

## Major Environmental Organizations in the Philippines

By Shelley Malaluan, HOPE researcher Philippines



**World Wide Fund for Nature – PH, <https://wwf.org.ph/>**

### **Main objectives:**

The name of the organization says it all. Their projects don't only focus on food, water, and climate, but on wildlife as well. In fact, they exert effort to ensure the survival of the rarest and most endangered species in the country. Also, part of their aim is to transform lives by providing livelihood programs.

### **Some major achievements to date:**

- Awarded the Conservation Leadership Award to Bank of the Philippine Islands and BPI Foundation in recognition of forward-thinking initiatives that cut across a broad and connected range of environmental themes, from providing business risk assessment of climate change impacts in four cities
- Protect 2.5M hectare of PH reefs
- Protect rehabilitate the forests of Ipo Watershed
- Working with cities, ports, policy makers and businesses towards a plastic-free nature by 2030.

### **Current projects/campaigns/events:**

- EARTH Hour (Mar 26 2022)
- One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) - Participating cities will be submitting reports detailing their respective emissions, as well as their plans and goals for climate action in their localities. These plans will be checked by a panel of experts against a methodology derived from the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C. It will then undergo an assessment framework to evaluate the city's climate targets and their alignment with the Paris Agreement. Participants will also receive guidance on the most effective actions to help them along this decarbonisation pathway towards net zero by 2050 at the latest.
- WWF-Philippines teams up with Pinoy Fitness Atleta for a virtual run to promote environmental conservation

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**Waves for Water -- [www.wavesforwater.org](http://www.wavesforwater.org)**

### **Main objectives:**

Access to clean water, for everyone that needs it

### **Some major achievements to date:**

Over the past ten years we have implemented 155 clean water programs, in 48 countries—using water filtration systems (150,000), bore-hole wells, and rainwater harvesting systems; impacting an estimated 3,750,000 people. In addition to our primary focus around providing clean water, we also coordinate and execute natural disaster relief efforts around the world. We have responded to 33 major natural disasters, to date—including initiatives in Nepal, Bosnia, Philippines, Indonesia, Haiti, Japan, Chile, and Pakistan.

**Current projects/campaigns/events:**

- Race for Water 2022 - Waves For Water Philippines, together with takbo.ph, is once again hosting the month-long virtual ride and run experience to raise awareness on clean water access inequality.

The accumulated distance pledged by all participants will also be converted into liters of water filtered, through the implementation of rainwater catchment tanks and clean water filtration systems for communities affected by the recent Super Typhoon Odette "Rai" in the Philippines.

Do what you love, help along the way from any-where in the world this March.

Registration is open from March 7 to April 21, 2022. Race starts March 22 and ends April 22, 2022.

Race For Water 2022 is organized in partnership with Aveda, H&M, TUMI Travel, Atlas, and co-presented by San Miguel Corporation, Sekaya, R.O.X and The North Face.

- Super Typhoon Odette (Rai) Response - Super Typhoon Odette (International Name: Rai) entered the Philippine zone of responsibility on December 14 over Eastern Visayas. It made its first landfall in Siargao Island, Surigao Del Norte on December 16 (1:30 PHT) with maximum sustained winds of 195 km/h near the center. In the day before landfall, Rai rapidly strengthened from a Category 1 to a Category 5-equivalent storm.

- We have a permanent team in Philippines and they are currently responding and deploying water filtration systems as swift as possible.

- W4W PH General Fund - Waves For Water's presence in the Philippines began as a response to Super typhoon Haiyan in 2013 where over 4.3 million Filipinos were affected. Two years after, the country office was established and formally registered as a non-stock and non-profit organization.

Since then, W4W Philippines has worked with local communities across 60 provinces, built 66 rainwater catchment systems, and provided a million Filipinos with clean water access in collaboration with private individuals, corporate donors, government offices, and grassroots organizations.

With your support, and in the spirit of bayanihan, we'll be able to do more.

W4W Philippines under Waves For Water Organization, Inc. is an accredited organization by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC).

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**Save Philippine Seas - [www.savephilippineseas.org](http://www.savephilippineseas.org)**

**Main objectives:** As the world's second largest archipelago with over 7,100 islands, Filipinos depend on the sea for livelihood, food, tourism, economy, and ultimately, our lives. Environmental conservation shouldn't be limited to NGO workers and researchers-- it should be accessible, relatable, and part of our lifestyles. Save Philippine Seas (SPS) aims to narrow the gap between scientists and the general public, the old and young, and the passionate and indifferent by mobilizing seatizen-led initiatives that are empowering Filipinos towards collective action and behavior change.

## **Some major achievements to date / Current projects/campaigns/events:**

**SEA Camp** - The Sea and Earth Advocates (SEA) Camp is an intensive environmental education and leadership program for youth 18-23 years old that aims to raise awareness on coastal and marine issues; promote pro-environmental behavior; and build a network of marine conservationists in Southeast Asia. It is a project of SPS and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, supported by the U.S. State Department and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative that began in 2015.

For seven to eight days, the SEA Campers participate in workshops, panel discussions, and outdoor activities. They must also work on a community engagement initiative prior to and during the SEA Camp. At the end of the program, all Campers are expected to pitch an environmental project or campaign that can be funded for implementation and supported with mentorship.

To date, over 50 SEA Camper-led projects have been implemented all over the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.

**A-B-Seas** - A-B-Seas is a three-day experiential learning activity that aims to teach the basics of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, connect people to nature, increase pro-environmental behavior, and teach leadership and transferable skills to pursue an advocacy.

A-B-Seas is for people interested in marine conservation, but don't know where to start. The activities are designed to increase awareness and knowledge on the marine environment's status, issues, threats, and solutions.

From 2017-2019, SPS implemented A-B-Seas weekends for three age groups: 9-12, 13-17, and 18 and above. They were held in Calatagan, Batangas, in partnership with Calataganda Travel and Tours.

**Earthducation** - is our flagship program for educators (e.g., public/private school teachers, workshop facilitators) to increase conservation literacy, instill appreciation for nature and the immediate environment, and teach basic and transferable skills for our shared advocacy and profession.

**SuBMarine** - We see businesses as vehicles for sea change. Under our program, Sustainable Businesses for Marine Conservation (SuBMarine), we work with companies of all kinds and sizes to identify and pursue the change we want to see in the world – together.

We've partnered with Globe Telecom, Huawei, Coca-Cola, Adidas, and Kiehl's, to name a few.

**Mainstream Refilling** - If we continue business as usual, there could be more plastic than fish in the sea by weight by 2050. In March 2019, we submitted a policy proposal to the Philippine government to enhance existing regulations in order to establish safe, widely accessible refilling stations for cosmetics and household products. We envision that the presence of appropriately regulated refilling stations that are as accessible as water refilling stations will spark a radical change in the way organizations deliver goods and how consumers purchase them.

Mainstream Refilling is led by Human Nature and SPS, and supported by a number of non-profit organizations and local enterprises.

**Waste Watchers** - (WW) is our overarching project to reduce single-use plastics at source, developed by SEA Camp alumni. Under Waste Watchers, we have the following campaigns:

Defying Gravity addresses the growing trend of lantern and balloon releases by contacting event organizers, informing them of the negative impacts of lanterns and balloons, and using our social media platforms to add public pressure.

Straw Wars aims to reduce/eliminate single-use straws from commercial establishments.

Plastic Battle aims to reduce or eliminate PET bottles by promoting water refill stations.

Take It Topless encourages consumers to refuse plastic lids for both hot and cold drinks.

Seayasat turned the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003) into a scorecard using its provisions to help commercial establishments assess their compliance.

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**Greenpeace Philippines - [www.greenpeace.org.ph](http://www.greenpeace.org.ph)**

**Main objectives:** The main goal of Greenpeace Philippines is to protect natural landscapes, species, and more from environmental threats such as perilous waste imports, coal projects, and illegal logging.

Aside from promoting ecological farming, this volunteer-based group also holds campaigns against land, air, and water pollution.

**Some major achievements to date:**

Greenpeace presence has contributed to the safeguarding of the Filipino's constitutional rights to a balanced and healthful ecology. Since it opened its office in Manila on March 1, 2000, Greenpeace, together with its allies and working with communities, has worked to champion renewable energy, combat illegal fishing and campaign for clean seas, support and amplify the Filipinos' call for climate justice, and call for the elimination of toxic chemicals in our environment. Today, Greenpeace Philippines continues to create positive change in the lives of millions of Filipinos as the country strives to grow and develop towards a sustainable future.

Greenpeace successfully led the campaign for the passage of Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as "The Philippine clean Air Act of 1999" which includes an unprecedented national ban against waste incineration.

**Current projects/campaigns/events:**

In the Philippines, Greenpeace's work is structured around four campaigns: (1) climate change mitigation and adoption of clean, renewable, and sustainable energy; (2) genetic engineering ban; (3) toxics elimination; and (4) ancient forest protection (Greenpeace Southeast Asia n.d.).

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**Haribon Foundation - [www.haribon.org.ph](http://www.haribon.org.ph)**

**Main objectives:** Haribon Foundation uses their widely known platform to save different bird species and to conserve their habitats as they empower and educate people. They also partner with various groups and local government units to conserve biodiversity.

**Some major achievements to date:**

Start of Rainforestation Organizations and Advocates or ROAD to 2020 Campaign, an environmental conservation movement to restore 1 million hectares of our rainforests using native tree species by year 2020. Haribon received the Catholic Mass Media Serviam Award Special Citation for institutional category.

One of the crowning achievements of Haribon in conserving endangered local tree species is the Buhay Punlaan nursery in Lumban, Laguna, which was established in 2009, where they were able to grow about 28,287 seedlings of 62 native tree species, some of which are considered precious as it gets scarcer to see

them in the wild. These seedlings are then replanted as part of the ROAD to 2020 forest restoration activities.

**Current projects/campaigns/events:**

In the pursuit of conservation through community-based resource management, Haribon adopts an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach that is participatory and scientifically sound. Its programs include science and research, community-based resource management, environmental defense and membership development.

Part of this year's activities includes their yearly drive for donations, like the Adopt-a-Seedling and Nurture Card. Through a minimal donation of P200, supporters can adopt a seedling of any of the Philippine native tree species.

Haribon is also encouraging students and young people to start growing trees through their Nurture Card. With a nurture card, a seedling that has been previously planted under the Adopt-a-Seedling Program will be nurtured in your name for one year, and you can continue to care for that tree with a yearly donation of P50 per seedling.

1. Community Organizing and Development Program
2. Science and Research Development Program
3. Environmental Defense - Tanggol Kalikasan
4. Membership and Chapter Development Program

**Free newsletter subscriptions:** none

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Rare - [www.rare.org/philippines](http://www.rare.org/philippines)

**Main objectives:** Rare is the leading behavior change organization in the conservation world. For over 45 years and across 60 countries, Rare has motivated individuals, their communities, and their local leaders to adopt behaviors that benefit both people and nature.

**Current projects/campaigns/events:**

Each of Rare's programs today – The Center for Behavior & the Environment, Fish Forever, Lands for Life, and Make It Personal – support the shared goal of driving collective action at the local level to address global challenges.

- **The Center for Behavior & the Environment** translates science into practice and leverages the best behavioral insights and design thinking approaches to tackle some of the most challenging environmental issues. Through partnerships with leading academic and research institutions, we are bringing the research into the field to connect the next generation of behavioral scientists with practitioners on the front lines of our greatest environmental challenges.
- **Fish Forever** - Coastal waters support some of the most spectacular and diverse environments on Earth. They sustain life, provide livelihoods for millions of people worldwide, and are critical to slowing the effects of climate change. However, rural coastal communities are often overlooked and under-resourced, leaving coastal communities without the capacity to sustainably manage local waters. This leaves the waters vulnerable to overfishing and other destructive practices – as well as the impacts of climate change – that threaten their food security, livelihoods, and physical well-being. The collapse of coastal fisheries is an environmental problem that could lead to a humanitarian crisis.

- **Lands for Life** - A tech-and behavior-centered solution for empowering farmers and safeguarding nature in Colombia and beyond. Sustainable alternatives to farming-as-usual must feed the world's growing population, tackle the climate crisis, and safe-guard our ecosystems and local livelihoods from climate change impacts.
- **Make It Personal** - Two-thirds of Americans think that citizens should do more to address global warming. And yet, most of us don't really know what to do. We recycle, carry our grocery bags. But turns out that's not enough.

Rare recently conducted research to identify the individual behaviors people can adopt with the greatest potential for climate impact. And it turns out, there are 7 things that many Americans might find surprisingly within reach. If just 10% of the U.S. addressable market adopted these behaviors, it would reduce U.S. annual emissions by an estimated 460 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq<sup>1</sup>. That's about the same as closing half the coal powered plants in the U.S. for one year.

While we still need larger changes from corporations and governments, it's pretty empowering to know we do not have to wait. We can each find at least one way to start making positive changes now. When it comes to our environment, we are all in this together.

**Free newsletter subscriptions:** YES

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**Mother Earth Foundation** - [www.motherearthphil.org](http://www.motherearthphil.org)

**Main objectives:** Garbage is among the top enemies of nature. To address this alarming concern, Mother Earth Foundation campaigns zero-waste advocacy to local authorities.

They hold programs in schools and barangays to promote environmental education and proper waste management.

**Some major achievements to date / Current projects/campaigns/events:**

So far, GAIA has completed over 20 brand audits in the Philippines and in neighboring countries. Break Free from Plastic: Break Free from Plastic emerged in 2016 in Tagaytay, Philippines, and its vision is to greatly reduce single-use-plastics and foster a world free of the toxic by-products of plastic pollution.

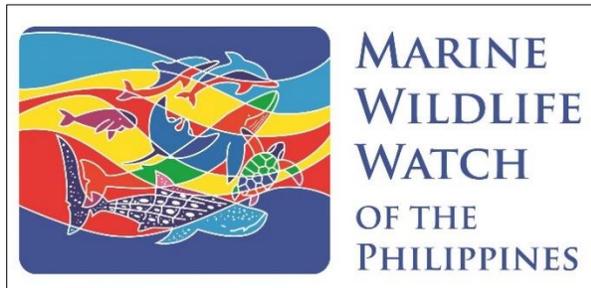
The Mother Earth Foundation will provide technical assistance to Batangas City Environment and Natural Resources Office to develop a zero-waste approach to solid waste management, including recycling, in 30 out of 105 barangays in the city. A Filipino non-governmental organization that works on a range of environmental issues, Mother Earth Foundation has built the capacity of marginalized communities, government agencies, schools, civic organizations, and businesses on how to plan and implement ecological SWM programs.

The Mother Earth Foundation has advised several municipal and provincial governments in successfully implementing zero waste projects. For example, as a result of improvements made in SWM, the city of San Fernando was able to divert 72% of its waste from landfills.

Similarly, a barangay in Manila was able to divert 92% of its solid waste after implementing a program developed by Mother Earth Foundation.

**Free newsletter subscriptions:** none

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**Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines -**  
[www.mwwphilippines.org](http://www.mwwphilippines.org)

**Main objectives:** With its strategic location, the Philippines could be considered the heart of marine biodiversity in the world.

We have quite a number of sea creature species that can be extinct soon if we don't act on it today.

Thankfully, Marine Wildlife Watch exerts strong efforts to protect these creatures from illegal trading and capture.

**Some major achievements to date:**

Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines' (MWWP) began as a Facebook page in December 2009. It was primarily designed to be an outlet for knowledge and information on marine wildlife in the Philippines, particularly the mysterious and interesting marine animals like dolphins, whales, dugong, marine turtles, sharks, and rays. The Facebook page served as an information hub that contained news, videos, pictures, and other information related to marine wildlife in the Philippines.

In a span of two years, the Facebook page gained considerable support from its followers. Thus, MWWP was registered under the name Marine Wild Fauna Watch of the Philippines, a non-profit, non-stock, conservation organization under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

**Current projects/campaigns/events:**

**Pawikan Watch PH** aims to educate and raise awareness on the threats these marine turtles encounter in order to help lessen the dangers it causes to the marine turtle populations in the Philippines.

**SHARKADA**, short for shark barkada (a group of friends) is the term used to call individuals and groups that support shark conservation in the Philippines. Save Sharks Network Philippines (SSNP) is currently running a campaign on the passage of the Philippine Shark Conservation Bill that aims to ensure that shark populations in the country are conserved.

SSNP is a coalition of prominent voices in the Philippines' scientific, NGO, and tourism communities advocating for shark conservation. Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Save Philippine Seas, and Greenpeace Philippines have taken the lead in the current campaign of SSNP.

**Free newsletter subscriptions: none**

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