



URS CELEBRATES SUSTAINABILITY

11th Annual University Environment Week

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) spearheaded the 11th Annual University Environment Week from November 18 to 22, 2024. Themed *“URS CARES: Climate Action for Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future,”* the event was held in partnership with the Extension Services and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Rizal.

The week-long celebration featured various activities, beginning with an Opening Program on the first day. The event’s keynote address was delivered by Dr. Brian Daniel Poe Llamanzares, Chief of Staff at the Office of Senator Grace Poe. The opening program was attended by officials from PENRO Rizal, alongside esteemed representatives from the University of Rizal System (URS), including University President Dr. Nancy T. Pascual, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Allan E. Conde, Vice President for Research Development, Extension and Production, Dr. Marites M. Rio, Director of Extension Services Dr. Fe Esperanza T. Mateo, Director of Production Services Ms. Maria Jessica A. Cristorum, Tanay Campus Director Dr. Namerod F. Mateo, and the deans of various colleges.

Additionally, heads of units, faculty, staff, and student organizations actively participated in the event,

which was conducted in a hybrid modality. A total of 825 participants attended both in-person and online sessions, underscoring the strong support for the university’s environmental initiatives.

INSIDE STORY

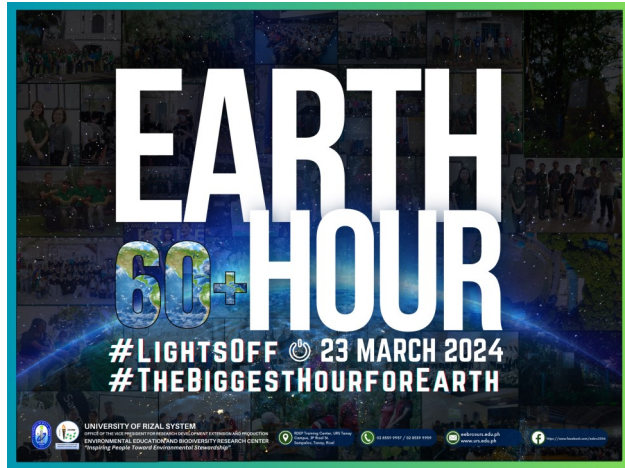
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EARTH HOUR Observance

Dimming Lights, Illuminating Action...

In celebration of Earth Hour, the University of Rizal System, through the Office of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center, joined this global initiative. The Center has issued an advisory to switch off unnecessary electrical appliances at 8:30 PM last March 23, 2024. This is to raise awareness on the environmental impact of energy consumption.

Earth Hour is a moment when millions of people around the world unite to show their commitment to the future of our planet. By participating, we can collectively make a difference and promote a more sustainable future.



Protecting the Puzzle Pieces of Nature

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) successfully hosted a University-wide celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity from May 20 to 24, 2024. This year's theme, **"Be Part of the Plan,"** encouraged stakeholders to take action in halting and reversing biodiversity loss by supporting the implementation of **"The Biodiversity Plan: For Life on Earth."**

To mark this significant occasion, all ten campuses actively engaged in various environmental initiatives, including clean-up drives, tree care and planting activities, landscaping efforts, and recycling programs.

A total of 1,184 participants across the campuses contributed to the success of these activities.





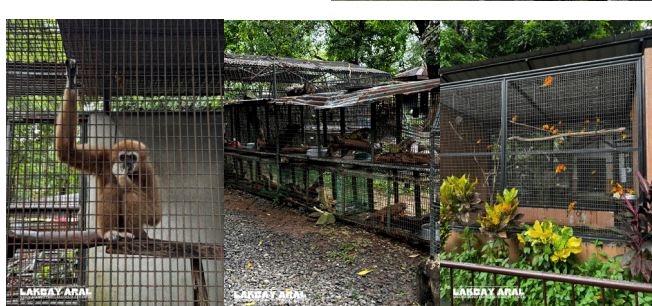
"The university community wholeheartedly engaged in these activities, demonstrating their commitment to preserving and protecting our natural heritage for future generations."

Exploring Biodiversity: Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center Lakbay Aral

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) together with the office of VP RDEP, Research, Focal Personnel, and selected General Services staff of URS Tanay conducted the "Lakbay Aral" program at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center on June 26, 2024. Covering 23.85 hectares (58.9 acres), this protected area in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, serves as a sanctuary for a wide variety of plant and animal species. It features a serene lagoon, an aquarium, a playground, a botanical garden, and the renowned Wildlife Rescue Center.

Managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Wildlife Rescue Center serves as a temporary haven for confiscated, retrieved, donated, sick, abandoned, and injured wild animals. The park hosts a variety of indigenous flora and fauna, including crab-eating macaques, water monitors, Philippine deer, binturongs, Palawan bearded pigs, and an array of bird species.

The Lakbay Aral program was designed to foster environmental stewardship among its participants. Through immersive experiences and educational activities focused on wildlife conservation and biodiversity, the program seeks to deepen participants' appreciation for nature. Guided tours and expert-led discussions provided valuable insights and inspired proactive efforts toward environmental protection. This initiative highlights the crucial role of collective action in safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainability for future generations.



RAISING ECO-CONCIOUSNESS THROUGH IEC MATERIALS ...



In its ongoing efforts to promote environmental conservation, the EEBC took proactive steps to engage the community by creating and disseminating visually impactful posters. These posters, which focused on various national and international environmental celebrations, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability and conservation. By featuring a range of events from global environmental observances to local initiatives, the center sought to encourage greater involvement and action from the community.

To ensure a wider reach and encourage greater participation, these posters were shared on the EEBC's official Facebook page. The platform provided an effective way to connect with a diverse audience, including students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community. By leveraging social media, the center fostered an online space for dialogue and collective action, inspiring individuals to take part in environmental efforts and celebrate the shared responsibility of protecting our planet.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: Indigenous Tree Planting and Recycling Initiatives

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) at the University of Rizal System continues to lead impactful initiatives for environmental conservation. With programs addressing climate change and fostering sustainability, the center strengthens the university's commitment to ecological stewardship.

One notable effort is the annual propagation of indigenous fruit-bearing seedlings. These seedlings are donated to support tree-planting events, promoting reforestation and enriching biodiversity across the region.

Another key initiative is the systematic collection of recyclable materials. These are temporarily stored at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) on the URS Tanay Campus. The recyclables are eventually sold, with the proceeds contributing to the campus's Income-Generating Project. This helps not only in reducing wastes but also generates resources for the university's development.

Through these ongoing activities, the EEBRC continues to inspire meaningful actions and drives sustainable change within the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN URS: Campus-Wide Orientation

A total of 8,357 students actively participated in these orientations, which aimed to cultivate environmental stewardship and promote adherence to the university's environmental management guidelines. These guidelines, aligned with various Republic Acts, focus on critical areas such as proper waste disposal, community education and public awareness, tree planting and care, maintaining a smoke-free campus, sustainable agricultural practices, and conserving energy and water resources.

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) led an information drive on the University Environmental Management Guidelines across all 10 campuses of the University of Rizal System. The orientation sessions were conducted by the EEBRC Focal Persons at each campus and were integrated into the scheduled orientation programs for freshmen and returning students in August 2024.

The initiative highlighted the collective responsibility of students, faculty, and staff in protecting the university's environment and inspired participants to contribute to broader environmental preservation efforts. This annual activity serves as a vital reminder of the crucial role each individual plays in safeguarding the environment for future generations.





19th URS PRAISE: EEBRC HONORED

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) received the prestigious High-Performing Center (Hall of Fame) award during the 19th PRAISE Awarding Rites, held at EARTS, University of Rizal System (URS) Morong, on September 27, 2024.

This recognition highlights the Center's exceptional performance in achieving its goals and its remarkable contributions to environmental education and biodiversity research. The award celebrates the collective efforts of EEBRC and the 10 campuses of URS, whose collaborative initiatives from August 2023 to August 2024 demonstrated unwavering commitment to excellence and environmental stewardship.

The EEBRC's accomplishments reflect its dedication to fostering a culture of sustainability, driving impactful environmental programs, and promoting biodiversity conservation across the university system and beyond.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND
BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER



Nature's Call to Action: Addressing the Climate Crisis

As part of the 11th Annual University Environment Week, the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) successfully held a symposium titled **"Let's Talk About Nature: Climate Change Action"** on November 18, 2024. The event took place at the **RDEP Training Center, Tanay Main Campus**, and was also streamed via **Google Meet** and **YouTube Live** to ensure wider participation.

The event featured **For. Deo S. Eleuterio**, a distinguished expert in environmental conservation from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO). He provided a compelling presentation on the current state of climate change, emphasizing its profound impact on ecosystems, communities, and global sustainability.

The symposium aimed to raise awareness about climate change—widely regarded as one of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time—and to inspire actionable steps toward mitigating its effects. Through his engaging talk, For. Eleuterio underscored the importance of collective responsibility and shared practical strategies for adopting sustainable practices in daily life.

A diverse audience of **University of Rizal System (URS) students, faculty members, staff, and community representatives** attended the event, demonstrating a united commitment to understanding and addressing climate change. The lively discussions and insights exchanged during the symposium highlighted the critical role of education and community involvement in climate action.

This initiative reaffirms EEBRC's dedication to fostering environmental stewardship within the URS community, serving as a platform for knowledge-sharing and collaborative efforts toward a more sustainable future.



4th ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT: Scaling Up Climate Solutions

In collaboration with PENRO-Rizal the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), successfully held the 4th Environment Summit on November 19, 2024, as a key highlight of the 11th Annual University Environment Week. With the theme *"URS CARES: Climate Action for Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future,"* the summit aimed to raise awareness and inspire action on critical environmental issues. The hybrid event took place at the RDEP Training Center, URS Tanay Main Campus, and was streamed via Google Meet and YouTube Live, engaging participants from various sectors in meaningful discussions about climate action and sustainability.

Key topics at the 4th Environment Summit included RA 9003 (The Solid Waste Management Act), energy conservation, and water conservation. The discussions emphasized the importance of sustainable resource management and the effective implementation of environmental laws to address pressing environmental challenges.

Notable speakers and their contributions included, **Dr. Kristine Ann M. Luna**, Senior Vice President of Project Portfolio Management and Consultant at Woodfield's, who provided insights into solid waste management initiatives and their practical implementation. **Mr. Edgar Allan C. Doria**, a representative from the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), who emphasized the role of dams in water conservation within the UMRBPL region, and **For. Joselito P. Berdan**, Forester I from DENR-PENRO, who discussed innovative energy conservation measures within the Kaliwa River Forest Reserve.

The summit served as a dynamic platform for exchanging knowledge and fostering actionable solutions to combat climate change and advance environmental sustainability. Beyond academic discussions, the event aimed to inspire practical initiatives that promote ecological resilience and sustainable practices.

The summit was well-attended by students, faculty, representatives from local government units, and environmental advocates, reflecting a collective commitment to addressing climate challenges and ensuring a sustainable future.





Growing Greener Futures Together: URS Dish Gardening Competition

The University of Rizal System (URS), through the Office of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), successfully organized a Dish Gardening Competition in partnership with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO-Rizal).

This engaging activity was a highlight of the 11th Annual University Environment Week, celebrated with the theme: *“URS CARES: Climate Action for Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future.”*

The competition brought together participants from various campuses, emphasizing the importance of small-scale gardening as a sustainable practice aligned with climate action. It showcased the university’s commitment to fostering environmental awareness and empowering students and staff to take meaningful steps toward sustainability.

The winners of the competition were: First (1st) place Chique DC. Manalo from the Rodriguez Campus, coached by Prof. Sherwin Cababat, second (2nd) place Elysa May D. Bercasio from the Cainta Campus, coached by Prof. Rhealyn R. Nimer, and third (3rd) place Aljon C. Anibo from the Morong Campus, coached by Mr. Jeric P. Balmores.

This event underscored URS’s dedication to integrating environmental education with practical, impactful activities. By promoting initiatives like the Dish Gardening Competition, the university inspires the community to adopt eco-friendly practices that contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.



Art for the Earth: URS Poster Making Contest



In a bid to promote environmental awareness and sustainability, the University of Rizal System (URS), in partnership with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO-Rizal), successfully organized a Poster Making Contest on November 20, 2024. The event, held at the Dumagat Hall of the Tanay Campus, provided a platform for creative expression and community engagement.

The contest was centered on the theme, **“URS CARES: Climate Action for a Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future,”** challenging participants to visually interpret the urgent need for climate action and sustainability. Through their artwork, students vividly showcased their understanding and perspectives on fostering resilience and environmental consciousness.

The winners of the contest were John Peter C. Pamittan from Antipolo Campus, who claimed first place, Karl Dave T. De Guzman from Morong Campus, who secured second place, and a tie for third place between Rosette B. Babon from Pililla Campus and Ayessa Dela Cruz from Rodriguez Campus.

This initiative emphasized the university’s steadfast commitment to fostering environmental awareness and inspiring collective efforts toward sustainable practices. By offering students avenues for creative expression, URS continues to engage the community and advocate for meaningful actions in addressing environmental challenges.

Environmental Serenade 2024 HARANA SA KALIKASAN

As part of the 11th Annual University Environment Week, the University of Rizal System (URS) hosted *Environmental Serenade* under the theme “URS CARES: Climate Action for a Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future.” This unique event was held in collaboration with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO-Rizal).

The celebration highlighted the creativity and passion of URS students, faculty, and staff through MTV presentations. These performances served as artistic expressions of the university's dedication to climate action and environmental sustainability. By blending music and visuals, the Environmental Serenade showcased the vital role of art in promoting awareness and fostering a deeper appreciation for nature among participants and audiences alike.

The winners were Mary Faith Verdillo and Dr. Stephen Soliguen from Rodriguez Campus, who claimed first place; John Cedric C. Ramirez and Prof. Karen A. Carbungco from Morong Campus, who secured second place; and Nicolle M. Ulang and Prof. Lodilee O. Atienza from Angono Campus, who earned third place. Their creative contributions reflected the dedication of the URS community to advocating for environmental protection.

Through this inspiring initiative, URS reaffirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship and its mission to build a resilient, sustainable future for all.

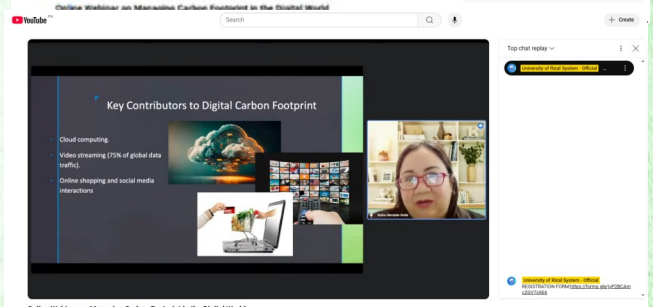
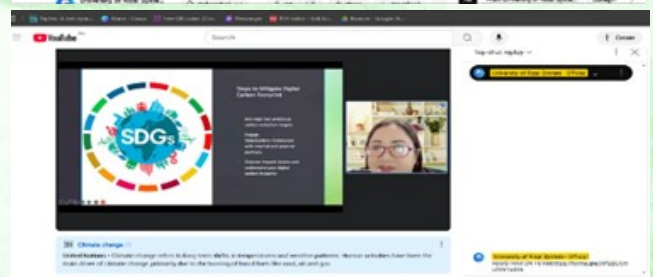
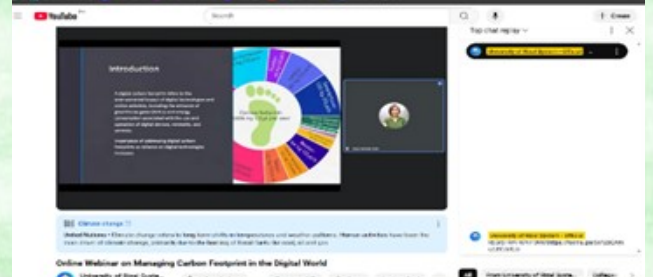
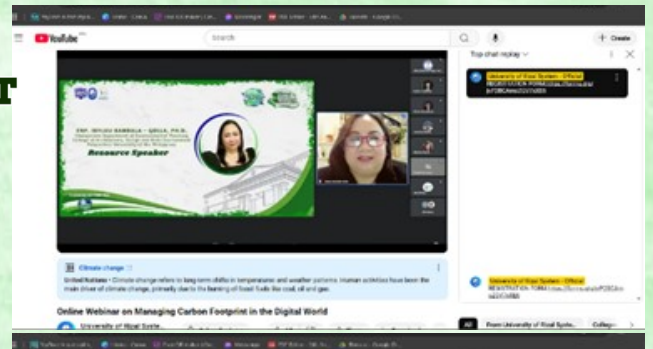
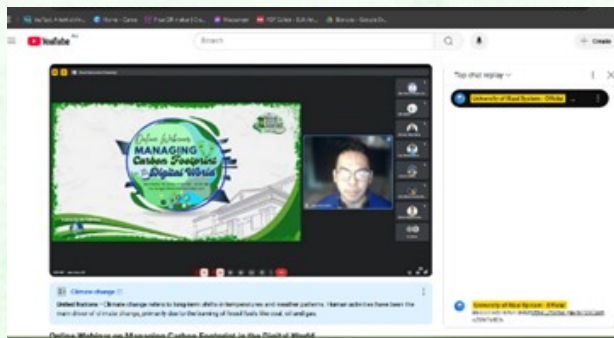


Online Webinar MANAGING CARBON FOOTPRINT IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) successfully conducted a webinar titled “Managing Carbon Footprint in the Digital World” on **November 22, 2024**, as part of the **11th Annual University Environment Week** with the theme “**URS CARES: Climate Action for a Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Future.**”

Dr. Ibylou Bandala-Golla served as the resource speaker, providing valuable insights on the environmental impact of digital activities and sharing practical strategies to minimize carbon footprints in the digital era. Attended by students, faculty, and staff, the webinar introduced participants to sustainable digital practices that contribute to a greener future.

This initiative highlights the **University of Rizal System's** commitment to addressing contemporary environmental challenges through education and community engagement. By equipping its members with knowledge and tools for sustainable living, the university continues to empower its community to take meaningful action toward climate resilience and environmental sustainability.



URS-EEBRC in collaboration with SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC.

With the increasing use of electronic devices, the proper disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) has become a critical environmental concern. In response, Smart Communications Inc. partnered with the University of Rizal System (URS) to spearhead an e-waste collection drive during the 11th Annual University Environment Week, held from November 18 to 22, 2024.

This collaboration aimed to encourage responsible e-waste disposal among the URS community while promoting sustainability. The initiative highlights the shared commitment of both organizations to fostering a cleaner and more sustainable environment through collective action and environmental stewardship.



EEBRC COLLABORATION: Key Takeaways and Best Practices

On April 30, 2024, the BS Psychology I Class Officers of the **University of Rizal System (URS) Pililla Campus** successfully initiated an orientation titled **"Policies and Guidelines: Towards Sustainable Waste Management"**. The event, conducted via a virtual platform, aimed to enhance participants' understanding of key environmental policies and guidelines that are critical for promoting sustainability.

The invited resource speaker was **Prof. Ricardo B. Cruz**, the **Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) Focal Person** for the Pililla Campus. Prof. Cruz delivered an engaging presentation on the **University Environmental Management Guidelines**, which are designed to foster environmental stewardship and guide the University community in sustainable practices. Key points discussed during the seminar included, the implementation of waste segregation policies on campus, proper disposal methods for non-biodegradable and biodegradable waste, initiatives such as community education, tree planting, and resource conservation, and the importance of aligning individual actions with broader institutional efforts to protect and preserve the environment.

The seminar provided participants with valuable insights into the role of effective waste management in achieving a sustainable future. It also encouraged students to actively contribute to the University's mission of environmental conservation.

This initiative highlights the commitment of the **BS Psychology I Class Officers** to raising awareness and promoting actionable steps toward environmental sustainability within the University community.

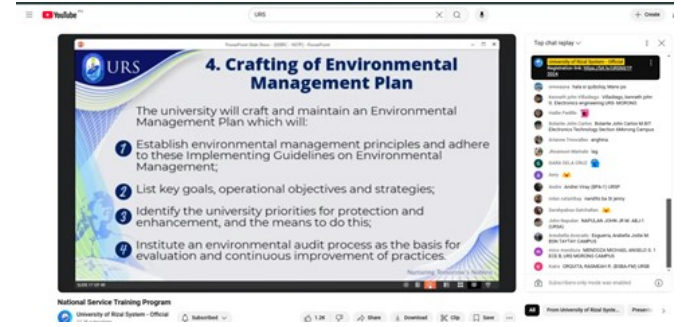
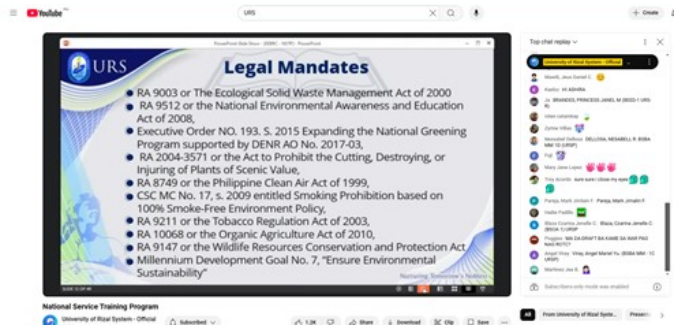
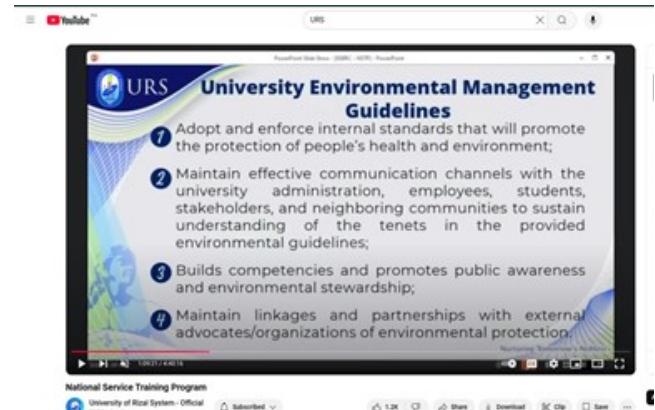


On May 3, 2024, the **KASALI (KAlikasan ay SAgipin at Lingapin) Organization** initiated a **Clean-up Drive** with the theme **"Linisin ang Daan Tungo sa Mas Malinis na Kinabukasan: URS Road to #BeatPlasticPollution"**. This activity coincided with the celebration of **Earth Day in April 2024**, as part of the University's commitment to environmental stewardship.

As the **Environmental Army** of the University, the **KASALI Organization** played a key role in leading efforts to protect and preserve the campus environment. Through this clean-up drive, the organization aimed to foster a greater sense of responsibility among students, faculty, and staff regarding the proper disposal of ecological waste.

The primary objective of the initiative was to remind everyone of their collective responsibility to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste, especially plastic, which continues to be a major environmental concern. The drive also provided an opportunity for participants to actively contribute to the campus's sustainability goals while promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for the entire community.

This activity served as a strong reminder of the importance of environmental consciousness and the role each individual plays in preserving the planet for future generations.



On August 30, 2024, the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Unit initiated the Virtual Common Module Orientation for students. During the event, the Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) was invited as a resource speaker to discuss the environmental policies and programs implemented at the University of Rizal System.

The orientation provided an opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the University's environmental initiatives, including waste management, resource conservation, and sustainability efforts. As the resource speaker, the EEBRC Head highlighted the University's commitment to fostering environmental stewardship through various policies and programs designed to engage the academic community in sustainable practices.

This session was part of the broader effort to integrate environmental awareness into the curriculum and activities of the NSTP, encouraging students to take an active role in promoting sustainability both on campus and in their communities.

URS PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We in the University of Rizal System, envision to be leading not only in human resource development and in knowledge and technology generation but in environmental stewardship.

In our desire to support environmental advocacies, we express our environmental responsibility through the four fold function instruction, research, extension and production.

We affirm to protect the environment through initiatives, compliance to statutory laws, and involvement in all modes of environmental education. We earnestly believe that:

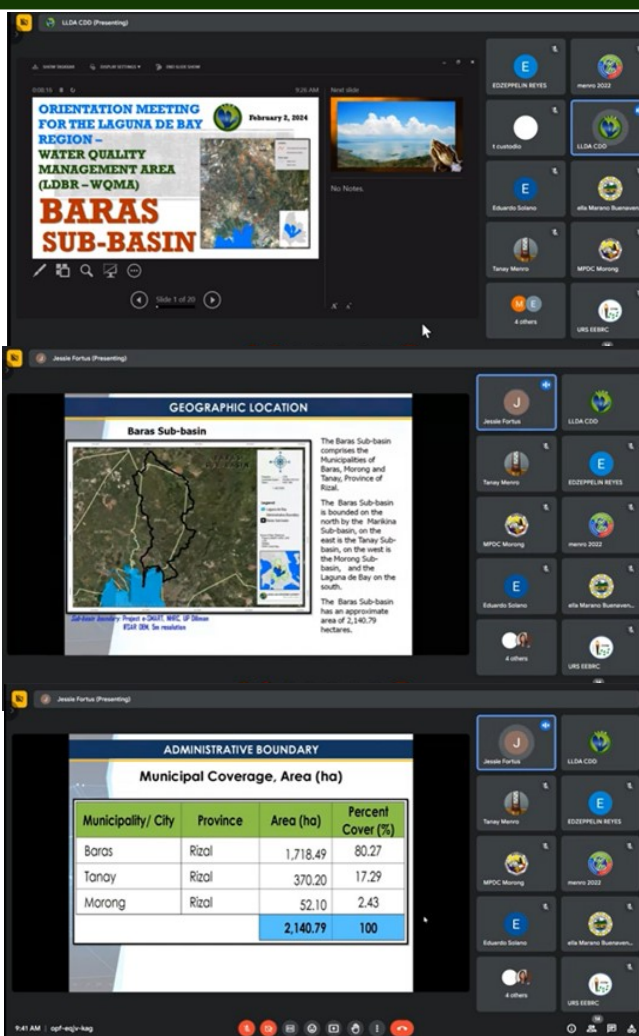
- ◆ *Environmental protection is everyone's concern.*
- ◆ *Safeguarding of nature's resources means caring for all forms of life.*
- ◆ *Development should not be at the expense of the environment.*
- ◆ *Future generations have rightful shares with the benefits the environment can offer.*
- ◆ *It is our accountability to continue nurturing the noblest environmental stewards.*

So help me God.

EEBRC FORUM RECAP: COLLABORATIVE *Solutions for Environmental Excellence*

The University of Rizal System actively participated in the **Workshop for the Formulation of the Project TRANSFORM Framework and Implementation Plan**, conducted by the DENR, held on January 24, 2024, at Ciudad Christina 9 Waves Resort in San Mateo, Rizal.

Project TRANSFORM adopts a transdisciplinary ridge-to-reef approach to promote resilience and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and robust public-private partnerships to implement sustainable projects and programs effectively. The initiative aims to foster inclusivity and collaboration, encouraging all stakeholders to contribute toward a shared vision of environmental stewardship.



EEBRC Joins Baras Sub-Basin Orientation on Laguna de Bay Water Quality Management

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) participated in the Baras Sub-Basin: Orientation Meeting on the Laguna de Bay Region-Water Quality Management Area (LDBR-WQMA) on February 2, 2024, conducted virtually via Google Meet.

The session engaged local government units (LGUs) and stakeholders from various sectors to strengthen cooperation in preserving water resources. Presentations covered the hydrological scope of the Angono Sub-Basin by the Project Development Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PDMED), an assessment of Baras River's condition by the Environmental Laboratory and Research Division (ELRD), and an overview of the Laguna Lake Development Authority's (LLDA) responsibilities under R.A. 9275, along with WQMA-approved regulations, discussed by the Legal Adjudication Division (LAD).

This initiative highlights the importance of collaboration in protecting Laguna de Bay's ecosystem.



The University of Rizal System (URS) reaffirmed its role as an academic partner in Project TRANSFORM, a pioneering initiative led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in collaboration with local government units. The project is dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and resilience in the City of Antipolo and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, all located in the Province of Rizal.

The official launch and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) took place on **February 29, 2024**, at the Ynares Events Center, within the Provincial Capitol Building Compound in Antipolo City. The ceremony was attended by key figures, including **DENR Secretary Hon. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga**, **Rizal Governor Hon. Nina Ricci Ynares**, local mayors, and representatives from both private and public sectors, as well as other stakeholders.

As a dedicated partner, URS is committed to leveraging its expertise and resources to help achieve the project's goals, promoting a unified and sustainable approach to environmental management in the region.

On **March 4-5, 2025**, the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) actively participated in the **Annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Virtual Orientation**. The event aimed to equip national government budget officers, planning officers, and climate change technical representatives with clear, up-to-date knowledge of the CCET process.

The orientation emphasized the integration of climate-responsive budgeting as a key component in preparing the national budget for **Fiscal Year 2025**. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the CCET framework, ensuring alignment with the government's commitment to addressing climate change through effective financial planning and resource allocation.

This initiative highlights the importance of incorporating climate change priorities into national development strategies, fostering sustainable and resilient progress.



Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) actively participated in the *Action Planning Workshop for the Baras Sub-Basin*, held on March 21-22, 2024.

The workshop provided a platform for discussing, consolidating, and synthesizing contributions from the **Local Government Units (LGUs)** and stakeholders from **Morong, Baras, and Tanay, Rizal**, into a unified action plan. The focus was on developing both short-term and long-term strategies for environmental management and sustainability in the **Baras Sub-Basin**.

This collaborative effort aims to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the environmental challenges faced by the region.



Municipal-Wide Clean-Up Drive for Earth Hour 2024: "Planet vs. Plastics"

In celebration of **Earth Hour 2024**, the **Municipality of Tanay**, through the **Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO)**, organized a **Municipal-Wide Clean-Up Drive**. The **Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)** actively participated in this important initiative. The EEBRC team, led by **Ms. Esther C. Recla**, Head of the Center, was joined by **Ms. Cleofas M. Ramiro**, staff member, **Mr. Rodante E. Sajo**, field staff, and a student representative.

The activity aimed to address environmental pollution and promote collective action for a cleaner, greener future. The event underscored the theme, **"Planet vs. Plastics"**, emphasizing the fight against plastic pollution, one of the most urgent environmental challenges today.

The clean-up drive not only supported the global observance of Earth Hour but also reinforced the commitment to environmental sustainability by mobilizing community participation in protecting and preserving local ecosystems.

The University of Rizal System (URS) has continued to play a crucial role in advancing climate resilience in the region through strategic collaborations and initiatives.

On **March 1, 2024**, the **STAARRDEC Memorandum No. 02 Series of 2024** facilitated the **Validation and Identification of Focal Persons** for the Climate Resiliency Thematic Area under the **Regional Research and Development Coordinating Council (RRDCC)**. This important step reinforced the University's commitment to tackling climate change by appointing **Ms. Esther C. Recla**, Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), as the **lead focal person** for this thematic area.

To further advance this initiative, **April 11, 2024**, marked the **STAARRDEC Meeting and Workshop on Climate Resiliency**, led by URS. The workshop focused on discussing the key goals, strategies, and steps necessary for formulating the **STAARRDEC Research, Development, and Extension Agenda Plan (SRDEAP)**. It also provided an opportunity to explore potential projects and assign specific roles to each **Collaborating Member Institution (CMI)** involved in the preparation of the SRDEAP.

On **April 30, 2024**, Ms. Recla was called upon to participate in the **STAARRDEC SRDEAP 2024-2030 Presentations**. This session provided a platform to present the outputs from various thematic areas, contributing valuable insights toward crafting a comprehensive framework that will guide the region's climate resilience efforts over the next decade.

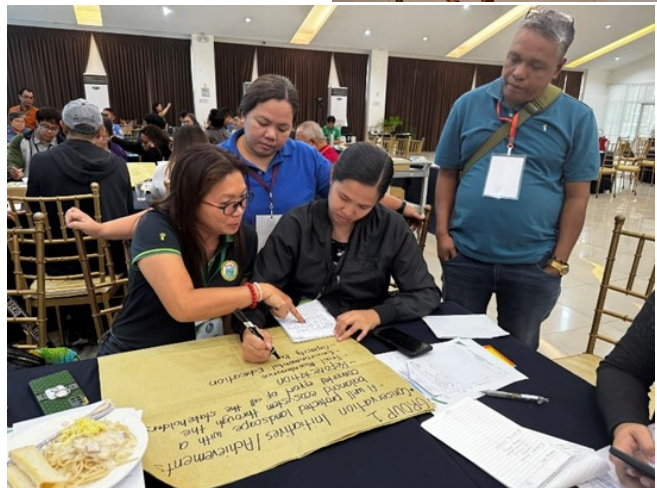
The collaborative nature of these efforts culminated in the **15th Executive Board and 95th RRDCC Joint Meeting** on **May 14, 2024**, where Ms. Recla presented the **RDE Agenda and Program for the Climate Resiliency Thematic Area**. The meeting sought approval from both the Executive Board and RRDCC, marking a significant milestone in the region's climate resilience agenda.

These meetings, consultations, and workshops highlights the region's collective drive to strengthen climate resilience through strategic research, development, and extension activities. The University of Rizal System continues to serve as a leader in fostering climate adaptation and sustainability efforts for the future.



URS Joins DENR's Strategic Planning Workshop for Masungi Rock Management Council. On June 13-14, 2025, the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** conducted a **Strategic Planning Workshop** for the **Masungi Rock Management Council (MRMC)**, aimed at fostering sustainable practices and ecosystem protection. The **University of Rizal System (URS)** was honored to be invited to attend this important event.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including the **Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)**, to collaborate on strategies for promoting sustainable practices in the region. The main objectives of the workshop included advancing ecotourism management, supporting investments that enhance community resilience, and fostering long-term sustainability through multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnership.



URS Joins Nationwide Tree Growing Activity for Philippine Arbor Day

On June 25, 2024, the **University of Rizal System (URS)** actively participated in the **Nationwide Tree Growing Activity** in celebration of **Philippine Arbor Day**. Led by the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO)**, the event took place at **YES City, Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal**. Bringing together various stakeholders, the initiative aimed to highlight the vital role of forests in sustaining clean air, water, and biodiversity. Through this collective effort, URS reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability and forest conservation.

URS Contributes to Project TRANSFORM's Operational Plan Workshop

On **August 28-29, 2024**, the Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) represented the University of Rizal System (URS) in the Workshop for the Formulation of Project TRANSFORM's Operational Plan. The event gathered stakeholders to develop strategic action plans for eight key programs aimed at sustainability and resilience through a ridge-to-reef approach.

Discussions focused on water security, regenerative tourism, solid waste management, sustainable livelihoods, waterway restoration, native tree preservation, greenhouse gas monitoring, and rain-forest conservation. URS actively contributed insights to the planning process, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and community development. The workshop concluded with an initial framework for implementing Project TRANSFORM's objectives, emphasizing the power of collaboration in addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges.



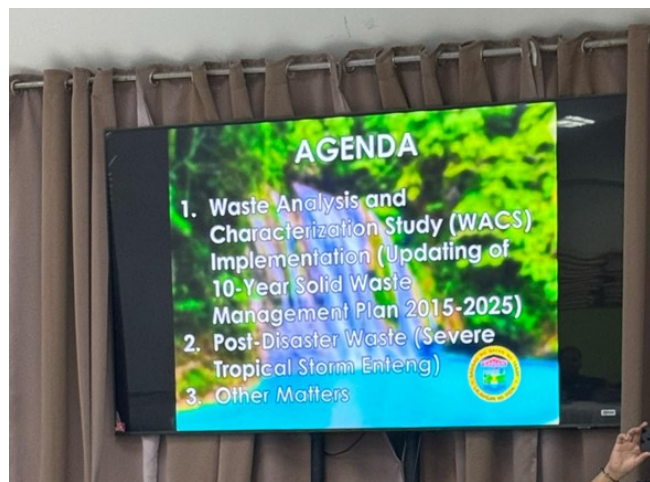


URS Supports Conservation Efforts for Rafflesia and Philippine Cloud Rat

On August 30, 2024, the University of Rizal System (URS), through its Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), actively participated in an Orientation Seminar on the Preservation, Protection, and Conservation of Rafflesia and the Philippine Cloud Rat. Organized by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Tanay, the seminar aimed to raise awareness about the urgent need for landscape conservation amid environmental threats like deforestation, urbanization, and climate change.

The event highlighted the ecological importance of Rafflesia, a rare parasitic flowering plant, and the Philippine Cloud Rat, an endemic nocturnal species facing habitat loss. EEBRC shared its ongoing conservation initiatives, reinforcing URS's commitment to biodiversity protection and environmental education. By engaging in such activities, URS continues to support regional and national efforts to safeguard the country's rich natural heritage.





URS Strengthens Commitment to Solid Waste Management Through Municipal Meeting

On September 6, 2024, the Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) attended the 3rd Quarter Meeting of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Board in Tanay, organized by the Local Government Unit. The meeting provided a platform to discuss key environmental concerns, particularly the improvement of waste management strategies to ensure sustainability and resilience.

One of the main topics covered was the implementation of the Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS), which aims to enhance the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan (2015-2025). The discussion focused on improving waste segregation, collection, and disposal while promoting recycling and waste reduction practices. These efforts are crucial in developing a more efficient and sustainable waste management system for the municipality.

Another critical issue addressed was post-disaster waste management, particularly in response to Severe Tropical Storm Enteng. The session highlighted the importance of preparedness and response strategies to manage the large amounts of waste generated by natural disasters. Since Tanay is a disaster-prone area, proper waste handling after extreme weather events is essential to prevent further environmental degradation and health risks.

By actively participating in this meeting, the URS reaffirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. Through collaboration with the local government and other stakeholders, the university continues to contribute to policies and programs that promote effective waste management. The EEBRC remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that enhance environmental resilience and ensure a cleaner, healthier future for the community.



Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center



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The **Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)** actively participated in the **CalamanSave: Reviving Productivity and Profitability through Positive Action**, a **Calamansi Tree Planting Activity** organized by the **URS Production Unit**. This initiative was held at the **University of Rizal System (URS) Tanay Campus** and focused on rejuvenating the campus's calamansi plantation.

The primary goal of the activity was to restore and enhance the productivity of the calamansi plantation by replacing old and unproductive trees with newly grafted calamansi seedlings. This approach not only ensures higher yields but also promotes sustainable agricultural practices.

The activity emphasized the significance of maintaining productive plantations on campus to support the University's agricultural programs, provide learning opportunities for students, and contribute to its profitability.

By participating in this initiative, the EEBRC reaffirmed its commitment to promoting environmental sustainability and supporting projects aligned with the University's goals of agricultural innovation and resource conservation.

The CalamanSave activity serves as a model for integrating productivity, sustainability, and education, fostering a deeper appreciation for agricultural practices that benefit both the environment and the community.



On **September 26, 2024**, the **Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)** actively participated in the **Commemoration Ceremony of the 15th Anniversary of Typhoon Ondoy**. The event served as a solemn tribute to the resilience of the community and the memory of those who tragically lost their lives during the devastating typhoon.

The ceremony also marked two significant milestones: the **11th Anniversary of the Provincial Government of Rizal's "YES to Green Program"** and the observance of **Save the Sierra Madre Day**. Together, these commemorations highlighted the interconnectedness of disaster preparedness, environmental conservation, and sustainable development.

Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana), which struck the Philippines in 2009, left a lasting impact on communities and ecosystems, particularly in areas like Rizal. The event served as a platform to reflect on lessons learned from the disaster and to reinforce collective efforts toward building resilience against future calamities.

The **"YES to Green Program"** has been instrumental in advocating for environmental preservation through initiatives such as reforestation, sustainable waste management, and community education. Meanwhile, **Save the Sierra Madre Day** emphasized the critical role of the Sierra Madre mountain range in protecting communities from typhoons and floods, advocating for its continued preservation and restoration.

The **University of Rizal System's** active participation reflects its strong commitment to supporting initiatives that advance disaster resilience, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. By taking part in this significant event, the **Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)** reaffirmed its dedication to fostering awareness and inspiring action on environmental issues that have a direct impact on local communities.

This commemorative event not only honored the lessons and memories of the past but also served as a powerful call to action, encouraging efforts toward a greener, safer, and more sustainable future.



On **October 21, 2024**, the **University of Rizal System (URS)**, through its **Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC)**, actively participated in the **Consortium Member Institutions (CMIs) Cluster Representative Meeting**.

The event aimed to bring together representatives from the **STAARRDEC CMI clusters** to discuss their plans and activities. Key topics included preparations for upcoming **STAARRDEC events**, with a particular focus on the **2nd Regional Research, Development, and Extension Agenda and Program (SRDEAP)**.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for **SRDEAP focal persons** from lead agencies to convene, fostering collaboration and aligning strategies for advancing the regional research and development agenda.

Through its active participation, **URS** reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to regional development, strengthening partnerships with consortium member institutions, and supporting initiatives that promote innovation, sustainability, and community-centered solutions.

EEBRC GOAL

The Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center shall serve as a catalyst of environmental advocacies and biodiversity conservation initiatives in the University of Rizal System's service areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

I

Integration of Environmental Principles in Academic and Non-academic Activities

II

Implementation of University Environmental Management Guidelines

III

Management of URS Tanay Campus Forest as a Declared Protected Area

IV

Annual Environment Week Celebration

V

Nature Walk in the Protected Forest

VI

Material Recovery Facility Operations

VII

Environmental partnership

VIII

Observance of International, National and Local Environmental Events

IX

Indigenous Seedlings Production

X

Research and Community Engagement

THE RIDGES

The Official Newsletter of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center presents the office's accomplishment report for the whole year. The name of this paper symbolizes that all accomplishment of academic institution, the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of environment must be the top priorities. Thus, this center serves as catalyst of environmental advocacies and biodiversity conservation initiatives in the University of Rizal System's service areas.

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EEBRC OBJECTIVES

01

Facilitate the integration of environmental education principles in the curricular, co curricular and extra-curricular programs of the university;

02

Spearhead the implementation of university environmental management guidelines;

03

Take a lead in the conduct of researches and projects along the thrusts and priorities of the university specifically those pertinent to environmental education and biodiversity conservation;

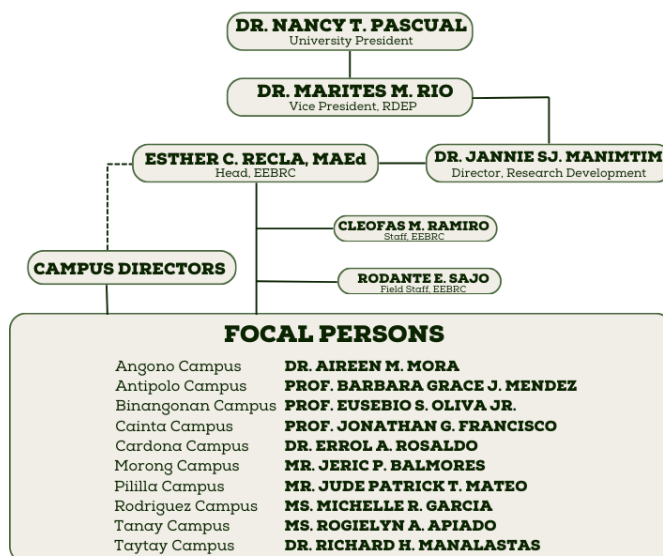
04

Undertake activities that warrant the compliance of the university to environmental laws;

05

Take part in the community environmental advocacies and partnerships.

EEBRC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



*"Inspiring People Toward
Environmental Stewardship"*