

## Our PAK

**P**agasa (hope), **A**lagaan (care), and **K**aunlaran (progress)

Kingfisher Park is located in the community of Malbato. So many problems have plagued Malbato's environment. Most of the problems are linked to income-generating activities such as illegal logging, slash and burn farming (kaingin), the making of charcoal (uling), cyanide fishing, honey harvesting, and pet trade.



Logging rings operated deep in the mountains and hold many of the residents in sway through offers of a quick buck.



Slash and burn farming or kaingin is another environmental problem plaguing Malbato. Residents indiscriminately burn trees and grass in an effort to create arable land. This, of course, does not enrich the land and residents are left with fallow tracts of land instead of fertile ones. Also, kaingin is a fire hazard for the environment, trees and other vegetation can be needlessly destroyed. The harm it can do to animals can lead entire species to die out or disappear, destroying rich biologically diverse environments.

The making of charcoal is another quick and easy way to make a buck at the expense of the environment. Trees, including mangroves, are cut into small pieces and burned. The charcoal that comes out of this process is sold. Aside from killing thriving trees, the smoke damages the air.



Wasteful and harmful fishing practices in the place are 'kubkub', 'sarada', cyanide and dynamite fishing. 'Kubkub' and 'sarada' indiscriminately entrap fish of all sizes in fine nets. Two boats sweep the waters with the net in 'kubkub', while in 'sarada' fish is entrapped in the mangroves as the tide recedes.



The irony is no matter how often people engage in these activities to earn a living many still need to scramble just to get three meals a day. These activities do not ensure anyone of a steady income; rather, they make things worse as the ecosystem, which is the supposed source of income, is destroyed.

The establishment of Kingfisher Park offered a solution to these problems. In just two years, at least 90% of environmentally harmful income generating practices in Malbato have been stopped because Kingfisher Park has been engaged in several activities that raised people's awareness of the problems of the environment, like art contests for the kids of Malbato, community parties with games tackling environmental



Issues, a 'walk for the environment' rally, , educational posters scattered all around the sitio, tree-planting projects, composing of the Malbato theme song, and persons doing illegal activities had been confronted and reported to authorities. However, it is impossible to stop the environmental problems of Malbato without addressing the problem of the livelihood of its residents. Hence, Kingfisher Park has invested in several livelihood options for the people, such as a microcredit financing, and provision of construction jobs in the park and the community. But these income generating activities are insufficient and not sustainable. Kingfisher Park needs partners, like you.



Kingfisher Park has employed several persons involved in the illegal trade and funds are needed to sustain employment and to hire others as well. Hence, every visitor are community partners, you are the provider of community jobs. Your entrance fees will give employment and be reinvested in the community, and will be used to



restore destroyed habitats and protect virgin ecosystems. As part of the kayak tour, visitors will have the option of donating 100 pesos and planting mangrove in a mangrove destroyed habitat; and for the Lunes Santo Trekking, visitors will have the

option of donating 100 pesos and planting Narra trees or other endemic trees in a kaingin or illegally logged area. Your donation will employ persons who will take care of those planted trees. Kingfisher Park is also intent in promoting scholarly activities. Professor, students, and researchers will be invited to study the Park's biologically



Bird sample collected at Kingfisher Park by bird researcher, Tom Braille, from the University of Alaska

diverse ecosystems. Partnerships will be sought with universities and other scholarly institutions. Last but not least, musicians and artists are invited to partner with Kingfisher Park as well.

Kingfisher Park will have three piers, the 'Pagasa' (hope), Alagaan (care) and Kaunlaran (progress) (PAK) piers. **Let us have a PAK (pact)** to conserve, preserve, sustainably use, and restore God's gift, the biologically diverse resources of Kingfisher Park, hence, providing hope, care and progress to the persons and environment of Malbato. So we invite you to visit Kingfisher Park, a 'haven of biodiversity' and 'the home of five kingfishers.'

