



BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The National Engineering University

PROJECT SINAGAN: CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH FLORAL BIODIVERSITY TRAINING IN MT. NALAYAG, LOBO



The Philippines is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, home to over 15,000 plant species, including more than 8,000 vascular plants and around 7,000 species of algae, mosses, fungi, and ferns. A study by Palis et al. (2011) on the Lobo, Batangas Watershed (LBW) assessed plant diversity as part of an ecological-economic valuation of terrestrial ecosystems in the Verde Island Passage, originally conducted by ERDB (2003). This assessment in the Philippine Teak Forest analyzed species composition, diversity levels, conservation status, and carbon sequestration potential.

In response to this ecological significance, a two-day training was organized for members of the Samahang Lisang Layunin Nagbukod Agapay sa Pangangalaga ng Ganda ng Kalikasan (SINAGAN), a community-based organization in Balibago, Lobo, Batangas. The training, attended by 20 participants, combined lectures and workshops on key topics, including the importance of native, endemic, and threatened species and the correct methods for taxonomic identification of tree species. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were distributed for further learning.

On the first day, participants covered the following topics:

1. Importance of Philippine Endemic, Native, and Threatened Species
2. Importance of Proper Taxonomic Identification of Trees
3. Agroforestry and Sustainable Upland Development in Brgy. Balibago, Lobo
4. Role of Insects in Nalayag Tourism
5. Floristic Composition and Carrying Capacity of Nalayag: Basis for Sustainable Ecotourism Management in Lobo

The second day focused on hands-on training, where participants learned basic techniques for identifying tree species in Nalayag and received instruction on a forest-based nursery livelihood project to provide additional income for the organization. Resource speakers from academia shared their expertise on taxonomy, enhancing participants' understanding of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood practices.





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PROJECT DYES-ABLE: EMPOWERING COASTAL AND MANGROVE CONSERVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES IN LOBO



In the coastal town of Lobo, Batangas, where mangroves flourish along the shores and tourism weaves through the local economy, a project has taken root to protect and uplift the environment—the DYES-ABLE initiative. This project, part of the larger TINDIG LOBO Program (Together Involvement to Non-stop Development of Inter-barangays to Gear up Extension Services), embodies a commitment to coastal and mangrove conservation through community involvement and environmental stewardship.

The project's overarching goal is to clean and protect Lobo's invaluable marine waters, delicate mangrove ecosystems, and the coastal community. Beyond conservation, it seeks to raise awareness about environmental issues impacting these ecosystems, fostering a collective sense of responsibility among the community.

A Commitment to Beauty and Sustainability

Lobo's mangroves are more than a natural wonder; they are a tourist attraction that brings visitors to the area. Maintaining the beauty of this ecosystem is vital, especially as it draws people who may not be aware of the delicate balance within these habitats. Providing accessible cleaning equipment, such as strategically placed trash cans, helps the community maintain this beauty, even after storms that bring debris ashore. When visitors find a well-maintained environment, they are more likely to respect and preserve it, contributing to a culture of environmental discipline.

The project's progress is not only measured in a cleaner environment but also in the smiles and appreciation from locals and visitors. The DYES-ABLE team—comprised of dedicated BS Agriculture students with specializations in Crop Science, Animal Science, and Forestry—braved long hours and effort to ensure that the mangroves were well-cared for. Their efforts included conducting a coastal clean-up, establishing recycle bins made from raw materials, and providing essential tools to aid in the upkeep of these ecosystems.

Through hard work and dedication, the team has helped foster a renewed appreciation for Lobo's natural beauty and provided tangible resources for the community to sustain it. The DYES-ABLE project not only ensures that Lobo's environment thrives but also leaves a lasting impact on its people, inspiring future generations to protect their coastal treasures.

