

the

Bendum News

Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center, Sitio Bendum, Barangay Busdi,
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon



Classroom set up
Sitio Nabawang, Upper Pulangi



Nabawang extension school: an expression of

One of the great expressions of hope at the beginning of 2010 was the desire of Sitio Nabawang across the Pulangi to start kinder and first year classes. About sixty children have now finished their first term in Kinder 1, Kinder 2 or Daweg A. The teachers came from the community and one is a graduate from APC Bendum who had just finished her high school. The busy classrooms and new activity in the village begin to raise other questions as to what the communities can do together. We expect many of these children to continue learning in their language and culture and progress to higher levels in Bendum, so we need to be prepared to respond with the community.

Lawaan moving out

Seeds gathered during El Niño 2009 including five different species of *Dipterocarpaceae* (all closely related to the lawaan) have flourished. With the high school students and the new program for the youth, there has been much discussion as how to assist the



regeneration the forest in the area that was once a barren log-deck. How do you pick a home for this tree that

will live longer than I?" Each weekend, the grass on the slopes by the Ki-asu and Hal-as streams is cleared and by the emerging scrub these lawaan, danguleg, kiwan, balakbakan, danang, ubanan, kaliyaan and others are planted. Over five hundred have now moved out from the nursery over the last few months to the hillside where the rains sustain them. This is one area we have

Zero waste management initiatives in Bendum

It's not surprising the amount of waste that a household of thirty produces that has to be well organized. With the arrival of new children each year, we have to go through the process anew. There are five different sacks in use with labels that are importantly operating: PAPAN (paper), SILUPIN (plastic), LATA (can), BOTILYA (bottle), and BAGUL (coconut hull). Of course, there is also a bucket for the waste food from the kitchen for Grace's dogs and pig.

Most interesting is the vermiculture the children make. It takes two months for the garden sweepings, vegetable skins and paper waste to be recycled into valuable organic material that enriches the soil and growth of vegetable. It's great to see the like the children make. In this time, there are four vermicompost beds generated from the kitchen and at least ten have been started in the garden from simple cutting of vegetation and weeding.

We still depend on canned sardines and meat that really mount up so much in a month. We

Community review of Learning Sustainable Life

A year ago I put down a string of thoughts on culture and environment in education. These are things I have learned over the years and the understanding I have of the process of developing a culture-based education that is now considered as Multi-lingual Education and today an important response to the Millennium Development Goals, not only for education but the sustainability of our ecology as well. We have run several workshops with the teachers, higher-level children, high school and now community to check out some of the thoughts. Most interesting part has been the

must have a good sack load of flattened cans. Trying to get people to clean the lata before flattening and storing them is a problem but in the long run is best for all. We tried to use the cans also in the nursery

but in the end they are also a problem in different ways so now, we bag them and sell them down in Malaybalay about 3 pesos a kilo. Botilya or bottles, if not used

for other things and stored, are easily sold.

Fortunately we have no PET bottles, or only a few from people coming up and leaving them behind. The biggest problem is clearly silupin or plastic. Everything that comes up the mountain comes in plastic. We use crates for the transportation

of vegetables, but it is all the little sachets and wrappings; just so many things with fine plastic or foil, with little styrofoam comes to Bendum.

At present, we bag these up and are seeking a way separating and selling or



Adagi children keep vegetable-wastes for vermicomposting.



Plastic wastes and other non-biodegradable products are bagged for selling and disposal in Malaybalay.