

# Youth-In-Action for Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

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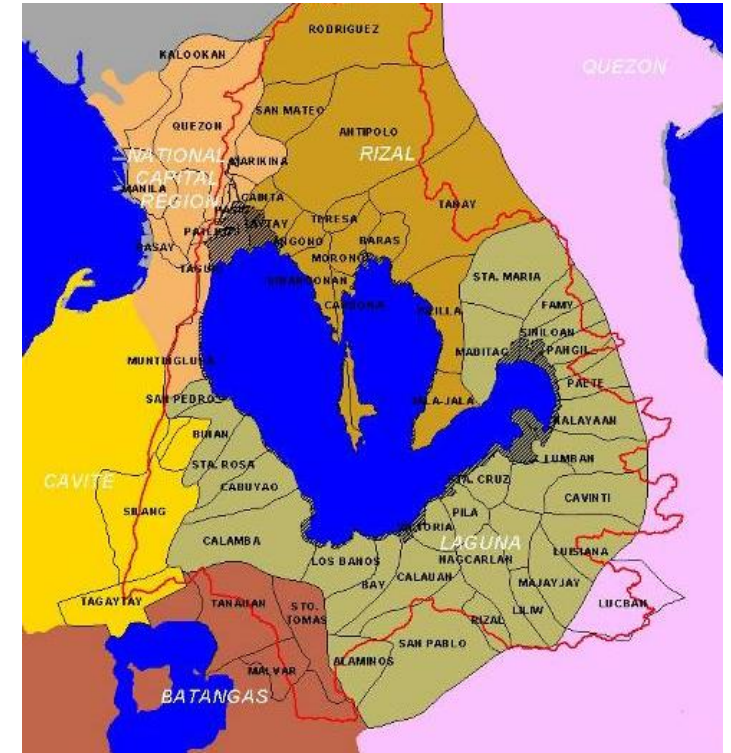
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## Background: The Laguna de Bay

- Largest and most vital inland water body in the Philippines
- Total surface area: some 949 km<sup>2</sup>
- Average depth of the lake: 2.5 m
- Shoreline length: some 285 km
- Some 100 streams drain into the lake
- Divided into twenty-four (24) hydrological sub-basins
- Watershed area: approximately 2,920 km<sup>2</sup>
- It cradles a region encompassing 6 provinces, 15 cities, 46 municipalities and 2,661 barangays, 188 of which are within lakeshore
- Three distinct bays: east bay, central bay, and west bay that converge towards the south Pasig River is the only outlet of the lake



# Background

- In 2003, the SCPW, in partnership with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and Unilever Philippines (ULP) embarked on a Youth Ecological Camp (YEC) to provide an experiential learning venue for lake conservation for High School students in the Laguna de Bay lakeshore towns.
- In 2013, the United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP) as part of its umbrella program on “Disaster Preparedness and Response Programme” (Building Resilience Against Disasters and Climate Change), recognized the merits of the Eco Camp as a vehicle for teaching High School students about disaster risk reduction and preparedness and its link to the integrity of ecosystems, particularly wetlands.





# The Youth Ecological Camp (YEC)

The YEC is a 3-day live in curriculum that incorporates concepts on environmental protection and wetlands conservation in relation to disaster risk preparedness and climate change adaptation and mitigation in the local context of a community. The curriculum is designed for High School Students , preferably those in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



# The Youth Ecological Camp (YEC)

It employs experiential learning methods and approaches such as knowledge sharing sessions, field exposure visits, role playing, workshops, action planning, games and other activities that make it interactive and full of fun. Moreover, the Eco Campers get actual training in presentation and resource mobilization skills.





# The Youth Ecological Camp (YEC)

Day 1: Learning session about basic ecological principles, wetland conservation domestic waste management, DRR and CCAM among others

Day 2: Field exposure trip (Water Quality Monitoring or Disaster Town Watching), Talents night

Day 3: Action planning and workshop, reporting, awarding and closing



## Other activities



Training of Trainers

Prior to the conduct of Eco Camps, the teachers were trained on how to conduct the Eco Camp to ensure that the youth will continuously have a pool of trainers who can pass the learning to other sectors of the community.



Community Meeting

After the eco-camp, the Action Plan and pilot projects or activities is presented by the youth teams in a Community Meeting to solicit the support of the community in the implementation of the projects of the Eco Campers



CLEAR Youth Network Congress

The annual gathering of the CLEAR Youth Network as represented by Eco-Camp graduates to report and share accomplishment. It is also a platform to learn more so that the youth are capacitated to implement wetland conservation activities efficiently and effectively.



# Implementation of Pilot Projects

Learning does not end at the actual camp but is in fact practiced through implementation of municipal or school-based projects and activities that the Eco Campers craft during planning sessions.



Awareness raising events



Solid Waste Management



Replication of YEC



Tree Planting



Arts and Crafts



Clean-up drives



## Accomplishments

Since 2003, twenty two (22) camps had been conducted in 20 municipalities and cities around Laguna de Bay, with more than 500 students from 122 schools directly benefitting from the 3-day course (see table below).

Year	No. of Participants	No. of Schools	No. of Camps
2003	15	4	1
2004	20	6	1
2005	38	9	1
2006	44	16	2
2008	24	5	1
2009	115	20	4
2010	79	19	3
2012	25	4	1
2014	105	9	3
2015	28	28	3
2016	20	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>22</b>

## Conclusion

- This YEC curriculum has been tested as an effective tool for increasing the awareness of the youth in wetlands conservation for the past ten years, and lately, on disaster risk reduction and management, ecosystem-based adaptation, and other climate change-related issues.
- This initiative has empowered the youth to become an important community actor in wetland conservation and disaster risk reduction, management, and preparedness.
- So far, the results of the Eco Camps have been outstanding. In more than a decade of conducting YEC, the growing number of youth continuously doing actions for wetlands conservation branched out with more projects and activities that also aided multisectoral involvement and partnership in their schools and communities.

**Thank you!**