



WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2025





SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

As a public higher education institution serving Palawan and nearby island communities, Western Philippines University (WPU) continues to align its programs, operations, and long-term development agenda with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Goals 2030 through instruction, research, innovation, development, extension, and community engagement initiatives that respond to local and global challenges. The university advances sustainability by promoting practical and community-centered programs in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, biodiversity conservation, environmental management, food security, climate action, disaster resilience, renewable energy, indigenous knowledge systems, digital transformation, and inclusive socio-economic development.

Through its Research, Innovation, Development, and Extension (RIDE) programs, WPU strengthens knowledge generation, technology transfer, and capacity-building activities in partnership with government agencies, industries, local communities, and international institutions to deliver research-based solutions and services that directly benefit stakeholders across Palawan and neighboring areas. Sustainability is likewise reflected in institutional practices, student engagement, and governance systems that support responsible resource management and inclusive growth.

To further strengthen accountability and global engagement, the university continuously subjects itself to international benchmarking and assessments including the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, World University Rankings for Innovation, and QS World University Rankings, while also receiving local and international recognition for initiatives related to innovation, employability, extension services, sustainability, and community impact, reflecting the collective efforts of its faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners in contributing to sustainable development at both the local and global levels.

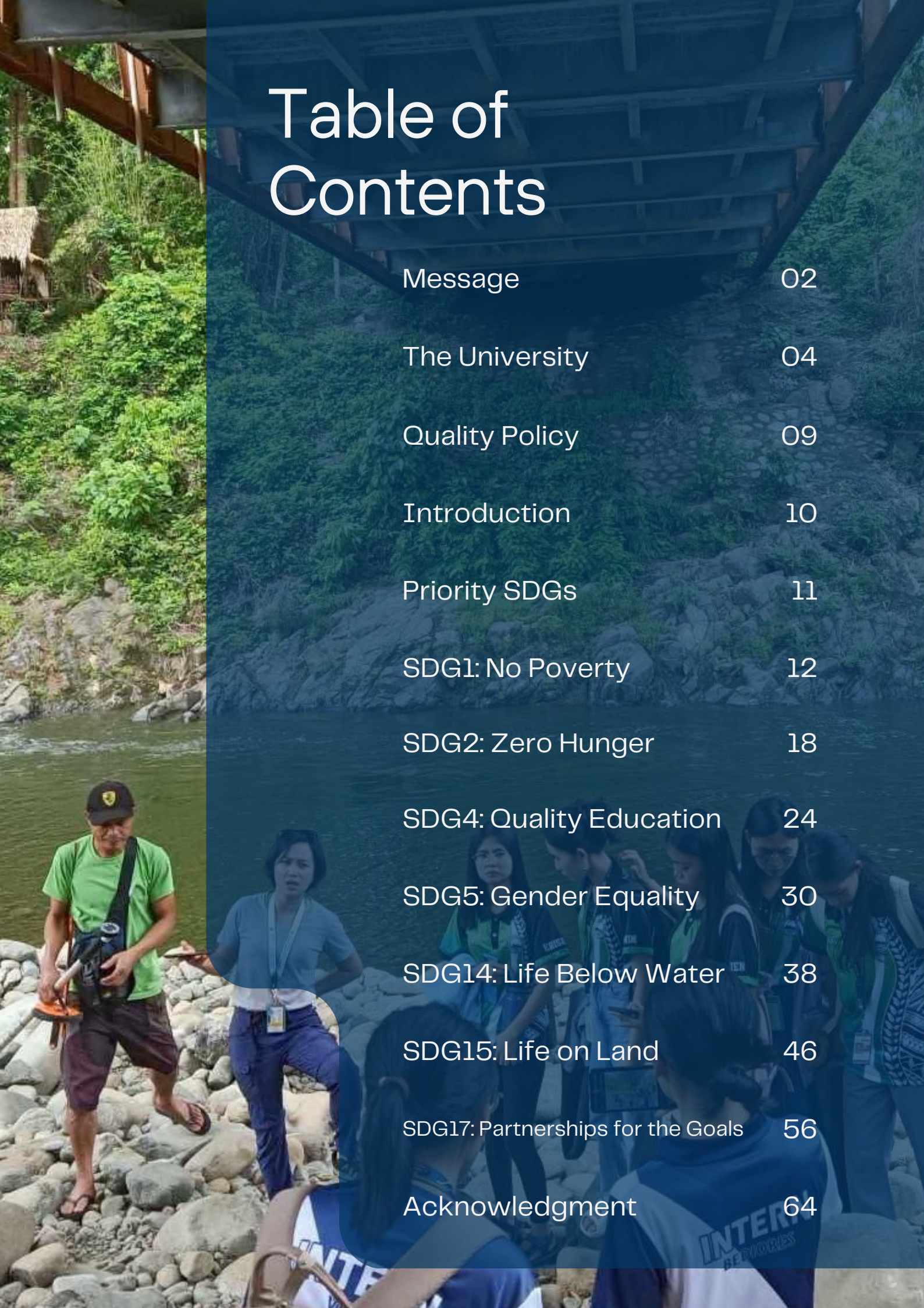
The background image is a composite of three photographs. The top half shows a river with a bridge and a lush green hillside. The bottom left shows a man in a green shirt and a woman in a blue shirt standing on a rocky shore. The bottom right shows a group of people, some wearing blue shirts with 'INTER' and 'RESEARCH' written on them, looking at a tablet.

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"Together, let us continue building a future where knowledge creates lasting impact for our communities and generations to come."

DR. AMABEL S. LIAO
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Message from our Leader

For more than a century, Western Philippines University has served as a cornerstone of education and development in Palawan. As the province's oldest university, we recognize that sustainability is not simply a commitment—it is fundamental to our mission. Situated in one of the world's most ecologically significant islands, we embrace our responsibility to protect our natural heritage, empower communities, and create lasting value through education, research, innovation, and service.

Throughout 2025, WPU strengthened its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by integrating sustainability across instruction, research, extension, governance, and international engagement. We continued to prepare graduates who are not only academically competent but also equipped to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and responsible stewards of sustainable development.

Our research and innovation initiatives addressed pressing challenges in biodiversity conservation, food security, climate resilience, renewable energy, and sustainable resource management. Supported by strong partnerships with government agencies, industries, local communities, and international institutions, these efforts translated knowledge into practical solutions that benefit both Palawan and the wider society.

This year also marked significant milestones for the University. WPU sustained its distinction as MIMAROPA's Top Research Producer, while The Palawan Scientist achieved its first Scopus indexation. Our growing commitment to sustainability and innovation was further recognized through our expanded participation in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, our debut in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, our continued inclusion among the Top 100 universities in the World University Rankings for Innovation, and our second consecutive CHED International Rankings Award.

These achievements are the result of the collective dedication of our students, faculty, researchers, staff, alumni, and partners who continue to transform ideas into meaningful action. They demonstrate that sustainability is not the work of a single office or program, but a shared commitment embedded in the University's culture.

As we look ahead, Western Philippines University remains steadfast in advancing transformative education, impactful research, responsible governance, and meaningful partnerships that contribute to a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for Palawan and beyond.

To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let us continue building a future where knowledge creates lasting impact for our communities and generations to come.



DR. AMABEL S. LIAO
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



About the University

• **1928**

After six years of its establishment, its doors open to non-Tagbanuas. Its focus on agriculture led to its conversion to Aborlan Agricultural High School (AAHS).



• **1910**

American teachers, the Thomasites, founded the Aborlan Farm Settlement School for the Tagbanuas

• **1960**

The AAHS was converted into a national regional agricultural school and became known as the Palawan National Regional Agricultural School (PNRAS) by virtue of RA 2619.



• **1962**

Since PNRAS served largely the province of Palawan, it was renamed Palawan National Agricultural School (PNAS) in 1962.

John Henry Finnigan
Third American Administrator

2004

On March 5, 2004, SPCP was converted to a full-fledged university with the enactment of RA 9260 and became Western Philippines University (WPU).

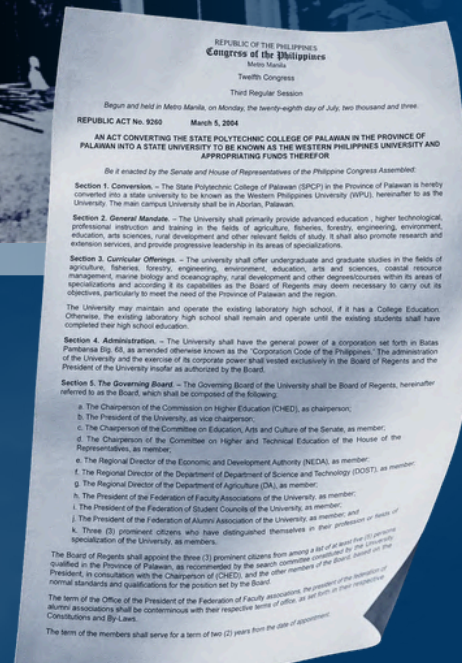
1963

A year after, on June 22, 1963, PNAS was converted into the Palawan National Agricultural College (PNAC) by virtue of RA 3648.

1995

Palawan National Agricultural College was converted to State Polytechnic College of Palawan (SPCP) on May 25, 1995 by virtue of RA 8012.

Pres. Miguel P. Palao
President, PNAC



**BUSUANGA CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 2003**Description:** Situated on a 5,149-square-meter campus in the Municipality of Busuanga, Palawan.**CULION CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 2003**Description:** Occupies a 3,7396-hectare site in Barangay Baldat, Culion, Palawan, one of the municipalities comprising the Calamian Islands**EL NIDO CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 1994**Description:** Located in Barangay Villa Libertad, El Nido, Palawan, occupying a 1.5-hectare**PUERTO PRINCESA CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 1980**Description:** Situated on a 17.9977-hectare site in Barangay Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, the provincial capital of Palawan.**QUEZON CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 1993**Description:** Located in Reservation, Barangay Alfonso XIII, Quezon, Palawan, on a 2-hectare site donated by the LGU Quezon**CANIQUE CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 2011**Description:** Located in Barangay Canique, Taytay, Palawan.**ABORLAN MAIN CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 1910**Description:** Located on a 369.28 hectare in Aborlan, Palawan.**RIO TUBA CAMPUS****Year Founded:** 2004**Description:** Located on a 4,1890-hectare campus in Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan.

Our Campuses

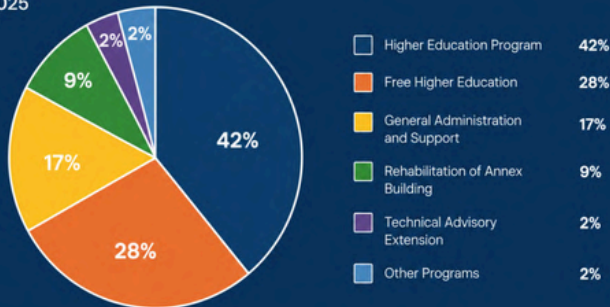
WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

A STRONG PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategically located across Palawan, WPU campuses provide accessible quality education, research, extension, and public service, strengthening the University's impact on sustainable regional development.

WPU in Numbers

WPU Budget Allocation Php 543,435,000
FY 2025



711 Faculty & Staff

7

Colleges

24

Undergraduate Programs

9

Graduate Programs



15 Research Centers

53

Research Outputs Completed

4505

Persons Trained



12,453

333

Graduate students

12,120

Undergraduate students

Educational Programs

Undergraduate Programs

- BS in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
- BS in Agricultural Engineering
- BS in Civil Engineering
- BS in Electrical Engineering
- BS in Mechanical Engineering
- BS in Agricultural Business
- BS in Home Economics
- Bachelor of Agricultural Technology-Ladd
- BS in Social Work
- BS in Information Systems
- Bachelor of Secondary Education
- Bachelor of Elementary Education
- Bachelor in Physical Education
- BS in Environmental Management
- BS in Forestry
- BS in Criminology
- BS in Hospitality Management
- Bachelor of Public Administration
- BS in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Fisheries
- Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology
- Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology
- BS in Entrepreneurship
- BS in Rural Dev't. Management

Graduate Programs

- Ph.D. in Educational Administration
- PhD Fisheries
- MS in Horticulture
- MS in Agronomy
- Master in Educational Management
- MS in Rural Development
- Master in Public Administration
- Master of Science in Marine Biology
- Master in Educational Management

Colleges

- College of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Criminal Justice and Education
- College of Education
- College of Engineering and Technology
- College of Fisheries and Natural Sciences
- College of Public Administration and Management

Western Philippines University

Vision

The leading university for holistic human development in Western Philippines and beyond.

Ang nangungunang unibersidad para sa holistikong pag-unlad ng tao sa Kanlurang Pilipinas at higit pa.

Mission

WPU commits to undertake quality instruction, research and extension programs towards a progressive Western Philippines.

Magsasagawa ang WPU ng makabuluhang pagtuturo, pananaliksik, at programang pangkomunidad tungo sa masulong na Kanlurang Pilipinas.

WPU Mandate

To provide advanced education, higher technological, professional instruction, and training in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, engineering, environment, education, arts and sciences, rural development and other relevant fields of study, promote research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization (Section 2, R.A. 9260).

Quality Policy

In pursuit of our Vision, Mission, and Objectives, the Western Philippines University strongly adheres to its commitment to academic excellence through relevant instruction, research, and extension services geared towards customer satisfaction, development of quality human resources and green technologies, and continual improvement of our quality management system as an effective, efficient, and ethically acceptable quality standard by following the core values of:

Culture of Excellence

We excel in the performance of our duties to achieve quality results;

Commitment

We commit our talents and abilities for the general welfare of the University;

Creativity

We innovate for the development of the University and its stakeholders; and

Teamwork

We promote a team approach at all times to achieve common goals.

This commitment causes the achievement of our compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the satisfaction of interested parties, the accomplishment of our targets, and our ultimate goal of international recognition.

Quality Objectives

WPU strongly adheres to the Philippine education sector's overarching goal of "*Ensured lifelong learning opportunities for all*" through the following objectives:

- Ensure quality higher education to achieve inclusive growth;
- Pursue more advanced research and innovation to promote sustainable development; and
- Deliver extension services to empower communities.

Strong Partner for Sustainable Development

Sustainability is woven into the mission of Western Philippines University, guiding how we educate, conduct research, engage communities, and build partnerships. Anchored on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University continues to translate knowledge into action through initiatives that respond to the unique needs of Palawan while contributing to global sustainable development.

This report presents WPU's collective efforts in advancing its priority SDGs through transformative instruction, impactful research, innovation, extension programs, responsible governance, and strategic partnerships. It highlights how the University's research initiatives have generated practical solutions in areas such as biodiversity conservation, food security, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and natural resource management, while its community engagement programs have empowered local communities through capacity-building, technology transfer, environmental stewardship, and inclusive development.

More than a record of accomplishments, this Sustainability Report reflects the shared commitment of the University's students, faculty, researchers, staff, alumni, and partners to creating meaningful and lasting impact. It demonstrates how WPU continues to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by addressing local challenges with innovative, collaborative, and sustainable solutions.



Priority SDGs

Western Philippines University advances sustainable development by focusing on seven priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): **No Poverty (SDG 1)**, **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**, **Quality Education (SDG 4)**, **Gender Equality (SDG 5)**, **Life Below Water (SDG 14)**, **Life on Land (SDG 15)**, and **Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)**.

These priority areas reflect the University's mandate as a public higher education institution and respond to the social, economic, and environmental needs of Palawan. Through instruction, research, extension, innovation, and governance, WPU translates these commitments into programs that create meaningful and lasting impact for communities. This report highlights the University's collective efforts and accomplishments in advancing these SDGs throughout 2025.







**1 NO
POVERTY**



SDG 1: No Poverty aims to end extreme poverty and reduce national poverty rates by half, focusing on implementing social protection systems and ensuring equal access to resources.



No Poverty

1



Empowering Communities Through Sustainable Livelihood Training and Skills Development

Western Philippines University empowers communities through livelihood and skills development initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, strengthen income-generating opportunities, and enhance economic resilience for sustainable community development.

Through the WPU Home Economics Department, the University implements community-based training programs that equip farmers, fisherfolk, and local organizations with skills in value-added production and enterprise development. In partnership with NIA-PIMO and the Delta Falls Upper Lapu-Lapu Irrigators' Association Inc., WPU conducted a **Training on Rice Wine Processing and Product Development** in Narra, Palawan, providing farmer-beneficiaries with knowledge in food processing, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), fermentation, and product development to support livelihood diversification.

The Department also conducted a **3-Day Training on Fish Processing** for the Malampaya Pancol Multi-purpose Cooperative in Taytay, Palawan, with support from Good Neighbors Philippines, KOICA, and DOST-PSTO Palawan.



The training enhanced skills in food safety and value-added fish processing, supporting livelihood diversification and enterprise development. Through these initiatives, **WPU transforms skills and local resources into sustainable livelihood opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship, economic resilience, and inclusive community development.**

Shared Service Facilities for Livelihood Improvement

Western Philippines University in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), received a **Shared Service Facility (SSF) for Food Processing** on November 8, 2024. The facility provides local farmers, food producers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs with access to modern food processing equipment, technical training, and shared resources.



By improving productivity, promoting value-added products, and reducing production costs, **the SSF empowers communities to develop sustainable enterprises, generate livelihood opportunities, and increase household income.**



Supporting Equitable Access to Higher Education for Students from Low-Income Households

The Western Philippines University, as a state university, primarily serves students from various parts of Palawan—many of whom come from low-income families. In accordance with Republic Act No. 10931, also known as the “*Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*,” **the university upholds the government’s mandate to provide equitable access to quality tertiary education for all Filipinos, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.** Through the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) under Sections 2(c) and 7 of the Act, eligible students from low-income families receive financial assistance beyond free tuition, helping reduce financial barriers to education and promoting inclusive opportunities for academic and socioeconomic advancement.

Expanding Educational Opportunities through Scholarships and Student Assistantship Programs. WPU also expands access to higher education by **providing scholarships, financial assistance, and student assistantship programs for financially disadvantaged students** through the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS). These initiatives reduce financial barriers while helping students gain work experience, develop professional skills, and complete their education.



Enhancing Employability Through Strategic Student Support

The University supports poverty reduction by equipping students and graduates with the skills, knowledge, and employment opportunities needed for sustainable livelihoods through its **Career Center-Job Placement Office**, which is accredited by the DOLE.

The center provides career advising, employability training, job fairs, career coaching, work placement, and access to the Special Program for Employment of Students and the Government Internship Program.

In partnership with DOLE, TESDA, and industry stakeholders, WPU expands employment opportunities and responds to workforce needs. Recognizing its excellence in employment facilitation, the **WPU Job Placement Office** received the **DOLE-MIMAROPA Regional Best Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Award** in 2023, reflecting its contribution to employability, economic mobility, and poverty reduction.





Empowering the Next Generation

WPU Brings “Unlad Kabataan Project” to Irawan Youth

In line with Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, the Public Administration Department of the College of Public Administration and Management (CPAM) spearheaded an extension activity titled **“Unlad Kabataan Project: Mobilizing Filipino Youth for Civic Action.”** The seminar-workshop was held in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City, on November 15, 2024. It aimed to promote active youth involvement in civic affairs while equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to become agents of positive change.

Barangay Irawan was selected as the host community due to its growing population and active citizen participation in local governance. The event sought to strengthen young people’s understanding of government programs and youth development policies and to inspire them to take proactive roles in their communities. Specifically, the activity focused on: (1) providing information on the Unlad Kabataan Project and its support for out-of-school youth, (2) deepening awareness of existing government programs and services for youth development, and (3) creating

opportunities for disadvantaged youth to and develop their potential. A total of 47 youth participants from Barangay Irawan took part in the seminar, representing students, out-of-school youth, aspiring public servants, and emerging community leaders. The activity encouraged participants to share their insights and experiences, helping them recognize their capacity to contribute to local decision-making and civic initiatives. The full support of barangay officials highlighted the collaborative spirit of the program, ensuring that the discussions and activities reflected the real needs of the community.

*The **Unlad Kabataan Project** served as a practical venue for young people in Barangay Irawan to learn about government programs, community engagement, and leadership. By creating opportunities for youth to take part in civic action, the activity strengthened local awareness and collaboration toward community development and inclusive growth.*





2 ZERO
HUNGER



SDG 2: Zero Hunger aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. It outlines targets to ensure universal access to safe food, eliminate malnutrition, double small-scale farmer productivity, and maintain agricultural biodiversity.



WPU Launches “Kaen Tami” Free Breakfast Program for Students

Western Philippines University, through the initiative of private donors and individuals in partnership with the Office of the University President, launched “*Kaen Tami: Kada Lunes et Kadadalman.*” The continuing feeding program provides free, nutritious breakfast meals every Monday, ensuring that students have access to healthy food before the start of classes and helping address food insecurity within the university community.



Established to support students who may otherwise begin the day without breakfast, the program promotes healthy nutrition, enhances concentration and participation in class, and contributes to a more supportive learning environment. By ensuring access to nutritious meals, WPU helps reduce hunger as a barrier to learning while fostering student well-being and academic success. While the initiative is primarily intended to support students, the shared breakfast also strengthens a culture of care and community across the University.

Sustained through the generosity of private donors and coordinated by the University, *Kaen Tami* reflects WPU's commitment to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn in an environment where access to nutritious food supports both health and educational achievement.



Home Economics Department, The Paraoakan Project Lead Meat Processing Training on Free-Range *Paraoakan* and Native Chicken

The Department of Home Economics, with its partner cooperatives, namely the Aborlan Rainbow Marketing Cooperative (ARMC) and Rural Improvement Club (RIC) members from various barangays, conducted a farm tour in WPU SAKA Agri-Farm, followed by a **training on meat processing using free-range *Paraoakan* and native chicken**.



The *Paraoakan* (or *Pawakan*) is a breed native to Malaysia and was introduced to the Philippines in the 14th century. Today, it's mainly farmed in the province of Palawan. Among the native chicken breeds in the Philippines, the *Paraoakan* is among the largest. Unfortunately, the meat of *Paraoakan* chicken is significantly firmer than other breeds due to their slow growth rate, resulting in a stronger muscular structure. Thus, *Paraoakan* chickens are mainly farmed for their use in local sports, rather than as a food source.

The WPU Department of Home Economics' faculty, with their expertise in food processing, were able to come up with innovative ways to utilize the otherwise underutilized source of meat. Through the results of their research, Dr. Rogelio Lopez – Head of the *Paraoakan* Project, and Dr. Anne Gellie Pablo-Limco were able to come up with *Paraoakan* with much softer meat. They were able to use *Paraoakan* for various food products such as chicken nuggets, longganisa, embutido, and even oven-cooked whole chicken.

Paraoakan chicken, once only used for local sports, can now make its way to our local meat markets. **This innovation in poultry production and processing presents magnitudes of opportunities to the partner cooperatives in terms of new business ventures, as well as opening a huge door for small communities in Palawan in terms of sustainable agricultural production.**





WPU Supports Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods for PDL Families Through the *Paraoakan* Project

Western Philippines University, through the *Paraoakan* Project led by Dr. Roger Lopez of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Sciences, distributed reproduced *Paraoakan* chickens to families of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in two barrios of the Iwahig community, including a senior citizen barrio. **The initiative supports household food security by providing a sustainable source of nutritious food while creating opportunities for income generation through native chicken production.**



WPU President Dr. Amabel S. Liao led the ceremonial dispersal, reaffirming the University's commitment to inclusive, community-based development and science-based agricultural extension. To ensure the effective management of the poultry, beneficiaries participated in a seminar on the proper care, breeding, and propagation of the *Paraoakan* chicken, equipping them with practical knowledge and skills for sustainable backyard poultry production.



As one of WPU's flagship extension initiatives, the *Paraoakan* Project promotes native chicken conservation while empowering communities through sustainable livestock production. By combining agricultural innovation with community capacity-building, **the University continues to support resilient households and strengthen local food systems.**





WPU-ATBI leads Livelihood Training on Aquaculture and Agri-Natural Farming

The Western Philippines University – Agribusiness Technology and Business Incubation (WPU-ATBI) Team joined forces with the Tactical Operations Wing West (TOW West) and the Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCPIC) Palawan Satellite Office to conduct a two-day **Training-Workshop on Potential Livelihood Programs** on August 1–2, 2024, at the WPU Puerto Princesa City Campus.

The training aimed to strengthen the livelihood and entrepreneurial capabilities of the participants, composed of TOW West personnel, their dependents, and members of local partner communities. The WPU-ATBI Team, composed of Dr. Maria Mojena G. Plasus, Ms. Arlene L. Avillanosa, Ms. Maria Cristina C. Rosero, and Ms. Eleonor P. Abatay, served as the primary resource speakers. They provided lectures and demonstrations on Milkfish, Fresh Prawn, Oyster, and Mud Crab Culturing, offering participants practical insights into aquaculture operations and sustainable farming practices.

Beyond knowledge-sharing, the collaboration also reflected a shared goal of empowering participants with the technical and entrepreneurial skills needed to establish financially and socially sustainable livelihood ventures. These aquaculture technologies are viable sources of income, particularly for coastal communities in Palawan, where access to traditional employment is limited. Participants were guided not only in the production aspect but also in planning and managing their small-scale enterprises.



This initiative is part of WPU's ongoing efforts to support local communities in developing sustainable livelihoods through training, mentorship, and access to university expertise and facilities. By integrating education with real-world application, WPU helps individuals and groups start and sustain micro-enterprises that contribute to local economic growth.





4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4: Quality Education aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. It focuses on eliminating disparities, achieving universal literacy, and expanding access to vocational and higher education.



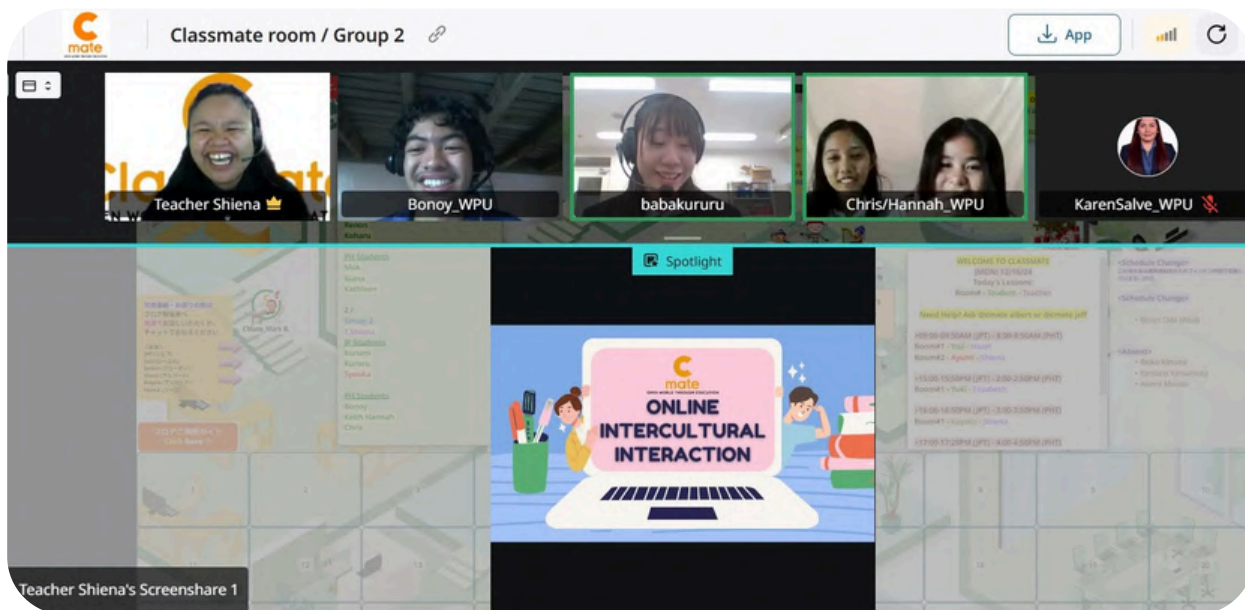
Strengthening Equitable Access to Digital Learning Through the WPU Netbook Loaning Service

Western Philippines University continues to strengthen equitable access to quality education by expanding opportunities for digital learning through its **Netbook Loaning Service**. Spearheaded by the University Library under the leadership of University Librarian Mr. Arniel S. Enario and supported by the Supreme Student Council (SSC) Federation, the initiative reflects the University's commitment to ensuring that technology remains accessible to its academic community and that every learner has the opportunity to fully participate in a digitally enabled learning environment.

The service provides registered students with access to netbooks for on-site use within the University Library, allowing them to complete academic requirements, conduct research, utilize digital library resources, and access online learning platforms. While the program is also available to faculty and staff, it primarily supports students by providing shared access to essential educational technology, helping create a more inclusive learning environment where access to digital resources does not hinder academic participation.



Available throughout the week during regular library operating hours, the Netbook Loaning Service complements WPU's broader efforts to enhance digital inclusion and student learning support. By investing in accessible educational technologies and library-based learning services, **the University empowers students to develop digital competencies, strengthen independent learning, and maximize available academic resources.**

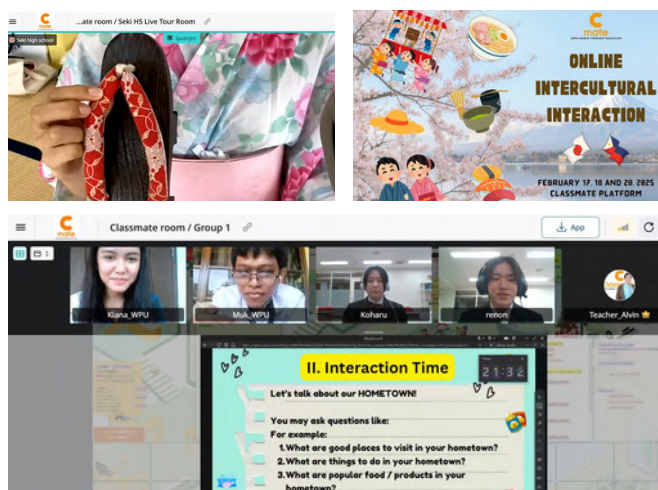


Bridging Cultures Through Virtual English Language and Intercultural Exchange

Western Philippines University, in partnership with Classmate Co., Ltd., Japan, continues to expand international learning opportunities through the **Online Intercultural Interaction (OII) program**. Organized by Classmate Co., Ltd. and conducted through the Classmate oVice platform, the initiative brings together WPU Filipino and Japanese students in a virtual learning environment where they can confidently practice English while engaging in meaningful intercultural exchange.

The program provides students with authentic opportunities to communicate with peers from another country, strengthening English language proficiency, building confidence in spoken communication, and enhancing intercultural competence. Through guided conversations and collaborative activities, participants deepen their understanding of each other's cultures, traditions, educational experiences, and perspectives, fostering mutual respect, global awareness, and meaningful cross-cultural friendships.

As WPU's partner in the initiative, Classmate Co., Ltd. provides an innovative digital platform that enables accessible international learning without the need for overseas travel. The initial implementation also allowed both institutions to evaluate the platform and program design as a foundation for expanding future collaborations involving a greater number of students and faculty members.



The Online Intercultural Interaction reflects **WPU's commitment to internationalization by providing inclusive, technology-enabled learning experiences that prepare students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world**. By combining English language practice with intercultural dialogue, the partnership equips learners with the communication skills, global perspectives, and collaborative competencies essential for academic, professional, and personal success.



Bridging the Digital Divide Through Community-Based Digital Literacy Training

Western Philippines University (WPU) continues to extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom by bringing digital literacy programs to underserved communities across Palawan. From August 18 to 20, 2025, the University conducted a Community Extension Activity in the barangays of Taburi, Candawaga, Ransang, and Panalingaan, Rizal, Palawan.

Implemented by the Office of Extension Services in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Fisheries and Natural Sciences, and the WPU Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubator (ATBI), the activity featured **Basic Computer Operations Training** under the theme, *"Digital Empowerment for Barangay Leaders: Mastering MS Office for Efficient Governance."* The training introduced participants to fundamental computer operations and Microsoft Office applications, strengthening their digital competencies for governance, communication, record management, and other day-to-day community functions.

The participants' enthusiasm and willingness to learn were evident throughout the training. Many welcomed the opportunity to develop digital skills that are becoming increasingly essential in accessing information, improving workplace productivity, and responding to the growing demands of a technology-driven society. The interactive sessions not only enhanced participants' technical knowledge but also built their confidence in using digital tools for practical and meaningful purposes within their communities.

By expanding access to digital skills training, **WPU continues to promote inclusive learning and capacity-building among communities with limited access to technology-based education.** Through responsive extension initiatives, the University empowers individuals with relevant competencies that support lifelong learning, strengthen local governance, and contribute to more resilient and digitally connected communities.





WPU Empowers Students, Teachers Through Opportunity-Seeking Workshop

Western Philippines University conducted the Seminar-Workshop on Opportunity Seeking on November 13, 2024, at Irawan National High School in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City. Organized under the Extension Program on **Value-Added and Technology Enterprise Development (VAPTED)** by the Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship (BSE) program, the activity aimed to equip senior high school students and teachers with practical entrepreneurial skills.

The workshop gathered 73 Accountancy, Business, and Management (ABM) students and focused on **identifying viable business opportunities, developing small enterprise ideas, and exploring sustainable livelihood options suited to the local community**. Participants also took part in interactive sessions where they presented business concepts addressing local needs.



The seminar was facilitated by faculty members from WPU's College of Public Administration and Management, who shared practical insights on opportunity assessment, enterprise planning, and collaboration with government and private sector partners. Participants responded positively to the training, with 98% rating the activity as excellent.

The activity strengthened WPU's partnership with Irawan National High School while encouraging young learners to view entrepreneurship as a practical pathway for community development. By providing participants with knowledge they can apply in their own communities, the program reinforces the University's continuing commitment to extension and sustainable local development.





5 GENDER
EQUALITY



SDG 5: Gender Equality aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It recognizes that equality is not just a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.



Gender Equality



WPU Launches Balai it Wa'wa Child-Minding Center

Because learning and caring don't have to stop when duty calls — the **WPU Balai it Wa'wa Child-Minding Center** officially opened on October 6, 2025, to lend a loving hand to our faculty, staff, and students.

The “*Balai it Wa'wa*,” which translates to “*Home for the Children*,” embodies WPU's commitment to creating an inclusive, family-friendly environment where work, study, and parenthood can harmoniously coexist. The center offers a supervised, play-based setting that ensures children are well cared for and engaged while their parents teach, learn, and serve. The center also features a dedicated lactation room for nursing mothers, providing a supportive environment that promotes maternal health and work-life balance among WPU personnel and students.

The event was graced by the presence of WPU President Dr. Amabel S. Liao, who delivered an inspiring message to the audience.

“I truly recognize the importance of centers like this, having experienced what it's like to be a mother balancing both work and parenthood,” Dr. Liao shared.



She also expressed her gratitude to the GAD Office as well as the University Library for initiating the project, noting that the concept had long been in her mind but was already “on the shelf,” awaiting the right time and people to make it happen.

With this initiative, WPU continues to lead with compassion and innovation, fostering not only academic excellence but also community well-being.



Empowering Isaub Women to Transform Meat into Opportunity

A new flavor of empowerment is cooking in Barangay Isaub. The women of the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) have stepped into the world of meat processing through a bold and exciting initiative: “**Oh My Meat – Hayop sa Sarap!**” extension program.

Supported by Western Philippines University through the AgriBusiness Department’s **Resource-Based Enterprise Development (RED)** program and the Food Processing Center’s **FRIENDS initiative (Food Research & Innovation for Extension, Nutrition, Development & Sustainability)**, the women of RIC Isaub received hands-on training in hygienic meat handling and processing, safe and efficient operation of meat-processing machines, and practical costing and packaging know-how.

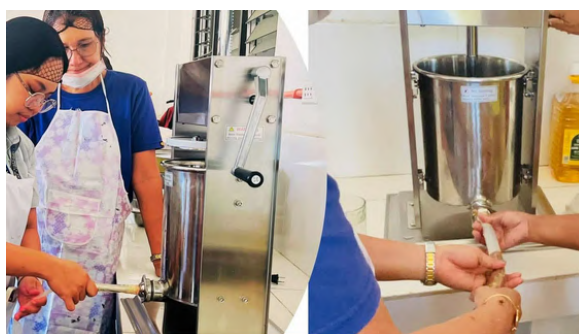
A key boost came from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), which provided equipment and start-up assistance. These tools mean the women can now produce fresh, locally made processed meat products with no salitre at a quality that competes with store-bought brands.

This project champions women’s economic participation and creates an avenue for Isaub’s community to thrive together. Soon, residents can look forward to affordable, safe, and high-quality meat products right from their own barangay.

More than Just Meat

For the women of RIC Isaub, every batch of Tocino is a step toward financial stability, every packed kilo of longganisa is proof of their new skills, and every sale is a seed for community growth.

This is more than training; it’s a **pathway to micro-enterprise development, food safety awareness, and sustainable local livelihoods.**





WPU and Aisyyiah Empower Women through Marine Processing Workshop in Mangsee

Western Philippines University conducted the two-day seminar-workshop "**Empowering Women through Marine Products Processing: A Sustainable Livelihood for the Aisyyiah Association**" on May 20–21, 2025, in Mangsee, Balabac, Palawan. The activity began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WPU and the Aisyyiah Philippine Women Association, reaffirming their shared commitment to sustainable community development.

Participants received hands-on training in processing marine products such as abalone, fish, and sea cucumbers, complemented by sessions on basic marketing and financial management to help transform local marine resources into sustainable livelihood opportunities. A storytelling activity for children also fostered greater community participation and inclusivity.



Led by the University's Extension Services Office, Office of Cultural Inclusivity, and faculty members from various colleges, the initiative demonstrated WPU's collaborative approach to community engagement. The partnership established through **the program provides a strong foundation for future extension initiatives that promote sustainable livelihoods and empower coastal communities.**



Western Philippines University
joins the observance of the

18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women

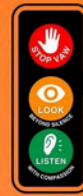
November 25 to December 12, 2025

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WPU Strengthens Gender Equality Advocacy Through 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women

Western Philippines University officially launched its participation in the **2025 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW)** on November 25, 2025, in conjunction with the celebration of **International Men's Day** under the theme "**Positive Male Role Model**." The initiative reaffirmed the University's commitment to promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence, and encouraging men to become active advocates for a safe and inclusive society.

The whole-day activity engaged male employees from the Main and Puerto Princesa City campuses in wellness, educational, and advocacy activities designed to strengthen gender sensitivity and reinforce men's role in eliminating violence against women and children.

The celebration began with a Fun Run/Walk from the WPU Main Front Gate to Marikit Port, followed by a Zumba session that promoted physical wellness, teamwork, and solidarity. Participants also attended lectures, interactive activities, and a film viewing at the WPU Training Center focusing on gender equality, mental health, positive masculinity, respectful relationships, and violence prevention.

The program featured expert resource speakers from the Health Services Office, Ospital ng Palawan, and the Social Work Department. Spearheaded by the Gender and Development (GAD) Office in partnership with the Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) chapters, **the campaign strengthened awareness, encouraged men's active participation in preventing gender-based violence, and reinforced WPU's commitment to fostering a gender-responsive, inclusive, and violence-free university community.**





Empowering Youth: WPU Hosts Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Symposium

Amid growing concerns surrounding teenage pregnancy, the WPU-Health Services Office, in partnership with the WPU-Office of Gender and Development, conducted the ***Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Symposium*** on December 5, 2025, at the WPU Gymnasium.

The event brought together young learners in a shared space not only for discussion, but for deeper understanding of a pressing social issue. The objective of this initiative is to raise awareness and educate students about the realities of teenage pregnancy, empowering them with knowledge and values to make informed and responsible decisions. More than a discussion, the symposium served as a platform for learning, reflection, and guidance encouraging participants to think critically about their choices and the paths they take. Through the efforts of dedicated facilitators and key speakers, the event became both informative and engaging.



Teachers and guests also played an important role in fostering a supportive environment, allowing students to listen, reflect, and actively participate in the conversations. Their collective contributions helped make the symposium meaningful and impactful. More importantly, the initiative emphasized the importance of equipping the youth at an early age with essential values such as self-respect, self-awareness, and accountability.



These values serve as a strong foundation, guiding them toward wise decision-making as they grow older. In the end, **the symposium stood as a reminder that education goes beyond the classroom—it is a continuous effort to shape responsible individuals who are prepared to face life's challenges with awareness, confidence, and integrity.**



Men Leading the Way: WPU Advances Gender Equality Through Targeted MOVE Training

As part of its steadfast commitment to institutionalizing gender equality and fostering a safe, progressive society, WPU successfully spearheaded a two-day **"Training of Trainers for WPU MOVE Officers"** on December 3–4, 2025. The event was anchored on the timely theme, **"Respect, Responsibility, Relationships: Men Leading the Way."** The core philosophy of the WPU MOVE Training of Trainers revolves around reshaping the traditional paradigms of masculinity. By anchoring the initiative on the three pillars of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships, the university provides a practical, behavioral roadmap for men to actively dismantle gender-based violence (GBV) and promote institutional equity.

Within the framework of the MOVE movement, respect is elevated from a passive sentiment to an active, structural practice. The training emphasizes recognition of bodily autonomy by promoting absolute respect for the physical, emotional, and psychological boundaries of everyone on campus, reinforcing a zero-tolerance stance toward catcalling, sexual harassment, and casual sexism under the Safe Spaces Act (R.A. 11313). It also promotes dignity in diversity, recognizing women, children, and LGBTQ+ individuals as equal stakeholders with inherent human rights and helping dismantle the systemic biases that fuel gender-based discrimination.

The training also addresses the passive bystander effect by challenging men to move beyond silence and take responsibility for preventing violence and discrimination. Under the MOVE KATRAPO framework, officers are encouraged to break the "bro code" by confronting inappropriate behavior, ensuring classrooms, offices, and community extension sites remain safe spaces, and guiding victims to appropriate legal and psychological support under existing laws.

Recognizing that violence often stems from unequal power dynamics, the program emphasizes Responsible Parenting and Family Planning, encouraging shared decision-making, equal household responsibilities, and healthy relationships. By understanding how parental roles shape children's perceptions of gender, future trainers are equipped to foster family environments free from restrictive stereotypes, helping the next generation view healthy, non-violent, and equal relationships as the norm.

The WPU MOVE framework further distinguishes itself by utilizing men to educate other men, transforming gender equality from a perceived women's issue into a universal human rights imperative that requires the active participation and leadership of men.

Organized by the WPU GAD Office, in collaboration with the WPU-PPC Campus MOVE Organization, the initiative reflects WPU's mission to deliver impactful extension programs that promote holistic human development. By centering the campaign on men, **WPU recognizes that achieving genuine gender equality requires actively transforming the attitudes and behaviors of men within the academic community.**





14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14: Life Below Water aims to conserve and sustainably use the world's oceans, seas, and marine resources. Its primary targets focus on preventing marine pollution, ending overfishing, minimizing ocean acidification, and expanding marine protected areas



Protecting Palawan's Coastal Communities from Harmful Algal Blooms

"WPU strengthens community awareness, marine protection, and food security through science-based education in Taytay, Palawan"

Along the coastal communities surrounding the Malampaya Protected Landscape and Seascape, the sea is more than a natural resource. It is a source of food, income, culture, and everyday life. However, the recurring occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms, commonly known as red tide, continues to threaten marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of local fishing families.

To help communities better understand and respond to this environmental concern, the College of Fisheries and Natural Sciences of Western Philippines University conducted a **seminar-workshop on the management and prevention of Harmful Algal Blooms** in Barangay Pancol, Taytay, Palawan, on June 28, 2024.

Science for Safer Seas

Harmful Algal Blooms occur when certain algae rapidly increase in coastal waters. Some species produce toxins that may accumulate in shellfish and other marine organisms, potentially affecting human health, fisheries production, food security, and the local economy.

For coastal families dependent on fishing, the effects of red tide can be immediate and severe. Fishing activities may be temporarily restricted, and seafood products may become unsafe for

consumption, and household income may decline. "Harmful Algal Blooms are not only environmental concerns—they affect people's health, food, and livelihood," explained Dr. Jhonamie M. Omar, Team Leader of the WPU HABS Watch.

"When toxic algae develop in our waters, fishing families are among the first to experience the consequences. Community awareness and participation is therefore essential."

-Dr. Omar, HABS WATCH

Through lectures, interactive discussions, and group workshops, participants learned about the causes and possible impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms, the pathways through which toxins are transferred in the marine food chain, and the latest monitoring results from the Malampaya Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Participants were also encouraged to share their observations and identify practical community actions that could help reduce environmental pressures and strengthen local preparedness.

A Book for Future Ocean Stewards



The campaign extended beyond adult fisherfolk and reached the younger members of Taytay's coastal communities.

Written in Filipino and presented through colorful, child-friendly illustrations, the book explains Harmful Algal Blooms in a way that young readers can easily understand. It introduces children to the causes of red tide, its possible effects on families and marine life, and the importance of caring for the sea.

"When we educate children, we invest in the future of our seas," Dr. Omar shared. "These children are growing up beside the ocean. They must learn to appreciate its beauty while also understanding the challenges that threaten it," she added.

By introducing marine environmental education at an early age, the project helps develop responsible and informed future stewards of Palawan's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Around 50 children from Sitio Batas in Barangay Poblacion received copies of the educational storybook "Bakit Pula ang Dagat?" or "Why Is the Sea Red?"



Monitoring Waters, Protecting Lives

The project regularly monitors phytoplankton communities in areas of Palawan that are vulnerable to Harmful Algal Blooms. Monitoring provides important scientific information that can support timely advisories, improve local preparedness, and reduce risks to public health and fisheries.



For communities living near the Malampaya Protected Landscape and Seascape, access to reliable scientific information can make a significant difference. It enables families to make safer decisions, protects consumers from contaminated seafood, and supports the long-term sustainability of coastal livelihoods. By combining environmental monitoring with public education, local partnerships, and youth engagement, the University contributes to **healthier marine ecosystems and more resilient coastal communities.**





Advancing Marine Conservation Through Annual International Coastal Cleanup Initiatives

Western Philippines University demonstrates its enduring commitment to protecting Palawan's coastal and marine ecosystems through its annual participation in the **International Coastal Cleanup** (ICC). Across successive years, the University has mobilized faculty, students, and campus organizations to reduce marine pollution, restore coastal environments, and cultivate environmental stewardship through community-based conservation.



The annual initiative engages various academic units in hands-on coastal conservation activities. In 2024, students from the College of Fisheries and Natural Sciences (CFINS), including those from the Aquatic Biology, Fisheries, and Marine Biology programs, conducted cleanup activities at the WPU fishpond and surrounding coastal areas, reinforcing their commitment to protecting aquatic ecosystems. In 2025, faculty members and volunteer students from the Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences (DFES) under the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), led by the Forestry and Environmental Management Student Association (FEMSA), carried out a coastal and mangrove cleanup at the WPU Mangrove Area, collecting nine sacks of waste from a 0.7-kilometer stretch of coastline. These activities contribute directly to reducing marine litter, protecting sensitive coastal habitats, and promoting healthier marine environments.



Beyond the immediate environmental benefits, WPU's sustained participation in the International Coastal Cleanup strengthens experiential learning by enabling students to translate environmental knowledge into meaningful action. By embedding volunteerism, environmental responsibility, and community engagement into its academic and extension programs, **the University continues to empower future environmental professionals while contributing to the long-term conservation of Palawan's coastal and marine resources.**





Youth-Led Nature-Based Solutions and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration in Palawan

Western Philippines University continues to strengthen the conservation of Palawan's coastal ecosystems through its **annual mangrove planting initiative**, reaffirming its long-term commitment to protecting marine biodiversity and enhancing the resilience of coastal communities. Conducted as a regular component of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) Fest, the activity is led by the Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers – Pre-Professional Group (PSABE-PPG) WPU Chapter in collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and local partners.

The initiative integrates experiential learning with environmental action by engaging Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (BSABE) students in the restoration of mangrove habitats. Through hands-on participation, students apply engineering concepts to real-world conservation efforts while helping restore ecosystems that protect shorelines from erosion and storm surges, support marine biodiversity, improve water quality, and serve as vital nursery grounds for fish and other aquatic species.



By institutionalizing this annual initiative, WPU strengthens environmental stewardship among future engineers while contributing to the long-term protection of Palawan's coastal resources. **The program reflects the University's commitment to community-based conservation, sustainable coastal resource management, and collaborative action that supports healthier marine ecosystems for present and future generations.**



United for the West Philippine Sea: WPU Advances Conservation and Coastal Livelihoods

Western Philippines University joins national agencies, local governments, academic institutions, and civil society organizations in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future for the West Philippine Sea.

As the West Philippine Sea faces increasing environmental and socioeconomic challenges, leaders from different sectors gathered to strengthen collective action for the protection of its marine resources and coastal communities. Western Philippines University, through its Institute of Environmental Governance (WPU-IEG), actively participated in the **"Local and National Response: Life and Livelihood, A Multi-Sectoral Summit for the West Philippine Sea"** held at the Midas Hotel in Pasay City, which provided a platform for stakeholders to address pressing issues, including illegal fishing, habitat degradation, declining marine resources, and the economic vulnerability of coastal communities.

WPU was represented by Atty. Joselito C. Alisuag, OIC University President, together with Dr. Allaine Baaco, Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension; Dr. Ma. Mojena G. Plasus, WPU-IEG Coordinator; and Assistant Professor Jonson Javier. Their participation reflected the University's commitment to advancing environmental governance, community empowerment, and the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.

During the summit, Dr. Allaine Baaco presented the coalition's accomplishments, highlighting initiatives to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing while supporting livelihood and capacity-building programs for coastal communities. These efforts strengthen marine resource conservation while improving the resilience and well-being of communities that depend on the West Philippine Sea.

A major highlight of the summit was the signing of a **Memorandum of Agreement between WPU and Tanggol Kalikasan**, renewing a five-year commitment to advance the programs of WPU-IEG for the protection of the West Philippine Sea. Through research, training, policy support, and stakeholder engagement, the partnership promotes practical solutions that balance marine conservation with sustainable livelihoods.

The summit also introduced the **National Action Plan** for the West Philippine Sea, providing a shared framework for environmental conservation, community participation, and sustainable livelihoods. Through WPU-IEG, the University continues to strengthen partnerships that **transform research into meaningful action, safeguarding marine ecosystems and enhancing the long-term resilience of coastal communities.**





Strengthening Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Through Community-Based *Lato* Research

Western Philippines University, through the **Global Community Food for Planetary Health (CFaH) Project**, is advancing research on sustainable coastal food systems by documenting and strengthening community-based “*Lato*” (*Caulerpa lentillifera*) production in the island communities of Rizal, Magsaysay. WPU researchers worked closely with households, lato growers, barangay officials, and other local stakeholders to better understand the community's diet, nutrition, food diversity, and the practices that sustain one of Palawan's most valuable coastal resources.

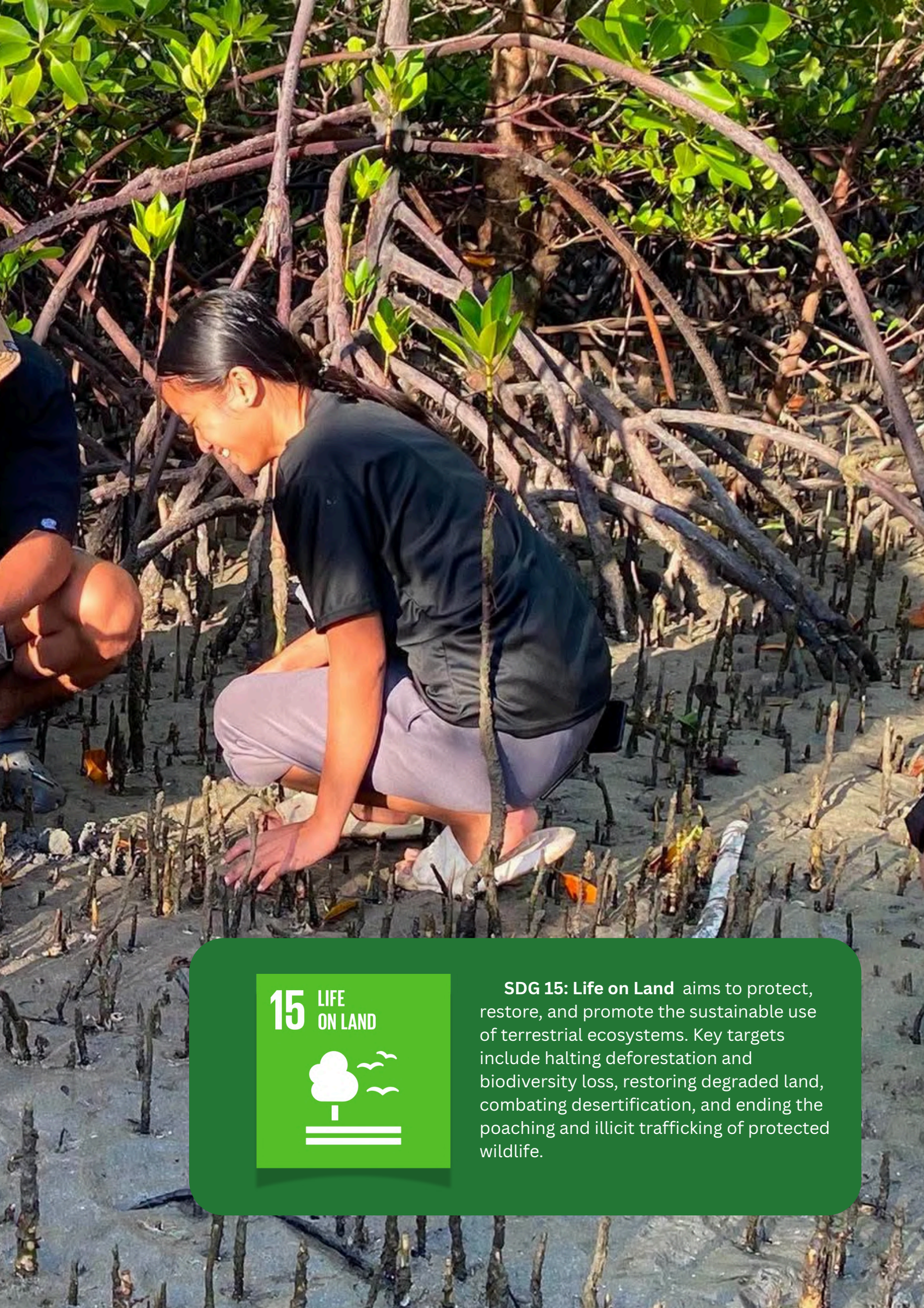
Known locally as producing some of the best lato in the Philippines, the thriving sea grape gardens of Rizal reflect the close relationship between healthy coastal ecosystems and community well-being. Rich in essential vitamins and minerals, lato is more than a nutritious marine food—it is a sustainable source of livelihood that supports household incomes, helps families send their children to school, and preserves a way of life deeply rooted in the community's cultural identity.

By collecting both qualitative and quantitative data, the research highlights the knowledge, resourcefulness, and sustainable practices of coastal communities in managing locally available marine resources. The findings provide valuable evidence to support community-based food production, strengthen coastal livelihoods, and promote the long-term sustainability of small-island food systems.

As one of the Philippine partners in the Global Community Food for Planetary Health Project, an international collaborative research initiative conducted across the Philippines, Fiji, and the Caribbean, WPU contributes to expanding global knowledge on small-island food and health systems. Through collaborative research grounded in local communities, the University continues to **promote evidence-based approaches that strengthen coastal resilience, safeguard marine resources, and improve the well-being of island communities.**







15 LIFE
ON LAND



SDG 15: Life on Land aims to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Key targets include halting deforestation and biodiversity loss, restoring degraded land, combating desertification, and ending the poaching and illicit trafficking of protected wildlife.



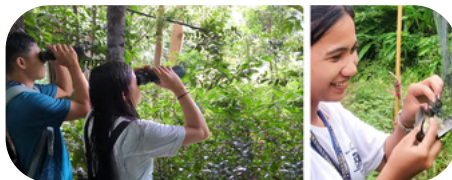
Nature Within Campus: WPU's Green Spaces Protecting Endemic and Threatened Wildlife

Alejandro Bernardo

Rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure development have transformed natural landscapes worldwide, resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation that increasingly isolate wildlife populations. Consequently, conserving biodiversity requires extending conservation efforts beyond traditional protected areas and recognizing the ecological value of human-dominated landscapes. Among the most promising opportunities within these landscapes are green spaces, which have emerged as critical components of contemporary biodiversity conservation.

Often appreciated primarily for their aesthetic, recreational, and climatic benefits, green spaces are increasingly recognized as essential ecological infrastructure capable of supporting native biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem functions, and enhancing landscape resilience. Forest patches, wetlands, grasslands, riparian corridors, agricultural areas, and tree-lined open spaces embedded within developed environments provide habitat, facilitate wildlife movement, and strengthen ecological connectivity across fragmented landscapes. As development continues to reshape the landscape, these seemingly ordinary patches of vegetation may become extraordinary refuges for biodiversity.

Internationally recognized as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, Palawan harbors exceptional levels of endemism and supports numerous species of global conservation concern. **The Main Campus of Western Philippines University (WPU) demonstrates how universities can contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation. Beyond its academic mission, the university maintains an extensive network of diverse green spaces that collectively form a heterogeneous mosaic of habitats capable of supporting diverse wildlife.**



"Academic institutions occupy a unique position in advancing biodiversity conservation across increasingly fragmented landscapes."



Recognizing this potential, the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences initiated a comprehensive biodiversity assessment of the WPU Main Campus between 2022 and 2025. The study sought not only to document the wildlife inhabiting the campus but also to understand the ecological significance of these green spaces within a rapidly changing landscape. Through systematic surveys conducted across multiple habitat types and seasons, the findings revealed that **the green spaces of WPU represent living ecosystems that provide refuge for wildlife, support ecological processes, and demonstrate how academic institutions can become active partners in conserving biodiversity in the Anthropocene.**

The biodiversity surveys recorded an impressive 144 wildlife species, highlighting the remarkable biodiversity sustained within the WPU Main Campus. This assemblage comprised 98 bird species, 18 mammal species, 16 reptile species, and 12 amphibian species, reflecting the diversity of ecological niches provided by the campus green spaces.

Beyond the overall species richness, the surveys documented 30 endemic species and 11 endemic subspecies that occur only in the Philippines or are restricted to the Palawan faunal region. The presence of these species indicates that the campus continues to provide environmental conditions capable of supporting wildlife with highly restricted geographic distributions.

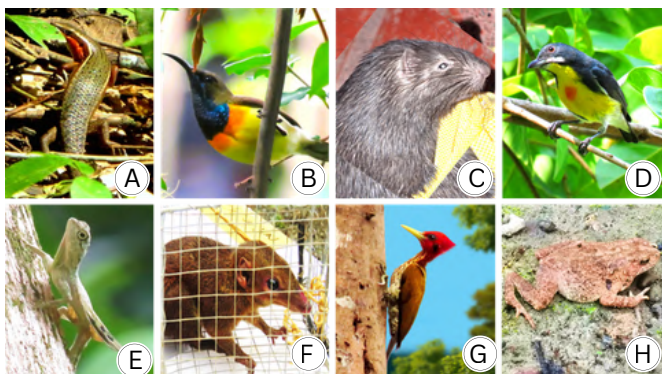
Equally significant was the documentation of 40 conservation-priority species, including species classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, and Near Threatened. The occurrence of these species demonstrates that the ecological value of green spaces in WPU's main campus extends beyond maintaining common wildlife; it provides habitat for species facing increasing pressures from habitat loss, environmental degradation, and other anthropogenic threats. In an era where many wildlife populations continue to decline, the presence of threatened species within an academic campus underscores its importance in biodiversity conservation.

The study also documented 27 migratory bird species utilizing the campus during their seasonal movements. Located along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, one of the world's most important migratory bird corridors, the WPU main campus provides suitable habitat for migratory birds during their overwintering period. The presence of migratory species emphasizes that the university's green spaces not only support local biodiversity but also contribute to the conservation of migratory wildlife of international significance. These findings highlight the role of the campus as a valuable stopover and overwintering habitat within one of the world's most important migratory flyways.

The significance of this study extends beyond documenting the remarkable wildlife diversity of the WPU Main Campus. **Its findings demonstrate the increasingly important role of university green spaces in conserving biodiversity within landscapes undergoing rapid environmental change.**



Some of the green spaces of the Western Philippines University Main Campus that serve as sanctuaries for migratory, native, endemic, and conservation-priority wildlife.



Some of the endemic wildlife species recorded in the green spaces of the WPU main campus. (A) Palawan Sun Skink (*Eutropis sahulringhanganan*), (B) Palawan Sunbird (*Cinnyris aurora*), (C) Palawan Porcupine (*Hystrix pumila*), (D) Palawan Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus plateni*), (E) Palawan Flying Dragon (*Draco palawanensis*), (F) Palawan Tree Shrew (*Tupaia palawanensis*), (G) Red-Headed Flameback (*Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus*), and (H) Philippine Toad (*Ingerophrynus philippinus*).



Some of the conservation-priority wildlife species recorded in the green spaces of the WPU main campus. (A) Blue-Naped Parrot (*Tonygnathus lucionensis salvadorii*), (B) Giant Flying Fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*), (C) Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus palawanus*), (D) Spot-Throated Flameback (*Dinopium everetti*), (E) Red Vented Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*), (F) Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela palawanensis*), (G) Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis heaneyi*), (H) Palawan Monitor Lizard (*Varanus palawanensis*)

The green spaces within the WPU main campus function as interconnected ecological infrastructure. Together, these habitats provide food, shelter, breeding sites, and movement corridors that sustain wildlife and enhance landscape resilience. Their strategic location within an increasingly modified landscape further strengthens their conservation value, allowing the campus to serve as an ecological refugium and biodiversity sanctuary for endemic, threatened, and migratory species.



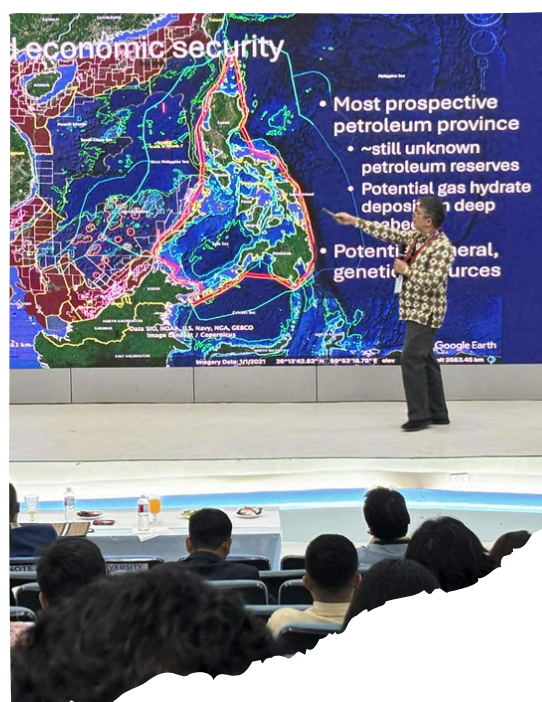
Strengthening Environmental Research, Innovation, and Extension Through the RIDE Office

Western Philippines University established the **Research, Innovation, Development, and Extension (RIDE)** Office to strengthen coordination of the university's research, innovation, and extension programs, including initiatives supporting environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable resource management across Palawan. The office serves as the university's central unit for integrating research and extension activities that respond to local and regional development priorities.



The office supports the development, implementation, and sharing of science-based solutions for terrestrial ecosystems, forest resources, wildlife conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods through a unified research and extension framework.

The RIDE Office also provides institutional support for resource generation, research management, technology transfer, and community engagement, enabling environmental initiatives to be implemented more effectively across the university's campuses and partner communities. These functions strengthen WPU's capacity to **deliver research-informed extension programs that contribute to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources in the province and neighboring regions.**



The creation of the RIDE Office enhances collaboration among colleges, researchers, government agencies, local communities, and partner organizations in implementing projects that address environmental challenges.



Reducing Campus Waste Through Greener Institutional Practices

Western Philippines University strengthened its commitment to protecting terrestrial ecosystems by embedding sustainability into its daily operations through a series of institutional policies that reduce waste generation and encourage responsible resource use across its campuses.

The university began by transforming its procurement system through the adoption of **Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)** and **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** practices. Guided by the Government Procurement Policy Board Resolution No. 19-2013 and the Philippine Green Public Procurement Roadmap, the Procurement Office incorporated environmental, social, and economic considerations into purchasing decisions. Procurement policies and technical specifications were updated to prioritize energy-efficient, recyclable, non-toxic, and environmentally responsible products and services, ensuring that sustainability is integrated from the point of acquisition.

Complementing this initiative, WPU implemented a campus-wide policy prohibiting single-use plastics in all university-operated businesses, food service providers, and concessionaires. The policy encourages the use of reusable and biodegradable alternatives while reducing plastic waste generated through daily campus activities. By engaging food service operators and the university community, the measure promotes responsible consumption and minimizes plastic pollution within the campus environment.

Building on these efforts, WPU further expanded its waste reduction strategy by prohibiting the use of tarpaulins across all campuses, colleges, and offices through OVPAF Memorandum No. OVPAF 2025-088. Frequently used for events and announcements, tarpaulins often become non-biodegradable waste after short-term use. The university now encourages digital communication, reusable signage, and other environmentally friendly alternatives, reducing unnecessary waste while promoting more sustainable practices in campus operations.

These institutional measures establish sustainability as a standard in WPU's administrative and operational practices. Through environmentally responsible procurement, plastic waste reduction, and the adoption of reusable and low-waste alternatives, the university minimizes its impact on land-based ecosystems while supporting efficient resource management.



Advancing Environmental Education Through Campus Learning Activities

Western Philippines University strengthened environmental education by providing learning opportunities that connected students with current issues on biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management. Through a series of symposia, the university expanded environmental learning beyond the classroom and encouraged informed discussions on issues affecting Palawan's ecosystems.



The university conducted the **Mining Moratorium Symposium**, which examined the environmental, social, and economic implications of mining in Palawan. Students and faculty from the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) participated in discussions led by resource persons from government agencies, civil society organizations, and the academe, providing diverse perspectives on environmental governance, natural resource conservation, and sustainable development.

WPU also organized the **Katala Fun Day Symposium**, highlighting the conservation of the critically endangered Philippine cockatoo (Katala) and the protection of Palawan's biodiversity. Experts from the Katala Foundation shared conservation initiatives, habitat protection strategies, and the importance of community participation in safeguarding endemic wildlife. The activity introduced students to ongoing conservation efforts while emphasizing the role of science, education, and local stewardship in protecting terrestrial ecosystems.

These activities form part of WPU's environmental education initiatives by **providing students with opportunities to engage with topics on biodiversity conservation, environmental governance, and sustainable resource management**. Through collaborations with government agencies, conservation organizations, and academic partners, the university integrates environmental issues into campus learning activities in support of Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land.



Promoting Wildlife Conservation Through World Pangolin Day

Western Philippines University hosted the **2025 World Pangolin Day** celebration, bringing together students, conservation organizations, government agencies, and higher education institutions to promote awareness of wildlife conservation and the protection of the **critically endangered Palawan Pangolin** (*Manis culionensis*). The activity served as a platform for environmental education and strengthened collaboration among stakeholders committed to conserving one of Palawan's endemic wildlife species.

Organized in partnership with Conservation International, Katala Foundation Inc., and Palawan State University, the event featured lectures on pangolin ecology, conservation challenges, and ongoing protection efforts in Palawan. Representatives from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, conservation experts, educators, and university officials shared scientific knowledge and conservation initiatives, providing participants with a broader understanding of the threats posed by habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade.



The celebration engaged nearly 200 students from Western Philippines University and other higher education institutions through academic and creative competitions, including a quiz bee, canvas painting, and spoken poetry. **These activities reinforced biodiversity conservation messages while encouraging student participation in wildlife protection and environmental advocacy.**



The annual observance is part of WPU's environmental education and biodiversity conservation initiatives, giving students and partner institutions a chance to engage with conservation practitioners and current wildlife issues.



Supporting Community-Led Reforestation in Aborlan

Western Philippines University participated in the **3rd Synchronized Pista ng Kalikasan Tree Planting Program** held on June 20, 2025, in Sitio Talakaigan, Barangay Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan. Organized under the theme "*Panumbalikin ang Kagubatan: Kalikasan, Kabuhayan at Kinabukasan*," the activity brought together government agencies, academic institutions, local organizations, and community members to restore degraded forest areas through the planting of native tree species.



Faculty members from the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) represented the university in the reforestation effort alongside volunteers and partner institutions. The activity contributed to the rehabilitation of forest ecosystems while **promoting collaborative action in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management**.



WPU regularly participates in local environmental programs alongside government agencies, civil society organizations, and community partners, while also leading and hosting conservation and environmental education initiatives across Palawan. This continuing engagement enables the university to contribute technical expertise, volunteer support, and academic participation in activities that **advance forest restoration and biodiversity conservation throughout the province**.



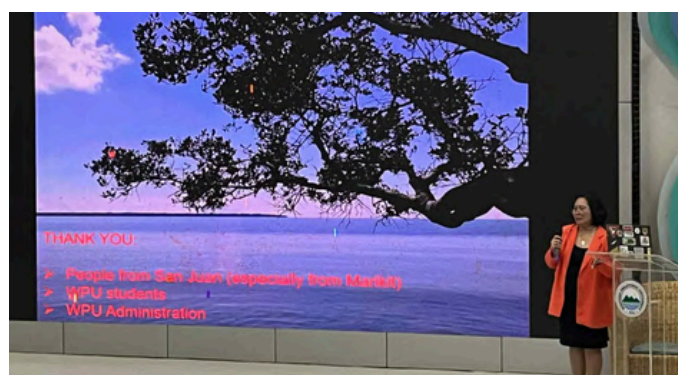
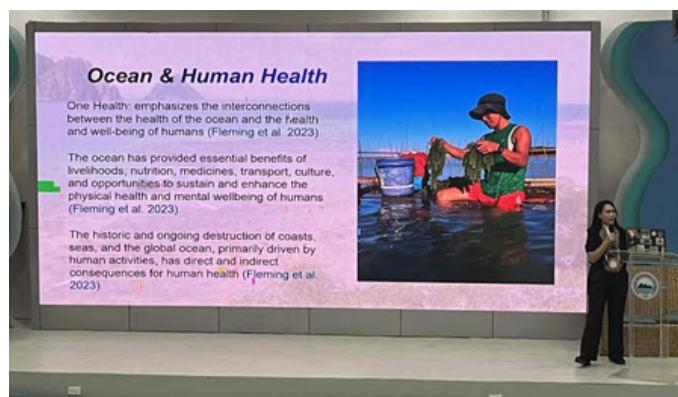
Protecting Biodiversity Through Research and Action

Western Philippines University continues to advance research that supports the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. During the **1st Philippine Toxinology Congress** and the **6th International Symposium on ASEAN Marine Animal and Snake Envenoming/Poisoning Management (AMSEM)** held on December 3–5, 2025, Dr. Lita B. Sopsop, Vice President for Academic Affairs, received the Best Natural Science Study (Oral Presentation) award for her research, *Economic Value of the Mangrove Ecosystem in So. Marikit, Barangay San Juan, Aborlan, Palawan, Philippines*.

The award-winning study highlights the ecological and economic importance of mangrove ecosystems in sustaining coastal livelihoods, protecting shorelines, and conserving biodiversity. By demonstrating the tangible value of these ecosystems, **the research provides evidence that can inform conservation initiatives and sustainable coastal and terrestrial resource management in Palawan.**

The congress also showcased WPU's research leadership through the participation of Dr. Lota A. Creencia, Vice President for Research, Innovation, Development, and Extension (RIDE), and Prof. Arlene Avillanosa as plenary speakers.

Their presentations explored marine ecosystems, harmful algal blooms, and aquaculture, highlighting the need for science-based approaches to **address emerging challenges affecting fisheries, public health, terrestrial resources and coastal sustainability across the Philippines and the ASEAN region.**







17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals calls to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. It serves as a cross-cutting framework aimed at fostering international cooperation in finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and data availability to achieve the 2030 agenda.



Stakeholders Converge at WPU for the Palawan Provincial Caravan on the West Philippine Sea

Western Philippines University served as a hub for dialogue, collaboration, and shared commitment as national agencies, local government units, academic institutions, civil society groups, fisherfolk representatives, and non-government organizations gathered in Puerto Princesa City on May 2–3, 2024, for the **Palawan Provincial Caravan on the West Philippine Sea**.

With the theme ***“Bayanihang Adhikain, Bayaning Aksiyon Para sa Kanlurang Dagat ng Pilipinas,”*** the two-day caravan served as a regional continuation of the 2023 West Philippine Sea National Summit held in Pasay City. The activity provided a platform for stakeholders to review, validate, and strengthen Palawan’s Provincial Action Plan for the protection, sustainable management, and long-term stewardship of the West Philippine Sea.

The gathering culminated in the finalization of the Provincial Action

Plan and the signing of a unified Pledge of Commitment, symbolizing the **collective resolve of participating sectors to support its implementation, sustainability, and institutionalization.**

Palawan Governor Victorino Dennis M. Socrates highlighted the importance of protecting the West Philippine Sea as a matter of food security, public health, environmental conservation, and national responsibility. He called for stronger cooperation among national agencies, local governments, fisherfolk, academic experts, and civil society organizations.

DILG Assistant Secretary Lilian M. De Leon also emphasized that the caravan was designed to bring national discussions closer to local stakeholders, ensuring that Palawan’s realities, priorities, and recommendations are reflected in the action plan.



Strengthening Commitment through Collaboration. The program opened with welcome remarks from Dr. Amabel S. Liao, President of Western Philippines University, who reaffirmed WPU's commitment to marine research, environmental governance, and science-based policy support.

She emphasized the University's continuing role as an academic partner in connecting research, community engagement, and public decision-making.

Planning for Sustainable Governance. A key component of the caravan was a series of participatory workshops facilitated by WPU's **Institute of Environmental Governance**, the **Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff**, the **UP Marine Science Institute**, and **Tanggol Kalikasan**.

These sessions guided stakeholders in validating the consolidated Provincial Action Plan while aligning local priorities with the National Action Plan for the West Philippine Sea.

From Pledge to Institutional Action

The finalized **Provincial Action Plan**, presented by Board Member Ryan Maminta, focused on four priority areas: infrastructure, governance, socio-economic development, and the biophysical environment. These areas reflect the need to protect marine ecosystems while also strengthening livelihoods, institutions, and community resilience.

To sustain implementation, Assistant Secretary De Leon presented institutionalization mechanisms, including the proposed creation of a **Provincial West Philippine Sea Council**, integration of the plan into local development agendas, and regular reporting mechanisms among LGUs and the DILG.

Participants later signed a Commitment Wall as a **symbolic act of solidarity and accountability**. The first day concluded with a press conference featuring Governor Socrates and Kalayaan Mayor Roberto Del Mundo, where key issues and concerns surrounding the West Philippine Sea were addressed.



A Shared Legacy of Stewardship

The **Palawan Provincial Caravan** marked the first regional caravan conducted under the DILG's partnership with Tanggol Kalikasan, with support from the USAID-Gerry Roxas Foundation. The event also featured the soft launch of the **"Bayanihang Adhikain Para sa Kanlurang Dagat ng Pilipinas: Gawad Bayaning Aksyon" Award**, which aims to recognize outstanding contributions to West Philippine Sea protection and advocacy.

More than a planning activity, the caravan affirmed that protecting the West Philippine Sea is both a national responsibility and a local commitment. For Palawan, it is deeply connected to food security, marine biodiversity, resilient livelihoods, and the future of coastal communities.

Through collaboration, science, and shared stewardship, **the event carried one clear message: protecting the West Philippine Sea is not only an act of governance, but a legacy of sustainability for present and future generations.**

WPU, PCA, Stakeholders Seal Collaboration to Boost Palawan's Coconut Industry and Strengthen the Philippine Agriculture Sector



In photo: Dr. Romeo R. Lerom (rightmost), Director of WPU Office of Business Affairs, represented the University in the ceremonial signing last October 22.

Western Philippines University (WPU) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) solidified their partnership in a ceremonial signing event at the Sequioa Hotel, Mother Ignacia Quezon City, on October 22, 2025. This partnership **aims to support the massive planting of coconut trees in the province**, and Philippines aligning with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s goal of planting 100 million coconut trees nationwide by 2028.

The partnership between WPU and PCA will focus on supplying high-quality coconut seedlings to farmers in Palawan, particularly in the towns of Taytay, San Vicente, Roxas, and Puerto Princesa.

The ceremonial signing event marked a significant milestone in the implementation of the **Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan (CFIDP)**, which aims to boost the coconut industry in the Philippines. The CFIDP is a component of Republic Act 11524, signed into law by former President Rodrigo Duterte in 2021.

WPU and PCA's partnership is expected to benefit thousands of coconut farmers in Palawan, providing them with access to high-quality seedlings, training, and technical support. **This initiative will contribute to the province's economic growth and improve the lives of local communities.**



WPU-LGU Dumarán Partnership Advances River Conservation and Sustainable Aquaculture

The partnership between Western Philippines University and the Municipality of Dumarán, Palawan has produced meaningful gains in environmental conservation, sustainable aquaculture, and community-based resource management.

Through the technical support and research initiatives of WPU, particularly under the GeM-PHIL Project, the Municipality of Dumarán was able to strengthen its local environmental governance through the approval of Ordinance No. 2023-1010. **This ordinance declares the Ilian River and other river systems in Dumarán, including the Macrobrachium shrimp population, as protected areas for conservation and sustainable aquaculture development.**

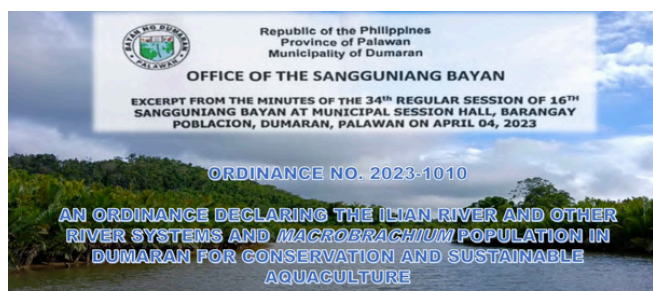


Photo credits: WPU GeM-PHIL Project Team

The GeM-PHIL Project, formally titled **“Genetic Characterization of Macrobrachium Populations in the Philippines for Broodstock Development and Seed Production,”** played a significant role in providing a scientific basis and technical guidance for the protection and responsible management of the municipality’s freshwater resources.



The project was implemented by WPU with support from DOST-PCAARRD, with Dr. Arlene L. Avillanosa serving as Project Leader/Implementer. In recognition of her valuable contribution, Dr. Avillanosa was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Municipality of Dumarán for her dedication as Technical Consultant in the conservation of Macrobrachium populations in the Ilian River System.



The impact of this collaboration was affirmed when the Municipality of Dumarán received a **Plaque of Recognition** from the Department of

Environment and Natural Resources–Environmental Management Bureau MIMAROPA Region for its **Outstanding Practices in Community Eco-Engagement** during the **2025 EMB MIMAROPA Environmental Summit**. This milestone reflects how university-led research, when translated into local policy and community action, can create lasting impact. **The WPU-LGU Dumarán partnership stands as a model of science-based governance, environmental stewardship, and sustainable livelihood development in Palawan.**



WPU Integrates Sustainability Education and Action to Tackle Local and Global Challenges

As part of its commitment toward achieving the #GlobalGoals2030, Western Philippines University has made sustainability education a core part of its curriculum across all programs, equipping students with knowledge of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With instructors integrating SDG-focused discussions and lectures in the class, **students are made familiar with the goals and are encouraged to realize how they can help address the pressing concerns of the community.**

Beyond the classroom, WPU takes proactive steps in addressing local and global challenges through extensive research and extension programs in collaboration with local and international partners. These initiatives range from community-driven projects in Palawan to impactful partnerships addressing broader sustainability concerns.



Through research and outreach, WPU tackles issues such as poverty, food security, livelihood, and environmental conservation, aligning its work closely with SDG objectives to promote meaningful, sustainable development within communities.

To make SDG information accessible and continuously visible, WPU has established SDG Bulletins and SDG Corners throughout its campuses, reinforcing the university's commitment to sustainability education and social responsibility. A dedicated SDG Center showcasing the university's initiatives for each goal is also published on the WPU website. Through these comprehensive efforts, **WPU promotes a culture of sustainability that prepares students and communities alike to make impactful contributions locally and globally, strengthening the university's role as a key player in sustainable development.**





WPU Expands Global Partnerships Through International Collaboration and Cultural Exchange

Western Philippines University continues to strengthen its global engagement by forging international partnerships that advance research, education, and sustainable community development.

In partnership with Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia, WPU collaborated through the Internationalization and External Affairs Office, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Engineering and Technology to promote knowledge exchange, innovation, and community engagement. A key outcome was the **installation of the STEER Solar-Powered Reverse Osmosis System**, an engineering project developed by UTP students, in Green Island, Roxas, Palawan, **providing residents with a sustainable source of clean drinking water**. The visit also included intercultural activities with local elementary pupils, fostering environmental awareness and strengthening institutional ties for future collaboration.



WPU also expanded its international educational partnerships through the Adventure English Tour, organized by the Classmate Co. Ltd. Japan in collaboration with WPU El Nido Campus. The "**Bridging Cultures: A Japan-Philippines Cultural Immersion and Knowledge Exchange**" program brought together students from Kamikawa High School, Japan, and WPU students for language exchange, cultural immersion, and collaborative learning, promoting intercultural understanding and strengthening academic and cultural ties.

Through these international partnerships, **WPU continues to advance collaborative research, student mobility, cultural exchange, and community engagement, creating lasting benefits for communities, partner institutions, and future collaborations.**

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WPU GeM-PHIL Project
The Paraoakan Project
Agritourism Showcase and Leisure Park
WPU-ATBI, WPU-IEG
Tactical Operations Wing West
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61st of 89 Philippine HEIs
1142nd of 1547 World Universities

2025 WORLD RANKING

1501+

WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

OVERALL RANK

(out of 2318 global institutions)



RANK
301-400



RANK
601-800



RANK
1501+



RANK
801-1000



RANK
1001+



RANK
301-400



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