



Annual Report 2018

On the cover:
Traditional basket weaving at
Sitio Kalakwasan,
Barangay Tanabag, CNCH

Photo by John Christian Yayen
Layout by Jessa Garibay

#PowerToTheForest #WomenInConservation

After last year's MOMENTOUS achievements, we felt very honoured to spend 2018 celebrating our community relationships by returning to what we do best—being on the ground with our communities.

2018 was also a year for learning and growing. Now that we've declared Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, the next challenge is how do you make sure that the communities are confident in protecting their land. With that in mind, we did a learning trip to Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP), the Philippines' pioneer Protected Area. There, we gained a lot of insights on how they manage their land where their successes are mostly due to the fact that indigenous communities take lead in program development and enforcement among many others. Maraming salamat po to the MKRNP Management for having us and being generous in sharing your experiences!

As you leaf through the pages of our 2018 Annual Report, we hope that you'll feel as connected to the communities as we are! I am proud and privileged to share that we REALLY truly do work on the ground and has understood the dynamics by staying on the sites.

On behalf of CS, maraming salamat po at mabubay! (Many thanks and long live!)



Jessa Garibay

Co-Executive Director and Co-Founder

Centre for Sustainability PH, Inc.

The Centre for Sustainability PH is a **women-led, youth** non-profit environmental organization working on sustainable community development in Palawan, the Philippines.

Our mission is to **CONSERVE LAND** by completing the establishment of protected areas in all remaining unprotected terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas of Palawan.

Our work comes **from communities for communities to communities**, incorporating local knowledge and practices in project development to ensure continuing relevance and long-term sustainability for many years to come.

CS works together with local low-income communities linking them with our partner organisations from local and national government (City Government of Puerto Princesa, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Environment and Natural Resources), local and international universities (Western Philippines University, Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein), and other non-government organisations. By bringing together the invaluable knowledge, skills, and experience of these diverse groups, CS is able to design and execute projects which can make a bigger and long-lasting impact on the preservation of our magnificent natural environment and on local communities ever more empowered to protect it for our future generations.

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Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH) Project

Puerto Princesa contains one national park (Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park—22,000 hectares) but approximately 80,000 hectares of pristine forest neighbouring the park until very recently remained unprotected. The centre of this large forest is shaped by Cleopatra's Needle, locally known as Puyos Ni Ibay or simply Puyos for short, the highest peak of Puerto Princesa City and surroundings (1,593 MASL). This area is a real biological gem—not only is it the last haven for countless endemic flora and fauna species, it further serves as the largest watershed in the City, providing water for approximately 30% of the residents in the City. Most importantly, it is the ancestral domain of the last remaining 200 members of the diminishing indigenous Batak tribe, who have inhabited the area since time immemorial.

“Saving the Almaciga Tree” Project

The Almaciga tree (*Agathis philippinensis*) is the primary non-timber forest product of the forests of Cleopatra's Needle—its high-value resin represents approximately 80% of the income of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) who have lived in this area since time immemorial. This ancient coniferous tree used to dominate the forests of northern Palawan—over-harvesting, together with illegal activities, now threaten its existence. The indigenous communities in the area together with CS aim to ensure the future of the Almaciga tree, and thus livelihood and existence of the IPs, through research, reforestation, education & training, and enforcement.

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Monitoring Almaciga seedlings in the forest of Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat.
Photo by Asmyr Acladel

HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES



I. Give Back to Mother Nature with Great Escapes

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II. 2018 International Work Camp with Tochigi Conservation Corps (TCC)

CS' FIRST International Work Camp in partnership with TCC. Our 11 Japanese volunteers spent 10 days with us and worked very hard in conducting field activities with local partners who are strongly related to the conservation of Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH). We want to give back by supporting their own initiatives and getting to know their connections to CNCH.

A series of activities including maintenance of Puerto Princesa's Balayong Park, clean-up of Taraw Cave, trail maintenance at the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park all the way to learning weaving of traditional house roofing were done by the participants.



III. Learning Visit to Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKNRP)

There are many features that are similar between CNCH and MKNRP: (1) vast land area, (2) function as a major watershed and (3) presence of indigenous communities within the protected landscape. Furthermore, MKNRP's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) was recognized as the best functioning one in the country by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office. This translates to an effective management and implementation of its status as a Protected Area. Hence, CS chose this as the site for this activity to gather data on successful conserved areas in the Philippines.

Aside from meeting the Management of MKNRP, CS was also privileged to climb to the peak of Mt. Dulang-Dulang, one of the majestic peaks in the area and see for ourselves how vast and unique this landscape is!





Our Accomplishments

2 rounds of **MANAGEMENT PLANNING Meetings** for all 7 communities of CNCH



DECEMBER 15, 2017
Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat declaration with its **TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

5 years 6 Palawenyos

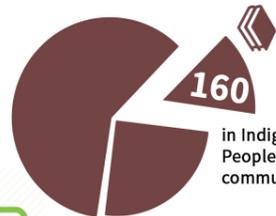
3 upland Indigenous Peoples communities
7 lowlander coastal communities
1 city government
3 national government agencies
6 major local and international donors
6 local and international universities
1 museum
a dozen non-government and private-sector organizations
and a host of local and international researchers, students and volunteers.

724

elementary school students provided with environmental education.



Summaries submitted to stakeholders and partner government agencies



160 in Indigenous Peoples communities

39 Trained



Wildlife Enforcement Volunteers



HYGIENE IEC
@ 3 Indigenous Communities



5,077

Almaciga seedlings propagated and reforested back into Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat.



9,898 seedlings

24

Batak members trained as Sustainable Tourism Community Guides.



And none of this could have happened without **424 days** of time and energy selflessly devoted to CS by our dedicated volunteers!



41,350 hectares

of some of the Philippines' last remaining intact forest protected, and in doing so:

BIGGEST Critical Habitat in the Country!

3
Indigenous People's ancestral domains protected

61
Palawan-endemic species protected

31
IUCN Threatened species protected





Throughout the year 2018 at CNCH, on average, CS was present EVERY WEEK in the indigenous communities to conduct visits, meetings and consultations. These visits meant being out in the elements on long commutes or motorcycle rides needing to trek across rivers to get to communities in the protected landscape.

Photos by DUNCAN MURRELL
Photo on Bottom Left by JOHN CHRISTIAN YAYEN



DONORS & PARTNERS



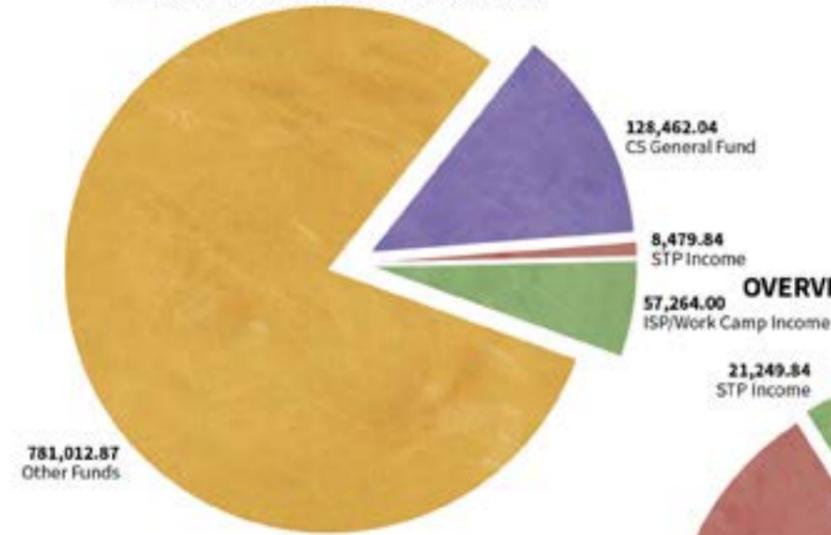
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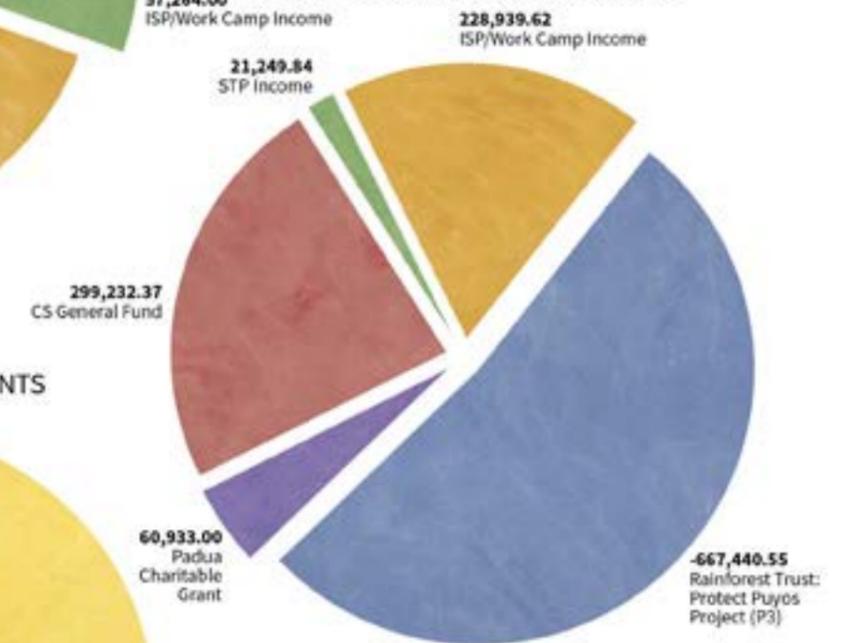
Otterfonds

A team of science centre leaders under the leadership of Maria Isabel Garcia, Curator of The Mind Museum (Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc.), Taguig city, Philippines

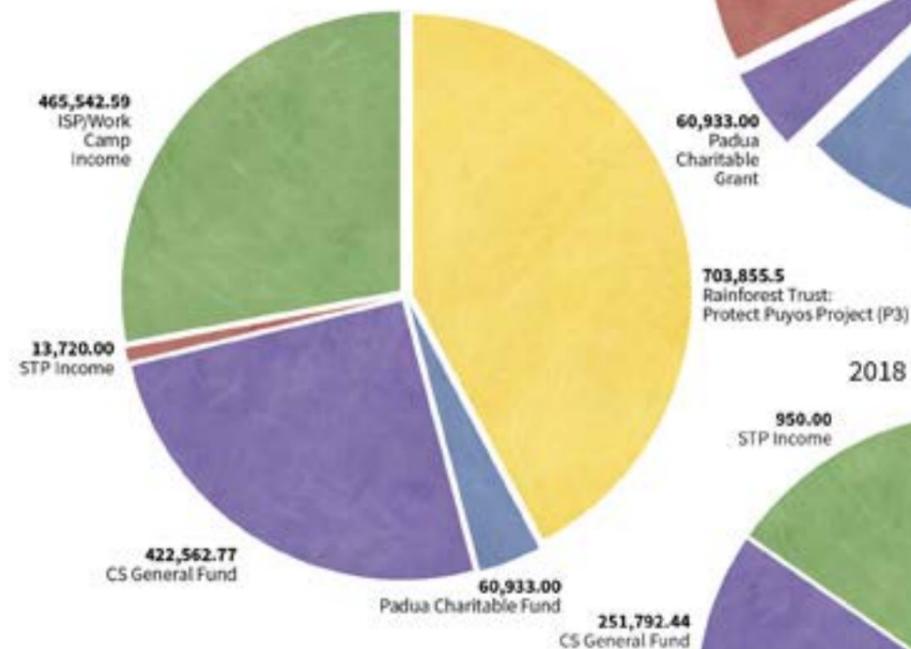
OVERVIEW: 2018 OPENING BALANCE



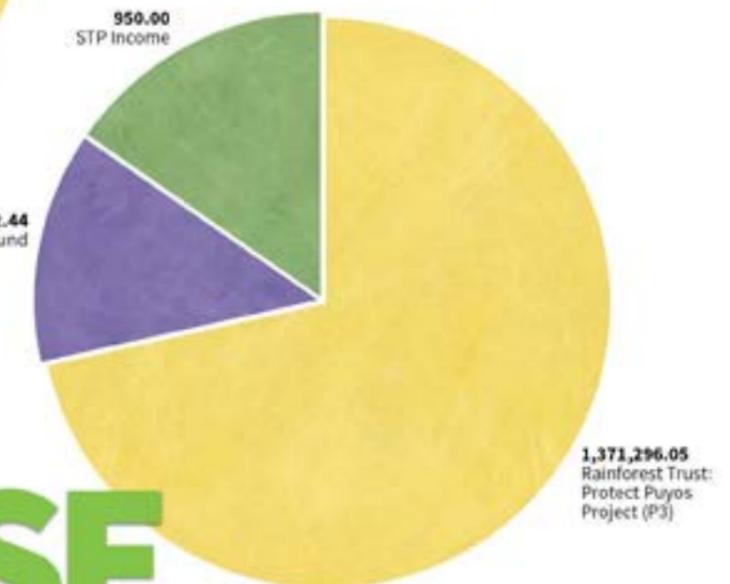
OVERVIEW: 2018 CLOSING BALANCE



2018 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS



2018 TOTAL EXPENSES



EXPENSE REPORT

Asian fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*)
Photo by Erickson Tabayag



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www.centreforsustainabilityPH.org

Be Part of Saving Palawan's Forests!



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SEC #CN201605874, March 18, 2016

Legal Name: Centre for Sustainability PH, Inc. | Mayor's Permit Number: BP-2017-02548-0
Certificate of Accreditation Resolution No. 211-2019 entitled "A Resolution Approving the Application for
Renewal of Accreditation of Centre for Sustainability PH, Inc. as a Legitimate Non-Governmental
Organization in Puerto Princesa City" signed October 21, 2019