMENT

PROJECT PRICE

Oceanus Conservation's Project "Prioritizing Conservation Efforts: Mapping Biodiversity Hotspots in Marine Ecosystems in Busuanga, Palawan," aims to prioritize conservation efforts in Busuanga, Palawan by mapping biodiverse ecosystems and highlighting resilient areas in six barangays. Through biodiversity assessments of mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, and reef fish, critical conservation areas are identified to co-create a conservation plan with local government and stakeholders. In this project, based on the IUCN Red List, there were **two (2) endangered** namely *Pectinia maxima* and *Lobophyllia serrata*, and **three (3) coral species** namely *Heliofungia actiniformis*, *Pachyseris rugosa*, and *Physogyra lichtensteini*, identified.

The project has been completed last July 2024 through an organized Ocean Summit to showcase the project results and providing localized informational materials to all project partners.



MANGROVE NURSERY BANKS

**BITAUGAN WEST,
SURIGAO DEL SUR**

10,562

mangrove saplings

**ARAS-ASAN,
SURIGAO DEL SUR**

31,000

mangrove saplings

**KABASALAN,
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY**

10,000

mangrove saplings

**BUCTO, BISLIG,
SURIGAO DEL SUR**

5,000

mangrove saplings



BioACOUSTICS

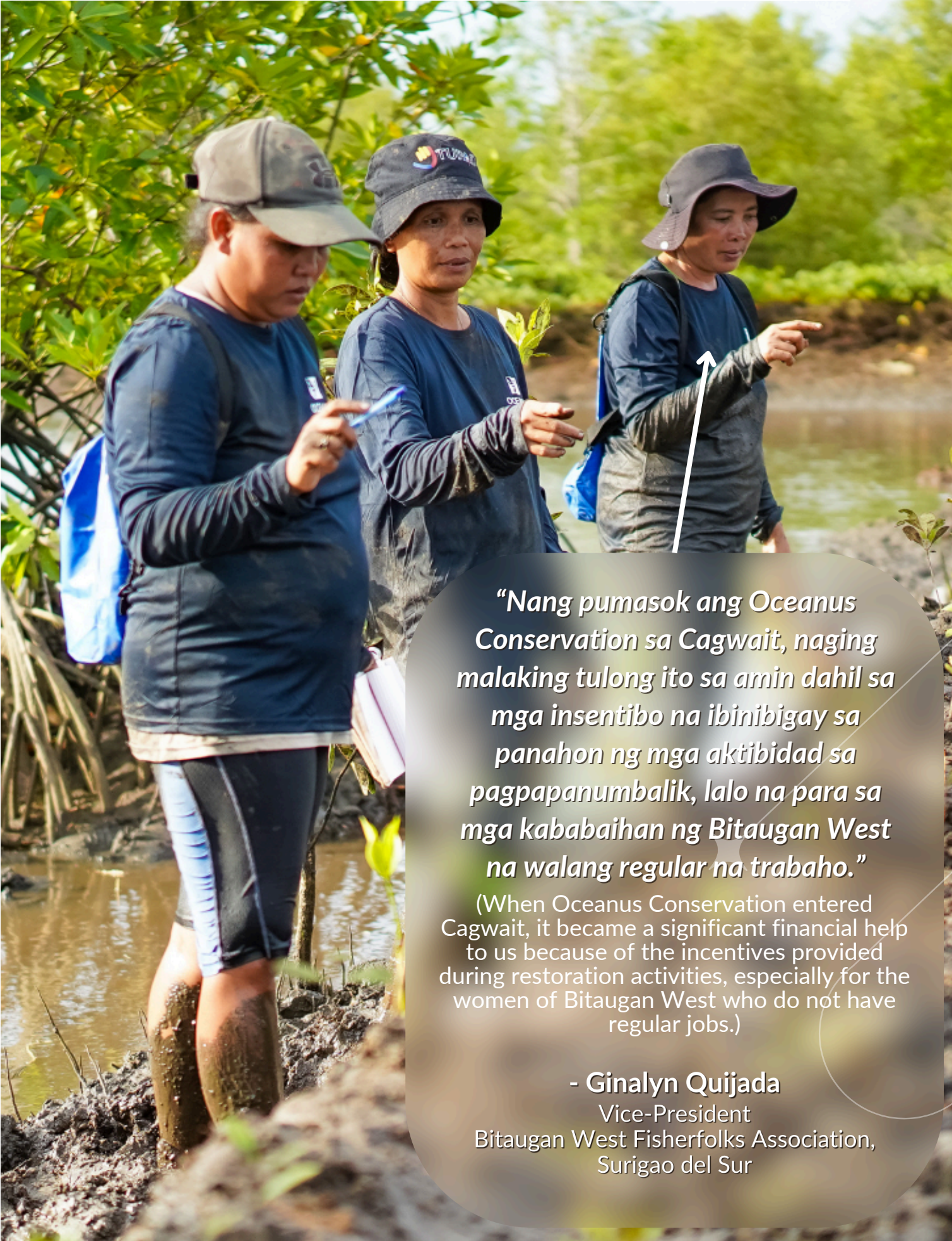
Last August 2024, Oceanus Conservation together with GainForest deployed 12 Audiomoths in Cagwait, Surigao del Sur. These audio moths serve as a recorder of the soundscape in the area. During the 3-day deployment, over 50,000 minutes of soundscape or 840 hours of nature's symphony. Community members were also trained on how to deploy the device and were incentivized during the data collection.

Moreover, with the help of National Geographic Society, six (6) song meters were deployed from October until February 2025, in order to understand what migratory bird species coexist in the mangrove forests during the migratory season to help us increase the protection of these habitats.

This project helps in understanding the rich biodiversity in the mangrove area and will help in identifying the species present through their acoustics.



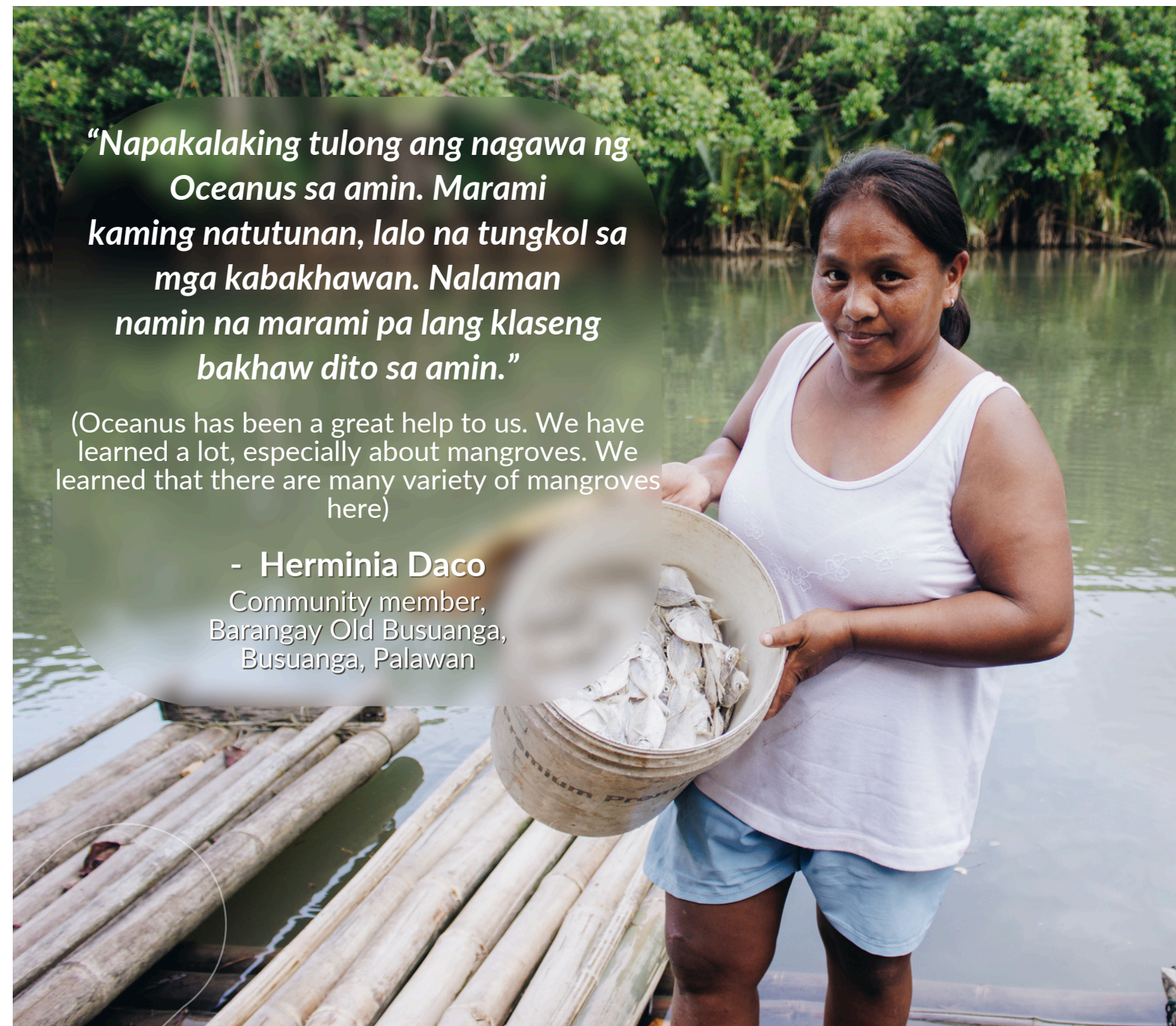
COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS



“Nang pumasok ang Oceanus Conservation sa Cagwait, naging malaking tulong ito sa amin dahil sa mga insentibo na ibinibigay sa panahon ng mga aktibidad sa pagpapanumbalik, lalo na para sa mga kababaihan ng Bitaugan West na walang regular na trabaho.”

(When Oceanus Conservation entered Cagwait, it became a significant financial help to us because of the incentives provided during restoration activities, especially for the women of Bitaugan West who do not have regular jobs.)

- Ginalyn Quijada
Vice-President
Bitaugan West Fisherfolks Association,
Surigao del Sur



“Napakalaking tulong ang nagawa ng Oceanus sa amin. Marami kaming natutunan, lalo na tungkol sa mga kabakhawan. Nalaman namin na marami pa lang klaseng bakhaw dito sa amin.”

(Oceanus has been a great help to us. We have learned a lot, especially about mangroves. We learned that there are many variety of mangroves here)

- Herminia Daco
Community member,
Barangay Old Busuanga,
Busuanga, Palawan



**TOGETHER
FOR OUR
PLANET.**



www.oceanusconservation.org
info@oceanusconservation.org
Makati City, Philippines

