

TRAINING REPORT

“BIODIVERSITY SUMMER CAMP (BIOCAMP) FOR KIDS”

I. BACKGROUND

In commemoration of and as part of the Philippine celebration of Earth Day on 22 April 2007, PAWB Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim issued **Special Order No. 2007-60** on 13 April 2007 (Annex “A”), as amended by Special Order No. 2007-____ dated _____ (Annex “B”) ordering the conduct of a “**Biodiversity Summer Camp for Kids**” and creating a **Working Group** to organize and handle the implementation of the same.

In compliance to said Order, the Working Group, headed by Dr. Antonio C. Manila, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Division, held two (2) meetings in preparation for the said event. The meetings were held on April 13 and 18, 2007 at the DENR Visitor’s Center, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC). During the first meeting, the Working Group discussed the Camp Module drafted by My Zoo Volunteer Group, the NGO-partner; identified the specific tasks and needs for the biocamp, and assigned specific member/s of the Group to be responsible in completing each of the identified tasks. In the second meeting, the Group finalized the Camp Module and discussed the progress of preparatory activities.

Included in the preparatory activities undertaken were steps to disseminate the information and solicit interest of participation from target age group of 7 to 12 years old, such as: the preparation and posting of event information at the PAWB website; sending of invitation to DENR offices (Central Office and Attached Bureaus) for the participation of their kids in the biocamp; and hanging of streamer at Gate 2 of NAPWC.

The major output of the Working Group preparatory meetings was the Camp Module. This Module (Annex “C”), which includes the daily programme of activities and the Camp Journal (Annex “D”) to be used by the participants, was approved by the PAWB Director on 20 April 2007.

II. DATE AND VENUE

The biocamp was actually conducted on 20-22 April 2007 at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center, particularly in the vicinity of D’Lagoon Restaurant and Fishing Village areas.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Twenty-nine (29) out of the thirty-five camp registrants actually participated in the biocamp. The participants came from as far as Isabela Province, down to Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Catanduanes and Metro Manila. Seven (7) of the participants are kids/nephews/nieces of DENR Central Office personnel; five (5) of FMB staff; and, seventeen (17) of PAWB employees. Twenty six percent (26%) or 8 of the participants were 11 years old; 21% or 6 were 12 years old; and 10% or 3 were 9 years old. There were four (4) participants in each of the 7, 8 and 10 year old categories.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIOCAMP

The activities conducted and the highlights of said activities are as follows:

DAY 1 (April 20, 2007)

1) Opening Ceremonies

The participants gathered at the Amphitheater from 8:00A.M. to 9:30A.M. for official registration and opening programme. The programme was started by an Invocation led by Mr. Randy Mabana, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Ms. Marilou Geronimo. Director Lim welcomed the participants. She imparted to them the importance of the biocamp activity and its relation to the global celebration of Earth Month (April) and Earth Day (April 22). She anticipated the enjoyment, appreciation and acquisition of new learning experiences by the participants from the three-day activity, and expressed her gratitude to My Zoo Volunteer Group, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines and all PAWB employees who have contributed in organizing the biocamp.

2) Introduction and Orientation

Dr. Esteven U. Toledo of PAWB, on one hand, gave the participants an overview of the event: what the biocamp is all about, the activities to be conducted and the expectations from the participants. Dr. Lester Louis Lopez of My Zoo, on the other hand, briefed the participants on the rules and regulations to be observed throughout the three-day period.

After the orientation, the participants introduced themselves one by one

3) Camp Proper

DAY 2 (April 21, 2007)

DAY 3 (April 22, 2007)

V. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED