



## Indigenous as guardians of ecological services

Today is a celebration of Sacred People, Sacred Earth, and we, the indigenous youth here in Bendum in northern Mindanao, Philippines, put together an image of how we see ourselves as guardians of our ancestral domain and its ecological services.

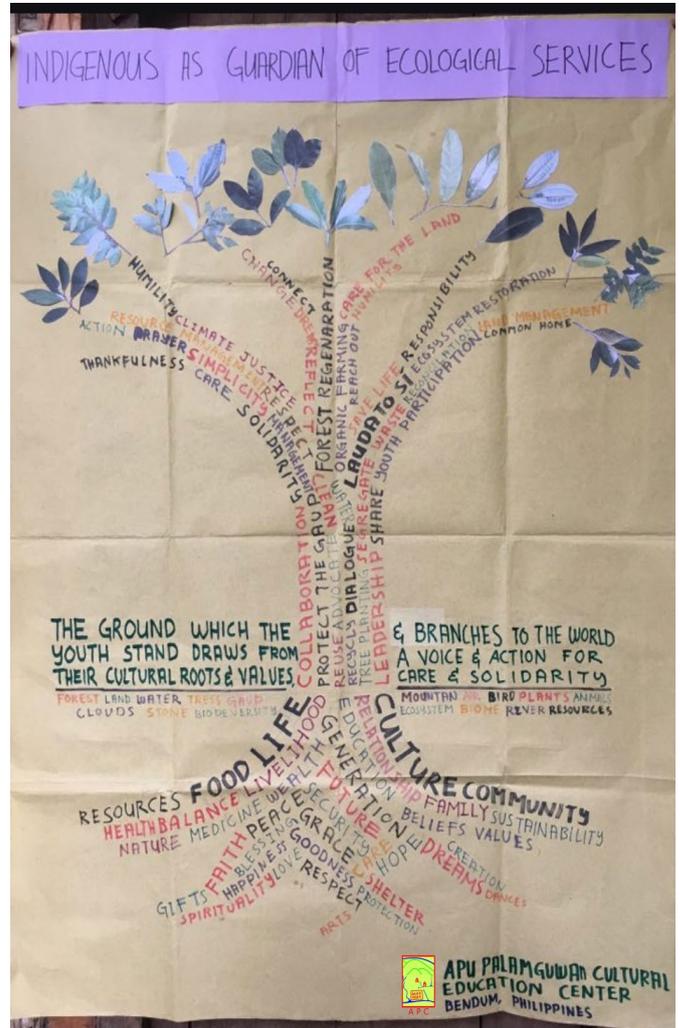
In this image are some of the leaves, around 150, of different forest species. These include leaves from the pioneer species, the early trees that grow from the low vegetation of lands logged long ago. These are the pioneers of regeneration. Then there are leaves from about 20 pillar species that give the structure to the mature forest. And in between these are the leaves from the filler species that do not form the crown of the forest but form levels within the forest.

The trunks represent our collaboration, solidarity, the work with Laudato Si', our sharing with other youth in activities, our growing sense of responsibility, our gratitude and simplicity, and our prayer. These are what unite and strengthen us.

We are regenerating part of the degraded forests through a Youth Work Experience program. Over the last year, we nurtured 600 seedlings of the pillar and fillers species in an area that already has the pioneer species. And we will continue maintain these trees during the summer.

Our experiences in guarding the forest, the land, the water, the trees, the mountains, the birds – all in the Pantaron Range – are empowered by the roots that support us. These roots are our culture, our community, and the resources we draw on for our existence, our food, and our life, along with the gratitude we feel, our dreams, and how we go forward.

Today, some of us are finishing our high school education through modular learning. Others are online students of the Jesuit World Wide Learning program, studying Learning Facilitation and Peace Leadership.



We want to add our voice, along with other youth across the world, in seeking genuine and substantial achievements in the COP26 climate negotiations that were sidelined in the last five years. We are looking for change and are trying to raise our voice to support genuine change.

We continue to live in solidarity with this community of trees, this forest, this ecosystem, and this biome of the region of Asia-Oceania, of which we are part. As we regenerate the forest, we also envision a regenerative hope amongst all the youth that gives a future to the generations ahead. We thank you for being with us in our celebration of Sacred People, Sacred Earth.

This story was also published on [Ecojesuit](https://www.ecojesuit.com). 

## Upper Pulangi youth: What is climate action really about?

For the youth in Upper Pulangi, climate action is part of their way of life, as they participate in community and take the lead in managing the forest and water resources in their ancestral domain. They share this story in a video presented at the [Poster Session of the Loyola University Chicago Climate Change Conference](#) held March 15-18.



stills from the video presentation "What is climate action really about?" produced with the support of Ecojesuit and RAOEN

The video captures scenes from their classes in APC where they discuss and reflect on the impact of climate change in their community and broader society. It also features their climate action activities in March and September 2019, in solidarity with the Global Climate Strikes, where they shared their cultural values and practices that contribute to climate change mitigation.

The video titled "[What is climate action really about?](#)" captures their local perspectives and cultural identity as a people who live integral ecology, and dreams of climate justice.

They define climate action in five points:

1. Seek justice for ordinary people and the youth

2. Speak out with integrity
3. Value silence, reflection, and prayer to strengthen faith and hope
4. Sustain Indigenous Peoples' culture and identity while they share a dream
5. Understand with mainstream society the integral role of indigenous communities and realize the interconnectedness of our lives

APC continues to engage in climate actions amidst the ongoing pandemic through agroforestry and sustainable agriculture. It is supported by the [Ecojesuit global ecology network](#), and the [River above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network \(RAOEN\)](#) that connects and communicates this work regionally and globally.

This video can also be viewed with [Spanish subtitles](#). 

# Growing relationships in the present and the future generations

Kent Harold R. Rudis SJVS

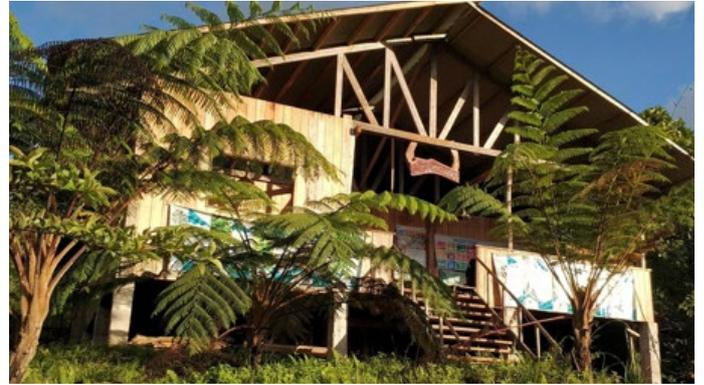
Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'* emphasized the importance of the relationship between the environment and work in knowing the self (see *Laudato Si'* §147). This was the central theme in the gathering of the members of Youth Work Experience (YWE) with their families on March 6, 2021 at Balay *Laudato Si'*. There were various activities conducted that helped the participants understand profoundly the value of work for themselves, for family, and for community.

The forest, land, and water are inseparable in the culture of the Indigenous Peoples in Sitio Bendum. To them, the discussion on taking care of the forest is a discussion on taking care of their own lives. The land and water are considered a part of their identity.



The YWE participants realized that this sense of identity gave them the courage to continue in their daily activities of planting trees, farming, and caring for animals, among others. Their various works enable them to know themselves better and has given them a deeper sense of self-worth and of others.

The greatest inspiration of the YWE participants is their family, which has been



their source of grit in their striving.

Family is the face of work to them. Family is also the beginning, where work becomes more valuable.

In the program, the wives and husbands of the YWE participants have reflected the pivotal role they hold as the support system. This means that they too have responsibilities to fulfill so that the work of their partners is meaningful.

In the art activity for children during the program, they were asked to draw their family, and amazingly they included in their artworks their farms, the animals, mountains, and plants. It's beautiful to think that the children also appreciate the value of their parents' work, and that the environment has a great relationship with them, because, though they are too young, they have a mature understanding that if the environment is destroyed it would mean suffering for their family.

The gathering led everyone to reflect on the significance of work in their community, culture, and in the entire nature. Because of this, they were able to recognize the connection of work with other aspects of life.

Only then did they understand what integral growth/advancement is and aim for it, which is actually the purpose and thrust of this program.

Their realization that they are a part of the integral growth of the community has given them a joy and deeper reason to love their work. Their struggles in work, are struggles in preparing the future of their children and the future generation. 

## IN PHOTOS: Bamboo production and construction



harvesting giant bamboo



bamboo is soaked in borax and boric acid



bamboo frames for installation



bamboo shell of Balay Magnanau

The recently finished teachers and administrative center completes the central block of APC high school buildings in the forest opening. The high school is surrounded by 100 indigenous pillar trees of 20 species. Balay Magnanau was built through the Bamboo Production and Construction program of the Forest, Farm, and Leadership in the Margins (FFLM). This farm school accompanies youth in building their working capacity in the context of their culture and sustaining their ancestral domain. ◆



plastering cement onto the mesh reinforced with flat bars



interior



near-finished exterior

## APU PALAMGUWAN CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER

### MGA NAKALATAD NGA PAGTULUN-AN

LEARNING TRACKS



APC

### KALASANGAN, UMAHAN UG PAGPANGULO DIHA SA KAHILITAN

Forest, Farm, and Leadership in the Margins

Ang FFLM nagtanyag og pagbansay sa mga **abilidad sa pagkinabuhi** alang sa mga interesadong kabantoan nga adunay kagustuhang palambuon ang ilang kapasidad sa pagtrabaho ug mas makat-on mahitungod sa ilang kaakuhan ug katungod.

FFLM offers **work experience** for interested youth who want to build their working capacity and learn more about their responsibilities and rights.

**Malahutayong Pagpangdumala sa Kayutaan**  
Bendum: Pebrero 15 - Abril 16  
Nabawang: Abril 19 - Hunyo 12  
**Organikong Pagpanguma**  
Bendum: Abril 12 - Hunyo 5



**Sustainable Land Management**  
Bendum: February 15 - April 16  
Nabawang: April 19 - June 12  
**Organic Farming**  
Bendum: April 12 - June 5

### EDUKASYON PINAAGI SA NAGKALAIN-LAING PINULUNGAN PINASIKAD SA KULTURA

Culture-based Multilingual Education

Ang APC nagtanyag og **programang modyular (modular program)** alang sa **tanang naa sa K-12** nga ang pokus mao ang pagsabot sa pagtulun-an diha sa kulturang konteksto, ug edukasyon pinaagi sa nagkalain-laing pinulungan nga makatabang sa mga estudyante ug sa pagpalambo sa kahigayunan para sa internasyonal nga pagtuon.

APC offers a **modular program for all K-12 levels** with a focus on understanding the lessons in a cultural context, and multilingual education to cater to students and to develop the opportunity for international studies.

### MODULAR LEARNING

Elementary (K-G6)

Junior High School (G7-10)

Senior High School (G11-12)

AY 2020-2021 Sem 2 (Enero - Mayo)

AY 2021-2022 Sem 1 (Hunyo - Oktobre)

Sa panahong ubos ang hulga, gipahigayon ang pagtuon sa mga estudyante sa abri ug luag nga lugar nga adunay pagtugot sa baranggay. Gisunod usab ang mga pamalaod pang seguridad sumala sa ordinansa sa barangay.

Open group learning environment with barangay clearance is facilitated at times of low vulnerability. Safety protocols are followed according to Barangay ordinance.

### LINGGWAHENG INGLES UG KURSANG PROPESYONAL

English Language and Professional Courses

Sa pakig-alayon sa Jesuit Worldwide Learning, ang **Global English Language** ug **Professional Courses** naghatag og pagbansay sa pinulongang Ingles ug edukasyong nakabase sa konteksto sa ilang mga estudyante aron matabangan ang ilang komunidad mahitungod sa aspeto sa kalinaw ug edukasyon.

In partnership with **Jesuit Worldwide Learning**, the **Global English Language and Professional Courses** provide English language training and context-based education for its students to help their communities in fields of peace and education.

### MGA KURSANG GITANYAG

Malangkubong Pinulongang Ingles

Abril - Agosto 2021

Mga Kursong Propesyonal

Setyembre 2021 - Marso 2022

-Tigpangulo Alang sa Kalinaw

-Tigpahigayon sa Pagtuon



**INTERNATIONAL ONLINE COURSES OFFERED**  
**Global English Language:** April - Aug 2021  
**Professional Courses:** Sept 2021 - March 2022  
-Peace Leader  
-Learning Facilitator

### LIBERAL STUDIES & BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Ang Jesuit Worldwide Learning nagatanyag usab og mga kahigayunan sa higher education. Unang kuhaon sa mga estudyante ang **Certificate in Liberal Studies** foundation program ayha ang **Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Development**. Ang mga kurso nagatudlo sa mga musunod nga mga topikong sama sa Pagnegosyo o Panginabuhian (Business), Maayong gawi o Pamatasan (Ethics), Pagkamalahutayan (Sustainability) ug uban pang mga topikong pinahaum sa kultura.

Jesuit Worldwide Learning also offers higher education opportunities. Students first take the **Certificate in Liberal Studies** foundation program and then the **Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Development**. The courses teach topics such as business, ethics, sustainability, and many more for context-based application.

### MGA KURSANG GITANYAG

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE COURSES OFFERED

**Certificate in Liberal Studies**

Setyembre 2021-2022

**Bachelor in Sustainable Development**

Setyembre 2022-2025



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APC